

**SE EPPC Board Meeting**  
**Nashville, TN**  
**February 9, 2006**

**Participants:**

Brian Bowen - Presiding  
Kristen Allen – Recording  
Joyce Bender- KY EPPC/Vice President  
Tony Pernas - Treasurer  
Chuck Bargeron: GA Proxy  
Chris Evans – UGA/Mapping Project

Dave Thompson- MS EPPC  
Dave Teem- AL EPPC Proxy  
Jim Burney- FL EPPC  
Johnny Randall- NC EPPC  
Jack Ranney -TN EPPC  
Robin Mackey - USFS Liaison

Past meeting minutes (May 1, 2005) were approved.

**Symposium Report – Johnny Randall**

- Symposium is scheduled for May 23-25 at the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences in Raleigh.
- NC EPPC has partnered with the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences and the NC Botanical Garden to host the event.
- The theme will be Early Detection and Rapid Response
- Each day will consist of a plenary session, followed by concurrent sessions until lunch (four presentations per session), then workshops and fieldtrips after lunch (workshops will be repeated so those interested won't have to miss anything).
- Syngenta has expressed interest in hosting a banquet or reception.
- There will be an invasive species photo contest – judges will be identified and winners will be presented at the banquet or reception.
- The Symposium Committee is looking into developing a T-shirt and/or a bag that will list vendors and be sold.
- Other potential activities being considered are a Limerick contest and Plant sales and/or giveaways.
- A flier will soon be sent out to solicit people to submit papers, but will be inviting a good number of speakers as well.
- State Legislators will be invited along with the NC Governor.
- Committee is working on sponsorship; any known vendors, sponsors, etc. should be directed to Johnny.
- Johnny will soon send a skeleton agenda out to the board;
- Committee is looking for people to chair a concurrent session (including taking responsibility for lining up speakers). Four or five people have been lined up for this purpose, but at least five more are needed. They would like chairs for the following proposed sessions and/or workshops: ecosystem effects with real data, Biological control, Success stories and Economic impacts. However, other ideas are welcome and should be outlined and submitted to Johnny (Jack and Tony have committed to submitting a session plan).
- Committee would like to do a workshop on risk assessment for plant introductions; This would combine species risk assessment (i.e. looks at biology of plant and figures out the risk, if released, of it becoming invasive) as outlined by Sarah Reichard (she will be asked to

participate) with ecosystem assessment (i.e. looking in field at community types and figuring out risk of invasion) as practiced by TNC (will be asked to participate);

- *Jack Ranney*: Could also incorporate SAMAB project to define effects of invasives on communities using plots;
- *Jim Burney*: Could incorporate discussion of the systematic method by which Florida nurseries are agreeing to put species on a “no sell” list;
- Invasive Plant Control, Inc., will do a treatment workshop.
- One fieldtrip will be to a restoration site looking at the native wildflowers that have resulted from prescribed fire.
- Other ideas presented for sessions/talks include:
  - Herbicide resistance – Carol Mallory Smith may be invited to be a plenary speaker and/or a session speaker to discuss her glyphosphate research;
  - A representative from the National Invasive Species Council may be asked to speak about how EPPC can contribute.
  - Anne Gill from Mecklenburg County, NC may be asked to speak about solid waste management with regards to composted garden waste; She runs a great program to ensure distributed garden waste is free of weed seeds; Committee will also be looking for other relevant speakers on a related topic.
  - Merrick Smith (Mecklenburg County) may be asked to hold a workshop on environmental education / teaching the teachers; environmental educators will be invited;
  - Committee hopes to have one session on invasive species in general (including animals)
  - Joe Neal (professor of horticulture at NC State/NC EPPC vice president) is working to get a grant to fund extension agents (who train master gardeners) to attend. This way they can get their herbicide training, and also hear EPPC talks.
- Would like to develop a session regarding the voluntary codes of conduct for the Nursery Industry, including a session on Lowes having recently committed not to sell 20 species that were recommended as invasive; Would try to obtain participation/attendance from both Lowes and Home Depot (could think about waiving their registration fee).
- Could, as one of the plenary sessions, have members provide input and discussion on some item relevant to SE EPPC business. Last year’s similar session on strategic planning was productive and provided a nice flow with members that attended.
- For next year’s Symposium, it might be a good idea to have a competition for best student paper, or best research, then get \$200 prize and/or have them present at the meeting and in WW.

### **Financial report – Tony Pernas**

- Current balance: \$29,555.15
- Invoices for Wildland Weeds are missing for NC and MS.
- Tony was able to find a reasonably priced accountant to complete the 501C3 paperwork; An extension will be filed so states can get their paperwork in; Still need NC and Michigan;
- Financial report was approved.

