

TN-EPPC Board Meeting
Oct. 24, 2013
Obed Visitor's Center, Wartburg, TN

Attendance: Andrea Bishop, Marie Kerr, Mike Berkley, Margie Hunter, Pat Parr, Anni Self, Belinda Esham, Kris Johnson

Absent: LinnAnn Welch (Pat), Sara Keubbing (Belinda)

Guests: Kitty McCracken (ORNL), Justin Coffey (NPS), Chris Oswalt (USDA Forest Service), Jack Ranney (International Biosphere Trust, former board member), Matt Peterson (BSF Obed), Cody Smithson (BSF Obed)

Meeting called to order at 11:00 a.m.

Minutes: June 4, 2013, approved.

Treasurer's Report: See attached. Income from memberships, Oneida workshop, and t-shirts and expenses for workshop and Constant Contact (electronic newsletter). Total accounts \$7,142.87. Approved.

Membership Update: We have 23 new members, 22 of them from the Oneida workshop.

Web Site Update: Jed approached us about updating the Web site's software to CMSimple with several associated benefits. He was going to use a young programmer who needed experience. She has not stepped up. Jed plans to move these efforts forward on his own, but the timeframe is uncertain. Any compensation we might were willing to offer the young programmer, we should offer Jed.

Plant Profiles: All have been posted except 20 species. Margie* will send this list to Marie* for her seasonals to work on until Nov. 30.

EDDMapS Naturalist Training: Margie* is planning Tennessee Naturalist and Master Gardener training workshop in Middle Tennessee early 2014. It will present general invasive plant info, EDDMapS use, mobile app use, brief info on control/removal, and ID for eight species -- garlic mustard, callery pear, Chinese privet, heavenly bamboo, burning bush, congongrass, oriental bittersweet, purple loosestrife.

Potential help may be found through Rebeccah Wallace, who works with Chuck Barger on mobile apps. Anni* has a powerpoint presentation with EDDMapS slides, and Andrea* will ask Brian about common reporting mistakes. Board needs to become more proficient as well. Justin* will develop a training session for our next meeting.

Electronic Newsletter: Belinda worked with Constant Contact to develop a template based on our Web site design and set a one year contract. Template has been ready since June and is easy to use, plugging in photos, articles, etc. Content ideas include

the feature of an exotic plant from Web site, native plants recommendations, management ideas, upcoming events, special notes, book reviews, how to hold a community workshop, supporting TN-EPPC, selling t-shirts, survey membership, recruit feedback information on invasive issues in their area, relevant material from other sources, guest column, link to our Web site. Belinda suggested we refine our mission statement to put on template, committee* will work on it, Margie* will help. Committee is Pat, Sara, and Belinda, and Belinda* will be coordinator for newsletter assembly. They will organize content, all board members should contribute, sending things to Belinda. Board will approve first content prior to emailing. Belinda* will get member email list from Sara and include other nonprofits. We will attempt two issues at year at first and strive to get one out in January with the hopes of getting the second one out before our first year contract expires. Constant Contact offers free training to add new components to newsletter.

Workshop Model: We need to plan a community workshop for Memphis area. Charity Novick at Memphis Botanic Garden has requested a program. Margie* will contact Charity on a date. Dale Skaggs, Dixon Galleries, or Lichterman might be collaborators.

If we get requests for a program through the Web site or newsletter, we need a way to approach these requests working with others to facilitate local education efforts without us having to do it all, yet retaining enough oversight to ensure quality and accuracy of information. Area board members and other knowledgeable individuals can be recruited to guide development of any local efforts for which we cannot personally take charge.

Oneida workshop was well attended with 46 people. It netted TN-EPPC 22 new members. Twenty-nine came for pesticide recertification credits.

Pat sent article to Wildland Weeds on Oak Ridge workshop and would like to present an article describing our model. Marie says Kentucky is interested in this model. Pat* will draft an article for *The Tennessee Conservationist*. Andrea* will talk to editor Louise Zepp for Pat.

Nolichucky Loosestrife Project: This year TVA surveyed sections of the river they own that the team last year did not cover. No heavy infestations were found. They requested treatment options which Kris provided. No word if treatments were done. Small tributary (Happy Creek, Sevier/Knox county line) into French Broad has a heavy infestation. Kris is trying to identify land owner (farm) and contacting agencies regarding help for private land owners. Belinda will see if NRCS can help. We need to prevent its getting into the French Broad, as it is located right above the new Seven Island State Park. Might look into using some of the TIPS cogongrass funds. This money must be spent by 2016. Kris noted the need to look at other creeks upstream from Happy Creek for other populations. She and Troy Evans will continue this work in 2014.

TDOT Letter: Andrea* will see if her agency's people are beginning to use native recommendations from TDEC manual. Might give us a better reason to pursue TDOT.

