

MARYLAND INVASIVES SPECIES COUNCIL MEETING OF AUGUST 20, 2002

HELD AT WYE RESEARCH AND EDUCATION CENTER  
ACTING RECORDING SECRETARY, LARRY HURLEY

Call to Order: Bob Tichenor, facilitator

Introductions:

Dick Bean, MDA-PPWM	Betty Marose, UM-IPM
Carol Bordelon, USDA/ARS/USNA	*Caroline Myers, MDE
Don Cober, MD SHA	Bob Rabaglia, MDA-FPM
William F. Gimpel, Jr., MDA-PPWM	Don Robbins, MDA-PPWM
Lane Heimer, MDA-PPWM	Pete Rupp, MDA-PPWM
Larry Hurley, Behnke Nurseries	Laura Stedman, MD SHA
Jennifer Kujawski, USDA/NRCS	Bob Tichenor, MDA-FPM
Kerrie Kyde, MA-EPPC	John Peter Thompson, MNLA
Meredith Malone, MD/TNC	Julie Thompson, USFWS-CBFO

\* new attendee, requested to be a voting member of MISC

Approval of minutes of June 13, 2002 meeting. Motion to approve as submitted. Motion seconded and passed.

Handouts:

- q Although it was hoped that Steve Early could address the group, he was unable to attend. Instead, Bob Tichenor distributed a handout, "Snakehead Scientific Advisory Panel; First Report to the Maryland Secretary of Natural Resources", dated July 26, 2002.
- q Bob Tichenor also distributed a copy of an article from the **Baltimore Sun** website, entitled: "'Invasives' threaten Maryland habitats; Alien plants and animals said to alter landscape", dated August 18, 2002.
- q Bob Tichenor distributed a copy of an article from *The Washington Times*, entitle "Kudzu plants a hazard for GIs", dated August 19, 2002.
- q Bob Tichenor distributed an email from Edith Thompson entitled " RE: Agenda and events for Tuesday, August 20, 2002". She summarized current Maryland state authority over exotics, and she includes suggestions for how MISC might function in terms of meshing with current state authority, such as developing a list of plants proscribed for landscape use. She further described policies of the Chesapeake Bay Commission.

Significant pest detections in the preceding couple of months:

- q Snakehead fish (see above)
- q Julie Thompson reported on the "nuclear worm" issue. A marine polychete imported as sport fishing bait. Currently the USDA has criteria regarding earthworm culture and importation, but nothing on this organism. The concern is not that this tropical organism will establish here, but that it may contain harmful microorganisms in its gut. ANS task force is studying establishing regs. Currently, due to publicity, sales are way down.
- q Dick Bean: new pathways for insect entry into USA being studied. Bark beetles coming in thru packaging material ("dunnage") such as pallets. European Spruce Bark Beetles collected at a marble importer in Frederick; bark left on some packing material harbored beetles. Serious problem averted.
- q Bill Gimpel: Emerald Ash Borer (see handout: "Pest Alert; Emerald Ash Borer"; USDA Forest Service, dated August, 2002) . Discovered in Michigan, the infestation appears to be at least 5 years old. Dr. Gimpel will write about it in the next *Free State Nursery and Landscape News*. Damage and exit hole similar to bronze birch borer. The infestation was misdiagnosed as "ash decline". Gimpel says it is

important to keep asking what the causal agent or condition is when plants are dying. Nurseries under quarantine.

- q Bill Gimpel: Sudden Oak Death (fungus, *Phytophthora*): surveys to begin in MD nurseries. He thinks risk is low. Quarantines in California and Oregon. Kerrie Kyde is conducting host range testing at Fort Detrick. Tests showing that both the red and white oak groups are susceptible, as is *Kalmia*. Kyde and Gimpel to get together.
- q Bill Gimpel: article in "today's" *Washington Post* about potato Mop top virus occurring in Maryland and other states. He suspects that Canada is attempting to limit importation of seed potatoes, and he will investigate further.
- q Bill Gimpel suggests that as alerts are released, they be emailed to the MISC listserve.
- q Bill Gimpel: Giant Hogweed handout: "Giant Hogweed: an attractive but dangerous noxious weed—Have you seen this plant?") Found at the State Department in Washington, DC. Found also in New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts, and western Pennsylvania. A federal survey is planned next season, prior to beginning an eradication program. Cause severe dermatitis.

