



## SE-EPPC

By Brian Arnold, President

I hope that all are well upon receiving this issue of *Wildland Weeds*. I always look forward to my issue arriving in the mail, and am thankful for the

work of Karen Brown in putting it together.

I look forward to serving as your president, and thank Nancy Loewenstein for her leadership over the past few years. I'm also thankful to her for serving as a resource to me in these early days.

From those of us fortunate enough to have work, the common theme I hear is how abundant the work load is. Often the abundance is due to shouldering additional responsibilities because of reduced staff or something of that nature. Times remain lean and it's hard to know what the future has in store. As our economy lingers in a vulnerable state, the challenge to bring focus to our common cause increases.

Fortunately, due largely to the efforts of EPPCs, awareness of the threats stemming from nonnative invasive species appears to be making a breakthrough, albeit a painfully slow one. In my state, Georgia, requests to the chapter for information and speakers appear to be on a slow but steady increase, causing me to believe that the message is getting through on some level. Other organizations, seeing the significance of the problem, are featuring nonnative invasive plant topics in their own programs. So I believe that there is reason to be encouraged. And when my encouragement is tempered by looking upon the privet filled woodlot bordering my home, I think about the philosophy used by the Longleaf Alliance, "Better is better." In our case, each parcel of habitat preserved brings about a "better" outcome than that which would occur if that same parcel were lost to invasive plants. So let us not allow the task at hand to overwhelm us, overwhelming as it may seem.

A year ago the Board of Directors initiated a project aimed at increasing state chapter dialogue and sharing of ideas with regards to invasive plants lists. Alix Cleveland, USDA liaison to the SE-EPPC Board and Program Manager with the US Forest Service, secured a Forest Service grant

to fund the effort. The journey met challenges that none of us anticipated but we are now wrapping up the final report. I believe we have a strategy that, when combined with commitment, will serve as a catalyst to improved transparency of invasive plant listing criteria. I hope you will join me in that commitment, and work toward a scenario in which the plant listing criteria of a given chapter is essentially validated by the listing criteria of the others. Doing so will, among other things, aid in defending the credibility of how the respective list was created. It may also ultimately lead to more consistency in regulatory listings of invasive plants among southeastern states. I appreciate the work of Kathryn Wilson, a University of Florida post-masters student (MS-Ag/Natural Resource Communication) for her diligent work on this project and for simply "coming through" for us. A report summary will be included in the next issue of *Wildland Weeds*.

Please consider getting involved with the efforts of the Council. Comments that I frequently hear from both laypersons and professionals within the invasive plant community is something like "I'm not an expert on invasive plants," spoken as though they are unqualified to accept any leadership role in the effort. Having reached the opinion that the need required is far greater than the short supply of invasive "experts" can possibly handle, I suggest to you that your help can in fact have significant impact.

If you're not "connected" to your chapter's board, or to the SE-EPPC board, consider attending a board meeting. In addition to gaining knowledge about issues that the board is addressing, it's a great way to get to know those already involved, and it allows them to get to know you. Then let nature take its course.

Mark your calendar for our Joint Annual Meeting with the Florida EPPC chapter: "Plant Wars, The EPPCs Strike Back" to be held May 21-23 in Panama City Beach, Florida. The FLEPPC folks are putting the wheels in motion for an excellent meeting in a beautiful location. I hope that you'll make every effort to attend.

Lastly, please remember to share our mission with others, and suggest that they join us. For by growing our membership, we strengthen our influence.



## KY-EPPC Update

By Beverly James, President

The KY-EPPC has been working on a few projects throughout 2012, with the main focus being an update of our plant list. We have adopted ranking criteria used by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation and sent a

ranking spreadsheet with 191 species to 80 botanists, ecologists, and land managers throughout the state and neighboring states. This will hopefully provide a more rigorous system of ranking based on impact, biology and ecology, distribution, and difficulty of control.

