Mark your calendar

• Aquatic Plant Management Society (APMS), Annual Meeting, July 16-19, 2006, Portland, OR. www.apms.org


• 33rd Annual Natural Areas Association Conference, September 20-23, 2006, Flagstaff, AZ. http://www.naturalarea.org/


• 30th Annual Florida Aquatic Plant Management Society Meeting, October 30 - November 2, 2006, St. Petersburg, FL. www.fapms.org


Publications

• FLEPPC's Brazilian Peppertree Task Force has released an updated ‘Florida Brazilian Peppertree Management Plan’ that discusses the biology and management of Schinus terebinthifolius, one of Florida’s worst invasive weeds. The updated management plan explains ecological processes that can have a selective and predictable population level impact on Brazilian peppertree and that can be manipulated using appropriate control technologies to effectively alter the plant’s invasive characteristics. To download the plan in PDF, go to: http://ipm.ifas.ufl.edu/

• The Ecological Society of America (ESA) presented their Invasive Species Position Paper, Biological Invasions: Recommendations for U.S. Policy and Management at the National Invasive Weeds Awareness Week in Washington, DC. A PDF version and/or a PowerPoint presentation can be downloaded from the ESA website at: http://www.esa.org/ Click on Public Affairs, then ESA Positions, to find this Position Paper and others from the venerable ESA.

Good Points

• Quote of the Quarter: “If I had to name the one thing in this profession that has changed the most, it would be the people. Thirty years ago it was just a pay check to most. Today it is a shared challenge that we all take pride in!!!” Gary Nichols, FLEPPC Board Member.
Internodes

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• 33rd Annual Conference, Ecosystems Restoration & Creation, November 2-3, 2006, Plant City, FL. 813/253-7523; www.hccfl.edu/depts/dept/ecoconf.html
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What are some of the current invasive plants being controlled by IPC, Inc. and the PPC?

Invasive Plant Control, Inc. and the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy are currently working on an 80 acre restoration of the historic landscape and natural areas in the Panther Hollow Watershed in Schenley Park. Invasive plant challenges include garlic mustard threatening old stands of trillium, May apple and Solomon's seal; Norway maple which has rapidly eliminated many species found in the original sugar maple-basswood community and Japanese knotweed which has spread along all the stream banks and wetland areas, choking out moist meadow species such as Joe-pye, ironweed, Sylphium cup-plant and seed-box.

What are some invasive plant management projects on the horizon?

Invasive Plant Control, Inc. and the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy are currently working with city, county, state and federal partners through the newly formed CWMA, Three Rivers Invasive Species Coalition (TRISC). One of the driving forces behind this coalition is to respond early to eliminate mile-a-minute vine in the western half of the state where it has only recently established a foothold.

For additional information about the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy visit their website at www.pittsburghparks.org.

You can also find this interview online at www.invasiveplantcontrol.com

615.385.4319
WWW.INVASIVEPLANTCONTROL.COM

Making the Most of the Plentiful Kudzu

Kudzu flower jelly, kudzu baskets and sculptures, kudzu tea, kudzu art exhibits, kudzu hay, kudzu herbal remedies, deep-fried kudzu and kudzu quiche...the list goes on and on. There is even a kudzu documentary, and numerous books have been published on the vine that is arguably the poster plant for invasive exotic pest plants in the South. It reportedly covers over 7 million acres of the deep South, but you can still purchase seeds and root crowns on the Internet, in spite of the fact that the vine is prohibited by both the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. I was recently bestowed with a jar of kudzu blossom jelly from North Carolina, as yet unopened. I guess if we can't beat it, we may as well eat it!

— KB, Ed.