

SE-EPPC E-NEWS August Volume 1.4

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1. SE-EPPC EDDMapS Workshop

- Report by Chuck Bargeron, GA EPPC BOD

The Southeast Exotic Pest Plant Council held its first regional Early Detection and Distribution Mapping System (EDDMapS) and Assessment Workshop on June 29 in Chattanooga, Tennessee. There were approximately forty participants from Louisiana to Kentucky who attended. The morning began with a welcome from Tony Pernas, SE-EPPC President - National Park Service, followed by Dr. Dave Moorhead, University of Georgia (UGA), who gave an introduction to GPS/GIS describing the basics of using a GPS unit for invasive plant reporting. Chuck Bargeron, also of UGA, then demonstrated ways to access data currently in the EDDMapS database. Dave Moorhead presented techniques and suggestions to photograph invasive plants for submission to EDDMapS. Then Chuck Bargeron gave the final presentations of the morning session on entering data into EDDMapS and explained the Invasive Plant Atlas concept.

After a lunch break, Brian Bowen, TN Division of Natural Areas, introduced the concept of risk assessment and invasive plant list development. Dr. Alison Fox, University of Florida, then gave an in-depth presentation on status and risk assessments of invasive plants focusing on the University of Florida-IFAS and Australian models. The workshop concluded with an open panel discussion made up of Brian, Chuck, Nancy Loewenstein, (Auburn Univ.), Joyce Bender (Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission), and Terri Hogan, (NPS).

Feedback from those attending the workshop was very positive. The workshop will serve as a model for future state and regional EDDMapS workshops. The meeting was sponsored by Chattanooga Electric Power Board and held in their new downtown building. Other support was provided by Coca Cola, TN-EPPC, Mississippi State University - Invasive Plant Atlas of the Mid-South, and the University of Georgia - Bugwood Network.

2. SE-EPPC BOARD MEETING IN CHATTANOOGA

- Report by Brian Bowen, SE-EPPC BOD

The SE-EPPC Board of Directors (BOD) held its most recent meeting in Chattanooga on June 28 at the Chattanooga Electric Board Building. The meeting was well attended with representatives from all states except North Carolina. The meeting was organized to maximize efficiency with

committees meeting in the morning and early afternoon. The actual BOD meeting was held in the late afternoon. This enabled the committees to conduct business and present their recommendations to the full board. This provided to be a very effective approach to accomplish business.

The committees that met included the Executive Director Committee (EDC), the Communications Committee (CC), and the Early Detection and Rapid Response Committee (EDRRC). During the EDC meeting, Brian Bowen reported on potential strategies that SE-EPPC might pursue in creating an executive director position. The CC agreed on templates for a new membership brochure and conference display (poster). The committee recommended that SE-EPPC provide financial sponsorship for the 08 NAA Conference in Nashville and that state chapters be encouraged to do the same. The EDRRC meeting primarily discussed issues related to the EDDMapS project. The recommendations presented by the CC to the BOD were approved. The BOD also approved a request by MIPC (Michigan Invasive Plant Council) to continue as a member of SE-EPPC through the end of the calendar year. The official minutes of the BOD meeting will be available on the SE-EPPC website in the near future.

SE-EPPC is grateful to Phyllis Ward and the Chattanooga Electric Board for donating use of their state of the art facility for the SE-EPPC BOD meeting and EDDMapS workshop. SE-EPPC also thanks TN-EPPC for hosting an enjoyable post BOD meeting dinner at the Pot House on the Tennessee River. TN-EPPC held its BOD meeting that same day in Chattanooga.

3. STATE REPORT: A FLORIDA EPPC 2006 - 07 UPDATE

- Report by Alison Fox - FLEPPC Chair

FLEPPC has completed management plans that are available online for: Brazilian peppertree (2nd edition in 2006); Chinese tallow; *Colubrina*; *Lygodium* (2nd edition in 2006); and *Melaleuca*. Management plans for Australian pine, air potato, carrotwood and cogon grass are near completion.

FLEPPC continued to support research on invasive plants by awarding six Julia Morton Research Grants in 2007. FLEPPC continued to promote education about invasive plants in 2007 by awarding five Education and Outreach Small Grants, hereafter named the Kathy Craddock Burks Education and Outreach Grants (in memory of a very active member of FLEPPC who died in 2006).

