

Maryland Invasive Species Council
Thursday, January 22, 2015
USDA – National Agricultural Library
Meeting Minutes

Call to order at 9:36 am by Robert Trumbule

Introductions

- Members present:
 - Gary Barkman, Montgomery Weed Control
 - Barbara Beelar, Friends of DCL
 - Dave Clement, University of Maryland
 - Mike Ellis, MNCPPC/PG Rangers
 - Anne Goodman, Rockville Native Species Network
 - Michael Greenberg, MD SHA
 - Anne Hairston-Strang, MD DNR
 - Ruth Hanessian, MD Association of Pet Industries
 - Lane Heimer, MDA Plant Protection & WM
 - Alice Imlay, Sierra Club
 - Marc Imlay, MNCPPC
 - Kerrie Kyde, MD DNR
 - Deborah Landau, TNC
 - Mary Malinoski, University of Maryland
 - Karen Rane, University of Maryland
 - Earl “Bud” Reaves, Jr., Anne Arundel County
 - Matt Salo, Cheverly Green Infrastructure Committee
 - Mark Taylor, MDA
 - John Peter Thompson, MNLGA, NISC-ISAC
 - Marek Topolski, MD DNR
 - Bob Trumbule, MDA Plant Protection & WM
 - Kevin Wilsey, MD SHA
 - Joyce Bolton, USDA ARS/NAL
 - Jorge Bogantes, AWS
 - Robert LaRoche, MD SHA
 - Daniel Foster, TNC
 - Aylene Gard, Howard County Master Gardeners
 - Alice Leaderman
 - Justin Hynicka, MD DNR Forest Service

Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes

- There are 3 sets of minutes from 2014 that need to be approved and posted: July, September, and November
 - July minutes were distributed to MISC members for review and will be considered final
 - September minutes were not fully transcribed, but Bob Trumbule has a hard copy of draft minutes compiled by Dick Bean before his retirement
 - November minutes have been drafted by Bob Trumbule based on his notes from the meeting
- The minutes will be distributed to all attendees of these meetings. Please provide feedback to:
 - September – Deborah Landau
 - November – Kevin Wilsey

Membership

- Justin Hynicka, DNR Forester, attended for the first time and requested membership
- Membership requirements:
 - New members must attend 2 meetings within a calendar year – 1 to request membership; 1 to vote on membership
 - Existing members must attend 1 meeting per year to retain membership
 - Lane Heimer keeps track of attendance
 - Website will soon be updated to show a list of active members (have been to at least 1 meeting in the last calendar year)
 - Barbara Beelar – Can we send a courtesy email to those who will be dropping off the ‘active’ member list?
 - Lane Heimer – all participants will remain on the MISC list serve even if they are not ‘active’ members

- Pending – none present
- New:
 - Justin Hynicka – Maryland Department of Natural Resources – Forest Service
 - Robert LaRoche – Maryland State Highway Administration

Guest Speakers at Future Meetings, Special Events, etc.

- Although MISC hasn't had many guest speakers later, they can be very informative
- MISC members in attendance agreed to periodically arranging for guest speakers at upcoming meetings
- Possible speakers:
 - Kerrie Kyde – look into bringing student from UMD (Kathleen Herr) who is working with the Invasive Plant Advisory Committee (IPAC) on weed risk assessments
 - Mary Malinoski – Can we bring someone from out of state? Some speakers from Pennsylvania would be good resources to educate MISC on spotted lantern fly
 - Yes – but on their dime
 - John Peter Thompson – new director of National Invasive Species Council (NISC)
 - Mary Malinoski – APHIS – National Feral Swine Management Program would be good for fall/winter. It is a problem in western Maryland.
- Field trip
 - Barbara Beelar suggested MISC field trip to Deep Creek Lake to see hydrilla control efforts
 - Mark Lewandowski is heading the efforts

Invader of the Month (IOTM)

- IOTMs have been schedule through December 2015:

