

EPPC Forum, NAEPPC MOU, and Annual Meeting

By Brian Bowen, SE-EPPC President

The National Association of Exotic Pest Plant Councils (NAEPPC) held its annual meeting in Asheville on October 3 at the 29th Natural Areas Association Conference. It also hosted an EPPC Forum as a concurrent conference session.

The Forum featured Southeast EPPC organizations, which was appropriate considering the conference location in the heart of the Blue Ridge. The Mid-Atlantic EPPC also participated, providing even greater regional representation. The Forum focused on various organizational activities of SE-EPPC and the Tennessee, Florida, and Mid-Atlantic chapters.

A purpose of the Forum was to share information about EPPC, encourage membership participation, and to create interest for others who might want to establish an EPPC chapter elsewhere. A participant from Ohio expressed great interest in working to establish a chapter in that state.

The annual meeting focused specific attention on a Memorandum of Understanding for Participation in NAEPPC. The MOU was circulated for signature during the past year among EPPC organizations formed since NAEPPC inception in

1996. This MOU supplements the original developed by Florida, California, Pacific Northwest, and Tennessee at the CALEPPC 1996 Annual Symposium. The 2002 MOU addresses basic organizational structure such as representation and voting privileges and authority of the NAEPPC Chair (selected by representatives) to enlist volunteers and form committees.

Also during the meeting, it was agreed that NAEPPC would pursue 501C3 status by reviewing at least two different organizational models as possible structures. There were other discussions relating to growth and development, announcements of upcoming events where NAEPPC participation is desirable including Weeds Awareness Week, and discussion about obtaining liability insurance for all EPPC Boards under NAEPPC.

NAEPPC will meet again on September 25th in Madison, Wisconsin at the next Natural Areas Conference. NAEPPC will host another EPPC Forum at the conference and will cosponsor the 2003 Symposium on Invasive Plants in the Upper Midwest.

Current NAEPPC members include the Florida, Tennessee, California, North Carolina, Kentucky, Mississippi, Southeast and Mid-Atlantic EPPCs, the Michigan Invasive Plant Council, the Invasive Plant Council of New York State, and the Invasive Plants Association of Wisconsin.

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