

TN-EPPC Board Meeting Minutes
Feb. 11, 2009

University of the South, Sewanee, TN

Attendance: Terri Hogan, Kris Johnson Nancy Fraley, Claude Bailey, Pat Parr, Anni Self, Andrea Bishop, Margie Hunter, Mike Berkley

Absent (with proxy): Kevin Fitch (Terri), Dan Brown (Anni), LinnAnn Welch (Margie)

Guests: Mary Priestly TNPS, Paul Pridgen and Kevin Chatelaine of Helena Chemical Co., Harry Quarls ORNL, Jack Gilpin State Parks, Steve Manning Invasive Pest Control, Lee Patrick IPC & SE-EPPC.

Host: Welcome from Jonathan Evans, Biology professor

Meeting called to order 10:20 a.m. [**denotes action item]

Minutes: Approved minutes of Nov. 6, 2008

Treasurer's Report: [Attached] Income - \$60 in memberships. Expense - \$440 to SE-EPPC for members' Wildland Weeds subscriptions. Approved.

Web Updates: **Need photos and bios of new members Mike and Andrea. Richard is still posting info until new site is launched. Send any activity posts to him.

TNPS: Joint TNPS/TN-EPPC annual meetings in 2009 set for Sept. 18-19 at Mary Linden Valley retreat facility in Perry County on the Buffalo River. TNPS is reserving 30 rooms – 20 for TNPS & 10 for TN-EPPC). **TN-EPPC will help contribute to events including an invasive plant ID and control component for the Saturday field trip, one of the two evening programs, and the possibility of a small indoor program. Registration will begin in June. TNPS will send us promotional materials to send around. The possibility of a silent auction was suggested and will be explored at future meetings.

Joint TNPS/TN-EPPC booth at the Lawn & Garden Show in Nashville Mar. 5-8. Margie submitted contract, but has not received a signed copy from show organizers. **She will call to check. TNPS paid the small fee for tables/chairs rental. TNPS is developing a dual banner which will hopefully be printed at no charge at University of the South. TNPS will have T-shirts and their books for sale along with membership handout. **Terri is working on a membership form/"who we are" handout that could include the brochure flyer. Flyer may be separate. **Margie will laminate a copy of the Mid TN Landscaping and Alternatives brochures for demonstration. A few hard copies will be kept in the booth to hand out as interest is gauged. Jane Norris of TNPS is organizing booth worker schedule and with Margie will set up booth on Wed. and Thurs. **Schedule will be sent to TN-EPPC members living near Nashville. Margie will also have her book available.

Wildland Weeds & Other Publications: Alternative brochure info appeared in Winter issue. They will publish our new plant list but it will be a while. Louise Zepp, TN Conservationist, says their article schedule is pretty full but would see if there is a place for an article on the new list. **Andrea will talk to Louise to facilitate the effort.

Ag Weed List: Anni reported it has been filed at Secretary of State's office. Goes into effect Apr. 15, but has to go to Government Operations Committee where nursery industry, TDEC and TDA can discuss it and changes could occur. This is the last hurdle to pass. Notice of this last step: Jimmy Hooper sent letter to the technical advisory group on status of list, it will likely be posted on Sec of State Web site, TDA might send a blurb to TNLA newsletter. Mark Halcomb, Ag extension newsletter would be good way to adequately distribute to green industry and avoid surprise something Mike warns is important. **TN-EPPC should have a representative attend the meeting. **TDA wants a TDEC person there too. The technical advisory committee is supposed to meet every two years, but its future is in dispute as nursery members reneged on agreed compromise at hearing. Mike mentioned importance of working with some of the small growers to help them find alternatives to grow. Get vocal public officials like Carol Reese on board. Work with Urban land grant institutions. Steve Manning suggested a traveling show on the road to growers to show them alternatives and offer positive marketing strategies beyond these problem species. TDA needs to help with this education, too. TN-EPPC could help them with the development of suitable information for this effort. TN-EPPC must commit to begin personal, one-on-one relationships with green industry to establish trust and mutual respect. Mike, Margie and Terri have expressed interest.

