

**MISC Meeting Minutes**  
Friday, November 20, 2009  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
National Wildlife Visitor Center  
10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop, Laurel, MD 20708

**Attendees**

Bean, Dick	MDA	Lovelett, Felecia	MAPI
Bergmann, Carole	M-NCPPC	Malinowski, Mary Kay	UME
Bogantes Montero, Jorge A.	AWS	Marose, Betty	UME
Clement, David	UME	McKnight, Jonathan	MDNR
Chapagain, Leena A.	AWS	Reaves, Bud	AA County
Clark, Brian	UME	Salo, Matt T.	FLBC
Culbreth, Tim	MDNR	Taylor, Matthew	MAPI
Hairston-Strang, Anne	MDNR	Thompson, John Peter	MNLA
Hanessian, Ruth	MAPI	Tichenor, Bob	USDA-APHIS
Imlay, Marc	AWS	Travis, Matt	USDA-APHIS
Kaufman, Sylvan	CCLC	Trumbule, Bob	MDA
Kyde, Kerrie	MDNR	Ugiansky, R. Jay	USDA-NRCS
Lydon, John	USDA-ARS	West, Jeremy	USDA-NRCS

**Addition to agenda**

Annapolis Volvo award  
Q37 update requested

**Approval of minutes**

Moved to review and approve September minutes at next meeting; seconded; approved.

**New members**

Tim Culbreth and Jorge Bogantes, having each attended two meetings, requested membership. Moved and seconded to accept them as members; approved.  
Accepted

Sylvan Kaufman will no longer be representing Adkins Arboretum but will continue her membership on the Council.

**2010 Schedule**

Meeting dates for 2010 are as follows

January 21

March 18

May 20

July 15

September 16

November 18

These are all third Thursdays. Ideas for speakers and the annual field trip are needed; please send them to Facilitator John Lydon. We discussed some possibilities.

Anne Hairston-Strang: What is going on with Bugwood and other invasives mapping and database programs.

Possible field trip to look at weevil activity on MaM—good choice for July

Marc Imlay: Globular stink bug found in GA eating Kudzu

What might we now know about Japanese stiltgrass and the fungus?

Marc Imlay: Welcomes suggestions or information on biocontrols for EIP and speakers or current research for the MA-EPPC workshop in August 2010

Kerrie Kyde: a biofuel/crops speaker

John Lydon: could have the ARS National Program Manager on Bioenergy, Bob Fireovid, speak on biofuels

Betty Marose: NEWSS has given seminars on biofuels

John Peter Thompson: May be able to provide speaker on biofuel/ weed risk assessment

### **Invader of the Month**

New co-managers Bud Reaves and Tim Culbreth requested suggestions for 2010 IOTMs. Several were suggested:

Cogongrass

Update on biocontrols on invasive species—should be September IOTM

Kudzu

Thousand cankers disease

Autumn olive – Carole Bergmann will write

Bud Reaves “Ecogoats” Brian Knox from AA County may be able to write

Matt Salo: Suggest *Nandina domestica* as a topic; John Peter Thompson said that the nursery industry would object to that and he would have to get its feedback.

Ruth Hanessian: Could we get a report on visits to the website? We will ask Carol Holko to run a report.

Sylvan Kaufman: Do IOTM press releases routinely go out? Sue DuPont at MDA used to send them. Dick Bean thinks that Sue does not send out releases regularly. Bob Trumbulewill ask Sue what the practice is. Mentioned some concern that monthly releases would dilute the impact of the info.

### **Anacostia Watershed Society Draft Legislation**

Marc Imlay, Leena Chapagain and Jorge Bogantes presented the AWS’ draft legislation to ban invasive plants from the nursery trade, drafted after consultation with various people from other states with plant bans such as Massachusetts and Connecticut.

The Council discussed the draft. The following points were raised:

\*The nursery industry has not been consulted at all and has given its representative no direction on the issue.

\*Some of the stakeholders named in the draft were not consulted during its drafting and have not seen it until now.

\*MISC has spent almost ten years working together to get consensus from all parties. The Democratic process takes a long time. This legislation would set the process back quite a bit.

\*Doesn’t this legislation add 120 species to the state noxious weed list?

\*Banning species named in a list is hard, the list is only as good as its enforcement, and budget and staffing difficulties make enforcement a problem.

