

# CHAPTER UPDATES

## Alabama IPC *by Jimmie Cobb, President*

The ALIPC annual meeting in Auburn had a great turnout with more than 170 attendees covering a wide range of backgrounds, including forest industry and utility managers. Many of these folks do not “think invasives” every day, and it was good to expand our reach. Speakers hailed from GA, AL, TN, and FL. Dr. Pat Minogue of the University of Florida opened with a presentation on Japanese climbing fern identification and control. Japanese climbing fern is rapidly spreading in Alabama, and we want members to be on the lookout for its presence. Dr. Stephen Enloe of Auburn University discussed application rates for basal and cut stump privet treatments, showing that both spring and fall applications of triclopyr and glyphosate are effective. James Johnson of the Georgia Forestry Commission presented data showing good control of privet with aerial applications of glyphosate in the winter. These applications are controlling the privet and releasing native hardwoods from competition. Dr. Greg Armel of the University of Tennessee discussed invaders that we can expect to see moving in from the north. Stephen Pecot of Larson and McGowin, Inc. discussed progress on fighting cogongrass utilizing the Alabama Forestry Commission grant.

2009 grant recipients Danny Cain of Walker County Extension and Don Collier with the Wheeler Wildlife Refuge Association gave presentations on their jobs. Our 2010 grants program was announced, and our web page has the details. We then adjourned to a local park to see demonstrations on plant identification, new invasive plants to watch for, herbicide application equipment, mulchers, and wetlands restoration. We had a record number of sponsors at the meeting, and they all reported great interaction with the attendees.

We participated with the Auburn Arboretum in “Starboretum Wars” — a volunteer weed-pull session. We also participated in a clean-up of invasive plants at Haines Island Park with the Alabama Plant Conservation Association, and plan to make this a long-term partnership. We have had a number of articles published in newspapers around the state, with the Cogongrass Initiative particularly raising public awareness of at least one invasive weed.

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## SE-EPPC holds Annual Meeting with SE-SERI

The Southeast Exotic Pest Plant Council held their annual meeting in conjunction with the Southeast Chapter of the Society for Ecological Restoration International (SERI) from May 11 – 13, 2010. The conference was held in the lovely and historic Sheraton Read House Hotel in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Approximately 120 people attended the joint meeting, *Disturbance and Change, Invasive Plants and Paths to Recovery*, including almost thirty students. Both the SE-EPPC and SERI held their annual general business meetings in conjunction with luncheons at the hotel.

The keynote speaker was Dr. Don Hodges, University of Tennessee, Professor of Forest Economics and Policy, and Director of the UT Natural Resource Policy Center, who gave a stimulating presentation on the costs associated with invasive plants in the Southeast.

Plenary speakers were Gene Hyde, City Forester for Chattanooga and current Chair of the Chattanooga Green Committee. Mr. Hyde gave a historical overview of the city of Chattanooga, which has undergone a visionary makeover since the 1960s when Walter Cronkite named it America’s dirtiest city. Today the city is a welcoming and beautiful destination with the world-class Tennessee Aquarium, miles of riverfront parks, multiple museums and a thriving downtown area. It is also an important Civil War historical location.

The second plenary speaker was Dr. Tom Barnes with the University of Kentucky, a professor and wildlife extension specialist who spoke on the restoration of native grasses in the southeastern U.S.

Meeting sessions included forest restoration, education and outreach, invasive species, cogongrass research and organization, grassland restoration, and wetlands restoration. A cogongrass workshop had over 100 attendees with laminated plant specimens provided by Nancy Loewenstein to prevent any seed dispersal. The meeting was sponsored by RPM Ecosystems Southeast, LLC, Ravenel, SC; Westervelt Ecological Services, Auburn, AL; Roundstone Native Seed, LLC, Upton, KY; Invasive Plant Control, Inc., Nashville, TN; and underwritten by the National Park Service, Southeast Exotic Plant Management Team, Asheville, NC and the US Forest Service.