The 2007 Symposium was held in Cocoa Beach, FL in April/May with the theme of "Invasion of the Habitat Snatchers: the seed is planted" with keynote speaker, Dr. David Lodge, University of Notre Dame, who was also one of the participants in a panel discussion on risk assessment of invasive species. The program also included: a cooperative weed management areas (CWMA) workshop with guest speaker Dr. Jim Olivarez, USDA-Forest Service; a techie's workshop of cutting-edge gadgets; a natural area weed management training session; and three half-day field trips, including one to see Brazilian peppertree control on Cape Canaveral Air Force Base.

The Florida Nursery, Growers, and Landscape Association had previously (2001) agreed with FLEPPC to no longer recommend for use, propagation or sale, 45 plant species that are listed as

Category I or II invaders by FLEPPC (http://www.fleppc.org/FNGA/FNGA_Pressrelease.htm). In 2006, the Lowes chain of home-improvement stores also agreed to not sell any species on that list in their 88 stores in Florida. This is significant progress in the effort to reduce the spread of invasive plants. Encouraging discussions with nursery industry representatives are also in progress concerning the value and potential uses of weed risk assessments as mechanisms for predicting and preventing the introduction of future invaders.

In August 2006, the Florida DOT adopted “Codes of Conduct” that explicitly call for phasing out the use of any FLEPPC Category I and II species. FLEPPC expressed its concerns and provided information about several legislative items in 2007, including potential large-scale plantings of *Arundo donax* for biofuel and of *Casuarina cunninghamiana* for windbreaks to reduce the spread of canker in citrus groves.

Additional information:

Website: <http://www.fleppc.org/>

List Server: <http://www.fleppc.org/listservers.htm>

Invasive Plant Lists: <http://www.fleppc.org/list/list.htm>

Wildland Weeds Magazine is published quarterly by FLEPPC with input from SE-EPPC.

Currently, FLEPPC has 362 members.

4. ELACHEE NATURE SCIENCE CENTER ESTABLISHES THE CHICOPEE WOODS CWMA.

- Report by Cynthia C. Taylor, Natural Resources Manager at the Elachee Nature Science Center

The Elachee Nature Science Center is a private, non-profit environmental education organization in Gainesville, GA. The Center provides programs for 30,000 students each year and manages the 1,500-acre Chicopee Woods Nature Preserve. The preserve is part of the 2,600-acre Chicopee Woods Area Park, which is the county’s largest protected greenspace and north Georgia’s largest contiguous conservation easement.

Through a partnership with GA EPPC, and with funding from a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Pulling Together Initiative, Elachee is establishing the Chicopee Woods Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA). Partners in the CWMA will include the local park commission, city and county government, GA Forestry Commission, USDA Forest Service, NRCS, and GA DOT. The partners will sign an MOU agreeing to work together for education, detection, mapping, monitoring, controlling, and preventing the spread of invasive species within the CWMA.

In the first year of this initiative, a steering committee will be formed to oversee the project and secure additional funding. Monitoring and mapping will continue, while control will begin on more than 30 acres of infestation. There will be educational programs offered to children and adults. A stakeholders group will be also formed.

GA EPPC is working hard to promote the formation of CWMA's in Georgia. The Chicopee Woods CWMA will be the 2nd formed in the state. The Cogongrass CWMA expects to have its MOU signed this summer as well.

Visit our website at www.elachee.org

5. SC-EPPC ANNUAL MEETING

- Report by John A. Brubaker, SC-EPPC, President

At the SC- EPPC annual meeting on June 20, keynote speaker Dr. David Moorhead, University of Georgia, provided an excellent overview of the region's most troublesome invasive exotic plants, including what they are, how they got here, their behavior, the specific threats each pose, and to a lesser extent, how to control them.

George Kessler, Clemson University and Coordinator of the SC Cogongrass Task Force, delivered good news about the current status of cogongrass in South Carolina. He stated that ongoing efforts in the state have kept this highly invasive species from becoming a problem. In support of the SC Cogongrass Task Force in 2007, USDA funding was secured through the SC Forestry Commission and SC-EPPC for \$30,000.

The meeting was not without controversy. The Department of Plant Industries (DPI) representative Kathy Ellingson evoked lively discussion when she noted that specific coordinates for cogongrass were posted on the SE-EPPC website in violation of DPI policy. The website oversight has been corrected. Chris Ray, Clemson University DPI Department Chair, apologized for the dispute in a letter to SC-EPPC, and confirmed commitment towards continuing the excellent working relationship between our two groups. DPI's diligence in addressing the cogongrass issue in SC is noteworthy, particularly the success of plant inspectors in conducting early detection. Ultimately, the debate at the meeting contributed to a better understanding between two groups who share a common mission.

