



Field tour participants at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park

## Review: Weeds Across Borders 2010

by Emily Rindos

Weeds Across Borders (WAB), a biennial international conference covering the interests of professionals and organizations involved in North American weed management and regulation, took place during the first week of June 2010 at the National Conservation Training Center (NCTC) in Shepherdstown, West Virginia. Composed of an affiliation of organizations from Canada, Mexico, and the United States with a common interest in sharing information and promoting weed management throughout North America, the conference has rotated among the three countries since its inception in 2002.

This year's event was sponsored by the Federal Interagency Committee for the Management of Noxious and Exotic Weeds (FICMNEW) and the US Federal Highway Administration with additional support from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, the Invasive Plant Atlas of New England, UNAM-National University of Mexico, and the Center for Invasive Plant Management. The Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management, comprised of wildlife conservation organizations from Canada, Mexico, and the United States, endorsed the conference.

Over 100 attendees and speakers traveled from 27 states, 6 provinces, and 5 countries to form partnerships between government agencies, universities, industry, non-governmental organizations, and volunteer organizations.

The theme of this year's conference was "Plant Invasions: Policies, Politics, and Practices" and the 45 presentations brought new invasive species issues, challenges, solutions, and programs

to the forefront. Session topics included: Status Reports from each country, Cooperation and Horticultural Partnerships, Applied Research Reports, New Issues and Networking, Border Management, Economic and Ecological Impacts, Awareness and Education Programs, Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR), and an ED RR training workshop. The strong agenda showcased new research, partnerships, legislation, and programs from across the continent.

The conference also included a field tour, which took participants to Flowing Springs Park and Harpers Ferry National Historical Park where local experts discussed problems and management techniques along the area's pathways and corridors, rivers and trails. An evening event featured a fascinating talk by keynote speaker Curt Meine, biographer of Aldo Leopold, who explored invasive species issues within the framework of Leopold's Land Health Concept. Bonnie Harper-Lore, organizer of the first three WAB conferences, presented an overview of WAB starting at the very beginning and ending with an inspired challenge to continue work toward continental partnerships, information sharing, and cross-boundary program coordination.

Additional information on WAB, including speaker presentations, the meeting agenda, and links to past WAB conference documents can be found on the conference website: <http://www.weedcenter.org/wab/2010>.

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