\*AWS wants and is open to feedback on this draft; this is the period to review and change it; many other stakeholders will need to see it. We really need this type of legislation; now AWS has begun the process. Senator Harrington is interested in this legislation, and wants to see it by March 2010. We'd like to get feedback before the January MISC meeting.

\*There are factual errors in the draft, e.g. the correct dean is the Dean of College of Agriculture not the Dean of the University of Maryland. As is the case for many of us, we can't decide this for our organizations; management would have to see it.

\*Immediate intent of this draft is to get MDA and DNR on the same page for an invasive species management plan.

\*The draft legislation combines two issues that could be better dealt with if separated – creating a state body to oversee invasive species management and eliminating named species from nursery production.

\*If there were a management plan that the MNLA had buy in to before it went to adoption, it would be a lot easier to handle than this scattershot approach.

\*Slow down, we need to fit the schedule of the Maryland General Assembly, and delaying this initiative for a year to get everybody on the same page would be worthwhile.

\*Consider using a "carrot" rather than a "stick" to encourage the desired behavior.

\*Is there any evidence that these "ban plants" bills do any good?

\*Jonathan McKnight summed up the discussion as follows: Commendations to AWS for getting out in front on this issue. I hear AWS saying that they will back off now and work with MISC to put the time in so that by June we have a vehicle that could be introduced in the 2011 session. We already have many of the pieces of possible legislation drafted – MISC's list of species, on the aquatic side, a model EDRR plan. I hear an implied promise to come to the table and devise a plan or a law, but have everybody affected included. If AWS would like to carry the flag for a comprehensive plan all taxa statewide EIS plan, and work over the next year, we could have something that we can all get behind.

## **Chesapeake Bay Trust Grant Proposal**

Kerrie Kyde: The Landowner Incentive Program staff and I are preparing a grant proposal to obtain money to treat wavyleaf basketgrass on the Hernwood Sanitary Landfill, a Baltimore County property. The County Department of Public Works cannot treat the infestation itself at this time. Thank you to many people here for sending letters of support.

Marc Imlay: AWS has 15 organizations on board to support legislation at federal level for control of WLBG. Lee van Wychen of the Weed Science Society of America thinks there is chance to get this request for \$20 million into a bill for Interior funding. This would be for additional funding only, not taking any away from anything else.

Please send me an email adding your support for this effort, and we will add your organization to the list.

## **Agency Updates**

### MDA

Bob Trumbule: Biocontrol of purple loosestrife and mile-a-minute have been a multi-agency effort for several years. MDA has been raising *Galerucella* for three years.

We've done "home-grown" beetle releases this year. 2009 was the third year we've done releases in Howard County parks of weevils for MaM. Sites have been collecting data for Judy Hough-Goldstein of UDelaware. For the last 2 years, we have raised our own weevils, but still relying on NJ Department of Agriculture for many. Weevils released along the Anacostia (in Magruder) this year, got 4000 from NJ.

Carole Bergmann: How is a site nominated for release? Bob Trumbule: We have a limited number of weevils available, and are keeping a list of the people/sites that need weevils. Carole and Kerrie also have sites. We were hoping that we would have our weevil rearing protocol really cranking this year, but we've run into trouble. I hope that SHA will be giving us some funds for a rearing program. Can do winter monitoring because it is still very visible.

Bob Trumbule is currently the permit holder for weevil release in Maryland, and he can coordinate releases on other property that he doesn't do himself. But he needs weevil recipients to agree to do data collection according to a set protocol.

Ruth Hanessian: any private entities in the state that are raising them?

Bob T: No, but there's some "magic" involved. We find that our best rearing is in release sites, the field insectaries allow us to collect weevils on site.

Jorge Bogantes: What's the survival rate over winter?

Bob: Very good, we see adult feeding damage as soon as the MaM sprouts in the spring.

Dick Bean:

Witchhazel in a Montgomery County garden tested positive for *Phytophthora ramorum*, Sudden Oak Death. It was a trace forward from nursery in OR, found when inspectors in OR did their annual inspection. Detection in the nursery by ODA or USDA and the follow-up analysis of the samples and subsequent release of the findings caused a delay in addressing the incident in MD. The witchhazel was been planted in April (2009) and was removed and destroyed in September; all soil testing has come up negative as well as testing of alternative hosts. 22 samples received from people who got material from the OR grower. All negative.

