

# Invasive Plants Council

## Minutes

### November 25, 2003

Present: Dr. Anderson, , Mr. Goodwin , Comm. Gresczyk, Mr. Larson, Comm. Leff, Mr. McGowan, Dr. Mehrhoff, Dr. Musgrave, Mr. Sutherland.

Absent:

The Meeting was called to order at 10:45 AM by Chairman Leff in Room 1A of the Legislative Office Building.

Chairman Leff asked that people in the audience (including presenters) introduce themselves. Chairman Leff then proceeded to outline an agenda for the day's meeting.

The first item on the agenda was to hear from various speakers on educational efforts being made in CT. The first speaker was Meg Bremer from the Federated Garden Clubs of CT. She discussed the FGC's work through its "The Preservation List of CT Wild Plants," publication to promote awareness of invasive species. They have over 8,000 members and there are regular articles in their newsletter suggesting alternative plant material. They have worked with Dr. Mehrhoff as well as the CT Invasive Plants Working Group to develop posters and educational materials. One of their members also helped design the new Girl Scout "Invasive Plants" badge. They have helped sponsor symposiums and publications such as "Purple Loosestrife: Beauty or Beast?"

Donna Ellis from the CT Invasive Plant Working Group gave a presentation on their work. They formed in 1997 and they are dedicated to education issues. Donna gave a demonstration of all the information available on their website, including plant identification, information on what makes a plant invasive, photos, links to publications such as their plant information sheets and links to other sources of information. They have printed plant information sheets for people to use in identifying and managing invasive species. They help sponsor other publications, including the "green list." They have published two invasive plant posters as well. They also sponsor meetings such as their symposium in 2002 on "Invasive Plants in Public Landscapes."

Ken Metzler from the DEP spoke about the work that the department does for education on invasives. He stated that the department does sponsor publications and has many people in the department who are knowledgeable and willing to speak to groups on the issue of invasive plants.

Bob Heffernan from the CT Green Industries spoke about the industries efforts to educate their members on Invasive Plants. They dedicated one issue of their magazine to invasive plants. They have produced a poster of what they have identified as their "top 20" invasive plants. They believe an educated retailer and consumer are keys.

Dr. Anderson spoke briefly about the work of the Agricultural Experiment Station. He stated that the Experiment Station has been working on invasives since the 1960's when they started work on invasive weed eradication.

Dr. Mehrhoff said he will work on having IPANE making a presentation for next meeting on their work.

It was suggested that maybe The Nature Conservancy could tell us about their efforts. Mr. Sutherland said he would see what he could do for the next meeting.

Dr. Anderson said he would contact the CT Forest and Parks Association to see if they could make the next meeting.

Chairman Leff thanked all of the invited speakers for their presentations. He thought that the council should start thinking about educational recommendations including; what targeted audiences should be, how we can help with coordination of the efforts of all these groups in CT and what we can do to encourage the work that is already being done (financial or otherwise).

The next item on the agenda was to consider the aquatic plant list. Since a few members of the council did not have an advance copy of the list it was suggested that the actual vote be postponed until next meeting.

Dr. Mehrhoff discussed the list and what went into deciding on the list. Mr. Larson asked questions about the scientific names of Purple Loosestrife and Water Lotus. Mr. McGowan asked if there was a difference between curly-leaved and crispy-leaved pondweed. Dr. Mehrhoff explained there wasn't a difference.

The consensus of the group was that the vote be postponed.

Chairman Leff went over a tentative agenda for the next meeting:

1. Presentations from more educational groups (IPANE, CFPA, TNC)
2. What direction should education take
3. Vote on Aquatic List
4. Discussion and Vote on Trees, Shrubs and Woody Vines List

Chairman Leff asked if there was any objection to changing the time for the December 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting to 10:30 instead of 10:00. The time was changed.

There was a motion by Dr. Anderson to approve the minutes of the November 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Larson. The minutes were approved by voice vote.

There was a motion by Comm. Grescyk to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Larson. The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Emanuel Merisotis  
Clerk- Environment Committee