2016 Annual Meeting
November 14th – 15th Indianapolis, Indiana

Meeting Summary

During the 12th annual Continental Forest Dialogue meeting, a diverse group of approximately 50 representatives from state and federal agencies; private business and industry; academia; and non-governmental organizations gathered at the Indianapolis Marriot Downtown for a meeting of the Continental Dialogue on Non-Native Forest Insects and Diseases (the Dialogue). This meeting was held in conjunction with the Arbor Day Foundation’s Partners in Community Forestry Conference, which took place just after the Dialogue. Attendees of the Dialogue meeting were highly encouraged to participate in the additional Arbor Day Foundation field trips and meetings on November 16th and 17th.

The Dialogue’s twelfth annual meeting was planned and convened by the Dialogue Steering Committee, a cross-section of stakeholders with an interest in protecting forests from the threat of non-native insects and diseases. Presentations and meeting materials (including the meeting agenda and speaker bios) are available on the Dialogue’s website for this event.

Meeting Objectives

The purpose of this meeting was to advance collaboration around actions to address the threat of non-native forest insects and diseases. Specific objectives included:

- Cultivate collaborations toward action to address the threat of non-native forest insects and diseases;

- Expand the effectiveness and reach of public and private entities and citizens in the battle against the non-native insects and diseases killing their trees; and

- Identify and seek consensus on needed actions for major initiatives the Continental Dialogue will advance in the upcoming year.
Field Trip to Indianapolis Cultural Trail

Prior to the welcome and introductions of the 12th annual Dialogue meeting, attendees were invited to participate in an optional field trip to the Indianapolis Cultural Trail. The trail is an 8-mile world class urban bike and pedestrian path in downtown Indianapolis connecting neighborhoods, cultural districts, and entertainment amenities while serving as the downtown hub for central Indiana’s vast greenway system. The tour was approximately two hours, providing attendees with exercise, fresh air, and just a great start to the meeting and day.

Welcome and Introductions

John Stapleton, Forest Health Protection Program Coda Fellow and Legacy Club Donor Relations Manager at The Nature Conservancy, welcomed the participants to the meeting on behalf of the Dialogue’s Steering Committee.

John briefly reviewed the materials provided to meeting participants and then provided an overview of the objectives and agenda, meeting ground rules, and the vision and goals. Meeting participants then introduced themselves. The full list of participants is available at the end of this summary.

Cliff Sadof, Professor of Entomology at Purdue University, delivered the keynote presentation. The focus of the presentation was on the state of Emerald Ash Borer Management in Indiana. Read Cliff Sadof’s bio here.

After the keynote, Bill Toomey, Forest Health Protection Program Director at The Nature Conservancy, provided an overview of the Continental Dialogue and an update on the progress of the initiatives over the last year. Review Bill’s presentation. John Stapleton facilitated the question and answer for the morning presentations.

Presentations: Emerging Regional and National Issues in Tree and Forest Health

The group then heard from three different speakers on emerging issues in tree and forest health. Speaker bios are available here.

- **USFS Forest Health Protection Program Updates** – Rick Cooksey, Deputy Director, Forest Health Protection, USFS
- **Current and Future Forest Health Concerns** – Nikki Thomas, Director, Agriculture Safeguarding, Agriculture Programs and Trade Liaison Office of Field Operations, U.S. Customs and Border Protection
- **Parasitoid Survey and Implications** – Dr. Fred Miller, professor of horticulture in the Department of Agriculture and Horticulture Sciences at Joliet Junior College
• **APHIS Perspectives on Regional and National Developments** – Scott Pfister, Ph.D., USDA APHIS, Laboratory Director

**Presentations: Lightning Round Updates**

The group then heard from seven different speakers in a lightning round. Lightning rounds are often employed at conferences to provide participants with short little, often related, updates from a group of organizations and presenters. Below are the topics, presenters, and their organizations. Click [here](#) to review speaker bios. The lightning round updates and the question and answer session were facilitated by John Stapleton.

- **Habitat Network** – Megan Whatton, The Nature Conservancy
- **Society of Municipal Arborists Update** – Jerri J. LaHaie, CAE, Executive Director, Society of Municipal Arborists
- **Detection efforts in the context of tree maintenance and pruning** – Michael Bohne, USFS
- **National Plant Board Update** – Piera Siegert
- **Industry Partnership in Pest Prevention: Systems Approach to Nursery Certification (SANC)** – Craig Regelbrugge, VP, AmericanHort
- **IUCN Red Lists and forest health implications** – Dr. Murphy Westwood, Tree Conservation Specialist, The Morton Arboretum

**Presentations: Panel #1 Western US**

After a short coffee break, the group heard from several speakers representing and sharing information regarding regional perspectives and opportunities. Speaker bios are available [here](#). Panel #1 presentations and the question and answer sessions were facilitated by John Stapleton.

