

# Invasive Plants: Global Issues, Local Challenges

Chicago Botanic Garden, 7th Annual Janet Meakin Poor Research Symposium, October 27-30, 2002

The Chicago Botanic Gardens hosted the 7th annual Janet Meakin Poor Research Symposium "Invasive Plants: Global Invasions, Local Challenges" on October 27-30th in downtown Chicago. Dan Simberloff gave the keynote address, "Invasive introduced species: we can win this war!" In addition, there were two plenary sessions. The first session, "Mechanisms of invasion, competition and spread of unwanted plants," included the following talks: "What makes a species invasive," by Sarah Reichard; "Nature out of place: Biological invasions in the Global Age," by Jason Van Driesche; and "Role of the National Invasive Species Council," by Lori Williams, Executive Director of the National Invasive Species Council.

The second plenary session, "Measures to Control Invasive Plants," included the following presentations: "Assessing exotic plant species for large-scale control/eradication: Kudzu (*Puerari lobata*) and Chinese yam (*Dioscorea oppositifolia*) as examples," by Jodi Shimp; "Changes due to invasion," by Liam Heneghan; "Biocontrol - pros and cons," by Bernd Blossey; "The promise and the peril of biological weed control," by Peter McEvoy; "Restoration," by John Randall; and "How can the nursery industry get involved?" by Craig Regelbrugge. In addition to plenary sessions, the symposium included a poster session, workshops and other presentations.

## EPPC/Invasive Plant Councils: Organizing resources to protect natural areas

Brian Bowen, President, Southeast – EPPC, chaired a workshop on "EPPC/Invasive Plant Councils: Organizing Resources to Protect Natural Areas." The workshop was similar to the forum held at the Natural Areas Association annual conference in Asheville, North Carolina on October 3, 2002 (see page 14). Bowen provided an overview of EPPC organizations including the national, regional, and state councils. The session included presentations from California - EPPC by John Randall, Mid-Atlantic EPPC by Lisa Smith, the Invasive Plants Association of Wisconsin (IPAW) by Kelly Kearnes and Nancy Braker, and the Invasive Plant Council of New York State (IPC NYS) by Suzanne Maloney. The session was very informative and included a 20-minute open discussion. It was a great primary for the Midwest regional organization meeting held that evening to consider formation of a regional group.

## Organizing Meeting: Invasive plant network for the Midwest

Following the sessions on the evening of October 29, more than 60 interested participants met to consider forming a Midwest regional EPPC/Invasive Plant Council. Various EPPC speakers from the morning session attended to lend their

expertise. Kelly Kearnes of the Invasive Plant Association of Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources chaired the meeting. While there appeared to be interest in pursuing a regional organization, it was determined that the greater need was to develop more state organizations where efforts are ongoing in Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio. There was discussion of forming a working group of representatives from Midwest states to meet again and continue the dialogue in Madison at the Natural Areas Conference September 24-27, 2003. Note: A full day (September 27) will be dedicated to invasive plant issues at the conference.

## Linking Horticulture and Ecology to Prevent Plant Invasions: Workshop #2 (St. Louis Declaration Working Group)

On the day following the symposium (October 31, 2002), the original participants of *The Workshop on Linking Ecology and Horticulture to Prevent Plant Invasions* and invited guests reconvened. This group of experts from across the globe originally met in St. Louis, Missouri in December 2001 to explore and develop workable voluntary approaches for reducing the introduction and spread of non-native invasive plants. That workshop was convened by the Missouri Botanical Garden and the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. The outcome of the original workshop was the *St. Louis Declaration* (February 2002), which included "Overarching Findings and Principles" and "Draft Voluntary Codes of Conduct" that outlined the concerns and proposed guidelines for addressing the problems of invasive plant species that are introduced through horticulture related activities (see *Wildland Weeds*, Winter 2002). The declaration, as well as a list of participants and other related information, can be found at the Missouri Botanical Garden website: <http://www.mobot.org/iss/>

The second workshop focused on four main areas: 1) an evaluation of the entities that have provided endorsement of the "Draft Voluntary Codes of Conduct" and a discussion of how to better advertise the efforts of the St. Louis working group; 2) a review of case studies on how the codes are being implemented; 3) two break-out sessions that focused on the development of alternative plant lists and a discussion of the issue of regionality when creating invasive plant lists and, 4) developing criteria for creating invasive plant lists. The proceedings from this follow-up workshop will be posted on the Missouri Botanical Garden website early in 2003. Future steps for the working group are being discussed.

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