

Agenda
Ramsey County Cooperative Weed Management Area Meeting
February 25, 2015 1:00 pm – 3:00 p.m.

Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District
2665 Noel Drive Little Canada, MN 55117
651-792-7959

- I. **Call to order and introductions, 1:05 pm.** In attendance: Michael Schumann, Ramsey Conservation District; Mary Lee, Minnesota Army Reserve National Guard; Laura Van Riper, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources; Nancy Duncan, National Park Service; Chuck Fiedler, Ramsey County Public Works; Keith Stachowski, North Saint Paul Public Works; Shannon Montante, Saint Paul Parks and Recreation; Dana Larsen-Ramsey, H.B. Fuller Company; Simba Blood, Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District.

II. Partner updates

- A. RCCWMA/Ramsey Conservation District
1. Scheduled spring trainings and outreach events:
 - a. Shoreview Environmental Quality Committee (EQC) presentation: March 18th. The EQC voted to sign the RCCWMA MOU after Carole presented last summer. The public is invited to attend and it will be recorded for broadcast on local cable. It may help recruit citizens for the monitor training program.
 - b. Shoreview Invasive Plant Patrol training: March 28th (there may be an additional possible staff training for the city; not yet scheduled). All trainings are Saturdays 10 am – 2 pm; free and open to the public.
 - c. Maplewood Invasive Plant Patrol training: April 11th, Maplewood Nature Center
 - d. Tamarack Nature Center Invasive Plant Patrol training: April 25th
 - e. Waterfest event: May 30th. Waterfest is a Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District event held at Lake Phalen. It has very good attendance of all age groups. This will be its 15th year.
 - f. Landscape Revival event: June 6th; is sponsored by Saint Paul Audubon. This will be its 4th year. It has very good attendance: last year there was not enough room for Rainbow Foods customers to park in the lot. The store is now a Cub Foods. There is an “L”-shaped pavilion owned by the store on Larpenteur, between Hamline and Lexington (address is 1215 Larpenteur, St. Paul). There are many native plant nurseries that sell plants at this event along with several exhibitors including the conservation district, watershed districts, Xerces Society, Minnesota Wildflowers. It is a one-stop-shopping event for native plants.
 2. Possible Oriental bittersweet Blitz, Maplewood Nature Center: this event was scheduled last fall. The first snow and ice storm forced cancellation. Carole discovered a new area with mature vines in late October. She is hoping to get a blitz scheduled after snow melt but before leaf-out. Most of the bittersweet is on a steep hillside covered with pencil-diameter vines, raspberry and currant. Walking is hazardous without ice or snow.
 3. Techline News sweepstakes equipment win: Simba sent a link to Techline Invasive Plant News and its sweepstakes quiz. Carole took the quiz and entered, winning \$200 worth of invasive-fighting equipment of her choice. Carole chose 2 Parsnip Predators from The Prairie Enthusiasts and a foaming herbicide applicator and foaming agent from Greenshoots (John Lampe's company). The

foaming applicator is the one John demonstrated at Southwood on our Invasive Knotweed Tour in October.

Parsnip predators are shovels that have had the blades ground down to form a "T" shaped blade. They are used to cut the parsnip root 1" – 2" inches below the soil line, to cut off the crown. They can't be used to pry the plant out, they aren't strong enough. The person using this tool needs to grab the plant top and pull it off the root. Simba used these last year to cut through burdock roots; which are larger and tougher than parsnip. She will find out how well they worked this year. The Prairie Enthusiasts group makes them by grinding down a regular spade; the part that you step down is left intact. Simba said they also give directions on how to make one yourself, but she thinks it is well worth having someone experienced do the grinding and pay only \$50 for the finished product.

