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Wildland Weeds

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The mission of the Exotic Pest Plant Councils is to support the management of invasive exotic plants in natural areas by providing a forum for the exchange of scientific, educational and technical information.

An **exotic plant** has been introduced, either purposefully or accidentally, from outside of its natural range. A **naturalized exotic plant** is one that sustains itself outside of cultivation (it is still exotic; it has not “become” native). An **invasive exotic plant** not only has become naturalized, but it is expanding its range in native plant communities.

Wildland Weeds (ISSN 1524-9786) is published quarterly by the Southeast Exotic Pest Plant Council (SE-EPPC) and distributed to members to provide a focus for the issues and for information on exotic pest plant biology, distribution and control. The Charter issue of *Wildland Weeds* was published by the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council in Winter 1997.

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Please contact your EPPC chapter secretary for mailing address changes: www.se-eppc.org



On the Cover:

Chuck Bargeron, Immediate Past-President of SE-EPPC, looks serious amidst a stand of coral ardisia, *Ardisia crenata*, found in Tifton, Georgia. This may be its northernmost range to date, and in his home state, no less. Read Chuck's presidential synopsis on page 4. Photo by David Moorhead, UGA.

Chuck Barger, SE-EPPC President

May 19, 2008 – May 11, 2010

So – my two year reign of terror is over! Karen Brown, *Wildland Weeds* editor, asked me to write an article about my presidency and for some reason I accepted. Anyone who knows me knows I am much better at talking than writing, but here we go – bear with me.

Ten years ago I was processing data for the Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey at The University of Georgia when I volunteered to help this new organization, the Southeast Exotic Pest Plant Council, by developing a website. I had a computer science degree (yes, I am a computer geek) and I knew a lot more about forestry and entomology than invasive plants. I never dreamed that soon I would actually deeply care about the issue of invasive species and get heavily involved in this organization. But I made some great friends, wouldn't shut up at board meetings and, most importantly, said yes to an invitation to become president two years ago. Looking back on past presidents, I felt in no way worthy. Dan Brown, Dan Thayer, Brian Bowen and Tony Pernas are giants in the invasive plant world. I think we fared pretty well, however, primarily because we have a great set of officers, chapter representatives and liaisons.

Please take a look at some of the things we have accomplished:

- ▶ Three annual conferences have been held: the first in a smoke-filled casino/hotel in Biloxi, MS (2008); the second in Georgetown, SC (2009) where we survived a barrage of yellow flies during the low-country boil banquet; and the third in Chattanooga, TN (2010) where we partnered with the Society for Ecological Restoration folks. (I missed this event to be with my wife while she had our second son.) Each meeting was a great success thanks to the hard work of the hosting state chapters and great participation by attendees. We learned a lot, raised some money and had fun!
- ▶ Former SE-EPPC coordinator, Brian Bowen, and other Southeast EPPC members working with the National Association of EPPCs (NA-EPPC) and the Natural Areas Association (NAA) held the first joint meeting of these two organizations in Nashville. The National EPPC captured the highly coveted "Prairie Fire" prize at the Ryman Auditorium (details are still a little fuzzy).
- ▶ The Southeast EPPC Mapping Project became the Early Detection and Distribution Mapping System (EDDMapS) and now has gone national with over 1 million invasive plant records.
- ▶ *Wildland Weeds* magazine evolved to become a truly regional publication, fully representing all chapters within SE-EPPC.
- ▶ The website was redesigned and received 1.3 million hits in 2009. It also enabled us to begin accepting online credit card registrations for annual meetings.
- ▶ The board of directors spent two frigid days at the beautiful Elachee Nature Center in Gainesville, Georgia to plan the future of SE-EPPC. We left the meeting with renewed energy to focus on what we are doing well: an annual conference, *Wildland Weeds* magazine, EDDMapS, chapter websites and the SE-EPPC listserv; to improve outreach to our members, other organizations and the green industry; and to help foster the development of CWMA's; to identify regional legislative and policy issues; and to synthesize state plant listing processes and protocols. We also decided to revisit and update the bylaws.
- ▶ The Award of Excellence was established with the first award being presented to Dr. Jim Miller of the USDA Forest Service at the 2010 annual meeting in Chattanooga. Jim has spent a career fighting invasive plants and should be a hero to us all.
- ▶ Four new liaisons to SE-EPPC were added – Industry: Bill Kline, Dow AgroSciences; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: Bill Thomas; The Nature Conservancy: Colette DeGarady; and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: Jon Lane.
- ▶ SE-EPPC submitted comments to USDA/APHIS on the Q-37 rule to strengthen the screening of plant imports to prevent introductions of new invasive species to the U.S.
- ▶ We developed a SE-EPPC membership brochure that has been distributed across the Southeast, and a stand-up SE-EPPC display that has traveled to many state and regional meetings.
- ▶ Finally, in May 2010, we passed the revised bylaws.

