



Maryland Invasive Species Council  
**Friday, March 19, 2010**  
National Agricultural Library  
Beltsville, MD

**HAPPY 10<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY MISC!**

Heartfelt thanks to Paula Becker, DNR, for making and delivering a beautiful and delicious birthday cake.

Call to Order: ~ 9:45 am, John Lydon, Facilitator

Introductions

Gary Barkman, Mo. Co. Weed Control  
Dick Bean, MDA  
Jorge Bogantes, AWS  
Leena A. Chapagain, AWS  
Timothy Culbreth, MDNR  
Eric Duce, SHA  
\*Robert Fireovid ARS  
Anne Hairston-Strang, MDNR  
Ruth Hanessian, MAPI  
Lane Heimer, MDA  
Carol Holko, MDA  
Marc Imlay, AWS  
Carol Jelich, MNPS  
Mike Kenney, USDA APHIS

Kerrie Kyde, MDNR  
Deb Landau, TNC  
John Lydon, USDA ARS  
Jonathan McKnight, MDNR  
Betty Marose, UMD  
Jeffery Potter, LCA  
Bud Reaves, Anne Arundel County  
\*Dennis Robinson  
Matt Salo, FLBC  
Jil Swearingen, NPS  
Al Tasker, USDA APHIS  
John Peter Thompson, MNLA, NISC  
Bob Tichenor, USDA APHIS

\* Guest Presenter

Additions to the Agenda

Correction: June IOTM author – “Traut”

Approval of Minutes, January, 2010 meeting

Bogantes misspelled

Sunflower seed – growing land is being used for biofuels instead

*Motion to approve minutes as amended. Motion seconded and approved.*

Membership

*Motion to accept Deb Landau, TNC, as voting member (with approval to send proxy when necessary). Motion seconded and approved.*

Presentation by Robert Fireovid, National Program Leader, USDA-ARS, Office of National Programs, **ARS Bioenergy Crop Program**

Discussion:

- Further define sustainability? – have tried to focus on natives, e.g. switchgrass; have resisted work on non-natives, will look at risks of invasiveness of non-native plants under consideration by others and how to mitigate risk
- Genetically engineering native species? – not internally at ARS – working to characterize existing genomes and identify markers to work with control of gene flow, have coop. agreements with partners that are doing transgenics
- Using established invasives for biofuel as eradication tool – not at ARS, don't want to encourage people to grow them; original plan would need to include transition to native species, restoration of eradication area
- Impacts on natural areas, crop land, easements, set-asides, etc. as land is converted to biofuel production – some assessment has been done, could be a consequence
- State will likely regulate production sites – some federal NEPA, funding considerations
- Should MISC be involved? – Develop informational white paper without taking position
- CRP restrictions compatible with biofuel production practices? – state will take lead from feds for the most part
- Is DOE considering biological concerns? – to some extent
- Algae? – ARS doesn't consider algae agricultural so doesn't work on it; APHIS has regulated one green algae reluctantly – not in plant kingdom – no other federal agency has authority

Invader of the Month (IOTM) (*Recording Secretary's note: We didn't discuss this, but it was on the agenda so I included it here.*)

Current Invader of the Month - Autumn olive

[http://www.mdinvasivesp.org/invader\\_of\\_the\\_month.html](http://www.mdinvasivesp.org/invader_of_the_month.html)

<b>Month</b>	<b>Invader</b>	<b>Writer</b>
March	Autumn Olive	Carole Bergmann
April	Feral Cats	Brian Clark
May	Bamboo	Bud Reaves
June	Akebia	Kate Traut
July	Amur Corktree	Jill Swearingen
August	Trifoliolate Orange	Marc Imlay
September	Cogon grass	Kerrie Kyde
October	1000 canker	Faith Campbell/Carol Holko
November	Paper Mulberry	Mary Travaglini
December	White nose bat syndrome	Dan Feller/Dana Limpert

