

TN EPPC Update

By Sara Kuebbing and Marie Tackett



TN EPPC recently elected Marie Kerr Tackett, Botanist for Big South Fork National Recreation Area, as Board President and Sara Kuebbing, graduate student at University of Tennessee, as Board Treasurer.

TN EPPC recently held two invasive species workshops, one in September in Oak Ridge, TN and one in November in Nashville, TN. Workshops focused on identification of Tennessee invasive plants and management options for common species. These workshops will be designed in the hopes that other TN EPPC members can utilize them in their area of the state. Both were well-attended.

TN EPPC completed a survey of federal, state, and private entities to estimate the costs of invasive plant management in the state of Tennessee. The research was completed by our research intern, Alix Pfennigwerth, and was funded through a matching small grant from SE EPPC. [See page 4 for a report on this research.]

TN EPPC assisted with a purple loosestrife survey of the Nolichucky River in eastern TN this summer to assess location and densities of loosestrife levels. The river was divided into 12 sections, on average of 8 river miles each. Eighteen volunteers surveyed half the river sections, totaling 50 river miles. Sixty-nine locations of purple loosestrife were mapped, recorded, and submitted to the EDDMapS project. The data show that loosestrife occurs along much of the Nolichucky watershed; however population levels



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Participants in the Nolichucky River survey for purple loosestrife.

are generally low and populations are not ubiquitous in distribution. The remaining 6 sections of river will be surveyed in summer 2013 to provide a more complete picture of infestation size and distribution throughout the entire watershed. Control measures should also begin with removal or control of loosestrife where proper permissions allow. The banks of the Nolichucky are owned by a variety of governmental organizations, as well as a patchwork of private landowners, so a coordinated effort will be needed.

TN-EPPC also contributed to *The TDEC* (TN Department of Environment & Conservation) *Erosion Prevention and Sediment Control Manual* by providing native seed-mix alternatives to their current seed-mixes for revegetation (largely composed of non-native and often invasive plants such as *Serecia lespedeza*). TDEC accepted our recommendations and included our native lists as preferred alternatives. Next we intend to contact TDOT and offer our assistance with their seed-mixes.

ALIPC also recently updated the **Alabama Invasive Plant List**. Seven new species were added including pampas grass, Chinese parasol tree, lantana, rattlebox, sweet breath of spring, periwinkle, and Brazilian elodea. Additionally, five new species were added to Watch List A including Japanese chaff flower, Japanese ardisia, sawtooth oak, Australian pine, and water clover. Six new species were added to Watch List B including Japanese barberry, Japanese spirea, Japanese beautyberry, Chinese elm, paper mulberry, and winter creeper. The complete list is posted on the ALIPC web page at www.se-eppc.org/alabama/. ALIPC encourages SE-EPPC members to submit sightings of these new additions to EDDMaps (www.eddmaps.org/) so we may work to implement EDRR strategies where possible for these new problem weeds.

In 2013, ALIPC will be hosting two separate meetings. We will hold our annual conference in Huntsville, Alabama and we will host a second meeting in Weeks Bay, AL. Dates have yet to be set for either conference but look for details soon!



ALIPC Update

By Stephen Enloe, President

The Alabama Invasive Plant Council hosted their 2012 annual conference jointly with the Southeast Exotic Pest Plant Council's annual meeting. The conference was held May 8-10 in Auburn, Alabama, with 174 in attendance. The theme of the conference was "Past, Present and Future of Invasive Plants." In keeping with the theme, the meeting included three keynote speakers who addressed the past (the geologic history of Alabama in relation to Alabama plant communities and invasive plants), the present (current status of forest invasions) and the future (bioenergy and invasive plants). Three field trips also highlighted some of Alabama's most serious aquatic and terrestrial weed problems at Lake Eufaula, Tuskegee National Forest, and the Cypress Nature Park near downtown Montgomery, AL. We received many positive comments on the conference from attendees from several states. Many thanks to the ALIPC board who worked hard to make the conference a success!