

Minutes
Ramsey County Cooperative Weed Management Area Meeting
Wednesday, August 21, 2019; 12:30 pm – 3:30 pm

Arden Hills Army Training Site
4671 Hamline Ave N, Arden Hills, MN 55126

I. 12:30; Bring your own lunch, social time

II. Call to order and introductions, 12:50 pm. Participants: Carole Gernes, Ramsey County CWMA; Mary Lee, AHATS Environmental Specialist; Kim Fackler, MNDOT Roadside Vegetation; Justin Townsend and Yeng Lee, Ramsey County Parks and Recreation; Monika Chandler, Minnesota Department of Agriculture; Nancy Duncan, National Park Service; Maggie Barnick, City of St. Paul; Emily Dunlap, City of Maplewood; Dana Larsen-Ramsay, H.B. Fuller Company/Willow Lake Preserve.

III. Partner updates

A. Ramsey Parks and Recreation Division of Soil and Water / Ramsey County CWMA:

1. Status of herbicide treatments; Justin: Treatments are almost finished; Maplewood is complete, County Parks and landowners almost complete. Justin will begin to treat Japanese knotweed this fall, please add new reports as you find them. He has received new Japanese knotweed reports in South St. Paul and North Oaks. Carole has also been receiving more knotweed reports; two from the neighborhood near the Hwy 280/Eustis patch. Awareness increased due to Dawn Tanner's St. Anthony Paper article. Justin is asking for treatment MOU's (MNDOT and Ramsey County) to treat that patch. Carole will check another report in White Bear Lake after today's meeting. A short discussion of Japanese vs Bohemian knotweed flowers and leaves followed.
2. Monika and others discussed Oriental bittersweet at Town and Country Golf in St. Paul. It received one treatment (foliar), but was coming back and was in need of retreatment.
3. North Oaks Oriental bittersweet and buckthorn training
 - a. Carole received an email update today on her workshop date being changed from Wednesday, Sept 25th to Wednesday, October 2, 6:30 - 8:00 PM. She will cover identification, methods, safety.
 - b. Justin and Mark Rehder, North Oaks Forester, will host a Saturday, October 5th, removal in the field training day.

B. Additional partner updates:

Monika received a report about a mysterious common buckthorn die off from Glenn Fuchs with Anoka County Parks. Glenn is also the Anoka County Agricultural Inspector. This die off was observed on private property his friend manages near Paynesville. Bark peeled off the trunks and branches and buckthorn fell over. Monika along with Bob Dunning (Stearns Co. Ag. Insp.) visited the site near Paynesville and were surprised by buckthorn death they observed. Bob then took a closer look at the buckthorn on his property in St. Cloud and noticed similar symptoms. MDA's new plant pathologist, Michelle Grabowski, was very interested in this. Monika, Michelle and Sasha Lodge (DNR Forestry Division's new invasive plant coordinator) went to Bob's property in St. Cloud and collected samples. These

samples were given to the Blanchette lab (U of M forest pathology). There are no results available yet from the Blanchette lab. It is not clear at this stage whether there is a pathogen involved or if something else is going on. Links to image albums are below.

[Diseased buckthorn in St. Cloud](#)

[Diseased buckthorn near Paynesville](#)

1. Mary gave a brief history of AHATS, which used to be 12 farmsteads. Sheep were used for fire suppression. There are now 1500 acres, 300 of which are the cantonment area (buildings and structures). It is Federal land; there is no live fire (ammo) on the property. Mary has been using corrections crews this year to remove Siberian elm. The crews consist of 10 prisoners with ankle bracelets with a supervisor. It is very affordable; you pay for a 10 hour day and get about 7.5 hours of work, for about \$750 per day. This is an overtime crew that works on projects that do not require a long-term commitment. Contact Mary if you'd like contact information.
2. Dana Larsen-Ramsay has a full time seasonal position open if anyone knows someone who would be a good fit. Pay is \$16 per hour. Justin suggested Ramsey County Workforce Solutions.

III. Next meeting date and location

- A. Carole will set up another Doodle Poll for our next meeting, likely in late October/ November. One possibility would be the Bell herbarium. She has not contacted the new herbarium curator yet. Carole asked for topic suggestions.
 1. Justin suggested bringing in an herbicide rep for an herbicide/ adjuvant/ sticker workshop. Carole agreed that the MNDOT spring applicators trainings she attended included a rep and they were very informative.

IV. Biocontrol release and tour

- A. Mary, Carole and Monika looked for root weevils in advance of this field tour and didn't find any so we will not be collecting them. Monika said that seedhead weevils fly well and are now distributed on knapweed in all but very isolated locations. Mary released a container of root weevils from Montana. Montana has been a hub for knapweed biocontrol, but they are running out of knapweed so that may change. The knapweed was significantly reduced at a previous root weevil release site at AHATS.
- B. We stopped at a pre-determined spotted knapweed area to release beetles. Beetles are large weevils with a pattern that blends into flower involucres. Monika brought along an artificial knapweed with preserved biocontrol beetles glued onto it, showing where they would be found on the plant for collection purposes. The release site was staked to provide a reference point for future visits/ visualization of control success.
- C. The group caravanned to the north end of the site to see a former release area and to look for beetles. There was a large part of the field that was knapweed-free. Many of the remaining blooming flowers had the small seed head feeding weevils, but we did not see any root-boring weevils. There was a large pile of Siberian elms that had been cut by the corrections crew. We continued to look for root weevils, and discussed the off-schedule bloom times this year, and that it wasn't hot enough to see beetles. The group took photos throughout the tour. Photos emailed to Carole will be forwarded to the group.

V. Adjourn meeting, 3:20 pm. The group carpooled back to the parking lot.