



SE-EPPC

By Brian Arnold, President

I hope that all are well upon receiving this issue of *Wildland Weeds*. I always look forward to my issue arriving in the mail, and am thankful for the

work of Karen Brown in putting it together.

I look forward to serving as your president, and thank Nancy Loewenstein for her leadership over the past few years. I'm also thankful to her for serving as a resource to me in these early days.

From those of us fortunate enough to have work, the common theme I hear is how abundant the work load is. Often the abundance is due to shouldering additional responsibilities because of reduced staff or something of that nature. Times remain lean and it's hard to know what the future has in store. As our economy lingers in a vulnerable state, the challenge to bring focus to our common cause increases.

Fortunately, due largely to the efforts of EPPCs, awareness of the threats stemming from nonnative invasive species appears to be making a breakthrough, albeit a painfully slow one. In my state, Georgia, requests to the chapter for information and speakers appear to be on a slow but steady increase, causing me to believe that the message is getting through on some level. Other organizations, seeing the significance of the problem, are featuring nonnative invasive plant topics in their own programs. So I believe that there is reason to be encouraged. And when my encouragement is tempered by looking upon the privet filled woodlot bordering my home, I think about the philosophy used by the Longleaf Alliance, "Better is better." In our case, each parcel of habitat preserved brings about a "better" outcome than that which would occur if that same parcel were lost to invasive plants. So let us not allow the task at hand to overwhelm us, overwhelming as it may seem.

A year ago the Board of Directors initiated a project aimed at increasing state chapter dialogue and sharing of ideas with regards to invasive plants lists. Alix Cleveland, USDA liaison to the SE-EPPC Board and Program Manager with the US Forest Service, secured a Forest Service grant

to fund the effort. The journey met challenges that none of us anticipated but we are now wrapping up the final report. I believe we have a strategy that, when combined with commitment, will serve as a catalyst to improved transparency of invasive plant listing criteria. I hope you will join me in that commitment, and work toward a scenario in which the plant listing criteria of a given chapter is essentially validated by the listing criteria of the others. Doing so will, among other things, aid in defending the credibility of how the respective list was created. It may also ultimately lead to more consistency in regulatory listings of invasive plants among southeastern states. I appreciate the work of Kathryn Wilson, a University of Florida post-masters student (MS-Ag/Natural Resource Communication) for her diligent work on this project and for simply "coming through" for us. A report summary will be included in the next issue of *Wildland Weeds*.

Please consider getting involved with the efforts of the Council. Comments that I frequently hear from both laypersons and professionals within the invasive plant community is something like "I'm not an expert on invasive plants," spoken as though they are unqualified to accept any leadership role in the effort. Having reached the opinion that the need required is far greater than the short supply of invasive "experts" can possibly handle, I suggest to you that your help can in fact have significant impact.

If you're not "connected" to your chapter's board, or to the SE-EPPC board, consider attending a board meeting. In addition to gaining knowledge about issues that the board is addressing, it's a great way to get to know those already involved, and it allows them to get to know you. Then let nature take its course.

Mark your calendar for our Joint Annual Meeting with the Florida EPPC chapter: "Plant Wars, The EPPCs Strike Back" to be held May 21-23 in Panama City Beach, Florida. The FLEPPC folks are putting the wheels in motion for an excellent meeting in a beautiful location. I hope that you'll make every effort to attend.

Lastly, please remember to share our mission with others, and suggest that they join us. For by growing our membership, we strengthen our influence.



KY-EPPC Update

By Beverly James, President

The KY-EPPC has been working on a few projects throughout 2012, with the main focus being an update of our plant list. We have adopted ranking criteria used by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation and sent a

ranking spreadsheet with 191 species to 80 botanists, ecologists, and land managers throughout the state and neighboring states. This will hopefully provide a more rigorous system of ranking based on impact, biology and ecology, distribution, and difficulty of control.

We have once again collaborated with Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest to produce and distribute this year's "Least Wanted Poster". The invasive species chosen for 2012 was Sweet Autumn Clematis,

SC-EPPC Update

By Travis W. Rogers, President

On Thursday, September 13, 2012 the SC-EPPC held its annual conference at Hobcaw Barony near Georgetown, SC. It was well attended with almost 60 participants. The program was diverse with topics ranging from current and emerging invasive plant threats such as Chinese tallow, cogongrass, and Japanese climbing fern to plant and animal community responses to invasive plant removal, community-based education and NRCS programs, costs associated with invasive plant management, wetland impoundment invaders, and strategies for Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR). The one day conference concluded with a field trip to see Chinese tallow management in a longleaf pine forest.

Elections for new board members were held and several new board members will be joining the leadership team. They are Lauren Pile with Clemson University, Lauren Serra with Congaree National Park, Bill Steele with Leroy Springs & Company and Ben Powell with the Clemson Extension Service. We are pleased to welcome them to our board and look forward to their contributions. If you are interested in joining the SC-EPPC board or becoming more involved with our state chapter, please visit www.se-eppc.org/southcarolina/about.cfm and contact one of our board members. New officer elections will be taking place at our next board meeting which will be held before the end of January 2013.



Wade Harper, a plant manager with Applied Aquatic Management, Inc., with a captured Burmese python that has ingested an adult white-tailed deer.

FLEPPC UPDATE

By Dennis Giardina, Chair

FLEPPC had a very successful joint annual meeting with the Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society (FL-TWS) in Ocala, Florida with approximately 150 attendees. The theme was "Invasion of the Habitat Snatchers — Wildlife Invades!" Florida is a haven for invasive wildlife and many species are found in the same natural areas where invasive plants flourish. This results in a lot of cross-training or simply cross-experience in capturing, dispatching, searching and reporting of everything from Burmese pythons to feral hogs to Nile monitor lizards and green iguanas. FLEPPC and FL-TWS joined forces to provide an interesting menu for the "Beast Feast" banquet that featured southern fried python chops, fried snakehead (fish), and alligator-venison-tegu lizard gumbo among other novel dishes. The hotel chef graciously agreed to prepare these innovative dishes with ingredients furnished by members.

FLEPPC provided Education/Outreach grants to five groups this year and Research Grants to two graduate students.

FLEPPC will be the next chapter to co-host the annual SE-EPPC meeting in Panama City Beach on May 21-23, 2013. We hope to see you there for informative presentations, field trips, workshops, continuing education credits, a silent auction and more. Visit the FLEPPC website, www.fleppc.org, for updates.



with the native alternatives being Passionflower, Dutchman's Pipe and Virgin's Bower. We are currently developing the 2013 poster, which will feature Autumn and Russian olives as the least wanted plants. As an extension of the Least Wanted posters, we are also in the process of developing pocket guides featuring native alternatives to invasive plants. These could be particularly useful for homeowners and landscapers.

Recently, we have been working with the University of Kentucky in planning the 3rd Invasive Species Conference which will be held in April of 2013. Stay tuned for more details and a call for papers.

Finally, three new board members have joined this year: Frank Melton from Bowling Green, Mary Turner from the Garden Clubs of Kentucky, and Larry Brewer from Northern Kentucky University.