

Georgia Exotic Pest Plant Council Board Meeting, April 28, 2006

Georgia Experiment Station, Griffin, Georgia.

Attending:

Jim Allison
Chuck Bargeron
Connie Gray
Malcolm Hodges
Elaine Nash

Cindy Reittinger
John Taylor
Cynthia Taylor
Gary Wade

1. Malcolm called the meeting to order 9:45 a.m.
2. **Treasurer's report, Elaine:**
 - \$6,375.00 in bank after expending \$1,933.00 on the new brochure printing. Expecting \$600.00 reimbursement from State Botanical Garden for the last workshop.
 - Expenses for the workshops: \$1,800.00 GGIA Workshop, \$550.00 SBG Workshop.
 - Attendance for workshops: 70- GGIA at Mason Mill, 40-SBG in Athens. GGIA workshop attended by Dekalb Parks and Emory maintenance staff. Helped them to look at the woods in a different fashion. Received compliments on workshop and website.
 - Membership renewals continue, with some donations. Current membership 89.
 - Our finances are gradually growing and we have money to spend. Jim Allison added that we are sitting on a cushion and need ideas for effective projects.
 - Elaine requested reimbursement of \$417.62 for purchase of notebooks for workshops. **Motion to reimburse Elaine for these expenses by Cindy, 2nd by John, motion passed.**
3. **Secretary's Report:**
Motion to accept the minutes of the meetings on October 14, 2005 and January 28, 2006 by Elaine, 2nd by John, motion passed.
4. **Workshop Update, Connie:**
 - We have had 3 in the last 6 months.
 - Smaller attendance at the last one- 40 attended, where we have been having 60 or more. But that is really good attendance.
 - A good basic program, a lot we can still improve on.
 - 85-90% attended by average citizens. Had several landscape designers the last time, Connie put the word out with UGA. We are still not getting the nursery trade.
 - Partnering with other organizations has been great. SBG was very good, very efficient.
5. **SE-EPPC Symposium May 23-25 Raleigh, NC**
Connie will be part of Education Workshop. Registration \$115 plus food/lodging/gas. **Motion to cover Connie's expenses as President of GA-EPPC by Cindy, 2nd John, motion passed.**

Discussion on hosting SE-EPPC Symposium in 2007:

- Malcolm will contact Georgia Center and get possible Tues/Wed/Thurs dates in March/April.
 - Connie will poll the SE-EPPC board to see if they are interested in GA hosting.
 - Connie suggested we use our workshop as part of Symposium.
 - **Logistics Committee:** Elaine Nash and Cynthia Taylor (co-chairs), Gary Wade, Cilla Cartwright, Katherine Hilliard, and Danielle Green (Zoo Atlanta), though not present, were suggested as possible committee members.
 - **Program Committee:** Gary Wade, Chuck Barger, other GA-EPPC members not on the board.
 - Gary and John emphasized that we should announce a theme and call for papers
 - Connie would like to Schedule a Committee Meeting before the General Meeting.
6. Chuck distributed copies of the new Georgia Forestry *Invasive Plants of Georgia's Forests* publication.
7. **SE-EPPC Mapping**, powerpoint presentation by Chuck:
- Purpose of the project is to get an accurate picture of the distribution of invasive species throughout the south starting with existing data and creating new data.
 - Starts with PLANTS database, based on herbarium data, and share back with them. Also Federal Noxious Weeds data, working on getting FIA data. As data is complete enough could estimate acreage of infestations.
 - www.se-eppc.org/mapping Interactive web-based mapping with Flash Player and Google Earth mapping. Pdf will also be available. Each state chapter will work out how information can be submitted (i.e. train the trainer sessions, identification workshops, board members, not general public) and have a coordinator who can question or verify data.
 - Listings by county occurrence, with point data for certain species of concern using GPS and digital camera. Each record is tied to the individual who submitted the data. Herbarium samples for verification where possible.
 - John suggested F.S. funding might be available.
 - Jim suggested GA-EPPC fund data collection (back up our plant list with data).
 - Cindy suggested citizen science data collection on public lands for easy to identify species, could be a part of our education program.
 - Connie mentioned that the board can easily submit baseline data for their respective counties.
 - Elaine suggested basic check list for 1st phase, then more detailed as land managers are focusing in and doing treatment.
8. Chuck made a motion that we put the GA-EPPC list as an insert in the next issue of *Wildland Weeds*, 2nd by Malcolm, motion passed.
9. **Education Programs**, Connie:
- Continue having General Audience workshops 2x per year.
 - Next workshop Sept 16 in Macon.
 - Different audiences: general audience vs. professional
Need different approaches for each of the audiences. Many of the groups don't have a science background or know basic plant id.
 - Need to continue including a focus on ecology and why invasives are a problem

- Chuck mentioned that we may need to do more plant ID if we plan to use citizen science to I.D. plants in the field.
- Need to communicate better between organizations
 Connie: would like GA-EPPC to be the focal organization for this issue.
 If our logo goes on to things we should know about it.
- New membership flyers should help, can be used to raise awareness.
- What publications are needed?
- Do we need a newsletter?
- Chuck: what about a BLOG? Making the website more interactive where board members can post information. Will not be able to work on it till June.
- Chuck: for a new publication update Invasive Weeds of GA, create a pocket field guide. Post fact sheets on the website.
- Discussion of committees do we
 - Education Committee (publications, education, presentation) Chris Chair
 - List Committee (list, research, mapping)
 - Should have committee meetings at general meeting
 - Should involve non-board members
- Cindy: Speakers bureau on website? Yes. Contacts by area, may charge a fee.

10. General Meeting set for Saturday, July 15th

11. GGIA Annual Conference, January 24-26, 2007

Gary: does GA-EPPC want to participate by doing a workshop at the conf.
 3-4 hours, hands-on, mini version of the workshop we already do.
 Booth space provided. Can use the posters Gary made last year: 3 panels on the invasive plants. Connie enthusiastically agreed that this is needed.

12. GGIA Invasive Plant Task Force

Developing an alternatives list for the nursery trade with approval from the various groups so that we have one list for Georgia. 5-10 alternatives, both native and exotic that are widely available for homeowners.
 List Committee will review and approve.

13. UGA Press interested in publishing a book about invasives

We would provide content they would fund, develop, edit, publish, publicize.
 Connie will meet with them.

14. Meeting adjourned 12:40.