This meeting and recent past meetings have re-energized SC-EPPC. The state chapter was founded several years ago, but struggled until March 22, 2006 when Robin Mackie, a founding SC-EPPC member, convened a meeting of a core group. Since then the state chapter has prospered. John Brubaker, former president of the SC Native Plant Society, was elected president of the SC-EPPC chapter, bringing a wealth of both professional research and non-profit experience. John, working with Colette Degarady of The Nature Conservancy, has encouraged the interest and participation of a broad range of individuals, agencies, and institutions. The number of board members at-large has been increased to twelve, including seven who were recently elected. Currently all but one of the at-large board positions has been filled. The Board of Directors now includes representatives from Clemson University, Department of Plant Industry, Dow Agro Sciences, Mead Westvaco, National Park Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, SC Department of Natural Resources, SC Department of Transportation, SC Forestry Commission, SC Nurserymen's Association, Spartanburg Community College, The Nature Conservancy, US Geological Survey, and USDA Forest Service.

The SC-EPPC Early Detection and Rapid Response Committee, chaired by Robin Mackie and Randy Westbrook, also gained momentum at this past meeting. During a lunch breakout session, they successfully established a working core group capable of getting the initiative underway. Representatives from institutions and agencies participating in that committee will continue to encourage interest in SC-EPPC and non-native invasive plant issues in South Carolina. The next SC-EPPC BOD meeting is scheduled for January 17, 2008, at the Congaree National Park office.

6. NAEPPC UPDATE

- Report by Brian Bowen, SE-EPPC BOD & NAEPPC BOD

The NAEPPC has been asked to participate in a new coalition that will focus on national policy. This coalition will be a network built from existing efforts that aims to improve the role and capacity of the federal government to facilitate the prevention and management of invasive plants. The proposed name of the organization is the National Coalition for Invasive Plant Advocacy. NCIPA will seek to involve organizations already working on invasive weed issue advocacy at the federal level, and will focus their collective influence and resources to advance common objectives. In addition to NAEPPC, the founding organizations may include the Western Weed Coordinating Committee, the Intermountain Noxious Weed Advisory Council, the North American Weed Management Association, and the National Environmental Coalition on Invasive Species. The organizers of this coalition hope to have commitments from organizations by Sept. 1. SE – EPPC endorsed NAEPPC’s participation in NCIPA at its last board meeting on June 28 in Chattanooga.

In other news, NAEPPC continues to make progress in planning for its first national conference to be held October 14 – 17, 2008 in Nashville. This will be a co-conference with the Natural Areas Association (NAA), in conjunction with the 35th Annual Natural Areas Conference. This national conference will be a platform for NAEPPC to provide leadership on the issue of invasive exotic plants. A focus of the planning committee is to develop workshops and products while providing opportunities for symposia and new information to benefit those attending. The topic sessions for the conference have been tentatively set, and NAEPPC will offer six sessions over two days that potentially will provide opportunities for as many as 72 presentations. Invasive species papers will also likely filter into the other six NAA sessions. These NAA topic areas may encompass grassland ecology, karst ecology, urban natural areas, global conservation issues, and more. This conference will set a high standard for future invasive species conferences, so be sure to put this on your calendar!

NAEPPC has had a long established relationship with NAA. NAEPPC has held annual meetings at the Natural Areas Conference since NAEPPC’s inception in 1995. Over the past decade or more, many EPPC members have been NAA board members. In 2003, NAA and NAEPPC signed a Memorandum of Understanding to work together on all issues related to invasive exotic species in natural areas. The 08 Conference will be a significant collaboration in this relationship which will hopefully lead to better and greater future interactions between the two organizations.

7. NATURAL AREAS JOURNAL PUBLISHES SPECIAL EDITION ON INVASIVE EXOTICS OF THE SOUTHEAST.

The “Natural Areas Journal” July 2007, (Vol 27 #3) is a special publication dedicated to invasive exotic pest plant issues in the southeastern US. The first article is entitled the **Southeast Exotic**

