

TN-IPC Board Meeting Minutes

August 31, 2021

10:00 a.m. Eastern, 9:00 a.m. Central

Prepared by Diane Warwick and Margie Hunter

Attendance:

Kitty McCracken, Kris Johnson, Bill Moll, Pat Parr, Sam King, Jimmy Groton, Clint Neel, Belinda Ferro, Jamie Herold, Diane Warwick, Margie Hunter Guest: Lyn Rutherford, Chattanooga Parks and Rec Dept. **Absent:** Christine Bertz, Byron Brooks

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from 13 May 2021, no motions to accept, will review before next meeting and approve May and August minutes

Approval of Treasurer's report: Christine sent report to all board members. Motion to accept Belinda, Kitty seconded, passed

Old Business

By laws remix – Belinda and Margie reviewed in detail the old by-laws to modernize the document, accept donations, remove restrictions on students' participation on the board, remove/revise antiquated clauses and verbiage that needed to be updated. The by-laws now reflect our new structure and donation-based membership, more than one person from an agency can serve on the board, membership is now more open by switching from "fees" to donations. Motion to accept: Diane made motion and Jamie seconded, changes accepted by the board.

Website Plant List Committee – Kitty and Clint attended southeast chapters' update for standardizing listing protocols for states in southeast, states listing things differently. AL-IPC website has good information that we want to model after, Alabama's listing system has series of columns for different community types affected that allow users to hone into the specific areas of concern (natural area managers, Army Corps, homeowners, etc.) AL also divided state into the respective ecosystems. We could update our list to reflect this format. Belinda indicated that NRCS organizes their data by regions and could help with our list. Columns for respective areas of concern makes it easy for folks to find the information relevant to their own situation. We have enough folks on the board spread across the state to even out the work. Bill suggested we categorize based on where problems are located (yards vs. natural areas) rather than geographically and agrees that the problem in natural areas vs. homeowner's information is very helpful. Kris wants to make sure that the listing has been vetted by professionals. Revisit the excel list we created and compare it to the AL list. Review TN-IPC leftover list for inclusion or deletion. Create a list various users can

access and understand. Finalize exactly what we want to create and how before posting any version online.

Action steps – everyone review the lists and recommend what should be added to the official list from the disturbed habitat list. List committee will do more work on the format. Sam will circulate the lists to everyone.

Bradford Pear Committee- Jimmy will talk to David Coyle, extension agent at Clemson, regarding how he got Bradford pear on state's prohibited list and their funding for the bounty program which came from various sources and which has grown over time. (David Coyle Extension Clemson) has several very informative videos about Bradford pears and kudzu among others.

TN Pest Plant list addition- Sam proposes tabling this until after the workshop, it would be good to settle the list, then approach Dept. of Ag for needed changes, no objections to this approach. Kitty indicated that SC only adds one or two per year so as not to inundate the system.

Virtual and Real-life meetings/garden shows- Spreadsheet to track our outreach: TN-IPC should start a spreadsheet of board members who speak, where, on what topic, and the attendance. Anyone who has done something in last year or two should send info to Diane who will organize the list. Include booth or table setups at events, too. Diane will keep track of presentations of outreach then enter into Excel spreadsheet. We could use previous meeting minutes to reflect past accomplishments.

Jamie will investigate a shared private TN-IPC Google drive everyone can use to add their events as well as email and social media responses. These could be repurposed on the website as FAQ's. All members will use personal emails, not professional agency contact.

Diane presented the importance of native plants to 43 people at the TN Recreation and Parks Association 2021 Leadership Forum in Pigeon Forge on 23 August. Bill will have upcoming opportunity for outreach at the October plant sale coming up in Chattanooga.

New Business

Multiple social media questions answered by multiple Board members: We have addressed many questions and we are providing helpful information. Margie would like to have a file for FAQ's so we are on the same page and can provide standard answers. We should have a shared drive so events and questions answered can be shared, Jamie will work on this for us. Belinda indicated that "sharing" platforms for federal agencies will not be feasible. We may need to use a "work-around" for those who are restricted by agency protocols. All agree that the platform we use will be a personal email address and we can access and add to it.

Possible grant opportunities: **Tool Cache**

Anybody know of a grant we could explore? Sam can do matching funds with parks. Rather than purchase tools and trailers that TN-IPC houses and shares, let's secure funding to help other organizations purchase equipment that TN-IPC can borrow for various local events when needed. Bill indicated that the tool cache should be associated with a partner organization or another business, or nature center, etc. Storage of a trailer may be difficult without a partner organization. The possibility was discussed of buying the tools and housing them at various partner locations for loaners with the caveat TN-IPC has first rights to use the equipment.

