

# SE-EPPC Update SE-EPPC Hires Invasive Species Specialist

An Invasive Species Specialist has been hired by SE-EPPC after funding was granted by the USDA, Forest Service. Mr. Kevin Willis began working in June on a project to coordinate regional efforts to list species, publicize weed alerts, and contribute to the Early Detection and Distribution Mapping System (EDDMapS). The project will also examine the potential for Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas across the region.

Kevin reports: The initial period has consisted primarily of orientation and networking—establishing contacts and becoming more familiar with the Council's chapters and people. Preliminary work involved organizing a timeline for milestones and project deliverables, and reviewing species lists and protocols. Communications from CISMAs—experiences and recommendations—were also a focal point. Visits to members in several states, and various phone and email conversations, helped refine project objectives and generate ideas. The ready cooperation that has been offered underscores the value of SE-EPPC's extensive scope.

Going forward, the general review of listing criteria, regulations, and opportunities—both technical and programmatic—will continue through February 2012. I will be contacting members and stakeholders with increasing frequency through the coming

fall and winter. Draft reports will follow in March and April, 2012. The final reports, scheduled for September 30, 2012, will incorporate the draft responses and comments offered in the intervening weeks. The final deliverables will present a detailed comparison of species and listing methodologies across chapters and public agencies in the southeast, and include documented protocols for: 1) expanding EDDMapS usage, and 2) publicizing weed alerts and lists. The report will also address regional CISMA activity and potential.

The extent and quality of SE-EPPC's resources are the biggest parts of our success. We are all, of course, busy with our respective projects and areas. The focus of the Specialist is to provide a level of coordination that can help harness those far-flung energies for the concerted good of southeastern invasive species management. Special thanks are due to the many people who have already been helpful and generous with their time in support of this effort. Many more people will be needed in the near future so—Thank you, in advance, to all of you!

Any questions or comments can be directed to: Kevin Willis, Plant Ecologist—Arnold Air Force Base, TN, Invasive Species Specialist—SE-EPPC, kwillis\_mte@yahoo.com

## SE-EPPC Award Winners – 2011

**Dr. John W. Taylor** was presented with an “Award of Excellence” at the 2011 SE-EPPC Conference in Lexington, Kentucky. The award was given in recognition of his long-time efforts and support of invasive species control programs across the South.

The award was presented by his friend and colleague, Dave Moorhead, Ph.D., Professor of Silviculture & Co-Director of the Center for Invasive Species & Ecosystem Health at the Warnell School of Forestry & Natural Resources, University of Georgia.

Dr. Taylor is an entomologist and Integrated Pest Management Specialist with the USDA Forest Service, Southern Region, State & Private Forestry, Forest Health Protection, in Atlanta, Georgia, a position he has held for 35 years. Prior to that, he was an active duty military entomologist in the US Army. He retired from the US Army Reserve in 1996 with the rank of Colonel after more than 30 years of military service.

Dr. Taylor has worked primarily evaluating promising strategies for providing more effective management of insects, diseases, and non-native plants that impact the forest resources of the South. Today his primary focus is the coordination of the non-native plant management programs for the 13 states in the USDA-FS Southern Region. John is the author of more than 40 publications related to the environmental fate of pesticides, invasive plant control, and pesticide safety. He has given more than 100 presentations related to the same topics.

John earned a BS in forest management (1966), a M.S. (1968) and Ph.D. (1971) in Forest Entomology at the University of Georgia.

**Mr. William N. Kline** was presented with an “Award of Excellence” at the 2011 SE-EPPC Conference in Lexington, Kentucky. Bill was instrumental in getting the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council started in the mid-1980s. He has contributed ever since



in key positions involving education, training, and developing tools for invasive weed control. Bill was one of the inventors of the low-volume herbicide basal treatments used on so many key species in Florida and other areas of the country. In recent years he has been the FLEPPC and SE-EPPC Industry Liaison.

Bill worked as a field scientist for Dow AgroSciences for 30 years. He contributed to the development of new products for the Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM) and Range and Pasture markets, and refined herbicide application methods and species control methods. Prior to his work at Dow, Bill was a Forest Nursery manager for Champion International. He earned a B.S. and a M.S. in forestry from the University of Georgia.

Bill's award was presented by Jimmie Cobb, AL-IPC President, and Forestry & IVM Sales Specialist, Dow AgroSciences. Bill is an avid ham radio operator and his most emphatic request every year is that annual EPPC meetings not be scheduled during his annual ham radio club gathering. We do our best to accommodate Bill—he's a good friend and colleague.