

Wavyleaf Basketgrass Task Force Meeting
31 March 2009

MINUTES

Present:

James Akerson, NPS EPMT
Frank Archuleta, NPS EPMT
Rita Beard, NPS (conference call)
Vanessa Beauchamp, Towson University
Melissa Bravo, PA Dept of Agriculture
Wendy Cass, NPS, Shenandoah
Jeff Derr, Virginia Tech (conference call)
John Dillon, MNCPPC
Chris Dionigi, NISC
Meghan Fellows, Fairfax County Park Authority
Bill Felton, Baltimore City
Jinx Fox, BLM
Carrie Gilbert, PA DCNR
Kevin Heffernan, VA Natural Heritage
Clark Howells, Baltimore City, Liberty Reservoir
Jake Hughes, NPS Shenandoah National Park
Ewoud Hulstein, Baltimore County Public Works
Marc Imlay, Anacostia Watershed Society
Bradley Kennedy, MD DNR, LIP
Bryan King, DC Department of the Environment
Kerrie Kyde, MD DNR
Mike Lusk, USFWS National Refuges
John Lydon, USDA ARS
Steve Manning, IPC (conference call)

Betty Marose, UMD Coop Extension (conf. call)
Leslie Mehrhoff, IPANE, Univ. of CT
Robin Melton, MDPS, Manager of Patapsco
Mikaila Milton, NPS
Robert Nowierski, CSREES
Damien Ossi, DC Fisheries and Wildlife Division
Eric Oberg, NPS, GW Parkway (conf call.)
Beth Pastore, Piedmont Environmental Council
Bob Pickett, PATC
Gina Ramos, BLM
Craig Ramsey, USDA APHIS (conf call)
Susan Reines, Wildlife Habitat Council, DoD
Micah Ryder, DC Fisheries and Wildlife
Annie Simpson, USGS, NBII (Official Secretary)
Brent Steury, NPS, GW Memorial Parkway (call)
Jil Swearingen, NPS, CUE
Al Tasker, USDA APHIS
John Peter Thompson, NISC ISAC
Mary Travaglini, TNC
Jenn Truong, Arlington, VA Coop Extension
Joe Vogelpohl, MD Park Service, Patapsco
Randy Westbrooks, USGS (conference call)
Karsten Ziemann, Arlington County

Kerrie Kyde began the meeting by leading introductions of the entire group. Each person gave his/her name, affiliation and experience with WLBG. The purpose of this meeting was to share information on infestation sites, biology and control of WLBG, and to figure out how to proceed as a group. Kerrie presented a short Powerpoint on the grass as it occurs in Maryland, including the following points:

- ❖ First found in 1996 by Ed Uebel in Patapsco Valley State Park, where it occurred in small patches scattered through the woods
- ❖ Was eventually identified by Smithsonian and international experts as *Oplismenus hirtellus* ssp. *undulatifolius*
- ❖ By the time DNR learned about the grass in 2007, it covered acres and apparently had an incredibly fast growth rate
- ❖ It is perennial, stoloniferous, is fairly easily pulled. Roots at the nodes.
- ❖ new germinants show up in April/May; root regrowth a little earlier
- ❖ 1 cm. wide leaves, 8-10 cm long, with long tapering point. Occurs in same habitat as *Microstegium*. Shin high; lies flattened on forest floors. Looks a little like a small bamboo; but with ripples on leaves and ¼" long hairs on the sheath and culm axes. Blooms in late August, with pretty showy flowers for a grass. White stigmas are conspicuous. Awns get sticky when fruits form and stick to anything passing by. Can be on truck tires, perhaps. Duct or painters tape is a good way to de-seed clothing and boots in the field.
- ❖ It is non-tolerant of bright sunlight
- ❖ There is a variegated ornamental that may be reverting to the wild invasive form. Pohl, RW 1981. Iowa St J. of Res 56(2):177-179, found that variegated form reverted to non-variegated aggressive, wavy-leaved form. APHIS scientists suspect that the forest invasive is NOT a reverted form of the variegated ornamental, and work on that is continuing.
- ❖ Grows with *Microstegium vimineum* and native deer tongue *Dichanthelium clandestinum*.
- ❖ We expect it will be as bad or worse than *Microstegium*

