

TN-EPPC Board Meeting
Feb. 14, 2013
TWRA, Cookeville, TN

Attendance: Andrea Bishop, Kris Johnson, Mike Berkley, Margie Hunter, Pat Parr

Absent: Bob Parrish (no proxy), Anni Self (Andrea), Sara Keubbing (Kris), Marie Kerr (Mike), Belinda Esham (Pat), LinnAnn Welch (Margie)

Guests: Kitty McCracken (ORNL), Justin Coffey (NPS)

Meeting called to order 10:05 a.m. [*] denotes action item

Agenda additions:

Parks & Greenways meeting in Knoxville (Kitty)
Tenn Naturalist & Master Gardener EDDMapS & removal training (Margie)
Rita Venable's book (Mike)

Minutes: Nov. 1, 2012, minutes were approved.

Treasurer's report: The total balance of both accounts is \$7,780.93. Expenses were a payment of \$469 for *Wildland Weeds*. Treasurer's report was approved.

Membership: Reminder to board members to pay \$20 dues. Andrea* will check with Sara on reminder cards to general membership.

Board members: We should set aside time on next meeting's agenda to discuss recommendations for new board members. Claude has stepped down. Pat is going part time at ORNL and may rotate off the board soon. She suggested Kitty (in attendance) as a possible ORNL representative for the board. We might consider asking certain people to be advisors rather than board members, but advisors may not be as motivated to attend meetings negating some of the value. We should at least send emails on our meetings to a wider net of people.

Web site:

Plant Profiles -- Justin* is about half way through Andrea's list. Kitty* will help with incomplete list. Andrea* will do 8 unassigned species. Kris* can provide GSMNP documents for three species on the incomplete list. Mike* is working on his.

Eagle Scout Project -- Pat* working to get updated information and will do a writeup on the Oak Ridge workshop.

Nolichucky Purple Loosestrife 2012 summary report -- Troy Evans or Kris* will send to Margie.

Back page of cost of invasive report -- We should draft an explanation of the survey that will contextualize the results and better communicate them to the professional nursery industry. A conference call with Sara, Alix, Mike, and Marie or Andrea is advisable to discuss the best presentation approach for maximum impact.

Electronic newsletter: Margie has done no work toward an email newsletter template for member contact. Belinda may pick up the project.

Nashville workshop: Presentations were well done. While there was a decent crowd, attendance was not enough. Marketing and media promotion for the event was weak.

TDEC erosion control manual: Kris reviewed the manual and made suggested edits. It can be revised at any time.

Letter to TDOT: Now that TDEC manual is done, we should begin to work on TDOT. Marie was to investigate. No report.

Nolichucky survey: Troy Evans did a summary report on 2012 work. An abbreviated version appeared in a recent *Wildland Weeds*. The report will also be sent to Margie for our Web site. Troy hopes to go to the SE-EPPC meeting in Florida and is making a poster in case he cannot attend. Justin will be going and could take the poster. In 2013, they hope to finish the survey, completing sections not covered last year. They are also trying to get buy-in from TVA. Kris* will talk to Pat Cox. Knoxville CAC Americorps volunteers could help. They need permission from various landowners along the corridor to treat populations. Control is next step once permissions are in place. However, most plants have been found in scour sections right on the shoreline. Simply pulling plants or cutting flowering before seeding would do a lot. Chemicals (cut stump) may not be needed. Timing is critical, it is easiest to spot in flower, but it must be cut before seed set. They will talk with commercial rafting (NOC) companies to see if they would help with spotting infestations.

Displays: Roll up display is finished and looks wonderful. LinnAnn has the fold up display. Andrea* is working on a carrying case for it. We made a motion to purchase a second roll up display and will solicit votes of approval by email since we have no quorum today.

TIPS plan: A draft of the strategic plan is being sent around and may be done by spring.

T-shirts: We will keep the design on one side (front) and add our logo to the left upper corner. Shirts will be short sleeve in a neutral color. The design features four colors -- dark blue green (vine, lines of flowers, logo), light green (leaves), pale yellow (flowers), blue-purple (berries, state outline). Cost per shirt should be around \$10. We could sell them for \$15.

TN-EPPC anniversary: We should plan something for this fall but will need to work around other events such as the Natural Areas Conference, perhaps November. We should call to get on the *Tennessee Conservationist* schedule and write an article for them and *Wildland Weeds*. Past and long-term board members like Brian Bowen and Bob Parrish could help with our history and highlight and may have good photos. Kris* will contact Bob. A few of our accomplishments include:

TWRA dropping autumn olive
noxious weed stop grow list
TDEC erosion manual inclusion of native species and notation of invasives
landscaping and native alternatives brochures
statewide workshops & trainings
support letters
invasive species list development and updates

New Business

Miller list request: Jim Miller requested EPPC's review their plant lists by Feb. 25 to be sure they are current and accurate. Marie* will let him know ours is OK.

