



ALIPC's Bits and Pieces

*News and Information provided by the Alabama Invasive Plant Council
September 2010*

This newsletter is intended for the general membership of the Alabama Invasive Plant Council. If you are not currently a member, and have received this, we hope you will find the information provided valuable and worthy enough to consider membership with our organization. To join simply go to the web address provided <http://www.se-eppc.org/alab/membershipltr.pdf> or click on <http://www.se-eppc.org/> and follow the links for Alabama.

INTRODUCTION

Hello all, I hope everyone is doing fine. I would like to take a second to introduce myself. My name is Jacob Hodnett, and I am the new secretary for ALIPC and will be taking over Bits and Pieces for Mr. Andy Prewett.

To give a little back ground on myself, I work for the Alabama Department Transportation as an Agronomist, and I live in a little community on the Tallapoosa River called Frog Eye. Yes, that is right Frog Eye. There is a very interesting story there, but I will save that for another day. Through my job and managing my own property I have come to realize that invasive plants are everywhere and that they come in all shapes and sizes. It can sometimes seem impossible to control them, but you just have to roll up your sleeves and get to work.

With that said, I hope that you find some helpful information in this newsletter. I encourage everyone to let us know if you have anything related to invasive plants that we can announce in future newsletters. My contact information can be found at the bottom of this newsletter and on the ALIPC website.

WHAT IS ALIPC UP TOO?

ALIPC Education and Outreach Grant Program Request for Proposals

The Alabama Invasive Plant Council is soliciting grant proposals for non-native invasive plant education and outreach projects in the State of Alabama. The intent of these grants is to provide funding to organizations or individuals who wish to educate the public about non-native invasive plants and their effects on the environment,

economy and quality of life in Alabama. Proposals will be accepted from individuals, public or private nonprofit organizations and academic institutions.

All Grants are due by October 31, 2010. The application form may be found on the Alabama Invasive Plant Council website (www.se-eppc.org/alabama). Along with more information about the Grant, under the heading **Request for Proposals**. Please send completed applications to Dana.Mcreynolds@forestry.alabama.gov. If email is unavailable, send a hard copy, post marked no later than October 31, 2010 to:

Dana McReynolds
Alabama Forestry Commission
513 Madison Avenue
Montgomery, AL 35104

Haines Island Park Project: A Cooperative Project between the Alabama Plant Conservation Alliance (APCA) and ALIPC

Haines Island Park consists of 480 acres of land located on the Alabama River in Monroe County and is owned and managed by the Army Corps of Engineers as part of the Alabama River Lakes water resources development project. The park is situated in the Southern Red Hills region of the East Gulf Coastal Plain and is home to some rare plant and animal species, including the Red Hills salamander, a federally-listed species.

Botanically and otherwise, it is a very rich and interesting place. A few species that occur in the park or general vicinity include Piedmont rhododendron (*Rhododendron minus*), Alabama azalea (*R. alabamense*), Red Hills azalea (*R. colemanii*), bottlebrush buckeye (*Aesculus parviflora*), mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*), eastern greenviolet (*Hybanthus concolor*), northern spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*), cucumber-tree (*Magnolia acuminata*), bigleaf magnolia (*Magnolia macrophylla*), Carolina holly (*Ilex ambigua*), eastern leatherwood (*Dirca palustris*), trilliums, and many more.

Unfortunately, invasive exotic plants are becoming established in some areas of the park. Exotics include silktree (*Albizia julibrissin*), primarily along the access road into the park; Chinese privet (*Ligustrum sinense*), occasional occurrences in bottomland hardwood areas and area below the bluff; thorny olive (*Elaeagnus pungens*), occasional occurrences in all community types; Japanese climbing fern (*Lygodium japonicum*), a few minor occurrences, mainly near disturbed edges; and Chinaberry (*Melia azedarach*), primarily in the area below the bluff. The exotics are currently at a very manageable stage. Now is a good time to intervene and prevent the situation from becoming much worse.

