

**TN-EPPC Board Meeting
June 8, 2011**

Tennessee Tech Pennebaker Biology Bldg, Cookeville, TN

Attendance: Andrea Bishop, Harry Quarles (guest), Kris Johnson, Pat Parr, Mike Berkley, Anni Self, Margie Hunter, Dan Brown

Absent (w/proxy): Claude Bailey (Mike), Marie Kerr (Dan), Sara Kuebbing (Pat), LinnAnn Welch (Anni), Bob Parrish (Kris).

Meeting called to order at 10:15 a.m. An asterisk * denotes action item.

Minutes: Feb.16, 2011, minutes approved as written.

Treasurer's Report: Attached. Memberships and shirts sold at Lawn & Garden Show in Nashville account for income receipts of \$265 and \$75 respectively. Expenses are \$575 for reprinting plant list insert from *Wildland Weeds* and \$36 for table/chair rental for Lawn and Garden. Report approved.

TDOT/TDEC Revegetation Guidelines: Both agencies' lists provide a complicated collection of seed mixes based on habitat, timing, planting rate, mix ratio, etc. Harry received a comprehensive set of native plant recommendations from Marie Kerr for the TDOT list based on root depth, drought tolerance, and other attributes. TDEC's list is more complicated and will be addressed later. It was decided that we need a face-to-face meeting with TDOT officials to explain what we've done and find the right approach (based on TDOT feedback) for determining which species have the best chances of use (mowing height, hydroseeding, cost), preparing final recommendation documents, and encouraging their adoption. Anni* and Andrea* will contact Greg Duncan, Dir Maintenance TDOT, to determine who should be part of meeting. Marie should be there; Harry* will ask her. We should be prepared to discuss cost of seeds vs. cost of treating invasive species. Many native species are being used for the Foothills Parkway expansion near Smokies. Seed mixes are grown from local genotypes. Other sources include Roundstone (KY) and Ernst & Ernst (PA) seed mix companies. Dan suggested Hamilton (MO). Availability may dictate out-of-state rather than local provenance seed. NRCS Plant Materials Centers grow their own plants for seed, and there may be one in TN. Anni* will check. First step is to see who we might meet at TDOT. We should share these findings through an article when final.

Quarry/Sand Pit: GSMNP is only entity requiring a certified clean quarry in TN. We need to expand this in state, perhaps discuss it with NRCS. It is a consumer driven issue based on buyers demanding clean gravel. TDOT can use this issue to promote change. About 8 to 10 quarry sites in East TN have been inspected, several passed, one cleaned up and asked for re-inspection. Older quarries are more contaminated. Use of Executive Order for federal work helps give issue teeth for NPS. Inspection/certification forms are on our Web site.

SE-EPPC Meeting: Marie attended and emailed abstracts and summary of annual conference in Lexington, KY, to board members. Minutes of meeting not available yet. Andrea* will forward. Anni reviewed the EDRR workshop presentation. We already have most of the info ready for Randy Westbrook's template. EDDMapS was part of workshop. We need to be more vigilant entering known infestations in EDDMapS. GSMNP imported their database. Brian Bowen screens for the state. A Tennessee Naturalist volunteer might work for Natural Heritage to enter distribution data. Margie* will email new TN class and ask. Discussed grass frequently seen along interstate. Margie* will determine ID and send to board. It might be planted by TDOT.

Web Site: Andrea* and Mike* need to complete their plant profiles. Margie* needs to post what has been submitted, and send Terri Barnes format for plant profiles. Everyone* should send Margie any news/events for posting.

Lawn & Garden Show: We got several half-price memberships, sold some t-shirts, distributed old copies of Wildland Weeds, and brochure flyers.

Wildland Weeds Articles: Sara* and LinnAnn* are working on articles. Teri Hogan, LinnAnn, and Dan are collaborating on *Tennessee Conservationist* article on success stories controlling invasive plants. Kris* could do an article on quarries for *WW*.