### **SE EPPC Mapping Project – Chuck Bargeron**

- Chuck has been working to come up with a way to accomplish the interactive regional invasives map project. He showed a demonstration of what he had come up with:
- People interested in entering data into the system will need to fill out a form online to join, and then log in;
- They will choose to report an invasion; Choose pest, date, county, estimated area (infested and gross), habitat, abundance, canopy closure; lat and long; who owns the land; location description, comments; if there is a voucher specimen and where; upload pictures; (information is based on NA weed management association mapping standards);
- Chuck could use lat and long data from large chunks of existing data to upload into the system, but data would have to meet certain standards to be migrated in.
- Once data is accepted, the system uses free Google mapping software; It is very fast; satellite maps are complete and updated regularly; It is a standard interface, and data can be kept with us;
- Incident dots on map are click-able and would be set up to give info on that point.
- The system can create maps of multiple species; Or can be selected by vouchered observations, by year, by state, etc.
- Can use aerial photo, quadrangle-type map, or a hybrid base map which has roads on an aerial photo. Can use whatever symbol we choose;
- Chuck will send the demo webpage so that states can look at it.
- Google will be competing with Yahoo (who has similar package), so will most likely always be free and have up to date data.

*Board discussion of the system demonstration included the following:*

- The system should be set up so that users have to be certified by state EPPCs as having gone through a standard training process to obtain a password to enter data into the system. Some users could be excused from training based on credentials;
- Someone in each state would be responsible for reviewing data periodically;
- The system could be opened up after each EPPC has agreed to a protocol for training and person who oversees QC.
- Information could also be set up to update with treatment data;
- For some species with wide distributions, a county level map might be more appropriate. Each state could come up with a list of species for which this would be the case.
- May be legal ramifications with public disclosure of federally regulated species (for point data); Although this should be confirmed as it seriously limits the power of this project. Could possibly use a disclaimer for this purpose?
- A drop-down list of species (rather than a blank that people fill in) will preclude errors when people enter data, but the system needs some sort of mechanism to add additional species to be successful at early detection, (Perhaps individual could contact the state coordinator, who then contacts Chuck; Could fax or email a sheet to state coordinator to verify);
- Should attempt to interface with herbariums in each state to see if they are doing anything similar and so we can help each other. NC Herbarium has a grant proposal in to develop an interactive webpage for invasive species.
- Need a committee (including botanists, etc.) to come up with standards for training and data entry that the state EPPCs will carry out. Committee will consist of: Chuck, Jack, Tony,

Brian, Joyce and Kristen; Committee will iron out the standards and process to be presented at Symposium. Conference call: March 10<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 EST (1-866-764-5673 #7895979)

- In the mean time, state reps should go back and present to state boards and get together who the coordinator will be. Chuck will send the powerpoint demo for states to present at their meeting;
- Cost-wise, Chuck and Chris will need some supplemental funding if this begins to take a lot of time and work. So far, they have not invested much time in this;
- Need a way to determine the accuracy of lat and long location as well as how acreage was determined.
- This a mechanism to collect data; If we can get a good bit of data, collected by volunteers, we might be able to work with interested parties such as VDOT or NBII to get money to fill in gaps, or expand the program. Also, once a bit of data is collected, it could be presented at meetings, etc. to see if the data to fill the existing already exists.
- This may also be a mechanism to boost membership.
- TENN Natural Areas is trying to get organized with data, so will have good bit of data to get started with.
- Pictures and herbarium vouchers should be encouraged.
- The system should be introduced at Association of Southeast Biologists meeting in Gatlinburg, TN during last week in March.

### **Newsletter Proposal**

- Brian Bowen submitted a proposal to provide the newsletter and other miscellaneous services to SE-EPPC for an agreed upon dollar amount. The following discussion was the result of his submittal:
- The board decided a year ago where it wanted to go as an organization, but has made little progress with a strictly volunteer board. So under this proposal, Brian would be responsible for publishing a newsletter, working on developing the website, and working on Wildland Weeds (WW); He would be paid for his time on this. The position would be funded for one year, and the board could reevaluate its position at the end of that time.
- Publishing a newsletter would require an additional \$5 from each membership; Brian would do all layouts and work to get submittals;
- Five more dollars might not go over well within states; We should focus more on trying to get articles to submit to WW;
- Perhaps we could provide more advertisement dollars or increase our payment (from \$5 to \$7 per membership, for example), and have WW guarantee us a number of pages (these pages could then be posted to the webpage);
- The other alternative is to post an independent newsletter electronically to save money, or email it to members; In this case, there would be 4 newsletters (instead of the 3 that are in proposal).
- Jim Burney will take back this proposal to FL EPPC Editor to see what sort of agreement can be put together.
- Miscellaneous services could potentially consist of:
  - Helping with fundraising for the Symposium;
  - Develop a job description for the Executive Director position;
  - Begin looking into soft money to fund position initially; and

