

**TN-IPC Board Meeting
Cumberland Mountain State Park
February 13, 2018**

Attendance

Dave Adams, Christine Bertz, Mark Whited, Mike Berkley, Margie Hunter, Kris Johnson, Kitty McCracken, Katy Kilbourne

Guests

Jamie Harold (ORNL), Lisa Huff (TDEC), Diane Warwick (TN Dept. Ag, Forestry)

Absent

Pat Parr, Jimmy Groton, Adam Datillo, Chris Oswald, Belinda Ferro

Minutes

Approved meeting minutes from December 13, 2017.

Treasurer's Report

Primary transactions since December 13, 2017, include the transfer of \$950.84 from PayPal to the Money Market account, payment to Doug Ingram (\$140.34) for Web hosting and domain renewals, and payment for a third of the Lawn and Garden Show booth costs (\$99.33). Report was approved and is attached. Board members' dues are payable in March.

2018 Spring Events

- Cumberland River Compact River Talks, Nashville, March 1. Kitty is giving a talk on invasive species and control in riparian areas.
- Lawn & Garden Show, Nashville March 1-4. Margie will get more brochures from Andrea. Forestry could provide some brochures on pests.
- Lichterman Native Plant Sale, Memphis, April 14. Christine will have brochures there.
- Wild Ones Symposium, Chattanooga, March 16-17. Jamie will set up a booth.
- Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage, Gatlinburg, April 25-28. There is no official display area now. We might leave brochures with Andy Sessions at her native plant sales booth.

Include TN-IPC donation boxes at all events. Take photos of our booths or displays for the Web site and social media. A listing of these events needs to go on Facebook and Twitter. Colorful brochures, i.e., butterflies and pollinators, are a good gateway to open conversations with the public on native vs. invasive species.

Clean Quarry Certification

Vulcan wanted guidelines for development of a weed management plan, Katy and Kris have been working on this issue. NPS has been inspecting East Tennessee quarries since 2008 for GSMNP. Kris spoke at a recent regional Vulcan meeting where they were very receptive. Their GIS person is willing to map invasive plants on their properties. NAISMA (North American Invasive Species Management Assoc.) works with

weed management areas out west to develop protocols on various issues and their ideas are migrating east. They developed clean quarry standards as well as purity certification standards for forage and seed, etc. North Carolina has recently enacted a certification program for quarries and expressed willingness to provide that service in Tennessee. Katy and TDA might be able to initiate a similar program in Tennessee as well. Getting other state and federal agencies, like the forest service, to spec certified clean quarries would motivate other quarries to follow suit. Many quarries are in favor and see it as a competitive advantage. They are surprised to learn which species are invasive and the impact of weed seeds in gravel. There really isn't that much work involved for many quarry sites. TN-IPC should initiate education outreach (brochure) to general customers to request clean gravel and certification showing voluntary compliance. TN-IPC should also contact state quarries (SIC, standard industrial code) with information on certification to gauge interest. Do they already have a weed management program in place? We could help them find someone to survey their site and ID problem plants. Kris and NAISMA have inspection protocols for quarry site maps to assess highest risk areas (stockpile and crusher areas) and focus work there.

Weed Wrangles

Memphis' wrangle is this weekend. Most are March 3, but a few are scattered through March and into April. Chattanooga would like a demonstration of methods, which Steve Manning may do. Ijams will work on *Ficaria verna* among others March 3. Hands-on Nashville is helping organize wrangles in that area and oppose using chemicals for liability reasons. Board members should participate in wrangles in their area, perhaps presenting a program the night before. Kitty will check on Webinars to which we could post a link on our Web site. TN-IPC can use the Weed Wrangle logo as well. Members should take event photos for use on the site and social media.

Wrangles were initially scheduled in proximity to National Invasive Species Awareness Week in late February, early March, though this is not ideal timing for many reasons. However, it still presents a good opportunity for message marketing. TN-IPC should push the wrangle concept at other times of year too, when work might have greater impact. Tennessee Environmental Council's 250,000 Tree Day occurs just before the March wrangles. TN-IPC might talk to them regarding the types of trees they promote such as Loblolly Pine that is nearly invasive in parts of the state and the late winter date which is not optimal for young tree establishment. Arbor Day Foundation's promoted species are often questionable, too.

Workshops vs. Videos/Speakers Bureau

Planning and conducting workshops requires more time and energy than the board can deliver. Kitty suggested that we select quality online tutorials or training videos on techniques, plants, or situations and post them on our Web site, such as safety and PPE, cut-stump control demonstration, proper weed wrench techniques, etc., perhaps even develop our own You-Tube channel. This would be a better and more effective use of our limited time. Kitty will assign each member an area or subject to begin screening suitable videos. We will view some of these at the next meeting. It might be wise to add a disclaimer to our site that we aren't promoting any individual or product and were

not paid but found the information to be accurate and helpful. We should have the videos open in a new window. Margie will check with Doug on achieving that.

Workshop style settings still have value promoting native plants and offering general education on invasive plants to the general public. To maintain this connection, TN-IPC should contact planners of various annual events across the state and different groups/organizations to offer our service as individual speakers or presenters. We can piggyback on the event staging and publicity of garden shows, conferences, master gardeners, non-profits, etc.