- **Current Status of Walnut Twig Beetle/Thousand Cankers Disease** – Kevin Harriger, US Customs and Border Protection
- **Spotted Lanternfly Community Response** – John Baker, PA Department of Agriculture, Spotted Lanternfly Program Coordinator
- **Ohio Asian Longhorned Beetle Cooperative Eradication Program** – Phillip M. Baldauf, PhD, USDA APHIS PPQ Asian Longhorned Beetle Eradication Project Manager - Ohio
- **Urban Tree Benefits** – Joe McCarthy, Senior City Forester, Bureau of Forestry, Illinois

**Activities: After 5:00pm**

After a busy day one of the Dialogue conference, participants headed to the poster session. Posters focused on participant outreach efforts and campaigns. Arbor Day participants were invited to the poster session.
Day One Reflection

Day two began with a short debrief by participants of day one, a review of the agenda for the day, and a discussion to determine the goals of the group for day two.

Presentations: Panel #2 Hopeful Actions Targeting Emerald Ash Borer Recovery

The first content sessions of the day centered on the Emerald Ash Borer and Ash recovery. The presentations and presenters are listed below. Speaker bios are available here.

- **SLAM (Slowing Ash Mortality)** – Deb McCullough
- **Lingering & resistant ash & breeding hopes** – Jennifer Koch of USFS
- **Biocontrol at the APHIS Brighton lab** – Ben Slager, Director
- **An integrated approach to managing our EAB invasion** – Lynne Rieskie-Kinney, University of Kentucky

Breakout Sessions

After a short break, participants entered breakout sessions. The breakout sessions were designed to have groups come together, discuss a variety of topics, get updates, and propose directions on the topics for the future.

The first part of the breakout session was devoted to a discussion of 2016 progress and challenges. The second part of the breakout session was devoted to four short presentations ending with a discussion regarding the topic. Participants chose one breakout session to attend based on their needs. The presentations and presenters are listed below. Speaker bios are available here.

- Farm Bill 2019 Opportunity Group, led by Scott Cameron
- Education and Outreach Working Group, led by Dan Stern
- Logistical Planning Working Group, led by John Stapleton
- Urban Forestry Working Group, led by Bill Toomey

Presentations: Panel #3 Tools for Citizen Science, Social Media, and Youth Engagement in Tree Health

Next, participants entered the third set of panel presentations, this time focusing on tools for citizen science, social media, and youth engagement in tree health. The presentations ended with an open discussion. The presentations and presenters are listed below. Speaker bios are available here.
Presentations: Panel #4 National and International Policy Approaches for Key Stakeholders and Decision Makers

After lunch, participants entered the fourth set of panel presentations, this time focusing on national and international policy approaches for key stakeholders and decision makers. The presentations ended with a facilitated discussion and question and answer by Scott Cameron, President of the Reduce Risks from Invasive Species Coalition. The presentations and presenters are listed below. Speaker bios are available here.

- **Progress and Policy Update regarding Farm Bill Coalition** – Scott Cameron, President of the Reduce Risks from Invasive Species Coalition
- **Tree Smart Trade Initiative** – Gary Lovett, Senior Scientist Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies
- **Indiana Policies and Practice** – Phil Marshal, Forest Health Specialist, Indiana Division of Forestry
- **CAFP report & re-organization** – Faith Campbell and Bob Simpson
- Activity regarding policy priorities and discussion on election results challenges and opportunities

Where Do We Go Next? Summary, Timeline and Actions for 2016 and 2017

After a brief coffee and snack break, attendees came back together. The Dialogue meeting began winding down with the where do we go next session.

Participants heard from Leigh Greenwood of The Nature Conservancy to start things off. She titled her talk as *Framing Presentation: 11 years of Forest and Tree Attitudes, Survey Results*.

After hearing from Leigh, participants revisited the questions posed to the group at the start of the meeting. There was also discussion on survey results in the CFD structure. Meeting attendees discussed opportunities for Dialogue actions in 2016-2017. Participants identified priorities moving forward, and they acknowledged the efforts of individuals and their roles in moving the Dialogue’s
mission forward, including this meeting. Finally, the Steering Committee identified its next steps for the Dialogue.

After the adjournment of the formal meeting, attendees were invited to an informal poster session in conjunction with paid exhibitors and proposed SUFC social hour.

**Participant List**

Below is the list of participants, including email addresses, who attended the Continental Dialogue on Non-Native Forest Insects and Diseases in 2016.

- **Patrick Atagi**
  
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- **John Baker**
  
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