

**TN-EPPC Board Meeting Minutes**  
**August 13, 2009**  
**Reflection Riding, Chattanooga, TN**

Attendance: Terri Hogan, Jack Gilpin, Margie Hunter, Dan Brown, Mike Berkley, Nancy Fraley, Kris Johnson, Anni Self, Pat Parr

Absent (proxy): LinnAnn Welch (Terri), Bob Parrish (Anni), Claude Bailey (Margie), Andrea Bishop (Jack), Kevin Fitch

Guests: David Hillis and Buffy Judkins (sp?) of Little River Nursery, McMinnville; Richard Clements, CSCC

Meeting called to order 10:25 a.m. (\*\*denotes action item)

Thanks to Richard Clements for arranging our meeting location.

Minutes: Approved minutes of May 27, 2009.

Treasurer's Report: Approved August, 13, 2009. [attached]

Welcome: David and Buffy (Little River Nursery) came to listen and learn about TN-EPPC and will help mediate a much needed relationship with Tennessee's nursery industry in an effort to clear misconceptions and open lines of communication. David is a new member, and TN-EPPC welcomes his involvement! His email is [litrivnsy@blomand.net](mailto:litrivnsy@blomand.net).

Landscaping with Natives Brochures: Mike and Andrea spent hours revising Middle Tennessee - reduced plant lists based on availability/suitability and deleted confusing "Mosaic" sections in hopes of reducing size. Margie\*\* will review. Terri\*\* will review the sponsor list for changes. Andrea\*\* will take revision to Chris Armour for new layout. Goal is to have Mid TN version ready to print by September 30. State Parks will print.

Mike\*\* and Andrea\*\* will replicate process with East and West versions with goal of printing by January 2010.

TN-EPPC & TNPS Joint Meeting Sept. 18-20: LindenValley Baptist Conference Center in Linden, TN. Evening speakers are Milo Pyne (Silurian Glades) and Margie Hunter (Native Alternatives). Terri will conduct management workshop Saturday afternoon focusing on mechanical removal and off-the-shelf herbicides. Anni\*\* will investigate pesticide points. There are hikes Saturday and kayaking on the Buffalo Sunday. Andrea, Margie, and Dan will serve as TN-EPPC reps on the hikes (maybe John Froschauer too). TN-EPPC will sponsor one evening "social" with drinks/snacks, and approved up to \$100. There will be door prizes and an art show. Margie\*\* will see if Jed can post registration form on current Web site.

Helianthus maximilianii: It was agreed that this Midwestern native plant does not really meet criteria as an invasive species in TN and should be removed from newly revised list, especially in light of changing climate. There were other regional native plants in this same category. We will maintain an internal list of these plants to observe. Anni\*\* will send our invasive protocol to David Hillis, and Margie\*\* will post it on the Web site. Nancy reported that the North

Carolina Nurseryman's Association has hired someone to develop criteria for an invasive protocol.

SE-EPPC 2010 Meeting in Chattanooga: Theme - Disturbance and Change: Invasive Plants and Paths to Recovery, a joint meeting of SE-EPPC and Southeastern Society for Ecological Restoration, May 11-13, 2010. Core committee - Jennifer Franklin & John Tobe (SER) and Chuck Bargeron, Brian Bowen, Terri and Nancy (phone) - will soon set deadline schedules and pick venue (reserve 35 rooms). TN-EPPC recommendation is hotel site. Announcements will go out Sept. 8. Registration online at SE-EPPC; Chuck will create forms, Anni will supervise.

Task areas: Sponsorships (Brian) NFS, NPS, Helena, Mills Foundation, etc.; Posters (Nancy, Kris) 10 to 12 expected; Silent Auction (Nancy, Dan, Margie); Field Trips - (Andrea, Kris, Jack, Christine Boch) Lookout Mtn, Aquarium, Chickamauga, Cumberland Trail, South Cumberland, area Land Trusts.

Sessions are Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday with field trips on Thursday and a social Tuesday evening, maybe at Aquarium (Terri\*\* will check). Program will have at least two - Invasive and Restoration - tracks (maybe 3 - climate change), and organizers are encouraged to have a presentation ready for last minute speaker glitches. Terri\*\* will email TN-EPPC board info on plenary speakers and program. Vendor suggestions are welcome.

Student scholarships - Nancy\*\* will check with Joey Shaw (UTC). Students could help with conference tasks in exchange for registration fee waiver. Local connections - Chattanooga-based resources needed to assist with planning, etc. Consider local businesses, especially Tennessee products - Goo Goo, TN Wine Assoc., Moon Pie/Little Debbie - for sponsorships.