After coordination with the Corps Resource Manager for the park, a joint Alabama Plant Conservation Alliance / ALIPC work day to kill invasive exotics was held on April 30. Although the group of participants was small, a lot of work was accomplished. However, it became obvious that additional, on-going efforts would be required to control these species in the park. Therefore, ALIPC will continue to partner with APCA on this project. A committee has been formed within APCA to develop a detailed plan of action, coordinate with the Corps, etc.

Future work days for locating and removing invasive exotic plants in the park will be scheduled. The next work day will be in the fall (date to be announced soon).

There are also plans to conduct a comprehensive plant survey within the park and provide the list to the Corps and others who may find it useful. Additionally, ALIPC and APCA will make recommendations to the Corps on addressing issues that are exacerbating the exotics problem in the park.

If you are interested in participating in this project, contact Gena Todia at jaget@zebra.net. -- Gena Todia

!!!UPCOMING EVENTS!!!

Doug Tallamy is coming to Auburn on Oct 19th to speak about native plants and impacts of nonnative plants.

Dr. Tallamy will speak about the topic of his book, *Bringing Nature Home: How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants*. There is a very real concern of insect and animal species becoming extinct or threatened with extinction. Doug Tallamy's message is that the 3 - 5% of undisturbed habit scattered across the U.S. is inadequate to maintain our native species and unless we accommodate them in developed areas, we will continue to lose plants and animals native to the United States. His research has supported the fact that native plant eaters cannot survive on alien species. In order to maintain the necessary biodiversity within healthy ecosystems, we need to create healthy habitats that will support our wildlife.

Dr. Doug Tallamy is currently Professor and Chair of the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware in Newark, Delaware. He has authored more than 65 research articles and has taught insect taxonomy, behavioral ecology, as well as numerous other subjects. He has been the recipient of many grants and has spoken to academic institutions nationally and internationally. His current focus is research determining the degree to which native insect herbivores can use the nonnative plant species that are replacing native plants and examining effects in higher tropic levels.

Forest and Wildlife Management for the Private Landowner

Workshops (Sept. 29th, Oct. 14th, Oct. 28th) will include information on invasive plants and use of herbicides. 5 hours of Category 2 CFEs from SAF will be awarded. Additional information is available at: <http://www.aces.edu/forestry/>

Black Belt Invaders

A workshop covering management and control of Chinese privet, cogongrass, pasture grasses during prairie restoration, aquatic invasive weeds, feral pigs, and fire ants in the Black Belt (and beyond) will be held on Oct 1st at the Bell Conference Center, University of West Alabama in Livingston. CEUs will be offered. For more information contact Lee Stanton at lstanton@uwa.edu or 205-652-3415.

Walker County Invasive Plant Meeting

Walker Co. Soil & Water Conservation will be hosting a meeting on October 7th. There will be 8 demonstration plots that have been mulched, prescribed burned, and treated with different herbicides (Accord & Habitat). There will be no charge to attend the workshop and lunch will be provided. PLM's, CFE's and pesticide applicator points will be available for attending the workshop. Contact Walker County Soil and Water Conservation for more information (205-387-1879).

Mid-South Native Plant Conference

(Natives & Beyond: Sustainable Plants, Gardens & Communities) will be held October 8-10, 2010 at the Dixon Gallery & Gardens 4339 Park Ave. in Memphis, TN . Nationally Recognized Speakers will include, Dr. Peter Wyse Jackson, Cole Burrell, Don Shadow, Ann English, Rick Lewandowski, and Felder Rushing. For more information you can call the Dixon at 901-761-5250 or see them online at <http://www.dixon.org>.

Natural Areas Conference

The NAA Conference, co-hosted by the National Association of EPPCs (of which ALIPC is a part), will be held Oct 26th- 29th in Osage Beach, Missouri. At least one entire section of the conference will be dedicated to invasive species. Additional information is available at: <http://www.naturalarea.org/10Conference/>.

