



GA-EPPC

By Brian Arnold, Past President and Karan Rawlins, President

GA-EPPC continues to educate the general public, as well as industry, about the harm caused by nonnative invasive plants. Using methods proven to be practical and effective public outreach occurs through traditional means including the Annual Conference, invasive plant management workshops and publications. Keeping the GA-EPPC website updated and using social media such as Facebook are helping us to reach new audiences.

A great opportunity for GA-EPPC to communicate its message comes early in the year as an invasive plant workshop is conducted at the Georgia Green Industry Association's (GGIA) "Wintergreen" Conference. Brian Arnold of Songbird Landcare presented "The Problem of Invasive Plants," providing an overview of the environmental harm they cause. Former GA-EPPC President Cynthia Taylor of Elachee Nature Science Center presented "Managing Invasive Plants," covering integrated management strategies and the safe use of herbicides. The workshop was concluded with a presentation on "New Invasive Plant Threats," including a discussion on EDDMapS by President Karan Rawlins of UGA's Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health.

The Wintergreen Conference is designed to speak directly to the Green Industry, and is an important part of the GA-EPPC program. The Wintergreen 2013 Conference is scheduled for January 25 and will consist of the same lineup of speakers. In addition, GGIA has offered GA-EPPC a complimentary booth in the trade show portion of their conference, allowing us to increase our outreach.

The 2012 GA-EPPC Annual Meeting and Conference was held November 8 at UGA's Griffin Campus, and the board was very excited about the quality of the program. The keynote speaker was Dr. Douglas W. Tallamy, Professor and Chair of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware and author of "Bringing Nature Home, How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants".

This year for the first time, vendors were invited to our annual conference. Rather than charging the traditional vendor fee, GA-EPPC asked that vendors donate door prizes to be given away to attendees throughout the meeting. Vendors at this year's meeting included the Georgia Wildlife Federation, the Longleaf Alliance, Georgia Forestry Commission, Nearly Native Nursery, Invasive Plant Control, Inc., and artist Linda Fraser.

Also at the Annual Meeting, Karan Rawlins moved into the Presidency, Bodie Pennisi was approved as President Elect, and J. Mindy Moffett, Jr. Treasurer.

Georgia is proud to have been chosen as recipient of the SE-EPPC \$1,500 matching grant that will be used to train teachers to use the classroom-ready curriculum, "Lakeville," as well as provide materials for teachers to take back to the classroom. The curriculum educates students about natural resources, invasive species, and civic responsibility. "Lakeville" was created by Amy Richard at the University of Florida Center for Aquatic & Invasive Plants through The Florida Invasive Plant Education Initiative. Susan Reinhardt and Karan Rawlins at the University of Georgia in Tifton, along with Kitty Lane of Jacksonville, Florida, will conduct the first teacher trainings in Georgia.

Two longtime members have retired this year. Elaine Nash served as Treasurer and Membership Coordinator since 2001. Jim Allison was instrumental in GA-EPPC's organization and was elected GA-EPPC President in 2001. GA-EPPC is grateful for the service of Elaine and Jim, and both will be missed.

NC EPPC Update

By Rick Iverson, President

NC EPPC was pleased to host approximately 80 enthusiastic participants at its 2012 annual meeting at the North Carolina Arboretum in Asheville, NC. The theme "Understanding and Managing Invasive Plant Threats in the North Carolina Highlands" was addressed by a slate of pertinent topics that included an overview of specific weed problems and their management as well as a discussion of invasive weed programs in the North Carolina mountains. NC EPPC was very pleased to attract Bonnie Harper-Lore as a speaker. She provided an interesting picture of national invasive weed issues along our transportation systems in a talk entitled "Invasive Plants on the Move." Insight on using non-native, non-invasive plants in landscapes was provided in a presentation by Dr. Barbara Fair with North Carolina State University. Other meeting activities included a social hour, a training session for those interested in promoting Early Detection and Rapid Response and an equipment demonstration. Planning for NC EPPC's 2013 meeting has started. In an effort to move the meeting around the state, the board has decided to have the February 2013 meeting at Carolina Beach State Park. The location will provide a perfect venue to recognize the successful efforts of the Carolina Beach Vitex Task Force.

Other NC EPPC projects include continuing participation in meeting opportunities to introduce the NC target weed list for Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR). President Rick Iverson and Board Member Margaret Fields have participated in six non-native invasive plant workshops sponsored by the NC Forest Service. Two more are planned later this year. NC EPPC sponsored Invasive Weeds Awareness Week again during the first week of April. As part of the week's activities, interested stakeholders were asked to participate in a poll to list their top 5 "most reviled" invasive plants. Projects still in the planning stages or continuing include: Designing a new display for meetings, continuing evaluation of the EDRR target weed list, continuing updates to the NC EPPC Facebook page and planning for a meeting with EDRR contacts listed on North Carolina's EDRR plan.

