

# North Carolina EPPC Reports

by Johnny Randall

Our very successful 2007 NC-EPPC annual meeting (with nearly 80 attendees) at the North Carolina Botanical Garden concluded with a changing of the guard—of the 12-member board, 8 new individuals were elected. Note that the NC-EPPC board is designed to provide seats for an array of stakeholders within the invasive plant arena.

Current board members and their affiliations include: President, Charles Yelton (NC Museum of Natural Sciences), Vice-President, Gary Marshall (Mecklenburg County Parks and Recreation), Secretary Kristen Sinclair (NC Natural Heritage Program), Treasurer, Cheri Smith (NC Department of Transportation), and board members representing Public Gardens, Johnny Randall (NC Botanical Garden), Conservation Organization, Margaret Fields (The Nature Conservancy), Allied Industry, Steve Manning (Invasive Plant Control, Inc.), Nursery Industry, Doug Chapman (Plantworks Nursery and NC Nursery and Landscape Association), Landscape Industry, David McDowell (Bland Nurseries and NCNLA), Academic Organization, Rob Richardson (NC State Univ., Dept. of Horticultural Science), Government, Rick Iverson (NC Dept. of Agriculture), and Citizen, George Morris (RiverWorks, Inc.).

The annual meeting was opened with a presentation by NC Department of Agriculture weed specialist, Rick Iverson, who

led us through the state noxious weed listing process. Presentations followed by George Morris, Nancy Fraley, Marek Smith, and Charles Yelton on restoration and management activities. Outgoing NC-EPPC VP, Joe Neal, gave the final presentation on the NC Nursery and Landscape Association risk assessment initiative (the subject of a graduate student program at NC State University).

Our action agenda for the coming year is to help form a state early detection and rapid response (EDRR) committee with Randy Westbrook (USGS) at the helm, participate in the NC Invasive Species Advisory Committee, join the Coalition for Eastern Invasive Plant Species Control (CEIPSC), and engage our legislators in DC during the National Invasive Weed Awareness Week (NIWAW9). We also plan to educate our congressmen and senators on invasive plant issues during the summer when they are in North Carolina, provide posters and materials to environmental educators about invasive plants, hold community service projects, and propose an invasive plant Boy Scout/Girl Scout badge.

We are very excited about the coming year and the energy infused by a number of new board members. There is much work to do, so wish us success!

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*Johnny Randall is the Immediate Past President of NC-EPPC and current board member representing Public Gardens.*



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*A joint conference of the Natural Areas Association (NAA) and the National Association of Exotic Pest Plant Councils (NAEPPC).*