

## MINUTES

Invasive Plants Council  
Tuesday October 9, 2012  
2 pm, Dept. of Agriculture  
Conference Room G8-A  
Hartford, CT

**Council members present:** David Goodwin, Bill Hyatt, Paul Larson, Rich McAvoy, Lou Magnarelli, John Silander, Dave Sutherland

**Others present:** Ellen Bender, Donna Ellis, Bob Heffernan, Nancy Murray, Jim Paidas, Caryn Rickel, Enilda Rosas, Logan Senack, Penni Sharp

### **1. Hyatt called the meeting to order at 2:03 pm.**

Hyatt reported that all State Forest Management Plans now include an invasive plant component and provided copies for the group to review.

### **2. The minutes for the 9/18/12 meeting were reviewed.**

**Sutherland moved (second: Larson) to approve the minutes as submitted. The Council decided to approve the minutes as submitted.** Magnarelli and McAvoy abstained since they were not present at the last meeting.

### **3. Species introductions and discussions**

#### **a. Mugwort- Donna Ellis**

Ellis presented an update on her January 2012 presentation to the group on mugwort (*Artemisia vulgaris*) and provided a handout. The updated included additional reports on the presence of this species in Connecticut (at least 70 locations in natural areas distributed across 7 of 8 counties). Ellis noted that the reports she included were not intentionally planted. Several land managers who reported the plants also stated that the stands have been present for many years. The group discussed the species and whether or not it met the given criteria for an invasive plant. Main points of the discussion were how often the plants produced seeds, mode of dispersion, and invasion into natural areas. Mugwort may not be a preferred food source for deer. Ellis asked the group to consider listing this species as potentially invasive in Connecticut.

Silander reported that he had seen this plant in eastern Russia last week on a trip and noted that populations did cover many acres. He also reported that related plants in the same genus are allelopathic. The group discussed the differences between listing a plant as potentially invasive or invasive according to the criteria.

**Sutherland moved (second: Silander) to list mugwort (*Artemisia vulgaris*) as potentially invasive on the Connecticut Invasive and Potentially Invasive Plant List.** The group discussed genetic techniques and other methods that could be used to determine the level of reproduction by seed, and the tendency of this plant to hitchhike in nursery crops.

**A roll call vote was conducted: Goodwin, no; Hyatt, yes; Larson, no; McAvoy, yes; Magnarelli, no; Silander, yes; Sutherland, yes. The vote was 4 for, 3 against. The motion to add mugwort (*Artemisia vulgaris*) to the Connecticut List as a potentially invasive plant passed.**

McAvoy noted that the plant has a high potential for inadvertent spread. Larson, Goodwin and Magnarelli asked for more information on seed production of the plants. Hyatt asked Ellis and Senack to provide more information on seed production at a future meeting.

#### **b. Wavyleaf basketgrass- Logan Senack**

Senack presented information to the group about a potential new invader, wavyleaf basketgrass (*Oplismenus hirtellus* ssp. *undulatifolius*). The plant was first found in the continental US in 1996 in Maryland and has since spread to locations in Maryland, Washington, DC and Virginia. Senack provided copies of a June 2012 Weed Risk Assessment from USDA-Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ). The USDA-PPQ report lists basketgrass as “high risk” for 30% of the United States. An additional report from the New York Invasive Species Council lists wavyleaf basketgrass as “high risk” for New York State. The plant also produces sticky awns, allowing the seeds to be picked up and spread by anything that brushes against the plant. The viability of seeds may be up to 97%. The plant would be hardy in all or most of Connecticut. Hyatt asked to review this plant annually if it was not listed this year. **Silander moved to list wavyleaf basketgrass as a potentially invasive plant. The motion to list basketgrass as a potentially invasive plant failed due to lack of a second.**

#### **4. Bamboo**

##### **a. Site update**

Senack updated the group on the status of a bamboo location in Bozrah, CT. The homeowners requested information about barriers and companies available for bamboo control.

