

SE-EPPC E-NEWS December 2006 Volume 1.2

1. Call for Papers: 9th Annual SE-EPPC Symposium in Athens GA, March 20-22, 2007
2. State Chapter Report: Georgia
3. Louisiana meeting considers forming an EPPC
4. SE-EPPC data mapping workshops in Alabama
5. Initial occurrence information now available online for the region-wide survey of invasive pest plants in Southern forestland by USDA Forest Service
6. An update on the NAEPPC
7. Upcoming Events
8. Jobs, resources, and other opportunities

1. 9th Annual Southeast EPPC Conference

Pulling Together: Cooperation to Combat Invasive Plants

Dates: March 20-22, 2007

Location: UGA Center for Continuing Education, 1197 South Lumpkin Street, Athens, GA

The Southeast Exotic Pest Plant Council is a regional non-profit organization dedicated to controlling invasive plants and restoring natural ecosystems. SE-EPPC welcomes participation by all land agencies, organizations, industries, and individuals, all working together to forge a solution.

Call for Papers:

The Georgia EPPC, on behalf of the Southeast EPPC, invites you to present aspects of your work in a contributed presentation or poster. Abstracts to be presented, along with the final program, and registration information will be available online at www.se-eppc.org prior to the meeting.

Program topics will include:

- Biological Control
- Noxious Weeds in the Southeast
- Chemical Control
- Restoration/Ecology
- New Developments in Herbicide Technology
- Legislation/Regulatory Issues
- Education
- Ongoing Research Projects
- Funding/Information Sources
- Other Invasive Species (Insects, Diseases, Vertebrates, etc.)
- Urban Issues
- Mapping/Early Detection
- Genetics Submission of Abstracts – Electronically submit a title and abstract to Chris Evans (cevans@uga.edu). The deadline for receiving abstracts is January 19, 2007. Each contributed presentation or poster requires an abstract.

General Program Schedule:

Tues. March 20 – General and concurrent sessions, workshops, posters and evening reception

Wed. March 21 - General and concurrent sessions, control workshop and afternoon field trips

Thurs. March 22 – Half-day general and concurrent sessions. Business Meeting.

Please contact Chris Evans, cevans@uga.edu or 229-386-3298 for additional information.

2. GA-EPPC Update - November 21, 2006

report by Connie Gray, GA-EPPC President

GA-EPPC has continued to focus efforts on education, mostly through our Invasive Plant Control Workshop program. To date, we have held seven of these workshops since fall 2004, with a total attendance of over 300 people. In September, we partnered with Macon State College and the Waddell Barnes Botanical Gardens for a full day workshop in middle GA. Later that month, we held a half-day program for Emory University for their staff, faculty, and students. Our plans in 2007 include a half-day program as part of the Georgia Green Industry Association Wintergreen trade show in January and another half-day program during the SE-EPPC symposium in March. A full day workshop will be planned for fall 2007 most likely at a location in south Georgia

GA will host the 2007 SE-EPPC symposium in Athens March 20-22. The theme for the program, "Pulling Together: Cooperation to Combat Invasive Plants," was chosen to reflect what we feel is the strength of our organization: a diverse mix of individuals from a variety of fields, all working together to address this very serious issue. The program is designed to offer sessions to attract non-professionals as well as professionals.

We adopted an official state invasive plant list this year, and our friends at Bugwood created a terrific brochure that includes the entire list. This has been an excellent educational tool to hand out at various venues.

We continue to work on ways to expand our effectiveness and strengthen the organization. We are exploring the creation of an advisory board composed of representatives from critical agencies and organizations who are currently not involved with GA-EPPC. We have learned that our officers and Board of Directors need to be people willing to spend time working for the organization; an advisory board would allow those who do not have that time to spare to provide input. We are also working to develop Cooperative Weed Management Areas, beginning with building on the existing Cogongrass Task Force.

