

**TN-EPPC Board Meeting
December 2, 2011
University of the South, Sewanee, TN**

Attendance: Andrea Bishop, Harry Quarles, Kris Johnson, Sara Keubbing, Pat Parr, Margie Hunter, Marie Kerr

Absent: Claude Bailey (Kris), Bob Parrish (Pat), Anni Self (Marie), Mike Berkley (Margie), LinnAnn Welch (Andrea)

Guests: Belinda Esham (NRCS), Mary Priestley (University of the South), Alix Pfennigwerth (TN-EPPC intern, UT Student), Kevin Willis (AEDC botanist/plant ecologist, SE-EPPC Invasive Species Specialist)

Meeting called to order 10:15 a.m. Welcome to guests and introductions. Thanks to Mary for meeting arrangements in Spencer Hall. [* denotes action item]

Minutes: Aug. 26, 2011 Approved.

Treasurer's Report: A couple of memberships as income (\$40) and expenses for website (\$174) are the only activity. \$7,436.95 in general account, \$3,942.94 in money market account. Report approved.

Award: TN-EPPC Received Outstanding Achievement award from NAEPPC for 2011 in recognition of our historic role in the EPPC movement and accomplishments. Plaque photo will be put on the website.

Invasive Costs Research Project: Sara's husband developed contract for Alix. Her first official act is this meeting, but the project formally begins in January. SE-EPPC is paying half the cost (\$1500) via a matching grant. Project budget calls for 160 hrs of research at \$12 per hour. The remainder is for travel/communication expenses and publication costs. There are three parts - develop & implement written survey (methods and questions) to estimate invasives costs, establish information database covering 2007 to 2011, and write a project article for *Wildland Weeds*. Opportunities to survey private landowners are limited. Nashville Natives (Andy Sudbrock), Mike at GroWild, and Forest Service grants to private landowners are possible avenues into this area. Another channel to explore is management of timber operations. Any other suggestions are welcome. Costs of doing nothing might be a good component to include - especially when infested property is next to cleared property. Direct costs should be first priority; indirect costs can be addressed in more general terms. Alix's emails are apfennig@utk.edu & mycorrhize.up@gmail.com.

Website: Margie* will get submitted plant descriptions posted and remove Dan from the board list. Marie* will do some of Andrea's plant descriptions. Claude* is doing the rest. Need to get Mike* to finish his list. Kris* will get Troy Evans to write a brief description of

loosestrife mapping project along Nolichucky River. Sara* and Alix* will generate a writeup on their project.

Annual Membership Meeting: We've only done one specifically called an annual meeting several years ago and have let workshops and seminars serve in this capacity since. Other EPPCs have them. We could designate a board meeting to serve as one or might seek to combine with another state organization, such as Wilderness Planning.

Renewal Letters for Membership: Pat* will send out 2012 notices. Andrea* will write up a small progress report to include and send Pat the database, envelopes, and cards.

Special Guests: Nate Wilson, Sewanee Domain Manager, Katie Qualls, geology and ecology student, Jon Evans, Professor & Assistant Provost for Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship. Nate reported the university's current plan regarding invasive species. Their focus is on Ailanthus and Kudzu in the wild and English Ivy in urban landscapes. Microstegium is everywhere. Deer eat the privet and control it well here; school cuts it back to spur lower growth for easier browse. Haven't noticed Bicolor Lespedeza displace other plants here. Oriental Bittersweet and Water-shield or Snot-bonnet *Brasenia schreberi* (native floating aquatic, roots along edges) are growing problems. Other management goals: improve and enlarge believed historic stands of Hill Cane via fire and opening the canopy; removing mature white pines to prevent excessive seeding; managing old plantation mixes of various pines (white, loblolly, shortleaf, Virginia) and yellow poplar to promote value of forest economically and ecologically and improve diversity; working on oak regeneration. U of S campus is believed to be most plant diverse in nation with 1,049 species (native, naturalized, old home sites) represented in herbarium. The school will be conducting research on invasive species including the invasibility of different habitats - examining influencing factors, including soil disturbance.

