

TN-EPPC Board Meeting
March 11, 2014
Nelson Andrews Leadership Lodge, Nashville, TN

Attendance: Andrea Bishop, Marie Kerr, Mike Berkley, Margie Hunter

Absent: Pat Parr (Kitty), Anni Self (Andrea), Belinda Esham (Margie), Kris Johnson (Marie), Sara Kuebbing (Mike)

Guests: Kitty McCracken (ORNL), Justin Coffey (NPS), Chris Oswalt (USDA Forest Service), Jack Ranney (International Biosphere Trust, former board member), Brian Bowen, Alix Pfennigwerth, Jamie Herold (pursuing masters on invasives, Knoxville).

Meeting called to order at 9:30 a.m. * denotes action item

Minutes: Oct. 24, 2013, approved with change of TIPS money date to 2016.

Treasurer's Report: Report attached, amended SE-EPPC to NAEPPC and approved. Accounts total \$6,598.30 and \$647.50 in PayPal account. Income of memberships \$320, t-shirts \$30, and expenses \$247.22 (NAEPPC donation \$100, Nashville Lawn and Garden Show \$145, PayPal fees \$2.22) Board members are encouraged to renew online for 2014. Sara is moving to Connecticut and resigning this summer. She will continue as treasurer until the August conference.

New Board Member Nominations: A motion to confirm Kitty, Jack, Alix, and Justin on the board was approved. Sara is resigning, LinnAnn resigned, Marie is stepping back for a while. Nominating committee for VP, President, and Treasurer includes Andrea* and Kris*. Kitty is willing to be either VP or Treasurer. Nominees will be presented at the next board meeting.

Agenda Additions

- May be low on Alternative brochures and plant list. Andrea* will check stock with Anni.
- Consider a five-year plan for TN-EPPC, Jack.
- Cultivar issue on pest plant rule. Margie heard a store in TN may be selling Japanese Bloodgrass and is tracking down specifics. We might want to revise rule wording to include "all related cultivars" on horticultural species and, at a minimum, on Cogongrass. Need to look at the process to clean up this language. We might use this case of selling a cultivar to take to TDOA for enforcement. Depending on the response, we can challenge the language of the rule for clarification. The federal noxious weed list might be another avenue. Margie* will send info to Anni, and copy Brian. We also need to check on applicability of the rule to out-of-state mail order nurseries. Is there a mechanism to prevent shipment to Tennessee?

Twentieth Anniversary Conference

- Agenda - Dan Simberloff is confirmed as keynote speaker. Margie* will ask Sara if she will develop a talk on NAEPPC standards, the goal of these standards, and how they may be helpful to TN-EPPC. IPC (Steve Manning) partnership with Metro would be a great short presentation. Kris Johnson is talking about trends observed at GSMNP, and Chris Oswalt can follow that with observed changes in plant distribution and perhaps touch on potential scenarios associated with climate change. End the day with a panel & group discussion regarding TN-EPPC's future -- what should we work on, what do members support -- giving members a voice and ownership. Presentations don't have to be 45 to 60 minutes long. Include short morning and afternoon breaks.
- Format - Do we want a workshop or social gathering or conference? Should it be multi-day or a simple, one-day? A field trip the prior day has been discussed. Need to determine format, location, and leaders.
- Social - We could do this the day before offering a few field trips and having a social at IPC office. Some could stay overnight if they did both days. We might tour the Hill tract. Andrea* will talk to Steve Manning. If we did not make this a two-day event, we could have a social at the end of the conference.
- Attendance - Public, commercial/professional, or members? Mike sees public interest in natives over exotics, but we've had public workshops in Nashville already. It was decided to keep this more professional, geared to membership to reinvigorate interest and involvement by focusing on history (past 20 years) and upcoming challenges (next 20 years.)
- Moderator - Bob Parrish* may do this and will let us know by end of March.
- Breakout sessions - Is this compatible with the site, expected turnout, and time? Decided to stick with panel and group.
- Location - Mike* will check on rental fee and date availability at Cheekwood, where the first meeting was held 20 years ago. Pineapple Room could provide box lunches. It is closer to possible field trips and has more room/parking. Leadership Lodge location and size are possible negatives. Cheekwood costs are possible negatives.
- Costs - Catered lunch, refreshments, site rental, A/V, table/chair rental, etc.
- Registration Fee - How much to charge? Do we want to break even, dip into our finances or make money? Could we get sponsorships, like IPC or Lipscomb or Cheekwood?
- Save the date - Send emails to members and others 90 days out, even if all details are not finalized.
- Committees - Logistics group is Andrea, Brian, Mike, and Margie. Margie* will list agenda topics per discussion for Alix, Sara, and Kitty to finalize and copy board.

