

## **Texas Gulf Region Cooperative Weed Management Area Open House Notes**

Thursday, October 2, 2014, 5:30-6:30 PM

Port Aransas Community Center, Port Aransas, Texas

### **Participants Present:**

Justin Bush, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

Mike Murphrey, Texas A&M Forest Service

Carolyn Grosse, Volunteer Participant

Beau Hardegree, US Fish and Wildlife Service

Bill Behrens, UT Marine Science Institute Emeritus

David Hyde, City of Port Aransas

Katie Swanson, Mission-Aransas National Estuarine Research Reserve

Ron Billings, Texas A&M Forest Service

Residents of Port Aransas

- 20 people were in attendance.
- Bill Behrens provided an introduction to the invasion and Justin Bush.
- It was asked who all had received door hangers- 3 people answered yes.
- Justin Bush did an introduction to the CWMA
- Beau Hardegree provided explanation of the USFWS role and Charlie's Pasture
- Mike Murphrey provided background on the role of Texas A&M Forestry Service
- Justin provided explanation of funds and what we are looking to complete in the future
  - Private landowner replacement program
- Yard sign was revealed
  - Excited residents, and one was passed out

### **Questions and Discussions from Residents:**

- What can residents do about neighbors' trees taking over her yard?
- Can the City ever pass an ordinance? What are the current regulations?
- What are the methods for cutting it down?
- Pathfinder 2- a really good product, but kills everything
- What types of plants are good for replacements?
  - They need to be replaced with plants that can survive this environment (ex. Mexican Hibiscus)
- Eliminate only the female plants with berries (are there other ways to tell them apart)?
- Freezes keep plants in check more inland
- What the CWMS plans to do with the RESTORE ACT Funds with County (if funded)
  - Replacement
  - Removal

- Monitoring
- Are there funds for Brazilian Pepper Tree Free Ads in the paper?
- Problems caused by Brazilian Peppers
  - Foundation problems from roots
  - Poison ground below- reducing vegetation diversity
  - Reduces insect diversity
  - Very few birds actually eat the Brazilian Pepper Tree, lowering bird diversity
- Is there any way to include Paradise Pond in the CWMA treatment areas?
  - Slow process at Paradise Pond due to need for habitat
  - Apache Tree Grant is providing about 20 trees that will be planted at Paradise Pond in February