- ❖ The densest infestations are in Patapsco Valley State Park and on Baltimore City's Liberty Reservoir property, but has now been found in at least four sites in VA. Little Paint Branch Park has almost exterminated their populations.
- ❖ Preliminary results of an herbicide trial show that a grass-selective herbicide, Envoy Plus, and Roundup WM worked well, but weeding was more effective. Final results of this trial will be available this spring.
- ❖ USFS funded MD DNR and MDA to apply herbicide to get the plant away from the trails in the heavily visited McKeldin section of the park, to inhibit its spread by visitors.
- ❖ It has also been found in Great Falls Park, and hand-weeded out. Fraser Preserve, a TNC property in VA, has too much to weed and will be herbicide treated this year.
- ❖ Ongoing efforts:
 - Taxonomy? How closely related to it is ssp. *setarius* and the variegated ornamental? Genetic work with Mary Barkworth in Utah, Sharon Talley APHIS at Ft. Collins.
 - What will the effect be of removing deer from the infested area. Previous work in hurricane-damaged forest showed that removing deer (fencing them out) was much more effective at removing exotics and enabling the rebounding of native species, than manual or chemical applications.
 - Manual and chemical control studies will continue.

Q – Did it really get started as a nursery plant? Was it thrown over the garden fence?

A (Kerrie) Sharon Talley has done some greenhouse work with the plant and they have reverted and become wavy, but they are not fuzzy like the ones in the parks, so they are probably different plants. She is now working on DNA fingerprinting, because the taxonomy is very confusing. We do think that the problem plant is an exotic non-native, not a reverted ornamental.

Q – Can we get a brief recap on the Genus?

A (Kerrie) There are two native members of the genus in the US, *Oplismenus hirtellus* ssp. *fasciculatus* (LA and eastern Mexico) and ssp. *setarius* (Southeastern US and Mexico). The current plant in Patapsco Valley State Park isn't native. This species has never been reported before in the US.

Q – Can you talk about the native plant?

A (Kerrie) ssp. *setarius* in smaller leafed grass, not always conspicuously wavy, very little hair, leaves glabrous; it likes low shaded moist areas. *O. hirtellus* ssp. *setarius* occurs in southeastern US, up to coastal NC. Less robust, less hairy, but otherwise similar.

Q – what is deertongue?

A (Les, Kerrie) A native grass that grows along forest edges; moist, shady areas, much larger than the non-natives. Q: If there is a lot of it, it will be affected by herbicide spraying. A. Spraying can be very targeted and we should try to avoid the native grasses.

Susan Reines

I found that there is another lookalike, *Arthraxon hispidus*; it grows straight up and doesn't lie down and spread, and it tolerates high light conditions. . Jenn Truong commented that she has seen this lookalike as well.

Marc Imlay presented a map of presence/absence of WLBG, compiled by many volunteers searching for the grass in multiple public land locations.

- ❖ If we have volunteers pulling the grass, they can tell it is the invasive by the way it pulls (quite easily).
- ❖ (see handout)
- ❖ There are a large number of volunteers that have been pulling the invasive and making quite an impact on the plant's infestations.
- ❖ Asked all volunteers to keep an eye out for any other infestations anywhere they go and report them back. If found or not found, all was important data. Also how they treated it, if they treated it.
- ❖ In all, there are 13 sites where it has been found, and 12 of them are being treated. So far, treated areas have not had a recurrence.
- ❖ Next stage is to continue to monitor the sites. Just because removal is successful, ongoing monitoring is still required to be sure of success, because it is likely that there are small areas that may have been missed, and also, until we know what the pathway of spread are and are able to close those pathways, we cannot be sure there will not be reinvasions.

Q - in your volunteer training, do you explain about the importance of decontamination and how to prevent the spread?

A (Marc) Absolutely, and we will cover how to do this more this afternoon.

