



NEW PRESIDENT OF SE-EPPC

Chuck Bergeron was recently elected to replace outgoing Southeast Exotic Pest Plant Council president Tony Pernas, who is currently serving as president of the National Association of Exotic Pest Plant Councils (NAEPPC). Chuck has contributed greatly to the organization as coordinator of the EDDMapS project and as webmaster for the SE-EPPC, NAEPPC and numerous EPPC chapters and affiliates. Chuck is the Information Technology Director for the Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health (formerly the Bugwood Network) at the University of Georgia in Tifton. In this capacity for the last 13 years, he has worked on projects with the USDA

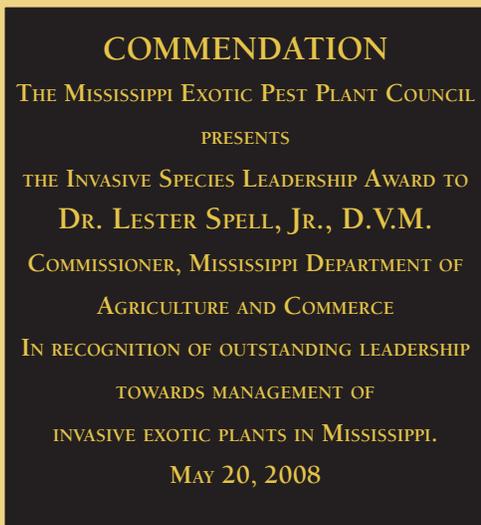
Forest Service, USDA APHIS PPQ, USDA CSREES, the National Park Service and others to develop web-based invasive species, forest health and agriculture resources. He has a B.S. and M.S. in Computer Science.



NEW CHAIR OF FLEPPC

Scott Ditmarsen was recently elected as Chair of the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council to complete the current term being vacated by Dan Clark. Dan has accepted a new position with the US Fish and Wildlife Service as the Invasive Species Branch Program Lead for the Pacific Islands Fish and Wildlife Office headquartered in Honolulu, Hawaii. Dan now holds the record for serving the shortest term as Chair in the history of FLEPPC. Scott already has served FLEPPC in numerous capacities. He was elected to the Board of Directors during the 2005/2006 term, has served as Chair of the Finance Committee, and was Chair of the Vendors committee from

Spring 2003 through Fall 2005. He has also been an active member of several Weed Science Society chapters and the Florida Vegetation Management Association. Scott is a Senior Sales Specialist in Industrial Vegetation Management for Dow AgroSciences. He has a Master's degree in Forestry and an MBA in Finance. The FLEPPC board welcomes Scott and greatly appreciates his stepping up to the plate on such short notice. We also wish Dan great success in his new endeavors.



Dr. Spell's significant contributions include:

- Passage of the Mississippi Noxious Weed Law, which regulates the transfer of ten of the most noxious weeds to agriculture and wildlands within the state;
- Establishment of the Mississippi Cogongrass Task Force, which has been instrumental in coordinating the efforts of federal, state, and local governments, nongovernment organizations, private landowners, and concerned individuals in the fight against this new noxious weed. The Mississippi Cogongrass Task Force is an example to neighboring states of how to successfully organize an effort against invasive weeds;
- Passage of legislation enabling a Mississippi Cooperative Weed Management Area, the first of its kind in the southeast;
- Leadership in the ongoing Tropical Soda Apple Spray Program in cooperation with USDA APHIS PPQ, which is successfully preventing the spread of this invasive weed in Mississippi;
- Adoption of a Tropical Spiderwort Quarantine and cooperative program among farmers, which will be instrumental in controlling another invasive noxious weed, this time a threat to row crop agriculture;
- The vigorous and ongoing response of the Department of Agriculture and Commerce in the Giant Salvinia Eradication Program in cooperation with USDA APHIS PPQ and other state agencies; and
- Participation in the Mississippi Kudzu Coalition, which has breathed new life into the efforts to control an invasive plant that has become far too accepted as part of life in the southeast.

For these outstanding efforts and exemplary leadership, the Mississippi Exotic Pest Plant Council is proud to present you with our leadership award and pleased to be able to invite you to speak to the Southeast Exotic Pest Plant Council annual symposium hosted in Mississippi.

Presented this 20th Day of May, 2008,
J. Stephen Brewer, President, Mississippi Exotic Pest Plant Council



MS-EPPC President Steve Brewer (left) presents the award to Dr. Spell, who is serving his fourth term as Mississippi's Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce.