

**Maryland Invasive Species Council
 USDA National Agricultural Library
 Beltsville, MD 21401
 Thursday March 20, 2014**

Call to order

Facilitator Dick Bean called the meeting to order at 9:35 am

Introductions

Gary Barkman, Montgomery County Weed Cntl	Kerrie Kyde—MDNR-- NHP
Dick Bean - MDA, PPWM	Mary Kay Malinoski—Maryland Extension
Carole Bergmann—Montgomery Cty Parks	Yousuf Nejati - EQR, Inc.
William L. Bruckart III—USDA ARS, Ft. Detrick	Damian Ossi--DDOE
Dave Clement—Maryland Extension	Karen Rane—UMD Plant Diagnostic Lab
Anne Goodman—Rockville Native Spp Network	Bud Reaves - Anne Arundel County
Mike Greenberg -- SHA	Matt Salo - Cheverly Green Infrastructure
Anne Hairston-Strang - DNR,MD Forest Service	Mike Sowers--guest
Ruth Hanessian -- MAPI	Bob Tatman - MDA Forest Pest Mangmt
Lane Heimer -- MDA	John Peter Thompson -- Consultant
Mike Hemming, Eastern Shore Nurseries	Mark Thurmond - USDA APHIS
Alice Imlay, guest	Marek Topolski—DNR Fisheries
Marc Imlay, Pr. Georges Cty Parks, Sierra Club	Bob Trumbule—MDA Biocontrol
Michael Kenney—USDA APHIS	

Additions to the Agenda

Bill Bruckart's presentation on *Bipolaris* on *Microstegium*
 Change in MISC representative to MAPAIS

Approval of minutes from January, 2014 meeting

Jan minutes tabled.

Memberships

- Mike Farley and Yousuf Nejati will share the membership for EQR; Yousuf attended today. Committee formally voted on this membership. Discussion of sharing membership.
- Gary Barkman requested reinstatement of membership. Barbara Beelar and Tyler Wakefield requested membership, but neither were present for their required second meeting.

Invader of the Month

- Schedule: Bud Reaves editing Barbara Beelar's piece on hydrilla piece for April
 - John Peter Thompson and Jil Swearingen --Ravenna grass for May
 - Marc Imlay will do invasive mollusk
 - Dave Clement will do 1000 cankers disease for June/July
 - Kerrie Kyde will do bushkiller for fall

- Direction:
 - Tim Culbreth is leaving for Utah to fight fires for 6 months, so Bud will handle IOTM on his own; Carole B. will help edit plant write-ups.
- Bill Bruckart expressed concern about the tone of any write-up on biocontrol; Bob Trumbule reassured him it would be balanced and generally positive.

Membership in Mid-Atlantic Panel on Aquatic Invasive Species

- MISC representative to MAP is now Jay Kilian, of DNR's Resource Assessment Service, with Kerrie Kyde as alternate. MISC will send letter to MAP Chair Sarah Whitney to confirm our choice

Website

- Website was updated-- deleting log file will free up space in 500 MB; CH will change the In the News section to "under construction" to free up space and work with IT to further reduce the size of the site
- Has set up a Twitter account. (Matt Travis liked it.) Headline news with link to article, website document, pictures; John Pete Thompson has 10K followers from across the world for his hashtag: #invsp
- Dick: twitter feed available from MISC website
- John Peter will oversee the Twitter account

Agency Updates and Roundtable

APHIS:

- Mark Thurmond: Conducted 2 hr training on federal noxious weeds and cargo release authority to about 20 Customs and Border Patrol agriculture inspectors at Dulles Airport.
- Matt Travis did a port review for Dulles, down about 15 AI dealing with 50 international flights/day, hard to handle
 - Bob Trumbule: Dulles port of entry for plant material?
 - Cut flowers, fruits and veggies, not propagative materials; don't get the big freighters
 - Marc Imlay: suggests doing IOTM on "protecting our borders"
 - Mark: APHIS covers plants, arthropods, foot and mouth disease, other pathogens
 - Karen: why the short staffing?
 - Mike Kenney: could do a piece on what the port identifiers do at the ports of entry.
- Mike Kenney: plan health programs, dealing with plant diseases
Have three openings on staff now, based in Riverdale
Emergency and domestic program people do coconut rhinoceros beetle