Q - (Bob Pickett) Removal by chemical and mechanical means have been effective. What about the seed bank viability?

A (Al Tasker) Sharon Talley thinks that there may be a lot of dormancy – up to 5 years before the seeds re-sprout. It could be affected by weathering, oxygen, any of many possible factors. We are trying to determine how much dormancy this grass has, because if sprouting skips a year or more, it may come back as a surprise many years later. Applying Roundup followed by pulling what remains is quite important, the follow-through is essential.

Q - It is important to get brochures and posters made up and downloadable on the web for posting by whomever may need it.

A (Robin Melton) We have posted 11x14" signs and instructions for the visitor about how to deal with the infestation and avoid its spread. There is a phone number to report new infestations. There has been a response by hunters, but we do restrict any non-essential activities during the fruiting time to avoid the spread of the seeds, as early as late August. (Kerrie) The seed will come off the plant before it is ripe, so there is a post-plant maturation that happens. Fruiting goes all the way into December, with October being the peak. (Robin) Signage can be focused on types of users. Maryland Correctional Enterprises charged \$700 in all for a combination of metal and cardboard signs. The wording is available in digital format, and Kerrie will post the digital form on the MD DNR Website.

Q - Has anyone seen the ornamental variety in flower?

A (Al Tasker) No.

Q (Gina Ramos) Can you tell us where folks have looked for the plant?

A (Marc Imlay) I estimate that 95% of MD and northern VA's public lands have not been reviewed. We can't speak to the rate of infestation on private lands. (Kerrie Kyde, Bradley Kennedy) We have heard from 25 private landowners who apparently do have infestations. There is federal funding available for treatment through Maryland's Landowner Incentive Program, but it is a 75%-25% cost share. Generally, LIP projects are done on land that has species or habitats at risk, even listed RTE species, but USFWS has been open to doing a large WLBG project on land even if there aren't rare species, because of the urgency of this new invasion.

Q (Bill Felton) It seems like deer may be our worst enemy on the spread of the species. Could we work on opening up areas to 'poison' the plant with sunshine?

A (Kerrie) it would be an effective strategy, but then what's there to protect? Thinning at Patapsco may inhibit WLBG, but other invasives who like sun would come in. (Mary Travaglini) Also, dappled light isn't enough. It has to be full sunshine to inhibit its growth.

Q - is the ornamental recommended for shade or sun?

A (Al) The one we have on hand was just for hanging baskets, part-shade.

Q (Melissa Bravo) what is our goal? Not eradication?

A (Kerrie) Absolutely. Eradication is our goal, and we are acting in time. Despite the apparent spreading, it is eradicable. There are perhaps 200 acres carpet-infested, maybe another 1000 acres patchily infested. We can do this.

Q (Kevin Heffernan) Have any data been selected on moisture, soil, elevation requirements?

A (Vanessa Beauchamp) We are beginning to do these studies this year, as a graduate student project. We are also going to work with NISS (Stohlgren) to predict future spread.

Q - Can we combine the control of WLBG with other control efforts, such as stiltgrass? It's better to work regionally with a small umbrella of species. Best to work on similar niches.

Q (Jake Hughes) In Shenandoah, it's almost always established at the base of trees.

A (Kerrie) We've not thought about that. On the riparian sites, we do find it under trees. But we don't find it along the open riverbank.

Experiences:

Jake Hughes – Shenandoah National Park; 80 acres, 10 heavily infested. Found in Oct 2005, didn't do much for first few years. Started treating last year. About 45 acres of outlying patches, with 2 percent glyphosate and nonionic surfactant. Seems to flower in late July, when spraying is less effective. 6 weeks later there was still

greenness. Tough and not responsive last year. We haven't posted the area. We may be creating an attractive nuisance if we do so.

(AI Tasker) Roundup works better late in the year; grass inhibitors are more effective early in the season. June/July should be treatment

Beth Pastore -- PEC land near Ashby Gap; 500 acre preserve.

