Mark Your Calendar

- Treasure Coast Invasive Plant Management Short Course (half-day), March 23, 2005, St. Lucie County Cooperative Extension, Fort Pierce, FL, 772/462-1660, ktgioeli@ifas.ufl.edu
- Invasive Species: Their Ecological Impacts and Alternatives for Control, American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) Invasive Species Conference, April 18-22, 2005, sponsored by ASTM Committee-E47 on Biological Effects and Environmental Fate, Reno, NV. The symposium will focus on supporting the assessment and monitoring of invasive species. Specific topics pertinent to invasive species issues include the identification of standardizations that Committee-E47 might develop to meet technical and regulatory challenges. ASTM is seeking international participation and plans to focus on both terrestrial and aquatic habitats and species. www.astm.org Click on Symposia and Workshops, then Current Call for Papers.
- Annual meeting of the Florida Vegetation Management Association, April 19-21, 2005. P.O. Box 141977, Gainesville, FL 32614-1977.
- 7th Annual Southeast Exotic Pest Plant Council (SE-EPPC) and 3rd Annual Alabama Invasive Plant Council (ALIPC), May 4-6, 2005, Birmingham, Alabama. www.se-eppc.org
- International Workshop: Biological Invasions in Inland Waters, May 5-6, 2005, Florence, Italy Contact: Francesca Gherardi, gherardi@dbag.unifi.it – http://labo.univ-poitiers.fr/craynet or http://www.dbag.unifi.it (click on Eventi)
- No Ivy Day, May 7, 2005. The Ivy Removal Project is headquartered in Portland, Oregon, but they are looking for partners across the country to "... transform No Ivy Day 2005 into a bicoastal, international punch-out leaving ivy's mat down for the count!" The official motto of the group is "De Vine Intervention." Visit their excellent website at: http://www.noivyleague.com/index.html
- 20th Annual Symposium, Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council (FLEPPC), May 9-11, 2005, Key West, Florida. www.fleppc.org
- 2005 AQUATIC WEED CONTROL SHORT COURSE, May 16-20, 2005, Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Aquatic, upland and invasive weed control; aquatic plant identification. A new concurrent session will focus on first time attendees with a morning of equipment calibration training and an afternoon of aquatic and natural area weed control training. Tyler J. Koschnick, University of Florida, IFAS, Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants, 352/392-5126, FAX: 352/392-3462, tjkoschnick@ifas.ufl.edu or http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/aw/
- 16th Annual Florida Lake Management Society Conference, June 6-9, 2005, Hawk’s Cay Resort on Duck Key. Cash prizes for student presenters! flms.net/florida.html
- Mid-Atlantic EPPC Annual Meeting and Biannual Symposium (co-sponsored by the Morris Arboretum), August 16-17, 2005, Philadelphia, PA. http://www.ma-eppc.org/
- 1st Annual Symposium of the Tennessee Exotic Pest Plant Council, September 8, 2005, Patterson Community Center, Murfreesboro, TN. A morning of speaker sessions and afternoon workshops covering topics such as assessment and monitoring, regional strategies, management plans: homeowners to wilderness areas, and data gaps. Watch for registration information on http://www.tneppc.org/ or contact Pat Parr at 865-576-8123.

Publications:

- Online publication of a new, comprehensive literature review, “Fire as a Tool for Controlling Nonnative Invasive Plants,” by Peter M. Rice, University of Montana. The review “focuses on the intentional use of fire, alone or integrated with other methods, to control exotic plants in North America.” Approximately 235 citations are noted in the 51-page report that is divided into four sections: Managers’ Objectives, Limitations on Tactics, Detailed Case Studies, and References. The review can be read and downloaded at http://www.weedcenter.org/management/tools.htm#burning. The compilation was funded through a grant from the Center for Invasive Plant Management at Montana State University - Bozeman.

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A short selection of journal articles on invasive plants:

- "Exotic weed invasion increases the susceptibility of native plants to attack by a biocontrol herbivore" by T.A. Rand and S.M. Louda, Ecology 85(6):1548-1554. 2004. “This study provides some of the first empirical evidence that invasion by an exotic plant can increase attack of native plants by shared insect herbivores.”

- "Tsetse flies are attracted to the invasive plant Lantana camara" by Z. Syed and P.M. Guerin, Journal of Insect Physiology 50:43-50. 2004. "In a wind tunnel we show that both foliage and an extract of volatiles from foliage of L. camara attract three tsetse spp. from different habitats: Glossina fuscipes fusipes (riverine), G. brevipalpis (sylvatic) and G. pallidipes (savannah)."