Presentation by Dr. Bill Bruckart on *Bipolaris* leaf disease of Japanese stilt grass (JSG) in Maryland

- USDA-ARS found *Bipolaris* leaf spot and necrosis of JSG, near Frederick (isolate FDWSRU 12-049 on ISR host accession).
- A Disease Note and photograph of lesions can be found in Plant Disease 98:852
- The disease was first described on JSG from West VA and Indiana in 2006 and anecdotally from Howard and Prince Georges Counties, MD, in 2009. A second species, *B. drechsleri*, was also described as cause of disease.
- Both species have dark brown conidia, conidiophores, and brown mycelium, characteristic of *Bipolaris* species. There may be additional *Bipolaris* species causing JSG leaf diseases, according to Luke Flory.

- A differential response of JSG accessions was noted after inoculations by *B. microstegii* and *B. drechsleri*. In two experiments: 3 of the 4 *B. microstegii* isolates were very aggressive on the ISR accession of JSG, but they didn't damage three other JSG accessions from Maryland. In contrast, disease response by the Maryland JSG accessions was uniform and limited after inoculations by *B. drechsleri*. Additional inoculations are planned to further strengthen the data.

Differential responses among accessions of JSG to inoculations by the two species of *Bipolaris* in these tests suggests need for additional research about this disease and these fungi before biological control option can be considered. Damage has been observed in the field at the original site of collection, but many other sites do not have diseased plants.

- Questions: What effect does this have on seed?
 - Bruckart -- we don't know; it's not been measured. In nature, symptoms are not seen until August, which may be early enough to retard seed development or reduce seed yield, but we don't know
 - Potential to affect non-target species is not fully resolved. Some minor symptoms (no apparent damage, though) were reported by Flory (and observed in our tests) on corn and other commercially-important grasses. We are interested native non-target species for additional tests. WV cooperators observed similar symptoms on deer tongue. Using deer tongue from a commercial source in our tests, there were no symptoms after inoculation by *B. microstegii*.

Marc Imlay: found diseased patch in Ruth Swann Park that was completely killed by leaf blight, didn't see lesions

Karen Rane: *B. drechsleri* may have wide host range.

- Bruckart -- this is a new spp. and Luke Flory suspects possibly a third. Also, there is a genus of similar, *Bipolaris*-like fungi called *Drechsleri*.

Dick Bean: Are you screening additional hosts?

- Bruckart -- we are very much interested in testing both wild-collected native grass and JSG; would very much appreciate getting reports of diseased JSG. Please notify at William.Bruckart@ARS.USDA.GOV

MDA:

- Bob Trumbule:
 - Work with mile-a-minute weed and biocontrol weevil will continue this year; may be working with BG&E and USFWS on their right of ways, but so far, just confirmed with SHA. Still need release locations in Calvert, Sothern MD, lower shore, southern Charles, farther west in Garrett
 - Carole Bergmann: Thank you for 1000 MaM weevils, released in upper Mont Co, have now found them everywhere in the county
 - Anne H-S: Will contact regional foresters for possible weevil release sites
 - Eradicated boxwood blight from two sites, nurseries from eastern shore, one homeowner site; blight is devastating on many cultivars of boxwood. There will be a conference here at USDA in mid-April sponsored by Boxwood Society of America.
 - John Peter Thompson-- what is the landscape spread now? Bob-- British Columbia, VA, NC, MD, PA, CT, OR, AL, RI, NY. Researcher Kelly Ivers called it a Trojan Horse syndrome, some Buxus are asymptomatic carriers, most susceptible cv is suffruticosa.
 - Dave Clement -- AL was recently added; trying to sequence the genome, seem to be 2 spp of the disease.
 - Bob --there is no in vitro quick ID method; that will be a great tool

