

MARYLAND INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL
October 4, 2004
Croydon Creek Nature Center
Rockville, Maryland

Call to order: 9:40 am Bob Tichenor

Additions to the agenda

None

Introductions

Carole Bergmann, M-NCPPC, MNPS, MA-EPPC	*Susan Nolde, Rockville City Forester
Dave Clement, UMD Cooperative Extension	*Valerie Oliver, Croydon Creek Nature Center
Eric Duce, MDOT, SHA	Al Tasker, USDA/APHIS
*Joanne Ellena, Woodley Garden Club	Sara Tasker
*Senator Jennie Forehand, MD Senate	John Peter Thompson, Behnke Nurseries, MA-EPPC
Ruth Hanessian, MAPI	Bob Tichenor, MDA
Hyesuk Kong, USDA ARS SASL	Bob Trumbule, MDA
Kerrie Kyde, MD DNR, MA-EPPC	
John Lydon, USDA ARS	
Mary Kay Malinoski, MD Coop. Extension	
*Alfred Millard, Behnke Nurseries	

*indicates new attendee/guest

Memberships

None

Approval of August 5, 2004 minutes

Correct Kerrie Kyde's affiliation
Change "HB1000" to "HB1100"
Under pending snakehead legislation, change "genus" to "family"
Under Giant hogweed update, amend "GHW is still being touted as a good plant selection" by adding "by some garden designers".
Correct Ft. Detrick spelling
Approved as corrected.

UPDATES AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

MDA update

Emergency response plan for invasive forest pests – Bob Tichenor, Bob Rabaglia
MDA met with DNR State Forestry division to develop an emergency response plan for invasive pest species in MD forests, patterned after the USFS fire response system. They outlined agency responsibilities and actions. The plan will develop goals for responders, outline agency responsibilities, determine an incident command system including APHIS, MDA and DNR, enhance communication between agencies and the public, mandate continued monitoring. The Incident Commander for a forest pest outbreak is the state plant regulatory official. There will be three teams working together: Operations; Planning, Finances and Logistics; and Communications. A second meeting was to be held October 6th, 2004.

Bob Trumbule commented that although this system was not formally in place for the Emerald Ash Borer outbreak, MDA PPWM Director Bill Gimpel essentially used this structure within MDA. The agency did well, but wants a larger system in place for the next pest emergency.

Status of Recent Detections – Bob Trumbule

EAB: MDA is still monitoring “sentinel” trees, and has found no infestation and no signs of insect feeding on these damaged, stressed, containerized trees that are set up at the sites of originally infested out-planted trees. A scare last week in Carroll County resulted in the removal and dissection of two ashes...no EAB were found. A second walk-through of the .5 mile buffer zone around the original Maryland garden center turned up no signs of infestation.

Red imported fire ant: Maryland has sporadic infestations, mostly recently in potted palms from Florida in Ocean City, and a new landscape site in College Park, associated with Liriope and spreading Juniper. Federal regulations require that Talstar be mixed into soil mixes. MDA will come check new nursery shipments if importers request it.

P. ramorum: MDA is continuing follow-up checking on plants from Monrovia, Meems and Hines nurseries in CA and OR. Samples have been taken of Pieris, Camellia and Rhododendron, all at box stores, with mostly negative results. In the case of the few positives, the plant material was destroyed. The hot line has received 300 calls, half of those callers sent samples to MDA for testing. MDA is screening arborists and landscapers; MD is still on high alert for SOD.

Pryeria sinica: This *Euonymus* leaf miner was a new MD record last year; it has now been found in VA. In both states, it has been found only in urban homeowner landscapes. These day-flying moths are early season feeders, mostly on *E. kiautschovicus*. *E. alatus* and *americanus* seem not to be hosts. We still don't know where it came from or how it got here.

MDA handled 5-6 different species introductions this year, instead of the more typical 1 every couple of years. We are more aware of the problem, so we're picking up more, but there are simply more introductions now than there used to be.

Chrysanthemum white rust, *Puccinia torreyana*: Found this year for the first time in MD by a private scout in a commercial wholesale operation. In earlier years, it has been found in greenhouse operations in NY, PA and DE. This is a federal action pest, and APHIS is researching how the plants got to distributors, and who had infected plant material. It was probably brought in on rooted stock from another continent. Seven hundred 13" mums, worth about \$10,000, were destroyed. Compensation for these plants is paid by the supplier, but only at the rate of cuttings, not grown-on plants.

DNR Update – Kerrie Kyde

Floating Water hyacinth: There was a recent report by recreational kayakers of Water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*) in St. Mary's Lake, St. Mary's County. Inland Fisheries staff removed 10 bushels of plant material, dried and burned it off-site. Although *E. crassipes* is not likely to overwinter here, and perhaps could have been safely ignored,

the removal effort served to educate a number of fishermen who were at the site when DNR staff removed the plant. An informational sign will be posted at the public boat ramp at the lake so that the public can report any infestations next year.

Miscanthus sp.: Kerrie Kyde has collected several journal and gray literature articles about the germination percentages of various *Miscanthus* species and cultivars, for MISC to use in determining whether to add this species to our list of invaders. She was not able to find much information on *Lespedeza cuneata* or on *Quercus acutissima*, both of which we have talked about adding to the list, although the *Lespedeza* has been reported to suppress grain crop germination.

