

**Ramsey County Cooperative Weed Management Area Meeting
Ramsey County Parks Office, September 27th, 2010, 10:00 am**

I. Meeting opened at 10:05am

A. Attendance/ Introductions:

1. Attendees:

Nancy Duncan – NPS Mississippi River, Ginny Gaynor – City of Maplewood, Steve Pavek - MNDOT, John Moriarty - Ramsey County Parks, Mary Lee – AHATS, Monika Chandler – MN Dept of Ag., Katy Chayka – Volunteer/ Minnesota Wildflowers.info, Dana Larsen-Ramsay – H.B. Fuller, Carole Gernes - RCCWMA

B. Review of Agenda

II. Action Items

A. Partner Updates

1. Monika will be writing a short article for the Minnesota Landscapers Association (MLA) about gypsy moth and other invasives. She will also mention oriental bittersweet.
2. Bristly locust was discovered, cut and treated at AHATS, and either Hwy 36 and Rice or Dale (across from oriental bittersweet site). Bristly locust has softer bristles on the stems rather than thorns like black locust. It also has purple flowers and has a more shrub like growth form.
3. Mary Lee stated that 20 truckloads of biomass was taken from AHATS to the District Energy Plant in St. Paul. That was 1.5 years of dried accumulation removed by the contractor. Five acres was needed for a staging area – room to pile, for semis to move in and out and for the chipper.
4. John mentioned that narrow-leaf bittercress was found in Battle Creek Park by Katy. There is too much to pull and not enough money to treat it. Nancy mentioned a new 2012 grant from NPS to do herbicide trials at Riverside Park, which is 12 acres. They will be comparing some of the “heavier” herbicides such as Garlon 4 and Ultra. She said maybe they could also do a trial at Battle Creek.
5. Monika asked if anyone was attending or presenting at the MN Wisconsin Invasive Species Conference. Carole said she was attending but not presenting due to presenting later that week at the MN Naturalists Association state conference. Monika indicated low registration so far. Costs, time and budgets were discussed as were the high numbers of conferences being held in November.
6. Carole updated her activities, passed around updated “Not-Wanted” flier, new oriental bittersweet flier and “Not-Wanted” booklets. She mailed or emailed “Tansy” and “Not Wanted” fliers to all city public works and parks departments in the county. She also asked whether they would be willing to accept a vase - display of seasonal invasive species to watch for and did not get any responses. She checked out a report of cut-leaved teasel at Hazelwood

Park in Maplewood. That was negative. She also collected a suspected sample of *Didymo*. at the Priory Preserve in Maplewood. That was examined by Mark Edlund at the Science Museum Field Station and was also negative.

7. John asked if Carole had collected seed heads from the teasel on County Rd C2. Carole said no, but was going to ask if she should. Everyone seemed to think she should. Carole said she would contact Chuck Fiedler and then proceed.

III. New Business/Open Discussion

- A. The group discussed adding oriental bittersweet to the not-wanted flier. The group agreed to replace yellow iris with bittersweet.
- B. Carole asked the group if she should be writing to or notifying homeowners who have things like tansy or *Miscanthus* growing on their properties. Dana said she didn't pass up opportunities to educate when the occasion arises. John thought that was beyond the scope/time limitations of the position. Monica added that the new noxious weed law would help with things that are already around. The new law has species listed under eradicate, control, specially regulated and restricted species categories. For example tansy would be listed as a species to control, Grecian foxglove and wild parsnip as a special regulation species and buckthorn as a restricted species (cannot be sold).
- C. Carole created a contact list for all garden centers and florists in the metro area. She is also planning to compile a list of all the cemeteries so she can send the "Not-Wanted" and bittersweet fliers, encouraging people not to plant these plants. Monika stated that the Dept of Ag was also doing this. The group agreed that redundancy was not a bad thing and Carole should move ahead with this. Monika said that John Daniels was her contact for Bachman's. An example of success given was the effort to stop the spread of Japanese barberry in Connecticut. Although sales of this shrub brought in \$40 million in sales in the state, nursery groups agreed to stop selling it.
- D. Ginny thought that bringing vases of weed examples to public works departments with the flier in a stand would work well. We would have to include directions of how to dispose of the samples when done. John and others felt that the cut samples would be better than the pressed and laminated samples.
- E. Katy asked whether burning bush was a problem in MN. Not yet; it may be due to cold temperatures. It may become a problem in the future with cultivars developed for this climate.
- F. This led to a discussion about native shrubs recommended to replace buckthorn and the difficulty in finding them at nurseries. Carole mentioned the native plant nursery list from Maplewood Nature Center. John mentioned that one of those nurseries outsources its trees from out of the area. Monika and John and others discussed that the native shrubs out there may not meet the expectations of what residents want things to look like and that some cultivars may need to be developed at the U.
- G. It was agreed that the Doodle invitations for setting meeting dates worked well.
- H. Conversations turned to turkey and deer problems and solutions.

- I. Dana requested that the “Not Wanted” booklets be given as a reward to the LEAP winners this year. She asked Carole to give some to Bill B. from the watershed district.
- IV. Carole will send out a Doodle invitation to vote on the next meeting; possibly the first week of November.
- V. Meeting adjourned at 11:15pm

Submitted by Carole Gernes, 9/27/10