Carol Holko - Maryland Projects section on MISC Website, <http://mdinvasivesp.org/projects/>

- Okay to proceed  
*Motion to proceed. Motion seconded and approved.*

Carol Holko - FaceBook page update

- <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Maryland-Invasive-Species-Council/293807566971>

- 9 fans (13 by end of meeting) – need 25 fans to get meaningful url (like facebook.com/mdinvasives)
- Add Twitter account

Dennis Robinson, Whiteford, Taylor & Preston L.L.P. - MD House Bill 1360, Department of Agriculture - Invasive Plants - Labeling and Notice

- Based on consumer's perspective that there is lack of awareness of invasive plant species; people may not even know to ask if something is invasive
- Bill requires labeling and notice
- Result has already been beneficial in educating legislators
- List of plant species needs work, would be better in regulation
- MISC committee considerations - Plants for a Livable Delaware good starting point, <http://ag.udel.edu/extension/horticulture/pdf/PLD.pdf>; how are other programs working

Kerrie Kyde - Committee on invasive species legislation

- Will meet after MISC meeting today to get started
- Rockville NWF Back Yard Habitat initiative has invasive species outreach potential – other programs exist
- Need to keep the focus on invasive plants, not exotic plants

Kerrie Kyde - DNR Do Not Plant List

- Conference call with MNLA
- Moving forward with list of plant species not allowed on DNR state projects
- No grandfathering or mitigation
- MNLA concerns that list will be used as basis for legislation, would like to have input into list now and in future
- DNR Invasive species Matrix Team will move forward with list
- Criteria? Created by polling experts and from existing lists, used NatureServe I-Rank High or Medium if available

Kerrie Kyde - Maryland Master Naturalist Program

- Like Master Gardener Program
- Now conducting training
- Will be available to volunteer in education and service projects

### Agency Updates

MDA – Dick Bean, Lane Heimer, Carol Holko

- Farm Bill projects – plum pox virus, *P. ramorum* nursery, grape commodity surveys
- IFA still moving on nursery stock from quarantine area in Southern U.S. – Biocontrol?? Need sustaining population for biocontrol to work – we are eradicating in MD
- EAB – surveys, purple traps, treating selected trees, beneficial insects

- Weed Program – Leroy Sellman, MDA, retired e/o February, and then there were five... Pete Rupp will take over his territory; \$58,000 county grants cut in 2010 budget – some counties have zeroed out programs

#### MDNR – Kerrie Kyde, Jonathan McKnight

- Social Marketing Committee (SMC) – harmonize live bait regulations for mid-Atlantic Panel states; campaign using social networking sites to target messages to angling community sectors
- Florida - special season for Burmese pythons, \$25 permit to hunt
- *Geomyces destructans* – white-nose syndrome on bats found in MD; VT to VA range ½ million bats lost = 730 tons of insects eaten annually; candidate for MD list – put MISC list revision on agenda for next meeting
- Didymo spreading – Lower Savage River
- Nutria – Team Invasive Species International, NZ based consultants, conducted independent review and think eradication is feasible

#### SHA – No Report

#### UM Extension – Betty Marose

- Invasive Species workshop
- IPM – budget cutbacks, program on decline

#### APHIS - Al Tasker, Bob Tichenor

- SC eradication of witchweed
- Weeds Across Borders, Shepherdstown, WV, June 1-4, 2010, registration open - <http://www.weedcenter.org/wab2010/>
- IPM Center \$\$ redirected to Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI)
- Permitting – new regulations
- Sirex wood products kits

#### ARS

- Ethics review of John's participation in external activities, incl. MISC

#### News and New Business

Ruth Hanessian – Science Day, City of Rockville, Sunday, April 25, Montgomery College in Rockville, <http://www.rocknet.org/community/Science/rcsday.html>

#### Next Meeting- May 20, 2010

Cheltenham MD, MDA EAB Operational Tour

Adjourn – 12:40pm

Respectfully submitted: Carol Holko, Recording Secretary