APHIS Update – AI Tasker

NWAW: National Invasive Weed Awareness Week VI will take place from February 27 to March 4, 2005. The group discussed NIWAW and decided that MISC should have a presence there, as it would raise our profile. AI Tasker commented that North American Weed Management Assoc. would like to build more programs in the East, and this would be a way to get us noticed. Kerrie Kyde and John Lydon offered to create a poster, a draft of which they would have for the December meeting, that could be taken to NIWAW and other such meetings. Please send them pictures of invasive species.

Species updates: *Inula britannica* has been found in MN and in Hosta in MI; it is not yet regulated. John Thompson said it is still invasive on the MD farmland that Behnke's recently sold, but is not spreading from that site as it is not near a drainage ditch. Giant hogweed is generating lots of attention in New England and MI. The Eastern Plant Board states will sign an MOU, with interest from the Central Plant Board and the USFS to join to work on the species jointly.

Position update: APHIS will shortly post an announcement for a national biocontrol program manager.

MAPI Response to Snakehead issue – Ruth Hanessian

DNR's proposed Snakehead regulations have been changed. Originally, the regulations would have made possession of any member of the *Channa* family criminally illegal. After working closely with Jonathan McKnight and others at DNR, MAPI was able to get the agency to modify the proposed regs to outlaw the possession of only *Channa argus* and *C. maculata*, two species that can overwinter in MD and wreak havoc on the freshwater food chain. Andy Lazur provided funding to print a poster that has been distributed to, and posted by, all the MAPI Gold-Circle Dealer pet stores, which will work with customers to find home for, or will accept, exotic and other animals customers cannot keep. Ruth Hanessian wrote a notice and arranged to have it translated into Vietnamese, Korean and Mandarin, to be posted in windows of Asian markets, cautioning against the release into the wild of exotic live animals.

Ruth praised MISC for providing the opportunity for the pet industry to be involved in constructive communication with the state regulatory agencies. She will write up an account of the Snakehead effort and poster production for the MISC website.

Invader of the Month – Bob Tichenor

The MISC website is getting up to 450 hits/month.

Decided:

October – Phragmites by Kristin Saltonstall or Mile-a-minute by Jil Swearingen

November – Chrysanthemum white rust by John Peter Thompson with help from Bob

Trumbule

December – Nutria by Jonathan McKnight

January – Asian clam by Jonathan McKnight

February – Lesser celandine by Bob Trumbule

March – Bush honeysuckle by Kerrie Kyde

April – Canada thistle by Lane Heimer

Please send any pictures to Carol Holko at MDA.

MISC's IOTM is being released primarily through MDA press releases. We discussed better or additional ways to get the word out to a wider segment of the public. Carole Bergmann and John Peter Thompson will call contacts with the Gazette newspapers to encourage them to use this material. Senator Forehand suggested using the City of Rockville and Gaithersburg's newsletters to homeowners. Joanne Ellena said she would add a MISC piece to the National Capital Area Garden Clubs' newsletter. We need suggestions for direct connections to interested parties in gardening and environmental organizations. Lane Heimer suggested having printed versions of IOTM at Extension offices. The Cooperative Extension's HGIC website has a link to MISC's site; they have .5 million visitors annually.

Lane Heimer will ask Phil Pannill, MD Forester, to write up Ailanthus for 2005. John Peter Thompson has heard of variegated kudzu and porcelainberry offered for sale commercially; the porcelainberry at \$45/gallon plant.

NEWS AND NEW BUSINESS

Lane Heimer: SHA has given MDA weed control 4 more years of extra funding, which paid for spraying of Canada thistle in the Route 32/29 intersection. Ailanthus work was done on I-270 and I-370 this fall. MDA purchased Gator ATVs to reach difficult spots. Japanese hops has really spread this year, with significant economic effects on tree plantings. Transline cannot be used because of the effects on the trees the hops grows on. Giant hogweed sites are being revisited to make sure they are clean. Canada thistle eradication can be accomplished in two years if you have something to take its place. Bob Trumbule said MDA is working with SHA to develop cool/warm season grass mixes to establish turf.

Eric Duce: Thistle control is taking most of native meadow program funds. SHA received bids for seed mixes for 600 acres; agency is still deciding whether to use seed or plugs.

Carole Bergmann: Lots of talks coming up on invasive species; developed a restoration/best management practices booklet for staff

Ruth Hanessian: Routinely hands out MISC brochure, which is especially welcomed by home-schooling families.

Al Tasker: Will organize a Kid's Day at the US Botanic Garden during NIWAW VI.

John Peter Thompson: Dates for the next MA-EPPC Invasive Plant Conference are August 16-17, 2005 in Philadelphia. The next Invasive Species Advisory Council of NISC will take place October 14-16 in Shepherdstown, WV. Historic preservationists in P.G. County have gotten permission from the historic commission to establish scenic rights-of-way of 140' with no right to maintain. This means that invasive species present would be kept and there would be no ability to control them. He will talk to the Historic Preservation Commission, and suggests that Park and Planning needs to have a MISC membership.

Kerrie Kyde: DNR, MDA and SHA will submit a proposal to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Pulling Together Initiative to control Purple loosestrife in MD.

Bob Trumbule: It's been a great year for the fungal and bacterial pathogens that cause bleaching of thistles.

FUTURE MEETING DATES

The next meeting will be held at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center on December 1. Lewis Ziska will present a talk on the effects of global climate change on invasive plants. John Lydon will look into logistics (supplies, easels, etc.) for the presentation.

The February meeting will be held during the 3rd week of the month; date TBD.

---Adjourn---

Respectfully submitted by
Kerrie L. Kyde