Not too shabby in my humble opinion! Especially since this doesn't include the great achievements of each of our state chapters. At one point during the past two years, I doubted if we still needed a regional organization. However, looking back at all we have accomplished and all the work we still have to do, I am glad we have continued to work at the regional level. Good luck to Nancy Loewenstein as our new president. I am moving on to cause trouble as National EPPC president in October. I guess I've become an invasive plant geek who just works as a computer geek, as opposed to the other way around. Those invasive species just have a way of getting into your system and taking over.



Field tour participants at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park

Review: Weeds Across Borders 2010

by Emily Rindos

Weeds Across Borders (WAB), a biennial international conference covering the interests of professionals and organizations involved in North American weed management and regulation, took place during the first week of June 2010 at the National Conservation Training Center (NCTC) in Shepherdstown, West Virginia. Composed of an affiliation of organizations from Canada, Mexico, and the United States with a common interest in sharing information and promoting weed management throughout North America, the conference has rotated among the three countries since its inception in 2002.

This year's event was sponsored by the Federal Interagency Committee for the Management of Noxious and Exotic Weeds (FICMNEW) and the US Federal Highway Administration with additional support from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, the Invasive Plant Atlas of New England, UNAM-National University of Mexico, and the Center for Invasive Plant Management. The Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management, comprised of wildlife conservation organizations from Canada, Mexico, and the United States, endorsed the conference.

Over 100 attendees and speakers traveled from 27 states, 6 provinces, and 5 countries to form partnerships between government agencies, universities, industry, non-governmental organizations, and volunteer organizations.

The theme of this year's conference was "Plant Invasions: Policies, Politics, and Practices" and the 45 presentations brought new invasive species issues, challenges, solutions, and programs

to the forefront. Session topics included: Status Reports from each country, Cooperation and Horticultural Partnerships, Applied Research Reports, New Issues and Networking, Border Management, Economic and Ecological Impacts, Awareness and Education Programs, Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR), and an EDNR training workshop. The strong agenda showcased new research, partnerships, legislation, and programs from across the continent.

The conference also included a field tour, which took participants to Flowing Springs Park and Harpers Ferry National Historical Park where local experts discussed problems and management techniques along the area's pathways and corridors, rivers and trails. An evening event featured a fascinating talk by keynote speaker Curt Meine, biographer of Aldo Leopold, who explored invasive species issues within the framework of Leopold's Land Health Concept. Bonnie Harper-Lore, organizer of the first three WAB conferences, presented an overview of WAB starting at the very beginning and ending with an inspired challenge to continue work toward continental partnerships, information sharing, and cross-boundary program coordination.

Additional information on WAB, including speaker presentations, the meeting agenda, and links to past WAB conference documents can be found on the conference website: <http://www.weedcenter.org/wab/2010>.

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Student Journalists Learn About Invasive Species

by Karen Brown

KEN LANGELAND, UF-IFAS



On a hot, humid June morning in Gainesville, Florida, sixty eager high-school journalism students descended on Lake Alice at the University of Florida to learn about invasive species. The combination Role Models Foundation event and UF College of Journalism recruiting activity challenged students to a morning of gathering facts from invasive species scientists at the lake and an afternoon of producing a final news piece. Students were accompanied by professional journalists, UF College of Journalism professors, and graduate and undergraduate students. All seemed excited by the topic of the day, the chance to visit Lake Alice and the opportunity to interview scientists from UF. A special treat for all was an airboat tour of the lake which most had never experienced.

The Role Model Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to educational programs for young people, especially those who experience barriers, which dedicates itself to developing journalists and involved citizens. Rolemodelstoday.org is an online publication that publishes upbeat articles by youth and for youth. It gives aspiring journalists an opportunity to present high-interest stories and share vital information about life. Related activities include mentoring, internship and networking opportunities with professional journalists, business partners and educators. The publication promotes citizenship, character and personal responsibility through highlighting role models. All students are invited to submit articles for possible publication. The Role Model Foundation was founded by respected journalist, Mr. Bill Maxwell.

Visit the website at: www.rolemodelstoday.org

Lake Alice receives high levels of nutrients from the UF campus and historically has had a problem with aquatic weeds as a result. The problem was tackled with aquatic weed harvesters, grass carp, and herbicides and eventually was brought under a maintenance control program which now keeps the lake an attractive place to visit and an opportune site to view a large population of alligators, turtles and birds.

Students and their parents were given a brief overview to invasive species issues in Florida prior to visiting the lake. The news gathering portion of the day featured University of Florida personnel. Ms. Margaret Glenn drove an aquatic weed harvester while Dr. William Haller explained the pros and cons of mechanical control activities. Dr. Jim Cuda discussed biological control methods using insects; Dr. Steve Johnson explained problems with invasive animals and provided numerous preserved and skeletal specimens; Dr. Colette Jacono exhibited invasive plants; and Dr. Mike Netherland discussed invasive plant control methods using herbicides. Mr. Ed Hayes with the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission took students on an airboat tour of the lake and described past aquatic weed problems and pointed out growing tussock (floating island) formations. Ms. Amy Richard helped coordinate the event and kept students moving between stations. She later surprised them with a visit by *Amelia exotica floridana* (Amy in plant costume) during the afternoon work session. Drs. Ken Langeland and Jeffrey Hutchinson also provided post-field trip expertise to students during the afternoon session.