We have once again collaborated with Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest to produce and distribute this year's "Least Wanted Poster". The invasive species chosen for 2012 was Sweet Autumn Clematis,

## SC-EPPC Update

By Travis W. Rogers, President

On Thursday, September 13, 2012 the SC-EPPC held its annual conference at Hobcaw Barony near Georgetown, SC. It was well attended with almost 60 participants. The program was diverse with topics ranging from current and emerging invasive plant threats such as Chinese tallow, cogongrass, and Japanese climbing fern to plant and animal community responses to invasive plant removal, community-based education and NRCS programs, costs associated with invasive plant management, wetland impoundment invaders, and strategies for Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR). The one day conference concluded with a field trip to see Chinese tallow management in a longleaf pine forest.

Elections for new board members were held and several new board members will be joining the leadership team. They are Lauren Pile with Clemson University, Lauren Serra with Congaree National Park, Bill Steele with Leroy Springs & Company and Ben Powell with the Clemson Extension Service. We are pleased to welcome them to our board and look forward to their contributions. If you are interested in joining the SC-EPPC board or becoming more involved with our state chapter, please visit [www.se-eppc.org/southcarolina/about.cfm](http://www.se-eppc.org/southcarolina/about.cfm) and contact one of our board members. New officer elections will be taking place at our next board meeting which will be held before the end of January 2013.



Wade Harper, a plant manager with Applied Aquatic Management, Inc., with a captured Burmese python that has ingested an adult white-tailed deer.

## FLEPPC UPDATE

By Dennis Giardina, Chair

FLEPPC had a very successful joint annual meeting with the Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society (FL-TWS) in Ocala, Florida with approximately 150 attendees. The theme was "Invasion of the Habitat Snatchers — Wildlife Invades!" Florida is a haven for invasive wildlife and many species are found in the same natural areas where invasive plants flourish. This results in a lot of cross-training or simply cross-experience in capturing, dispatching, searching and reporting of everything from Burmese pythons to feral hogs to Nile monitor lizards and green iguanas. FLEPPC and FL-TWS joined forces to provide an interesting menu for the "Beast Feast" banquet that featured southern fried python chops, fried snakehead (fish), and alligator-venison-tegu lizard gumbo among other novel dishes. The hotel chef graciously agreed to prepare these innovative dishes with ingredients furnished by members.

FLEPPC provided Education/Outreach grants to five groups this year and Research Grants to two graduate students.

FLEPPC will be the next chapter to co-host the annual SE-EPPC meeting in Panama City Beach on May 21-23, 2013. We hope to see you there for informative presentations, field trips, workshops, continuing education credits, a silent auction and more. Visit the FLEPPC website, [www.fleppc.org](http://www.fleppc.org), for updates.



with the native alternatives being Passionflower, Dutchman's Pipe and Virgin's Bower. We are currently developing the 2013 poster, which will feature Autumn and Russian olives as the least wanted plants. As an extension of the Least Wanted posters, we are also in the process of developing pocket guides featuring native alternatives to invasive plants. These could be particularly useful for homeowners and landscapers.

Recently, we have been working with the University of Kentucky in planning the 3rd Invasive Species Conference which will be held in April of 2013. Stay tuned for more details and a call for papers.

Finally, three new board members have joined this year: Frank Melton from Bowling Green, Mary Turner from the Garden Clubs of Kentucky, and Larry Brewer from Northern Kentucky University.

## TN EPPC Update

By Sara Kuebbing and Marie Tackett



TN EPPC recently elected Marie Kerr Tackett, Botanist for Big South Fork National Recreation Area, as Board President and Sara Kuebbing, graduate student at University of Tennessee, as Board Treasurer.

TN EPPC recently held two invasive species workshops, one in September in Oak Ridge, TN and one in November in Nashville, TN. Workshops focused on identification of Tennessee invasive plants and management options for common species. These workshops will be designed in the hopes that other TN EPPC members can utilize them in their area of the state. Both were well-attended.

TN EPPC completed a survey of federal, state, and private entities to estimate the costs of invasive plant management in the state of Tennessee. The research was completed by our research intern, Alix Pfennigwerth, and was funded through a matching small grant from SE EPPC. [See page 4 for a report on this research.]