3. Louisiana meeting considers forming an EPPC – report by Jim Miller

Jim Miller, USFS official and Alabama Invasive Plant Council (IPC) board member, was invited to speak at this year's LSU Cooperative Extension Forest Herbicide Workshop on November 3 in Alexander, Louisiana on "Invasive Plant ID and Control with Strategies to Succeed". As with prior invited presentations at this meeting, he promoted the need to form a LA EPPC or LAIPC and become connected to SE-EPPC. Among approximately 100 attendees, considerable interest was expressed to convene a formation committee to begin to address the obvious invasions underway across their state forestlands and rights-of-way (ROWs). Jim's talk alluded to the recent data compiled from the USFS Forest Inventory Assessment (FIA) summaries regarding the presence of invasive species that are spreading throughout the state. He emphasized the need for a lead person, formation committee, formation conference, and moving towards approving bylaws and officers. The state presently has a LA invasive plant task force. The AL

Invasive Plant Council bylaws were provided to the group as well as contact information for SE-EPPC (Tony Pernas and Brian Bowen). Let us trust that they take the next steps.

4. Training and Networking Opportunity for Mapping Invasive Plants in Alabama - report by Howard Peavey, ALIPC, President

Recently there were three training workshops on mapping, documenting, and recording invasive plant occurrences in Alabama and the southern region. The AL Invasive Plant Council (ALIPC) hosted the training workshops in cooperation with SE EPPC, the University of Georgia's Bugwood Network, and the AL DOT. The trainers were Dave Moorhead, Chris Evans and Chuck Barger of the University of Georgia, with overviews of the invasive species issue presented by Nancy Loewenstein of Auburn University and Jim Miller with the US Forest Service.

The focus of the training was how to add observations of invasive plant locations to the SE-EPPC regional database and mapping program. The newly created database by Chris and Chuck is the SE-EPPC Regional Mapping Project (<http://se-eppc.org/>). The three different locations and dates for the training were in south, mid, and north Alabama on September 28, October 3, and 13, respectively. The last was in conjunction with the Third Annual Tennessee Valley Invasive Plant Symposium at the Monte Sano State Park Conference Center, sponsored by the Land Trust of Huntsville and North Alabama (LTHNA). Andy Prewett, who is an ALIPC board member, land manager, and member of LTHNA organized this event. The training included both a lecture and a field session. Chris Evans was the instructor.

There were more than 100 people who were trained through these sessions. ALIPC was very appreciative of the work that Dave, Chuck, and Chris did in presenting these workshops. Their willingness to organize this event provided an excellent training opportunity for those who attended.

5. Initial occurrence information now available online for the region-wide survey of invasive pest in plants in southern forestland by USDA Forest Service - Victor A. Rudis and Jim Miller, USDA Forest Service, Southern Research Station - submitted by Victor A. Rudis

Forest Service Research, in partnership with state forestry agencies, initiated a region-wide survey of 32 invasive plant taxa in 2001 on all forest ownerships as part of the USDA Forest Service, Southern Research Station, Forest Inventory and Analysis (SRSFIA) Unit surveys.¹ Selected for this effort were regionally important exotic pest plants known to invade forest edge, gap, and interior habitats. The invasive plant taxa survey will supplement traditional forest resource inventories for the 13 southern states when completed. The initial data records from this effort now are available for examination at: http://srsfia2.fs.fed.us/nonnative_invasive/Southern_Nonnative_Invasives.htm

The emphasis-to-date on this web application has been on the delivery of occurrence information, and not on area estimates, coverage, or database structure. A more user-friendly database is under construction, but is not yet available. One reason why this data is being made more widely available now is to obtain feedback and informal reviews from constituents. (Known issues have been documented, but further exploration may uncover opportunities for synergy, other issues, or problems not yet envisioned.) Two other reasons are for SRSFIA to (1) more rapidly satisfy data requests from their constituents using the most up to date data, and (2) facilitate collaborative exploratory modeling and analyses with the more

¹The FIA inventory consists of a strategic inventory consisting of a detailed sample of widely-spaced observations at systematic intervals have been ongoing since the 1930s in the South. The first goal is to obtain a strategic overview of forest resource supplies and trends for planning, and not for operational management, subsequent tree removal, or invasive species control. For a short PowerPoint slideshow about the FIA program and a Mississippi example, see <http://srsfia2.fs.fed.us/presentations/MS%20FIA.ppt>

than 100 other tree, forest condition, and plot attributes collected at the same location and referenced through the FIA mapmaker database <http://srsfia2.fs.fed.us/data/index.shtml>

The SRSFIA nonnative invasive plant database will improve only with stakeholders who take the trouble to explore the data, conduct analyses, and communicate with us. So that comments, suggestions, and more specific data requests can be processed in an orderly and timely fashion, please route them first through the SRSFIA customer service representatives listed on the web page.

