

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 in tact 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).

-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: nighttrain0@home.com.

SE-EPPC President's Message

Dan Brown, SE-EPPC President

A friend told me this short story several years ago. It is still one of my favorites: Two newborn babies are lying in adjacent cribs. They are facing each other; and they appear to look at each other and smile. Time passes. Eighty years later, the same two people meet once again. They are in adjacent hospital beds, and they both are near death. Their eyes meet; they smile; and one says to the other: "Well, what did you think?"

Now, you may be thinking: "Brown obviously doesn't have a president's message, because he's starting out with some off-the-hospital wall short story."

Here's my point: SE-EPPC is new. A lot of changes are going to happen around us - involving us, and exotic invasive plants - over the next few years. During our early years of growth, we (SE-EPPC) can have a lot of impact on what those changes are. Take a look at our objectives: We're basically saying that we want to make the public more knowledgeable about invasive exotic plants. We want them to know how seriously these plants can spread and take over areas and even choke-out the native plants. We want them to know how

to control these exotics...and we want them to know more about growing native plants.

So, what are some good ways to accomplish these objectives? If you were (or are) a land owner or land manager, what would you want to know about these exotic pests? Think about it. Talk to other members; talk to the public. Let me, or the other officers, or board members know what you're thinking - new publications, workshops, ways to increase membership, newsletter topics, whatever! We can use your ideas to develop important, practical activities and products relating to our objectives. We're a new organization. You, the members, have a tremendous amount of knowledge and expertise relating to exotic pest plants, and to native plants. Let's use that knowledge and expertise to make a positive difference for the Southeastern environment - and beyond.

...and then in the not too distant future, when someone asks you what you think of SE-EPPC; you can say: ".....!"

-Dan Brown is the President of the Southeast Exotic Pest Plant Council. He can be reached via e-mail at: Mtnrr@aol.com.

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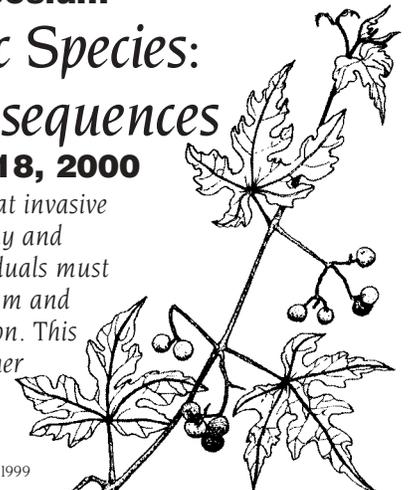
Southeast Exotic Pest Plant Council Annual Symposium

Invasive Exotic Species: Truth and Consequences

March 16, 17, 18, 2000

The level of awareness of the negative effects that invasive exotic plants have on the environment, economy and human health is increasing. Concerned individuals must sustain and expand this educational momentum and strive to reduce the threats of biological pollution. This Symposium is a key forum for bringing together individuals from diverse backgrounds and perspectives to help meet this challenge.

Ampelopsis brevipedunculata, porcelain berry by Sandra Brooks-Mathers 1999



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