**Dr. James H. Miller** was presented with the first SE-EPPC Award of Excellence by former SE-EPPC President Tony Pernas. Tony gave an authoritative reading of the plaque’s inscription, A Plant Manager’s Defense, adapted by Dan Clark from the film, *A Few Good Men*, starring Jack Nicholson. Although the inscription is humorous in nature, the award is a very sincere recognition of Dr. Miller’s lifetime of dedication and achievement in the field of invasive plant species. Dr. Miller is an Invasive Species Research Ecologist with the U.S. Forest Service, Southern Research Station, and Affiliate Professor of Forestry with the Auburn University School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences. He has been instrumental in the fight against cogongrass in the southeastern U.S. He has authored and co-authored many important publications, including *Nonnative Invasive Plants of Southern Forests: A Field Guide for Identification and Control*. 2003. Gen. Tech. Rep. SRS-62. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 93p., and *Maps of Occupation and Estimates of Acres Covered by Nonnative Invasive Plants in Southern Forests using SRS FIA data posted on March 15, 2008*. [Available only on the internet: <http://www.invasive.org/fiamaps/>]



*Dr. James H. Miller receives the inaugural SE-EPPC Award of Excellence.*

KAREN BROWN

## South Carolina EPPC and NERR Partner to Control Invasives and Promote Natives in the Southeast by Stefanie Simpson

The South Carolina Exotic Pest Plant Council partnered with the Southeast National Estuarine Research Reserves (NERR) (North Carolina, North-Inlet Winyah Bay, ACE Basin, Sapelo Island, and Guana Tolomato Matanzas NERRs) this past February to present a three-day invasive species conference, *Controlling Invasives and Promoting Natives through Collaborative Efforts in the Southeast*. The conference was held at Camp St. Christopher on Seabrook Island and had more than 70 attendees over the three days. Presentations focused on the networks available for collaborative efforts, such as the NERR System and SC EPPC, and the ongoing efforts to control and manage the spread of invasive plant species in the southeast. The event included several breakout groups where participants could discuss specific topics such as Targeting the Green Industry, Engaging the Public Beyond Brochures, Working Together to Improve Collaboration, and Innovative Regulatory Approaches for Addressing Invasives. As part of the Targeting the Green Industry breakout group, a survey was conducted by members

of the SC EPPC and southeastern NERRs prior to the workshop. This survey assessed the knowledge of nursery professionals regarding invasive plants and what further assistance they would need in promoting the use of native plants. The outcomes of this survey were presented during the breakout group. A report was recently sent to attendees and is available online along with another post-event report regarding a core message for invasive plant outreach efforts. Both reports can be found at: <http://www.dnr.sc.gov/marine/NERR/trainingInvasives.html>. The third day of the workshop consisted of Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) training which taught participants how to identify new invasive plants and respond to their spread. This collaborative event not only provided participants with updates on invasive plant management in the southeast, but also provided opportunities to network with each other to increase future collaborative efforts to phase out invasive species.

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## Kentucky EPPC Update by Joyce Bender, President

Each year Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest, the Kentucky Exotic Pest Plant Council and the Garden Club of Kentucky publish a poster of a featured plant that has proven to be invasive to Kentucky's native habitats. Native alternatives are depicted with growth habit, planting requirements, wildlife value and more. The latest poster in the **Kentucky's Least Wanted Series** features privet (*Ligustrum* spp.). This poster, and those from previous years, are available for viewing and download through <http://www.bernheim.org/leastWanted.html>. The featured plant for 2009 was callery pear, *Pyrus calleryana*; 2008 featured princess-tree, *Paulownia tomentosa*; 2007 — Japanese knotweed, *Polygonum cuspidatum*; and 2006 — Asian bittersweet, *Celastrus orbiculata*. "These introduced plants are out-competing our native species resulting in a reduction of plant diversity. Be on the lookout for these invasive plants and avoid using them in your landscaping. Instead, use similar native plants that can and do provide similar enhancements to your environment."

Our work on the Capitol Makeover continues with plans to map all invasive plants on the capitol grounds and work with state facilities management staff to replace them with native plantings donated by civic minded groups. This project is in conjunction with the Kentucky Native Plant Society, the local neighborhood association and master gardeners. Additional plans call for notices of our efforts to be included in routine information that is regularly provided to legislators by the Legislative Research Commission. Signage will be included if funding can be secured.

The Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission has a book coming out in September on the biodiversity of Kentucky. In conjunction with the book, Kentucky Educational Television (KET KY) is creating a series of presentations for their popular show, Kentucky Life, about biodiversity. One of the issues to be explored is invasive plants. We will be filming that segment this summer and early spring 2011 and it will air on Earth Day 2011. The Commission website also has distribution maps available for a number of the most threatening invasive plants. These can be viewed at: <http://www.naturepreserves.ky.gov/inforesources/factsheets.htm>

KY EPPC will be involved in training workshops on invasive plant identification and control for KY Division of Forestry personnel this summer.

