

Internodes

Mark your calendar

- Weed Science Society of America 47th Annual Meeting, **February 4-8, 2007**, San Antonio, Texas. www.wssa.net
- NIWAW-8 (National Invasive Weeds Awareness Week), **Feb. 25-March 2, 2007**, Washington, DC. www.nawma.org
- SE-EPPC Annual Symposium, co-hosted by the Georgia Exotic Pest Plant Council, **March 20-22, 2007**, Athens, GA. www.gaeppc.org
- Association of Southeastern Biologists 68th Annual Meeting, **April 18-21, 2007**, Columbia, SC. <http://www.asb.appstate.edu/index.php>
- Florida Native Plant Society 27th Annual Conference, **April 19-22, 2007**, Gainesville, FL. www.fnps.org
- FLEPPC 22nd Annual Symposium, **April 30-May 3, 2007**, Cocoa Beach, FL. www.fleppc.org
- 2007 Aquatic Weed Control Short Course, University of Florida-IFAS, Aquatic, Upland and Invasive Weed Control; Aquatic Plant Identification, **May 14-18, 2007**, Coral Springs, FL. <http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/aw>
- Annual Florida Lake Management Society Conference, held in conjunction with the NALMS SE Regional Conference, **June 4-7, 2007**, Naples, FL. <http://flms.net>
- Aquatic Plant Management Society 47th Annual Meeting, **July 15-18, 2007**, Nashville, TN. www.apms.org
- Mid-Atlantic EPPC biannual symposium, co-sponsored with the Morris Arboretum, **August 15-16, 2007**, Philadelphia, PA. <http://www.ma-eppc.org/>
- 9th International Conference on the Ecology and Management of Alien Plant Invasions, **September 17-21, 2007**, Perth, Australia. www.congresswest.com.au/emapi9/

News Release from TNC

ALTAMONTE SPRINGS, FL — **Florida's Department of Transportation** (FDOT) has joined an effort promoted by **The Nature Conservancy** to control invasive species, agreeing, among other things, to encourage the use of alternative plants in landscape projects. The Department is the first government agency in the country to sign on.

The FDOT refined the Voluntary Codes of Conduct developed for government agencies and will incorporate them in their statewide policy

for roadside landscaping and other related business practices. The codes were developed as part of the 2001 St. Louis Declaration, an assemblage of horticulture industry leaders and environmentalists who recognized the need for a collaborative response to the number one threat to biodiversity — invasive species that escape from gardens and landscapes and overtake native plants. The Conservancy is working to implement the codes.

In Florida, the Florida Nursery, Growers and Landscape Association suggested that the most effective approach to reduce the commercial reliance on invasive species is to reduce demand for those species. FDOT is one of the largest consumers of plants in the state. The Lowe's home improvement chain in Florida has also agreed to a set of Voluntary Codes of Conduct.

In adopting the codes, FDOT agreed to identify known invaders, develop specifications to lessen their impacts, provide staff training on invasive plant identification and management, dispose of unwanted invasives using appropriate safeguards, and support the development of environmentally sound methods to manage invasive plants. FDOT also agreed to phase out the use of invasive plants and encourage plant nurseries to increase availability of non-invasives, and will develop an effective, enforceable plan to manage and remove invasive plants from the right-of-way.

BASF Awards Invasive Vegetation Management Matching Grants

Twenty organizations across the U.S. will receive matching grants to fund programs designed to fight the spread of terrestrial and aquatic invasive plants. The grants, totaling approximately \$200,000, were awarded by BASF Professional Vegetation Management.

The goal of the Invasive Vegetation Management Matching Grant Program is to aid organizations in meeting matching funding requirements for federal or foundation grants, specifically to support the use of herbicides in an integrated vegetation management program. BASF funding will be utilized as part of the non-federal match for federal or foundation grants such as the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Pulling Together Initiative (PTI) Program.

Grants were awarded to a diverse group of organizations, ranging from government bodies to conservation and wildlife organizations; however, each recipient is focused on the control and/or management of terrestrial or aquatic invasive plants.

A wide variety of invasive plants will be targeted for control using integrated vegetation management techniques. Aside from herbicide

treatments, some of the programs will include mechanical and bio-control treatments.

Just a few of the projects funded:

- **Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge – Boynton Beach, Fla.** The refuge is owned by the State of Florida and leased to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This project will provide for the aerial herbicide treatment of 300 acres of dense melaleuca over an area of about 10,000 acres in the central portion of the refuge.
- **LSU AgCenter/SeaGrant and LDWF – Louisiana** The goal of this rapid response project is to eradicate paragrass (*Brachiaria mutica*) in Louisiana with prompt action. Only two properties in the state – both crawfish farms – are known to be infested: 220 acres in St. Martin Parish (light infestation) and 550 acres in Iberia (very heavy infestation). Control initiatives will keep the grass from spreading further in Louisiana.
- **Marion County Invasive Species Management Council – Marion County, Fla.** This project addresses strategic cogongrass (*Imperata cylindrica*) control in central Florida. Outlier populations and prioritized private properties adjacent to vulnerable portions of Ocala National Forest, the Cross Florida Greenway, Rainbow River State Park, Silver River State Park, and other public lands will be treated in cooperation with natural area and road right-of-way control efforts.
- **National Wild Turkey Federation – Southern Mississippi** This project will treat cogongrass (*Imperata cylindrica*) on the Desoto National Forest and adjacent private landowners' [property] in order to gain control at the early stage of infestation. About 600 acres has been targeted.
- **The Nature Conservancy – Greenville County, S.C.** This project includes control of Chinese silvergrass (*Miscanthus sinensis*), Chinese privet (*Ligustrum sinense*) and multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*) in the Blue Wall Preserve, a 550-acre property owned by The Nature Conservancy.
- **Wildlife Mississippi – Mississippi and Alabama** The project will focus on controlling bermudagrass (*Cynodon dactylon*), bahiagrass (*Paspalum notatum*) and fescue (*Festuca arundinacea*) on approximately 750 acres of habitat for rare, threatened, endangered and declining species that are dependent on native prairie communities in the Black Land Prairie of Mississippi and Alabama. *continued on page 31*

Publications

Native Alternatives to Invasive Plants

Brooklyn Botanic Garden's new handbook, is now available. In it, "plant professionals and home gardeners alike will discover hundreds of spectacular native plants for every region, specially chosen as alternatives to the invasive species that are degrading the continent's natural habitats." What a deal at \$8.95! <http://www.bbg.org/>

Survey of Control Measures on Old World Climbing Fern (*Lygodium microphyllum*) in Southern Florida

by J.T. Hutchinson and K.A. Langeland, *Florida Scientist* 69(4):217-223. 2006.

Competitive Effects of the Invasive Grass

***Rhynchelytrum repens* (Willd.) C.E. Hubb. on Pine**

Rockland Vegetation, by J. Possley and J. Maschinski, *Natural Areas Journal* 26:391-395. 2006.

What is "invasive" anyway?

The Invasive Species Advisory Committee (ISAC) has submitted a clarification and guidance white paper on the national definition of "invasive species." It covers a number of issues such as weighing societal benefits against environmental problems. It touches upon "gray areas," such as native species that cause harm in some situations but can not be labeled as "invasive" (the definition specifies that the species must be exotic to the area of introduction), and the fact that some exotic species exhibit invasiveness in one region, but not another. Online at: http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/docs/council/isac_def.pdf along with other information on the National Invasive Species Council (NISC) and ISAC.

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