Private area, may have been infested by hikers. We have about 3 acres of infestation, high meadows, not moist. In dappled shade.

Bill Felton -- Liberty Reservoir Watershed.

50 acres, plus. Have mapped it; are monitoring it. Another person working on the western edge is hand weeding acres of the area. There is a cross between patchy and carpeted infestations. Seems to be an affinity for pine forest edges. So it's not pH fussy, it seems.

Mary Travaglini -- Great Falls NP

Discovered during a native plant walk, and we pulled the spot. We searched 150 acres, found half an acre. Seeding but not sticky. In the fall, volunteer reported it at a Nature Conservancy preserve just north of Great Falls. Found it scattered across 20 acres, beyond pulling. Will be treating this year. We may consider having a separate set of gear for WLBG, as they do with *Miconia* in Hawaii. They use decontamination boxes. Use hazard labels, use special clothing that is taken off and wrapped, hip-wader style. Could be removed later in the season this way.

Joe Vogelpohl -- Patapsco Valley State Park

Worked with Civil Justice Corps kids, Governor's initiative, volunteers last year. Will be continued this year. We want to mark our boundaries, take pH measurements, slope, amount of canopy cover, soil moisture. Take all these measurements to see where the species is likely to be. It was discovered 10 years ago in a dump. We searched our park last year, and found it right away. Difficult to measure. Have both carpet and patch infestations. McKeldin is almost 1000 acres. Park is 16,000 acres, but the infestations seem to be concentrated in the northern end. 3-4K acres overall.

Jinx/Gina

Meadow wood. Not able to identify. That pix with all three species together was good. We will be examining both VA and MD properties, because we don't know if the grass is present. Quantico has requested a volunteer project, so they may be a good source of volunteers to pull the infestations. If the plots are 1/4 acre, it is doable by one or two volunteers. Peggy Dickenson will be involved too.

Ewoud Hulstein -- Baltimore County, Hernwood Sanitary Landfill

All over the HSL. We have a map on the areas infested, can send by email. It appears that there is too much to pull by hand. Because the County's Bureau of Solid Waste is currently under a consent decree from the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) regarding the surface water quality downstream of the landfill, we have concerns with the effects any chemical treatments might have on the water quality of the stream and thus the Bureau's standing with MDE. (AI) (AI) Half-life of glyphosate in soil or water is ~30 days, but the detection of glyphosate residues in soil does not mean it is bioavailable. (Ewoud) It is growing right next to a stream. (AI, Melissa) There are several herbicides that would be allowed, and several are OKed for adjacent to water use.

Q Has it been found in southern MD?

A (Kerrie) No, but it may be there. We have confirmed infestations in the Piedmont and the montane regions, and an unconfirmed report in Harford County, upper coastal plain.

Q (Karsten Ziemann) Why not spray past July?

A (Kerrie) Maybe I don't have to be adamant about it, but I don't want people in the area when the seeds are present. Also if we use the grass-selective herbicide, early summer is better (chemical is more effective).

Q What is the earliest one can start with chemical control?

A (Al) Late May or June. Need good leaf expansion for good foliar cover.

Q. (Melissa) Rhizomatic grasses do survive the winter. Would it still survive in PA, with the harsher climates?

A. (Kerrie) It is stoloniferous rather than rhizomatic, and native in the south island of NZ, and so survives freezing. A temperate, not a tropical species.

Damien Ossi – In the District, is not present along the C&O Canal, between river and canal (where there is *Microstegium*) Not at Ft. Totten, not at Arboretum by the water, nowhere along the Anacostia River; maybe along the seawall, need to look again.

(Mary T) It is present in Rock Creek Park in Montgomery County.

Q Is the seed light enough to float, or do they sink?

A (Les Mehrhoff) All seeds float at least to some degree. (Kerrie) Don't know viability after saturation either. We don't see it at the water edge because it's sunny. But if there is shade along the edge of streams, it will be there.

(Mary) Found two small patches in the floodplain of Rock Creek Park. Like stiltgrass which wasn't in lawns at first, and now it is, the behavior of WLBG can change over time. No doubt that wildlife is carrying it everywhere.