Membership: Board members* need to pay dues for 2011. Can do so online through PayPal. Louis Zimmerman with US Forest Service moved to Knoxville recently and is interested in invasive issue and may be a choice for the board. Kris* will keep him informed of our meetings. We received about 15 to 20 responses from the January postcards for renewals. Will SE-EPPC increase for *WW* affect our dues? We should put the loss of *WW* on membership reminders to spur response before purging rolls. Will wait to see SE-EPPC decision on *WW*. We should develop a membership brochure model for use by any EPPC and request SE-EPPC monetary help.

New T-Shirts: We previously discussed schools/students competition for new design. We should set criteria, such as specifying the number of colors for cost purposes. Kris* will seek advice from Gatlinburg artist Andrea Wilson. We can put our logo on separately rather than incorporate it into design. Pat has contact in Knoxville for printing.

Liaison with Nurseryman's Association: Anni* will contact Jerry Blankenship and perhaps Michael Kesses (sp?).

Quarterly newsletter (electronic): Tabled. No progress.

Costs and Impacts Papers: Sara* is working on this based on Mike's suggestion for info to counter nursery arguments. Dan sent her some information. Steve Manning would have good cost info for use. IPC Web site has good info too. Should produce a professional paper for publication, plus something in a format to distribute and use when approaching various agencies - state, local, federal.

Alert box updates on Web: Added *Achyranthes japonica* and cogongrass. Kris found new plant in GSMNP that is on several states' lists. Kris* will send info to Margie for paragraph on home page with link to photos on Invasive.org. Margie* forward board info and Dwayne's abstract on new *Elaeagnus* species featured on Volunteer Gardener. Anni asked Margie* to send native plant bee list to state apiarist Mike.Studer@tn.gov.

Plant List Revisions: We should establish and maintain a list of species between updates and put this list on our Web site. Margie* will add Coltsfoot to home page Alert box and develop a Recommendations for List Revision section on Initiatives page.

Display: Andrea brought state parks' ATBI screen display. We decided a tabletop version would work best for our use. Andrea* will investigate cost on multiple screens - one with our poster, one with alternatives information, one with basic organization info. Poster image would draw attention visually, and we could provide actual poster with verbal info on back. Any other screen should have minimal wording for best impact. Margie* will work with Dan* and Pat* to review current display wording and adapt. We need new high-resolution photos. Andrea* will check to see what is recommended. Chris Armour would do layout and provide PDF for display company.

Brochures: We need to reprint Alternatives brochure. Margie* will check for PDF and send to Andrea* for pricing.

Elections: Margie, Secretary, and LinnAnn, VP, agreed to another term. Pat moved to strike election notification of standing membership from bylaws. Board approved. Anni submitted names for election, Pat seconded, board elected two officers. Margie* will amend and post revised bylaws and email to board.

Butterfly Book: Rita Venable is publishing a book on butterflies of Tennessee. She asked advice on including listed invasive species as nectar or host plants. In general, her suggestions to denote invasive species, explain the issue, discourage their use in the garden, and consult TN-EPPC list before buying plants were applauded. Margie* will request a list of species proposed and the butterfly it hosts so we can more accurately advise on specific plants. Kris* will share this list with USFWS lepidopterists for opinions. We caution assumptions that egg laying on exotic species is synonymous with successful maturation of larvae. She might seek advice from Doug Tallamy (*Bringing Nature Home*) and David Wagner.

Next Meeting: Friday, Aug 26. Pat* will check on ORNL. She would like to showcase native plant landscaping.

Meeting adjourned 1:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Margie Hunter
Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT – June 8, 2011

TENNESSEE EXOTIC PEST PLANT COUNCIL

GENERAL OPERATING ACCOUNT

Beginning Balance: (February 16, 2011) **\$7,661.95**

Receipts:

Memberships **\$265.00**

shirts **\$75.00**

Expenses:

Lawn & Garden Show **\$36.00**

Printing **\$575.00**

Ending Balance: (June 8, 2011) **\$7,390.95**

MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT

Beginning Balance: (February 16, 2011) **\$3,941.46**

Net Interest Earned: **0.65**

Ending Balance: (June 8, 2011) **\$3,942.11**

\$11,333.06

**TOTAL ASSETS OF GENERAL & MM
ACCOUNTS**