Oak Grove nursery is one of the few state businesses producing native plant liners – young, wholesale stock.

Ecology Impacts of Invasives: Review of professional papers and contact with various individuals for info in progress.

TN Master Naturalist: Submitted Nat'l Science Foundation grant in December, should hear result by late spring.

Bart Gordon Liaison: Bob has made contact and will arrange meeting when Bart is in Murfreesboro. Two other members join Bob for this. Date to be set. Steve or Lee and Mike would be interested.

Invasive Plant List Update: A glitch that dropped some species was caught and resolved. They have been reviewed and integrated. List is nearly ready. A few species were troublesome to place due to taxonomic issues including possible misidentification in herbarium specimens and the knowledge that some plants are more prevalent than current distribution data would support. i.e. *Setaria* spp. & *Wisteria sinensis*

NIWAW/TN-IWAW Proclamation: Actual state proclamation was viewed, and two copies given to Terri for our records. One may be framed. Several events throughout the state are planned that week (Feb. 22-28). Press release, list of supporters, and events list was sent to board members, supporters, print & broadcast media, and TN-EPPC members. Terri suggested that we similarly celebrate this week each year.

Nominating Committee: **Dan Brown and Anni will serve on committee. LinnAnn wants to step down from VP. Margie will re-up as secretary.

Materials Supply: T-shirts—we have one box (\$10 ea.) at Anni's house. Terri would like to redo a special order of polo-styled shirts for board members. Steve suggested a company.

Landscaping brochures—we need more and will take this opportunity to revise the brochures. Some plants listed are not available commercially. **Mike will review the lists. The quad fold format is awkward, and we hope to adapt a more user friendly layout. Review other information – addresses, Web sites, etc. – for accuracy. **Andrea and Anni will work on this. **Margie will send them Chris Armour's contact info, as he probably has the editable documents.

Alternative brochures—we have about 6,000. We are still communicating with Beth Babbit on best way to make all Master Gardener candidates aware of brochure, or get one in their hands. New MG notebook has still not been printed. We might try to get at least a mention of brochure availability in the book if not the entire brochure text as part of chapter. **Terri will talk with Beth Babbit at MG meeting in Knoxville later this month.

Flash cards—it would be nice to add more watch species for early detection and mark with different border color. Cost is \$3.00 a set plus lamination. They are a set of 12 cards with descriptions, photos, management suggestions designed to fit in pocket to carry in field with ring to hold them together. **Pat and Nancy will work on updates. They are on the SE-EPPC Web site.

Other educational pieces—Jack Ranney wrote a one page how-to regarding prioritizing invasive control on property, designed for homeowners, etc. Good for L&G.

SE-EPPC Retreat: Two day retreat in January featured state reports, group history, review of goals, objectives, and accomplishments, plus a review of current activities and the symposium. A non-board moderator facilitated discussions, identification of priorities. Minutes will have full set of comments. Key decisions: executive committee was abolished and the coordinator position is gone (Brian's old role). He is still on the board and will now serve as SE-EPPC rep for NA-EPPC. They will help him with travel to NIWAW and NA-EPPC.

These committees were designated, strategies discussed:

List Development – document and synthesize compilation process/strategies of plant list development by various states in order to provide guidelines

CWMA Development – greater involvement in the development of Cooperative Weed Management Areas in Southeast

Legislative Policy – identify important regional policy issues

Restoration – facilitate and collaborate with restoration groups in replanting areas following control or disturbance to minimize reinvasion, establishing relationship with Society for Ecological Restoration (in Southeast), Ecological Society of America, Assoc. of Southeastern Biologists.

Education & Outreach – Develop strategies such as the Least Wanted pod cast idea

Other ideas and discussions:

- Reinvigorate St. Louis Declaration
- Green industry relationship development
- Work more on a regional level
- Increase board with organizational liaisons -- TNC, USFW, APHIS, etc.
- Develop pesticide certification to cover all the states. Training programs could be possible income generator.
- Need a person for each state to verify EDDMapS submissions.
- Looking for Secretary and President-Elect (to take place of VP slot). Do they want two people from each state on board? They will consider board structure issue in May.
- Need states to offer increased participation and support, especially the use of state members on committees.

