



2017 Annual Meeting

November 9th – 10th Savannah, Georgia

Meeting Summary

During the 13th annual Continental Forest Dialogue meeting, a diverse group of approximately 45 representatives from state and federal agencies; private business and industry; academia; and non-governmental organizations gathered at the Hotel Indigo Savannah Historic District for a meeting of the Continental Dialogue on Non-Native Forest Insects and Diseases (the Dialogue). This year's meeting was held in conjunction with the Annual Gypsy Moth Review, which took place just before the Dialogue. Attendees of the Dialogue meeting were able to attend and participate in the Annual Gypsy Moth Review's last panel on November 9th.

The Dialogue's thirteenth 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 the Port of Savannah (Nov 8 2017)

Prior to the welcome and introductions of the 13th annual Dialogue meeting, attendees were invited to participate in an optional field trip to the [Port of Savannah](#). The Port of Savannah is the largest single container terminal in North America and the second busiest US container exporter. The tour was approximately two hours, providing attendees with an in-depth look at the port's Garden City Terminal and a great start to the meeting.

Dialogue Day 1 (Nov 9 2017)

Welcome and Introductions

Leigh Greenwood, Outreach Programs Manager for the North America Region's Restoring America's Forests at The Nature Conservancy, welcomed the participants to the meeting on behalf of the Dialogue's Steering Committee.

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

Chip Bates, Forest Health Program Manager for the Georgia Forestry Commission, delivered the keynote presentation. The focus of the presentation was on the state of forest health protection in Georgia. Read Chip Bates' bio [here](#).

After the keynote, attendees of the Dialogue enjoyed a joint break with members of the Annual Gypsy Moth Review.

Presentations: Regional Forest Pest Issues

The group first heard presentations on regional issues affecting tree and forest health. This panel was a joint session with Annual Gypsy Moth Review. Speaker bios are available [here](#).

- Rapid Identification of Disease Resistant Trees via FT-IR Spectroscopy – Caterina Villari, Assistant Professor, Forest Pathology, University of Georgia
- [It Starts with Bark and Ends with Beetle: Other Forest Pest Issues in the Southeast](#) – David Coyle, Forest Health and Invasive Species Program, University of Georgia
- Climatic Trends Point to Increasingly Severe Forest Tent Caterpillar Outbreaks in Central Canada: Tree-ring Data – Kyle Haynes, University of Georgia
- [Three Hundred Million Dead Trees and Counting: Worsening Impact of Laurel Wilt on Redbay](#) – Frank Koch, Research Ecologist, USFS

Presentations: National Programs in Tree and Forest Health

The group then heard from speakers sharing information regarding national tree and forest health. Chuck Barger led the facilitation and time keeping. Speaker bios are available [here](#).

- [USFS Forest Health Protection Program Updates](#) – Rick Cooksey, Acting Director, USFS Forest Health Protection

- Farm Bill and Forest Pests Update – Rick Otis, President, Reduce Risks from Invasive Species Coalition

Presentations: Panel #1 Solid Wood Packaging as a Pathway

After lunch, the group jumped right into a panel focused on solid wood packaging and horticultural imports. Sue Tangora led the facilitation and time keeping. Speaker bios are available [here](#).

- [National and Regional Port of Entry Detections](#) – John Sagle, Director of Agriculture Safeguarding, US Customs and Border Protection
- [Engaging Warehouses and Distribution Centers](#) – Terry Morris, Director of Quarantine Policy, Analysis and Support, USDA APHIS
- [Forest Service International Programs Engagement on Solid Wood Packaging and Horticultural Imports](#) – Beth Lebow, Asia-Pacific Program Specialist, USFS International Programs
- Briefing on the National Wood Pallet & Container Association (NWPCA) – Brad Gething, Director of Science & Technology Integration, NWPCA

Presentations: Lightning Round

The group then heard from seven different speakers in a lightning round. This provided participants with short updates from a diverse group of organizations and presenters. Tricia Bethke led the facilitation and time keeping. Click [here](#) to review speaker bios.

