

**Minutes**  
**Ramsey County Cooperative Weed Management Area Meeting**  
**Wednesday, February 23 2011, 1:00 p.m.**

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

**I. Meeting opened at 1:05 pm**

A. Attendance:

1. Attendees: Monika Chandler – MN Dept of Agriculture, Katy Chayka – volunteer, Nancy Duncan – NPS Mississippi River, Ginny Gaynor – City of Maplewood, Carole Gernes – RCCWMA, John Moriarty - Ramsey County Parks, Dana Larsen-Ramsay – H.B. Fuller, Laura Van Riper – MN DNR.
2. Introductions: participants introduced themselves. Carole added that Katy was not only a volunteer, but had discovered many of the new populations of targeted species in the county. She also supplied many of the photos used in the RCCWMA fliers and presentations and has a great website, [mnwildflowers.info](http://mnwildflowers.info).

**II. Action Items**

A. Partner updates

1. Carole gave an FYI that Dewayne Jones is adding Oriental bittersweet to the DOT watch list and is busy working on the new pesticide general permit/1200 acre threshold.
2. Monika gave an Oriental bittersweet update: it is proposed to be listed as prohibited/eradicate on the MN noxious weed list, but may be re-evaluated next year. It is also on the watch list for the Woodland Health Diagnostic Network's "Forest First Detectors" (and is the only invasive plant on that list). Their main focus is Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), gypsy moth, thousand cancer disease of walnut and BOB (Bur Oak Blight; a new fungal disease).

On the topic of EAB, Monika discussed additional upcoming wasp releases in Houston County, Tower Hill Park and across the river from the park in Minneapolis. Releases will occur when the bioagents become available, probably in May. Twelve release trees will be monitored.

3. John informed the group that the ash tree injection chemical treatments are working, and ashes within Ramsey County Park "active use areas" will be treated on a four year rotation. EAB are kept away by injection treatments longer than originally thought (2 years). The county will be treating 1600 ashes this year. Another 300 will be cut down. He reiterated that chemical drenches do not work and contaminate the area around tree bases. He also said that EAB aren't attacking black ash as much as the green or white ash, but that situation may change as green and white ash populations decline. A discussion developed about how treatments affect other insect species dependent on ash. Forty-three other arthropod species are dependent on

ash during part of their life cycle. Since treatment is being done on a triage basis in pocketed areas, populations of other arthropod species are not likely to be affected on a large scale.

John reported that treating the Battle Creek Park tansy, with Transline<sup>®</sup>, was fairly successful. He mentioned an LCCMR grant awarded to Como Nature Classroom Area to remove buckthorn, install plantings, signage, do trail work and teacher trainings @ \$218,000. He also mentioned that the county received a biomass grant for Battle Creek Park.

Carole suggested a spring teasel dig in Roseville as a group. John said part of the infestation was on private property, but we had previous permission to treat it. John thought it would be easier to just spray it. Both Carole and Paul had removed flowering/seed heads. Carole reported that it appeared to be spreading south and east, but maybe those plants were just remaining outliers that survived earlier spraying. Carole should contact Chuck Fiedler about this.