TN-EPPC Representation at SE-EPPC and NA-EPPC: Nancy, Lee, Brian usually go to SE-EPPC. It is important to have an alternate and be sure someone can attend. We need to designate one or two as a line of backup. Nancy usually gets travel expenses handled through work. Brian may be representing SE-EPPC at NA-EPPC, but we need to have a presence, too, and should determine how we will participate in NA-EPPC. SE-EPPC annual meeting is in Georgetown, SC, May 13-15 near Charleston, Myrtle Beach.

Web Site Revamp: Jed Schneider in South Carolina, a friend of Terri's, has offered to work on our Web site with an estimated cost around \$600 for all internal work. Site graphic design would be subcontracted. **Margie will get an estimate on that. Jed originally indicated that his work would take approximately 2 to 3 weeks. Jed recommended a content management system such as Wordpress or Joomla which allows for group user capability and ease of posting new info. He also recommended a "wiki" application for the plant list which allows us to establish a full base of information on each plant including related links to other sites. Wikis can be locked down to prevent unauthorized text changes. We need to give Jed some basic information on what we like and dislike about our current site and what features and services we'd like to add. **All board members are asked to perform this review and send information to Margie by Feb. 20.

Some initial suggestions included: submit EDRR reports and new sightings of invasives, generate an e-newsletter to membership, take memberships or t-shirt payments online (PayPal), internal board blog communication.

SE-EPPC 2010 Meeting: TN-EPPC will host the 2010 SE-EPPC annual meeting usually held in May, possibly in conjunction with Southern Appalachian Man & Biosphere. **Pat is on SAMAB agenda for March 18 to discuss. East Tennessee is likely location. Funds will be needed; sponsorships will be sought. SAMAB membership is about 100-200, same for SE-EPPC. Attendance of 200 to 300 expected. **Terri will get info from South Carolina, who recently hosted.

EDRR: Organizational meeting set for Mar. 13, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Ellington Ag Center in Nashville. This TN Invasive Species Task Force is an outgrowth of the cogongrass initiatives. Nancy reports that the EDRR template in NC/SC is not working well – has

slowed down, but we have interested parties, especially Mark Gudlin, TWRA, as a result of the cogongrass work. This meeting will lay the groundwork for how agencies and non-profits work together in Tennessee, including TDOT, Div Forestry, TWRA, TDA, TDEC, NRCS, UT Extension, private foresters, and TNLA. We'll need an EDRR reporting mechanism, perhaps through TN-EPPC Web site.

Cogongrass is a high profile issue in various areas – forests, DOTs, etc. People in Tennessee are just becoming aware. Chemical companies, like Helena, have been working with southern states and know their efforts – what worked, what didn't. They can be a resource for control, linking people, products, knowledge.

Membership Coordinator: We could use one to monitor member list and contact opportunities. Anni now has current list and can keep it updated as members join/renew.

Bylaws: We need to revise them. Bob will be helpful. We will block out time (maybe half day) on agenda of next meeting to do this.

Next Meeting: May 27 or 28. Jack Gilpin will try to get us space at Cumberland Mountain State Park in Crossville.

Meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Margie Hunter

TREASURER'S REPORT – February 11, 2009

TENNESSEE EXOTIC PEST PLANT COUNCIL

GENERAL OPERATING ACCOUNT

Beginning Balance: (November 6, 2008) **\$5150.32**

Receipts:

Memberships 60.00

Expenses:

Wildland Weeds (\$440.00)

Ending Balance: (February 10, 2009) **\$4770.32**

MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT

Beginning Balance: (November 6, 2008) **\$3934.52**

Net Interest Earned: .65

Ending Balance: (February 10, 2009) **\$3935.17**

TOTAL ASSETS OF GENERAL & MM ACCOUNTS \$8705.49