A preliminary overview was presented by Rudis at the SE EPPC Conference in 2005 and is available at <http://www.se-eppc.org/2005/>. For more details about the invasive plant monitoring effort within the FIA program, see: Rudis, V.A.; Gray, A.; McWilliams, W.; O'Brien, R.; Olson, C.; Oswalt, S.; Schulz, B. 2006. Regional monitoring of nonnative plant invasions with the Forest Inventory and Analysis program. In: McRoberts, R.E., and others, eds. Proceedings of the sixth annual FIA Symposium; 2004 September 21-24; Denver, CO. Gen. Tech. Rep. WO-70. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service: 49-64. <http://ncrs.fs.fed.us/pubs/4244> Color preprint version: http://web.utk.edu/~vrudis/nnis/Rudis_MSTS2004.pdf

Results yield estimates of relative abundance, range, and impacted area on forestland, while long term monitoring will assess the rate of spread. These regional data are for strategic resource assessments on forestland, and for planning control and management programs. Geographically-referenced observations from nonforest land obviously are needed to complete a strategic assessment on all land areas. As is, forestland modeling can be developed through analysis of overstory tree and plot attributes, and landscape context information from other sources.

Selected trees species include tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus*), paulownia, Chinese tallowtree, chinaberry tree, mimosa, and Russian olive. Shrubs are autumn olive, Chinese/European privets, Japanese/glossy privets, bush honeysuckles, winged burning bush, exotic roses, nandina, and silverthorn (*Elaeagnus pungens*). Vines are kudzu, Japanese honeysuckle, oriental bittersweet, winter creeper, wisterias, Japanese climbing fern, vincas, and exotic climbing yams (*Dioscorea oppositifolia* and *D. bulbifera*). Grasses are cogongrass (*Imperata cylindrica*), miscanthus, microstegium, giant reed (*Arundo donax*), tall fescue, and exotic bamboos. Forbs and subshrubs are garlic mustard, Chinese lespedeza (*Lespedeza cuneata*), shrubby lespedeza (*L. bicolor*), and tropical soda apple. In Florida, 20 additional tropical/subtropical species are being monitored.

Percent cover of these species is being recorded on permanent plot clusters located on forestland across the landscape on an approximately 3-mile grid. The survey is being initiated on a state-by-state basis with a portion of the plots being surveyed annually by state, and thereafter on a continuing cycle. The first complete cycle of all states and plots will take about a decade, with preliminary estimates at shorter time intervals. Available on the web is a color identification manual for the referenced taxa used in the FIA survey: http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/gtr/gtr_srs062/

We seek additional partners in developing models of regional hazard rating, risk assessment, and for sponsoring publication of the identification manual that includes control recommendations for wider distribution and use.

6. An Update on the National Association of Exotic Pest Plant Councils report by Brian Bowen

The NAEPPC met at the 33rd annual Natural Areas Conference in Flagstaff, Arizona on September 25, 2006. The meeting began with introductions of the 10 EPPC/IPC's that were represented. This included a brief update on each organization's recent activities. A report was presented by Chuck Barger and Chris Evans on the new NAEPPC website that is maintained by Bugwood at the University of Georgia.

They showed the layout and discussed some of the content of the new website. The homepage provides a US map showing the distribution of the NAEPPC member organizations. The website includes links to the EPPC/IPC websites, invasive species websites, information about upcoming events, reports on recent events, past meetings, and NAEPPC activities. The website is at www.naeppc.org and can be accessed through www.se-eppc.org.