Clint – species update: “Invasion Meltdown” publication showing that the invasive species change the microsite which allows even more invasive species to take hold. In the last 30 years the rate of invasion of invasive species (not just plants) has increased greatly. Sites in Middleboro KY and in Nashville TN (several sites) are being sprayed and treated to kill **Japanese knotweed**. Mowing practices help spread the knotweed, need to get TDOT on board with identifying and treating these areas. **Chinese wineberry** emerging threat but not hard to kill. It is a “edge” plant and needs to be put on a watch list. EDMAPS has not been working very well for Clint. **Himalayan blackberry** is becoming a threat, need to make folks aware before it becomes a bigger problem, it is not on lists in the south. **Japanese chaff flower**, perennial but makes lots of seeds. Slow the spread before it gets worse. It is on our list for disturbed habitats (the second list). Need to get the word about potential problems. **Mulberryweed** found in middle TN. Grows very fast and is already in Nashville and Rutherford county, likes shade and not mowed areas. Spread in nurseries. It is banned in AL. **European common reed**, not seen in TN yet, a lot south of Louisville KY. **Giant reed**, not extreme threat but it is on list. It is in Waverly. **Chinaberry** is another emerging threat. **Chinese tallotree**, potential to spread throughout the state. **Chinese parasoltree** look for this. **Purple Loosestrife** look for this also. It is banned in TN. These plants should be added to list, let Clint know if you see any of these plants in TN.

Big task – plan March Workshop

Big question – do we punt again due to covid uptick? Are there restrictions on travel right now? Because Patten Rec Center is currently closed and there are federal restrictions on travel, the board decided to create a two-day workshop with virtual presentations on Tuesday, March 15, 2022, and in-person field demonstrations at Reflection Riding Wednesday, March 16. am proposes that we go ahead and plan for the event, and hopefully have a clearer picture early next year. Perhaps decide in January so we will still have time to organize. Need to set a date ASAP due to a conflict that occurred last year. Lyn indicates that we have reserved space at Patten Rec center the 16th of March 2022. Cost is also lower b/c no travel costs. Advertise statewide for the virtual presentations. Possible to record presentations so others can watch at their convenience? Capacity is limited on Zoom for

example, we may need another platform that may be willing to host this and no participant maximum. Zoom's webinar function can be purchased by the month and was used successfully by Wild Ones. Jamie will investigate the tech side and circle back around with Christine on the budget available to do this. Stage pre-recorded talks played off a central location for better transmission (can splice in videos or other things) but have live Q&A. Should have a person oversee Q&A and attendees to mute, etc. Reapply for continuing education credits or pesticide points for virtual program. Kitty will contact Justin** about doing a pre-recorded version and his availability for live Q&A. Council discussed t-shirt production and sales, no t-shirts will be printed. Our "point of no return" Early January 2022

Talks: Virtual on Tuesday March 15

Invasive Plants 101 – Belinda and Christine working to merge their versions.
Developing a Pest Management Plan – Kitty (how to design a plan)
Various Control Options: Mechanical, Chemical and Biocontrol -- (Justin Coffey**)
Learning from Your Site to Restore Your Site – Lyn Rutherford and Lucy Ellis (restoration plantings)
Maintenance and Aftercare: Keeping areas invasive plant free – Sam

Demos: Reflection Riding, Wednesday, March 16

Goats and Sheep – Kitty will approach Keith Bridges, former guy no longer in business.
Small scale removal – Byron and Sam
Large scale removal – guy has retired, Kitty knows others, including someone in GA.
Foliar spray alternatives – Kitty
Prescribed fire – Bruce Miller (TDF) Jamie will check his availability, Diane knows others

Rotation for first part (20 mins each) to give everyone a chance to hear everything, and rest of time for in-depth exploration with sections of greatest interest.

Keep registration cost at \$20. Christine to set up PayPal. Is there a cap on in-person attendance? Expected about 75 for 2020 conference.

Virtual talks will be in the afternoon. List both time zones in advertising materials. Ask field demonstrators for their preference on mid-morning or afternoon. Lyn will explore the topics and make sure we don't have overlap on these talks so we can cover as much information as possible.

Motion to adjourn: Margie first and Pat seconded, passed. Meeting adjourned at 12:45pm EDT.

Next meeting in Nov/Dec, committees make progress for next meeting. Sam will schedule.