

Meet the Southeast Exotic Pest Plant Council

The Southeast Exotic Pest Plant Council (SE-EPPC) was formally established on March 20, 1999 at the first annual Southeast Exotic Pest Plant Council Symposium hosted by the Tennessee EPPC in Oak Ridge.

SE-EPPC is an umbrella organization with state chapters and affiliates. The state chapter is the most functional unit with a board of directors; an affiliate occurs in the absence of a state chapter where activity is based in an existing organization; i.e., an exotic pest plant committee of a state native plant society. In states where there is no organization, individuals are simply members of SE-EPPC. Chapters receive non-profit status under SE-EPPC. State chapters operate autonomously but are required to adhere to the SE-EPPC mission goals.

The SE-EPPC conducts an annual symposium hosted by different chapter states from year to year. Their 2006 meeting will be held in Raleigh, NC from May 23rd – 25th. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. www.se-eppc.org



SE-EPPC Officers



Brian Bowen (President) was a founding member of SE-EPPC and served as part time coordinator from 1999 to 2002. He has been president since 2002. He is the past president of TN-EPPC and past chair of NAEPPC. He is the Administrator for the Tennessee Natural Areas Program. He has an MS in biology from Middle Tennessee State University.



Joyce Bender (Vice President) has been managing the Kentucky State Nature Preserves System since 1986. She is the president of the KY-EPPC.



Kristen Gounaris Allen (Secretary) has a B.S. in Applied Ecology from Rutgers University and an M.S. in Plant Ecology from the University of Maryland. Her post-graduate career has consisted of 7 years, in various positions dealing with exotic pest plants, with the National Park Service. She is currently the Biologist for Richmond National Battlefield Park in Virginia.



Tony Pernas (Treasurer) is the coordinator for the Florida/Caribbean Exotic Plant Management Team for the Florida and Caribbean Office of the National Park Service in Palmetto Bay, Florida. He is a board member of FLEPPC. He received his Bachelors Degree in Environmental Studies from Florida International University.

Board of Directors



Jim Burney (FLEPPC Chair) has a Master's degree in biological sciences from the University of Central Florida and is certified as a Professional Wetland Scientist by the Society of Wetland Scientists. He is president of Aquatic Vegetation Control, Inc.

Pam Robinson Ferral (SC-EPPC) is the Director of Science and Stewardship for the South Carolina Nature Conservancy in Columbus.



Connie Gray (President, GA-EPPC) is the Ecological Resource Specialist for DeKalb County Parks & Recreation. With some 30 years experience working with plants, she has devoted the last 18 to restoration and management of natural areas in her native state.



Robin Mackie (USDA Forest Service Liason to the SE-EPPC) is the founder of the SC-EPPC and has been a botanist and ecologist with the U.S. Forest Service in South Carolina for 15 years.



Bennie Moore (President, AL-IPC) is a Conservation Agronomist with the Natural Resources Conservation Service.



Johnny Randall (President, NC-EPPC) received a bachelors degree in biology from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Botany from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. He has been Assistant Director for Conservation at the North Carolina Botanical Garden since January 1998. He conducts research on invasive exotic species' effects on the reproductive ecology of native plants.



Jack Ranney (TN-EPPC) is a semi-retired research ecologist and adjunct professor in forestry at the University of Tennessee who serves as Invasive Species Leader for the Southern Appalachian Man and Biosphere. He is the former director of the Southern Appalachian Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit.



Dave Thompson (President, MS-EPPC) is a Landscape Architect working with the Mississippi DOT. He coordinates with Mississippi State University on research of herbicides and invasives, and acts as a point of contact for MDOT on invasive species issues.