Q (Bob Noweirski) Do ants also move the seeds?

A (Kerrie) Don't think so, because they aren't eliasome-equipped. We have seen no insects whatsoever on this plant. (Les) Most grasses are wind-distributed.

(Marc, Kerrie) We would like to get folks in this room to commit to go out and look for the infestations on their own land units. As far as invasions go, this is a relatively new and relatively small one. It is possible to eradicate it. Small fairly local, not much of it here yet. If we can get attention and money and work together we can make this into a success story.

(Les) In New England, we want to raise the alert about this species, and keep it out. For New England, this is an early detection species (not present yet, but threatening).

(John Peter) Will this go under the Q37 rule? We need to stop it from coming in.

(Al Tasker). For the regulatory piece of this, what is holding us up is the taxonomy. If it is a reversion from a horticultural variety, it will affect things (make it harder, but not impossible). The folks working on the DNA/taxonomy of this species will get this clear for us. Apparently, the horticultural variety does not flower or set seed, so we think this is different. Therefore there is a good chance that we can regulate it. But we need to know where it came from. Did it come in as contamination on dunnage in the Port of Baltimore? As an ornamental, it is sold as an annual tropical, not a perennial temperate plant. Regulation is normally by species, not genus, so the taxonomy must be worked out so we *can* regulate it. (Les) It is an attractive plant in Asia. It could have been brought back by someone who snuck it through customs and planted it in their back yard, where it escaped. We suspect this because it seems to be rare and narrowly distributed in our area.

(John Peter) Another problem is that the horticultural trade doesn't make much distinction with the taxonomy of the species they distribute. (Kerrie) We are assuming that the Patapsco population is close to the initial introduction point, because of the density and abundance. If this is true, then we need to track the history of the incursion. (Jake) No one is sure when it was first introduced. When it was first spotted in 2005 in Shenandoah, it was well-established, so had likely been present for quite some time. Could it have been a contaminant in a native plant seed mix? The only reason to track the pathway is to be able to close that pathway and prevent future invasions.

(Jake) To answer Al's question about how fast it takes for it to "take off," one infestation was dinner table size, and one year later 10x greater.

What are we going to do about it?

(John Peter) We should practice the precautionary principle and act quickly. We do have an opportunity to stamp it out, before it gets to CT or down to GA. How long is the process for listing? (AI) The only thing we are waiting on is some confirmation about the taxonomy. Interim rule would be able to be in place in 6 months. Federal orders are only appropriate when there is a clear quarantine path that can be closed.

Q - What is the process for getting it on a voluntary list? Can we go through that process? Are we at that point? Why can't we say anything now? (Asking nurseries to remove the genus from their shelves.) (John Peter) There was a study done on voluntary response in FL (looked at their do-not-sell list) How effective was it? Not very, apparently.

(John Peter) I am working on a small grant project to create a certification for National Invasive Species-Free Certified Nursery status. Nursery industry is pushing back already on this, unfortunately.

(Les) What we really need to do is take it out of the woods where we know it occurs and keeping it from expanding throughout this area and beyond. Engaging the public is not premature; education to the public and the consumer should be started right now.

(Melissa) If we are a task force, since we don't know yet, we shouldn't release info that horticultural varieties are not OK.

However, we can take strong action on the ground, to control this invasion in our area. What do we need to be able to do this?

- ❖ Share our data on location and density
- ❖ Can we create a central repository for all locations? Suggest that we use EDDMaps to upload all data in one location.

