

CHAPTER UPDATES

NC-EPPC Update



The North Carolina EPPC Board has lots of exciting projects in the works. To improve communication among board members, a website was created by board member Maggie Porell that functions as a work space. Using the site the board is able to track action items, approve meeting minutes and collaborate on projects. For more information you can visit the site <https://sites.google.com/site/nceppc/> or contact Maggie Porell at mporell@tnc.org.

The NC-EPPC board is also working on a new website for public outreach. It will be linked through the SE-EPPC site, but will give our board the ability to update the site independently. A few features of the new site will include registration and payment for the annual meeting, a blog and link to the NC-EPPC Facebook page, resources and links, and a guide to invasives by geographic area.

The NC-EPPC annual meeting date has been moved from November to February 23-24, 2012 due to a scheduling conflict with the Southern Appalachian Man and the Biosphere (SAMAB) meeting, but will still take place in Asheville. The new date will give NC-EPPC the opportunity to engage more members in the area and will have the added advantage of being shortly before the 2nd annual North Carolina Invasive Plants Awareness Week, giving us the opportunity to get our members involved.

The NC Forest Service is hosting six free one-day workshops across the state for private landowners, focusing on the threat non-native invasive plants pose to their property and how agencies like Cooperative Extension and the Forest Service can advise landowners on these issues. Registrants were asked to list their three worst invasive plants, and the materials are geared toward addressing these species, as well as many others. The first two workshops were well-attended, with more than 150 participants at each.

NC-EPPC is co-sponsoring these sessions and publicizing our work with EDRR. NC-EPPC President Rick Iverson and board member Margaret Fields have given presentations on the topic. During the hands-on segment, we demonstrate how to use EDDMaps and answer participants' questions. The EDRR fact-sheets are posted on the NC-EPPC website so attendees can follow up later on their own. At the end of the day, participants receive a copy of both "Invasive Plants in Southern Forests" and "A Management Guide for Invasive Plants in Southern Forests," resources everyone should have!

Workshops continue around the state through May, 2012. Sign up at www.ncsu-feop.org/NNI/reg-form.html or from the NC-EPPC website at www.se-eppc.org/northcarolina/

Maggie Porell, Vice-President, mporell@tnc.org

FLEPPC, FISP & CISMAs

The Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council (FLEPPC) (<http://www.fleppc.org/>) has been around over 20 years and is focused on providing management information for invasive plants that threaten Florida's natural areas. FLEPPC provides this exchange of scientific and best management information in many ways, including our annual symposium, the FLEPPC website and list-serve, Wildland Weeds magazine and more. It is a great organization with a long tenure in Florida.

CISMAs (Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas) are locally led partnerships focusing on invasive species management issues in specific areas of Florida (www.Florida-Invasives.org). To date, there are 18 CISMAs in Florida that fall under another statewide group, the Florida Invasive Species Partnership (FISP). FISP exists primarily to foster the development of CISMAs and to bridge efforts between different types of landowners (private, public conservation, right-of-way, etc). FISP/CISMAs also include all taxa of invasives species: plants, animals, pest/pathogens.

As a statewide organization, FLEPPC serves a large constituency, including FISP and CISMA participants. The FLEPPC listserv (<http://www.fleppc.org/listserver.htm>) is a great resource for any land manager. By sending an email with a question/comment/discussion to the list, you are reaching hundreds of natural area land managers, scientists, and extension agents throughout Florida with years and years (and years...) of experience to help you find your answer. This is the list-serve for the discussion of exotic pest plants in Florida including: impacts, biology, and management.

The CISMA list-serve has predominantly been used to announce monthly CISMA calls and to disseminate and discuss information that would assist CISMAs in their partnerships including grant information, private land incentive programs, updates on other CISMAs, FISP activities, and more. The CISMA list-serve is a valuable resource to learn more about locally led invasive species partnerships and activities (<http://www.floridainvasives.org/cismas.html>).

If in doubt about which list-serves to join, sign up for both! Many of us are involved in FLEPPC, FISP and our local CISMAs and welcome the exchange of ideas.

Join and stay active in FLEPPC (<http://www.fleppc.org/member.htm>) and get involved in your local CISMA (<http://www.floridainvasives.org/cismas.html>).

SAVE THE DATE! FLEPPC's 27th Annual Conference will be co-hosted with the Florida Wildlife Society on April 16-20 at the Ocala Hilton. Hope to see you there!

Kristina Serbesoff-King, The Nature Conservancy, Florida Invasive Species Partnership (FISP) Co-chair, Long time Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council (FLEPPC) supporter and member, Kserbesoff-king@TNC.org

