CONNECTICUT INVASIVE PLANT WORKING GROUP (CIPWG)
Minutes from the March 30, 2011 General Meeting

The Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group (CIPWG) held a general meeting on March 30, 2011 at the Valley Laboratory of The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station in Windsor. The meeting began at 1:00 p.m. and was attended by approximately 60 people. CIPWG Co-chairs Donna Ellis [University of Connecticut (UConn)] and Penni Sharp (Connecticut Botanical Society) welcomed everyone. Brief introductions were made by the attendees, and a sign-in sheet was distributed. The CIPWG Speaker's List was circulated for updates and additions. Refreshments were provided by the University of Connecticut Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Program and The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station.

1. **Interacting with Municipalities Regarding Invasive Plant Issues**
   Eric Trott, Director of Planning and Development for the Town of Coventry discussed two initiatives underway in his town. The Coventry Conservation Corps, which began in 2007, is a stewardship program for open space parcels. Volunteers monitor the properties, including boundary areas on a periodic basis to check for invasive plants. A flame-weeding workshop was presented in 2010. Eradication of invasive plants such as Japanese barberry will be the next step at the open space parcels. Greg Bugbee from The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) completed a survey of Coventry Lake in 2008 and mapped two invasive species, crispy-leaved pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*) and Eurasian water-milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*). Greg presented a forum on invasive plants for town citizens and lake associations. Eric described other aquatic invasive projects underway in Coventry, including obtaining grant funds for public education, installing signage at boat launches, and using cable access television and the web for local outreach. The CLEAN (Coventry League Environmental Action Network) Team was organized, consisting of Coventry High School students.

2. **Legislative issues/Connecticut Invasive Plants Council**
   Nancy Murray [CT Department of Environmental Protection (CT DEP)] provided an update on invasive plant legislative news and the Connecticut Invasive Plants Council. Public Act 10-20 was enacted during 2010 to authorize CT DEP conservation officers to enforce certain prohibitions concerning invasive plants. The Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) project is underway. This project is administered by CT DEP and is partially funded by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. ANS Coordinator Pat Bresnahan and Nancy will be conducting a CT ANS Coordinating Committee meeting on April 7 to review listing criteria, listed species, spread vectors, and discuss early detection and rapid response, which is coordinated by CT DEP. Logan Senack, Connecticut Invasive Plant Coordinator (CT DEP/UConn) assists the Connecticut Invasive Plants Council by recording and posting minutes from their monthly meetings. Logan is also developing an invasive plant disposal document and investigating mail order/internet invasive plant sales issues. Legislative information and Connecticut Invasive Plants Council meeting minutes are posted on the CIPWG website at www.hort.uconn.edu/cipwg.

3. **Invasive Species Updates (Mile-a-minute Vine, Didymo, Purple Loosestrife)**
   Logan informed the group about outreach, survey, and control activities for mile-a-minute vine (*Polygonum perfoliatum*) in Sprague, where three significant populations were confirmed during 2010. He is working with town staff and volunteers in Sprague to

organize pulling parties for control of mile-a-minute and to conduct area surveys to determine the extent of the infestations. Donna Ellis and Todd Mervosh (CAES) described a biological control program funded by the US Department of Agriculture (USDA), which began in Connecticut in 2009. To date, 13,000 beneficial weevils have been introduced in a number of towns in Fairfield, Litchfield, and New Haven Counties where extensive populations of mile-a-minute have been confirmed. The weevils feed exclusively on mile-a-minute vines and do not attack other plants. Additional weevils will be released in 2011. Monitoring of release sites is ongoing to determine how well the weevils are establishing and assessing the extent of their feeding damage.

Nancy informed the group that CT DEP recently announced the new discovery of the highly invasive freshwater alga, *Didymosphenia geminata*, known as "didymo", which was found in the West Branch Farmington River, a very popular trout stream in northwestern Connecticut. Didymo has the potential to smother aquatic organisms, impact fish habitat, and alter aquatic food chains. This is the first report of didymo in Connecticut. A press release from the CT DEP was issued March 29, 2011 (http://www.ct.gov/dep/cwp/view.asp?Q=476204&A=4013).

Donna discussed the purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) biological control program in Connecticut and the Beetle Farmers, volunteers who rear and release beneficial beetles to help reduce populations of this widespread invasive plant in wetlands. To date, more than 1.8 million beetles have been introduced into Connecticut wetlands since the program began in 1996. A new website for purple loosestrife (www.purpleloosestrife.uconn.edu) has been developed, which provides training materials for Beetle Farmers to learn about purple loosestrife and the biological control agents, distribution maps of release sites, rearing guidelines, and more.

4. CIPWG Subcommittees and Website

Donna described several CIPWG subcommittees and circulated sign-up sheets among the group. The Native Alternatives Subcommittee [Charlotte Pyle (Natural Resources Conservation Service/NRCS), Penni Sharp and Peter Picone (CT DEP) Co-chair the subcommittee] is compiling a list of herbaceous native alternatives for invasive plants. The plants on the list are indigenous to Connecticut and are suitable for restoration as well as for ornamental plantings. The list will be posted on the CIPWG website and will be available for downloading.

The Management Subcommittee (Todd Mervosh and Charlotte Pyle, Co-chairs) are revising the invasive plant management guide that is posted on the CIPWG website. They will also create links on the website to related control information published on other websites.

Although the Education and Outreach Subcommittee is not targeting a particular project at this time, Donna talked about the overall education and outreach that CIPWG members provide in so many ways, including subcommittee activities, staffing the CIPWG poster display at public events and conferences, and presentations given by many of our members. With new members signing up and expressing an interest in education and outreach, there may be opportunities to expand this subcommittee and become involved in a number of activities.

Logan discussed the CIPWG website and changes that are ongoing to enhance the information that is available to visitors. In addition to plans for updating the invasive plant management guide, documents and links for both invasive plant and alternative resources are being uploaded to the website. Logan has requested photos for the website that show people controlling invasive plants, conducting outreach, and images of individual plants for identification.

5. **Early Detection of Invasives**
   Two invasive plant handouts were provided to the attendees during the meeting. Logan, Nancy, and Donna developed an early detection and priority invasive plant list for Connecticut (Appendix 1). Early detection species are identified by CT DEP as being present in limited or initial populations in the state. Priority invasives have been identified by CT DEP as high priority for control, detection, and eradication efforts. Some of the species are on the current Connecticut state list of invasive plants.

   A second handout (Appendix 2) from the Invasive Plant Atlas of New England (IPANE) was a request for information on the occurrence of particular plant species in Southern New England. If you have information on the occurrences of any plant on this list, please contact IPANE at ipane@uconn.edu.

6. **Panel Discussion: Invasive Plant Control**
   A panel discussion on control of invasive plants was presented. Charlotte served as the facilitator. Panelists included:

   - Todd Mervosh (The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station)
   - Brad Robinson (Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection)
   - Chris Polatin (Polatin Ecological Services, LLC)
   - Mike Nadeau (Plantscapes, Inc.)
   - Donna Ellis (University of Connecticut)

   Each panelist gave a brief introduction. Brad provided a general overview on herbicide labels, legal issues, and permits. Panelists then answered questions from the audience on both non-chemical and chemical control options. The panel members shared their expertise and experiences with the audience during the interactive discussion. Invasive plant disposal methods, recommended replacement plants, and other relevant topics were included.

7. **Volunteers for Invasive Plant Projects**
   A new Volunteer Subcommittee has been formed to organize and provide assistance with pulling parties and other invasive plant activities where volunteer assistance is needed. A Volunteer Subcommittee option will soon be added to the online membership form to recruit additional members. If you are interested in being involved with volunteer opportunities, please contact Donna (email donna.ellis@uconn.edu).

8. **Other Old or New Business**
   a. USDA Grant and Partnership Programs – The USDA recently prepared a comprehensive document of 2011 Grant and Partnership Programs for invasive

species research, prevention, and control. The document (http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/docs/toolkit/usdagrants2011.pdf) will be posted on the CIPWG website.

b. Connecticut Flower and Garden Show – The 2011 Connecticut Flower and Garden Show in Hartford had record attendance of 35,000 people during the four days that the show ran in February. CIPWG members volunteered their time to staff a poster display on invasive plants and their alternatives. The volunteers also provided outreach education to the public during the show. Several CIPWG members, including Helen Pritchard and Susan Parr, are very active of the Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut and in the planning of the Flower and Garden Show, particularly in the Educational Section of the Special Exhibit Division. The CIPWG exhibit received two awards, a 1st place blue ribbon in the judged competition for its class, and a Connecticut Silver and Blue Award given to an Educational or Special Exhibit scoring 90 or more points.

c. **The next CIWPG general meeting will be held on Thursday, November 10th, 2011 at Central CT State University.** Please mark your calendars!

9. Running Bamboo Discussion

Caryn Rickel from Seymour, CT provided information on running bamboo (*Phyllostachys aurea*) and discussed her concerns about this plant. She would like to have running bamboo added to Connecticut's list of invasive plants. Caryn has been traveling around the state, photographing and documenting more than 40 bamboo populations in residential areas, along roadsides and railroad tracks, in woodlands, wetlands, and riverbanks. She compiled a spreadsheet of locations where running bamboo has been found. A general discussion on bamboo followed Caryn's presentation. Information is requested on occurrences of running bamboo in Connecticut, and observations can be emailed to Donna at donna.ellis@uconn.edu (please include town, nearest street intersection, and approximate size of the population).

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Ellis, CIPWG Co-chair

6 April 2011

Appendix 1.

CT Early Detection and Priority Invasive Plants List

Scientific Name	Common Name	On current CT list?	Present in CT?*
Arthraxon hispidus	Hairy jointgrass	Y	Y
Butomus umbellatus	Flowering rush	Y	Y
Carex kobomugi	Japanese sedge	Y	No
Egeria densa	Brazillian water-weed	Y	Y
Glyceria maxima	Reed mannagrass	Y	No
Heracleum mantegazzianum	Giant hogweed	Y	Y
Hydrilla verticillata	Hydrilla	Y	Y
Hydrocharis morsus-ranae	Common frogbit	No	No
Impatiens glandulifera	Ornamental jewelweed	Y	Y
Lespedeza cuneata	Sericea lespedeza	No	Y
Ludwigia peploides ssp. glabrescens	Floating primrose-willow	No	No
Myriophyllum aquaticum	Parrotfeather	Y	Y
Nelumbo lutea	American water lotus	Y	Y
Nymphoides peltata	Yellow floating heart	Y	Y
Oplismenus hirtellus	Wavyleaf basketgrass	No	No
Phellodendron amurense	Amur corktree	No	Y
Polygonum perfoliatum	Mile-a-minute vine	Y	Y
Pueraria montana	Kudzu	Y	Y
Pyrus calleryana	Callery pear	No	Y
Salix atrocinerea	Large gray willow	No	No
Senecio jacobaea	Tansy ragwort	Y	No
Symplocos paniculata	Sapphire-berry	No	Y
Trapa natans	Water chestnut	Y	Y
Utricularia inflata	Swollen bladderwort	No	No
Viburnum dilatatum	Linden arrowwood	No	Y

* Present in Connecticut means a documented occurrence recorded with the Invasive Plant Atlas of New England (IPANE) or the George Safford Torrey Herbarium (CONN) at the University of Connecticut.

Definitions:

Early Detection species

Species identified by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (CT DEP) as species that are currently thought to be present only in limited or incipient populations in Connecticut or parts of Connecticut.