Jill Swearingen gave a Powerpoint presentation, explaining EDDMapS (Early Detection and Distribution Mapping System)

- ❖ Developed for the Southeast Exotic Pest Plant Council by Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health
- ❖ Jill requested that it be expanded to the Mid-Atlantic and New York, wrote a proposal (\$55K) for a three-year project FY10-FY12. Funding will happen in March 2011 (slow stuff).
- ❖ Can we start it sooner with one species, wavyleaf basketgrass? With \$3K the system could be set up for this species, perhaps May of this year, says Chuck Bargeron.
- ❖ Various formats would be acceptable, point or polygon data are OK. Google Earth-based, i.e. KML files. Not only point files.
- ❖ As more data is submitted, the visualization is more useful. Good for early detection, and generates alerts via listserv when new incursions are found. It can also handle absence data and treated areas. Metadata can handle info on density of infestations.
- ❖ The system has a 300-strong list of invasive plants of the mid-Atlantic, reported by all different kinds of groups.
- ❖ Currently there are 80K records, 10K are point records.
- ❖ Works with USDA PLANTS DB for county level infestations (via Web services?)
- ❖ the system enables the creation of county lists
- ❖ Designated "reviewers" act as data quality control gatekeepers for each state. Records can be posted if not reviewed, but are listed as "unconfirmed."
- ❖ There are individually tailored reporting forms for the group, reporting one point at a time or by batch uploads.
- ❖ EDDMapS has a state "gatekeeper" who is responsible for validating submitted records. Initially the gatekeeper role isn't busy, but with time it is expected to be a full-time position.
- ❖ People to contact for different types of useful datalayers, like soil (NRCS Scott Peterson), temperature, rainfall, other types of climate data layers and ancillary data layers. Tom Stohlgren, Jeff Morissette (USGS Fort Collins), Neil Most (NASA).
- ❖ Other systems that are doing this kind of work:
 - TNC iMAPinvasives is a competitor, ESRI based, annual fee. Will include WIMS ability to track treatment.

- National Institute of Invasive Species Science (USGS) is a free system that can accept point data, polygons; batch uploads, online single occurrence reports, and excel spreadsheet uploads.
- ❖ What about tagging sightings that are confirmed and unverified. EDDMapS can do this, either by making them visible and a different color, or not showing on the map until verified.
- ❖ EDDMaps can take data in several different datums and units. There is a conversion calculator on the data reporting form that allows you to convert from one unit or datum system to another.

(Kerrie) Are the people in this room comfortable submitting their data to EDDMapS? General consensus is yes.

(Melissa) Are people collecting herbarium specimens? Where are they? (Kerrie) Yes, but not religiously.

Smithsonian has records. (Vanessa) Towson University has a herbarium that could be a repository. Need also to take samples in such a way that the plant can be correctly ID'd afterward.

(Kevin) If any VA occurrences are available, send data to Kevin Heffernan (VA Natural Heritage Program) and because VA is a member of iMapInvasives, he will get the data submitted there.

(Kerrie) What sort of structure do we need to have to get that money and where can we do it?

(Melissa) PA just formed a CWMA with the spearheading of one individual, one grant led to 5 grants; one townhall meeting. Grant money is for surveying and detection. One individual needs to be the coordinator, either locally or globally. (Marc) We have 4 areas that need to work on this; there needs to be 5 coordinators, that are geographically based. (Melissa) CWMAs are successful only if the volunteers and the coordinator live within 10 miles of an infestation.

(Mary) Knowing how much time and associated costs should be tracked by everyone. In kind contributions are important to keep track of. This enables the application for matching funds. Almost all funders require matching funds (and/or in kind contributions).

ACTION: Annie will create a WLBG-TF listserv, moderated.

ACTION: All will report to the listserv on hours worked, distances traveled, money spent on the control of WLBG EDDMapS form has coding for extent; need to be able to eyeball area.

Is there an iMAPinvasives form? Yes.

ACTION: Kerrie will check to get a page of the MD DNR website on WLBG established for documents of this taskforce; it would be open to the public.

Annie has access to setting up a project on a password protected site if the group wishes.

(Bob Nowierski) Michael Bowers at CSREES has two types of programs that could fund this project. Diana Jerkins djerkins@csrees.usda.gov is LOI national program lead. "Critical Issues Funding" at USDA Rick Meyer might be able to help. Funding ceiling is 50K. IPM Northeastern Center has a competitive grant program that could also help. Kerry Koplinter (Cornell) and John Aires (Penn State). Ceiling could be 70-125K. Also charged with creating Pest Alerts; pamphlets that could be posted on the Web. They would do that for free.