To visit the KY EPPC website, go to: <http://www.se-eppc.org/ky/>

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## TNEPPC Update

by Terri Hogan, Immediate Past President

Bringing SE-EPPC and the Southeast Chapter of the Society for Ecological Restoration International (SERI) together for a joint annual meeting was a major TNEPPC accomplishment this year (see p. 10).

Another accomplishment was TNEPPC's participation in establishing the Tennessee Cooperative Weed Management Area (TNCWMA). In 2009, a group of concerned individuals and representatives of federal and state agencies, industry, and non-governmental organizations came together in an effort to cooperatively address invasive plants in the state of Tennessee. Their focus centers on developing strategies to keep new invasive species out of the state, followed by early detection and rapid response (EDRR) to quickly spot and eradicate new troublesome species. This group, the Tennessee Invasive Plant Species (TIPS) Steering Committee, chose to focus on species that are known to be highly invasive where they occur but 1) do not yet occur in Tennessee or 2) are not yet widespread in the state. Representatives of fourteen entities signed a Memorandum of Understanding establishing a 41,220-square-mile Cooperative Weed Management Area encompassing all of Tennessee and an agreement to work together to educate, detect, inventory, monitor, control, and prevent the spread of cogongrass and other designated species within Tennessee. The Steering Committee divided the TNCWMA into three distinct management zones to help organize and prioritize specific cooperative projects. Establishing a CWMA also helps gain funding for education campaigns and for treatment. The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) was a very active participant in this effort. TNEPPC thanks all states that shared materials. For more information on the TNCWMA, visit: <http://eppserver.ag.utk.edu/Extension/TNCWMA/>

Gravel and sand pit certification is another major project that was taken on by Kristine Johnson. Kristine has spoken with gravel pit operators and developed a good relationship with Vulcan Materials Company, whose representatives have shown a real interest in managing invasive species in their quarries and planting appropriate species for erosion control. Gravel and sand quarry pits are perfect disturbed habitats for establishment of invasive plants. Some are deliberately introduced during restoration to control erosion and improve water quality. Seeds from invasive plants can contaminate both the active pit and storage piles, providing a pathway for future infestations at construction sites throughout the region. Adapting procedures in use at Yellowstone National Park, Great Smoky Mountains National Park has begun working with quarries to survey their facilities for invasive species and

## MS Exotic Pest Plant Council Meeting Adventures

by Julie Marcy, Treasurer

Fifteen members of the Mississippi Exotic Pest Plant Council (MSEPPC) attended a workshop in Vicksburg, MS on June 2nd. Attendees included representatives of DeSoto National Forest, the MS Bureau of Plant Industry, the MS Department of Transportation, MS State University Extension, The Nature Conservancy, the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture/Southern Weed Science Research Unit, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Vicksburg National Military Park, along with the MS Cooperative Weed Management Area Coordinator and the MS State Plant Health Director.

The morning session included an overview video, briefings and tours of the U.S. Army Engineer Research & Development Center's (ERDC) Environmental Lab. Facilities toured included the aquatic invasives laboratories, greenhouses and ponds. Discussions centered on aquatic invasive species management and research efforts, ecosystem restoration, and invasive species information systems. Speakers included Ms. Rachelle Hinton, Mr. Brian Durham, Ms. Jan Freedman, Dr. Jan Hoover, Dr. Chris Mudge, Dr. Linda Nelson, and Dr. Judy Shearer.

Participants then traveled to the Vicksburg National Military Park and toured invasive species management areas with Natural Resources Program Manager Virginia DuBow, who explained efforts to remove invasive plants and restore a section of the battlefield to its historical period vegetation. Sites included kudzu management areas, mechanical clearing of chinaberry trees, and prescribed burn areas.

Despite some challenging heat, humidity and insect friends, participants deemed the workshop an enjoyable and worthwhile learning experience.

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Participants search for biological control insects on aquatic plants with Dr. Judy Shearer and Ms. Jan Freedman

recommend improvements to minimize seed contamination. TNEPPC's newly revised web site links to documents related to gravel pit certification.

TNEPPC finalized our invasive plant list and listing criteria (See *Wildland Weeds*, Winter 2009 and the TNEPPC website), and celebrated TN Invasive Weed Awareness Week (TN IWAW) for the second year with 14 events across the state. Event highlights and photos are posted on the website.

