THE INVASIVE PLANT MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION (IPMA)

ADDING ANOTHER VOICE

FY 2013-14 Successes

Todd Olson

The Problem: Invasive Exotic Plants in Florida

What is an Invasive Exotic Plant?

- Not all exotic plants are invasive pests (25,000 species).
- Some introduced species become naturalized (1300 species).
- Some naturalized species become invasive pests (150 species).
- Florida has 2825 native plant species.





Reasons for Introductions

- Agriculture- Cogongrass
- Ornamental- Syngonium, Climbing Fern, Hydrilla
- Land/Waterscaping- Brazilian Pepper, Hyacinth
- Erosion Control- Kudzu
- Cultural- Water Spinach
- Wind Breaks- Australian Pine
- Other- Melaleuca
- Accidental- ??





Magnitude of the Problem

Economic

- Navigation and Flooding
- Fire Hazards
- Agriculture- Cattle, Sod, Row Crops, Silviculture
- Utilities- Power Corps, Roadways
- Loss of Tourism
- Loss of Recreation
- Loss of Opportunity

Ecological

- Loss of Biodiversity.
- Shift in Vegetation Communities.
- Change in Fire Ecology.
- Loss of Critical Habitat for T&E wildlife. Florida has 500 T&E Species, 150 Endemic.
- Degradation of water quality.

Who Has Invested in Control Efforts in Florida



- Federal- NPS, USFWS, BLM, USACOE, USDA
- State of Florida*- FDEP, FFWCC, WMD, FDOT, 298 Districts
- Counties*
- Municipalities*

*- Dependent of State Funding

\$\$ What Has Been Invested \$\$ by The State of Florida

- Much Blood, Sweat, and Careers
- FWC Trust Fund Average: \$28-30M
- FWC Upland (Grant) Average: 20%
- FWC Aquatic Average: 80%
- SFWMD Budget Average: \$10M (ground)
- FDEP Budget Average: >\$1M
- Estimated Annual FWC Upland Need: \$22M
- 2012/13 Budget: \$29M

What Has been Accomplished? (ROI)

- Tourism has been sustained/improved.
- Rec opportunities have been provided.
- Public safety has been protected.
- Agriculture and silviculture have been protected.
- Environmental mandates met.



What Infrastructure was Created?





- The model for govt. contracting.
- Professional orgs.
 Comprised of public and private members.
- Vibrant network of applicators, suppliers, and manufacturers.

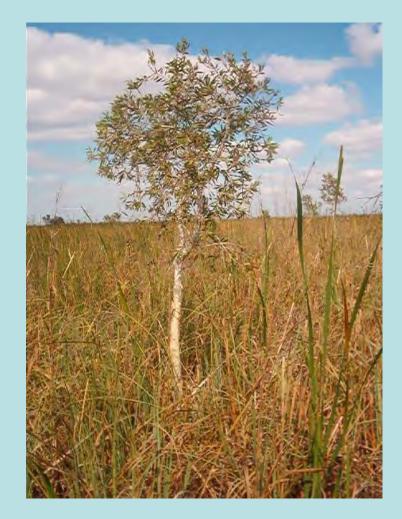
JOBS!

Invasive Plant Management Association (IPMA)

 IPMA's Mission is to foster sustained State funding for invasive plant control measures as an integral part of managing Florida's natural lands and waters.

IPMA

- Our Mission is not to differentiate between upland, wetland and aquatic programs.
- Our Mission is not to influence the contracting policies of State agencies.
- Our Mission is to add an economic voice to what some feel is strictly an ecological problem.



Invasive Plant Management Association



- 501(c)(6) not-for-profit corporation.
- Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws.
- Membership is 12 companies at this time, with interest comprised of private industry, trade groups, and concerned citizens.
- Leadership is comprised of 1 President, 1 VP, 1 Sec/Treasurer, and 2 Directors (2 yr terms).

Strategic Advocacy Effort

- Contract with Lewis, Longman & Walker, PA.
 - Assist to develop message and strategy
 - Identify key legislators
 - Facilitate meetings
 - Advocate
- Incorporate a CCE for distributing political contributions.
- Focus on funding first, then voice other concerns.
- Co-Advocate with other organizations.
- Grassroots movement in the future.

Invasive Plant Management Association FY 2013-14 Message:

- To further educate Legislators on the benefits of State funded invasive plant management operations to Florida.
- To inform Legislators on the existence of the infrastructure currently in place that relies on steady funding of State agencies. Pointing out the magnitude of employment opportunities provided by this infrastructure.
- To seek Legislative support for sustainable State funding for agencies whose mission is to conduct invasive plant control operations and/or matching grant programs aimed at controlling invasive plants on public lands at the local level.

Invasive Plant Management Association FY 2013-14 Message:

- To seek legislative support for sustainable State land/waterway management trust funds, such as the FWC Invasive Plant Control Trust Fund, either through enacting new revenue source legislation or protecting current Trust assets.
- To seek legislative support to manage State trust conservation lands as a core function of the State (FDEP RP).
- To seek legislative support to manage WMD conservation lands as a core WMD function.
- To seek legislative support to adequately fund State agencies such that there are skilled personnel to administer invasive plant control operations and grant programs.

Accomplishments for FY 2013/14

- Successful in keeping the FWC Trust Fund from being swept.
- Successful in advocating for a \$2M increase in FWC Trust Fund.
- Successful in initiating conversations for funding of FDEP lands (independent of FWC Trust).
- Successful introduction of IPMA and relationship building with key Legislators.



IPMA Relevance for FY 2014/15





- Need for continued Legislator briefing on benefits of State Funded IPM and Economic consequences of inaction.
- Need for continued advocacy for an increased FWC Trust Fund.
- Need for continuing dialogue on independent FDEP funding source for IPM.
- Need to represent management of lands within the proposed land acquisition Constitutional Amendment

IPMA 2012 – 2013 MEMBERS

- Applicators Network, Inc.
- Aquatic Vegetation Control, Inc.
- Brewer International, Inc.
- Crop Production Services, Inc.
- EarthBalance, Inc.
- Environmental Quality, Inc.
- Florida Best, Inc.
- Helena Chemical Company, Inc.
- Lake and Wetland Management, Inc.
- Kestrel Ecological Services, Inc.
- Southeast ChemTreat, Inc.
- Texas Aquatic Harvesting, Inc.

Join Us as Another Voice

- IPMA has now been proven to represent the voice of invasive plant management (Aquatic & Terrestrial).
- IPMA membership is half of that needed to be sustainable.
- IPMA will be in need of future committee members and skills.
- IPMA will need local contacts.

 If Interested, please join us in Grand Palm A for a general meeting of IPMA during the break.