

**Maryland Invasive Species Council
Seneca Creek State Park
Gaithersburg, MD 20878
Thursday, July 17, 2014**

MINUTES

Call to order 9:35 a.m.

by Dick Bean, Facilitator

Introductions

Dick Bean, MDA

Gary Barkman – MG. Co. Weed Control

Eric Duce, BA Co. Dept of Env. Prot. & Sustain

Mike Ellis – MNCPPC/PG Ranger

Anne Goodman, Rockville NSN

Ruth Hanessian – MD Assn. Pet Ind.

Marc Imlay, MNCPPC, Sierra Club

Alice Imlay – Sierra Club

Kerrie Kyde, DNR

Yousuf Nejati – Env. Quality Resources

Carolyn Puckett – Carroll Co. Forestry Board

Pete Rupp – MDA- Weed Control

Mike Sowers – Private consultant

Robert Tatman – MDA Forest Pest

John Peter Thompson – Private consultant

Mark Thurmond, USDA, APHIS, PPQ

Meeting is being recorded. Please speak up.

Thanks to Kerrie Kyde for securing the meeting site at Seneca Creek.

Additions to the Agenda

New invader – Italian arum, *Arum italicum*.

Approval of minutes

Motion made and seconded to approve March, 2014 minutes, to be amended. (Mary Kay Malinoski comments to be added.) Motion to approve March minutes, by Dick Bean. Seconded and passed unanimously. Kerrie Kyde asked everyone to check for necessary corrections and send them to her for inclusion. Motion to approve May minutes by Dick Bean. Seconded by Kerrie Kyde, approved and passed unanimously.

Membership

Mike Ellis and Mike Sowers attending second meeting and requesting membership.

Membership approved

Recording Secretary Position – Dick Bean called for volunteers. Kevin Wilsey may be available to do this after the end of the year.

Invader of the Month – Kerrie Kyde

Website postings need to be updated and kept current. Bud Reaves volunteered but needs help and guidance. Need software. What program is being used? Dreamweaver? Yousuf Nejati offered to help with website and IOTM and Mike Sowers volunteered to help with the website. Dick Bean may be able to buy needed software. Invasive species of concern in Maryland list needs to be kept current as well. MISC website as well. New list of invaders by October. Tentatively 3 people to work as a group to handle the website updating, possibly meet with Carol Holko or Carol Jelich, who has been working on it recently.

Agency Updates

USDA

Mark Thurmond: discussed issue of Federal Phytosanitary Certificates for research done at no charge in return for reduced rate for leased office space in Beltsville (Bob Trumbule's Office). Trying to work out a new agreement with ARS. Baltimore first up for presentation for noxious weeds.

DNR

Kerrie Kyde: Three IPAC members are scheduled to obtain advanced training from APHIS PPQ PERAL in Raleigh this October on completing weed risk assessments. This training will be more intensive than the initial training we received in the winter of 2012, with hands-on coaching and review by the weed risk analysts within PERAL. We are actively working on weed risk assessments, and hope to have the first Tier 1 and Tier 2 species lists released before the end of the calendar year.

Jay Killian: Attended first Mid Atlantic Panel of Aquatic Invasive Species (MAP) as MISC representative, June 25-26 in Annapolis, MD. All regional panels report to National Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force. Each panel receives a Federal allotment of about \$40,000.00 each year. MAP uses it to fund projects for grants for research. Purpose of this meeting was to review 13 proposals received for 2015 – amount about \$242.00. 3 projects will be funded at slightly less than requested. No details which ones at this time. Will advise at a later date.

New Zealand Mud Snails reported in Spring Creek in PA. Very small - size is 4 to 6 ml. Estimated as dense as 22,000 per square meter in approx. four mile stretch of creek. First discovered in Great Lakes and thought to have been introduced by boaters and anglers to smaller tributaries.

Hydrillia in Deep Creek Lake – Barb Beeler's main concern - DNR & Friends of Deep Creek Lake working together for past several years to alleviate the problem of growth. June DNR initiated stronger effort. First discovered in Deep Creek Lake last September. Hydrillia has the capacity to outcompete natives and become a serious problem to boaters, swimmers and anglers. At present, seems to be distributed in most southern cove. Being treated with herbicide to control vegetation. 8 treatment sites. June 11 and July 1 were the first and second treatments. Next one on Monday. Hired contractual personnel to post signs, work boat piers, etc. regarding treatments to warn residents, boaters, etc.

Asian swamp eel - Park Ranger reported seeing what he thought was some kind of salamander in Lake Needwood, Montgomery County on July 8. Scott Smith visited July 11 and photographed 2 specimens and found 1 dead one nearby. Species introduced in FL, GA, HI and most recently NJ. July 13 met with Park Personnel and none were detected. Could be a recent release. Will survey again at a later date. Could overwinter in Maryland waters if given the chance.

Snake Heads in Patuxent River? – Also in creek near Point Lookout reported by angler,

MDA

Bob Tatman: Good news 5,000 acres gypsy moth suppression mostly Garrett and Allegheny counties. Received grant of \$100,000.00 this year. Trapping in Fair Hill to determine peak flight. Also traps set for EAB in areas where discovered, Sirex wood wasp, walnut twig beetle (1 site positive) ---Bad news – budget cuts – 1 retiree position abolished. Section had 62 positions in 1991, now have 11. Very short on resources. Closing Frederick Office due to budget cuts in September.

