

## South Carolina – Exotic Pest Plant Council December 2, 2014 Conference Call

In attendance – Dan Hill, Dan McMillan, David Bourgeois, Don Hagan, Mary Bunch, Carrie Miller, Bob Polomski, Jeanne Briggs, Sudie Thomas, Lauren Serra

- Thank you to Dan McMillan for setting up the conference call for us
- SE-EPPC Meeting (Dan Hill - notes below)
- Website Updates (who we are) <http://www.se-eppc.org/southcarolina/about.cfm>
  - Please continue to send in bios and pictures, if you have not done so already
  - Facebook maintenance?
    - Dan Hill and the Education and Outreach committee will maintain
    - All Board Members should consider liking the page and sharing it
- Officer vote and nominations
  - Don Hagan has been nominated for the VP position
    - Bio: Don Hagan is a Lecturer in the forestry program at Clemson University, where he teaches courses in Forest Ecology, Forest Communities and Dendrology, among others. He received his BS in Environmental Studies from the University of West Florida and his MS and PhD in Forest Ecology from the University of Florida. His past work assessed the impacts of cogongrass invasion on soil nutrient cycling and community dynamics in longleaf pine sandhill ecosystems. He also researched the "legacy" effects of cogongrass invasion (e.g. modified soil chemical properties, novel mycorrhizal fungal communities) and their implications for the re-establishment of desirable native species. Currently he is working to develop landscape-level predictive models for Chinese privet and Japanese stiltgrass invasion in Piedmont forests.
  - **Vote – Don Hagan will now serve as SC-EPPC VP for a two-year term**
  - Still need a volunteer for the secretary position
- Committees (still waiting on a response from a few members)
  - The chair positions will be added to the website and will serve as the point of contact to the public.

### Education and Outreach

- Chair – Jeanne Briggs
- Dan Hill
- Bob Polomski
- Lauren Serra

### SC Non-Native Plant List and Early Detection and Rapid Response

- Chair – Don Hagan
- Bill Steele
- Mary Bunch
- Sudie Thomas
- Herrick Brown
- David Bourgeois

### Workshops and Meetings

- Chair – Lauren Pile
- Colette Degarady
- Carrie Miller

- Community Grant Program
  - Grant has been announced- please distribute widely
    - David suggested that the announcement should also be sent to private landowners
- Next conference call will be in mid-January

- A doodle-poll will be sent out as the time-frame approaches

**SE-EPPC Board Meeting Athens, Georgia 12.12.14**  
Dan Hill SC-EPPC

Minutes were approved.

Jennifer Dunlap is a new member.

A treasury report was not given, it's estimated there is \$10k in the account.

Lauren Pile was sent an information pack, it was suggested that a "formal" welcome pack be created and given to new board members.

There were 62-63 registered for this meeting; "outside" people and students could come hear Dr. Tallamy talk for \$10.00

GA-EPPC had hoped for 200 registered; thought they would get 150 but were let down with the turnout.

There was a discussion about how to raise the turnout: More credits, send out more announcements on SE List serve, GA coastal list, Urban Forestry council & website, Urban Ag council.

Credits given: GA Pesticide=5 / SC= 9 / FL=5 / CFE's and Certified Arborist – don't think those credits were offered

Big Debate on funding student posters. Originally NO funding, but some thought there was as this has been done in the past. This debate took a great deal of time before everyone agreed on \$150/\$100/\$50 for posters. It appears that the "poster fair" in NC will also have cash prizes. (The vibe I got was every poster fair should have cash prizes)

USFS paid a grant of \$5000 for 2 meeting = \$2500/meeting. Ga would pay for the meeting and SE would repay. (It was noted that the cost of having the meeting at UGA, though nice and convenient, was VERY expensive)

Next SE annual meeting in NC, looking at Raleigh or Chapel Hill, perhaps in May on Tue-Wed.

Wildland Weeds will be coming out in PDF for members. It will be "members only" for the first 6 months after publication.

(We...I need to give Karen information for Wildland weeds.)

Jan 6<sup>th</sup> SE-EPPC Board members Con Call

Discussed liaisons from Green Industry; need a new USFWS liaison. I mentioned a USFWS contact (and have since contacted Lyne Askins Refuge Manager at the Carolina Sandhills NWR, her field is Botany. She has accepted and I gave Karen her contact info)

HAS ANYONE SEEN THE MISSING SE-EPPC BANNER????

I'd like to personally thank SC-EPPC for giving me the opportunity to attend this meeting. I learned a lot, made some great new contacts while bonding with some old contacts, and most importantly I was able to attend two talks by Dr. Douglas Tallamy. He was AMAZING!! I have a personal issue with "burnout." Being in one place for a while and doing the same thing tends to lead me to "burnout." I think this comes from my many years as a Contract or "Gypsy" Biologist, always on the go, to see new places. So now when I do what I do and it seems people don't get it, or care, it really accelerates the burnout process. Until this conference I was in full burnout mode, but after hearing Tallamy talk I am once again inspired to continue to push on for Ecological good. I feel that by presenting information in a way like his it will inspire my audiences to "do" or at least think about doing the right thing, environmentally speaking.

The trip to the Georgia State Botanical Gardens was a real treat too! They are doing some great work with native plant re-introduction as well as state endangered plants. They have formed a "co-op" of sorts with the likes of Dirr and some other big names in the plant business to share information and repopulate areas with rare and threatened plants using local DNA.

So again to the SC-EPPC Board many many thanks, you all ROCK! Keep up the awesome work, and thanks for letting me tag along ☺

-Dan Hill