The MD EAB program has taken a new direction from eradication to management. Current strategies include continuing delimiting surveys that include deploying up to 5000 purple traps and tree debarking, selective removal and destruction of infested ash trees, systemic insecticide treatments, and the release and monitoring of biological control agents. In 2009, three species of parasitoids were released for the first time in MD.

Ruth: is there compensation for the plant, is the property owner compensated?

Anne Hairston-Strang: When ashes were removed for EAB, there was compensation, but only for groups of trees.

Dick: We seize material that is infested, backed up with testing, so MDA could support a claim sent in to the seller by the buyer. MDA does not reimburse the plant owner directly. This is the first SOD instance outside of the nursery trade, in 2004 there were two nurseries and a box store that had trace forwards.

John Peter Thompson: California Invasive Plant Council may have funding to open a "sample nursery" to recreate nursery conditions for testing best management practices for *P. ramorum*, working with UCDavis.

Matt Travis (APHIS): That funding did go through; it's in the plant bill. Anybody in the quarantine states can use this money to do this. Nurserymen are not mandated to follow the protocol, it's voluntary. The first quality assurance review of the *P. ramorum* program nationally is expected out shortly from APHIS – first nationwide review of an APHIS program.

John Peter: Certification program being discussed about a clean plants system for plants as potentially invasive and as vectors for pests and diseases. Think a national system will not work, but a regional approach might. He is writing a report.

Matt: Jonathan Jones is still on *P. ramorum* team, but is reassigned to other programs as well.

Dick: Chrysanthemum white rust, *Puccinia horiana* found in Va, traced back to MD nursery. In 2008 it was found overwintering in garden mums.

We are getting work plans together for 2010 EAB survey; national grid survey based on 1.5 mile grid, including Garrett, Calvert, Anne Arundel, Cecil and Dorchester counties (not Somerset, Wicomico or Worcester). 2500 purple traps will be put up. New trap design is a double decker in high priority sites like forest products businesses, wood packaging plants.

*Sirex noctilio*, Sirex wood wasp, is in PA, moving south.

We will not be black light trapping for general pest detection for the first time in 33 years, general insect survey tool. Funding is all cut, came from general funds. MDA has lost all the people who had the expertise in IDing the insects.

Gypsy moth: 2 nursery inspectors in southern region have been let go; 500 acres will be treated

Bob Tichenor: The threshold for treatment has been raised to 2500 egg masses/ acre

#### DNR

Anne: We're doing restoration planting in places that have lost hemlocks from HWA, losses occur in mostly in riparian areas; Larry Maxim, the new watershed forester for western region, is looking at appropriate species on state land.

Bob Tichenor: A beetle, an HWA predator, has been proposed for releases; in NEPA process now.

Bob Trumbule: MDA has released *Laricobius kangdigensis* in Rocky Gap State Park; also treated trees with imidacloprid. The state of research on Eastern hemlock is simply to try to preserve the species. The adelgid in west is not identical to what we have in east; the tree and bug are in balance; Our eastern bug is destroying the trees here.

John Peter: Because of climate change, we may rescue species by moving them north and up in altitude. What does that do to EIP issue? The nursery industry is ready to help.

Kerrie: Habitat Conservation and Fisheries built 12 more wader wash stations and distributed them to western rivers, including the Savage. Didymo has been confirmed in the Savage.

Delivered MISC's commendation to Annapolis Volvo for removing purple loosestrife from their dealership's properties.

Chemically treated 125 acres on private land and over 100 on state land for WLBG.

### Maryland Extension

Dave Clement: Japanese stiltgrass found on the UMD campus seems to have same fungus as found in West Va; sent samples to Karen Rane and she has isolated several. Bill Bruckart at ARS FDWSRU may be willing to speciate them for us.

Powdery mildew found in Columbia on callery pear.

1000 canker disease is a fungus carried by very tiny twig beetle, a new vector from Mexico, the fungus has never been a problem. Thousands of beetles get into black walnut and each gallery creates a canker, so you get huge numbers of cankers. There are many ads on social networks for walnut, which means Marylanders could be getting infected lumber from CO or CA. The tree dies before it can react to the cankers and "get more interesting" from a woodworking point of view. There are a lot of woodworking on-line sites.

