

Mid-Atlantic Pest Plant Council, Inc.

Annual Report

2001-2002

OUR MISSION

To address the problem of invasive exotic plants and their threat to the Mid-Atlantic region's economy, environment, and human health by

- *providing leadership*
- *facilitating information development and exchange*
- *coordinating regional efforts*

**Mid-Atlantic
Exotic Pest Plant Council
2001-2002**

Officers

Art Gover, President (interim)
Lisa Smith, Vice President (interim)
Faith Campbell, Treasurer
Emily Grafton, Secretary

Board of Directors

Olin Allen (interim)
Carole Bergmann
Joe Demko
Carol Jelich
Deborah Herr
Marc Imlay
Jeanne Knight
Kerrie Kyde (interim)
Betsy Lyman
Michael Schwartz
Lisa Smith
Jil Swearingen

**Mid-Atlantic
Exotic Pest Plant Council, Inc.**
P.O. Box 38
Dickerson, MD 20842

www.se-eppc.org/states/midatlantic.cfm

List serve: ma-eppc@yahoogroups.com

A non-profit 501(C)(3) organization

Letter from the President

Dear Members,

The Mid-Atlantic Exotic Pest Plant Council (MA-EPPC) has had a challenging year since our last business meeting in Swarthmore in August 2001.

Leading up to the August 2001 meeting, the Founding Board of Directors put forth a tremendous effort in establishing the foundation of the Council, and consequently created a large pair of shoes to fill. There certainly have been times when I questioned whether we could fill those shoes.

Not long after the Swarthmore meeting, the new board and officers were confronted with what we perceive to have been a veiled threat from the American Seed Trade Association - a cordial letter from their high-priced and well known legal counsel - regarding the composition of our publicity list of invasive species that we introduced at Swarthmore. As a group we found this highly disconcerting. After comforting ourselves that we were right, we realized that did not matter. With the average cost of lawsuit defense for non-profits averaging \$147,000, we started working on Plan B. We shelved that version invasive species list, and found ourselves wringing our hands over questions such as whether to invest a substantial portion of our limited treasury in Directors and Officers Liability Insurance - rather than devoting our energies to protecting native plant communities from invasive exotic plants. ASTA's ploy was brutally effective, and that organization will always dwell in a special place in our hearts.

To make matters more challenging, in December 2001, our recently elected president resigned. I assumed the presidency from my post of vice-president. This was a setback, as Laurie Anne Albrecht brought a certain energy to the post, and had definite objectives she wanted the MA-EPPC to achieve, particularly in the area of making our efforts better known. I on the other hand, have been taking more of a caretaker role and 'fighting fires', rather leading us to the next step.

Clearly, if we are going to wear the EPPC mantle for the entire Mid-Atlantic, we have to be prepared for the consequences of trying to run with the big dogs. The invasive species issue cuts across a lot of stakeholder groups. Most may say they adhere to the worldview espoused in the mission statement of the MA-EPPC, but their version of that worldview may differ.

While brushing the dust off ourselves, we were able to tally some tangible successes. In January, the MA-EPPC co-sponsored an invasive species symposium and field workshop with the Northeastern Weed Science Society (NEWSS) and Fairmount Park System in Philadelphia. This session provided a significant boost to NEWSS meeting registration, and provided an opportunity to have practitioners of native plant ecology and activism, and weed scientists discuss the substantial common ground that they share.

The planning for the 2003 Conference (Aug. 6 & 7, Univ. of Pennsylvania) has proceeded well, under the able guidance of the conference committee and the Morris Arboretum, and the program is nearly set. The Outreach Committee has established a very workable workshop framework and

is beginning to assemble a diverse list of field view/work opportunities.

This meeting will see the initiation of our second 'official' year of operation, with the welcoming of several new board members. It will also mark the occasion where several of the people who played a fundamental role in the formation of the MA-EPPC will step off the board. We will be challenged by the new infusion of talent to live up to the aspirations of the Council.

The challenge of the board and officers will be to sharpen our focus, and to better utilize the talents of the membership. Our goal is big, and requires the minds and hands of our members. I hope you all will join us - opportunities abound on the many committees and working groups. We can only truly make progress towards our goal with an activist membership.

The Board of Directors and I look forward to the opportunity to work with you.