(Melissa) I question your numbers. Where did the \$1M estimate come from? (Kerrie) It is the estimate that the MDA weed control team and I came to for total eradication. This year, I will need \$50-100K for MD mapping and treatment wherever it is found, including private lands. This will take advantage of a broad group of volunteers.

Q - Getting federal moneys for this year may be tough, unless it can be put into something related to the stimulus package.

(Marc) NFWF funding (PTI) won't be available until next year.

(AI) 10-201 money on the Farm Bill may have funding that could be used this year (APHIS). Need to talk to Matt Royer. \$12M this year, \$45M next year is available.

(Mary) We need to be sure that funders understand that second year funding is essential for invasive plant control. Often there are plants that are missed, and the second year of control is much more effective, and may be final. But the first year rarely is enough.

We need to cooperate among several different agencies so that we can submit a proposal and share it across a broad range of partners, such as DNRs in MD and VA, DOD, FWS, TNC, Natural Heritage, BLM, NPS.

(Marc) If we refer to EDRR we may find that a proposal gets more attention. Sometimes we only need to slightly change the description to fit the interest of the funder.

We may find that joining forces will make our proposal more effective, because we are showing leveraging.

(James Åkerson) This field season, if we cooperate on the ground we can do some effective work. NPS has gone through USDI Solicitors in the past to gain permission to work with adjacent landowners. That is still possible even now before policy is established beneath PL-110-229 allowing cooperation. Working together helps us both control invasives and expand our effectiveness.

An important example of a park that needs to be examined right a way is Greenbelt NP, which is adjacent to a reserve that Marc Imlay has worked in.

(Erik Oberg, on the phone) What is the message we are conveying about WLBG? There is a Northern Virginia Urban Forestry Roundtable meeting coming up on 16 April focused on invasives, that will include folks from the VA Nursery & Landscape Association. What is the consensus about whether this is a reverted species? (Meghan Fellows noted that she will be presenting on regional efforts at the roundtable.)

(Melissa) (PA) we know the genus, but not the subspecies and do not have the answer.

❖ There is a division in opinion.

(John Peter) Precautionary Principle folks are here, too, and feel that we should assume it is a bad guy (the ornamental).

(John Peter) Is there a timeline for the taxonomic analysis? (Kerrie) Likely two years. (AI) Sharon has gotten \$6K to analyze, but it is not enough yet.

(Mary) What is to prevent anyone from picking up the wild plant and putting it into a pot and sell it? Especially since it is shade tolerant.

(Les) Suggestion: since the science is not yet in place, we need to state that the issue not resolved, and we should tell the nursery industry that we would like them to choose plants from another genus until the issue is resolved.

Even though we feel that the wild plants are not the same as the ornamental, members of this group should go to their plant centers and ask where they got the plants they are selling, inform them that it is potentially invasive, and request that they choose different plants.

In states where the ISCs are active, this issue should be brought up and nurseries should be alerted to the potential problem.

Back to funding: could everyone send to the listserv ideas for grants and dates.

(Marc) Canal Road leaving the city is important because it's in the Potomac Gorge and has rare/endangered species. Plan for the CWMA for DC does mention WLBG.

(Marc) Group should review the requirements of the organization of a CWMA.

(Kerrie) We encourage everyone here to draw on the members of this group to help with removal of an infestation.

(Mike Lusk). I don't think that there has been a comprehensive survey of FWS lands in the area.

(Melissa) The CWMA in PA sent 200+ letters to landowners to join. We should do that. Bradley and Kerrie, through the LIP project, are the ones who could get Maryland private landowners involved.

(Marc) Patuxent WLR has a monthly invasive species removal day (Christopher Wicken).

(Melissa) Potential problem: we don't have state forestry representatives here; the species could really be having an impact there; we need to get foresters to the table to make them aware of the problem (Carrie Gilbert from PA DCNR is a forester.)

Meeting adjourned 3:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Annie Simpson