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.