To promote the use of native plants in gardens and landscapes, TNEPPC revised and consolidated three regional brochures into a single statewide document, "*Landscaping with Native Plants — Tennessee*" for easier use and wider application.

TNEPPC had major input into the TN Department of Agriculture's updated pest plant list last year with 10 new species added including Chinese, common, and European privets (*Ligustrum* spp.); and Amur, Morrow's, and Bell's honeysuckle (*Lonicera* spp.).

All materials are posted on the newly updated TNEPPC website at [www.tneppc.org](http://www.tneppc.org)

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## Georgia EPPC *by Brian Arnold, Secretary*

Members of GA-EPPC have been participating in events to increase awareness of non-native invasive plants throughout the state. Efforts include the Georgia Green Industry Association (GGIA) Wintergreen and Winterschool, at which GA-EPPC members provided an “Invasive Non-Native Plant Control Workshop” targeting professionals in the Green Industry. Members also provide an “Alien Invaders” display booth and provide presentations to the general public, and meet with elementary and high school classes in an effort to educate future leaders.

GA-EPPC’s Annual Meeting is scheduled for November 4, 2010 at Zoo Atlanta. Along with other objectives, the meeting will be used to demonstrate the financial losses that can occur when invasive plants are not managed. Damon E. Waitt, Senior Botanist at the University of Texas Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, will be the keynote speaker. Aside from disseminating information via direct contact, current goals of GA-EPPC include updating the website and the list of non-native invasive plants, and creating a speakers bureau to provide more opportunities to inform the public about non-native invasive plants in Georgia.

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## NC-EPPC Update *by Rick Iverson, President*

NC-EPPC co-sponsored its first Early Detection Rapid Response (EDRR) training session on May 22 in Wilmington, NC. Other sponsors were Cape Fear ARCH Conservation Collaboration and North Carolina Coastal Reserve. Attendees included representatives from local government, state agency staff, students, and citizens.

NC-EPPC has finalized an EDRR target weed list and plan and will post them on the website with corresponding fact sheets soon. A joint annual meeting is planned with the NC Vegetation Management Association in Raleigh on December 8-9. An NC-EPPC communications plan also is in the works with Debbie Crane leading the effort.

Megan Malone was selected to receive the 2010 NC-EPPC \$1,000 scholarship. The scholarship is provided to encourage students to pursue a graduate degree and to support research in the area of invasive plant science. Megan is pursuing an M.S. degree in Natural Resource Science. She has demonstrated a keen interest in invasive plant science as well as leadership and a very high degree of academic achievement. Her thesis title is “A comparison of the vegetation and soils of North Carolina piedmont stream restoration projects and their reference sites.”



*Megan Malone, NCEPPC  
2010 Scholarship Winner*

*Rick Iverson, Weed Specialist, NCDA&CS, Plant Industry Division, Rick.Iverson@ncagr.gov*

## IveGot1.org – Reporting and Tracking Invasive Species in Florida

IveGot1.org is Florida’s new portal to the Early Detection and Distribution Mapping System (EDDMapS). EDDMapS was designed to provide an accurate picture of the distribution of invasive species, and assist land managers in setting priorities for early detection and rapid response (EDRR). It has been successful in developing more complete local, state and regional level distribution data on invasive species, and identifying leading edge ranges of new invasive species threats. It also is used to help corroborate threats and refine invasive species lists.

“Report Cards” were recently produced to publicize the IveGot1 portal and to introduce users to some of the data entry steps when invasive species are spotted. IveGot1 cards are intended for those involved in active detection networks. Sightings may be reported on invasive plants, insects, mollusks, fish, reptiles, mammals, amphibians, birds, crustaceans, and arachnids. Go to [www.IveGot1.org](http://www.IveGot1.org) to report invasive species sightings, view distribution maps and species information, create a My EDDMapS application, and to view Tools and Training Materials. Invasive animals in Florida can also be reported using a toll-free phone number: 1-888-Ive-Got1.

To request a supply of IveGot1 cards, contact a Florida Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA) at <http://www.floridainvasives.org/>.

IveGot1.org is a partnership between the Florida Invasive Species Partnership (FISP) and the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council (FLEPPC), with support from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service and The Nature Conservancy in cooperation with Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and Florida Natural Areas Inventory.

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