

## MINUTES

Invasive Plants Council  
Tuesday, September 13, 2011  
2 pm, Dept. of Agriculture  
Hartford, CT

**Council members present:** David Goodwin, Paul Larson, Lou Magnarelli, Richard McAvoy, John Silander, David Sutherland, Katherine Winslow (for Steve Reviczky)

**Others present:** Donna Ellis, Nancy Murray, Will Rowlands, Logan Senack

**1. Magnarelli called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm.**

**2. The minutes for the 6/21/11 meeting were reviewed**

Goodwin moved (second: Sutherland) to approve the minutes. **The Council decided to approve the minutes from the 6/21/11 meeting as submitted.**

**3. Report on DEEP events and actions**

In response to a request from George Krivda at the last IPC meeting, Senack is adding invasive plant photos to the Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group (CIPWG) website to help the public identify invasive plants. The website now supplies photographs of invasive plants in three separate areas: the main page, the early detection list, and the invasive plant list. The official Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) Invasive Species webpage links to the CIPWG website. The website is: [www.hort.uconn.edu/cipwg](http://www.hort.uconn.edu/cipwg).

**4. Database of businesses selling invasive plants**

**a. In-state actions**

Senack reported that he has received the list of businesses found to be selling invasive plants from Greg Bugbee at the CT Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) and has provided that list to DEEP.

Magnarelli summarized the work that CAES has accomplished to date on this issue. Many pet stores were not aware that they were selling invasive plants. As aquatic plants can be difficult to identify visually, researchers at CAES purchased the plants and then used DNA methods to determine species. CAES will hold an aquatic invasive plant identification workshop targeting pet stores in New Haven. Pet stores are not under the jurisdiction of CAES, so researchers are providing educational information to pet store staff regarding sales and invasive plant laws but are not conducting enforcement.

*Paul Larson arrived at 2:06 pm.*

Magnarelli will invite Greg Bugbee to the November meeting to discuss this issue in further detail. Silander commented that the mislabeling of plants from suppliers is also a problem. Murray added that for many plants, cultivar names or species names do not always appear in the USDA PLANTS database and may not be official names.

## **b. Out-of-state actions**

DEEP is working on a draft form letter to be sent to out-of-state growers found to be selling or shipping invasive plants into Connecticut. Murray will bring a sample of the letter to the next meeting.

## **5. Revision of minutes from 6-21-11 meeting**

Larson moved (second: Sutherland) to reopen discussion of the 6-21-11 minutes. **The Council decided to reopen the discussion of the minutes.** Larson suggested two changes to the minutes:

1. On page 2: change wording in ANS funds update from “This plan will also be used to inform the early detection plan...” to “This plan will also be used to create an early detection plan...”.
2. On page 4: change the phrase “quarantine zone” to “quarantine protocol”.

**The Council decided to approve the minutes as corrected.**

## **6. Cultivar discussion**

### **a. Sterile *Euonymus alatus* cultivar discussion**

McAvoy reported that Dr. Yi Li (Plant Science and Landscape Architecture, UConn) has been using tissue culture to develop sterile triploid plants from endosperm tissue.

Li has been able to identify sterile lines of *Euonymus alatus*. McAvoy reported that more testing will be done and noted that this is a very positive development with the potential to be applied to other invasive plants of economic importance. The group discussed this development, including potential benefits and concerns of this approach and timelines for production. Li estimated that it would take 3 to 5 years before the plants would be ready for production. McAvoy reported that there was a high level of interest from states with other invasive species. Goodwin noted that it was commendable for staff at UConn to keep working on this research, despite the fact that is a long process. Sutherland asked if there were other commercial plants for which sterile cultivars have been developed. Larson reported that some species of *Buddleia* are problems in the western United States, and that sterile cultivars of *Buddleia* sp. have been developed.

### **b. Cultivar committee update**

Silander received a request from Bill Hyatt to form a committee to discuss cultivars. Silander would like to have in-person meetings and correspond by email with the group. Membership will include individuals from horticulture, the green industry, UConn, plant systematics, etc. Murray will be assisting the group with logistics. Larson will work on the committee with Silander. The committee’s goal is to come up with draft findings sometime in the spring of 2012.