Pete Rupp: Weed Control-Pretty much same as usual. Johnson grass going crazy. Pretty good control in counties that cooperate with control programs. Most counties doing well with thistle. Lots of calls regarding weeds that are not noxious weeds, just invasive ones. Bamboo mostly, just give advice - time permits we will treat. 1 Giant Hogweed site. Urge public to notify of sightings.

Dick Bean: Maps showing 2014 EAB trapping results - Allegheny – Green Ridge largest number of EAB ever seen in a trap, over 100. Carroll Co. now added to list. 2 positive sites in Baltimore City, (not BA. Co.). Map of fifteen-mile buffer around known locations also circulated. Usually about 3 years before damage shows. VA and PA mostly infested. Releasing parasitoids, but no definitive results as of yet. Talked about EAB rearing project to supply ARS researcher in Newark, DE with adults. EAB positive in NJ - entire state under quarantine. Current MD quarantine will remain in effect.

European pepper moth, a greenhouse pest, has been seen on Eastern Shore.

Imported fire ant - 6 sites Eastern Shore Ocean City (4) in Worcester Co. 1 outside Ocean City and 1 in Easton. Still surveying around tropical plantings. (Tiki Bars)

Round Table Discussion

Marc Imlay: Mid Atlantic Invasive Plants Council Bio-Control Workshop @ Rock Creek Nature Center is coming up. We have more registrations than anticipated, 126 as of now. If you try to register now, you'll be put on a waiting list. Would like the PDF's and recordings of the talks to appear on the MISC website. Seen email - Success with bamboo treatment. Treat and retreat 12 - 14 days later show 100% success at 1 site in Charles County & 1 site in Prince Georges County. Trying to control in College Park along Paint Branch Creek. Difficult time this year with some plants, Japanese stiltgrass, wisteria, burning bush now taking over parks. Mike Ellis has been working with Mark for 7 years as volunteer - now paid employee.

John Peter Thompson: NISC Invasive Species Advisory Committee – help with agenda; assigned to document all recommendations made by the NISC during its tenure. Working with staff. Now up to 134 recommendations since 1999. Make them public. Let committees and stake holders see how successful the recommendations have been. Lori Williams will present these at the next NISC meeting.

Carolyn Puckett: Volunteer organization Carroll Co. Forestry Board- 2 parks –There will be a paid position at Piney Run Nature Center –can we put this on the website? Mary Kay monitors website. Univ. of MD. – Kimberly Monihan handles list for all available positions to students.

Eric Duce: Baltimore County contracts include clauses for invasive species work – splitting up into multiple years to get better control. Don't know if it is working. Hopefully get better control. No name for program right now.

Yousuf Nejati – Quite busy looking at gateway sites with the Anacostia Watershed Society as well as more sites for Phrag control. Kenilworth marshland site and next to Washington Times. Phrag removal is complicated. Slew of DNR programs for invasive removal / control coming up soon. Chesapeake Bay Foundation contracts. Meeting with Piedmont Environmental Council for Kudzu control somewhere in VA coming up. Involved in discussions for the complete renovation of the invasive division of EQR. Recently appointed as the state representative to the Society for Ecological Restoration. Is an international Society with over 2400 members. Integrate with other interested parties.

Kerrie Kyde - Wes Knapp couldn't be here today but wanted to report that a woman, Jane Hill, was in Cabin John Regional Park – along Bannockburn Creek in Bethesda and found found *Arum italicum* along the banks in January. It's now on our radar. Invasive in VA. Looks like stuffed cabbage with fancy variegations on leaves – Ornamental; we don't know how widely sold it is. Streamside plant; this is the first find documented in MD. Wes going out to investigate and collect specimens. Will include picture and fact sheet with minutes. Candidate for adding to list of invasives.

Comments: Carolyn Puckett – has removed it before. In winter it's green, summer has a stalk like Jack-in-the-pulpit. John Peter Thompson – it will grow in many spots without becoming invasive but prefers wet boggy areas where it will take off.

Ruth Hanessian:– Have never heard of Asian swamp eel being in the trade – Urge checks of Asian grocery stores to check for invasive species sales. – tips about selling anything invasive -- lots of different eels. Mark Thurmond will notify Dave Root to maybe survey. Has "survived" 35 years in the pet industry!

Comment: Mark Thurmond - Huge seizure of giant land snails for consumption in CA Held a meeting behind building 5 in Beltsville with Dave Root as the guest speaker with field trip to see seized invasives by USDA.

Gary Barkman: Montgomery County Weed Control been very busy – have done work for State Hwy, County Roads, M-NCPPC, and others. Some people who tried to control weeds previously, have now called on us. No work on wavyleaf basket grass this year. May start a project on WLBG next week.

Comments: Kerrie Kyde - Towson Univ. has app for reporting wavyleaf basketgrass. Can upload photo to send to DNR. Starting to get data in, which will ultimately end up in EDDMapS. National Park Service Center for Urban Ecology paid Bugwood at Univ. of GA. to have an app developed called Mid Atlantic Early Detection Network (MAEDN). Free download for smart phone. Reported sightings are verified by experts.

Dick Bean: Next meeting is Sept. 18 at Robinson Nature Center, 6692 Cedar Lane Columbia, MD. Usually have field trip in September, maybe have a tour of this facility in addition to meeting? Will check out. Other sites mentioned for future meetings, BARC. Robinson usually wants something in return from groups which it allows free use of its facility, will check on this.

Meeting adjourned at noon.