Best Regards,



Art Gover
President

COMMITTEE REPORTS Summary of FY01 Activities

CONFERENCE/ANNUAL MEETING COMMITTEE

Submitted by Betsy Lyman

Betsy Lyman, Co-Chair
Art Gover, Co-Chair

Background:

The Conference/Annual Meeting Committee is charged with planning and organizing MA-EPPC's annual meetings and any conferences it decides to sponsor or cosponsor. For the next few years, this committee will work on the following activities:

- Decide on a suitable time, place and activity for each annual meeting.
- Work with the Board and the Nominating Committee in getting out the agenda and slate of Board candidates to the membership 60 days before each annual meeting.
- Spearhead MA-EPPC's involvement in the planning of a major two-day conference with Morris Arboretum and other cosponsors in August of 2003.
- Plan to produce conferences in different parts of the EPPC region (outside of southeast PA). This will mean taking on the logistical planning that Morris Arboretum did in 2001 and is doing for 2003.

FY01 Activities:

On August 14 & 15, 2001, MA-EPPC cosponsored its first conference during which it held its first annual meeting and elected its first Board. The conference was entitled "Invasive Plants: Action on all Fronts" and was held at Swarthmore College in southeastern Pennsylvania. Over 300 people attended each day and EPPC netted \$3,500 from conference proceeds. The conference was cosponsored with Morris Arboretum of the Univ. of Pennsylvania, which handled most of the logistics of the conference, along with several other

agencies, businesses and non-governmental organizations. The conference was so successful that EPPC, Morris Arboretum and The Nature Conservancy of PA decided to cosponsor another 2-day conference in 2003. The planning for that conference began in the fall of 2001. Save August 6 & 7, 2003, on your calendars for this conference, which will be held at the Univ. of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia.

On August 7 & 8, 2002, MA-EPPC holds its Annual Business Meeting at Canaan Valley Resort & Conference Center in Davis, West Virginia. Board member Emily Grafton organized much of this meeting, which features speakers Rodney Bartgis of The Nature Conservancy of WV, Dr. Ronald Fortney of West Virginia University, and Russ McClain of The Nature Conservancy of WV. A field trip/work session is planned for the afternoon, during which yellow flag (*Iris pseudacorus*) will be removed from a sensitive wetland area in Canaan Valley State Park.

SPEAKERS BUREAU

Submitted by Lisa Smith

Lisa Smith, Chair

Members:

Bill Curran

Dan Barringer

Mary Handley

The Speakers Bureau committee has been hard at work developing a standard presentation for use by its members and affiliates who are interested in spreading the word about invasive plants. This presentation will be available in PowerPoint format as well as slide format, and will include text that should give guidance to people who have not presented on the subject in the past, or those who have but are looking for an alternative presentation. The intention is to keep the talk general enough for individuals to make alterations or to make the talk more specific to the region they represent. Aside from educating more individuals, organizations, agencies, private

and professional groups, etc. about the threat that invasive plants pose, the goal of the presentation is to inform the public about the MA-EPPC and the resource that it provides. The Speakers Bureau intends to make this resource available to members via its list serve and website by the end of fall.

A second product that is being worked on by the committee is a "Directory for Invasive Weeds of the Northeast." This web-based directory is being developed by committee member Dr. Bill Curran at Penn State University's Department of Crop and Soil Science. Bill has made this website resource available through Penn State's Weed Science website at <http://weeds.cas.psu.edu>.

ON-THE-GROUND WORKSHOPS

Submitted by Lisa Smith

Lisa Smith, Co-chair
Marc Imlay, Co-chair

Members:

Carole Bergmann
Joan Ehrenfeld
Mary Handley
Todd Klawinski
Jeanne Knight
Risa Marmontello
Laura Mol
Jane Osburn
Louisa Thompson
Pia van de Venne

One of the stated objectives under the mission statement of the MA-EPPC is "to facilitate communication and exchange of information regarding all aspects of exotic pest plant control and management." In an effort to meet this objective and the needs of our members, the OTG Workshop Committee is organizing a series of one-day workshops that will be hosted by MA-EPPC partner organizations, agencies, individuals or other institutions that are conducting on-the-ground invasive plant projects that address control, management, outreach, volunteer efforts, and identification. The

idea is to offer workshops throughout the Mid-Atlantic region so that members can take advantage of information that is pertinent to their local and regional problems.

The committee has organized a number of workshops so far with still more to be scheduled for 2002. The annual meeting workshop at Canaan Valley State Park, WV on *Iris pseudacorus* is the first of the official workshops being sponsored by MA-EPPC. Workshops will be advertised on the organization's list serve and website hosted at www.se-eppc.org, as well as affiliate member newsletters, and websites-

Another important function of the OTG Workshop Committee is to advertise and communicate other organizations' on-the-ground efforts. In many cases MA-EPPC members are invited to participate. This is another way in which we intend to meet the needs of our members who are looking for education opportunities around the issue of invasive plants. We are always looking for great workshop opportunities for our members so please let us know if you'd be willing to sponsor a workshop or know someone who might.