		Subject	Author	Animal	Plant	Disease	Other
2014	December*	Thousand Canker's	Dave Clement			X	
2015	January*	Zebra mussel update	Matt Ashton	X			
	February*	WNS update	Dana Limpert			X	
	March	Weed volunteers	Salo / Puckett / Bergmann / Goodman		X		
	April	Exotic earthworms	Kerrie Kyde	X			
	May	Spotted lantern fly	Bob Tatman	X			
	June	Clean Your Gear	Jay Killian				X
	July	Ailanthus & verticillium	Aaron Cook			X	
	August	Ravenna grass	JP Thompson / Jil Swearingen		X		
	September						
	October	Porcelain berry	Sylvan Kaufman		X		
	November	Arum italicum	Carolyn Puckett		X		
	December	Preventing invasives	Jim Young / Matt Travis				X

* Write-up is posted on MISC website

- March IOTM is being drafted by Meghan Fellows. Goal is to celebrate the work and efforts of volunteers
- September needs a IOTM and volunteer contributor

- Barbara Beelar – if March is more targeted at terrestrial volunteer efforts, September could be focused on aquatic volunteers
 - Send ideas/examples of projects to Barbara
- Dave Clement – did MDA quarantine information on thousand canker's reference the MISC IOTM fact sheet?
 - Robert Trumbule will check

Agency Updates

- **Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR)**
 - Chronic wasting disease has been confirmed in 4 deer in Allegany county within the quarantine area
 - 6 total confirmed cases statewide
 - DNR is pinpointing exact locations with hunters
 - Invasive Plant Advisory Committee (IPAC)
 - John Peter Thompson, Sylvan Kaufman, and Kerrie Kyde are conducting weed risk assessments
 - First list of Tier 1 / 2 species is scheduled to be drafted by April
 - IPAC members will review draft list and make recommendations to MDA secretary at next meeting
 - Invasive Species Matrix Team
 - Working on creating hands-on samples for educational displays (crayfish, water chestnut seeds, etc.)
 - Draft invasive species response plan for aquatic species has been prepared
 - Terrestrial plan may come later
 - Forest Service
 - Acting State Forester - Donald VanHassent
 - Update on thousand cankers sent to licensed tree experts and forest product operators with license renewals
 - Applied for 2 year grant to assist with Emerald Ash Borer
 - Biodiversity Hotspots
 - Grant wraps up this year
 - Developing database structure for long-term management
 - Focusing on identifying invasive species threats where rare and endangered species are located
- **University of Maryland**
 - *Ralstonia solanacearum* (southern bacteria wilt) was recently shipped on cuttings of *Osteospermum*
 - Bacterium that infects vascular system of herbaceous plants
 - Can cause southern wilt in tobacco, tomato, and other vegetables
 - Shipment originated from greenhouse in Guatemala
 - Grower worked with USDA-APHIS to contain outbreak and stop shipments
 - USDA-APHIS determined that *Ralstonia* strain in the outbreak was not the select agent strain that is cold tolerant
 - Mid-Atlantic Early Detection Network (MAEDN)
 - App is under development
 - Current app is used mostly for ID purposes
 - Trying to increase the use of the app for reporting
 - Any suggestions on improving the app are welcome