Pest Plant Council (SE-EPPC): A Regional Approach to Invasive Exotic Pest Plant Issues by Brian Bowen. The article is a history of SE-EPPC and describes its current projects. Other articles in the journal include: **Controlling Upland Invasive Exotic Plants on Public Conservation Land: a Strategic Plan** by Ruark L. Cleary; **Implementation of Control and Prevention Strategies for Managing Cogongrass (*Imperata cylindrica*) by the Georgia Invasive Species Task Force** by Christopher W. Evans, David J. Moorhead, Charles T. Barger and G. Keith Douce; **The National Park Service's Exotic Plant Management Teams in the Southeast and Caribbean**, by Nancy Fraley, Chris Furquerson, Tony Pernas, and Eric Worsham, **The Power of Partnerships: Landscape Scale Conservation Through Public/Private Collaboration** by Alison Higgins, Kristina Serbesoff-King, Matthew King, and Kathy O'Reilly - Doyle; **Florida's Invasive Plant Research: Historical Perspective and the Present Research Program** by Don C. Schmitz; **An Apparent Mutualistic Association Between Invasive Exotics: Brazilian Pepper (*Schinus terebinthifolius*) and Black Spiny-tailed Iguanas (*Ctenosaura similis*)** by Jerome A. Jackson and Bette J.S. Jackson; **The Potential for Herbicide Resistance in Non-Native Plants in Florida's Natural Areas** by Jeffery T. Hutchinson, Gregory E. MacDonald and Kenneth A. Langeland; **Compatibility of a Biological Control Agent With Herbicides for Control of Invasive Plant Species** by Mark A. Weaver and Margaret E. Lyn, **A Biological Control Feasibility Study of the Invasive Weed-Air Potato, *Dioscorea bulbifera*. L (*Dioscoreaceae*) an Effort to Increase Biological Control Transparency and Safety** by G. S. Wheeler, R.W. Pemberton, and L. Raz

The Florida Department of Environment Protection, Bureau of Invasive Plant Management, sponsored this special issue. For more information about the Florida DEP, go to www.dep.state.fl.us/lands/invaspec/index.htm. For more information about the Natural Areas Association, go to www.naturalarea.org. Your support through membership of NAA is welcomed and endorsed by SE-EPPC.

8. UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Mid-Atlantic EPPC Bi-Annual Symposium - "Invasive Plants: Research, Removal and Renewal August 15 and 16, 2007 at the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

Sponsored by the Mid-Atlantic Exotic Pest Plant Council and the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania. For information contact the Morris Arboretum at 215-247-5777, ext. 156 or 125 or jlm@pobox.upenn.edu

Principles of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) - August 20 – 24, 2007 at the National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, WV.

The course will be conducted over 5 days for a total of 36 hours. Topics include: key components of the IPM decision-making process; practical pest management problem solving; and writing effective and comprehensive IPM plans. Tuition is \$850. The deadline for enrollment is July 9, 2007. There is no tuition fee for U.S. Fish and Wildlife or National Parks Service personnel. To register, visit <http://training.fws.gov>. For registration questions, call the Registrar at (304) 876-7692. For course information please contact Gary L. Schetrompf, Gary_Schetrompf@fws.gov or SoLan Ching, SoLan_Ching@fws.gov at 304/876-7771

Online Workshops offered by The Stewardship Network - On the second Wednesday of each month the Stewardship Network (www.stewardshipnetwork.org) hosts a free one-hour long webcast. You are invited to join in for one of these online interactive presentations and discussions from 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. eastern time. If you have questions or wish to receive announcements please contact The Stewardship Network at 734/996-3190 or lbrush@stewardshipnetwork.org Upcoming topics include:

- **September 12, 2007: "Ecological Restoration Monitoring Simple Techniques to Guide Adaptive Management"** Speaker Ray Fahlsing, Manager State Park Stewardship Program, Michigan Department of Natural Resources
- **Oct 10, 2007: "Status of Significant Plant Invaders in Michigan & Prioritizing Control Efforts"** Speaker is Phyllis J. Higman

For more information: **Contact: Lisa Brush**, Executive Director Stewardship Network 416 Longshore Drive, Ann Arbor, MI 48105 734/395-4483 lbrush@stewardshipnetwork.org
www.stewardshipnetwork.org

Brochure and Poster Educate Gardeners and Homeowners

An invasive species outreach brochure and poster to educate gardeners and homeowners about best management practices to prevent harmful invasive plants from invading parklands and natural areas. The material was developed by the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in cooperation with the National Park Service, The Garden Club of America, the National Invasive Species Council and many others. The brochure is crafted to send a positive message about managing invasive plants and is generic enough to be distributed widely. Plus, it is free for the asking to anyone who wants to help distribute it. To request copies, email Lynda Brick (lbrick@wildflower.org) with your address and quantity requested. We have about 3,000 brochures on hand and can order more if necessary.

http://wildflower.utexas.edu/plantwise/plantwise_assets/PW_Brochure.pdf
http://wildflower.utexas.edu/plantwise/plantwise_assets/PW_Poster.pdf