

Internodes

Mark Your Calendar

- 1st Annual Symposium of the Tennessee Exotic Pest Plant Council, “*Invasive Plants in Your Community: Responding at Ground Level*,” **September 8, 2005**, Murfreesboro, TN. A morning of speaker sessions and afternoon workshops covering topics such as assessment and monitoring, regional strategies, management plans: homeowners to wilderness areas, and data gaps. www.tneppc.org/ or contact Pat Parr at 865-576-8123.
- Western North Carolina Alliance conference on fire and invasive plants in the southern Appalachians, **September 17, 2005**, University of North Carolina - Asheville. Contact Bob Gale: bob@wnca.org or 828-258-8737.
- 2nd New England Invasive Plant Summit, **September 16-17, 2005**, Framingham, Massachusetts, convened by the Invasive Plant Atlas of New England (IPANE) and the New England Invasive Plant Group (NIPGro). www.ipane.org
- 32nd Annual Natural Areas Conference, “*Changing Natural Landscapes: Ecological and Human Dimensions*,” **September 21-24, 2005**, Lincoln, NE. <http://www.naturalarea.org/conference.htm>
- North American Weed Management Association (NAWMA) Conference, **September 26-29, 2005**, Manhattan, KS. <http://www.nawma.org/index.html>
- Cal-IPC Symposium 2005, “*Prevention Reinvention: Protocols, Information, and Partnerships to Stop the Spread of Invasive Plants*,” **October 6-8, 2005**, Chico State University. www.cal-ipc.org
- 32nd Annual Conference on Ecosystems Restoration & Creation, **October 27-28, 2005**, Hillsborough Community College, Tampa, Florida. www.hccfl.edu/depts/detp/ecoconf.html
- 29th Annual Florida Aquatic Plant Management Society meeting, **November 7-10, 2005**, St. Petersburg, FL. www.fapms.org
- Public Land Acquisition & Management Partnership Conference 2005, **November 16-18, 2005**, Hutchinson Island, Stuart, FL. www.ces.fau.edu/plam2005
- 10th Annual Exotic Species Workshop for Southwest Florida, Florida Panther and Ten Thousand Islands National Wildlife Refuges, **December 7, 2005**, Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center, Naples, FL. Dennis Giardina: dennis_giardina@fws.gov
- Weed Science Society of America Annual Meeting, **February 13-17, 2006**, New York, NY. www.wssa.net
- Association of Southeastern Biologists, **March 29 – April 1, 2006**, Gatlinburg, TN. www.asb.appstate.edu/
- Fifth National IPM (Integrated Pest Management) Symposium, “*Delivering on a Promise*,” St. Louis, MO, **April 4-6, 2006**. Symposium sessions will address state-of-the-art strategies and technologies to successfully solve pest problems in agricultural, recreational, natural, and community settings. www.ipmcenters.org/ipmsymposium/
- ESRI GIS and Mapping Software, Southeast Regional User Group Meeting, **April 26-28, 2006**, Jacksonville, FL. www.esri.com/events/serug/
- 14th International Conference on Aquatic Invasive Species, **May 14-19, 2006**, Key Biscayne (Miami), FL. www.icais.org/

- 26th Annual Florida Native Plant Society Conference, **May 18-21, 2006**, Daytona Beach, FL. www.fnps.org
- 15th Australian Weeds Conference, “*Managing Weeds in a Changing Climate*,” **September 24-28, 2006**, Adelaide, South Australia. A four-day scientific program in association with a trade exhibition, partner programs. Pre- and post-conference tours. <http://www.plevin.com.au/15AWC2006/>
- **Weed Management Training Sessions in Florida:**
 - Aquatic Plant Management - October 21, 2005** / Vero Beach
Lead Instructor: Janet Bargar / Registration: (772) 770-5030
 - Wildland Weeds Management - Oct 13, 2005** / Ft. Pierce
Lead Instructor: Ken Gioeli / Registration: (772) 462-1660
 - Aquatic Plant Management - November 10, 2005** / Ft. Pierce
Lead Instructor: Janet Bargar / Registration: (772) 462-1660
 - Invasive Plant Management - Nov 30, 2005** / Vero Beach
Lead Instructor: Ken Gioeli / Registration: (772) 770-5030For information on registration fees and CEU's, call the registration numbers listed above or e-mail Ken Gioeli, UF/IFAS Extension Agent, at: ktg@ifas.ufl.edu

