# 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.

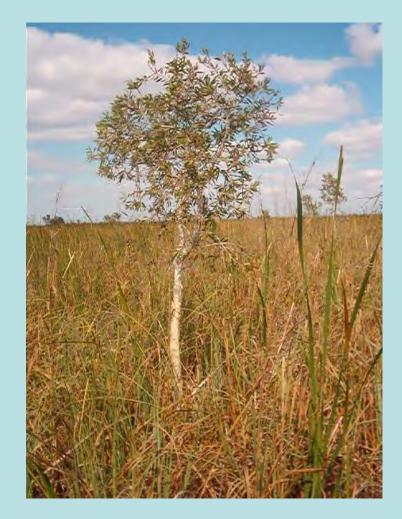
JOBS!

#### 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.