

TN-IPC Board Meeting
Feb. 27, 2017
US Fish & Wildlife Service Office, Cookeville, TN

Attendance

Kitty McCracken, Adam Datillo, Christine Bertz, Andrea Bishop, Mike Berkeley, Margie Hunter, Kris Johnson, Belinda Ferro

Absent

Chris Oswalt (Kitty), Pat Parr (Belinda), Alix Pfenningwerth (Kris), Jimmy Groton (Mike)

Guests

Sam King (TDEC), Dave Adams (TDEC), Erin Singer (TDEC), Jamie Herold (ORNL), Katy Kilbourne (TDA)

Meeting called to order at 10:20 a.m.

Minutes

The board approved minutes of the Nov. 10, 2016, meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Total assets are \$8,877.78, but much of this is allocated. Our unallocated assets are \$1,702.78. Christine submitted TN-IPC's financial report to SE-EPPC Feb. 8, 2017. Board dues are payable in March. The treasurer's report was accepted and is attached.

Brochures

Landscaping and alternatives brochures stocks are low. TDEC is helping with funding for reprinting, and Chris Armour is adding their name to the documents. Current supplies will be used for upcoming Weed Wrangles and our booth at the Nashville Lawn and Garden Show.

Weed Wrangles

TVA was willing to assist with followup herbicide application, but Weed Wrangle individuals present at the Chattanooga meeting were hesitant regarding chemical use. TN-IPC could help educate Weed Wrangle partners across the state on the benefits of chemicals, providing important distinctions between pesticides and herbicides to reduce the resistance. TVA would participate if welcomed. We should discuss this with Steve Manning and look for good ways to introduce this idea to Garden Club and Weed Wrangle participants. Our Weed Wranglesposts on Facebook need updating for the coming week.

Some WW sites are planting native trees after invasive species are removed. March is not a good time of year to plant woodies, and people will be tired after 3 hours of pulling out invasives. Replanting sites could be proposed as a fall-based followup "Weed Wrangle Autumn Edition - Planting Natives." We could also try to coordinate future weed removals to occur in advance of planned plantings at certain sites. Development of a flyer with replacement advice to hand out at wrangles, would include general suggestions for evaluating sites, selecting plant sizes, and appropriate timing for planting, etc.

Plant List

Adam talked to Todd Crabtree and Dwayne Estes for reviewer recommendations within the state to replace non-botanists or retired professionals who participated last time. The proposed list is ready to be sent for review, along with a copy of our current list, established and emerging category definitions, and sources used in the list development. The primary consideration is to focus on those invasive plants whose presence would alter the environment, the top tier threats to native plant habitats. It would be a good idea to note with an asterisk which species on the Emerging list have not yet been documented in TN. Andrea feels *Nandina* should be under Established Threat, but it fails to meet the criteria for that category. There are several species of *Phyllostachys*, not just *P. aurea*. Perhaps this should be noted with a superscript.

Adam will compile comments from the technical review for the board to discuss at our next meeting. After any revisions following the technical review, there will be a public comment period where the horticultural industry can weigh in. To announce the public comment period, we can send an email with a link to the list to state agricultural extension, TNLA, TNPS, Wild Ones, Army Corps Engineers, NRCS, etc.

Grant Work Progress

Using cogongrass grant dollars from USFWS, there was privet removal at Overbridge SNA using a gyrotrack, which accomplished a lot of work quickly. Prescribed fire will work well now in maintaining it in accordance with the management plan. Andrea will work on the report to file with USFWS. TN-IPC will pay the gyrotrack bill. Andrea will also work on an article for our newsletter, Web site, Facebook and Twitter.

Web Site

TN-IPC PayPal link for membership is not working. Christine will look into it with Doug Ingram. Photos, bios, and contact info on Adam, Chris and Jimmy are needed to update board members list. Margie will send a note to the last two.

Invasives@tnipc.org will be the general email address on our Web site, twitter account, and business cards. It forwards to Christine.

Gatlinburg Fire Document

Sunny cannot do the document layout. Kitty will check with a graphic designer she knows. Margie will send her the files. Margie could use TNPS software if necessary. The full document (several pages) will be posted on Web sites -- TN-IPC, TNPS, Gatlinburg city, GSMA, Sevier Cty Wild Ones and Master Gardeners, Friends of the Smokies, Tennessee Firewise. There will be a companion one-page flyer to distribute and promote the online document. Margie will work on flyer text. The flyer could be distributed to the Gatlinburg Garden Club, Sevier County Agricultural Extension, city building permits department, and the FEMA office. Tennessee Native Plant Society will pay for flyer printing.