##### **b. Update of Contractor List**

The group discussed the contractor list. The list includes 3 companies that report they are available for bamboo control. Heffernan and Senack will coordinate on distributing the list.

##### **c. Continuation of Council discussion**

Rickel provided the group with information about new bamboo laws in other states and suggested that any Connecticut law should include a minimum 10-foot setback from property lines for planting bamboo. Rosas reported that bamboo has invaded her yard from an adjacent property and that a quote for control from a landscaper for chemical control, barriers, yard excavation and other work exceeded \$20,000. Rickel shared a rhizome from Paidas’s location.

Hyatt summarized bamboo actions taken by the Council to date and the motion regarding bamboo that had been tabled at the last meeting. **Hyatt asked to withdraw the motion regarding recommended legislative action on bamboo that was proposed at the September meeting. There were no objections. The Council decided to withdraw the motion.**

The group discussed language for a new motion. Sutherland and Larson distributed potential new wordings. The group discussed the past Council vote on bamboo as well as liability for plants planted prior to purchase of a property, real estate disclosure laws, property damage, and potential burdens on people who sell bamboo.

##### **Sutherland moved (second: Silander) that the Council approve the following language:**

“The Connecticut Invasive Plants Council, while recognizing in a split vote on Sept. 18, 2012, that yellow groove bamboo (*Phyllostachys aureosulcata*) and other species of running

bamboo in the genus *Phyllostachys* do not meet the criteria for invasive or potentially invasive plants as set forth in CGS §22a-381b, does recognize that said species have demonstrated the potential to cause significant damage to residential properties when not properly installed and maintained. The Council is therefore supportive of legislation that 1) requires sellers and installers of bamboo in the genus *Phyllostachys* to provide to the retail customer educational material on the growth habit of the plant and how to properly contain the plant, 2) requires property owners to install proper containment for any planting of bamboo in the genus *Phyllostachys* when such planting is within 100 feet of any abutting property or public right-of-way, and 3) addresses situations in which property owners fail to prevent the spread into neighboring properties.”

**A roll call vote was conducted: Goodwin, yes; Hyatt, yes; Larson, yes; McAvoy, yes; Magnarelli, yes; Silander, yes; Sutherland, yes. The vote was 7 for, 0 against. The motion to provide a recommendation to the legislature as worded above passed unanimously.**

#### **5. Announcement from CNLA regarding Euonymus**

Heffernan updated the group on CNLA actions regarding winged euonymus (*Euonymus alatus*; burning bush). The University of Connecticut (Dr. Yi Li, Dr. Mark Brand) has been researching winged euonymus and Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*) for several years. This research is ending and is being published in scientific journals. Heffernan reported that the research shows that some cultivars are more invasive than previously thought. In addition, Dr. Li’s triploid, sterile euonymus research has been successful and plants are being established. In response to this research, CNLA growers met and decided unanimously that as soon as Dr. Li’s euonymus is ready, there will be no further production of other cultivars. Dr. Li estimates that the new triploid euonymus will be ready in approximately 3 years. Dr. Brand’s research examined 10 to 20 cultivars and found that they were more invasive than previously believed. The University may receive royalties from sales of the new plant. Silander reported that Dr. Li’s successful euonymus technique has not been as successful for Japanese barberry.

#### **6. Annual report**

Senack reminded the group that submissions for the annual report need to be received in advance the November meeting. The cover letter from the Chair on behalf of the Council should also be reviewed by the Council at that meeting.

#### **7. Old Business/New Business**

Hyatt requested that all new business be postponed to the November meeting.

#### **8. Adjournment**

**Larson moved (second: Goodwin) to adjourn the meeting. The Council decided to adjourn at 3:53 pm.**

The next meeting is scheduled for November 13, 2012, 2-4 pm, in room G8-A at the Department of Agriculture building in Hartford, CT.