

National Association of Exotic Pest Plant Councils – Update 2004 by Brian Bowen

The National Association of Exotic Pest Plant Councils (NAEPPC) met in Chicago in conjunction with the 31st Annual Natural Areas Conference on October 14, 2004. EPPC representatives attended from the Southeast, North Carolina, Kentucky, Mid-Atlantic, Florida, California, Tennessee, Midwest, and Ohio (soon to be forming) councils. Those attending the meeting approved a proposal to establish NAEPPC as a 501C3 non-profit organization using SE-EPPC's group exemption authority. This status will provide greater recognition for NAEPPC as a bona fide organization and greater opportunities to participate at the national level.

Another step taken at this meeting was the adoption of a provisional set of bylaws to provide organizational structure for NAEPPC. A board of directors will be made up of one delegate from each participating EPPC organization, to be selected by December 31, 2004. The Board will then be empowered to elect officers at the next meeting in Washington DC scheduled on February 28th during National Invasive Weeds Awareness Week (NIWAW). Once the Board has elected its officers, they can for-

mally adopt the bylaws to complete the process begun in Chicago.

NAEPPC will meet twice a year, once in October at the Natural Areas Conference and then again in February at National Invasive Weeds Awareness Week. NAEPPC recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Natural Areas Association (NAA) to collaborate as national organizations on natural area and wildland weed issues. NAEPPC has sponsored symposia and sessions at the NAA Conference and has held annual meetings there since NAEPPC's inception in 1995. The MOU formalized our organizations' interests in collaborating on national issues.

Meeting in DC during NIWAW will enhance NAEPPC's participation at this important national event. It will give the EPPC's an official presence and provide opportunities for us to interact with other weed organizations that attend. Meeting at NIWAW should provide impetus for NAEPPC to focus its attention on issues of national importance, which is the major reason NAEPPC was originally established in 1995.

NIWAW VI

NIWAW VI events focus on the important roles the Federal government must play to help the United States deal with invasive weed problems, and includes structured group briefings with leaders of the key federal agencies involved with invasive plant management and research. The schedule provides ample time for attendees to meet with their Congressional offices, individual federal agencies and each other.

NIWAW VI Highlights

- Standing exhibits at the United States Botanic Garden Conservatory
- Sunday Kid's Fun Day Activities at the United States Botanic Garden Conservatory
- Sunday evening Orientation Session for First Time Attendees
- Monday morning breakfast and kickoff session on current national invasive weed issues
- Tuesday morning briefings with the United States Department of Agriculture leadership and Agency Administrators
- Wednesday morning briefings with United States Department of the Interior leadership and Agency Administrators
- Special monthly meeting of FICMNEW (Federal Interagency Committee for the Management of Noxious and Exotic Weeds)
- Afternoon NGO Partnership Building Roundtable
- Evening reception at the United States Botanic Garden Conservatory for participants and Washington allies to mingle in a pleasant and relaxed setting.

NIWAW VI is sponsored by the Invasive Weed Awareness Coalition, a Washington, DC based coalition dedicated to increasing awareness of invasive weed problems and the associated research and management needs. Although some events during the week are open to the public, access to the full array of activities will require payment of a modest registration fee. Further details will be posted at http://www.nawma.org/niwaw/niwaw_index.htm.

WHAT: Sixth Annual National Invasive Weeds Awareness Week
WHEN: February 27 to March 4, 2005
WHERE: Washington, DC
WHO: Organizations and Individuals who Support Invasive Weed Management and Ecosystem Restoration