

South Carolina Exotic Pest Plant Council Meeting Notes 4 August 2009

The meeting was called to order at 10:00am by John Brubaker. Theresa Yednock welcomed all to the Congaree National Park. John gave the Secretary's report, and said that Alex Gregg had left Congaree NP for another job, and therefore resigned as secretary of SC EPPC. He thanked Alex for his work as secretary. A motion was made to approve the report and it was seconded.

Colette Degarady reported that the budget stands at around \$19,000; we made \$13,000 on the SC EPPC symposium this year, but ½ of that will go to SE EPPC. We have \$5,500 remaining for cogongrass, and there was some discussion of how we would spend. Colette said that this was not enough to fund the cogongrass task force coordinator for another year, but suggested we could fund some students to help recruit volunteers for future survey efforts and help educate nurseries in the upstate and lowcountry. She proposed that \$2000 be spent on travel/student stipends/printing of the cogongrass brochure.

Robin Mackie reported on the success of the SC EPPC symposium the group hosted in Georgetown, SC in May. Nearly 100 individuals participated. She gave a recap of highlights referencing an article in this issue of Wildand Weeds. She thanked the efforts of the symposium committee including Colette Degarady, John Brubaker, Sudie Daves, Matt Nespeca, Pat Layton and planner Brenda Davis. Colette suggested that we continue to build on momentum and ideas gained from the symposium.

Randy Westbrook w/USGS gave a presentation on the importance of employing and strengthening EDRR (early detection rapid response) techniques at international ports of entry. He referenced several pests that have come into the country through ports of entry, for example fire ants at Mobile, Alabama, emerald ash borer at Detroit, longhorn beetle at NY, ambrosia beetle at Port Wentworth, GA. Ports are the first line of defense, where pests can be controlled at relatively low cost and with short-term impacts. Randy emphasized the importance of statewide partnerships such as SC EPPC, and had the following recommendations for the group:

- Develop a white paper to require that ballast water be treated @ ports of entry, to prevent the introduction and spread of species like zebra mussels;
- Place wavy leaf basket grass, *Oplismenus hirtellus* (L.) P. Beauv. Subspecies *undulatifolius* (Ard.) U. Scholz, which looks like Japanese stiltgrass, on the South Carolina EDRR list.
- Engage Marika Godwin, who recently moved to North Carolina from Nova Scotia, where she was the Coordinator of Invasive Species Alliance of Nova Scotia. Marika is interested in becoming involved in both South Carolina and North Carolina Exotic Pest Plant Councils.

Education Committee Chair Mary Morrison gave the group an update on her efforts. She is working with Clemson University to offer webinars on invasive plant species topics (ex. cogongrass), and has developed cd's available to workshops or individuals, containing Jim Miller's, Non-Native Invasive Plants of Southern Forests, Evans et.al.'s, Invasive Plant Responses to Silvicultural Practices in the South, and Native Plant alternatives to invasive plants, developed by South Carolina Native Plant Society. Please let Mary know if you have webinar ideas, or would like copies of these cd's.

George Kessler reported that 5,583 miles were surveyed for cogongrass in 2009, as part of the state-wide survey. George said that Blue Ridge Electric had given their employees a day of annual leave as incentive for participating in the survey. John offered to touch base with Pat Layton at Clemson regarding availability of matching funds for the cogongrass task force coordinator.

Sudie Daves reported on the status of the SC EPPC Invasive Species List. There was some discussion of whether or not the list needed to be updated again. Instead Sudie agreed to work with Kari Whitley on how to better distribute the list among nursery growers and sellers, and also to recognize that sterile genotypes do exist for many of our invasive plant species for example *Nandina domestica*. Both Kari and Sudie agreed to gather information together for the Fall Field Day for the SC Nursery and Landscape and Turf Association on October 1.

New Business – David Bourgeois, Bill Hulslander, Laurie Reed, Robin Mackie, and Brett Moule agreed to serve an additional 2 years as member at large board members. New board members who agreed to serve at the meeting were Theresa Yednock, Mike Hook, Kari Whitley, and Randy Westbrooks. Sudie Daves agreed to be interim secretary. Colette said she would contact Herrick Brown about serving as Data Coordinator. Newt made a motion that all board members be accepted for a 2-year term, and there was a unanimous second.

John began a discussion about whether we should offer a workshop in place of a second membership meeting. John created an adhoc committee led by Randy Westbrooks to develop an EDRR workshop, in place of the group's next meeting. Newt made a motion to accept John's proposal and Kari seconded. Valerie Carter-Stone offered State Park facilities as a possible meeting place. A tentative date of January 26 at Sesquicentennial State Park in Columbia was chosen.

John Brubaker adjourned the meeting at 2:45. Newt seconded.