Dave-- VA says it has a "clean boxwood" program, but BT and DC are dubious about the success of this; One infected plant can wipe out 200-300 yr old plants in historical landscapes

- Lane Heimer: will do presentation on weed control program next meeting
- Bob Tatman:
 - Prepping for a public-private HWA suppression project; April 21st in Cranesville Swamp application, a TNC site just west of Potomac-Garrett and Swallow Falls SP; seeps and springs ID'd to modify application method from soil to trunk injection where necessary
 - Have 5200 acres on tap for gypsy moth suppression; *Entomophaga* not killing the caterpillars, preventing "outbreak" but not suppressing the population
 - Walnut twig beetle found in Cecil County; will put traps out at site to confirm what we think we know of flight pattern of the insect. No sign of 1000 cankers detected at this point.
- Kim Rice (Dick standing in)
 - EAB – 275 traps set out on Eastern Shore, Baltimore Cty, Baltimore City and Harford; 25 in Southern MD. USDA is supplying material for only 39 sites; maintenance of traps is split between Plant Protection and Weed Management and Forest Pest Management staff
 - Ruth Hanessian: Can the traps be used as an educational tool? Dick Bean: the trees the traps are set up in are labeled

DNR:

- Anne H-S:
 - gearing up for EAB season; drafted educational materials for landowners; This year's communities are Hagerstown, Cockeysville, AA county, Baltimore, and Waldorf; ID and awareness cards went out to all licensed tree experts
 - Walnut twig beetle –Walnut products will be quarantined for shipping to some states. Debris should be burned, and people should be careful to observe outdoor burning and air quality regulations. Maryland has not established a quarantine, so efforts are concentrating on educational messages. BTrumbule: With MDA's recommendation to burn, Counties will likely be more helpful for homeowners
 - DNR's ISMT has begun an effort to produce signage for clean equipment against *Hydrilla* and others
 - Have hired seasonal crews to do another year of plant mapping and control in biodiversity hotspots, with USDA Forest Service funding.
 - The rankings for USDA competitive grant projects have been released; EAB grant did not get funded.
- Kerrie Kyde
 - IPAC is finishing draft regulations for disposal of Tier 1 plants; trying to finalize financial and staffing arrangements to get the weed risk assessments done and the Tier 1 and 2 lists started.
Bob Trumbule-- takes funding to do the assessment; legislative bodies should understand that will take additional money/duties for enforcement; more and more things that we're being asked to do with no money
John Peter Thompson -- inspectors will do this without additional work in normal course of duties, IPAC continues to discuss how will get done
Mike Hemming--Inspectors that come for pest control could start the process, they're coming 1x or 2x/year. I don't see a lot of money having to be spent.
Bob—have done inspections for 28 years; inspectors are familiar with the laws, recognizing plants. This won't require an additional trip, but when a problem is

found, then there is additional work for stop sale and destruction order for the 5 people across the state who are handling this issue.

Dick Bean—Carol Holko has added a page to MDA website on the IPAC and the related regulations.

- Marek Topolski
 - Working on a management plan for blue catfish
 - New edition of Conservation Biology has article about tweeting

UMD Plant Disease Lab Karen Rane:

- Tuesday March 25, there will be an invasive species workshop at the Baltimore County extension office, covering bacterial leaf scorch, rose rosette disease, downy mildews on ornamentals
- Have an intern working with Dr. Crouch
 - Dick Bean—has there been any winter kill of pathogens? Karen -- of plants, yes! But not of diseases.
 - Anne Goodman-- can we share the MISC minutes with the public? Yes, the final accepted version that is posted to the MISC website

Ruth Hanessian

- 25th anniversary of Rockville Science Day is April 6, from noon to 5 pm; 85 exhibitors are coming, welcome more participants. Thank you Bob Tatman for agreeing to exhibit
- April 4 at 7 pm at the Rockville MC campus in Parilla Theatre actress Kate Campbell Stevenson will portray women scientists in Forging Frontiers: Women Leaders in STEM. Performance is free for students, \$10 for adults; need to encourage and provide internships for girls

Matt Salo

- As "Chief Eradicator for Cheverly" ☺, have been able to maintain control status quo on most of the EIP, such as multiflora rose, bittersweet, winged euonymus. English ivy and Jap honeysuckle are harder, but I should have them off the trees within a year. In Lower Beaverdam Creek, Marc has promised to spray the lesser celandine. Have seen steady increase, esp in indicator spp, of bird populations over time as I've removed EIP.