TN-EPPC Anniversary: We are planning a one day event with speakers. Brian Bowen, Bob Parrish, and Lee Patrick have agreed to help, and Anni* will ask Dan Brown. Dodd

Galbraith is director of sustainability at Lipscomb and would be willing to host the conference. He needs date, attendance estimate, and space requirements. Mike* will ask him about early August (before school), our first choice, or fall break (mid-Oct). Mike* will also see if he has a registration site and discuss his students participation with possible posters. We are anticipating 200 attendees. We are considering a pre-meeting field trip, perhaps a green roof. Mike suggested the one in Franklin.

We need to gather names and contact info of former board members. Marie* will contact Sara about a dropbox where images and other historical data might be gathered. Any other documents should be coordinated through Andrea - Margie has the award plaque and legislature resolution. Someone else has the governor's proclamation. Kris has the original artwork for TN-EPPC's management manual. Pat has artwork for our previous t-shirt.

Pat* will draft a tentative program schedule to include

- keynote -- Dan Simberloff, invasion biology (Belinda* and Sara* will approach)
- economic impacts -- ??
- sustainable landscaping at ORNL -- Pat Parr
- trends, Great Smoky Mountains data over 30 years -- Kris Johnson
- impacts on native wildlife, ecosystem -- Chris Oswalt Forest Inventory Analysis
- TN-EPPC history, interagency cooperation, highlights, successes, recognition of board -- Bob Parrish

State Parks: Bobby Fulcher with Cumberland Trail approached TN-EPPC to do a workshop training for their Friends volunteers on invasive identification and treatment and invite other Friends groups. We cannot train for use of chemicals, etc. He should see what certifications or licenses are required for work on state land and consider a consultant to draft a plan of attack on kudzu, etc. Justin will work with Bobby's volunteers on the CT through BSF, providing experience and knowledge they can use on other sections. He might call Warner Parks for advice on alternatives to herbicides, which could be helpful for volunteers hesitant to use herbicides and effective with certain species, levels in infestation, and limited area coverage. He should investigate signs and boot brushes as a valuable tool for a linear park and the trail survey techniques used on the AT. We can help with ID and discussion of various control methods.

Knoxville Parks: People near a small pocket park wanted to clear out privet for safety. Kris helped them with a management plan. This interest is spreading, creating a workshop possibility for Knoxville, and this approach could be a prototype for other municipal parks and greenways. Running and biking groups might help by adopting sections to monitor and maintain.

National EPPC: NAEPPC is proposing dues of \$200 to \$300 from state EPPCs to pay for expenses. They are drafting comprehensive standards for listing plant species -- judging things like ecological harm current and future, behavioral characteristics, reproductive potential, etc. This model is more in depth than ours, requiring a draft assessment for each plant. This approach would provide solid science to back up any requests for additions to state stop grow list. We should consider doing a full

assessment on horticultural species. TDOA requires written requests for any additions to the list. Pat asked that we consider species to propose at the next board meeting.

Southeast EPPC: Georgia is hosting next year. SE-EPPC voted to allow state host organization to choose date of annual meeting.

TIPS: The Tennessee Invasive Plant Species committee finished their strategic plan, but has not met much since. There have been no sightings of cogongrass. Anni* is going to ask if they'd like to post their data on our Web site. Margie* will ask Jed if we can create a tab or other highly visible linking mechanism from our home page. Margie* will add data as one or two pages with the strategic plan as a pdf download.

Conference Attendance: We have the funds to support a board member's attendance if alternative funding (work agency, etc.) is not available. SE-EPPC is most likely, and NAEPPC will depend on location and associated expense.

Next Meeting: Feb. 12, 2014, possibly at Lipscomb. Mike* will check with Dodd.

Meeting adjourned 2:35 p.m. EDT.

Respectfully submitted,

Margie Hunter
Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT – June 4, 2013

TENNESSEE EXOTIC PEST PLANT COUNCIL

GENERAL OPERATING ACCOUNT

Beginning Balance: (June 5, 2013)		\$2,369.37
Receipts:		
	Memberships	\$160.00
	Oneida Community Workshop	\$270.00
	T-Shirts	\$165.00
Expenses:		
	Constant Contact (newsletter service)	\$155.40
	Oneida Community Workshop	\$200.00
Ending Balance: (October 24, 2013)		\$2,608.97

MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT

Beginning Balance: (June 5, 2013)		\$3,944.05
Net Interest Earned:		\$0.13
Ending Balance: (October 24, 2013)		\$3,944.18
TOTAL ASSETS OF GENERAL & MM ACCOUNTS		\$6,553.15

PAY PAL ACCOUNT

Beginning Balance: (June 5, 2013)		\$520.95
Receipts:		
	Memberships	\$30.00
	Workshop (Oneida)	\$55.00
Expenses:		
	PayPal Fees	\$3.67
	Eventbrite Fees (Oneida Workshop)	\$12.56
Ending Balance: (October 24, 2013)		\$589.72
TOTAL ASSETS OF ALL ACCOUNTS		\$7,142.87