



Conference Call Highlights November 11, 2004

Thanks to everyone for all the input on the call, we made great headway!

Participants

Ann Elliott, Salem Pesticide Assoc., OR
Ann Mason, FACT, FL
Caroline Kennedy, Defenders of Wildlife, Natl
Charlotte Wells, Texans for Alts to Pesticides, TX
Ginger Souders-Mason, Marin Beyond Pesticides
Coalition, CA
Jane Nogaki, New Jersey Federation, NJ

John Kepner, Beyond Pesticides, Natl
John Knight, Safer Pest Control Project, IL
Nancy Alderman, Enviro & Human Health, CT
Patti Wood, Grassroots Enviro Education, NY
Philip Dickey, Washington Toxics Cltn, WA
Rachel Rosenberg, Safer Pest Control Project, IL
Shawnee Hoover, Beyond Pesticides, Natl

LOCAL ACTIVITIES (ps = pesticides)

Jane/NJ: Activist in Chatham, NJ ordered (3) PFZ signs for a preschool that doesn't use ps to post outdoors. Approaching municipality who also doesn't use ps on parks to post. Was first municipality not to use ps, now first to post. Others municipalities already not using ps may follow.

Rachel/IL: Finding activists to post PFZ sign. Sold a few to their board.

Philip/WA: Student from Evergreen state college in Olympia, WA near Seattle that doesn't use ps will be posting signs all over campus. Student is writing an article about this campaign for Environmental Practice, Journal of the National Association of Environmental Professionals.

Ann/FL: Parks in Sarasota have p-free signs posted.

Patti/NY: Launched Grassroots Healthy Lawns project with Westchester County. Multi-pronged effort: educating public thru schools, libraries, local mtgs, etc.; training landscapers via video and encouraging them to add an org component to existing business; and encouragement of retailers to carry alt products. Presentation of video etc at a large Landscaper mtg resulted in applause after video (amazing) - they were very enthusiastic and many want to convert.

Nancy/CT: Talking to group of landscapers next Wed. Went into school K-12 - will need student support as well. Did ppt and. Find a number of schools to allow her to come in. students testimony.

Ginger/CA: passed a GMO ban, bent grass has been pre-empted. Labs/greenhouses.

COALITION OBJECTIVES/GOALS

To coordinate and expand local and state campaigns across the country against the use of lawn care chemicals, to take on pre-emption laws, and to pass local ordinances against the aesthetic use of pesticides on lawns and landscapes (first in those 10 or states that aren't subject to preemption). The coalition can work toward on tying together our uses of the Pesticide Free Zone sign & find ways to ramp up its use so that it's a nationally recognizable symbol for the anti-pesticide movement.

RESOURCES

Landscaper Video by Grassroots Environmental Education. (15 mins.) Available to all of us at cost. Talks about soil and making the soil healthy to grow healthy turf. Not talking about pesticides at all. It's like a "this old house." Addresses high-impact playing fields as well (for schools, etc.), and includes testimonies from landscapers who all used to be p users. Advise from organic expert Chip Osborne in Marblehead, MA Tel. 781-631-2467 (he worked with Paul Sachs closely in field).

State Preemption Laws & State Notification Laws: See Beyond Pesticides website under lawns: <http://www.beyondpesticides.org/lawn/activist/index.htm#state>

Pesticides Exempted From EPA Registration: See list 25(b) (active ingredients) and 4A (inerts) http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/biopesticides/regtools/25b_list.htm - for both lists and more info. http://www.epa.gov/PR_Notices/pr2000-6.pdf - Federal Register info with full explanation

WHAT IS PESTICIDE FREE?

1. **Agreed**, we believe in defining toxic or non-toxic pesticide for ourselves and will not tie our definition solely to EPA registration. However, we recognize that most if not all products exempt from EPA registration will be acceptable.
2. **Agreed**, we will do an acceptable materials list and will negotiate inclusion of registered products.
3. **Agreed**, we believe pesticide-free means that lawns are free from toxic chemicals that are proven or suspected of causing harm to human health or the environment.
4. **Agreed**, we believe people get that the term pesticide-free means toxic-free, and therefore get the meaning of the sign.
5. **Agreed**, we believe there is no incentive for people to cheat with the sign, and believe it can be used successfully on a good faith effort without enforcement.
6. **Agreed**, we believe in encouraging businesses to create new "non-toxic" and organic bio-alternatives.

NEXT STEPS

- Coalition Name:** Shawnee will compile the list, specify those seeming to be favorites, and send them out for a ranking vote by coalition members.
- Acceptable Materials List:** Shawnee will compile a main list for review and revise by group.
- Platform Email:** Shawnee and Philip will work a bit more on the platform. Shawnee will then send out an email and ask for final remarks, changes, suggestions.
- Platform Backgrounder:** After comments received on platform, Shawnee will ask for volunteers to take a piece of the backgrounder and fill in the blanks.
- Schedule next Conf Call:** Future Discussions: Platform Sign-ons, Alliances, Tactics, Media