## **7. Bamboo discussion**

### **a. Letter from Dr. Jeff Ward, CAES**

Magnarelli introduced and recapped previous discussions regarding various species of bamboo. Magnarelli expressed concern that bamboo might be invading natural areas and forest ecosystems and wanted to know about the effects on ecosystems. CAES has received calls from homeowners concerned about bamboo for years. Magnarelli noted that although bamboo has been planted in the United States since at least the 1800s, no records show that the plants have produced seeds within the country.

Magnarelli asked Jeff Ward (CAES) to look at several reported bamboo sites and prepare a report based on his findings. Magnarelli distributed Ward's report, which recommended that golden bamboo (*Phyllostachys aurea*) be listed as potentially invasive. Magnarelli clarified that Ward's letter was to Magnarelli directly, and that Magnarelli was not recommending to the CT Invasive Plants Council that the plant be listed as potentially invasive or put on any list at this time because he has not seen the infestations. He suggested that Council members visit sites where bamboo is growing before making decisions on the status of the plant's listing. Magnarelli has asked Ward to attend the Council meeting in November to discuss this issue. The group discussed how the plants might spread and other aspects regarding bamboo. Silander reported that bamboo has synchronized, episodic flowering and does not establish well in areas with deep freezing or shallow soils, although it can grow in very dense stands in its native range.

The group also discussed potential control options. Magnarelli noted that bamboo growing on a town or state property would present an ideal opportunity for a test control project, but added that CAES would be reluctant to get involved in a project on private property.

#### **b. Presentation of findings from UConn/DEEP field visits**

Murray distributed a draft report from DEEP recommending that golden bamboo (*Phyllostachys aurea*) and yellow groove bamboo (*Phyllostachys aureasulcata*) be listed as Potentially Invasive due to aggressive growth in Connecticut. The DEEP report did not recommend that the species be prohibited from sale.

Murray also reported that a homeowner has provided information about where bamboo can be found growing in Connecticut and summarized actions taken by DEEP to date to further investigate this issue. Senack, Murray and Ellis visited multiple populations of bamboo during August and September and collected information about the size and density of the populations. Senack presented photographs and information about the site visits to the Council. The Council discussed these findings.

#### **8. Yearly update of list**

Magnarelli reminded the Council that they are charged with the yearly updating of the invasive species list.

#### **9. Annual report**

Magnarelli reminded the group that an annual report will need to be produced by the end of the year and delivered to all the required locations, including the state library. Murray reported that DEEP has already begun preparing some parts of the report, including updates about various DEEP control projects, grants, and Aquatic Nuisance Species projects. Murray has also asked Ellis to include the accomplishments of the CT Invasive Plant Working Group. Magnarelli will enter Jeff Ward's document in the record for the annual report.

The draft paper from DEEP will not be entered into the record as it is a draft. Murray pointed out DEEP is proposing both *P. aurea* (golden bamboo) and *P. aureasulcata* (yellow groove bamboo) be listed as potentially invasive, that more discussion will need to take place, and that this issue will still need to be resolved.

Silander noted that any infestation location information would be useful, as well as the status of bamboo in other states. Silander added that if this plant is determined to warrant further

attention, it could be listed with the IPANE project. Goodwin requested that Senack send him the specific details of the some of the bamboo populations from his presentation.

#### **10. New Business**

- Silander and Magnarelli will not be able to attend the October 11 meeting.
- Magnarelli will invite Greg Bugbee and Jeff Ward to the November 8 meeting.
- Ellis asked if the plant mugwort (*Artemesia vulgaris*) could be considered for inclusion on the invasive species lists, as she has observed it not just in disturbed areas but also in natural areas.
- Sutherland asked to acknowledge both Les Mehrhoff and Mary Musgrave for their contributions to the Council over the years. Murray has discussed including recognition of Mehrhoff and Musgrave in the annual report with Hyatt.

#### **11. Adjournment**

Larson moved (second: Sutherland) to adjourn at 3:27 pm. **The Council decided to adjourn the meeting.**

The next meeting is scheduled for 2 pm, October 11, 2011 at the Department of Agriculture building in Hartford, CT.