4. Official PlayCleanGo partner: RCCWMA became an official partner a few months ago. Carole is starting to add the PlayCleanGo logo to educational materials. Laura asked whether RCCWMA needed any educational materials for outreach events. Carole said she used the poster and tattoos last year. Laura suggested a brochure with native plant alternatives and agreed to send an email.
 5. Update on difficulty with EDDMapS / verification: Katy and Carole reported at the last meeting that they were having problems seeing their reports on EDDMapS. In the past, you would make a report and be able to see it immediately. Carole contacted Chuck Barger of EDDMapS. EDDMapS has changed things so reports need to be verified before they are added to the maps or email alerts. Carole was not on the EDDMapS list for verification. Chuck fixed that. Carole will let Katy know, since she wasn't able to make it to the meeting today.
 6. Invasive *Phragmites* added to target species education materials. At our December meeting members voted to add invasive *Phragmites* to our watch list. Carole added this species to the monitor field guide (example provided at the table for members to look at). Ken Graeve from MNDOT provided photos for the field guide and training PowerPoint. Carole also brought up Anita Cholewa's request for members to collect samples for the herbarium.
 7. Four tansy sites planned to be added to conservation district conservation corps application, but we felt it would not get funded without an overall plan for restoration after treatment. Carole mentioned that Ann White Eagle planned to include those four sites in another grant application, which would provide more flexibility in areas that could be treated and to be able to treat infestations that have yet to be found. She was not able to get DNR maps in time to meet the deadline, so the grant was not submitted.
 8. Carole said the next round of LCCMR grants closes in May and she may have time to take a look at it, but this is her busy time of year with trainings and events.
 9. Invasive Species Week webinars: Carole forwarded several emails with webinar announcements for invasive species week. Laura presented her PlayCleanGo webinar on Tuesday and said all of the webinars would be put up on The National Association of Invasive Plant Councils (NAIPC) website. She watched hers and said the slides were ahead of the audio and she contacted Chuck to see if that could be fixed. Carole participated and said the slides matched the audio when it was presented.
- B. MNDNR
1. 2015 updates to the MN Noxious Weed Law: Laura passed around a copy of the article she wrote for the MNDNR Forest Insect and Disease Newsletter, February 2015, entitled "New Year, New Weeds?" The details of new and future updates to the weed law are in the article. The MN Noxious Weeds Advisory Committee (NWAC) meets to evaluate plants and make listing recommendations to the commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. NWAC reviews

species already on the noxious weed list every three years to determine if anything needs to be changed or removed. Japanese barberry is popular shrub that can become invasive in woodlands and forms a thick shrub layer that out-competes other vegetation. Phase out of the highest seed producing cultivars of Japanese barberry, and the parent plants, begins this year and ends the end of 2017. Those cultivars cannot be sold after December 31 2017. Sales will continue for specific, approved low -seed producing cultivars after 2017. People will not be required to remove Japanese barberry from their properties.

There weren't changes to the noxious weed list for a long time. In 2010, the Noxious Weed Advisory Committee made changes to make it easier to update the list more frequently. Feedback to NWAC expressed concern that the weed list was becoming too large and changing too often since 2010. The committee decided to continue risk assessments and making recommendations, but recommendations would go to the commissioner, but not go into effect until 2017.

If recommendations are approved by the MDA Commissioner, Bell's, Morrow's, Tatarian and Amur honeysuckle sales will be restricted in 2017. There aren't many being sold right now; most sales are through SW MN soil and water conservation districts. Laura thought they were being purchased because they make a good hedge/windbreak. A list of alternative species is available for them to find replacements.

Also, if approved, in 2017; diffuse and Russian knapweeds will be added. They are obscure knapweeds that aren't here or have only been found one or two places. They would be put on the Eradicate/early detection list.

Elecampane, *Inula helenium*, which looks like an overgrown sunflower, has been found in a couple of places by MNDOT. They are going to try to control it, see what works for control and keep an eye out to see if it has been a problem anywhere else. No recommendations have been made for this plant. Carole said she thought she had a seed packet of this plant that she found at a local hardware store.

Tree of heaven is a big issue in more southern states. Ken Graeve of MNDOT found the only reported infestation in MN growing next to his bank in downtown St. Paul. The NWAC is recommending adding it to the restricted list for 2017.

Porcelain berry, a vine, will also become restricted. Burnet saxifrage, which looks like Queen Ann's lace, was found in Three Rivers Park District and in areas where Three Rivers employees moved to is going to be watched and continue to be reviewed through 2015.

An exception to the decision not to add any species in 2015 would be if there was an emergency situation. An example is the addition of Palmer amaranth this year. Palmer amaranth is a devastating agricultural, herbicide resistant weed that has not yet been found in MN. It infests cotton fields in southern states; corn and soybeans in Iowa.

The NWAC meets tomorrow (February 26). If anyone has suggestions of other species, Laura would be happy to bring them to the group. Laura said the committee was looking at some additional star thistles, autumn olive, Japanese hedge parsley, burning bush, Amur maple... species that have been known to

cause problems elsewhere. Carole has seen small burning bush seedlings along trails in the metro and pulls them out. She hasn't collected herbarium samples, taken GPS coordinates or photos yet, but will if possible in the future, to document that they are naturalizing.

Japanese knotweed can now only be sold with a label that states it shouldn't be planted within 100 feet of water. Japanese knotweed will be reevaluated as to whether it is problematic in areas that aren't wet. Carole said the Japanese knotweed by the strip mall in Maplewood seems to be pretty well behaved except that it is coming up in a wet spot away from the building and behind the little house next door. Most of what she has seen growing is Bohemian knotweed, the hybrid between Japanese and giant. The infestation in North St. Paul was very tall and had very large leaves when they first started removal. The plants that are remaining look like Bohemian. She has noticed the same shift at Hillside Park in Maplewood where she has treated knotweed. At first it looked like Bohemian and plants remaining look like Japanese. She doesn't know whether that means it was a mixed population or not. DNA studies out west found that all of the infestations tested were Bohemian.