POLICY COMMITTEE

Submitted by Faith Campbell

Faith Campbell, Chair

In January 2001, the U.S. Government adopted a National Invasive Species Management Plan. Implementation of the Plan was initially delayed while it was evaluated by the incoming Bush Administration. By mid-2002, however, federal agencies and members of the non-governmental Invasive Species Advisory Committee began to focus on steps to realize the Plan's highest priority recommendations.

Stakeholders concerned about invasive plant issues are well represented on the Advisory Committee. Members focused on invasive

plant issues include Faith T. Campbell, member of the board of the MA-EPPC; Ann Bartuska of The Nature Conservancy; George Beck, weed scientist from Colorado State University; Gary Beil, representing the seed trade; Gabriela Chavarria of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation; Barbara Cooksley, a Nebraska rancher; Bill Dickerson of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture; Nelroy Jackson, weed scientist retired from Monsanto; Kirk Miller, representing grain exporters; Craig Regelbrugge, representing the nursery trade; Sarah Reichard, an invasive plant expert from the University of Washington; and Randall Stocker, weed scientist from the University of Florida.

Information about the national invasive species effort, and the text of the Plan, can be obtained from www.invasivespecies.gov

MA-EPPC has endorsed the St. Louis Principles and Draft Voluntary Codes of Conduct adopted at a workshop held at the Missouri Botanical Garden in December 2001. The Board determined that these principles, and implementing voluntary guidelines, are major steps forward in addressing the risk of invasive plant species being introduced and spread through the horticultural and seed trades.

In our letter endorsing the St. Louis Declaration, the MA-EPPC welcomed particularly the express promise in the voluntary guidelines for nursery professionals to phase out sale of plants agreed by nursery associations, government, academia, and ecology and conservation organizations to be a threat in particular regions.

The participants in the St. Louis workshop will reconvene in October 2002 to evaluate the reception of the St. Louis Declaration and outline future steps. MA-EPPC expressed its intention to work with the originators and other concerned entities to develop and implement sound programs to

reduce the damage caused by invasive exotic plants.

To obtain a copy of the St. Louis principals, visit www.mobot.org/iss

Our letter of support will be posted at www.se-eppc.org; click on "Mid-Atlantic" under "Affiliate Chapters".

WEBSITE COMMITTEE

Submitted by Kerrie Kyde

Kerrie Kyde, Chair

Members:

Nancy Benton

Kathy Bilton, web arranger

Joe Demko

Annie Lemarie, web designer

Michael Schwartz, Webmaster-to-be

The current web presence of MA-EPPC is through the good graces of the SE-EPPC, which generously provides a link from its site and postings to a page for us (www.se-eppc.org/states/midatlantic.cfm). Right now, that page consists primarily of archived agenda and minutes.

We are midway through planning an independent website of our own. Plans so far include:

- * an introductory/home page and welcome with information about who, what and why we are and how to join:

- * the list of invasive plants in the Mid-Atlantic region, compiled from member state lists, with links to peer-reviewed and "gray literature" citations about these species:

- * a gardening page with explanations of why and how to avoid invasives, an alternative plant list, links to native plant societies and weed picture sites:

- * a management and control page with reports gleaned from published sources on controlling individual species, cross-referenced by habitat and habit; members'

postings of their management experiences and attempts:

- * an organizational structure page with names of Board members and Officers, a current meeting and workshop schedule, a membership sign-up sheet and instructions to subscribe to or unsubscribe from the list serve. This will link to a page with complete descriptions of upcoming workshops and meetings and on-line registration, AND to a corporate records page with minutes and meeting agendas.
- * a Sources page with information on native plant growers/retailers, tools and equipment dealers, books, volunteer organizations and weed-buster groups.

There will be more as we think of it and design it. We WELCOME membership input on content and layout. What sort of information would you like to be able to retrieve and/or post to your website, what links to other groups should be included, how would you like to see things laid out? Please let us know by sending suggestions to Kerrie at terraclara@earthlink.net.

LIST SERVE COMMITTEE

Submitted by Carol Jelich

Carol Jelich, Chair

Members:

Art Gover

Betsy Lyman

The MA-EPPC list serve has become an important way for MA-EPPC to meet ~~our~~ its goal of facilitating information exchange at the regional level. Begun May 18, 1999, with 38 members, the list serve had grown to over 150 members by July 2002. The list serve members cover a broad range, judging by their e-mail extensions: .com, .edu, .net, .org, .state.us (including all states in our region, as well as .vt and .tn), and new this year, an international member -- .uk.

