

Tennessee Invasive Plant Council
Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Ellington Ag Center
June 28, 2019 [corrected]

Attendance: Margie Hunter, Katy Kilbourne, Kitty McCracken, Christine Bertz, Sam King, Diane Warwick, Anni Self (guest) **Absent:** Kristine Johnson (Katy), Belinda Ferro (Kitty), Jimmy Groton (Sam), Pat Parr (Diane), Bill Moll (Christine), Mark Whited (Margie)

Minutes

Margie will polish the March minutes and distribute with these minutes next week.

Treasurer's Report

TN-IPC has total assets of \$4,043.06. From March to May, we received \$170 in board dues, \$27 in donations from the Nashville Lawn & Garden Show, and a \$50 donation for brochures from the Girl Scouts. Christine transferred \$1500 from general operating account to money market account. TN-IPC just received the annual check from Community Foundation of Greater Chattanooga on behalf of Jay and Jennifer Mills for \$100. Christine will send a thank you note. PayPal reflects \$156 in dues, t-shirt sales, and donations.

Expenses include our website and brochures. We still need to consider other ways to bring in revenue such as workshops, etc.

Brochures

The Homeowner's Invasive Plant Primer has been printed but is missing the USFS logo, which is needed since their grant funds paid for the printing. Kitty will have a stamp made, and we'll stamp the brochures before distributing.

Kitty got permission from ORNL to print 1000 copies of new plant list, which should be ready by the next board meeting.

Board Members

We are still not sure if Dave Adams is on the board. He has a new position with a different email and may just be out of the loop. Sam will ask him. Mark Whited has not attended recently and not responded to correspondence. There may be a couple of other TDOT people we could approach (Katy & Kitty have suggestions). Pat's status is uncertain as well. We've expressed the need of having a botanist on the board to take Adam's place. Sam will check with Caitlyn Elam who took Andrea's place at TDEC. Cooper Breeden of TPCA and SGI is another possibility. Margie will contact Andy Sessions now that she is retired and closed Sunlight Gardens. She would be a good nursery industry representative. The board decided to give departing board members a card of thanks rather than a monetary gift, perhaps making a donation to the organization in their names instead.

Website

Despite contacts from Margie and repeated promises to get the revamped plant list integrated into the website, Doug Ingram has not yet done this. He indicated that he is in another line of work now. Margie will contact him again regarding the site updates and ask if

he is still willing to continue in the role of Webmaster and host. In the meantime, Kitty will see if she can find someone in the Knoxville area, and Christine may know someone in Memphis.

Glyphosate Webinar

Diane reported on a recent webinar devoted to the current research on glyphosate. She will serve as TN-IPC's point person to stay current on this issue. TN-IPC needs to draft a statement for our website noting the herbicide is an effective tool for control of invasive plants when used responsibly and judiciously. Kitty will draft something and send it to the board for input.

Elections

To stagger the elections per our bylaws, the board will vote on President and Secretary this year and Treasurer and Vice President next year. Diane will serve as secretary, and Katy will update the website. Katy is also willing to assist Kitty, who will remain as president. All in attendance voted for these changes.

Pest Plant Rule Additions

Anni is starting the rules process and sending out letters to establish the review committee in mid-July. Katy will be on the committee for TDA, and Diane will represent Forestry. Kitty will represent TN-IPC. Tennessee Nursery and Landscape Association will have a representative. The Farm Bureau, academia, TDEC, NPS, Middle Tennessee Nursery Association, horticulture, and any other group impacted by proposed changes to the rule are invited to have a representative on the committee.

During committee meetings, representatives must present good, solid data to back up their positions for banning certain plants or not. McMinnville's mayor and members of the legislature have openly expressed a desire to ban Bradford pear. Mimosa should go through this time as well. Species like burning bush are less certain. We should gather data from iNaturalist reports, Bugwood's WildSpotting app, and NatureServe to support our position.