- **Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA)**
 - Acting Plant Protection & Weed Management Program Manager – Kim Rice
 - Thousand cankers disease quarantine area is official
 - Cecil county – Fair Hill NRMA
 - Boxwood Blight
 - Has been a problem on Eastern Shore
 - 2 nurseries have tested positive
 - Had to destroy plants, containers, and leaf mat and sanitize all equipment
 - Worcester county homeowner had a confirmed case
 - Has recently been found in landscapes in Baltimore county-eradication efforts taken
 - Biocontrol – continuing partnership with MD State Highway Administration for mile-a-minute weevil with MDA continuing to rear, release and monitor weevil. Also continuing to partner with NJ Dept of Ag for additional supply of weevils
 - Weed Control
 - Montgomery County is drafting a bill that restricts pesticide applications
 - Current draft is more restrictive than State/Federal regulations and could result in suspending operations until it can be proven that they are absolutely necessary
- **Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA)**
 - Continuing mile-a-minute weevil partnership with MDA
 - Work continues on Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management (IRVM) program
 - New round of contracts is slated to be advertised this year
 - SHA has been struggling with the permitting process with Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE)
 - MDE commented on draft specifications
 - Initial list of targeted invasive species was submitted and MDE does not want SHA to control mile-a-minute, Japanese honeysuckle, common teasel, or canary reed grass in sensitive sites under MDE jurisdiction
 - Unclear whether there are concerns over treatment/control operations associated with these species or if MDE actually wants these species growing in these areas
 - MDE may require decontamination procedures similar to those used for didymo
 - Additional discussions will follow until permit is received
 - First project is slated to advertise February 24, 2015
- **Anne Arundel County**
 - Emerald Ash Borer
 - Recently purchased an iQ tree infuser
 - Looking to try it out at Jug Bay
 - DPW-Highways is taking a proactive approach in treating trees
 - ArborMectin pesticide is being used
 - Not labeled for aquatic use unless it is injected above the water line
 - Not labeled as ‘restricted use’

- **Friends of Deep Creek Lake (DCL)**
 - National Sea Grant Law Center is a resource for watercraft inspection/decontamination legislation
 - DNR has informed DCL that milfoil is too extensive and would be too expensive to control at the lake
 - Hiring a lobbyist to draft model legislation
 - Need to work out funding issues

- **Cheverly Green Infrastructure Committee**
 - Town has 5 parks, of which 3 are targeted for regular invasive removal work
 - Thanks to Marc Imlay for spraying lesser celandine and Japanese knotweed in the other 2 areas
 - Town has recognized Randy Phoebus and Marc Imlay as Champions of Cheverly Green Infrastructure for their invasives control work
 - Last 2 sessions to remove English ivy have been very successful – 10 and 20 volunteers, respectively. One more session is needed to complete work.

- **Howard County Master Gardeners**
 - Meeting once a month to remove invasives - 2nd Tuesday of each month at Middle Patuxent Environmental Area

- **Maryland Association of Pet Industries**
 - Montgomery County is considering new legislation on puppy and kitten sales
 - Legislation on feral cats for trap/neuter/release will be heard next week

- **The Nature Conservancy**
 - Thank you to DNR for Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Control
 - Several thousand trees have been treated
 - Looking into biocontrol options
 - TNC will not have any seasonal invasive species crews at this time, but will be looking into alternative funding sources

- **Rockville Native Species Network**
 - A joint project among the City of Rockville, Montgomery County's Pope Farm Nursery, and Rockville volunteers will occur in September
 - Invasive plants will be replaced with native grasses in a meadow at the Croydon Creek Nature Center, a Rockville City park
 - Volunteers recruited through an advertisement in Rockville's *Recreation and Parks Guide* will supply labor
 - Montgomery County's Pope Farm Nursery (MNCPP) will supply 100 gallon pots of native grasses
 - The City will supply a sign identifying the collaborative nature of the project

Action Items

- Guest Speakers at Future Meetings, etc.
 - **ACTION ITEM** – All MISC members – send suggestions for guest speakers at future meetings to Bob Trumbule
- Invader of the Month

MISC Meeting Minutes

January 22, 2015

Page 6 of 6

- **ACTION ITEM** – All MISC members – send Barbara Beelar examples of volunteer efforts for controlling aquatic invasive species
- **ACTION ITEM** – Robert Trumbule – check if MDA quarantine information on thousand cankers referenced the MISC IOTM fact sheet

Next Meeting: March 19, 2015 at USDA – National Agricultural Library

Meeting adjourned at 12:12 PM by Robert Trumbule.