

Internodes

Mark your calendar

- **Aquatic Plant Management Society (APMS)**, Annual Meeting, July 16-19, 2006, Portland, OR. www.apms.org
- **FLERA 2006 Annual Conference**, Florida Local Environmental Resource Agencies, August 2-4, 2006, Sarasota, FL. 850/561-0904; www.flera.org/index.html
- **33rd Annual Natural Areas Association Conference**, September 20-23, 2006, Flagstaff, AZ. <http://www.naturalarea.org/>
- **33rd Annual Conference, Ecosystems Restoration & Creation**, November 2-3, 2006, Plant City, FL. 813/253-7523; www.hccfl.edu/depts./detc/ecoconf.html
- **30th Annual Florida Aquatic Plant Management Society Meeting**, October 30 - November 2, 2006; St. Petersburg, FL. www.fapms.org
- **Public Land Acquisition & Management Partnership Conference**, November 1-2, 2006, Jacksonville, FL. www.ces.fau.edu/plam2006

Publications

- FLEPPC's Brazilian Peppertree Task Force has released an updated 'Florida Brazilian Peppertree Management Plan' that discusses the biology and management of *Schinus terebinthifolius*, one of Florida's worst invasive weeds. The updated management plan explains ecological processes that can have a selective and predictable population level impact on Brazilian peppertree and that can be manipulated using appropriate control technologies to effectively alter the plant's invasive characteristics. To download the plan in PDF, go to: <http://ipm.ifas.ufl.edu/>
- The Ecological Society of America (ESA) presented their Invasive Species Position Paper, **Biological Invasions:**

Recommendations for U.S. Policy and Management at the National Invasive Weeds Awareness Week in Washington, DC. A PDF version and/or a PowerPoint presentation can be downloaded from the ESA website at: <http://www.esa.org/> Click on Public Affairs, then ESA Positions, to find this Position Paper and others from the venerable ESA.

Good Points

- Quote of the Quarter: "If I had to name the one thing in this profession that has changed the most, it would be the people. Thirty years ago it was just a pay check to most. Today it is a shared challenge that we all take pride in!!!" Gary Nichols, FLEPPC Board Member.

• Castor bean (*Ricinus communis*) is the source of ricin, a potent poison implicated in bioterrorist threats. It is a FLEPPC Category II pest plant native to Asia and Africa. The large seeds can remain viable for years after the parent tree is gone. Bill Neill with Riparian Repairs writes, "The ricin toxin present in castor bean seeds, foliage, and wood is persistent in the human body, where one ricin molecule can destroy thousands of ribosome molecules necessary for protein synthesis. Unlike synthetic, manufactured compounds, the human health effect of low-level exposure to natural poisons such as ricin have not been studied by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency." bgneill@earthlink.net

• **Public-Private Partnerships to Manage Invasive Weeds** - Pulling Together Initiative (PTI) grants are administered by the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation. Proposals are solicited from non-profit organizations and government agencies interested in managing invasive plant species. Grants provide support on a competitive basis for the formation of local Weed Management Area (WMA) partnerships. These partnerships engage federal resource agencies, state and local governments, private landowners, and other interested parties in developing long-term weed management projects within the scope of an integrated pest management strategy.

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The goals of PTI are:

- to prevent, manage, or eradicate invasive plants through a coordinated program of public/private partnerships, and
- to increase public awareness of the adverse impacts of invasive plants.

PTI grants are financed by funds from federal agencies, which must be matched by cash or in-kind contributions from state, local, and private partners on at least a 1:1 basis. Proposal submission is invited and encouraged nationwide. All proposals are reviewed by a national steering committee composed of weed management experts from government, industry, academia, and non-profit organizations. Preproposals for next year will be due at the end of October 2006. To learn more about the PTI, visit <http://www.nfwf.org/programs/pti.cfm>

What are some of the current invasive plants being controlled by IPC, Inc. and the PPC?

Invasive Plant Control, Inc. and the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy are currently working on an 80 acre restoration of the historic landscape and natural areas in the Panther Hollow Watershed in Schenley Park. Invasive plant challenges include garlic mustard threatening old stands of trillium, May apple and Solomon's seal; Norway maple which has rapidly eliminated many species found in the original sugar maple-basswood community and Japanese knotweed which has spread along all the stream banks and wetland areas, choking out moist meadow species such as Joe-pye, ironweed, Sylphium cup-plant and seed-box.

What are some invasive plant management projects on the horizon?

Invasive Plant Control, Inc. and the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy are currently working with city, county, state and federal partners through the newly formed CWMA, Three Rivers Invasive Species Coalition (TRISC). One of the driving forces behind this coalition is to respond early to eliminate mile-a-minute vine in the western half of the state where it has only recently established a foothold.

For additional information about the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy visit their website at www.pittsburghparks.org.

You can also find this interview online at www.invasiveplantcontrol.com

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Kudzu flower jelly, kudzu baskets and sculptures, kudzu tea, kudzu art exhibits, kudzu hay, kudzu herbal remedies, deep-fried kudzu and kudzu quiche...the list goes on and on. There is even a kudzu documentary, and numerous books have been published on the vine that is arguably the poster plant for invasive exotic pest plants in the South. It reportedly covers over 7 million acres of the deep South, but you can still purchase seeds and root crowns on the Internet, in spite of the fact that the vine is prohibited by both the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. I was recently bestowed with a jar of kudzu blossom jelly from North Carolina, as yet unopened. I guess if we can't beat it, we may as well eat it!

— KB, Ed.