

# NAEPPC Meets at Natural Areas Association Conference

Brian Bowen,  
SE-EPPC Coordinator

The National Association of the Exotic Pest Plant Council met on October 13 in conjunction with the 26th Annual Natural Areas Conference in Tucson, AZ. The meeting was well-attended with representatives from CALEPPC, FLEPPC, TN-EPPC, KY-EPPC (forming) and Mid Atlantic-EPPC (MA-EPPC). The Pacific Northwest EPPC was unable to attend. A brief overview was given by Brian Bowen regarding the history of NAEPPC. There was a discussion of the MOU signed by FLEPPC, CALEPPC, PACNWEPPC, and TN-EPPC at Asilomar, California in 1995 which established NAEPPC. Brian Bowen of TN-EPPC, John Randall and Nelroy Jackson, both of CALEPPC

who were present at this meeting, also helped draft the 1995 MOU. John Randall suggested that the MOU be updated. Nelroy Jackson, who was the original transcriber, agreed to work on updating it. Brian and John agreed to review the changes. The MOU will then be sent to all of the respective EPPC boards for approval.

Some noteworthy changes include updating the MOU to add the newly-formed Councils. This may also include organizations interested in participating in the NAEPPC even though they are not an EPPC formally by name, i.e., the New York Invasive Plant Council. All participating organizations however will be required to subscribe to the EPPC mission and its goals. The MOU will clearly state that EPPC's purpose pertains to natural area and wildland weed issues. It was

also suggested that SE-EPPC have individual state chapter representation to NAEPPC, instead of a single SE-EPPC representative.

Another important topic of discussion pertained to completing the EPPC patent that Florida EPPC began working on last year. A renewed effort will be made, perhaps enlisting the help of KY-EPPC, who may have useful legal connections. NAEPPC will hold the patent and will have the authority to determine who can use the name. This concern is based on very non-eppc like groups forming with very different purposes, using the name, and undermining EPPC's credibility. Once again, this is very much about keeping EPPC's original purpose intact as the only the non-governmental organization whose primary focus is natural area or wildland weed issues.

NAEPPC voted to support Brian Bowen's nomination to the National Invasive Species Advisory Committee. This Committee will advise the National Invasive Species Council whose charge under the President's Executive Order is to help shape national policy on invasive exotic species issues. The Invasive Species Council is required to oversee the completion of a national management plan by August 2000. Brian was also nominated to represent the Natural Areas Association, where he serves as a board member and chair of the exotic species committee. Jil Swearingen agreed to write the support letter for NAEPPC. Other EPPC support letters were sent by FLEPPC, TN-EPPC, and SE-EPPC.

As the last order of business, Jil Swearingen of MA-EPPC was elected chair person for NAEPPC. Her responsibilities entail setting the agenda and organizing next year's NAEPPC meeting at the Natural Areas Conference in St. Louis, MO. The NAEPPC meeting adjourned after approximately two and half hours of productive work (see minutes on SE-EPPC's web page for more information, [www.se-eppc.org](http://www.se-eppc.org)).

*-Brain Bowen is the Southeast EPPC Coordinator and founding member of Tennessee EPPC and the National Association of Exotic Pest Plant Councils. He can be reached via e-mail at: [nightrain0@home.com](mailto:nightrain0@home.com).*