TN Invasive Plant Species Committee (TIPS): The new name for the EDRR initiative. There have been two meetings, and an MOU is almost finalized among numerous state and federal agencies - TDA, TDEC, TDOT, USFS, Corps of Engineers, Farm Service, NPS, TVA, USFWS, etc. The agreement will cover more than just cogongrass, though additional plant species have yet to be determined. A strategic plan is in the draft stage. There will be a large education and active outreach component to TIPS, as the primary goal will be *prevention*.

Web Site: The site has moved from Signal Data to the new host, DreamHost, and Margie is now domain registrant contact. Jed is continuing to write code specific to our information needs and work flow. It is hoped that Margie can begin content transfer soon. The most intensive aspect will be generating the plant species' pages. Margie\*\* will draft a step-by-step data entry procedure for other board members (or their interns!) to assist. Each board member will have a user name & password to access and edit anything on the site at any time from any computer. Features include on-demand PDF generation of species Web info or entire list by rank or plant type, google mail account, calendar application, and internal communication. Page design was well received. We need one good photo (TN vista) to underlay logo; may do several revolving images.

Bylaws Revision: All suggested changes as drafted by Bob Parrish were reviewed and approved. Bylaws will carry the revision date Aug. 13, 2009.

Gravel & Sand Pit Certification: Kris inspected Vulcan Materials quarry sites in Sevierville and Maryville. The Sevierville site is old and in bad shape. She met with their environmental

supervisor. He indicated that someone from TDEC gave them a list of plantings, including crown vetch and lespedeza, for water quality and erosion control issues. Jack\*\* is going to investigate. Quarries fall under the Office of Surface Mines. Kris left the supervisor a better list of plant alternatives, but they need to know TDEC will approve. Thanks to the Exec. Order on Exotic Species, government agencies can use the denial of federal dollars for projects as a stick to encourage cooperative management plan with quarries. Reception has been very encouraging. Need to get state agencies to come on board too. TDOT rep on TIPS, Greg Duncan, would be good person to talk to, as well as Gerald Nicely. Jack\*\* will also alert TDOT's grant program to issue. In general, quarries in NC are better than TN as sites are newer & in more remote areas. Until such time as quarries can be cleaned up and pass certification, it will be important to consider timing of gravel acquisition to avoid seeding, washing gravel, and surroundings of storage pile vs. active pit. Once the process of certification is established with buy-in from all sides, Kris will write a "white paper" to promote these efforts, an article for *Wildland Weeds* and consider a talk at SE-EPPC meeting or SAMAB.

TN-IWAW: The 11th Annual National IWAW will be Feb. 22-26, 2010, in Washington, D.C. Margie sent an email to all supporters of TN-EPPC's TN-IWAW State Proclamation last February, informing them of our 2nd Annual campaign and Joint Legislative Resolution in the General Assembly and inviting their continued support and participation in plant pull events. Several have already responded. Margie\*\* will send an email to those organizations that did not respond last year in hopes of getting more "sponsors" and will initiate the resolution with Rep. Coleman and Sen. Southerland in November. Avi Askey requested guidance in organizing a plant pull. All board members\*\* are encouraged to send Margie ideas and suggestions to develop and "How-to" document which can be sent to supporters and put on our Web site.

#### Miscellaneous Items:

NA-EPPC Report: NA-EPPC will write a letter in support of legislation to toughen screening process of plants imported into the U.S. They also attended a conference in Africa that is drafting guidelines on potential of invasive species being used as biofuels.

Letters: TN-EPPC received a letter thanking us for our alternatives brochure and the information on our Web site. We also received a letter from Bob Corker touting his work on behalf of wetlands.

LEEDS: New guidelines are in the works to assign points for using native plants in sustainable landscaping. Earlier versions did not recognize natives in the points system.

Homeowners Associations: There is an association of Homeowners Associations (Kris email Nov. 10, 2008 contains contacts) to attempt dialogue for draft of development covenants. Might also consider working with real estate lawyers who advise these documents. Margie\*\* will check with a real estate lawyer to see if there is an easy means of reaching this group.

Sawtooth Oak Debate: Forest Service is distributing the plant to residents. Many people think it is native, but it is not. It grows quickly and makes a lot of acorns for wildlife (turkeys). There is some feeling that it may be showing invasive tendencies. Gary Kaufman, USFS botanist, has found it naturalized in some areas. Perhaps Claude\*\* could draft a letter to send to David Arnold, Div. of Forestry, Steve Scott, State Forester, and NRCS' Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) to inquire about the distribution of this species. Mike\*\* will develop a short list of suggested native species these agencies can promote instead.

Paulownia: There is an old bulletin online promoting Paulownia as a economic crop. Much of the information is no longer accurate, and economic benefit has been debunked. Terri\*\* will talk with Wayne Clatterbuck, UT forestry dept., about the origin of the bulletin internet posting and discuss its removal. Margie\*\* will send Terri the original email.

New Handbook: UT has developed a new handbook on invasive plants for homeowners. They are \$10. We were given 50 copies. Board can contact Terri\*\* for copies, and she will send the board an online link.

New Business:

Board Members: Jack will contact Kevin about his service on the board.

Wildland Weeds Articles: Future article submissions from TN-EPPC will include Dan's work on his farm (which could also go into the Co-op magazine), Kris's *Tennessee Conservationist* article on what not to bring into a national park and gravel pit certification, TIPS (Terri), TN-IWAW (Margie).

Next Meeting: Nov. 4 or 5, 2009

Lose & Assoc. in Nashville (Terri\*\*)

TN Tech campus or Fish & Wildlife in Cookville (Anni\*\*)

Joe L. Evins Appalachian Center for Craft [TN Tech]

Adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Margie Hunter  
TN-EPPC Secretary

Attachments:

Treasurer's report, 8-13-09

Bylaws revision recommendations

Terri's Action Items

**TREASURER'S REPORT – August 13, 2009**

**TENNESSEE EXOTIC PEST PLANT COUNCIL**

**GENERAL OPERATING ACCOUNT**

Beginning Balance:	(May 26, 2009)	<b>\$4395.32</b>
Receipts:	Memberships	\$160.00
Expenses:	Postage & Printing	(\$199.47)
Ending Balance:	(August 13, 2009)	<b>\$4355.85</b>

**MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT**

Beginning Balance:	(May 26, 2009)	<b>\$3936.45</b>
Net Interest Earned:		0.99
Ending Balance:	(August 13, 2009)	<b>\$3937.44</b>

**TOTAL ASSETS OF GENERAL & MM ACCOUNTS      \$8293.29**

BYLAWS  
Tennessee Exotic Pest Plant Council  
(revised July ??, 2009)

Article I. Name

The name of this organization shall be Tennessee Exotic Pest Plant Council.

Article II. Object

The object of this organization shall be:

- a) To provide a focus for issues and concerns regarding invasive exotic pest plants in native plant communities in Tennessee;
- b) To facilitate communication and the exchange of information regarding all aspects of invasive exotic pest plant control and management;
- c) To provide a forum where all interested parties may participate in meetings and share in the benefits from the information generated by this Council;
- d) To promote public understanding regarding invasive exotic pest plants and their control;
- e) To serve as an advisory council regarding funding, research, management, and control of invasive exotic pest plants;
- f) To facilitate action campaigns to monitor and control invasive exotic pest plants in Tennessee;
- g) To review incipient and potential pest plant management problems and activities and provide relevant information to interested parties; and
- h.) To serve as a state chapter of the Southeast Exotic Pest Plant Council and the National Association of Exotic Pest Plant Councils.

Article III. Members

Section 1. Any individual or institution shall be eligible for membership provided that such prospective member pays the required membership fee and provides all requested background information necessary to ascertain consistency with the membership categories listed below in Article III, Section 2.

Individual members: Any person interested in or involved in **invasive** exotic pest plant management, research, regulation, consulting, or other related management support programs. Individual members are allowed to vote and hold office.

Institutional members: Any accredited institution of learning, botanical garden, research institute, corporation, company, association, organization, interest group, partnership, public agency or governmental body that joins the Council under their institutional name. Institutional members are allowed one vote per institution.

Section 2. Membership type shall consist of the following categories:

- a) Student members: Any individual member enrolled at an accredited **educational or academic institution** as a full or part time student who has an interest in exotic pest plant issues. Student members are non-voting and ineligible to hold office.
- b) General members: Any individual or institutional member who has an interest in exotic pest plant issues and who is committed to support the goals and purpose of the Exotic Pest Plant Council.
- c) Contributing, Donor, and Patron members: Any individual or institutional member who demonstrates a strong commitment to the goals and purpose of the Exotic Pest Plant Council through their increased financial contribution, pursuant to Article X Section 4.

d) Honorary members: Individuals and institutions who have provided extraordinary support and assistance toward accomplishing the goals and objectives of the Council. Honorary members must be designated by a unanimous vote of the Board of Directors. Honorary members are allowed to vote and hold office.

Section 3. Any member desiring to resign from the Council shall not be entitled to a refund of their membership fee.

Section 4. Members are in good standing provided all required membership fees are paid. Members who are delinquent in fees for more than three months shall be dropped from membership rolls.

Section 5. A member of this corporation is not, as such, personally liable for the debts, liabilities, or obligations of the corporation.

#### Article IV. Officers

Section 1. The officers of the Council shall be President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. These officers shall perform the duties prescribed by these Bylaws and by the parliamentary authority adopted by the Council.

Section 2. All officers shall be nominated from **among** the standing membership. Elections shall be held at the annual Spring meeting of the Board of Directors. **The standing membership shall be notified of the day, time, and location for the election at least 30 days in advance, and encouraged to attend.** The candidate for each position receiving the most votes shall be elected.

Section 3. All officers shall serve two-year terms of office, which shall begin at the close of the Board of Directors meeting following the election.

#### Article V. Board of Directors

Section 1. The Board of Directors shall consist of the four (4) officers, the immediate past president, and **up to fifteen (15)** voting members elected at large.

Section 2. The members at large shall be nominated and elected by the Board.

Section 3. Members at large shall serve for two year terms.

Vacancies on the Board of Directors shall exist (1) on the resignation or removal of any Director, and (2) whenever the number of authorized Directors is increased. Any Director may resign by giving written notice to the President, the Secretary, or the Board of Directors.

A Director may be removed from office, with or without cause, as permitted by and in accordance with the laws of this state.

Vacancies on the Board may be filled by the Board of Directors. If the number of Directors then in office is less than a quorum, a vacancy on the Board may be filled by approval of a majority of the Directors then in office or by a sole remaining Director. A person elected to fill a vacancy on the Board shall hold office until the next election of the Board of Directors or until his or her resignation or removal from office.

Section 4. The Board of Directors is empowered to conduct business of the Council between business meetings. Actions and decisions of the Board of Directors as recorded in the minutes shall be made available to the Council at each business meeting.

Section 5. A simple majority of the current board members or their proxies constitute a quorum of the Board of Directors. **Proxies may only be assigned to the elected representatives of the Board of Directors.**

Section 6. The Board of Directors shall meet at least two times per year. Between meetings the Board can make decisions by mail or by electronic means.

Section 7. Special meetings or conferences of the Board may be called by the President and shall be called upon written request of three standing members of the Board. Two weeks prior notice shall be required before all special meetings or conferences.

Section 8. The Directors shall not be personally liable for the debts, liabilities, or other obligations of the corporation.

Section 9. The Directors and officers of the corporation shall be indemnified by the corporation to the fullest extent permissible under the laws of this state.

Section 10. Directors who fail to attend 3 consecutive board meetings **without notice or without assigning a proxy shall** be automatically removed from the board.

**Section 11. Directors may invite resource experts or representatives of other organizations to serve as non-voting liaisons to the Board.**

#### Article VI. Meeting of the Council

Section 1. Business meetings shall be scheduled and held as deemed necessary by the President.

Section 2. Written notice of business meetings shall be sent to standing members at least 60 days prior to such meetings.

Section 3. Meeting agenda and format shall be coordinated by the President.

Section 4. A two-thirds vote of voting members who are present shall be required to allow the introduction of a motion that falls outside the Council's object as outlined in Article II.

#### Article VII. Committees

Section 1. The Board of Directors may, by a majority vote of its members, designate an Executive Committee consisting of three (3) Board members and may delegate to such committee the powers and authority of the Board in the management of the business and affairs of the corporation, to the extent permitted, and except as may otherwise be provided, by provisions of law.

By a majority vote of its members, the Board may at any time revoke or modify any or all of the Executive Committee authority so delegated, increase or decrease but not below two (2) the number of members of the Executive Committee, and fill vacancies on the Executive Committee from the members of the Board. The Executive Committee shall keep regular minutes of its proceedings, cause them to be filed with the corporate records, and report the same to the Board from time to time as the Board may require.

Section 2. The corporation shall have such other committees as may from time to time be designated by resolution of the Board of Directors. These committees may consist of persons who are not also members of the Board and shall act in an advisory capacity to the Board. The President shall be an ex officio member of all committees.

#### Article VIII. Parliamentary Authority

The rules contained in Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the Council in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these Bylaws and any special rules or order the Council may adopt.

#### Article IX. Amendment of Bylaws

The voting members may, at any meeting of the Board of Directors, amend the corporation's Bylaws by a two thirds vote of those present.



## Article X. Finances

Section 1. The collection and accounting of funds shall be the responsibility of the Treasurer.

Section 2. The Treasurer shall maintain all records of funds collected and dispersed by the Council. Such records shall be available for review by any individual upon adequate notice.