- [Healthy Trees App Rollout](#) – Chuck Barger, Associate Director of Invasive Species and Information Technology, University of Georgia
- [Moving Industry As Allies in Outreach](#) – Abbey Powell, Public Affairs Specialist, USDA APHIS Hungry Pests
- [Junior Invasives Inspector Program](#) – Sherry Aultman, Invasive Species Program Manager, Clemson University
- [National Plant Board Update](#) – Piera Siegert, State Entomologist, NH Dept. Agriculture, Markets & Food
- [National Association of State Foresters and Coalition Against Forest Pests Updates](#) – Robert Simpson, Staff Consultant, National Association of State Foresters
- [Role of North American Invasive Species Management Association and PlayCleanGo](#) – Belle Bergner, Executive Director, North American Invasive Species Management Association
- [AmericanHort Updates](#) – Craig Regelbrugge, Senior Vice President, AmericanHort

Presentations: Panel #2 Firewood Pathway Complexities

The second panel focused on firewood as a pathway for pests. Sherry Aultman led the facilitation

and time keeping. Due schedule needs from a change in the agenda earlier in the day, Scott Pfister agreed to present during this panel - please note his presentation was not firewood focused. Speaker bios are available [here](#).

- [Managing California's Invasive Beetles without Regulations](#) – Katie Harrell, Chair, California Firewood Task Force
- [Don't Move Firewood Updates, with Lessons from Political Protest and Solar Eclipse](#) – Leigh Greenwood, Outreach Programs Manager, The Nature Conservancy
- [A State's Perspective on Deregulation of the Emerald Ash Borer](#) – Piera Siegert, State Entomologist, New Hampshire Department of Agriculture, Markets & Food
- [USDA APHIS PPQ Forest Pest Program Highlights](#) – Scott Pfister, Lab Director, USDA APHIS CPHST

After 5:00pm

After a busy day one of the Dialogue conference, participants headed to a joint social hour with attendees of Annual Gypsy Moth Review

Dialogue Day 2 (Nov 10 2017)

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 #3 Forest Pests in Transition

Next, participants entered the third set of panel presentations, this time focusing on forest pests in transition of time, rules, or geography. Kayla Collado led facilitation and time keeping. Speaker bios are available [here](#).

- [Threats to Oak Trees in the Eastern US](#) – David Coyle, Forest Health and Invasive Species Program, University of Georgia
- [Urban Trees and The Nature Conservancy's Shared Conservation Agenda](#) – Rachel Holmes, Urban Forestry Lead, The Nature Conservancy
- Asian Longhorned Beetle Eradication Horizons - Paul Chaloux, National Policy Manager, USDA APHIS
- [Spotted Lanternfly Regional Update](#) - John Baker, Spotted Lanternfly Program Coordinator, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

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. Dialogue members voted on the topics chosen.

Participants chose one breakout session to attend based on their interests and needs. The first part of the breakout session was devoted to a discussion of 2017 progress and challenges. The second part of the breakout session was devoted to short presentations on each topic.

- Firewood, led by Leigh Greenwood
- Farm Bill and National Legislative Opportunities, led by Faith Campbell
- International Systems Approaches to Solid Wood Packaging and Horticultural Imports, led by Kayla Collado
- Outreach Innovations, led by Paul Johnson, Clemson University

Where Do We Go Next? Summary, Timeline, and Actions for 2017 and 2018

After great breakout sessions, attendees came back together to wind down the Dialogue with the Where Do We Go Next? session.

Participants heard from Faith Campbell of Center for Invasive Species Prevention to start things off. She titled her talk [*Framing Presentation: How Americans think about trees from 2005 to 2017.*](#)

After hearing from Faith, participants discussed opportunities for Dialogue actions in 2018. 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. Rachel Holmes led facilitation and timekeeping.

After the adjournment of the formal meeting, the Steering Committee identified its next steps for the Dialogue.

Participant List

Below is the list of participants, including email addresses, who attended the Continental Dialogue on Non-Native Forest Insects and Diseases in 2017.

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