Everyone enjoyed the busy day and learned from one another. Presenters were inspired by the enthusiasm and maturity of the students and, hopefully, the students were inspired to look beneath the surface of complex issues such as invasive species and their management in their future journalistic endeavors.

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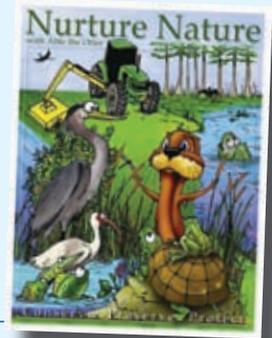
Selective herbicides, Navigate and Navitrol control invasive milfoil and other troublesome aquatic dicots, allowing desirable native plants to remain for fish habitat, cover and oxygen production.

Able Otter Teaches Kids to Nurture Nature

by Carla Ulakovic



Since 1958, the East County Water Control District (ECWCD) has been dedicated to preserving and protecting water resources in Lehigh Acres (eastern Lee County) and western Hendry County, Florida. ECWCD recently designed its first public outreach program with education grants from the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council's 2009 Kathy Craddock Burks Education and Outreach Grant (\$1,000), the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program (CHNEP) Public Outreach Grant (\$3,000), and a donation from Tetra Tech, Inc. (\$500).



ECWCD created a branded program, *Nurture Nature—Save the Source!*, including an original mascot, Able Otter, to create a trustworthy and recognizable message to help raise awareness and inspire kids to become good stewards for the natural environment.

As part of the multi-tiered pilot outreach program, *Nurture Nature—Save the Source!*, ECWCD educated and energized more than 900 first through fifth grade students at Harns Marsh Elementary School about the water cycle, the watershed, personal actions that pollute and stress the environment, the benefits of native plants, the impacts of invasive plants, and best-practice solutions.

ECWCD invited several schools in the local community to participate in the *Nurture Nature—Save the Source!* program with the hope of educating at least 800 students. An eager partner was found at Harns Marsh Elementary School (HME) in Assistant Principal, Marsha Bur. HME and ECWCD coordinated two full educational days at the school. Teachers incorporated the *Able Otter Nurture Nature* activity booklet into their lesson plans prior to the school events. The *Nurture Nature — Save the Source* activity booklet teaches kids about storm water management, the benefits of native plants and other key issues in the natural environment of southwest Florida. Classrooms were invited, two at a time, to participate in a thirty minute educational activity which utilized a table-top model of the natural landscape to demonstrate the role water plays in the environment and ways in which pollution affects our waters. Students then participated in the Nurture Nature Planting Station where they were taught about the benefits of xeriscaping and were able to transplant a native dune sunflower to take home for a butterfly garden. Each classroom had time to visit with Able Otter and have a class photo taken. After the

educational day, students were asked to take a pledge to become stewards of the environment by joining Able Otter's River Romp Rangers, and were given a certificate.

Three classes from each grade level, first through fifth, were given pre- and post-program quizzes to gauge awareness levels. The first quiz was administered before students participated in the environmental education event in order to create a benchmark of awareness. The pre- and post-program quizzes showed a 34 percent increase in student awareness on the subjects of stormwater management, the benefits of native plants, water conservation, and pollution prevention practices. The student in each grade level who showed the most improvement after the program and those who received the highest scores on the quizzes will be receiving an Able Otter stuffed animal.

Due to the success of the two-day in-school program, ECWCD coordinated a separate event for the entire HME fifth grade level to experience the natural environment. ECWCD reached out to several local environmental groups to also participate in the field day. Approximately 150 students enjoyed a special field day at Harns Marsh – a district-owned, 578-acre preserve. Students learned how they could nurture nature as they went on a one-hour guided nature walk through Harns Marsh, planted native laurel oaks and red maples in the South Marsh, and heard educational presentations from the ECWCD, CHNEP, the Calusa Nature Center-Planetarium, the Conservancy of Southwest Florida, and Lee County Mosquito Control.

Teachers were surveyed at the two-day in-school program and at the field day. Ninety percent thought the model presentation was engaging; 95 percent strongly agreed they would participate in future programs; 85 percent found the information relevant to



PHOTOS BY CARLA ULAKOVIC

ECWCD staff member, Hugo Villafuerte, helps students transplant native dune sunflowers.

— Save the Source!



Jennifer Snekszer's second grade class poses for a class picture with Able Otter after their visit to the Nurture Nature Planting Station.



their grade level; 90 percent strongly agreed that the activity book was a useful tool; and 100 percent of the fifth grade teachers strongly agreed that the field day was a great interactive learning tool.