Garden Shows & Meetings

Nashville Lawn & Garden Show, Mar. 2-5 -- Margie needs brochures. She won't push memberships, but will ask for donations instead.

Memphis Down to Earth Festival -- TN-IPC will share a tent with TNPS. Christine got a folding table and will have a banner made (\$52) with our name and logo. She also plans a before and after count of brochures to gauge numbers distributed and will have a donation box.

Native Plants 2017 Designing for Nature, Mar. 18 -- The Wild Ones' annual symposium in Chattanooga. Jamie and Kitty will host a TN-IPC table.

Alabama IPC Annual Conference, April -- Information is on the SE-EPPC Web site.

National Conference, December 2017 -- Plans for a SE-EPPC and TN-IPC joint conference was deferred, but Steve Manning, IPC, is setting up a national meeting at the Opryland Hotel. Both organizations will assist in lieu of the TN/SE-EPPC conference. We will contact Steve before our next board meeting to see how we can help, including assistance with volunteers, student poster session, arranging talks or field trips, etc.

Invasive Plant Teaching Manual

TN-IPC was contacted about a teaching manual on invasive plants. Belinda ordered a copy to review. It is good, but not quite the project based approach that was expected. Belinda will keep it to use with any education-related requests that might come our way.

NA-IPC

Conference call is coming up in early March. Kitty will take it, others are welcome.

Newsletter

Belinda wants to investigate who opens it and how often in order to gauge usage and perhaps find ways to strategically target it to those who actually use it. She notes that statistics are trending downward with only 43% opening the last issue. She'll put the statistics together for our next meeting,

TN-IPC Positive Public Spin

Much of what we do focuses on the negative. Our group needs to find ways to show the positive side of invasive removal, i.e., Work with Tennessee Plant Conservation Alliance, work with agencies like TWRA, look for concrete on-the-ground action, provide small grants for tools or herbicide with volunteer-day organizers, include restoration as well as eradication, interact with county parks to provide guidance, bring in other nature enthusiasts (bird, butterfly, bat).

Moving the Needle

TN-IPC should continually revisit our mission and resource allocation to further our reach and impact in Tennessee. What's being done? What's not being done? What things have changed that need a different approach? The focus should be more on-the-ground, producing something you can see at the end of the day. A few ideas discussed were:

- Partner on site specific projects with other groups or agencies
- Education component
- Weed Wrangle Autumn Edition -- planting natives
- Develop training for TNP volunteers in association with TN PCA
- Apply for grant funding; Christine will research this at University of Memphis
- Develop a curriculum packet and plan to train-the-trainers in different parts of state
- Develop evaluation protocols to survey numbers, effectiveness, etc., and make adjustments

Board members should come up with a couple of idea for things we can do to discuss at the next board meeting.

Next Meeting

Kitty will send everyone a Doodle poll with a May target.

Respectfully Submitted,

Margie Hunter
Secretary

TN-IPC TREASURER'S REPORT – February 27, 2017

GENERAL OPERATING ACCOUNT

Beginning Balance:	(November 10 2016)	\$5,000.00
Receipts:		
	Memberships	+\$155.00
	TN Wild Ones - Brochures	+\$40.00
Expenses:		
	Nashville Lawn & Garden Show	-\$74.50
	Down-to-Earth Festival	-\$50.00
Ending Balance:	(February 27, 2017*)	\$5070.50

**Note: Ending date is prior to meeting date*

MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT

Beginning Balance:	(November 10 2016)	\$3,025.03
Net Interest Earned:		+\$0.07
Expenses:	N/A	
Ending Balance:	(February 27, 2017)	\$3,025.10

TOTAL ASSETS OF GENERAL & MM ACCOUNTS **\$8,095.60**

PAY PAL ACCOUNT

Beginning Balance:	(November 10 2016)	\$782.18
Receipts:	N/A	+\$0.00
Expenses:	N/A	-\$0.00
Ending Balance:	(February 27, 2017)	\$782.18

TOTAL ASSETS OF ALL ACCOUNTS **\$8,877.78**

OUTSTANDING ITEMS

ASAP Grant Funds (housed in General Operating Account)	-\$5000.00
Remaining payments to Doug Ingram	-\$2200.00
Reimbursement from TNPS for Down-to-Earth Festival	+25.00
TOTAL UNALLOCATED ASSETS OF ALL ACCOUNTS	\$1702.78

OTHER NOTES

2015-2016 TN-IPC financial report submitted to SE-EPPC on Feb. 8, 2017

Board annual dues are payable in March