

GA-EPPC
Minutes to April 29, 2005 Board Meeting

Committee Updates

Education committee

The education committee met and created an impressive Power Point presentation that provides an introduction to the issue of invasive plants and identification of many of the most important invasive species.

Workshop committees

A workshop will be held in Atlanta in September led by Connie Gray and Brighton West, targeted to municipal and county employees and homeowners. Tim Murphy and IPC will be invited to speak. The Tifton workshop went quite well. Thirty to forty people attended. Many were forestry personnel; many re-certification credit forms were received. The field session was valuable.

Website updates

Everyone complimented the updates to the web site. Chuck will add contact numbers for John and Connie, put Richard Carter's material on the site; add aquatic invasives material and create links to the GNPS and Trees Atlanta sites.

Education Materials for distribution

We have 1500 posters; we will give 25-30 posters to each nature center in the state. The Georgia Botanical Garden and the Georgia Plant Conservation Alliance created a brochure which is good for handing out at talks and meetings, particularly for people new to the issue. The Georgia Invasive Species Task Force (a coalition of USDA, APHIS, UGA agriculture personnel, and GA-EPPC) put together a helpful brochure on Georgia invasives.

Other items

Meetings

GA-EPPC now has four official meetings per year: two for the board, held in Macon, and two for the general membership, which will rotate between the northern and southern half of the state.

List of species that are alternatives to invasives

A committee will put together a list of alternative species. The list will be put on many different websites. The Georgia Green Industry Association wants to get nursery personnel involved in steering people to both native and non-invasive non-native species that are good alternatives to the exotic invasives.

Continued import of potentially invasive species

There continues to be a problem with people bringing seeds and cuttings of potentially invasive plants from other countries: new plants are coming in at an unprecedented rate because it is so easy to slip seeds and cuttings into pockets and luggage. We need a federal or regional body that will provide oversight and require thorough testing of new plants before they are released to the nursery market; the industry will not self-assess. The board agreed that SE-EPPC should take up this issue.