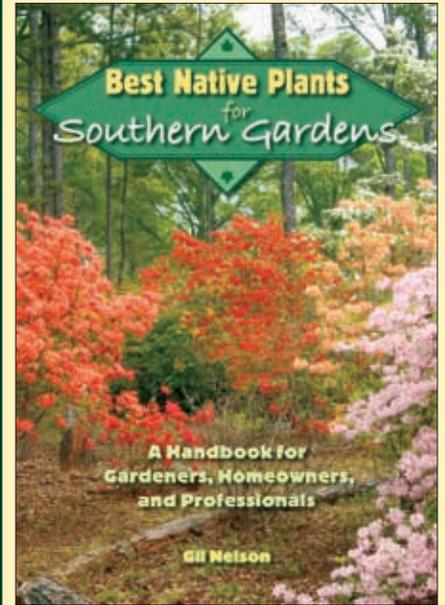
"The Nurture Nature—Save the Source! pilot program has been a wonderful experience from planning to implementation," says Dave Lindsay, ECWCD District Manager. "When Able Otter walks into the room, you can really see the joy on a child's face. He helps children, parents and community members get excited about the program and makes the message more memorable."

Able Otter is becoming a bit of a celebrity as he has received several invitations to attend local community events. In the past year, he has made appearances at the FLEPPC Annual Conference in Crystal River, several ECWCD Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies and the Lehigh Acres Spring Festival where he was recognized by children from HME. A limited number of Able Otter stuffed animals were produced as incentives for the Nurture Nature Program courtesy of Tetra Tech, Inc.

ECWCD received wonderful support from FLEPPC, CHNEP, HME and the community for the Nurture Nature—Save the Source! program. ECWCD will continue to research and develop ways to improve this program. We plan to continue our partnership with HME and hope to fill requests for presentations as they are received.

For more information, contact Carla Ulakovic at East County Water Control District at carlau@ecwcd.com.

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CHAPTER UPDATES

Alabama IPC *by Jimmie Cobb, President*

The ALIPC annual meeting in Auburn had a great turnout with more than 170 attendees covering a wide range of backgrounds, including forest industry and utility managers. Many of these folks do not “think invasives” every day, and it was good to expand our reach. Speakers hailed from GA, AL, TN, and FL. Dr. Pat Minogue of the University of Florida opened with a presentation on Japanese climbing fern identification and control. Japanese climbing fern is rapidly spreading in Alabama, and we want members to be on the lookout for its presence. Dr. Stephen Enloe of Auburn University discussed application rates for basal and cut stump privet treatments, showing that both spring and fall applications of triclopyr and glyphosate are effective. James Johnson of the Georgia Forestry Commission presented data showing good control of privet with aerial applications of glyphosate in the winter. These applications are controlling the privet and releasing native hardwoods from competition. Dr. Greg Armel of the University of Tennessee discussed invaders that we can expect to see moving in from the north. Stephen Pecot of Larson and McGowin, Inc. discussed progress on fighting cogongrass utilizing the Alabama Forestry Commission grant.

2009 grant recipients Danny Cain of Walker County Extension and Don Collier with the Wheeler Wildlife Refuge Association gave presentations on their jobs. Our 2010 grants program was announced, and our web page has the details. We then adjourned to a local park to see demonstrations on plant identification, new invasive plants to watch for, herbicide application equipment, mulchers, and wetlands restoration. We had a record number of sponsors at the meeting, and they all reported great interaction with the attendees.

We participated with the Auburn Arboretum in “Starboretum Wars” — a volunteer weed-pull session. We also participated in a clean-up of invasive plants at Haines Island Park with the Alabama Plant Conservation Association, and plan to make this a long-term partnership. We have had a number of articles published in newspapers around the state, with the Cogongrass Initiative particularly raising public awareness of at least one invasive weed.

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SE-EPPC holds Annual Meeting with SE-SERI

The Southeast Exotic Pest Plant Council held their annual meeting in conjunction with the Southeast Chapter of the Society for Ecological Restoration International (SERI) from May 11 – 13, 2010. The conference was held in the lovely and historic Sheraton Read House Hotel in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Approximately 120 people attended the joint meeting, *Disturbance and Change, Invasive Plants and Paths to Recovery*, including almost thirty students. Both the SE-EPPC and SERI held their annual general business meetings in conjunction with luncheons at the hotel.

The keynote speaker was Dr. Don Hodges, University of Tennessee, Professor of Forest Economics and Policy, and Director of the UT Natural Resource Policy Center, who gave a stimulating presentation on the costs associated with invasive plants in the Southeast.

Plenary speakers were Gene Hyde, City Forester for Chattanooga and current Chair of the Chattanooga Green Committee. Mr. Hyde gave a historical overview of the city of Chattanooga, which has undergone a visionary makeover since the 1960s when Walter Cronkite named it America’s dirtiest city. Today the city is a welcoming and beautiful destination with the world-class Tennessee Aquarium, miles of riverfront parks, multiple museums and a thriving downtown area. It is also an important Civil War historical location.

The second plenary speaker was Dr. Tom Barnes with the University of Kentucky, a professor and wildlife extension specialist who spoke on the restoration of native grasses in the southeastern U.S.

Meeting sessions included forest restoration, education and outreach, invasive species, cogongrass research and organization, grassland restoration, and wetlands restoration. A cogongrass workshop had over 100 attendees with laminated plant specimens provided by Nancy Loewenstein to prevent any seed dispersal. The meeting was sponsored by RPM Ecosystems Southeast, LLC, Ravenel, SC; Westervelt Ecological Services, Auburn, AL; Roundstone Native Seed, LLC, Upton, KY; Invasive Plant Control, Inc., Nashville, TN; and underwritten by the National Park Service, Southeast Exotic Plant Management Team, Asheville, NC and the US Forest Service.

Dr. James H. Miller was presented with the first SE-EPPC Award of Excellence by former SE-EPPC President Tony Pernas. Tony gave an authoritative reading of the plaque’s inscription, A Plant Manager’s Defense, adapted by Dan Clark from the film, *A Few Good Men*, starring Jack Nicholson. Although the inscription is humorous in nature, the award is a very sincere recognition of Dr. Miller’s lifetime of dedication and achievement in the field of invasive plant species. Dr. Miller is an Invasive Species Research Ecologist with the U.S. Forest Service, Southern Research Station, and Affiliate Professor of Forestry with the Auburn University School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences. He has been instrumental in the fight against cogongrass in the southeastern U.S. He has authored and co-authored many important publications, including *Nonnative Invasive Plants of Southern Forests: A Field Guide for Identification and Control*. 2003. Gen. Tech. Rep. SRS-62. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 93p., and *Maps of Occupation and Estimates of Acres Covered by Nonnative Invasive Plants in Southern Forests using SRS FIA data posted on March 15, 2008*. [Available only on the internet: <http://www.invasive.org/fiamaps/>]



Dr. James H. Miller receives the inaugural SE-EPPC Award of Excellence.

KAREN BROWN

South Carolina EPPC and NERR Partner to Control Invasives and Promote Natives in the Southeast by Stefanie Simpson

The South Carolina Exotic Pest Plant Council partnered with the Southeast National Estuarine Research Reserves (NERR) (North Carolina, North-Inlet Winyah Bay, ACE Basin, Sapelo Island, and Guana Tolomato Matanzas NERRs) this past February to present a three-day invasive species conference, *Controlling Invasives and Promoting Natives through Collaborative Efforts in the Southeast*. The conference was held at Camp St. Christopher on Seabrook Island and had more than 70 attendees over the three days. Presentations focused on the networks available for collaborative efforts, such as the NERR System and SC EPPC, and the ongoing efforts to control and manage the spread of invasive plant species in the southeast. The event included several breakout groups where participants could discuss specific topics such as Targeting the Green Industry, Engaging the Public Beyond Brochures, Working Together to Improve Collaboration, and Innovative Regulatory Approaches for Addressing Invasives. As part of the Targeting the Green Industry breakout group, a survey was conducted by members

of the SC EPPC and southeastern NERRs prior to the workshop. This survey assessed the knowledge of nursery professionals regarding invasive plants and what further assistance they would need in promoting the use of native plants. The outcomes of this survey were presented during the breakout group. A report was recently sent to attendees and is available online along with another post-event report regarding a core message for invasive plant outreach efforts. Both reports can be found at: <http://www.dnr.sc.gov/marine/NERR/trainingInvasives.html>. The third day of the workshop consisted of Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) training which taught participants how to identify new invasive plants and respond to their spread. This collaborative event not only provided participants with updates on invasive plant management in the southeast, but also provided opportunities to network with each other to increase future collaborative efforts to phase out invasive species.

Stefanie Simpson, Office of Coastal Reserves and Outreach, SC Department of Natural Resources – MRD, Charleston, SC, SimpsonSL@dnr.sc.gov

Kentucky EPPC Update by Joyce Bender, President

Each year Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest, the Kentucky Exotic Pest Plant Council and the Garden Club of Kentucky publish a poster of a featured plant that has proven to be invasive to Kentucky's native habitats. Native alternatives are depicted with growth habit, planting requirements, wildlife value and more. The latest poster in the **Kentucky's Least Wanted Series** features privet (*Ligustrum* spp.). This poster, and those from previous years, are available for viewing and download through <http://www.bernheim.org/leastWanted.html>. The featured plant for 2009 was callery pear, *Pyrus calleryana*; 2008 featured princess-tree, *Paulownia tomentosa*; 2007 — Japanese knotweed, *Polygonum cuspidatum*; and 2006 — Asian bittersweet, *Celastrus orbiculata*. "These introduced plants are out-competing our native species resulting in a reduction of plant diversity. Be on the lookout for these invasive plants and avoid using them in your landscaping. Instead, use similar native plants that can and do provide similar enhancements to your environment."