2010 Georgia Exotic Pest Plant Council Annual Meeting and Conference

(Invasive Plants: The Impact on Georgia's Ecology and Economy) This Symposium is sponsored by; The Georgia Exotic Pest Plant Council. It will be held November 4, 2010 at Zoo Atlanta in Atlanta Georgia. Dr. Damon E. Waitt will be the keynote speaker. More information can be found at: www.gaeppc.org.

NEW BOOKS

A Field Guide for Identification of Invasive Plants in Southern Forests

(Miller, Chambliss and Loewenstein), the long-awaited update of Jim Miller's "Nonnative Invasive Plants of Southern Forests: A Field Guide for Identification and Control" is now available. This updated guide contains information on 23 additional plant species, 241 additional photographs and a comprehensive list of over 300 species invading the Southeast. Copies of the book can be obtained by sending your name, complete mailing address, book title, author, and publication number (GTR-SRS-119) to pubrequest@fs.fed.us. The book is also available on line at <http://www.invasive.org/>.

A companion book **A Management Guide for Nonnative Invasive Plants of Southern Forests** (Miller, Manning and Enloe) will be available this fall.

Best Native Plants for Southern Gardens by Gil Nelson is now available from the University Press of Florida. ALIPC helped sponsor this handbook for gardeners, homeowners and professionals.

PLANTS TO WATCH FOR

Oriental bittersweet

(Celastrus orbiculatus)



Oriental bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*), sometimes referred to as the 'kudzu of the north', is working its way south. This invasive, rapidly growing vine occurs most commonly along forest edges, roadsides and in other disturbed areas, but it is shade tolerant and capable of growth in the forest under story. Young pine or hardwood stands are especially vulnerable to Oriental bittersweet infestations as the vines can readily overtop and girdle saplings.

A deciduous twining vine, Oriental bittersweet stems can reach 4 inches in diameter and 60 feet in length, growing in dense mats over the ground or climbing up into and over trees. The alternate, 2-4 inch leaves are a glossy dark green with crenate margins (small rounded teeth). Leaf shape can be variable, but leaves are generally oval with either a rounded or very long and tapering tip. Leaves turn bright yellow in the fall. The stems, dotted with corky light-colored lenticels, also have very distinctive buds that look like tiny shelves over each leaf scar. The small, inconspicuous flowers occur in clusters at the leaf axils. The small round fruits are initially green, turning yellow in the fall then splitting to reveal a bright red interior.

Although not common, a native species of bittersweet, American bittersweet (*Celastrus scandens*), also grows in the Southeast. It is similar to Oriental bittersweet, but generally has larger leaves and the flowers and fruit only occur at the tips of vines, not all along the stem. Given that hybrids of the native and non-native species may occur and fruit is not always present, a taxonomist may need to be consulted for proper identification. Generally speaking though, if a large infestation is encountered, odds are it will be the non-native Oriental bittersweet.

Oriental bittersweet, which spreads readily by seed and root suckers, can be difficult to control. Because stems and roots easily re-sprout, mechanical treatments such as cutting or pulling are effective only for small seedlings. Herbicides containing triclopyr or glyphosate will control Oriental bittersweet, but a minimum of two to three years of follow-up treatments are typically needed to eradicate an infestation. Before beginning any control efforts, verify that the species is the non-native Oriental bittersweet. -- Nancy Loewenstein

Miller, J.H. 2003. *Nonnative Invasive Plants of Southern Forests: A Field Guide for Identification and Control*. Revised Gen. Tech. Report SRS-62. Asheville, NC: USDA Forest Service, Southern Research Station, 93 p.

Kaufman, S.R. and Kaufman, W. 2007. *Invasive Plants: Guide to Identification and the Impacts and Control of Common North American Species*. Stackpole Books, 458 p.

Success Stories, Information, or Announcements? LET US KNOW!!!

If you have interesting stories, on the ground projects, or other "bits and pieces" you would like to share with other members of the Alabama Invasive Plant Council please forward the information to me (hodnettj@dot.state.al.us) and we'll try to include it in the next release of ALIPC's "Bits and Pieces" newsletter.