NPS-sponsored invasive workshop: Facilities at Big South Fork in Oneida are available to stage a community workshop like the one in Oak Ridge. Earth Day was suggested as date, but June might be a better time for seeing invasive plants and presenter participation. Topics could include a talk on alternatives (Mike) and demonstrations of removal techniques (*Elaeagnus*, *Rosa multiflora*, *Lonicera*, etc.) They would advertise through press releases and social media - particularly to park neighbors in the three Kentucky and four Tennessee rural counties. Given this location, we cannot be sure of the reception it would receive. Pat suggested they look for community (Jamestown, Oneida) residents to invest in workshop and help. Might consider a joint effort with Pickett State Park.

NA-EPPC phone conference: Marie cannot do it. It is one hour on April 2 if someone else would be willing to cover it. Marie* should send an email request to the board.

SE-EPPC board conference call: Draft minutes were distributed.

Brochures: Alternatives - three boxes available. Pat needs some.
Landscaping - two boxes available (Kris and Pat need some)

Upcoming events:

- * Lawn & Garden, Feb. 38-Mar. 3 -- Three board members are helping staff the booth. We will have the roll up display and brochures. Andrea* will get these to Margie.
- * Nat'l Invasive Species Awareness Week, Mar. 3-8 -- Margie* will contact LinnAnn to contact Paul Fowler to advertise Warner Parks removals as part of week.
- * TN Valley Wild Ones symposium, Mar 9 -- requested 500 copies of each brochure, Andrea sent them (members speak widely in the area and distribute these copies)
- * Invasive Species conference in Lexington, Kentucky, Apr 3-4
- * Wildflower Pilgrimage Apr. 21-28 -- Margie* will bring a display up, and Kris* will arrange its pickup at the end.
- * SE-EPPC Annual Meeting, May 21-23 -- Don't know who might attend. Marie and/or Justin may if funding is available and proper justification (training points) can be made.

Knoxville Parks & Greenways: The new coordinator, Lori Goerlich, called a meeting to organize a citywide initiative on invasive plant removal. Kitty, Alix, Ijams representatives,

GSMNP Glenn Taylor, and Andy Pigg, intern, attended and discussed having a system of group leaders to adopt a park or section of greenway to work on invasive removal with local organizations and scout troops, etc. Goerlich is making a list of parks and their problems with an estimate of the manpower needed and best removal techniques. The plan is to replace exotics with native species. They may choose one park to complete first as a demonstration site and generate publicity. They may get equipment loans from ORNL and TWRA.

Naturalist training for EDDMapS: Margie suggested TN-EPPC stage a training workshop for Tennessee Naturalist Program graduates that could also be marketed to Master Gardeners. TNP graduates need advanced training hours to retain their certification as well as notable volunteer projects to accumulate service hours. TN-EPPC could train them on reporting invasive species to EDDMapS and taking photographs for use as herbarium specimens to update these databases and provide a more accurate reflection of the distribution of these species in the state. The training should include identification tips and might also include removal techniques. The board suggested we focus this training on the following species: Purple Loosestrife, Cogongrass, Wintercreeper, Paulownia, Mahonia, Nandina, and Bradford Pear. A discussion of smart phone apps for ID and reporting might be helpful too. Perhaps we could get Chris Fleming to help with this. Board moved to approve this idea and it will be put to a vote by email since we have no quorum.

Pat suggested we consider asking someone to research the supposed sterility of Bradford Pear and document observed spread.

Rita's book: Rita Venable, author of the upcoming Butterflies of Tennessee, has solicited our input on her treatment of invasive plants known to support native butterfly species. We are fine with her approach to list all host plants yet strongly note in the gardening section those that are invasive and not recommended for gardens. One omission regarding Mimosa was found. We suggested stronger wording on Garlic Mustard, including the notation that while West Virginia Whites may lay eggs on this plant, the larva do not grow and survive. This added information will enlighten readers providing a wider ecological context regarding nonnative plants. We also suggested that she note those species on the Noxious Weed list that are banned from sale in Tennessee.

Next Meeting: Tentative date, June 4 (Tues) at Mike Berkley's nursery in Fairview, TN.

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Margie Hunter