Publications:

- *Out of Eden—An Odyssey of Ecological Invasion*, by Alan Burdick (2005). Farrar, Straus and Giroux, New York, 212/741-6900, www.fsgbooks.com/index.htm From the publisher's website: “The author tours the front lines of ecological invasion—in Hawaii, Tasmania, Guam, San Francisco; in lush rainforests, through underground lava tubes, on the deck of an Alaska-bound oil tanker—in the company of world-class scientists. Wry and reflective, animated and richly reported, *Out of Eden* is a search both for scientific answers and for ecological authenticity.” The tone of this book enthralls some and annoys others. You will have to decide for yourself. No index or table of contents.
- *Federal Noxious Weed Disseminules of the U.S.—An interactive identification tool for seeds and fruits of plants on the United States Federal Noxious Weed List*, by J. Scher (2005). CD. Published by the USDA-APHIS-PPQ Center for Plant Health Science and Technology and the California Department of Food and Agriculture Plant Pest Diagnostics Center. An “interactive identification tool and information guide to disseminules (plant propagative units, which are commonly seeds or fruits) of the 105 invasive or potentially invasive plant taxa on the U.S. Federal Noxious Weed List.” Contains over 700 images and drawings, fact sheets, botanical descriptions, ID tips, and geographic distribution. To order a free copy of the CD, or to use the online version, go to: www.lucidcentral.com or contact the author at Julia.L.Scher@aphis.usda.gov
- The proceedings of the 7th Annual SE-EPPC Symposium, “*Invasive Plants - Arming to Defend and Win*,” with abstracts and PowerPoint presentations, are available at www.se-eppc.org. Limited hardcopies are available from jmiller01@fs.fed.us
- The University of Florida IFAS *Assessment of the Status of Non-Native Plants in Florida's Natural Areas* has a new URL: <http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/assessment.html> Newly assessed species were added in June 2005. The assessment team seeks help with information about species for which they have incomplete data (explanation on the website).



- *Freshwater Plants in the Southeastern United States*, UF/IFAS Publ. No. SP-348. Recognition guide for 133 plants.
- *Invasive and Other Non-Native Plants Found in Public Waters and Conservation Lands of Florida and the Southeastern United States*, UF/IFAS Publ. No. SP-349. Recognition guide for 90 non-native plants targeted for control by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

Both publications are similar in design to a folding road map, laminated, with full color photographs and key identifying characteristics. Folded size is 4" x 9". By V. Ramey, University of Florida, IFAS, Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants (2005). \$11.95 each. UF/IFAS Publications: 800-226-1764.

- Check out the University of Florida's IFAS web site (edis.ifas.ufl.edu) for the following Fact Sheets, which can be downloaded as PDF files or obtained from County Extension offices:
 - Brazilian Pepper-tree control*
 - Help Protect Florida's Natural Areas from Non-Native Invasive Plants*
 - Natural Area Weeds: Air Potato (*Dioscorea bulbifera*)*
 - Natural Area Weeds: Carrotwood (*Cupaniopsis anacardioides*)*
 - Natural Area Weeds: Chinese Tallow (*Sapium sebiferum*)*
 - Natural Area Weeds: Distinguishing Native and Non-Native "Bostern Ferns" and Sword Ferns" (*Nephrolepis* sp.)*
 - Natural Area Weeds: Old World Climbing Fern (*Lygodium microphyllum*)*
 - Natural Area Weeds: Skunkvine (*Paederia foetida*)*

Journal Articles of Interest:

- *Myocarditis from the Chinese Sumac Tree*, *Annals of Internal Medicine* 143(2):159-160 (2005) by J.D. Bisognano, et al. Contact with sap from *Ailanthus altissima* may cause transient myocarditis (the painful inflammation of a muscle layer in the heart wall).
- *What makes a weed a weed: life history traits of native and exotic plants in the USA*, *Oecologia* 141:24-39 (2004) by S. Sutherland. Compares ten life history traits from two databases for almost 20,000 plant species.
- *Patterns of plant invasions at sites with rare plant species throughout New England*, *Rhodora* 106(926):97-117 (2004) by E.J. Farnsworth. "Thus, invasive species are both a direct threat and a symptom of larger landscape variables that influence the persistence of rare species."
- *Invasive ornamental plants: problems, challenges, and molecular tools to neutralize their invasiveness*, *Critical Reviews in Plant Sciences* 23(5):381-389 (2004) by Y. Li, et al. "Recent advances in plant biotechnology may enable us to create sterile cultivars of these non-native ornamental crops of commercial value."
- *The United States naturalized flora: largely the product of deliberate introductions*, *Annals of the Missouri Botanical Garden* 89:176-189 (2002) by R.N. Mack, et al. "The likelihood that the majority of species now naturalized in the United States has a history of deliberate introduction and post-immigration cultivation provides a plausible explanation for their persistence in a new range."
- *BiolFlor – a new plant-trait database as a tool for plant invasion ecology*, *Diversity and Distributions* 10(5-6):363-365 (2004) by I. Kuhn, et al. A new database that allows analyses of invasive species traits using data from the geographic origin of the species. The database covers the flora of Germany, which covers the majority of Central European plant species, from which many invasive plants originate. BiolFlor contains more than 450,000 records and covers 3,659 species. <http://www.ufz.de/biolflor/index.jsp>

- *Relationships between alien plants and an alien bird species on Reunion Island*, *Journal of Tropical Ecology* 20(6):635-642 (2004) by I. Mandon-Dalger, et al. "So, modifications of habitat and impacts on native ecosystem by synergism between alien species could be greater than the sum of the impacts of the individual species..."

Nodes of Interest

- The United Nations Environment Programme (www.unep.org) together with the Sri Lankan Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources released results of a post-tsunami environmental assessment that found, among other things, that the giant wave caused the spread of alien invasive species such as prickly-pears (*Opuntia*) and salt-tolerant mesquite (*Prosopis*) farther inland, including protected areas such as Yala National Park. "Detailed physical and ecological descriptions were made of over 800 sites at one kilometer intervals along almost the whole affected coast, supporting the preparation of a digital *Atlas of Tsunami Damage in Sri Lanka*."
- One of the world's oldest Christian churches, the **Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahido Church** (EOTC) has a long history of planting and protecting trees, according to Alemayehu Wassie's Master's thesis (2002). During the last 300 years, most of the dry Afro-montane forests in the northern highlands of Ethiopia have been converted to agriculture and grazing lands. When travelers see a patch of indigenous, old growth trees, however, they know there will be an EOTC "debr" or "geddam" within. Local community members consider the churches to be very holy places and the churches protect and conserve their forests through religious sanctions and/or civil law. A recent survey in northern Ethiopia revealed that a sampling of the forests contained only five exotic species in only four of the forests sampled. These results reveal the role that the EOTC could play in "providing a blueprint for restoring Ethiopia's lost forest ecosystems." *Note: this study was presented at the Society for Ecological Restoration 2004 International Conference in Victoria, BC.*
- **Casa Casuarina** on Ocean Drive in Miami Beach is "by invitation only for a privileged few." Completed in 1930 by philanthropist, architect and Standard Oil heir Alden Freeman as a palatial home, it was purchased, restored and redesigned in 1992 by fashion designer Gianni Versace who lived there until his death in 1997. It is now an invitation only private club. Why the exotic pest plant name? One can only guess, since the derivation of the name *Casuarina* for the nuisance tree from Australia is purportedly based on the resemblance of its leaves to the cassowary bird's feathers. Perhaps it just had a nice, exotic ring to it. www.casacasuarina.com
- Brazilian pepper (*Schinus terebinthifolius*), lead tree (*Leucaena leucocephala*) and carrotwood (*Cupaniopsis anacardioides*) were cleared from approximately five acres of upland habitat in the **Alafia Bank Bird Sanctuary** in Hillsborough Bay this summer in preparation for the restoration of native shrubs and trees. Repeat herbicide treatments and removal of resprouts will be needed to maintain the site. The work was performed with a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Coastal Programs grant. The sanctuary is comprised of two islands leased to the National Audubon Society for management as a bird colony. 9,000 pairs of birds of 17 species nested on the islands in spring 2004, including eight listed species and the largest Roseate Spoonbill colony in Florida. From *Florida Naturalist*, Spring 2005.