Our work on the Capitol Makeover continues with plans to map all invasive plants on the capitol grounds and work with state facilities management staff to replace them with native plantings donated by civic minded groups. This project is in conjunction with the Kentucky Native Plant Society, the local neighborhood association and master gardeners. Additional plans call for notices of our efforts to be included in routine information that is regularly provided to legislators by the Legislative Research Commission. Signage will be included if funding can be secured.

The Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission has a book coming out in September on the biodiversity of Kentucky. In conjunction with the book, Kentucky Educational Television (KET KY) is creating a series of presentations for their popular show, *Kentucky Life*, about biodiversity. One of the issues to be explored is invasive plants. We will be filming that segment this summer and early spring 2011 and it will air on Earth Day 2011. The Commission website also has distribution maps available for a number of the most threatening invasive plants. These can be viewed at: <http://www.naturepreserves.ky.gov/inforesources/factsheets.htm>

KY EPPC will be involved in training workshops on invasive plant identification and control for KY Division of Forestry personnel this summer.

To visit the KY EPPC website, go to: <http://www.se-eppc.org/ky/>

Joyce Bender, Nature Preserves and Natural Areas Branch Manager, Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission, joyce.bender@ky.gov



TNEPPC Update

by Terri Hogan, Immediate Past President

Bringing SE-EPPC and the Southeast Chapter of the Society for Ecological Restoration International (SERI) together for a joint annual meeting was a major TNEPPC accomplishment this year (see p. 10).

Another accomplishment was TNEPPC's participation in establishing the Tennessee Cooperative Weed Management Area (TNCWMA). In 2009, a group of concerned individuals and representatives of federal and state agencies, industry, and non-governmental organizations came together in an effort to cooperatively address invasive plants in the state of Tennessee. Their focus centers on developing strategies to keep new invasive species out of the state, followed by early detection and rapid response (EDRR) to quickly spot and eradicate new troublesome species. This group, the Tennessee Invasive Plant Species (TIPS) Steering Committee, chose to focus on species that are known to be highly invasive where they occur but 1) do not yet occur in Tennessee or 2) are not yet widespread in the state. Representatives of fourteen entities signed a Memorandum of Understanding establishing a 41,220-square-mile Cooperative Weed Management Area encompassing all of Tennessee and an agreement to work together to educate, detect, inventory, monitor, control, and prevent the spread of cogongrass and other designated species within Tennessee. The Steering Committee divided the TNCWMA into three distinct management zones to help organize and prioritize specific cooperative projects. Establishing a CWMA also helps gain funding for education campaigns and for treatment. The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) was a very active participant in this effort. TNEPPC thanks all states that shared materials. For more information on the TNCWMA, visit: <http://eppserver.ag.utk.edu/Extension/TNCWMA/>

Gravel and sand pit certification is another major project that was taken on by Kristine Johnson. Kristine has spoken with gravel pit operators and developed a good relationship with Vulcan Materials Company, whose representatives have shown a real interest in managing invasive species in their quarries and planting appropriate species for erosion control. Gravel and sand quarry pits are perfect disturbed habitats for establishment of invasive plants. Some are deliberately introduced during restoration to control erosion and improve water quality. Seeds from invasive plants can contaminate both the active pit and storage piles, providing a pathway for future infestations at construction sites throughout the region. Adapting procedures in use at Yellowstone National Park, Great Smoky Mountains National Park has begun working with quarries to survey their facilities for invasive species and

MS Exotic Pest Plant Council Meeting Adventures

by Julie Marcy, Treasurer

Fifteen members of the Mississippi Exotic Pest Plant Council (MSEPPC) attended a workshop in Vicksburg, MS on June 2nd. Attendees included representatives of DeSoto National Forest, the MS Bureau of Plant Industry, the MS Department of Transportation, MS State University Extension, The Nature Conservancy, the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture/Southern Weed Science Research Unit, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Vicksburg National Military Park, along with the MS Cooperative Weed Management Area Coordinator and the MS State Plant Health Director.

The morning session included an overview video, briefings and tours of the U.S. Army Engineer Research & Development Center's (ERDC) Environmental Lab. Facilities toured included the aquatic invasives laboratories, greenhouses and ponds. Discussions centered on aquatic invasive species management and research efforts, ecosystem restoration, and invasive species information systems. Speakers included Ms. Rachelle Hinton, Mr. Brian Durham, Ms. Jan Freedman, Dr. Jan Hoover, Dr. Chris Mudge, Dr. Linda Nelson, and Dr. Judy Shearer.

Participants then traveled to the Vicksburg National Military Park and toured invasive species management areas with Natural Resources Program Manager Virginia DuBow, who explained efforts to remove invasive plants and restore a section of the battlefield to its historical period vegetation. Sites included kudzu management areas, mechanical clearing of chinaberry trees, and prescribed burn areas.

Despite some challenging heat, humidity and insect friends, participants deemed the workshop an enjoyable and worthwhile learning experience.