TN EPPC assisted with a purple loosestrife survey of the Nolichucky River in eastern TN this summer to assess location and densities of loosestrife levels. The river was divided into 12 sections, on average of 8 river miles each. Eighteen volunteers surveyed half the river sections, totaling 50 river miles. Sixty-nine locations of purple loosestrife were mapped, recorded, and submitted to the EDDMapS project. The data show that loosestrife occurs along much of the Nolichucky watershed; however population levels



KRIS JOHNSON

Participants in the Nolichucky River survey for purple loosestrife.

are generally low and populations are not ubiquitous in distribution. The remaining 6 sections of river will be surveyed in summer 2013 to provide a more complete picture of infestation size and distribution throughout the entire watershed. Control measures should also begin with removal or control of loosestrife where proper permissions allow. The banks of the Nolichucky are owned by a variety of governmental organizations, as well as a patchwork of private landowners, so a coordinated effort will be needed.

TN-EPPC also contributed to *The TDEC* (TN Department of Environment & Conservation) *Erosion Prevention and Sediment Control Manual* by providing native seed-mix alternatives to their current seed-mixes for revegetation (largely composed of non-native and often invasive plants such as *Serecia lespedeza*). TDEC accepted our recommendations and included our native lists as preferred alternatives. Next we intend to contact TDOT and offer our assistance with their seed-mixes.

ALIPC also recently updated the **Alabama Invasive Plant List**. Seven new species were added including pampas grass, Chinese parasol tree, lantana, rattlebox, sweet breath of spring, periwinkle, and Brazilian elodea. Additionally, five new species were added to Watch List A including Japanese chaff flower, Japanese ardisia, sawtooth oak, Australian pine, and water clover. Six new species were added to Watch List B including Japanese barberry, Japanese spirea, Japanese beautyberry, Chinese elm, paper mulberry, and winter creeper. The complete list is posted on the ALIPC web page at [www.se-eppc.org/alabama/](http://www.se-eppc.org/alabama/). ALIPC encourages SE-EPPC members to submit sightings of these new additions to EDDMaps ([www.eddmaps.org/](http://www.eddmaps.org/)) so we may work to implement EDRR strategies where possible for these new problem weeds.

In 2013, ALIPC will be hosting two separate meetings. We will hold our annual conference in Huntsville, Alabama and we will host a second meeting in Weeks Bay, AL. Dates have yet to be set for either conference but look for details soon!



## ALIPC Update

By Stephen Enloe, President

The Alabama Invasive Plant Council hosted their 2012 annual conference jointly with the Southeast Exotic Pest Plant Council's annual meeting. The conference was held May 8-10 in Auburn, Alabama, with 174 in attendance. The theme of the conference was "Past, Present and Future of Invasive Plants." In keeping with the theme, the meeting included three keynote speakers who addressed the past (the geologic history of Alabama in relation to Alabama plant communities and invasive plants), the present (current status of forest invasions) and the future (bioenergy and invasive plants). Three field trips also highlighted some of Alabama's most serious aquatic and terrestrial weed problems at Lake Eufaula, Tuskegee National Forest, and the Cypress Nature Park near downtown Montgomery, AL. We received many positive comments on the conference from attendees from several states. Many thanks to the ALIPC board who worked hard to make the conference a success!



## GA-EPPC

By Brian Arnold, Past President and Karan Rawlins, President

GA-EPPC continues to educate the general public, as well as industry, about the harm caused by nonnative invasive plants. Using methods proven to be practical and effective public outreach occurs through traditional means including the Annual Conference, invasive plant management workshops and publications. Keeping the GA-EPPC website updated and using social media such as Facebook are helping us to reach new audiences.

A great opportunity for GA-EPPC to communicate its message comes early in the year as an invasive plant workshop is conducted at the Georgia Green Industry Association's (GGIA) "Wintergreen" Conference. Brian Arnold of Songbird Landcare presented "The Problem of Invasive Plants," providing an overview of the environmental harm they cause. Former GA-EPPC President Cynthia Taylor of Elachee Nature Science Center presented "Managing Invasive Plants," covering integrated management strategies and the safe use of herbicides. The workshop was concluded with a presentation on "New Invasive Plant Threats," including a discussion on EDDMapS by President Karan Rawlins of UGA's Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health.