The website discussion was followed by a brief presentation by Brian Bowen about the two NAEPPC Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) written in 1995 and 2002. He explained briefly the history of the first MOU that established the NAEPPC. It was signed by the first EPPCs: Florida, Tennessee, California and the Pacific Northwest. He discussed the 2002 MOU that updated the original MOU, gave new organizations the opportunity to join, and defined how NAEPPC operated until bylaws were passed in 2004. It was noted during this discussion that all EPPCs who signed the 2002 MOU should be fully participating in NAEPPC and that new organizations formed since then should be encouraged to join.

Another agenda item included a report given by Matthew King recapping NAEPPC's Policy Committee actions. He reported that the committee had drafted two letters, a letter in support of appropriations in the amount of \$15 million for Public Law 108-412 Noxious Weed Control and Eradication and a letter of support for SB1288 that would allow the National Park Service to enter into cooperative agreements with neighboring lands in dealing with invasive vegetation. Matt stated that these two items were selected because they were not controversial and were supported by other groups. Also, it would be legislation that all EPPCs could support and was a good first project for NAEPPC to get behind. The committee wanted guidance from the Board on whether consensus was needed before sending out the letters to the EPPCs. It was suggested that NAEPPC simply provide the letters as examples for other EPPCs to use to send to their legislatures. Matt asked if the committee needed NAEPPC board approval before sending out the letters. The Board agreed that it wasn't necessary since the local EPPC/PCs were voting on it, and many of the committee reps were representing their organizations on the NAEPPC Board.

The final agenda item was in regard to the Natural Areas Conference to be held in Nashville in 2008. It was mentioned that there was a possibility that NAEPPC and NAA would partner in organizing a joint conference. There was overwhelming consent by the Board that a national conference with NAA would be a very big step forward for NAEPPC. (NAA has since approved this proposal).

The meeting was then adjourned with the next NAEPPC meeting set for NIWAW in Washington on February 25, time and place yet to be determined.

7. Upcoming Events

NY Invasive Plant Conference: February 7-8, 2007: Convened by: Invasive Plant Council of New York State Co-sponsors: New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets

Beat the winter doldrums, network with colleagues, and prepare for next spring. Participants will understand considerations in planning and organizing a site or regional invasive species program and effective survey, monitoring, and control tools and techniques for both "cutting edge" and "old favorite" invasive plants. A session will also be held on invasive fauna, as a springboard to expanded invasive species programming.

Holiday Inn Turf, Albany, New York; <http://www.hialbanyturf.com/>
Visit <http://www.ipcnys.org> in November for registration and agenda.

Contact:

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The Invasive Plant Management Conference: January 24, 2007, The Invasive Plant Management Conference will be held at the US National Arboretum in DC (3501 New York Ave., NE, Washington, DC 20002; Phone: (202) 245-2726) at the Administration Building Auditorium. John Peter Thompson, the Chairman at Behnke Nurseries Co., Inc., and ISAC member will be presenting. If you have any questions please e-mail or call Steven Manning at stevemanning@mindspring.com or (615) 969-1309. For additional information and to register, please go to <http://www.usna.usda.gov/>.

Joint Symposium on Invasive Plants: January 30 – 31, 2007, a joint symposium by the California Invasive Plant Council and The Western Section of The Wildlife Society will be held in the Portola Plaza Hotel, Monterey, CA. Topics will include: How do invasive plants affect wildlife? What are the interrelationships of rare wildlife and invasive plants? For more information, please see: <http://www.tws-west.org/2007ac.html#>

The 2007 Managing Roadsides Naturally Conference: March 6 – 8, 2007, the 2007 Managing Roadsides Naturally Conference will be held in Austin, TX. More details will be posted on www.wildflower.org in forthcoming months. For more information, contact Alice Gerhart at agerhart@wildflower.org or Flo Oxley at oxley@wildflower.org

WHAT: Eighth Annual National Invasive Weeds Awareness Week

WHEN: February 25 to March 2, 2007

WHERE: Washington, D.C.