John Peter Thompson

- The ISAC of National Invasive Species Council will meet the week of May 13; has not met for two years; will be doing a webinar on taxonomic lumping and splitting and getting taxonomic advice

Bill Bruckart

- We have people working on boxwood blight and Dana Berner doing Canada thistle

State Highway Administration Mike Greenberg:

- Completing map books for Canada thistle control, for every district and shop in SHA
- Maryland getting recert trained; Have new Enterprise GIS system shows location of EIP; about to begin redoing Vegetation Manual (10 yrs old) included soil, planting, seed, EIP management.

Maryland Extension MaryKay Malinoski UH-OH....

District Department of the Environment Damien Ossi

- DC has a Mayor's order to form a task force to create a list of plants acceptable for street planting; agreed to plant only native plants, but the street tree folks say they can't do this. They say it's too hard to find tree that survives in tree boxes on city streets. When they find a tree they like, they plant a lot of it, including goldenrain tree, pagodatree, Siberian elm

John Peter Thompson: What criteria will you use to determine that something counts as invasive? Damien: We can't do this in house, have to have widespread agreement

- Finally have apiculture regs, so we will be inspecting anything that comes in; also writing Wildlife Protection regs
- DC CWMA will have two trainings in June, got CPUs for 4-5 different states, free one-day events, in classroom and in field, working with the NPS EPMT; if we get funded, we'll be able to have a funded coordinator, working for Anacostia Watershed Society.
- MAIPC will hold its workshop July 28-29 at RockCreek Nature Center; theme is biocontrol
- May 3rd is invasive plant removal day-- see invasiveplantremovalday.org; we want to get as many groups reporting back as possible; April 9-May 17 events all count

Marc Imlay:

- Insect arrived in CA is affecting trees, could affect Persimmons here, group is looking for biocontrols in Vietnam; please send me any information you have on potential biocontrol spp. It is estimated that for 30% of EIP there are biocontrols that exist.

Mike Sowers:

- From Bethlehem PA, returning to live in MD. For 16 yrs been doing EIP in MN, CO, ME and PA. Did a Master Gardener project of forest restoration on a 5-ac site in ME. Like to start pilot projects, in Bethlehem city did two-acre restoration along trout stream, but due to severe erosion caused by missing herbaceous layer under Amur honeysuckle. No replanting was done, but herbaceous layer returned after the honeysuckle was removed. Hope city will use this project to get grant money to restore the watershed. Lots of support from Trout Unlimited.

MNCPPC Carole Bergmann

- 15th anniversary celebration of Weed Warriors, over 1000 people trained; now have 45 WW supervisors, accumulated 30.9 full time staff yrs of work

Yousuf Nejati:

- Prepping for 2014 season. We can keep an eye out for a specific pest or pathogen.

Next Meeting

Dick Bean: Thank you for refreshments. Will check MDA, Derwood Farm Park.

Yousuf Nejati: EQR has a conference room

Bud Reaves: Will check Anne Arundel County space.

Final comment - Matt Salo:

I am struck by the fact that our group and other environmental groups stage events at time of year when wildlife is in peril. Weed removals are often scheduled during bird nesting season, peak times of danger for wildlife. Cheverly has stream cleaning during spring ephemerals bloom period. This is something that needs to be considered – in doing one important environmental task, we may be compromising another natural cycle. I'm willing to write an IOTM about this.

Meeting Adjourned: 12:05 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Kerrie Kyde

Recording Secretary