

Lake Eufaula Aquatic Plant ID and Control Workshop

Lake Eufaula, also known as “The Bass Fishing Capital of the World”, is a 45,000 acre impoundment located in SE Alabama on the Chattahoochee River. The reservoir, impounded in 1962, attracts national bass tournaments every year. Much of this attraction is due to the shallow nature of the lake and the abundance and diversity of aquatic plants that fisherman like to fish around. Lake Eufaula is a popular stop for aquatic plant enthusiasts and botany field classes. Unfortunately, several exotic species have invaded in recent years, especially following changes in water conditions that are less tolerated by native species.

The workshop will be held at Lakepoint State Park (<http://www.alapark.com/lakepointresort/>) and will begin with techniques used to control aquatic weeds in recreational fish ponds and larger bodies of water. Different products and herbicide application methods will be demonstrated. The second half of the workshop will be a boat tour to identify different aquatic plants near Lakepoint on Lake Eufaula.

Workshop will be led by Graves Lovell, fisheries biologist, Alabama Department Conservation and Natural Resources, and Troy Goldsby with AquaServices.

Travel time from Auburn to Lakepoint State Park is about 1 hour and 15 minutes. Workshop should take about 5 hours. Lunch will be provided. Life jackets will be provided. Bring sunscreen and binoculars.

Pesticide recertification points have been applied for.

Agenda

8:00 Buses depart from AU Conference Center parking lot (or take personal vehicle).

9:15 Meet at east boat ramp parking lot at Lakepoint State Park (to left of tackle store).

9:30 Aquatic weed control in recreational fish ponds – Lovell

10:00 Aquatic weed control in reservoirs – Goldsby

10:30 Specific herbicides and application methods (with demo)- Goldsby

11:30 Lunch

12:30 Boat tour to identify aquatic plants

2:30-3:00 End

Tuskegee National Forest Invasive Plant ID and Control

At approximately 11,000 acres, the Tuskegee is the smallest designated National Forest in the National Forest System. This tract was proclaimed in 1959 and at the time of federal acquisition the land was approximately 80% cutover. This open, highly-disturbed environment was favorable to re-colonization by exotic invasive species and attributed to the high level of non-native invasive plant species found

on the Tuskegee today. This field tour will include identification of common terrestrial exotics and will demonstrate the application effects of various selective herbicide treatments. We will also see and discuss bicolor lespedeza issues as they relate to upland longleaf pine ecosystem restoration.

Tour will be led by Ryan Shurette, Forest Biologist for the National Forests in Alabama, and/or Tuskegee District staff.

Travel time from Auburn to Tuskegee National Forest is about 30 minutes. Tour will last several hours and lunch will be provided.

Chinese Tallowtree and Cypress Nature Park Field Tour

We will tour two sites that are very indicative of the aggressive northward march of Chinese tallowtree in Alabama. The first site is along the Tallapoosa River near Wetumpka, Alabama. You will see firsthand the negative impacts of Chinese tallowtree on flood plain vegetation dynamics including a CRP hardwood restoration site. At the site we will also view and discuss multiple selective control options for Chinese tallowtree including aerial herbicide treatment, cut stump, basal bark, and hack and squirt techniques. The second site we will visit is Cypress Nature Park in Montgomery (<http://www.facebook.com/CypressNaturePark>). Cypress Nature Park is 260 plus acres of undisturbed natural watershed habitat minutes from the center of downtown Montgomery, Alabama. The Park is rich in native flora and fauna. To date 114 species of birds, 60 species of trees and 5 species of salamanders have been identified. High earthen bluffs and deep ravines give way to natural seeps that feed a Water Tupelo and Cypress swamp. The waters from the swamp flow into the 1.5 mile long Cypress Creek, the creek meanders toward Cypress Inlet where the watershed meets the Alabama River, just north of Montgomery's River Front Park. The site is threatened by Chinese tallowtree which has already established and is encroaching into sensitive areas. For both sites be prepared for a wet walk in the woods! Rubber boots are highly encouraged!

Tour will be led by Stephen Enloe, Extension Weed Specialist, Auburn University and Chris Anderson, Forest Wetland Ecologist, Auburn University.

Travel time to Wetumpka is about 1 hour and 15 minutes. 1.5 to 2 hours will be spent at each site and lunch will be provided.