SE-EPPC Board Meeting: At the phone conference Sept. 27, we received approval for our research project funds. Annual meeting set for Alabama, probably Auburn, in 2012.

Wildland Weeds: Sara* will contact author of research article on goats and kudzu to solicit approval and permission to edit if needed for *Wildland Weeds*.

Alternatives Brochures: Chris has incorporated new edits. Margie* will review proof. Kris needs copies when printed.

Displays: Chris developed new design for old display. Review recommendations were to make red lines through exotics a translucent circle with line and replace the Oriental Bittersweet photo with one representative of the mature fruit. Margie* will pass this info to Chris. The roll up screen display has an option for three panels at \$500. It can be set a three different heights for greater flexibility in usage. The table top only version is \$385. Width of both is 33 inches. Andrea* will talk to Chris and get his recommendation.

Webinar NAEPPC: Topics discussed: Role of EPPCs at Natural Areas meetings and should the annual meeting connection continue, examination of NAEPPC membership - what it means and encompasses, and hiring two people for federal policy work particularly on NAPPRA list (prevent species entry until proven not invasive) for APHIS, NAEPPC input for Q37 list, and ASTM standards for recommendations regarding landscaping plants (similar to Leeds green certification). Pat mentioned the Sustainable Site Initiative with national landscape architects group as a similar program already in place. NISAW is Feb. 26 - Mar. 3.

Andrea* will send a letter to Congress on behalf of TN-EPPC regarding plant activities funding in the Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management budget as requested in an email by Plant Conservation Alliance.

TDOT/TDEC Guidelines, Re-veg Manual: TDEC guidelines (soil erosion) are up for revision, so we are focusing on that first. LinnAnn and Andrea cut down Marie's list of recommendations to 3 or 4 species per situation and Mike is reviewing it for costs and availability. These species can be used in all regions. First review is in December and our recommendations need to be ready by Dec. 8. We can include statements why use of native species is superior (Pat* will write), emphasizing sustainability. TDEC won't delete invasive species from their list but will include ours. Ways to make our suggestions more prominent could include: star native species, place X by TN-EPPC listed invasive species, put a written disclaimer next to any species "deemed invasive in Tennessee," have our recommendations listed first above the invasive species. Andrea* will work to incorporate these suggestions.

T-shirt: Kris* proposed the design contest idea to a school group in Gatlinburg. They expressed some interest but haven't pursued it yet. She will bring it up again. Might approach Tremont too. Her artist friend did not want to judge a children's art contest. Pat has a contact for printing shirts.

New Business

Hydrilla on Obed River: Dwayne did a survey of invasive and rare plants and found a monoecious strain of Hydrilla in about a third of the 54 miles of Obed River. The source is believed to be in a private pond. Endangered mussel and chub species and Tennessee pondweed are present and limit, if not prevent, use of herbicide. One idea is to lower the water in pond and scoop out soil with tubers and/or treat systemically. They plan to approach the landowner to seek permission to eradicate the stand. It is unique to find this plant established in flowing river systems. Might solicit non-profit river groups to help locate and remove as much as possible from the river. TN-EPPC may provide dollars from the Cogongrass TIPS fund for this project.

Events: Kris will talk at Wilderness Wildlife Week in Pigeon Forge in January on what not to bring into the park. We should have the revamped display for the Wildflower Pilgrimage in late April.

Lygodium japonicum Found: Kevin is looking at the criteria various states use to adopt their lists for SE-EPPC. He found *Lygodium japonicum* on ADEC property in an old logging area. Don't know how long it has been there (couldn't be that long) but has no idea where it came from. There were two plants in one location.

Next Meeting: March 2, 2011 Crossville.

Meeting adjourned 2:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Margie Hunter

Secretary