Web Site: There has been no more word from Jed on upgrading the Web site's platform. Margie* will review site content, delete things no longer relevant, distill and move other items. She will ask Jed about placing a JOIN button at the top of the home page, and update the T-shirt section to our new design.

Jack suggested we include links to other helpful sites and will develop a list to send the board for review before posting. These can be organized by topic and placed where most relevant on the site.

Plant Profiles: Justin* and workers at Big South Fork have finished the last plant profiles and will send them to Margie for posting. Margie* did not include bibliographies on some of the profiles already posted and plans to add them. A handful plants do not have photos. She will check online again and send what she cannot find to the board for help obtaining images.

Newsletter: Everyone approved the newsletter design and work by Belinda and Constant Contact. Belinda* is asked to please tweak anything that has become dated for this first edition. Members of the board should commit to providing regular content. Mike will write a native plant alternative column.

The newsletter will go out three times a year -- April, August, and December -- to the membership. The board* will send Belinda email addresses of others that should be included by the end of March.

Margie* will contact Jed about a Twitter account for Web site and to include in the newsletter using our web email. Alix will be our official tweeter or 'twit.'

Mission Statement: Board liked the 20 word statement. Margie* will send this choice and the draft of goals to everyone. Jamie knows some people with TDOT, etc. She will have them read it to see if they view the language as too nature oriented or dismissive of the built environment.

Workshops: EDDMapS Training at Owl's Hill was a success with nearly 30 attendees. Margie* will approach Memphis Botanic Garden regarding a community workshop Feb. 7 or Feb 28, 2015.

Five Year Plan: Jack suggested TN-EPPC should consider where we want to be in five years and how we can get there. This might be used to solicit funding. Jack* will draft an outline for "stakeholder analysis" and determine what our big targets might be, such as West Tennessee recruitment, TDOT, landscape industry. It would help us develop a plan for strategic outreach. Jack is interested in writing proposals to make TN-EPPC more active and visible in the state.

Next Meeting: May 8, 2014, Cumberland Mountain State Park, Andrea* will book.

Meeting adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Margie Hunter
Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT – March 11, 2014

TENNESSEE EXOTIC PEST PLANT COUNCIL

GENERAL OPERATING ACCOUNT

Beginning Balance: (October 24, 2013)		\$2,608.97
Receipts:		
	Memberships	\$260.00
	T-Shirts	\$30.00
Expenses:		
	NAEPPC Donation	\$100.00
	Lawn & Garden Show Booth	\$145.00
Ending Balance: (March 11, 2014)		\$2,653.97

MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT

Beginning Balance: (October 24, 2013)		\$3,944.18
Net Interest Earned:		\$0.15
Ending Balance: (March 11, 2014)		\$3,944.33
TOTAL ASSETS OF GENERAL & MM ACCOUNTS		\$6,598.30

PAY PAL ACCOUNT

Beginning Balance: (October 24, 2013)		\$589.72
Receipts:		
	Memberships	\$60.00
Expenses:		
	PayPal Fees	\$2.22
Ending Balance: (March 11, 2014)		\$647.50
TOTAL ASSETS OF ALL ACCOUNTS		\$7,245.80