

SE EPPC Board Meeting,
Joint Meeting with South Carolina EPPC Steering Committee
Columbia, SC, July 25, 2003

Participants:

Brian Bowen, President

Mike Bodle, FL and proxy for Tony Pernas

Jack Ranney, TN

Beth Boclovan, proxy for Dick Bir, NC

Robin Roeker, SC/USFS Liason

Joyce Bender, Vice President

Kristen Allen, Secretary

Jim Allison, GA

Keith Tassin, AL

- Introductions and SE-EPPC Background were given for the benefit of SC-EPPC participants.
- Minutes from May meeting were unanimously accepted.

Treasury Report, Mike Bodle

- Present organizational balance- \$19,754.01
 - Tony is shopping around for a new credit card, will cancel account with AmSouth
 - SOP outlining budgetary procedures is under development
- Treasury Report was unanimously accepted.

2003 Symposium Report, Joyce Bender

The symposium was very successful, with 100 people in attendance, \$14,831.76 net income (\$10,600 in sponsorship; \$841 from silent auction), and 40 new members.

Old Business

- AL-EPPC and SE-EPPC boards have approved AL bylaws pending the change of fiscal year;
- There has been a repeated request from Susie for all chapters to submit year-end information (see hand out from May meeting), including the list of officers and board members from 10/01-9/30/02 immediately. This required by the IRS.
- SOP's (i.e. procedures for the basic requirements of our functioning as an organization) as discussed at May meeting will be listed on the webpage. Visitor's of webpage would click on "SOP's" to get to a list of clickable SOP titles (i.e. Budget committee, Membership flow, Officer job description). Once clicked on, each would be described.
- The e-manual is up on webpage and can be downloaded. It includes 30 species with descriptions, color photos, management prescriptions;
- Board members are once again encouraged to submit articles to Wildland Weeds.

- Wildland Weeds is trying to increase its base to regional level through advertising. Karen is looking for specific contacts within potential organizations/companies that she can follow up with. This is more effective than blindly calling the marketing department. It is also possible do in-kind ad swaps with other organizations.
- Amy Ferriter has developed a template for the powerpoint presentation discussed at the May meeting (i.e. An overview of our organization to be placed on the webpage; Can be downloaded and used by any SE-EPPC member for presentations). To complete it, she needs specific issues, pictures for your area, projects that each chapter is doing, and general input. Amy's contact information can be found on the inside cover of Wildland Weeds.
- National Association of EPPC's has developed an MOU to be signed by all EPPC's. Brian will contact those chapters that still need to sign. The document is posted on SE-EPPC webpage;

New Business

State Chapter Reports

Florida, Mike Bodle

- The early June meeting was well attended. It included one day of regular talks and a second day satisfying the state requirements for NA management;
- The chapter also held a meeting dealing with Lygodium (i.e. how to handle them across boundaries, creating MOU's, etc.)

Kentucky, Joyce Bender

- Newspaper articles lately have been representative of the message the chapter has been working to publicize.
- The chapter was approached by a local garden club to help them address landscaped areas in the capital city by helping to educate city planners and landscapers.
- The state fund for NA management now requires all management plans to address Invasives on their sites. As a result, KY-EPPC has been approached to help develop a list of problematic species and appropriate management recommendations.

Tennessee, Jack Ranney

- Jack has been asked to participate, on behalf of SE EPPC, in a workshop with USDA Forest Service Invasive Species R&D Program July 30, Chicago
- Roundtable concept is being discussed with federal agencies in Southern Appalachian region on invasive species management plans and collaboration
- The City of Knoxville has been identified as the prototype for starting up invasive plant awareness/control in preparation for state invasive species management plan. An intern has been hired to assess the council formation for the plan.
- The chapter is considering holding a TN-EPPC annual or biennial symposium 6mo from SE symposium (will to consider impacts with SE symposium)
- Chapter financial resources are at about \$15K.

- The chapter just completed printing 700 sets of laminated invasive species flash cards with pictures and biological information.

Alabama, Keith Tassin

- 67 members met at the chapter's first official meeting, including representatives from DOT, NRCS, academia, and the herbicide industry. Members formed 6 committees: Inventory and research committee (to see what info can be found in various herbariums in order to create an early warning system and range maps for the state); Legislative committee (to create a database of existing laws); Invasive plant list committee (to identify the 10 worst species in order to create a brochure...have received partial funding); Outreach (to develop a newsletter and brochures); Special Projects committee (creating a list of agencies, organizations that are working on projects that deal with invasives in order to provide information and combine forces); Membership and fundraising committee;
- At this point, membership is primarily from the southern section of state. The chapter will work on expanding to other parts of state in the future.