- Work to flesh out the Strategic Plan.
- Money figure: \$ 4500 for one year (will continue to serve on the board as a past president, and could use board travel funds)
- Would begin at Symposium, once a new president is selected.
- Joyce called for the Board to vote to accept the proposal with following changes:
  - There would be no printing of the newsletter.
  - There would be 4, rather than 3 newsletters per year.
  - If the option for guaranteeing a certain number of pages in WW works out, will go that route. If not, will email four digital newsletters per year.
- The vote was unanimous to accept the proposal.

### **Executive Director Position**

- There was additional discussion regarding the ExDirector position:
- Where should the position be housed?; Should it be half-time? Could it follow Chuck's model where an employee from a University could be funded for 1/3 of his/her time to work for EPPC; (UGA is trying to set itself up as a "Center" to accommodate things such as this.)
- Will need to develop a job description for year 1, year 2, etc. and develop how oversight will work; Description would require clear objectives, deliverables;
- Another goal for Ex Director is a regional voice to lobby.
- Pulling Together might be a good fund source to explore.
- Federal Highway Administration is concerned about invasives and provides "enhancement funds" to each state; if each state DOTs contributed \$5000 of this as a regional effort to control invasives, this could fund the position; In the long run, it would save money for the DOT's on herbicide through prevention.
- Transportation Research Board and ASSHTO does research; This would contribute to their efforts; Could try to sell to them; Will talk to research engineer to attempt to get the ball rolling;
- Will also explore other funding opportunities; Each state could feel around to find some funding sources.
- Would want to be careful about developing a contract that defines what DOT expects as far as certain deliverables in exchange for payment (perhaps something related to the database or management guidelines to reduce their long term costs), then money would be used to fund Director;
- Dave Thompson will put together a proposal for states to take to their DOT's
- This could also get EPPC involved in DOT / Highway Beautification council; States can call and find out who does the wildflowers for state DOT; In order to work cooperatively with DOT, we may need to keep only non-controversial do not sell species in the forefront.

### **NAEPPC meeting – Tony**

- North American EPPC has held several impromptu meetings; It would serve as an Umbrella organization to give individual EPPC's a bigger voice;
- There is an upcoming meeting at the NINAW meeting in D.C. , ***EVERY State EPPC needs to have a rep either there or on conference call: 7-10 pm Feb 27<sup>th</sup> (866)764-5673 Code: 7895979***
- Sheriton Hotel in DC (www.ninaw.org)

- Will discuss a national conference every 4 or 5 years; May do joint conference in 2008 with NAA Meeting (hosted by TN EPPC)
- Will do a webpage (would not take much effort for chuck to do)
- Work as a group to submit position papers, white papers
- Wildland Weeds are the main concern (not ag weeds, etc.)
- Doug Johnson (CA EPPC) will do first position paper Weed Management areas
- MOU was developed and most organizations signed.
- Mission statement – will be sent out and agreed on quickly
- For cost reasons, could do conference call at NINAW, then get everyone together at a cheaper venue.
- Get people excited; Get the ball rolling

### **Nomination of Officers**

Need to find a dependable, interested Treasurer; Then Tony could become president. Several options were discussed; These individuals will be asked if they are interested. Then they would be officially elected at next meeting in May.

### **SC Chapter – Robin**

- No activity since last June
- Completed a list and brochure on the web and sent to membership.
- Beach Vitex grant is still going and is being run by an affiliate of Clemson.
- Robin has gotten a few inquiries about the group, and feels that it just needs someone with energy.
- Congeree will be hosting an EPMT and will also have a USFS team, that may provide some interest and energy;
- Get some people to NC meeting to get momentum back up.
- Native Plant Symposium- Robin is giving a talk and can mention it
- Could combine to have a joint Symposium for Native Plant Society and EPPC
- Robin will try to get things going again.

Chuck will create a 50x42 regional poster EPPC for Symposium; Brian will send Chuck what info needs to be on it.

**NAA meeting this year is in Flagstaff in Oct.**

**Next board meeting May 22 – 1-5pm**