Discussion: Federal and State Regulatory Infrastructure; MISC Role: what can or should it be?

Bill Gimpel: the MISC brochure led to the article in the *Baltimore Sun* referenced above.

Bob Tichenor: Whither MISC? Referring to Thompson handout (above). What should we do? An infrastructure especially in USDI is lacking. Should MISC remain a clearinghouse or take a more active roll, setting priorities for spending?

Don Robbins: can MISC as an organization make recommendations?

Julie Thompson: need web clearinghouse for information exchange.

John Thompson: offers to contact some TV stations to see if they are interested in doing public service announcements. MISC would provide expertise.

John Thompson: related his recent outreach attempts to nursery industry (talks to MD Nursery and Landscape Assoc.; Perennial Plant Assoc.; upcoming addresses to Utah and Pennsylvania Nursery and Landscape Associations). Attempting to put together tours for nursery people and public.

Suggestion to approach Home Depot for Saturday seminars and give them brochures for distribution. Get info to retailers and to the public. Product representatives can speak to controls.

Betty Marose: Master Gardener plant clinics could provide information. September, 2004 the regional MG meeting will be in this area.

Rick Lane: Montgomery County Farm Park; all students visit once a year.

Bill Gimpel: we could work with a group like the Lion's Club to pull weeds for publicity.

Bob Tichenor: this is an excellent discussion but this group lacks follow through. Are we ready to get serious and say what we will do and not what we could do? We are not an entity—who views MISC as an expert source?

Dick Bean: MISC has been approved for support for the website; \$900\* through the CAPS program for web development (no salary).

Rick Lane: when do we speak for MISC and when do we represent our "real jobs"; e.g., as a speaker?

Don Robbins: we should approach this actively; start projects until someone tells us to stop?

Julie Thompson: to establish the group we should do a press release. She will talk to publicity person at F and W.

Motion: John Thompson moves to remand question to a Committee of Choice such that said committee returns to the committee of the whole with a prioritized list of projects.

Kerrie Kyde: seconds. Motion passes.

Bob Tichenor assigns to projects committee. Betty Marose volunteers to assist projects committee.

Committee Reports: no reports. Committees did not meet.

New Business:

Potential speakers: Dick Bean suggests "Captain Hogweed"; Mike Zeller from N.P.A.  
John Thompson suggests Dr Arthur Tucker from Delaware if the meeting is in Annapolis or further east.

Next meeting tentatively at BARC, October 15. John Thompson to contact Tucker re speaking.  
Environmental Law Institute Meeting on Sept 24, 12—2:00. Assembling speakers regarding State and Federal roles; will someone speak for MISC? Bill Gimpel suggested. As he has left the meeting, Bob Tichenor will contact him.

Two specimens brought for identification by Larry Hurley. One may be *Inula britannica* (refer notes last meeting) and another unknown weed pest found at Behnke Nurseries. Betty Marose says there is a problem because there are no plant taxonomists at the University. She will try to get it identified, and Carole Bordelon will take some to the Smithsonian.

Don Robbins suggests adding the Snakehead and Hogweed to the MISC brochure. This would require dropping some other items to make room. A motion was made to add these items in the next revision; motion passed.

Meeting adjourned and most members continued on for the Agronomic Weed Research Tour.

Prior to tour, the Projects working group got together agreed to meet on September 17 at Behnkes from 3:00 to 5:00.

\* amendment: the amount approved for Web page is \$5495.00