- Looking for natives?
LOOK FOR THE TAG!
The Association of Florida
Native Nurseries



(AFNN) has produced pot & hanging plant tags for member nurseries that proudly pro-

claim "Real Florida Native." The tags will be promoted to the general public through the upcoming *Guide for Real Florida Gardeners* and website, as well as Florida Native Plant Society chapters and publications.
<http://www.afnn.org/>

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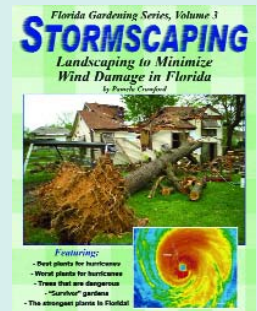
Stormscaping - Landscaping to Minimize Wind Damage in Florida

 by Pamela Crawford

Featuring the best and worst plants for hurricanes, trees that are dangerous, "survivor" gardens, and the strongest plants in Florida.

According to the author, a landscape architect with a nursery and garden design business, hurricanes are the most costly natural disaster in the United States. *Stormscaping* was written in response to the damage to and from trees during Florida's devastating 2004 hurricane season.

Chapters are Understand Hurricane Basics, Know Your Plant's Wind Tolerance, Other Reasons Why Trees Fall, Designing to Minimize Wind Damage, and Proper Storm Aftercare. The book is richly illustrated with large color photographs of twisted, cracked, broken, uprooted and fallen trees, as well as many other color photographs illustrating additional points made by the author. The book covers related topics such as wind-tolerant trees, shrubs and groundcovers, palms used as wind barriers, other reasons why trees fall, wind tolerance of Florida plants, care of damaged trees, and historical information on hurricanes from the last century throughout 2004.



"If you have a *Ficus benjamina* within falling distance of a structure, remove it before it removes you during the next hurricane."

The author offers a four-page spread on appropriate trees for high winds and thirty pages on the wind-tolerance of Florida Plants with information gathered from throughout the state. She also covers the three worst trees: Australian pine (*Casuarina equisetifolia*), *Ficus benjamina*, and laurel oak (*Quercus laurifolia*).

The author states that in 2004, ficus trees in south Florida caused more damage than any other species. Ironically, Miami had the same problem in 1991 after Hurricane Andrew, but tens of thousands of ficus trees were planted in Broward and Palm Beach Counties *after* Hurricane Andrew because they are fast growing and inexpensive. She further states that Queen palms (*Arecastrum romanzoffianum*), one of the most common palms used in south and central Florida, have very little tolerance for wind. "Some trees, like ironwoods, have very strong wood and a root system that goes deep into the ground to keep the trees stable. Their canopies are loose enough to let the wind blow through them rather than blowing them over. Other trees have shallow root systems, weak wood, and dense canopies. These three factors cause trees to fall easier."

One section of the book asks, "Do native trees hold up better than exotics?" Dr. Mary Duryea, with the University of Florida IFAS Agricultural Experiment Station, found that native trees fared better than exotics in south Florida after Hurricane Andrew: "...34% of the exotic trees were still standing after the hurricane (Andrew) while 66% of native trees were standing." However, in central and north Florida, "Water oaks and laurel oaks, both natives, were two of the worst trees in these areas during the four storms of 2004." Dr. Duryea has conducted post-hurricane surveys in Florida since the mid-1980s. "We had more reports of laurel oaks down than any other tree in central and north Florida...Laurel oaks are weaker and shorter lived than live oaks, and the four storms of 2004 proved that the older ones were particularly dangerous."

Stormscaping describes the six most expensive landscaping mistakes and underscores the point with the high expense connected to fallen trees: 2 million cubic yards of vegetative debris was collected in Santa Rosa County alone and \$19 million spent as of December 20, 2004. The total cost to the county is expected to reach \$30 million. "According to Dr. Robert Loflin, the Natural Resources Director of Sanibel, it cost \$6 million to haul and burn the trash from [Hurricane] Charley." He further stated that sixty percent of this cost (\$3.6 million) was for Australian pine alone. Dr. Mary Duryea reiterated this point by stating that 96% of Australian pines fell in Hurricane Andrew in 1991.

This book is absolutely stuffed with information and amazing photographs. *Stormscaping - Landscaping to Minimize Wind Damage in Florida* is Volume 3 in the Florida Gardening Series.

\$29.95 (ISBN 0-9712220-2-9) Available through most booksellers and many garden centers in Florida. To find the nearest source, contact the publisher at www.easygardencolor.com or colorgdn@aol.com