Reasonable fees may be charged to reimburse expenses incurred for making copies of documents. A financial report shall be given at each Board of Directors meeting and Council business meeting.

Section 3. The signature of the Treasurer or the signature of one other individual designated by the Board of Directors shall be required for the disbursement of funds of the Council.

Section 4. The Board of Directors shall establish a membership fee schedule for each of the membership categories in accordance with the provisions of Article V. The Board may, at its discretion, amend or revise the membership fee schedule from time to time. Membership fees are due annually.

Section 5. The Board may solicit voluntary contributions, in-kind services, grants, or donations to augment membership fees in order to pay for the activities and functions of the Council.

**TN Exotic Pest Plant Council Board of Directors Meeting, August 13, 2009  
10AM to 3PM (Eastern) at Reflection Riding Nature Center**

**ACTION ITEMS**

- Native plant brochure:
  - Margie will read final version.
  - All will review information on original brochure and send Andrea and Mike information on who should remain on edited version, also send updated information (web sites and email addresses).
  - Anni and Mike will have Middle TN brochure to the printer by the end of September, East and West TN brochures by the end of January.
- Joint TNEPPC-TNPS meeting Sept 18-20
  - Terri will find out who is handling door prizes, pass information on to Mike. Will do the Saturday workshop. Will send Anni the agenda so she can register for certification points.
  - Dan, Mike, Margie, Andrea, Pat will be available to help with Saturday hikes.
  - Jack will ask John Froeshauer to help with hikes.
  - Anni will send the meeting agenda to Mary Borthik for pesticide points.
  - All send out meeting announcement.
- TNEPPC Exotic Pest Plant List
  - Anni will send David Hillis the final listing protocol.
- SEPPC-SER 2010 Meeting
  - Committees
    - Silent auction: Dan, Nancy, Margie
    - Field trips: Andrea, Kris, Jack (green roof on school in Chattanooga, restoration on Cherokee NF suggested by SER and they will follow up on this, Lookout Mtn Land Trust land and Chickamauga-Chattanooga Military Park land)
    - Food and social: Terri will check with Aquarium on social, Kris will look into dinner cruise
    - Poster: Nancy, Kris
    - Sponsors and vendors: Brian, Terri (vendors only); some suggestions for sponsors include Little River Nursery (David Hillis), Krystals, TVA, TN wine society (?), Vulcan (Shane-Kris has contact information)
    - Registration: Anni (Anni needs help, possibly students listed below)
    - Program: SER/TNEPPC/SEPPC committee (presentation suggestion: gravel pit certification)
  - Other: sponsor two students by waiving their registration fees (ask them to help with registration)
- TIPS (TN Invasive Plant Steering Committee and Cooperative Weed Management Area): Terri send TNEPPC BOD the final MOU.

- **LEED Certification:** Pat send web site with proposed native plantings requirement for LEED Certification to TNEPPC BOD.
- **Sawtooth oak issue**
  - Terri ask Claude to draft letter.
  - Claude draft letter on issue.
  - Mike make list of native oak alternatives to include with letter.
  - Terri send letter with list to NRCS WHIP contact/lead and TN Division of Forestry (Steve Scott and David Arnold).
  - Kris how does Gary Kaufman fit into this? Can't recall.
- **Paulownia**
  - Margie will forward original email message with link to posting.
  - Terri will track down origin and follow up with UT Extension, draft and send letter if necessary.
- **Gravel and sand pit certification**
  - Jack will 1) find out who at TDEC deals with mines (Office of Surface Mines) and sends recommendations for planting invasive plants, 2) find out whether the state or feds are ultimately responsible, 3) talk to TDOT grants folks (?) about fed Executive Order not allowing invasive plants.
  - Kris will create a white paper on gravel pit certification.
  - Anni and Terri will take Kris' white paper to TIPS and specifically to Greg Duncan of TDOT.
- **TNIWAW:** All who organize volunteer plant removal projects send Margie step-by-step "how to" documents on organizing and running such events.
- **Articles for Wildland Weeds**
  - Pat submit TNEPPC list and criteria for next publication.
  - Kris submit TN Conservationist article for next publication.
  - Dan and Anni submit joint article on invasive plant removal work on both farms.
  - Margie submit TNIWAW article (before 2010 event?).
  - Terri submit article on TIPS (when we get a signed MOU).
- **Kevin:** Jack will find out if Kevin is interested in remaining on the board, what's up Kevin?
- **Next board meeting**
  - Terri will see if it would be possible to have a board meeting at Loess and Associates' (landscape architects, planners, designers) office in Nashville. If no
  - Anni will check into meeting space at Tennessee Tech.