

Blue Ridge PRISM July 2017 Quarterly Meeting Minutes

The Blue Ridge PRISM's quarterly meeting was held on July 22nd at Rappahannock County Library from 2:00-5:00 p.m. In attendance were about twenty people. The meeting was held in Rappahannock County because of the heightened interest of members in the area.

Ashton Stinson opened the meeting by giving a presentation on the Blue Ridge PRISM. Please see accompanying PowerPoint slides for more details on the information below.

Blue Ridge PRISM Quarterly Meeting Presentation: Rod Walker

- Rex Linville agreed to help Jim Hurley promote wavyleaf volunteer days in Shenandoah National Park.
- The PRISM was not the recipient of this year's RCPP award. This year's RCPP recipient is a dairy farm in Franklin County. An audience member suggested that farmer's group/farmer's bureau would be a great place for PRISM to speak.
- PRISM Updates
 - Wavyleaf volunteer days in Shenandoah National Park were held on July 8 & 9 and are scheduled for July 29 and 30— PEC to help advertise.
 - PRISM will hold another landowner training series that will be in October.
 - There is another Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) forming in Northern Virginia.
 - Regulations have been written and are waiting for approval for the Noxious Advisory Weed Law. Next step is identifying how to categorize each invasive plant to be listed.
 - School programs: There is interest among students in doing projects on invasive plants with PRISM. Maggie Walker is working on getting the topic of invasive plants into curriculums in schools.
 - Rod Walker is working with UVA on a project to use drones to identify and locate invasives. Currently, the cost of using this concept is high but will only go down with time.
- Area Stewardship update: Jim Hurley pursuing opportunities created by the area stewards survey. The potential next step is to get interested landowners together and have a PRISM representative speak.
- Resources for alternative native plants are: <http://www.ser.org/>, and the city of Alexandria's "[Keeping it Natural](#)" Document. Potential partnerships for alternatives to invasives should be explored.

Piedmont Environmental Council Presentation: Claire Catlett

Rappahannock County Meeting

Potential Partners in the Area:

- Izaak Walton League of America: <http://iwlafred-rapp.org/>
- Boy/girl scouts (Camp at Goshen: potential volunteers)

- 4H
- Master Gardeners/Naturalists

Needs in the Area:

- Education
- Many people are interested in invasive work but need the workforce to help.

Publicity/Community Involvement:

- Tabling at the Sunday Markets
- Tabling at plant sales
- Rapp U is looking for people to teach classes
- Organizing a conservation corps to work in the area and provide cost-effective work for landowners

Herbicide-specific Education:

- Show which native plants are being displaced. Before and after photos of not treating or using herbicides.
- Side-by-side cost comparison of herbicides vs. mechanical treatment
- Use Sunnyside as an example of responsible herbicide usage

Event Ideas:

- Herbicide discussion panel: half life, soil activity, etc.
- Seasonally appropriate topics
- Options for hiring contractors
- Landowner's panel discussion: different landowners have different approaches to working on their property

The Blue Ridge PRISM would like to thank Piedmont Environmental Council for attending and presenting at this event.

Our next quarterly meeting will be held on October 18th, 2017 from 1:00-4:00 p.m. at Ivy Creek Natural Area in Charlottesville.