

Recently I visited the lovely city of Portland, Oregon and spotted an “invasive plant removal/restoration planting” sign in one of their many city gardens along the Willamette River. Outside the city at one of the beautiful waterfalls along the Columbia Gorge, I came upon a young woman pulling weeds. She was Diana Spartis, an AmeriCorps member leading a group of students from the Alpha Conservation Corps. They were working at Latourell Falls, a scenic natural area, removing the invasive ground cover Herb Robert, a/k/a Stinky Bob (*Geranium robertianum*), under a grant from the Oregon State Parks and Recreation Department.

Returning home to Gainesville, Florida, I attended a “Florida Quilts” show at the natural history museum and one of the quilts featured a lionfish. The panel describing the quilt, written by the artist, cautioned against releasing lionfish into the wild due to their non-native and invasive status. It went on to mention that studies were underway on their impacts to local fisheries. I was quite surprised, but on reflection (and while reviewing my overflowing email inbox in preparation for this issue), I realize that we are now riding a huge wave of awareness, activity and research on the invasive species dilemma. Just a few of the many widespread endeavors taking place in our field right now:

- National Tribal Invasive Species Conference in Nevada
- Japanese knotweed workshop at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York
- “Elongated mustard (*Brassica elongata*) is growing about 5 miles east of Salida, Colorado on the north of the Arkansas River. It jumped the river this spring and is continuing to spread along roads and into the surrounding areas. Chaffee County Weeds has been in contact with BLM and treated 18 acres along the roads and...”
- The Midwest Invasive Plant Network is offering a free distance-learning workshop on How to Start a Cooperative Weed Management Area in the Eastern United States
- Aimed at preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species by water gardeners and aquarium hobbyists, “Do Not Release” materials warn about potentially invasive aquatic plants and animals and caution against releasing them into our waters.



Diana Spartis

## FLEPPC Education and Outreach Small Grants

Request for Proposals - FY 2007 • **Proposal Due Date:** March 1, 2007

### Program Description and Eligibility

The Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council is soliciting grant proposals for non-native invasive plant education and outreach projects in the State of Florida. The intent of these grants is to provide funding to organizations or individuals who wish to educate the public about non-native invasive plants and their effects on the environment and economy of Florida. Proposals will be accepted from individuals, public or private nonprofit organizations, and academic institutions.

### Evaluation Criteria

Award preference will be given to proposals that meet the following criteria:

- Involve a plant or plants listed on the FLEPPC 2005 List of Invasive Species (found on [www.fleppc.org](http://www.fleppc.org));
- Educational message will reach a large segment of the community;
- Include partnerships (please specify type and degree of involvement for partner entities);
- Demonstrate matching funds or in-kind contributions;
- Increase local community awareness of non-native plants through local charettes, volunteer events, web site development, and distribution of educational materials;
- Evaluate the project success through process or outcome evaluation;
- Heighten community awareness about non-native invasive plant identification, control, and prevention;
- First time applicants and new projects, although repeat applicants will still be considered.

Application instructions and further information may be found on the FLEPPC website ([www.fleppc.org](http://www.fleppc.org)). Grants may not be used to fund capital expense items (sprayers, chain saws, machinery, herbicide) or to fund control or large-scale herbicide application activities. Requests for funding should not exceed \$1,000.00 and all funds awarded are to be used within 1 year of receipt. If full funding is not available, partial funding may be awarded.

Applicant/organization must present a summary of results at the FLEPPC Annual meeting (poster or presentation) or provide a summary article for Wildland Weeds, the FLEPPC quarterly magazine.

The FLEPPC Education Committee will review all grants and award letters will be sent via electronic mail by May 1, 2007.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**, contact Leesa Souto, Director of Public Education  
Email: [Lsouto@mail.ucf.edu](mailto:Lsouto@mail.ucf.edu) • Phone: 321-722-2123 • Fax: 321-722-3585 (call first)

- ~ The U.S. House of Representatives passed an appropriations bill that would double the budget of the National Science Foundation (NSF) over the next ten years. If passed, it would provide \$11.8 million for initial implementation of the National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON). One of the primary “challenges” identified for NEON is research concerning invasive species.
- ~ A news release on the Southern California Caulerpa Action Team (SCCAT) website regarding the successful eradication of *Caulerpa taxifolia* quotes NOAA’s Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere: “The proliferation of *Caulerpa* would have irreversibly changed the ecosystem in California’s near-shore coastal environment.” *Caulerpa* was detected in the Agua Hedionda lagoon (near San Diego) and Huntington harbor (near Los Angeles). A number of governmental agencies and community-based environmental organizations cooperated and worked together to successfully eradicate the invasive marine weed.
- ~ Front page *Washington Post* article on the link between increased carbon dioxide emissions and invasive vines: “Pumped Up on Carbon Dioxide, Vines Strengthen Their Grip”
- ~ National Science Foundation hosts “Biodiversity and Ecosystems Informatics Working Group.” Former ISAC officer and Deputy Chief of Research of the U.S. Forest Service and Co-chair of Ecosystems Center’s Semester in Environmental Science (SES) program presents, “Indicator Design and Data Assessment for Non-native Species.”
- ~ U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Forest Service will host a meeting for Federal economists interested in invasive species.
- ~ A Conservation Grazing Workshop in Connecticut includes topics: Invasive Plants and Their Alternatives; Using Sheep for Invasive Plant Control; Conservation Grazing with Exmoor Ponies; and Goats as Grazing Animals for Invasive Plant Management.

- ~ The Nebraska Invasive Plant Conference, “Threats to Nebraska Rivers: Invasive Plant Conference” promotes the control of invading plants to prevent further degradation of the state’s riparian areas.
- ~ Conference announced: *Invasive Plants in Pacific Northwest Ecosystems*.
- ~ New provision to law provides for invasives control and native species establishment in federally funded highway construction projects.
- ~ Recent Appalachian Mountain Club magazine article on invasives, “Space Invaders: As invasive species choke

out natives, scientists wage a costly and mounting battle.” New England examples are highlighted.

This issue of *Wildland Weeds* brings you news of the SE-EPPC Invasive Plant Mapping Project, Georgia EPPC’s List of Non-Native Invasive Plants in Georgia, a report on foreign exploration for new biological control agents, and the results of a study on the socio-economic impacts of controlling melaleuca in south Florida. A lot of folks are working hard – please help out by joining an EPPC chapter today!

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