Chattanooga Workshop

Tennessee Valley Wild Ones will be the sponsor. Bill has secured a location for morning sessions at the John A. Patten Recreation Center and Reflection Riding for practical demonstrations in the afternoon. Topics for talks, possible speakers, and the best demonstrations will be discussed at the next board meeting. TDA will arrange continuing education credits for professionals. TDA's Samantha Jean can videotape the demonstrations. Sam will work with Katy on this. TN-IPC should investigate our own You Tube channel for the demo videos as these will show up better in Google searches.

Upcoming Events

Katy has asked about attending the NAISMA conference in New York later this year. Southern Group of State Foresters met last week, and invasive species were on prominent on the agenda. Christine is giving her 'hosta' talk to the garden club in Memphis and another talk to the horticultural society. She also had a conversation posted on the Sierra Club's website. Kitty talked to Knoxville's Volunteer Urban Foresters class. Diane gave a forestry award to a

man with the nonprofit Trees Knoxville who promotes native species. Kitty will also speak to the Knoxville Bird Group that wants to clear Sharp's Ridge in Knoxville of invasive species like bush honeysuckle for migrating species.

Diane said Forest Service matching grant funds are available for organizations and in-kind volunteer hours for invasive plant removal would count. The grant is encouraged for economically distressed counties to improve riparian forest cover on streams tied to drinking water, etc., but could be used for removals too.

Tool Bank

Katy is filing a grant through Farm Bill for tool purchases. Farm Bill grant is \$15,000 minimum. We can leverage this with Weed Wrangle outreach as supporting labor with tools. Tools will include weed wrenches, loppers, shovels, sprayers, saws, etc., as well as boot brushes. A small trailer could be outfitted to store the equipment, but only the tools would be checked out by groups. TN-IPC could partner with TDEC on the trailer purchase, put our logo on it, and keep it at the field station on Edmondson Pike in Nashville. As a non-profit, can we request donations for a trailer that will be titled to state? We would channel funds through the Tennessee State Parks Conservancy to purchase the trailer. Diane will see if the Forest Service grant could be used for the trailer purchase.

Clean Quarry

TDA wants to build a program on Kristine's work through NAISMA. Katy will take the online quarry certification training for \$200. Others who want to be inspectors must go through the training and attend a related program once a year. Officials with TDEC or TWRA could get the training too.

Play, Clean, Go

NAIPC is pushing this initiative for state and city parks and greenways. These campaigns work well as Boy or Eagle Scout projects. State Parks must build a new blue way or bike trail in each of the six regions each year. TN-IPC could promote PCG to parks as a good scout project in association with these new trails. We would provide all directions for construction of a station and include our logo on suitable sign graphics. Sam will run this idea by parks personnel.

Next Meeting

Date and location to be determined.

Respectfully submitted,
Margie Hunter
Secretary

TN-IPC Treasurer's Report June 28, 2019

GENERAL OPERATING ACCOUNT		
Beginning Balance:	(March 18, 2019)	\$1792.07
Receipts:	Board Dues	\$170.00
	Nashville Lawn & Garden Show Donations	\$27.00
	Girl Scouts Brochure Donation	\$50.00
	Total Receipts:	\$247.00
Expenses:	Transfer to Money Market	-\$1500.00
	Total Expenses:	-\$1500.00
Ending Balance:	(June 28, 2019)	\$539.07

MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT		
Beginning Balance:	(March 18, 2019)	\$1735.89
Receipts:	Transfer from Operating Account	\$1500.00
Expenses:	N/A	
Net Interest Earned:	March - May	\$0.04
Ending Balance:	(June 28, 2019)	\$3235.93

PAYPAL ACCOUNT		
Beginning Balance:	(March 18, 2019)	\$134.08
Receipts:	Board Dues	\$50.00
	Online Donations (Crane, Carmichael)	\$70.00
	T-shirt Sales (2)	\$36.00
	Total Receipts:	\$156.00
Expenses:	Paypal fees	-\$4.94
	Postage reimbursement (Bertz)	-\$17.08
	Total Expenses:	-\$22.02
Ending Balance:	(June 28, 2019)	\$268.06
TOTAL ASSETS OF ALL ACCOUNTS		\$4043.06