

isolated, that occupy "matched communities in their respective continents" (Pilou 1979). In fact, many BG&A (including our own Coker Arboretum) prominently display North American natives with their Asian relatives. Many of these taxa are even interfertile (e.g., Tulip poplars: *Liriodendron tulipifera* and *L. chinense*, Catalpas: *Catalpa bignonioides* and *C. ovata*, and Sweetgums: *Liquidambar styraciflua* and *L. formosana*).

The ornamental horticulture industry in North America began with the fruit tree nursery in the Massachusetts Bay Colony around 1648 (Arena 1998).

By the turn of the century the ornamental horticulture industry was in high gear, producing roses, peonies, clematis, and other hardy woody ornamentals. The careless importation of foreign pests and diseases followed shortly thereafter: the Gypsy Moth in 1869 (a deliberate introduction), Chestnut Blight in 1904, and Dutch Elm Disease in 1930. (It is worth pointing out that the importation of nursery stock containing foreign soil introduced European and Asian earthworms to North America who are now displacing many of our native earthworm species. For more information on this ex-

otic pest see: *Earthworm Ecology and Biogeography in North America*, 1995, by Paul J. Hendrix.)

A close relationship currently exists between BG&A and the nursery industry in that much of the plant material carried by the nursery industry comes directly from cuttings and seeds gathered from BG&A collections. BG&A therefore have a tremendous responsibility for evaluating these collections for potentially invasive exotic plants. According to Reichard (1997) 80-85% of the North American woody invasives were originally introduced as ornamentals. In fact, it was David Fairchild who introduced kudzu (*Pueraria montana*) to the US as an ornamental woody vine (Orr, personal communication)! Moreover, virtually no BG&A yet engage in risk assessment analyses.

The American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta (AABGA) *Plant Collections Directory* (Piacentini 1998) provides information on 170 institutional collections and personnel management data. I was particularly struck by the institutional purpose information. Generally speaking, there were two Institutional Purpose camps: the conservation and education minded gardens, and the display and ornamental introduction gardens. Below are examples of each camp's philosophy (using our garden for the former):

The North Carolina Botanical Garden is a center for the study, conservation, interpretation, and display of plant diversity and for public education about the importance of plant diversity to human society. Its mission is to support the instructional and research programs of the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, to enhance the knowledge and appreciation of plants through a wide range of public service and interpretive programs, to present an attractive display of plants, and to work for the conservation of biological diversity.

In contrast, the mission statement from a best-left-anonymous garden reads:

Collect, evaluate, and encourage commercial production and use of a wider range of ornamental plants in the nursery/landscape industry.

Conservation and education minded gardens, however, outnumber the latter.

Southeast Exotic Pest Plant Council President's Message

By: Dan Brown, SE-EPPC
President

We had an excellent first Board meeting at the Arboretum in Asheville, July 15-16. Thanks to all the 18 board members and five guests for attending, and thanks to those who made the arrangements. The Arboretum is a great place for a meeting.

Some of the many highlights of the meeting were:

We're happy to have Florida as a member of SE-EPPC. They're a great bunch of folks with years of solid and valuable experience relating to invasive exotics. Board members are Dan Thayer, Tony Pernas and Amy Ferriter. Welcome Florida!

Tennessee EPPC Board members agreed to contribute 50% of the profits from the 1999 Symposium in Oak Ridge to the SE-EPPC treasury. That's about \$1350 for SE-EPPC. Thanks Tennessee.

Guests Larry Fowler and Bob Eplee, with USDA / APHIS, gave us an extensive description of the Executive Order 13122 on Invasive Species, and the related National Council and Advisory Councils. We want to be represented on at least one of the Advisory Councils. Brian Bowen and others are pursuing

this. Another guest, Bill Hoffard with USDA Forest Service, Forest Health Protection (FHP) in Asheville, discussed the availability of incidence, and possibility trend, information on six major invasive exotic plants in five southeastern states. Bill, and Noel Cost with the USDA-FS Research Station in Asheville, have agreed to work with SE-EPPC to develop and print this information in map form. FHP will also cover the printing cost.

We've made major progress toward revising the TN Exotic Plant Management Manual as a SE-EPPC publication (a color publication covering about 50 species of invasive exotics). Kerry Britton, USDA-FS Research in Athens, GA is contributing \$10,000 toward the revision. Nick Simon, president of Publishers Printing in Shepherdsville, KY, has offered to print the publication at cost. Several Board members are attempting to raise the additional \$20,000 needed. Prospects are looking good!

And while we're talking about publications...congratulations to TN-EPPC on winning the Conversation Award for their three area brochures entitled; "Landscaping with Native Species". We need a lot of this kind of positive exposure.