In calendar year 2001, a total of 304 messages were posted to the list serve.

Usage has continued to increase since its inception: in the first seven months of 2002, 307 messages were posted. Messages cover a range of topics, including biology and control of particular species; impacts of invasive species on wildlife and ecosystems; landscape alternatives; legislative and policy alerts at the federal, regional, and state levels; articles, radio shows, and other media reports on invasive species topics; meeting and conference announcements; potentially invasive introductions into the region; and research reports.

In the interest of fostering full information exchange, the board of MA-EPPC has decided to keep the list serve open to the public, rather than restricting its use to members of the Council. To subscribe, send a blank e-mail message to ma-eppc-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Submitted by Carol Jelich

Carol Jelich, Chair

In 2001, MA-EPPC became incorporated and gained 501(c)(3) status. At that time, we designed a membership brochure and began accepting paid memberships. During 2001 and 2002, 97 individuals or organizations have paid membership fees or have donated to MA-EPPC. Of these, NEED A NUMBER HERE individual members took advantage of the membership discount packaged with attendance at our 2001 conference. Remaining memberships were mailed with full fees.

Most of our members are from Pennsylvania, followed by Maryland. The regional breakdown of the number of members is as follows:

Washington, DC - 3

Delaware - 5

Maryland - 24

New Jersey - 8

New York - 2

Pennsylvania - 41
Virginia - 8
West Virginia - 6

By far, our largest membership category is "Individual." The numbers of members in categories to date are as follows (includes donations, 2001, and 2002 memberships):

Contributing -- 5
Donor - 2
Individual - 80
Institutional - 4
Lifetime Individual - 3
Student/Senior - 3

Over the next year, the membership committee will focus on recruiting and retaining members. List serve users and stakeholders throughout the region are potential members of MA-EPPC, so we expect to be able to increase our membership substantially.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE Submitted by Art Gover

Art Gover, Chair

The nominating committee presented the following slate of candidates for officers and directors at the 2002 annual business meeting. Since that time, two of our board candidates withdrew, and in the process we have lost the services of our Secretary, Emily Grafton.

The candidates for President and Vice-President are already acting in that capacity, filling vacated seats. If elected, they would serve for one more year to complete the vacated terms. If candidates are elected from the floor, they will serve for two years, as described in the Council's By-laws.

Candidates for Board of Directors will serve for two years.

President: Art Gover
Vice President: Lisa Smith

Directors:
Olin Allen
Joe Demko
Emily Grafton - withdrawn
Debbie Herr
Cynthia Huebner
Sylvia Kaufman
Kerrie Kyde
Mary Ann Lawler
Betsy Lyman - withdrawn
Jeff Wagner

LIST COMMITTEE Submitted by Art Gover

Art Gover, Chair

We refer to our list as the Publicity List. The intent of the list is provide an educational tool to explain the impact of invasive species, and to provide a thumbnail sketch of what types of plants are invasive. The list included 51 species. Several were intentionally introduced plants that are still widely utilized. Our document explicitly stated that this list was not a compilation of the '50 worst' invasive species - rather it was a list of 51 species that illustrated the breadth and depth of the problem. Many of our most vexing invasive weed problems come from plants we introduced for horticultural or conservation purposes. 'We have met the enemy, and he is us' - Pogo, Walt Kelly

The first version of the list made its public debut at the 2001 annual business meeting at Swarthmore.

In September 2001, the MA-EPPC received a letter from the legal counsel of the American Seed Trade Association (ASTA) expressing concern about the openness of the list formation process. ASTA is a national organization represented by a law firm highly regarded for its litigation capabilities. Even though no explicit legal issue was raised, the Council was sufficiently intimidated to realize that we

were not willing to enter the legal fray to defend our list.

There is a new and improved publicity list in the works. Our approach will be to compile already available lists from the mid-Atlantic region into one document. Much like the first version, the text will explain the nature of the problem, but go to greater lengths to

highlight the complex issues surrounding economic species that serve a useful purpose in a particular setting, but are insufferable weeds in other settings. The committee chair will reform the committee in the near future, and the revised publicity list will take its place on our website, and be available at the 2003 conference in Philadelphia.

Many thanks to our donors and to those who have become members of the Mid-Atlantic Exotic Pest Plant Council this year. The accomplishment of our goals would not be possible without their essential support.