WHO: Organizations and Individuals who Support Invasive Weed Management and Ecosystem Restoration

The Eighth Annual National Invasive Weeds Awareness Week (NIWAW 8) will be held in Washington, D.C. the week of **February 25 to March 2, 2007** to bring people and groups from across the country together to focus national attention on the severe impacts caused by invasive weeds. Individuals and organizations interested in this issue are invited to participate in this event and help build on the success of NIWAW activities in previous years. NIWAW 8 events are designed to focus on the important roles the Federal government must play to help the U.S. deal with invasive weed problems. We have also designed the schedule to provide ample time for attendees to meet with their Congressional delegations, individual federal agencies and each other.

For More Details Please Visit The NIWAW 8 Website
http://www.nawma.org/niwaw/niwaw_index.htm

8. Jobs, resources, and other opportunities

Global Invasive Species Database

The Global Invasive Species Database (GISD) launched a new interface on September 2006 at: <http://www.issg.org/database>. The site, which provides information on introduced species that threaten native biodiversity and human livelihoods, now has improved content and functionality. The site lists the 100 worst global invaders, including plants, insects, mammals, fungi, etc. The GISD, on-line since 2000 and mirrored by the National Biological Information Infrastructure (NBII) of the US Geological Survey at

www.invasivespecies.net/database, currently receives more than 900 unique visitors per day (50,000 hits per day). It is also available on CD for those with limited access to the Internet. For more information, contact Michael Browne at issg@auckland.ac.nz or phone :(649) 373-7599 (x86814)

Report Criticizes Actions Against Invasive Species

A conservative organization, the National Center for Public Policy Research, recently issued a report attacking actions taken against invasive species. The report states "Calls by some federal lawmakers to add burdensome new regulations to quarantine, to control or to kill so-called 'invasive species' are of dubious environmental value and represent a real threat to property owners." The organization's website states "In 1982, we started The National Center to provide the conservative movement with a versatile and energetic organization capable of responding quickly and decisively to fast-breaking issues."

To link to a press release about the report:

<http://www.nationalcenter.org/PRNPA544InvasiveSpecies.html>

To link to the report:

<http://www.nationalcenter.org/NPA544InvasiveSpecies.html>

To learn about the National Center for Public Policy Research:

<http://www.nationalcenter.org/NCPPRHist.html>

Position Announcement

The Agronomy and Soils Department of Auburn University is seeking applicants for an Invasive Plant Management Extension Specialist and Assistant Professor. This is a 9-month, tenure-track position with a 75% extension and 25% research appointment. The successful candidate is expected to develop a nationally recognized extension program addressing invasive plant management in Alabama. Cooperative interactions with other faculty, state and Federal agencies, organizations, and individuals will be required for training extension personnel and other stakeholders to identify invasive plants and to establish and coordinate a reporting and mapping system for Alabama. In addition, the incumbent will be expected to establish a statewide system for early detection; establish best management practices to limit introduction of invasive species; identify pathways which allow the introduction and spread of invasive species; and develop a funding base through competitive grants, private grants, and cost-share funds for invasive plant management. Other responsibilities include, plant identification, establishing field trials, and developing training materials and publications. The successful candidate will be expected to procure extramural funds to support programs and provide summer salary. Required qualifications include: 1) earned Ph.D. in weed science, plant ecology, plant taxonomy, or a closely related discipline (all requirements for the PhD must be completed by 16 August 2007); 2) formal education or extensive experience in field research; 3) formal education or extensive experience in plant identification; 4) effective communication and computer usage skills; candidate must demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively in English, both in writing and verbally, and 5) meet eligibility requirements for work in the United States at the time of appointment. For detailed application procedures contact Kay Holloway: e-mail – hollokm@auburn.edu; fax: 334-844-3945; phone – 334-844-3899; or mail – Agronomy and Soils Department, Auburn Univ, AL 36849-5412. Active review of applications will begin on 15 January 2007, but the search will continue until the position is filled. To ensure consideration for the position, applications must be received by end of business on 15 January 2007

Minorities and women are encouraged to apply

Auburn University is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity employer.