### APHIS

Matt Travis: IES(Investigative Enforcement Services) and SITC (Smuggling Interdiction and Trade Compliance) have gone to offices of Craig's List and eBay to work with them to place statements on line with respect to trade in plants in general. Statements such as "anything under quarantine is illegal" and "check with your state agriculture department", it is hoped, will help make people aware of the illegality of bringing specific plants into the country, or from a quarantine area. APHIS is trying to shut down these pathways. Looking for webcrawler technology to search for key words dealing with "prohibited at federal or state level." This will not be a comprehensive shutting down of pathways, but it is being worked on now.

John Peter: People trading in other languages may be doing an end run around the limitation of English language browsers. For example, Russian plant/seed sites are fronts for Chinese sites.

Matt Travis: The Quarantine 37 (Q37) list has been categorized and given to CPHST (Center for Plant Health Science and Technology) for review. A new development is that departmental permits for moving plants for research will be discontinued under Q37. Instead, there will be a Controlled Import Permit (1-5 for risk level), given only to containment facilities that can safeguard the subject plants. The science panel will be going through the draft list and don't know when the list will be made public.

There will be a mandated Pest Risk Assessment for any plant added to the current post-entry quarantine list. All current holders of post-entry plant permits will be reviewed. Some may be added to that number, don't know yet whether any private entities will be allowed to do that. Comments are under review. The National Plant Board will get a report.

John Peter: How will this impact the Department of Energy, which seems not to be listening on EIP issues, especially those related to biofuels? (Collective shrug from the group here.)

Matt: Some people want to see chrysanthemum white rust deregulated, because it's out there in the environment. The magnitude of the money, manpower and plant material destroyed is incredible. The states don't want to mess with it because of the protocol required if CWR is found. APHIS is considering delisting but it will take several years.

WVa has gone under a whole-state federal quarantine for EAB, because WV threw its hands up and said it will not try to regulate it on a state level. Logging products and firewood are moving back and forth across MD-WV state lines all the time. Very difficult to do enforcement.

Asian Gypsy moth – 22 ships inspected for this this year. NC had one ship approach shore, and was denied access to Charleston because they had it on farm equipment. New Orleans, NC and SC all had ships destined for their ports that had AGM. Coast Guard and Customs and Border Patrol go out to those ships. USDA has promoted that CG be trained to recognize pests or have CBP people go with them to check for these.

MDA got a call from a woman who wanted to sell imported firewood in MD. Coming from Estonia, 37 cubic yards, not inspected by Customs and Border Patrol. It had AGM, and is now in a Whitmarsh storage warehouse. It had not been inspected. Brought back to Baltimore for methyl bromide treatment.

Mattresses in 5 maritime containers had live cerambycid larvae (long horn beetle) in container, were shipped to Frederick storage and subsequently re-exported to their country of origin. Matt is working on the hosts and host range.

Bob Tichenor: APHIS is about ready to update Section 330 regs—how plant protection is done, based on Plant Protection Act of 2002. Assessing potential impact of changes now. Announcement will be coming shortly. Tich is helping write EIS, timing for regs is for early spring.

#### NISC

John Peter Thompson: Next meeting is December 1-2 in D.C. Biofuels is topic. Open meeting

Working on EIS in Cameroon and on a nursery crop/EIP certification plan for Alaska.

#### NRCS

R.J. Ugiansky (ED: many thanks for setting up the meeting location) National Plant Materials Center is looking at producing an ID guide to native thistles, hoping to increase their diversity – they are great pollinator plants. Trying to get good ID pictures.

If anyone knows where there are good populations, especially of *C. altissimum*, please let us know. Hope to get this out in next year. Bob Trumbule -- Would like to work with you on collateral damage from biocontrol; if you have natives, we can look at whether there is damage on natives.

Apical bleaching on thistles could be impacting native – it delays timing of flowering and seed development.

Sylvan Kaufman: Chesapeake Conservation Landscaping Council's Turning a New Leaf conference is happening on Dec 4; there will be a session on what local government is doing re invasive species

John Peter: Sustainable sites plan will include requirement that to be certified sustainable, gardens must use native plants.

Meeting January 21 – Kerrie will check into SCSP auditorium; Ruth will do goodies.

12:25: Adjourn