North Carolina, Beth Boclovan

- The City of Asheville was funded to develop a "Weed Management Area" in order to control exotics.
- State has put Oriental bittersweet on Noxious weed list (Class C) (There is an article in Wildland Weeds on this topic).
- The annual meeting was in March, next meeting on September 18th;

Georgia, Jim Allison

- A group within Greens Industry has begun developing a task force that has met twice. They are working to develop a list of what invasive species are in the state and where. This has been accomplished by sending out surveys to land managers inquiring about 40 species, starting with the state's 10 worst. They are looking to have responses and their summaries together by the end of September.
- The chapter is hoping to have a re-organizational meeting at the end of September to revive the organization.

South Carolina, Robin Roeker

- A meeting was held during which it was agreed that an EPPC would form. July's meeting was intended to begin this process.

There was General discussion and advice from existing chapters for the benefit of SE board:

- Brian suggested coming up with a few major goals so that the organization is not spread too thin at first.
- To attract attention, the chapter could create an invasive exotic species list (it should be advertised as simply a source of information, rather than something regulatory).

- Mike spoke well of EPPC partnership with native plant society; FEPPC combined with them for one of annual meetings and recruited a good deal of new membership;

2004 Symposium

- Gulf Coastal Plain (MS, FL, AL) and Virginia (MA-EPPC, VA-EPPC) are both possibilities for Symposium sites, However, Brian spoke with Lisa Smith, of MA-EPPC, about needing more organization from a Virginia state chapter before the Virginia location could be explored. This location might be a better idea for 2005.
- FL-EPPC has a place lined up in Destin as a possibility;
- It was determined that the meeting not be held in Alabama, however, it would be a good idea to have some field trips go to AL, and have some speakers/papers from AL. Therefore, FEPPC would host the entire Symposium (making the entire 25% profit), and allow AL and MS to benefit by its close proximity to their states. Mike will run this by FEPPC, and the meeting will be held in May or June (FL will decide date and let us know).
- There was discussion of whether to change the 25/75 split of Symposium profits in order to give state chapters some seed money, but it was decided that this may muddy the waters.

Large retailers selling invasives (i.e. Lowes, Home Depot, etc.)

- This item has been put on the IPNMS/EMAPI agenda for one of round table items (to be officiated by Brian).
- Round Table will hopefully enable us to build consensus and come up with a strategy to begin implementing.
- Will invite six people that we know are open to discussion and have good knowledge of this topic; (Potentials: Doria Gordon, Peter White, John Randall, Representative from California Native plant society);
- Will develop a concept plan and discussion items to send out beforehand

Poster Display

- There was discussion of purchasing a table to put up a display, but would need to get cost sheet to see if it is worth it;
- There was also discussion of updating/improving the display; It should be fairly mobile. We should research the most common type of provided backdrop and have it work well with that;
- Jack will work on the actual context, and will send out an outline to the BOD for feedback by November.
- In general, it will have a large marketing section on SE EPPC mission, etc.; specific projects in each state; problems and solutions; It will not include any dated material;
- It will be available either in interchangeable laminated panels that can be changed out depending on where the meeting is, or digitally so it could be sent to various states and they could change it to suit their needs.
- The final product would have to be in a software that is versatile and common and could be sent out via CD;

Webpage

- There was discussion of whether we should create a reference section on the webpage that provides info on potential grants/funding sources;
 - Could find out if this is already available somewhere, and just link to them;
 - Or could get 5-10 to start, then can just add them when we hear about them;
 - Would post things that have annual calls;
 - Could provide one or two sentences with details and then a link to go get information
 - Or this could be another use for the listserv.
- There was also discussion of whether we should post job openings;
 - Could also just link to other job pages, but this would not be limited to weed related jobs.
 - Or could be another use for the listserv.
- Listserv has been changed to a Yahoo Listserv, and is reflected as such on the webpage. Board members should get on it and tell chapters about it.
- Could model after TNC Weeds listserv where there a short list at the top of all messages describing what is discussed below.
- The listserv would benefit from having a manager; It was decided that this discussion would be tabled until it could be determined if Tony is interested in being the manager.

Misc.

- Cal EPPC is thinking about changing their name to Cal Invasive Plant Council. There was discussion about whether we should send a comment letter, as this change seems to hinder the organizations efforts to publicize its name.
- Mike will send around an email on this topic to get board response. If deemed appropriate, Mike will draft a letter on behalf of SE EPPC.
- Chapter representatives were reminded that they should come to SE EPPC board meetings with a list of things that they want to accomplish through SE, and should go back to chapter meetings and ask them to get involved in initiatives, etc.

Upcoming Events

- Mid-Atlantic EPPC – August 6,7 in Philadelphia
- Natural Areas Conference – September 25-27 in Madison; NA EPPC on 25th; EPPC Forum Thursday afternoon where various EPPC's present (Brian moderating)
- IPNMS/EMAPI - November 3-7 in Ft. Lauderdale
- SAMAB Meeting– November 4-6 in Asheville; Session on Invasive plants, Session on I&M which includes Invasive Plants