

## NC EPPC Hosts Annual Conference

The North Carolina Exotic Pest Plant Council teamed with NC State University and the NC Botanical Garden (the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill) to host more than 100 participants on Dec. 2–3, 2009 at the NC EPPC annual conference and invasive non-native plants workshop.

The 2009 meeting offered a valuable mix of presentations and field activities that included: 1) examples of invasive plant control programs in Canada, the NC Sandhills Weed Management Area and the North Carolina State Parks; 2) a primer on the environmental fate of herbicides; 3) an overview of USDA, PPQ's new Weed Risk Assessment Model to Identify Potential U.S. Noxious Weeds; 4) an update on the impacts to herbicide application from proposed new regulations in the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System; 5) highlights on the biology, ecology and control of several important invasive weeds; 6) a workshop on plant identification; 7) a primer on herbicide application equipment; and, 8) field trips to show examples of invasive plant management in action.



▲ Tips and other information on herbicides, application equipment and nursery products were offered by NC EPPC meeting sponsors and vendors that included BASF, Cure Nursery, Foggy Mountain Nursery, Invasive Plant Control, Inc., Mellow Marsh Farm, Niche Gardens, Nufarm and River Works, Inc., Goat Patrol, Dow Agrosiences, Helena Chemical Company and Southeastern Native Plant Nursery.



▲ NC EPPC conference participants enjoy the music of The Tim Stambough Band during the meeting reception.

## NC EPPC Gets a “Shout Out” in USA TODAY to Bolster Invasive Species Awareness

The North Carolina Exotic Pest Plant Council (NC EPPC) used invasive species awareness week as an opportunity to raise invasive species awareness in North Carolina. With the help of Debbie Crane, Director of Communications with the NC Chapter of The Nature Conservancy and the NC EPPC board, a press release was composed and distributed to media contacts. The release resulted in a radio interview with Johnny Randall, NC EPPC board member, a radio and live television interview with Rick Iverson, NC EPPC president, and news clips in the North Carolina News Network, the Winston Salem Journal, the Salisbury Post, the Myrtle Beach Sun News, The Rock Hill (SC) Herald and USA TODAY. The clip in USA TODAY made the NC state highlight news with the following:

“Raleigh — The North Carolina Exotic Plant Pest Council wants people to focus this week on invasive species, foreign plants that are spreading and changing the environment. Council President Rick Iverson said kudzu is probably the invasive plant that most people know best. He said it’s time to look out for the next kudzu and stop it from spreading.”

## EDRR Final Plan Nears Completion in North Carolina

A core mission for NC EPPC in 2010 is to finalize and launch a plan for Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) of Invasive Plants. Thanks to Dr. Randy Westbrook, the elements of an EDRR plan have been assembled with input by the NC EPPC Board of Directors. The target weed list is currently under review by the NC EPPC Board and the members they represent. Several training workshops have already been planned around the state to train volunteers and stakeholders.