

**Minutes for the MAPB Annual Scientific Meeting**  
**Saturday, November 29, 2008**  
**Carolyn Sifton Theatre, University of Manitoba,**  
*Theme—Invasive Plant Species*

**12:30 pm Registration**

**1:00 pm Welcome**

**Introductions** of the poster presenter, Jeff Renton and the first presenter Julie Pelc.

**Speakers:**

**Julie Sveinson Pelc.**

As the Coordinator for the Invasive Species Council of Manitoba, Julie presented “An Overview of the Invasive Species Council of Manitoba”. The role of the coordinator is to basically attempt to coordinate the efforts of various groups working to control/eradicate invasive species. The first coordinator was appointed in April 2007 and there also now is a Manitoba government representative involved. There are four major groups of invasive species; invasive aquatics, wildlife, insects and associated diseases, and invasive plants. Objectives of the council are the prevention and eradication (if possible) of invasives. Other roles are to coordinate efforts between various groups, to promote monitoring of invasives, to encourage research on invasive species and to promote an awareness of invasives. Available literature includes a quarterly electronic newsletter, an annual “unwanted invaders” calendar, best management practices publications for industry and a pocket field guide. GIS training for the mapping of invasives, the development of an invasive plant mapping database, and public presentations are other ongoing initiatives. There are always ongoing projects involving the removal of invasive species, such as European Buckthorn.

**Doug Cattani**

Doug is with Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives and he presented on “Leafy Spurge in Manitoba”. Leafy Spurge is found primarily on land not under tillage. Cattle usually won’t eat it but sheep and goats will and can be effective in its control. Herbicides, mechanical tillage and flea beetles have also been used for control, although mowing causes branching and ultimately more inflorescences. It spreads by seed, rhizomes and creeping roots via crown and adventitious root buds. Terminal or axillary fruits are capsules containing three seeds which burst when ripe. Seed can remain dormant for up to 13 years and can emerge from 10 cm of soil. Offroad vehicles and animals are the main transporters of seed.

**Brad Kennedy**

Brad is currently working on a Masters of the Environment with the Department of Environment and Geography at the University of Manitoba. His talk entitled “Red Bartsia: Impacts and Management of a New Invasive”, is based on his research. Red bartsia (*Odotites vernus*) is a hemiparasitic plant. Parasitism gives it an advantage during adverse environmental periods such as drought. It produces approximately 1500 seeds per plant, and it is also spread by haying, mowing, people and other equipment. It arrived in Manitoba in the 1950’s at Gimli airport, and was identified in the early 1960’s. It was recognized as a problem in the 1980’s as it had spread widely. It is prevalent in pasturelands in British Columbia, although it is only considered a noxious weed in Manitoba and Alberta. It is unpalatable to livestock, spreads rapidly and chokes out other vegetation. It now occurs in tall grass prairie areas. Brad has chosen five sites with red bartsia in the Narcisse Wildlife Management Area for his study. He is evaluating the percent cover of plant

species on these sites before and after treatments. His treatments are compost mulch, sterile topsoil, compost tea and nothing (controls). These treatments have anecdotally been reported to have some effectiveness against red bartsia. His first season's results do not show any significant differences from control plots, although a wet summer and the addition of agricultural weeds may have contributed to the data.

### **Irene Pines**

As Forest Health Biologist with Manitoba Conservation, Forestry Branch, Irene presented on "Invasive Pests of Trees". She described six species of insects that have been introduced to Canada and can cause high tree mortalities. The insects she described were the Asian longhorned beetle, the emerald ash borer, the sirex wood wasp, the banded elm bark beetle, the European gypsy moth and the mountain pine beetle. Wood packing material is the most common method of introduction for invasive tree pests in Canada. As of 2005, the Canadian Border Service has been inspecting packing materials, and certain packing materials are now restricted.

### **Refreshments and poster session** (Student presenters should be at their poster)

Some general discussion re. invasives and what can or should be done after the break.

### **Business meeting**

**In attendance:** Karen Sereda, Marilyn Latta, Elizabeth Punter, Ruby Tekauz, Andy Tekauz, David Punter, Charles Burchill, Isobel Waters, Mason Kulbaba, Helios Hernandez, Khalid Rashid, Keith Knowles, Marilena Kowalchuk, Jeff Renton, Julie Pelc, Roger Garrod, Jeannie Gilbert

### **Awards presentation—Jeannie Gilbert**

Poster presentation award went to Jeff Renton, a Master of Science student with the Department of Biology at the University of Winnipeg.

### **Bursary and Scholarship—Isobel Waters & Dave Punter**

University of Winnipeg has sent us a letter requesting we change our bursary to make it possible for a University of Winnipeg student doing a botanical project to be eligible for our bursary. An alternative suggestion was for us to begin a second bursary specifically for University of Winnipeg students. Discussion concerning this request included the fact that this fund is a U of M fund and we cannot simply change the terms of this agreement. When we set up our award U of M was the only graduate botanical degree awarding institution in Manitoba. We will also consider setting up a second bursary fund specifically designated for U of W students.

### **Treasurer's Report—Dave Punter for Jim Menzies**

The last treasurer's report covered the period ending October 1, 2007. The following is a list of the transactions which have occurred since then.

October 2007—Isobel Waters was given a cheque for \$79.69 to pay for MAPB mugs.

In the first 3 months of 2008, \$50.00 in membership fees was deposited.

March of 2008, \$436.00 in membership fees and MAPB AGM registration fees was deposited.

May 2008 \$188.00 was deposited from MAPB meeting registration fees and membership renewals. Two cheques were written, one for \$138.88 for LNR screen printing and \$292.89 for St. John's College to pay for the AGM banquet.

November 27, 2008, I deposited \$20.00 in membership dues. On this date, the bank account had \$1657.06.

Respectfully submitted;  
Jim Menzies

Charles noted there was no charge for our website. Alex said he paid the fee, and to consider it a donation to MAPB for that year, as he misplaced his receipt, and will not be requesting reimbursement. Isobel also noted there was no entry for the membership dues after the last 2 general meetings (when people normally pay their annual dues), and was wondering when that deposit was made and how much it was. Jeannie will ask Jim about this.

#### **Membership—Isobel Waters**

As of today, 17 full memberships were renewed, and 2 student memberships. There were 3 memberships renewed at a previous meeting, for a total of 22 members for 2009.

#### **Projects—Elizabeth Punter for Cary Hamel**

Liz attended one of the organized projects to an area potentially with a protected Ladies Slipper. Liz was unable to attend the other outing organized to Riding Mountain, but others present said it was a successful outing. Eight attended in total.

#### **Website—Charles Burchill for Alex McIlraith**

Charles has taken over some of the duties related to the website, as Alex has been having some trouble keeping up with everything. Charles will get the updated membership list from Isobel, and he welcomes input for plant-related news which he will periodically send out to the membership. A membership list will be made available, but any individuals who do not want their contact information on that list can request to have it repressed.

#### **Other Business**

No other business.

#### **Adjournment—4:30 pm**

Karen Sereda, Secretary