



Maryland Invasive Species Council
Wednesday September 23, 2009
Maryland Department of Agriculture
Annapolis, MD

Call to Order: ~ 9:40 am, John Lydon, Facilitator

Introductions

Dick Bean, MDA

Jorge Bogantes Mantero, AWS

William L. Bruckart, III, USDA ARS

Dave Clement, UM

Timothy Culbreth, MDNR

Eric Duce, SHA

Anne Hairston-Strang, MDNR

Ruth Hanessian, MAPI

Carol Holko, MDA

Peter Hudak

Marc Imlay, AWS

Jay Kilian, MDNR

Kerrie Kyde, MDNR

Chris Lockett, MDE

John Lydon, USDA ARS

Rachel Nice, USDA PPQ

Karen Rane, UMD

Bud Reaves, Anne Arundel County

Matt Salo, FLBC

Al Tasker, USDA APHIS

John Peter Thompson, MNLA, NISC

Bob Tichenor, USDA APHIS

Marek Topolski, MDNR

Bob Trumbule, MDA

Additions to the Agenda

Marc Imlay – Lyme disease bacteria

Approval of Minutes, July 2009 meeting

Jil Swearingen comments

Ruth Hanessian spelling throughout

Kerrie will send corrections

Motion to delay approval of July minutes until next meeting. Motion seconded and approved.

Membership

Jorge and Tim Culbreth request voting membership. Will be voted on at next meeting

Disease of Japanese stiltgrass (*Microstegium vimineum*) – Russ Richardson, Certified Forester, Crummies Creek Tree, Arnoldsburg, WV (call in)

- First saw symptoms in 2008 – purple coloring on leaves
- Initially spotty, spread rapidly
- Now seeing Stiltgrass along roadsides uniformly dead
- Appears to be extremely contagious – noted spread along atv tracks

- Seed production has dropped dramatically
- Seed samples taken to MD – same purple color on seeds
- Dying from ground up
- Almost identical to symptoms on native grasses, e.g. deertongue

Discussion:

- Change in seed bank populations? Seed bank plants appear to be smaller and less vigorous
- How many counties with symptoms? At least four in WV; lack of awareness
- Hand pulling before mid-July will stimulate germination; weed whack starting August – may be a way to eliminate seed bank, but if germination is delayed plants may not survive to go to seed
- Observation - generally where mechanical disruption has occurred
- Associated with environmental conditions? No unusual conditions
- Other biologists, managers visited the sites? Yes, WVU extension forester
- USDA MDNR site visit? Good idea
- UM WVU samples in progress
- Will send samples of deer tongue to Karen
- Identify potential funding sources for survey and research

Invader of the Month (IOTM)

Kerrie would like replacement a/o January – Bud Reaves, Tim Culbreth will share responsibility – Thanks!

- Summary handout of 2009 IOTM activities

2009

- October - elm yellows, Dave Clement
- November - domestic pets, Ruth, to address issues of responsibility
- December – feral hogs, Jonathan McKnight

2010

- Lyme disease?, Marc Imlay – not as IOTM, MISC can link to other posting

Kerrie L. Kyde, MDNR – Do Not Plant list update

- Presented to DNR, waiting approval from DNR Secretary
- Internal DNR approved document by next MISC meeting – interested parties can look at document
- DNR will not put out for public comment prior to Secretary's approval because is a DNR policy affecting DNR properties and projects only, but will provide MISC and interested parties with the policy and will consider any feedback given in implementation of the policy.
- MNLA, MDA want to review; SHA will check

Note: Need continued support for purple loosestrife project – MDA will continue biological work supported by SHA if allowed under new funding mechanism. Would like

certificate from MISC for car dealership who voluntarily replaced pls in landscape after Harley Speir noticed it and Kerrie called to ask them if they would be willing to remove it. *Motion to approve. Motion seconded and approved.*