4. Update on Carole's activities:
  - a. New "Not-Wanted", narrowleaf bittercress and Maplewood Invasive Plant Patrol program fliers posted on website. Japanese hedge parsley flier started. A discussion took place about several Japanese hedge parsley look-alikes and how to approach those on the flier. A link to a good online look-alike page could be added to the flier, or Dana suggested adding look-alike info to the back of the flier.
  - b. Submitted article to MN Plant Press: pilot Maplewood Invasive Plant Patrol Monitoring program with a request for volunteers. Informational program set for March 22, 7:00 pm; Maplewood Nature Center (9 registered as of today). Training date for volunteers: Saturday, April 9, 1:00 - 3:00 pm.
  - c. Requested/received help from Ramsey County Master Gardeners: call for volunteers and link to RCCWMA webpage
  - d. Arranged announcement/recruitment of March 22<sup>nd</sup>/ April 9<sup>th</sup> monitoring/training programs in MN Horticulture Society's and MN Master Naturalists' online calendars
  - e. Set up RCCWMA Facebook page (needs more work)
  - f. Press releases, re: pilot Maplewood monitoring program
  - g. Protocol, Power Point and materials for monitoring program nearing completion
  - h. Attended meeting for and will present/table at "Landscape Revival- Native Plant Sale and Expo", Saturday, June 9<sup>th</sup>, in Roseville.
  - i. CWMA budget- Grants:
    1. Approximately 675 hours/\$10,132 NPS grant used, as of February 22, 2011
    2. Maplewood providing monies for Invasive Plant Patrol Monitoring program development (140 hours)
    3. Applied for Minnesota Naturalist Association Environmental Stewardship Grant for GPS and accessories (small grant).
    4. Looking into other grant possibilities as time allows

### III. New Business/Open discussion

- A. Inclusion of Japanese hedge parsley as target species: a flier should be produced, but it shouldn't be added to the "Not Wanted" Flier because of space limitations and the problem with look-alikes (see above).
- B. Laura is on the MN Noxious Weed Advisory Committee. She reported that Oriental bittersweet, Grecian foxglove, and yellow starthistle have been proposed for placement in the prohibited noxious weed/eradicate category. Future species assessments will look at each species and their:  
High damage potential  
Surrounding area  
How reasonable enforcement will be  
Teasels and narrowleaf bittercress are in line to be evaluated. They are not listed at this time. The changes in the Noxious Weed Law have not been instated; it must be signed by the MDA commissioner first.
- C. Katy asked about non-native, invasive poison hemlock, *Conium maculatum*. This is a different species than the native water hemlock, *Cicuta maculata*. She pulled/collected some at Long Lake Regional Park, and brought a specimen to the University of Minnesota herbarium. Carole's note: fact sheets can be found at <http://www.invasive.org/browse/subinfo.cfm?sub=4365> and [http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/invasivetutorial/poison\\_hemlock.htm](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/invasivetutorial/poison_hemlock.htm).
- D. Additional presentation/education opportunities:  
Monika suggested that we set up a group weed tour in late summer; maybe late July; stopping at a couple of sites. The tour could be for master gardeners, master naturalists and others. We could see some of the new things (teasel) and common things like bird's foot trefoil. She suggested contacting the DOT to see if they could provide transportation for about 50 people. John had good sites in mind and would help set it up. Carole said she would contact Dewayne Jones, at MN DOT, about transportation possibilities.
- Ramsey County and State Fairs: John said fliers could just be left on the Parks table at the county fair for people to pick up. Nancy said National Parks has had a booth at the state fair. Last year it was in the Dairy building. Laura said there was a possibility to have an invasives table in or near the DNR building. Laura will check into that. Someone suggested that the Maplewood volunteers may help staff the booth or maybe hookup with another group for a booth.
- E. Carole will contact Amy Rager re; the Minnesota Master Naturalist annual meeting at Northwestern College as per John's suggestion.
- F. Grants: Monika and others suggested pooling and combining CWMA's to conserve money. They could be grouped into regions similar to the MN DOT region maps. NCRS (USDA) funding was mentioned, but now is better for rural than urban areas.
- G. Other:  
Conversation turned to identifying Oriental bittersweet before fruiting stage. The id fact sheet from Great Lakes Science Center was recommended. Here is the link Carole found from USGS: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/hoosier/docs/plants/Bittersweet.pdf>

Gypsy moths were brought up. The goal now is to slow the spread and not eradication. BtK is being sprayed and pheromone traps used. Volunteer monitors are needed.

**IV. Set next meeting date and location:**

A. An April meeting was suggested. Carole will set up another Doodle poll for April.

**V. Meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm**

Respectfully submitted by Carole Gernes, 2/28/11

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