Individual Members/Donors

James Akerson
Laurie Anne Albrecht
Paul Anderson
Daniel Barringer
Margaret Baseden
Lawrence T. Beckerle
John Beckman
Karen Bennett
Carole Bergmann
Keith Bowers
Karen Budd
Jonathan Burnworth
Dennis Burton
Faith Campbell
Tamala J. Campbell
Susan D. Charkes
Maureen Collins
John L. Cox
William S. Curran
Joseph S. Demko
Dr. Joan Ehrenfeld
Rebecca Feldberg
Jan Ferrigan
Chris Firestone
Japheth Fitzpatrick
Peter H. Flint
Tara Fuad
Mark Gallagher
Art Gover
Emily Grafton
Marshall Hamilton
Dick Hammerschlag
Mary K. Handley
Deborah Herr Cornwell, RLA
Cynthia D. Huebner, Ph.D.
Larry Hurley
Marc Imlay
Carol S. Jelich

David Johnson
Karen Johnston
Paul A. Johnston
Sylvan Kaufman
Todd Klawinski
Jeanne Knight
Kerrie Kyde
Marion M. Kyde
Mary Ann Lawler
Jody E. Lewis
Ann Porter Lundy
Betsy Lyman
Jeff Lynch
Dr. Carol C. Mapes
Risa Marmontello
Alan Marshall
William C. McBride
Brian R. McDonald
Patrick N. McElhenny
Kathy McGregor
Rebecca G. Mead
Sally Mirick
David A. Mortensen
Nancy Olson
Jane Osburn
Laurie Parendes
Mary Pockman
Patricia Ann Quigley
Charles Rafkind
Kristina Ragley
Christina Ramos
Hans O. Reimann, Jr.
Susan Richards
Andrew W. Saul
Connie Schmotzer
Michael Schwartz
Stella S. Scott
Mary Jane Seipler

Lisa Smith
Neal R. Spencer
Carole Stober
Jil M. Swearingen
Edith Thompson
John Peter Thompson
Louisa Thompson
Georgia Carol Townsend
Janine Trudeau
Michael Van Clef
Pia van de Venne
Mike Weaver
Harriet Wentz
Phyllis N. Windle
Jeff Wolinski
Jean Worthley
Floyd Yoder

Institutional
Members/Donors

Adkins Arboretum

The Nature Conservancy of
Pennsylvania

Octoraro Native Plant
Nursery

Western Pennsylvania
Conservancy

Mid-Atlantic EPPC
Budget for Fiscal Year 2002

Cash Balance Available as of April 1, 2002	\$ 7,428.04
Income April 1 - July 10, 2002	
Expenses, April 1 - July 10, 2002	
- dues to Maryland Association of Nonprofit Organizations	\$ 50
- cover expenses of Lisa Smith to represent MA-EPPC at SE-EPPC meetings	\$ 200
- room rental for annual meeting	\$ 200
Income, April 1 - July 10, 2002	
- dues	\$ 165
- conference registration fees	\$ 50
Cash Balance Available as of July 11, 2002	\$7,192,88
Anticipated Expenses:	
- food for annual meeting:	\$ 200
- materials for Speakers' Bureau:	\$ 700
- dues to Maryland Association of Nonprofit Organizations	\$ 100
- funds allocated to cover expenses of people representing MA-EPPC at others' meetings	\$ 800
Other Budgeted or Possible Expenses:	
- loan to MISC to reprint brochure	\$1,200
- reprinting of MA-EPPC membership brochure	?
- establishing own website	?
- print our list of invasive plants	?
- converting poster to plastic format that can be rolled & carried	?
Sources of Anticipated Income :	
renewal of membership dues	
new memberships	
conference registration fees	

RECEIPTS & DISBURSEMENTS STATEMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2001

Cash Balance as of April 1, 2001 \$ 649.84

Receipts

Dues \$ 3,882.20
 Gift \$ 200.00
 Conference Proceeds \$ 3,500.00

Total Receipts \$ 7,582.20

Total Funds available for Fiscal Year 2001 **\$ 8,232.04**

Disbursements

Bank Charges (\$ 66.50)
 Products for Sale (\$ 627.50)
 Membership Dues (\$ 60.00)
 Meeting Site (\$ 50.00)

Total Disbursements **(\$ 804.00)**

Cash Balance as of March 31, 2002 **\$ 7,428.04**

On my review of the accounting records for fiscal year 2001, I verify the reconciliation of the account as stated in the above report.

Robert H. [Signature]

7.12.2002

Disb

Ban

Pro

Men

Me

Upo

rec

[Signature]