

Southeast EPPC Update

New Board Structure, Roles Defined, and
Provisional State Chapter Status Created

By Brian Bowen, SE-EPPC President, Brian.Bowen@state.tn.us

Changes to improve our ability to make decisions and complete tasks emerged from our July 22 SE-EPPC Board meeting in Birmingham. Particularly, a change in bylaws resulted in a smaller and more productive Board of Directors that now has 4 officers, a previous past president, and one representative from each state chapter as voting members. It also includes as non-voting members, one representative from provisional state chapters, affiliate members, and liaisons that represent agencies or major non-governmental organizations. An example of an affiliate member is the South Carolina Native Plant Society. Current liaisons include the US Forest Service and SAMAB (Southern Appalachian Man and the Biosphere)

Another change in bylaws created provisional status for newly forming state chapters, giving them one year to get up and running before they receive state chapter status. A provisional state chapter must first submit bylaws to the SE-EPPC Board for approval. After one year of operating under these bylaws, the chapter will receive IRS non-profit status under group exemption through SE-EPPC. Also, all provisional state chapters are required to have at least 2 face-to-face board meetings per year, and are strongly encouraged to have quarterly meetings. Provisional state chapters, as well as all other state chapters, will be required to post their board meeting minutes on the SE-EPPC web page.

Another outcome of the past Board meetings was to define roles of officers. This was timely with the elimination of the coordinator position, and it now provides officers with an understanding of what they are expected to do.

These changes should help us build a stronger organization and identify and develop more meaningful goals. As president, I am grateful to have an opportunity to make SE-EPPC a better organization. We need everyone's support in this effort so that we can make a difference in preventing new exotic pest plant introductions while getting rid of those that are already here. Visit our web site at: www.se-eppc.org

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Ecosystem Restoration and Stewardship in Florida, hosted by the Florida Center for Environmental Studies, **January 15-17, 2003**, Renaissance Resort, St. Augustine, FL. Contact: <https://secure.ces.fau.edu/rsc/program.ihtml> or e-mail jjolley@ces.fau.edu

The 2003 Annual Meeting of the *Weed Science Society of America (WSSA)*, **February 10-13, 2003**, Adams Mark, Jacksonville, FL. Contact: jlancaster@allenpress.com or www.wssa.net/

Detecting & Assessing Invasive Exotic Plants: Approaches for the Florida Landscape, A Conference and Workshop, **February 12-14, 2003**. Florida International University, Koven's Conference Center, Miami, FL. Contact: R. Monchek, rmonchek@sfrestore.org, www.sfrestore.org/issuetteams/exotic/iepda/IEPDAindex.htm

NIWAW IV, the National Invasive Weeds Awareness Week in Washington, DC, will take place **February 24 - 28, 2003**. Contact: North American Weed Management Association (NAWMA), www.nawma.org/index.html

The 64th Annual Meeting of the *Association of Southeastern Biologists (ASB)*, **April 9-12, 2003**, Washington, DC. Contact: http://www.biology.howard.edu/ASB/ASBstart_here.html

The Florida Native Plant Society, 23rd Annual State Conference, *Symbiosis: The Power of Partnerships*, **May 8-11, 2003**, Fort Myers, FL. Contact: www.fnps.org/

The *Southeast Exotic Pest Plant Council 2003 Annual Symposium*, **May 15-17, 2003**, Lexington, KY. Contact: mwilliams@mail.state.ky.us

The *Aquatic Weed Control Short Course*, **May 19-23, 2003**, UF/IFAS Fort Lauderdale Research and Education Center. Contact: conference.ifas.ufl.edu/

The *Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council 2003 Annual Symposium*, **June 5-6, 2003** at the Renaissance Vinoy Resort in St. Petersburg, FL. (Note: FLEPPC is returning to a Spring/Summer schedule for the annual symposium.) Contact: www.fleppc.org

The 7th *International Conference on Ecology and Management of Alien Plant Invasions (EMAPI)*, **November 3-8, 2003**, Miami, FL. Contact: www.bio.miami.edu/iirm/emapi7/