Dana brought up a Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District LEAP Award nominee, who had knotweed on his property. He was very enthusiastic, but with the knotweed, some members didn't think he should get an award. She suggested talking to Mark Gernes, who was on the LEAP committee and would remember who and where it was. Dana thought it was in Maplewood and the knotweed was along the garage. Carole had several people contact her about knotweed in their yards last year. Two of them bought their properties in the winter and then found knotweed sprouting up in the spring. She has had a couple people who asked for control advice, but four years later, it doesn't look like anything has been done. She doesn't know if changing its listing by the state would help with that or not. At the knotweed session of the 2014 invasive species conference, the moderator asked how many people in the audience were treating knotweed and had them raise hands for ascending number of years of management. The audience members were asked to raise their hands if they had eradicated an infestation and no one raised their hand. Requiring removal would be hard for homeowners, especially without access to information and the funding required. She would like to see requiring removal or control on public lands or if near something sensitive. Biocontrols, available in Europe were mentioned. There was also a conference presentation comparing herbicides; Garlon is the least effective herbicide. Glyphosate works better. John Lampe, who has been treating at Southwood, says the timing of treatment is important. He cuts back stems in fall, lets them grow back to a couple feet tall and then does a foliar treatment with 2 weeks of frost. This is when the final draw-down to the roots is happening for the winter. Carole has only used Triclopyr and glyphosate due to costs, availability and because she works with volunteers so much. She didn't remember which other herbicides were discussed but will look it up and add it to the minutes. Milestone and Imazapyr may have been discussed. She believes that was what MNDOT used on the cliff near the MN/WI border off I-94.

Japanese Hedge parsley appears to be spotty but seems to be spreading by off road biking. Carole first saw it at Battle Creek along the bike trails, but it is now also at Fish Creek and Acorn Park in Roseville last year.

The group discussed oak wilt appearing in woods after buckthorn was removed. It may be a cause and effect or it could be that it wasn't noticed/seen prior to removal because the buckthorn made it difficult to see. Lee Frelich may be the person to ask about this observation.

Here is Laura's article link that Carole agreed to add to the meeting minutes:
www.dnr.state.mn.us/fid/feb2015/articles.html#weeds.

III. Action Items

- A. Removal of MOU dates from document needs to be approved by all members. Take a look at signature/petition document; sign signature sheets.

IV. New Business/Open discussion

- A. The group is happy with an informal meeting format and sees no need to change to using Roberts' rules.
- B. Grants:
 - 1. Conservation Partner Legacy funding; applications closed January 30th.
 - 2. Environmental Trust Fund; due May 11, 2015. The RCD would like to have a pool of funds for treatment of known and for future infestations. Sentence to serve crews were suggested as a pretty cheap option for treatments. Carole is about 1/2 time now, and may be able to add salary into a grant.
- C. Late summer/early fall invasive weed tour; *Phragmites* site; Otter Lake *Phragmites*, other suggestions. Ken Graeve emailed photos for Carole to use for educational materials, from a site that had side-by-side patches of the invasive and native plants. Since he took the photos, that site has undergone construction. It needs to be checked to see what survived. If it survived we could take a look: it is off 35E near Forest Lake; a bit of a drive but not too far. We could possibly stop to see the plants at Otter Lake in White Bear Lake on the way back. It doesn't bloom until late, so it would have to be a late summer/early fall tour. Suggestions for other plants or areas are open. Carole asked whether Mary or Nancy would be willing to host tours of their sites. Mary says AHATS is pretty busy right now with their jurisdiction work, but next year might be a possibility. She has a bullhorn now to make speaking to a crowd easier. Nancy wasn't sure what was happening at the new Coldwater Creek area now that the big removals were done. A suggestion was made to visit Three Rivers Park District. Burnet saxifrage is growing there. Another suggestion was flowering rush in Forest Lake. The flowering rush at Bald Eagle Lake was gently removed by divers. Carole did not see any while fishing last year. She will check to see where the plants are located in Forest Lake. Maybe they are easily seen from shore. The flowering will be done by the time *Phragmites* is in bloom. She is not opposed to two field trips if people want to see both this year.
- D. Members did not have suggestions for new invasive blitz areas.
- E. Laura brought 2015 MISAC invasive species calendars for members.
- F. Dana mentioned that the *Phragmites* at H.B. Fuller/Willow Lake seems to be spreading. She and Carole will set up a time to take a look at it.

V. Set next meeting date and location:

- A. Carole will set up another Doodle poll for our next meeting; likely in May.

VI. Meeting was adjourned early, at 2:00 pm