Julie B. Marcy, ERDC-EL-MS, Julie.B.Marcy@usace.army.mil



Participants search for biological control insects on aquatic plants with Dr. Judy Shearer and Ms. Jan Freedman

recommend improvements to minimize seed contamination. TNEPPC's newly revised web site links to documents related to gravel pit certification.

TNEPPC finalized our invasive plant list and listing criteria (See *Wildland Weeds*, Winter 2009 and the TNEPPC website), and celebrated TN Invasive Weed Awareness Week (TN IWAW) for the second year with 14 events across the state. Event highlights and photos are posted on the website.

To promote the use of native plants in gardens and landscapes, TNEPPC revised and consolidated three regional brochures into a single statewide document, "*Landscaping with Native Plants — Tennessee*" for easier use and wider application.

TNEPPC had major input into the TN Department of Agriculture's updated pest plant list last year with 10 new species added including Chinese, common, and European privets (*Ligustrum* spp.); and Amur, Morrow's, and Bell's honeysuckle (*Lonicera* spp.).

All materials are posted on the newly updated TNEPPC website at www.tneppc.org

Terri Hogan, Ecologist, Stones River National Battlefield, Murfreesboro, TN, Terri_Hogan@nps.gov

Georgia EPPC *by Brian Arnold, Secretary*

Members of GA-EPPC have been participating in events to increase awareness of non-native invasive plants throughout the state. Efforts include the Georgia Green Industry Association (GGIA) Wintergreen and Winterschool, at which GA-EPPC members provided an “Invasive Non-Native Plant Control Workshop” targeting professionals in the Green Industry. Members also provide an “Alien Invaders” display booth and provide presentations to the general public, and meet with elementary and high school classes in an effort to educate future leaders.

GA-EPPC’s Annual Meeting is scheduled for November 4, 2010 at Zoo Atlanta. Along with other objectives, the meeting will be used to demonstrate the financial losses that can occur when invasive plants are not managed. Damon E. Waitt, Senior Botanist at the University of Texas Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, will be the keynote speaker. Aside from disseminating information via direct contact, current goals of GA-EPPC include updating the website and the list of non-native invasive plants, and creating a speakers bureau to provide more opportunities to inform the public about non-native invasive plants in Georgia.

*Brian Arnold, Natures Landscape Services, Inc.,
brian@natureslandscapeservices.com*

NC-EPPC Update *by Rick Iverson, President*

NC-EPPC co-sponsored its first Early Detection Rapid Response (EDRR) training session on May 22 in Wilmington, NC. Other sponsors were Cape Fear ARCH Conservation Collaboration and North Carolina Coastal Reserve. Attendees included representatives from local government, state agency staff, students, and citizens.

NC-EPPC has finalized an EDRR target weed list and plan and will post them on the website with corresponding fact sheets soon. A joint annual meeting is planned with the NC Vegetation Management Association in Raleigh on December 8-9. An NC-EPPC communications plan also is in the works with Debbie Crane leading the effort.

Megan Malone was selected to receive the 2010 NC-EPPC \$1,000 scholarship. The scholarship is provided to encourage students to pursue a graduate degree and to support research in the area of invasive plant science. Megan is pursuing an M.S. degree in Natural Resource Science. She has demonstrated a keen interest in invasive plant science as well as leadership and a very high degree of academic achievement. Her thesis title is “A comparison of the vegetation and soils of North Carolina piedmont stream restoration projects and their reference sites.”



*Megan Malone, NCEPPC
2010 Scholarship Winner*

Rick Iverson, Weed Specialist, NCDA&CS, Plant Industry Division, Rick.Iverson@ncagr.gov

IveGot1.org – Reporting and Tracking Invasive Species in Florida

IveGot1.org is Florida’s new portal to the Early Detection and Distribution Mapping System (EDDMapS). EDDMapS was designed to provide an accurate picture of the distribution of invasive species, and assist land managers in setting priorities for early detection and rapid response (EDRR). It has been successful in developing more complete local, state and regional level distribution data on invasive species, and identifying leading edge ranges of new invasive species threats. It also is used to help corroborate threats and refine invasive species lists.

“Report Cards” were recently produced to publicize the IveGot1 portal and to introduce users to some of the data entry steps when invasive species are spotted. IveGot1 cards are intended for those involved in active detection networks. Sightings may be reported on invasive plants, insects, mollusks, fish, reptiles, mammals, amphibians, birds, crustaceans, and arachnids. Go to www.IveGot1.org to report invasive species sightings, view distribution maps and species information, create a My EDDMapS application, and to view Tools and Training Materials. Invasive animals in Florida can also be reported using a toll-free phone number: 1-888-Ive-Got1.

To request a supply of IveGot1 cards, contact a Florida Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA) at <http://www.floridainvasives.org/>.

IveGot1.org is a partnership between the Florida Invasive Species Partnership (FISP) and the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council (FLEPPC), with support from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service and The Nature Conservancy in cooperation with Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and Florida Natural Areas Inventory.