Dick Bean – Emerald ash borer and other CAPS surveys

- ~2500 purple traps all down by e/o week; 20 traps with beetles in eradication area
- Activities have not eradicated the beetle – move to management strategies
 - Two systemic chemicals – treated trap trees and natural trees around perimeter as lethal trap
 - Collateral damage? Used according to label restrictions with an abundance of caution
 - Three biocontrol agents released – 1 egg, 2 larval parasitoids
 - ~2300 parasitoids released at two locations – more to come
 - Caged tree studies
 - 1 larva recovered yesterday possibly parasitized by *Tetrastichus*
- Canadian scientist evaluated sites of *Cerceris fumipennis* in MD as survey tool – solitary ground nesting wasp brings Buprestid beetles back to provision nests
 - No EAB collected, but plenty of other beetles
 - Will return next year
- Will continue intensive survey and regulatory activities
 - Visual survey has limits – some infested areas missed because of populations in upper canopy

Agency Updates

MDA – Dick Bean, Bob Trumbule

Cooperative Agricultural Pest (CAPS) surveys

- *Sirex noctilio* – Exotic pest of pines; MD survey in 10 northern tier counties; all samples to date negative; will continue through 2nd week of October
- Exotic wood boring beetle survey – fourteen sites
- No new pine shoot beetle detections – Five county quarantine stands
- Grape pest survey – nothing new
- Imported fire ant – still finding but at reduced level; successful eradications in difficult locations; fewer introductions
- All supported by USDA – Rachel Nice, new PPQ Pest Survey Specialist (PSS) for this area

Mile a minute

- Rearing and release of beneficial weevil continues – USFS funding support
- Collecting distribution data

MDNR – Kerrie Kyde, Marek Topolski, Anne Hairston-Strang

- Thanks to Lane Heimer, MDA, and Washington County Weed Program for work on WLBG – areas treated last September now only natives and no WLBG; in other areas some germination occurring
- October 13, rebroadcast 10/18 - Kerrie and Jay Killian on Outdoor Maryland MPT will air crusty crayfish piece
- New fisheries regulations
 - Crayfish - middle and upper Potomac and Susquehanna water basins – can use or catch as long as head is immediately removed; exception: cannot possess or use egg bearing female
 - Affect pet stores? Under bait regulation, will check
 - Open season on snakehead – possession allowed if killed by immediate removal of head, removal of gill arches, removal of entrails, or fillet upon catching; no season, no size limit
 - Is this a good sport fish? Don't know
 - Unintended distribution possible
- Harvest study at Baltimore reservoirs

MDE - Chris Lockett

- Summer work with DNR DHMH UM sampling toxic blue-green algae blooms
 - Native, but on the rise
 - ELISA tests on toxin samples
 -

MCE - Dave Clement

Pest Threats Website, <http://pestthreats.umd.edu/> – send ideas for topics

APHIS - Al Tasker, Bob Tichenor

- National Invasive Weed Awareness Week now National Invasive Species Awareness week - meeting January 10-14, 2010 <http://nisaw.org>
- 'Red Baron' grass at corner of Highway 1 and Cherry Hill, upper bank
 - MD no longer concurs with movement into MD under federal permit
- Q37 – rule out for comment until mid-October, regulations.gov, search for APHIS proposed rules
- Federal Interagency Committee on Invasive Terrestrial Animals and Pathogens – opportunities to work on committees and subcommittees

ARS

John Lydon now National Program Leader for Weed Science - Congratulations John!

News and New Business

Peter Hudak

- Looking for volunteer opportunities

Marc Imlay

- Introduce emergency legislation for funding to work on WLBG

Ruth Hanessian

- Science cafes in Rockville ongoing – upcoming topics include carbon, chemistry of the Chesapeake, medical ethics;
<http://www.rockvillesciencecenter.org/cafe.html>

R. Jay Uganski

- Work with native plants, pollinator species, possibly native thistles
Voted in as MISC member

Next Meeting- November 19

- John will poll the group for best date
- Need suggestions for speakers, locations
- Kerrie suggests biofuel crops as future agenda
- Kerrie will contact speaker on remote sensing of invasive species

Adjourn – 12:50pm

Respectfully submitted: Carol Holko, Recording Secretary