- "Seed bank ecology of the invasive vine, cats claw creeper (Macfadyena unguis-cati (L.) A. Gentry" by G. Vivian-Smith and F.D. Panella. In Sindel, B.M and S.B. Johnson (editors) Proceedings of the 14th Australian Weeds Conference, pp. 531-534. “Our results suggest that cats claw creeper does not have a persistent seed bank. Persistence of infestations following regular control efforts may be largely due to regeneration from the below-ground tuber bank.”

**Nodes of Interest**

- The Yale Peabody Museum in New Haven, Connecticut is featuring a show called Landscape Under Siege: Invasive Plants of Connecticut supplemented by Invasive Species and the Public Good, The Fletcher Distinguished Lecture Series hosted by the Global Institute of Sustainable Forestry at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. Invaders are identified with botanically accurate watercolor paintings by members of the Greater New York Chapter of the Guild of Natural Science Illustrators, and with herbarium specimens from the Yale Herbarium collections in the Peabody's Division of Botany. The mission is to educate the public about the negative impacts of non-native invasive plants on local habitats. For more information, go to: http://www.peabody.yale.edu/exhibits/ctinvasives.html

- The Volunteer Invasives Monitoring Program is a pilot program to track the threat of invasive non-native plants on six national wildlife refuges in six different states, including one in Florida. The program is a collaborative effort between the National Wildlife Refuge Association, The Nature Conservancy, the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Institute of Invasive Species Science of the US Geological Survey. Visit the web site at: http://www.refugenet.org/new-invasives/vimp.html

- Maine is no longer one of the only states in the lower 48 to be free of Eurasian watermilfoil (Myriophyllum spicatum). An infestation has been discovered in a 28-acre private gravel quarry. The quarry allows no boating, swimming or fishing so the means of introduction are unknown at this time. A drawdown is underway and treatment options are being considered by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection. For more information, contact Paul Gregory, Maine DEP at Paul.Gregory@maine.gov

- The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced that a Missouri seed company has paid USDA $875 to settle an alleged violation of the Federal Seed Act. Violations included false labeling as to presence of noxious-weed seeds within shipments to Texas and Alabama of tall fescue and wheat. Another fine of $16,425 was paid by a Georgia seed company for violations including false labeling of noxious-weed seeds and their presence in excess of state's limits; presence of prohibited noxious-weed seeds; and failure to show the presence of noxious-weed seeds and the rate of occurrence. The case involved 22 shipments of seeds to Florida, Georgia, Texas, and Kentucky. The Federal Seed Act is a truth-in-labeling law designed to protect farmers and consumers who buy seed. The Agricultural Marketing Service administers the act with the help of state seed officials.

- The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has become the 13th Cabinet agency to join the National Invasive Species Council (NISC). NASA says its current work on maintaining the biological integrity of Earth and other solar system bodies along with work with remote
sensing activities of Earth's biotic and abiotic environment from space will make it an invaluable addition to the council. NASA has agreed to make its satellite observations of the Earth, computer modeling and engineering experience available to NISC. The National Invasive Species Council is a cabinet-level council that was established by Executive Order of President Bill Clinton in 1999 to provide leadership and to ensure complementary, cost-efficient and effective federal activities regarding invasive species. Council members, in addition to NASA, include three co-chairs: the secretaries of the Interior, Agriculture, Commerce, and the secretaries of State, Defense, Homeland Security, Treasury, Transportation, Health and Human Services, as well as the administrators of the Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Agency for International Development, and the U.S. Trade Representative. More information on NISC is online at: www.invasivespecies.gov

- The **Southwest Exotic Plant Information Clearinghouse** is a cooperative effort among the U.S. Geological Survey, the National Park Service and Northern Arizona University to organize comprehensive information on exotic plant species in the southwest on one web location. Go to http://www.usgs.nau.edu/SWEPIC/
- Visit the Natural Areas Training Academy web site to learn about the **Certificate in Natural Areas Management Program**, a partnership of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and the School of Natural Resources and Environment at the University of Florida. The mission of the academy is to provide public and private resource managers with up-to-date and practical information and training for protecting Florida’s natural areas. The Certificate in Natural Areas Management is awarded upon completion of a series of five workshops. Go to http://nata.snre.ufl.edu/ for more information.

How much Lygodium...? In an effort to curtail the rampant growth and spread of Old world climbing fern, Lygodium microphyllum, the USDA-ARS Invasive Plant Research Laboratory released a lygodium-eating moth, Austromusotima (formerly Cataclysta) camptonozale, on February 14 from Jonathan Dickinson State Park in Hobe Sound, Florida. In attendance at this highly anticipated event were U.S. Representative E. Clay Shaw, Jr., officials from the USDA-ARS, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and the South Florida Water Management District, vegetation management biologists and experts. The caterpillars of the Lygodium moth eat the leaves of the plant, killing smaller plants and reducing the vigor of larger plants. The insect has been fully tested under quarantine conditions and officially approved for release as the first biological control agent targeting Lygodium in Florida.

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