

TN-EPPC Board Meeting
February 24, 2012
Cumberland State Park, Crossville, TN

Attendance: Andrea Bishop, Kris Johnson, Sara Kuebbing, Pat Parr, Margie Hunter, Marie Kerr, Belinda Esham

Absent: Claude Bailey (Pat), Bob Parrish (Kris), Anni Self (Margie), Mike Berkley (Andrea), LinnAnn Welch (Marie)

Guests: Randall Phillips (TDEC), Mike Ryon (habitat restorations project lead ORNL), Kitty McCracken (ORNL)

Meeting called to order: 10:10 a.m. Welcome and introductions.

Agenda Additions: TN-EPPC support for sign (Pat)
Nominating committee - president, treasurer, other members

[*] denotes action item

Treasurer's Report: See attached. Report approved. Anni noted that two memberships have been received but are not reflected in this report.

Minutes: Dec. 2, 2011 minutes approved.

Invasive Costs Project: Alix has logged 90 hours with these accomplishments: Compiled list of 60+ contacts in federal, state agencies, non-profits, businesses, local/regional organizations, nature centers, etc.; drafted (1) agency and (2) organization surveys for distribution; developed master Excel spreadsheet for database; called and/or emailed all non-governmental contacts as well as some state agencies; and surveys are starting to come in. Alix presented with Sara on invasive plants/management to Wildland Recreation Management class (Forestry Dept) with Mark Fly, survey professor advising the project on survey methods, design, and distribution. Either Sara* or Alix* or both will develop an abstract for a poster or presentation at SE-EPPC in Auburn this May. Sara* will check with Anni to see if SE-EPPC has sent the project money.

Web Site: Belinda* will send a bio and photo to post. Upcoming plant removal events were posted. Margie* will finally finish posting the plant profiles. We should provide a link to jobs postings in the field. Randall* will send two links to put on our home page.

Membership Renewal Reminders: Pat asked for clarification regarding letters (summary update) vs. postcards. We eliminated the written summary in favor of the board adding brief personal notes during this meeting to the postcards. Pat has had to update the membership database to print addresses. Pat* will finish the cards and get them out.

We need to have more member contact through membership meetings or regular communication such as email. Belinda* will help Margie* develop an email template.

We could sponsor workshops to help people identify problem plants and learn how to control them and what to use in their place. Late summer might be a good time to appeal to the general public. Pat suggested we explore ideas of partnerships to reach out to communities and offer CEU credits to attract professionals. We should develop a model in a short format to replicate across the state. These might also serve as an annual membership meeting and include our board meeting as well.

Tool-Share program (weed wrenches, etc.) could be another way to network communities through our Web site or TIPS/CWMA.

Article for *Wildland Weeds*: SE-EPPC decided to produce two issues per year without advertising. Current membership is 638; distribution for all SE chapters is 1000 with 70 comps per chapter. The magazine costs \$7.00 per person. It will be available online with searchable a database.

TN-EPPC should make it a goal to be represented in each issue. Sara* will work on her idea from last meeting. Belinda* has an article regarding modeling and Tree of Heaven. Andrea will get the editorial deadlines and send them to the board.

Display: Panels for the big display are in production and will be ready by the Lawn & Garden Show in Nashville. Chris is working on the scroll display design now. Updated brochures are ready for distribution.

TDOT/TDEC Guidelines: Our recommendations will make it into the edited TDEC manual as an addition to, not a replacement for, listed invasives. Randall got Federal Highways involved and opened dialogue with TDOT as this issue could affect federal allocations to the state. TDOT is the driver for supply and demand. If we got TDOT on board it would force TDEC to respond more aggressively as well. Seeding rates (lbs per acre) for exotics are higher than natives, which helps to offset the higher cost of native seeds. John Seymore of Roundstone Seed was a big help with this and identifying various nonnative, non-invasive cover and nurse crops. It is not just seed costs, but the planting and application methods, efficiency, etc., that impact costs and agencies' willingness to adopt natives. TDEC document will be a looseleaf binder rather than published book, which will allow greater revision possibility.

Hydrilla Treatment & Removal on Obed River: Marie reports it is a worse situation than first realized. Rather than two small ponds, the source is Tansy reservoir on private land. The ability to treat it is greatly compromised. This necessitates a change of approach. They will gear toward removal from certain sensitive areas where mussels, darters, and rare plants (i.e., TN Pondweed) are found since Hydrilla occupies the same niche as these species. This particular plant is the more aggressive monotypic genus.

T-shirts: Art teacher at Gatlinburg Phi Beta school will work with 8th graders to develop a design. They need specifications such as design size and colors. We opted to put our logo on front left and the students' design on the back using two colors. We will look to see if we can get a women's styled shirt along with the regular t-shirt.

New Business

Signs for ORNL: Boy Scouts are building invasive plant signs with boot scrapers as a project for ORNL, who will help with sign content. Pat requested and received permission to put the TN-EPPC logo on the signs and “see more information” directions to our Web site. Kris might look into using scouts for signs for GSMNP, since their funding request fell through.

NISAW: Feb. 26-Mar 3 There is an associated Web cast March 1, 1 to 3 p.m. EST. Andrea* will send everyone the link. We have posted some local events on our Web site.

SE-EPPC Annual Meeting: May 8-10, 2012, in Auburn, AL. Registration is open online, and field trips are set up.

Biofuels Position Paper: There was an environmental assessment regarding the use of a Miscanthus hybrid, allegedly sterile, as a biofuel. The comment period was only 2 - 3 weeks and closed in December. Sara checked with SE-EPPC on their position, and they will discuss it at their next meeting. *Arundo donax* and others might be considered for biofuels. Opposing some of these plant species could be politically tricky. EPPCs should have a position on this trend. We need to anticipate further invasive species being proposed for this use and be prepared to act fast for small windows of comment. We should develop a list of preferred species.

Nominating Committee: The positions of president and treasurer are up for election. Anni*, Sara*, and Andrea* will serve on the nominating committee.

Upcoming Events: Nashville Lawn & Garden Show March 1-4, 2012, and the Wildflower Pilgrimage, April 25-28, will need the display.

Misc. Notes:

- Jim Miller’s book is available as an Invasive Plant app for iPhone.
- Coltsfoot has been found on road shoulders near Roan Mtn. Nora Schubert, Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy, called with control questions. Kris says prevention is the best approach through quarry inspections and insisting on clean material. Handpulling does not work as root fragment break off and sprout. You can cut off flowers (which come up first), then mark and treat the foliage later with Garlon. It has been found to spread into riparian scour but does not seem to go into the forest. It was also found on a fire site and likely came in from the fire crew.

Next Meeting: Fri., June 8, Cookeville, Fish & Wildlife Service office

Meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Margie Hunter
Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT – February 24, 2012

TENNESSEE EXOTIC PEST PLANT COUNCIL

GENERAL OPERATING ACCOUNT

Beginning Balance: (December 2, 2011) \$7,436.95

Receipts:

Expenses:

Intern \$935.00

Ending Balance: (February 22, 2012) **\$6,501.95**

MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT

Beginning Balance: (December 2, 2011) \$3,943.10

Net Interest Earned: .33

Ending Balance: (February 22, 2012) **\$3,943.43**

TOTAL ASSETS OF GENERAL & MM ACCOUNTS \$10,445.38