Priority Invasive Plant species

Species identified by CT DEP as high priority for control, detection, and eradication efforts when resources are available.

Appendix 2.

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

INVASIVE PLANT ATLAS OF NEW ENGLAND

The Invasive Plant Atlas of New England (IPANE) is looking for information on occurrences of the following species that are established away from cultivation. These are species about which there are questions about status and/or distribution in Southern New England. This list has been compiled from a variety of sources including state and regional Early Detection Lists, the botanical literature, online resources, and knowledgeable botanists, ecologists, and land managers.

The inclusion of a species here in no way implies that it is to propose the species for inclusion on any state's list of invasive species. More importantly, there is no implied indictment of a species as a potential candidate for banning by its inclusion here. Rather, IPANE is attempting to gather credible information on the status and distribution of specific, naturalized non-native species growing in the "wild" or in minimally managed habitats, without cultivation. Some of these species are currently cultivated. IPANE is not interested in learning the where-abouts of planted individuals or occurrences unless they are directly impacting minimally managed habitats. Please email information on naturalized occurrences to the following address. Thank you.

ipane@uconn.edu 14 October 2010

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	COMMENTS
Albizzia julibrisin	Mimosa; Silk Tree	Occasionally cultivated, is it producing seedlings in New England? Invasive further south
Phellodendron amurense	Amur Cork Tree	Including other Phellodendron species such as P. japonicum, P. sachalinense, P. lavallei. Dense stands sporadically reported
Pyrus calleryana	Callery Pear; Bradford Pear	Including all subspecies and cultivars; reported to be invasive in mid-Atlantic states
Aralia elata	Japanese Angelic Tree	Easily confused with A. spinosa which may be native in southern New England; reported to be invasive in mid-Atlantic states
Salix atrocinerea	Large Gray Willow	Salix cinerea subsp. oleifolia is a synonym; nomenclature is unclear; easily confused with other willows. Reported to be invasive near coastal draw-down ponds in New England
Spiraea japonica	Japanese Meadowsweet	Reported to be invasive in mid-Atlantic states and elsewhere

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	COMMENTS
Viburnum dilatatum	Linden Arrowwood	Reports away from cultivation in New England appear to be increasing
Viburnum sieboldii	Siebold's Arrowwood	Reported to be invasive in mid-Atlantic states
Actinidia arguta	Hardi Kiwi; Tara Vine	Can form dense, climbing occurrences in New England; are plants producing fruits at these sites?
Wisteria spp.	Japanese Wisteria; Chinese Wisteria	Including W. floribunda and W. sinensis. Reported to be invasive in mid-Atlantic states and southwards
Centaurea jacea	Brown knapweed	Reported to be invasive in northern New England, nearby New York, and elsewhere
Conium maculatum	Poison Hemlock	Reported to be invasive in mid-western states and elsewhere
Dipsacus sylvestris	Wild teasel	Reported to be invasive in mid-western states and elsewhere
Geranium sibiricum	Siberian Geranium	Easily confused with G. thunbergii; do occurrences persist?
Geranium thunbergii	Thunberg's Geranium	Easily confused with G. sibericum; scattered occurrences reported in southern New England
Hieracium sabaudum	Savoy Hawkweed	Possibly overlooked in southern New England
Lespedeza cuneata	Sericea Lespedeza	Most obvious along highways, is this becoming established away from roadsides? Reported to be highly invasive in mid-Atlantic and Southeastern states
Rorippa amphibia	Great YellowCress	Erroneously reported from western Connecticut; currently only known in New England from a single river basin in Massachusetts
Miscanthus sacchariflorus	Amur Silvergrass	This rhizomatous Silvergrass appears to be spreading in New England; is it occurring in minimally managed habitats?
Phyllostachys spp.	Bamboos	Are any species of this genus occurring in minimally managed habitats away from where they were intentionally introduced?
Utricularia inflata	Swollen bladderwort	Is this bladderwort forming dense occurrences in water bodies in Southern New England?