The Wintergreen Conference is designed to speak directly to the Green Industry, and is an important part of the GA-EPPC program. The Wintergreen 2013 Conference is scheduled for January 25 and will consist of the same lineup of speakers. In addition, GGIA has offered GA-EPPC a complimentary booth in the trade show portion of their conference, allowing us to increase our outreach.

The 2012 GA-EPPC Annual Meeting and Conference was held November 8 at UGA's Griffin Campus, and the board was very excited about the quality of the program. The keynote speaker was Dr. Douglas W. Tallamy, Professor and Chair of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware and author of "Bringing Nature Home, How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants".

This year for the first time, vendors were invited to our annual conference. Rather than charging the traditional vendor fee, GA-EPPC asked that vendors donate door prizes to be given away to attendees throughout the meeting. Vendors at this year's meeting included the Georgia Wildlife Federation, the Longleaf Alliance, Georgia Forestry Commission, Nearly Native Nursery, Invasive Plant Control, Inc., and artist Linda Fraser.

Also at the Annual Meeting, Karan Rawlins moved into the Presidency, Bodie Pennisi was approved as President Elect, and J. Mindy Moffett, Jr. Treasurer.

Georgia is proud to have been chosen as recipient of the SE-EPPC \$1,500 matching grant that will be used to train teachers to use the classroom-ready curriculum, "Lakeville," as well as provide materials for teachers to take back to the classroom. The curriculum educates students about natural resources, invasive species, and civic responsibility. "Lakeville" was created by Amy Richard at the University of Florida Center for Aquatic & Invasive Plants through The Florida Invasive Plant Education Initiative. Susan Reinhardt and Karan Rawlins at the University of Georgia in Tifton, along with Kitty Lane of Jacksonville, Florida, will conduct the first teacher trainings in Georgia.

Two longtime members have retired this year. Elaine Nash served as Treasurer and Membership Coordinator since 2001. Jim Allison was instrumental in GA-EPPC's organization and was elected GA-EPPC President in 2001. GA-EPPC is grateful for the service of Elaine and Jim, and both will be missed.

## NC EPPC Update

By Rick Iverson, President



NC EPPC was pleased to host approximately 80 enthusiastic participants at its 2012 annual meeting at the North Carolina Arboretum in Asheville, NC. The theme "Understanding and Managing Invasive Plant Threats in the North Carolina Highlands" was addressed by a slate of pertinent topics that included an overview of specific weed problems and their management as well as a discussion of invasive weed programs in the North Carolina mountains. NC EPPC was very pleased to attract Bonnie Harper-Lore as a speaker. She provided an interesting picture of national invasive weed issues along our transportation systems in a talk entitled "Invasive Plants on the Move." Insight on using non-native, non-invasive plants in landscapes was provided in a presentation by Dr. Barbara Fair with North Carolina State University. Other meeting activities included a social hour, a training session for those interested in promoting Early Detection and Rapid Response and an equipment demonstration. Planning for NC EPPC's 2013 meeting has started. In an effort to move the meeting around the state, the board has decided to have the February 2013 meeting at Carolina Beach State Park. The location will provide a perfect venue to recognize the successful efforts of the Carolina Beach Vitex Task Force.

Other NC EPPC projects include continuing participation in meeting opportunities to introduce the NC target weed list for Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR). President Rick Iverson and Board Member Margaret Fields have participated in six non-native invasive plant workshops sponsored by the NC Forest Service. Two more are planned later this year. NC EPPC sponsored Invasive Weeds Awareness Week again during the first week of April. As part of the week's activities, interested stakeholders were asked to participate in a poll to list their top 5 "most reviled" invasive plants. Projects still in the planning stages or continuing include: Designing a new display for meetings, continuing evaluation of the EDRR target weed list, continuing updates to the NC EPPC Facebook page and planning for a meeting with EDRR contacts listed on North Carolina's EDRR plan.