SE-EPPC/USFS Grant

Ben Nanny, Grounds Manager at Ijams, reports that management staff and interns have worked over the past several months to clear approximately 2 acres of mostly woody invasives and a fair amount of English Ivy, *Euonymus*, and *Vinca*. He has ordered most of the herbicide needed for the grant.

A couple of weeks ago, he noticed the first sign of fig buttercup at the lotus pond. The volunteer coordinator is contacting naturalist volunteers with experience in botany to spot locations not already identified. When about 50% is blooming, they will hit it hard on good weather days.

Brochures

We are very low on both Landscaping and Alternative brochures. Dave will check with Andrea regarding the last printing (vendor, quantity, paper stock). A large printing, perhaps 10,000 each, is needed to cover our needs and distribute up to 100 of both to all 56 state parks through TDEC. The state forestry office in Knoxville and agriculture office in Nashville could store large quantities. We will solicit cost estimates and assemble funding partners: TVA, ORNL, Forestry, members, and public donations. Kitty has blank paper 11.5 x17 for coping brochures from the Web site if needed.

TDOT has grant money for a program to promote pollinator and native grass demonstration gardens at highway rest stops. Our two main brochures are not a good fit at rest stops, but a general information brochure educating the public on invasive species regionally and people's roles in spreading these species could be beneficial. We could approach TVA for grant money to develop, print, and distribute a brochure of this type. Margie will check our Web site for a link to the Mid-Atlantic native vs. invasive identity brochure.

2018 Plant List

Based on public comments, Adam suggested adding *Perilla frutescens*, beefsteak plant (Established Threat), and *Firmiana simplex*, Chinese parasol tree (Emerging Threat), to the new plant list. Kitty will approach the same person who formatted the Gatlinburg Fire document to layout the new list for printing. She can glean some basic information from the 2009 list document and add the new category descriptions from Adam. Adam has agreed to formulate TN-IPC's responses to public comments 2, 3, and 4. Kitty will check on comment #1 and find an appropriate person to address it. The responses should be sent to Margie for posting online.

President Duties

Kitty is eager to shed most duties of the president's position, but no other board member has stepped forward to fulfill the role. The traditional duties are not very time consuming beyond the quarterly conference calls with NAIPC and SE-EPPC. Other members have offered to help cover these calls. Drafting the agenda, facilitating meetings, securing meeting locations, and conducting doodle polls are other duties that could be alternated among members. The most time consuming aspect is speaker invitations. To share that burden, we will put the general group email as the contact for such requests, which can then be forwarded to the entire board with all members serving as part of a speakers bureau. Kitty will bring a flash drive with her talk presentations to the next meeting that others could use.

A Middle Tennessee boy scout troop requested help/advice with their Camporee at Rock Island State Park April 6 and 7, wanting to focus on the issue of invasive plants. Activities will be confined to Saturday without indoor facilities for a formal presentation. Katy will contact the troop leader to see if her presence is needed on Saturday. Margie will forward their email to Jamie who has experience developing scout activities.

Pest Plant Rule

Maryland developed a second status level for commercial invasive plants still sold in the state that requires consumer information tags on designated species. Katy will forward the Maryland information to everyone. A similar approach here would allow us to ban a few of the worst species and include many more on the supplementary list. We would need to ensure the label text is accurate and doesn't present "spreading" as a desirable trait. Mike knows some nurserymen in Maryland and will check with them regarding effects of this policy in the trade. McMinnville is most frightened by a proposal adding burning bush and Bradford pear to the state pest plant rule.

A while back we got information on a program in Indiana that listed nurseries who only sell native species and those who also sell non-natives but not species listed as invasive. Margie sent the program information to Tennessee Valley Chapter of Wild Ones, who were enthusiastic about the idea. She will touch base on any progress.

NAIPC and SE-EPPC Updates

Cody Miller may become editor of the online magazine, *Wildland Weeds*. Send potential articles to SE-EPPC. The organizations recommended chapters purchase liability insurance. No one knows where this idea originated, nor what possible issues might lead to a lawsuit against TN-IPC. Kitty will investigate the issue more.

Next Meeting

May, 2018, in Nashville with video capabilities. Date and place to be set later.

Respectfully submitted,
Margie Hunter

"I can't please everyone, I'm not bacon."

TREASURER'S REPORT – February 13, 2018
TENNESSEE INVASIVE PLANT COUNCIL

GENERAL OPERATING ACCOUNT

Beginning Balance:	(December 13, 2017)	\$1331.25
Receipts:		
Transfer from Paypal	\$950.84	
Total Receipts: \$950.84		
Expenses:		
Transfer to Money Market Account	-\$950.84	
Domain & web hosting renewal (Doug Ingram)	-\$140.34	
Reimbursement for TN-IPC share of Nashville Lawn & Garden (Margie Hunter)	-\$99.33	
Total Expenses: \$1190.51		
Ending Balance:	(February 13, 2018)	\$1091.58

MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT

Beginning Balance:	(December 13, 2017)	\$784.87
Receipts:		
Transfer from General Operating Account	\$950.84	
Net Interest Earned:	\$0.03	
Ending Balance:	(February 13, 2018)	\$1735.74

TOTAL ASSETS OF GENERAL & MM ACCOUNTS **\$2827.32**

PAYPAL ACCOUNT

Beginning Balance:	(December 13, 2017)	\$950.84
Receipts:		
N/A		
Expenses:		
Transfer to General Operating Account	-\$950.84	
Ending Balance:	(February 13, 2018)	\$0.00