Charles T. Barger, Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health, The University of Georgia, Tifton, cbarger@uga.edu



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Publications

- Pest Risk Maps for Invasive Alien Species: A Roadmap for Improvement by Robert C. Venette, Darren J. Kriticos, Roger D. Magarey, et al (2010). *BioScience* 60: 349–362. “This article describes the need for pest risk maps, compares pest risk mapping methods, and recommends future research to improve such important decision-support tools.”
- An Extensive Alien Plant Inventory from the Inhabited Areas of Galapagos by Anne Guézou, Mandy Trueman, Christopher Evan Buddenhagen, et al (2010). *PLoS ONE* 5(4):e10276. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0010276. “Here we present results of the most comprehensive inventory to date of alien vascular plants in the inhabited areas of Galapagos... This extensive survey has increased the known alien vascular flora of Galapagos by 257 species, giving a ratio of alien to native taxa of 1.57:1.”
- *Imperata cylindrica*, an Alien Invasive Grass, Maintains Control Over Nitrogen Availability in an Establishing Pine Forest by P. Daneshgar and S. Jose. *Plant Soil* 320(1-2):209-218. “*Imperata cylindrica* competition led to smaller pine seedlings with significantly less N content in the pine foliage and roots than those in the native [competition] treatment.”
- Inspection and Cleaning Manual for Equipment and Vehicles to Prevent the Spread of Invasive Species 2010 Edition, Technical Memorandum No. 86-68220-07-05 by Joe DiVittorio, Michael Grodowitz, and Joe Snow. The revision includes more detail for construction site management, facility equipment materials and improved information citation. There are additional photographs and drawings to illustrate concepts. <http://www.usbr.gov/pps/EquipmentInspectionandCleaningManual2010.pdf>
- The Summer 2010 issue of *Hand Papermaking* magazine explores alternative and invasive plant fibers. Articles include favorite Kentucky invasive plants for papermaking, urban guerrilla

A Field Guide for the Identification of Invasive Plants in Southern Forests

by Jim Miller, Erwin Chambliss and Nancy Loewenstein. Publication Number GTR-SRS-119.

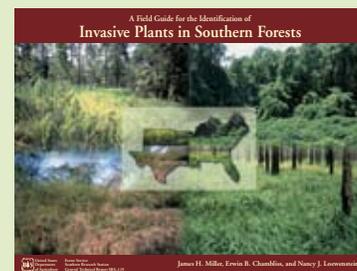
http://www.srs.fs.fed.us/pubs/gtr/gtr_srs119.pdf

Free copies of *A Field Guide for the Identification of Invasive Plants in Southern Forests* are now available to foresters, landowners, gardeners and others concerned about nonnative plants in the South. This book is an update of the very popular *Nonnative Invasive Plants of Southern Forests: A Field Guide for Identification and Control* published in 2003 with nearly 160,000 copies distributed.

Invasive Plants in Southern Forests gives users a more comprehensive identification guide to nonnative trees, shrubs, vines, grasses, ferns and forbs invading the region's forests and other natural areas. The updated field guide added 23 plant species, more than 300 photos and images, and a “Resembles” section so users can identify plant “look-alikes.” *Invasive Plants in Southern Forests* differs from the first book in that it focuses solely on the identification of exotic plants and does not include control methods. Methods for controlling invasive plants will be covered in a new companion book titled *A Management Guide for Nonnative Invasive Plants of Southern Forests* by Jim Miller and co-authors Steven Manning, president of Invasive Plant Control, Inc., and Stephen Enloe, Ph.D., weed management extension specialist at Auburn University. That book will be available in August 2010.

A free hard copy of *A Field Guide for the Identification of Invasive Plants in Southern Forests* is available by sending name and mailing address, along with book title, author, and publication number GTR-SRS-119 to: pubrequest@fs.fed.us.

The book is posted in a PDF format on the SRS website at http://www.srs.fs.fed.us/pubs/gtr/gtr_srs119.pdf. In addition, it is available in html format at <http://www.invasive.org>. Those interested in using images from the book can download files at <http://www.forestryimages.org>.



weeding for an ambitious paper/print project, how to use invasive plant fibers responsibly, and the use of Florida's wild kozo, one of the state's category II invasive plants. <http://www.handpapermaking.org/>

- Effects of native vegetation on invasion success of Chinese tallow in a floating marsh ecosystem by Loretta L. Battaglia, Julie S. Denslow, Jason R. Incauskis and Sara G. Baer (2009). *Journal of Ecology* 97:239-246. “Our work suggests that the net effects of facilitation and inhibition by native, resident species on exotics can influence invasion success.”

- Aerial Glyphosate Application to Control Privet in Mature Hardwood Stands by James Johnson, Scott Griffin, & John Taylor (GA Forestry Commission). <http://www.gatrees.org/ForestManagement/documents/AerialGlyphosateApplicationtoControlPrivet2009.pdf>
- Physiological Characteristics of Herbicides and Management of Old World Climbing Fern (*Lygodium microphyllum*) by Jeffrey T. Hutchinson (2010). Dissertation, University of Florida-IFAS, Agronomy Department.

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