

SE-EPPC E-NEWS December 2008 Volume 3.1

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1. NAA/NAEPPC National Conference by Brian Bowen, Conference Chair

The 35th Natural Areas Conference was held in downtown Nashville October 14-17, 2008. It was a joint conference of the Natural Areas Association (NAA) and the National Association of Exotic Pest Plant Councils (NAEPPC), and was hosted by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC). The conference theme was a Natural Areas Revival in Music City: Tuning into a Changing Climate and Biological Invasion. This was NAEPPC's inaugural national conference.

There were 450 conference attendees from all 50 states and six countries. Preconference activities included two three-day field trips: one to Savage Gulf State Natural Area and the other to Mammoth Cave. The opening plenary session was at the historic War Memorial Auditorium with presentations by Ed Clebsch and Dan Simberloff of the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, Dick Mack, Washington State University, and Larry Schweiger, CEO of the National Wildlife Federation. The welcoming remarks were made from Nashville Mayor's Karl Deal and TDEC's Commissioner Jim Fyke.

The conference featured 160 presentations within seven concurrent sessions on two separate days. There were 110 invited speakers who presented in symposia, workshops, and forums. NAEPPC organized half of the conference sessions as well as it organized a NAEPPC strategic planning meeting, a membership luncheon, and a NAEPPC forum. There were several workshops and field trips that focused on invasive species management and a total of 24 fieldtrips and workshops to Middle Tennessee natural areas. The conference banquet and awards ceremony was at the Ryman Auditorium, the mother church of country music and the official birthplace of "bluegrass" music.

The conference was carbon neutral with offsets purchased to restore wetlands in Louisiana. **The conference plenary was filmed and the plenary sessions were recorded with an audio sync to powerpoint. These sessions are on line at www.se-eppc.org, <http://www.naeppc.org/> and <http://www.naturalarea.org/>** The conference program is available on the se-eppc website in the last SE-EPPC enewsletter.

2. TNEPPC Notes by Terri Hogan, President TN-EPPC

Updating the TNEPPC Invasive Plant List

The Tennessee Exotic Pest Plant Council is finalizing its updated Invasive Plant List. It will be posted soon on the TNEPPC website. We followed the process established by TNEPPC when the original list was developed. The current TNEPPC list was sent to approximately 25 experts in the fields of botany, ecology, and land management throughout the state of

Tennessee. They were asked to add species of concern not yet on the list, along with any information they had on distribution of the listed species, counties and physiographic provinces within which the species occur, and related management issues. They ranked the species using TNEPPC's existing descriptions for degree of threat. Results were compiled in a master spreadsheet including comments and an average score was derived.

As lists of invasive species that threaten our country's natural areas fall under greater scrutiny, all EPPCs are looking for ways to strengthen them. During the list revision process, TNEPPC developed listing criteria using a variety of other existing criteria and guidelines. This included: "An Invasive Species Protocol" developed by NatureServe, TNC, and the National Park Service, Indiana DNR's "Assessment of Invasive Plants in Indiana's Natural Areas," Alabama IPC's "Criteria for Evaluating Plant Species for Invasiveness in Alabama," and the "Massachusetts Criteria for Evaluating Non-Native Plant Species for Invasiveness" developed by the Massachusetts Invasive Plant Advisory Group.

The final result is a document that is well suited to the state of Tennessee and one that supports our assertions of species invasiveness. It will be posted on our website with the updated list. EDDMapS was used to establish distribution of each species. In most cases, we found a close correlation between the rankings from the expert panel and the final rank derived from the listing criteria. However, in some cases, the information submitted by the panel was not reflected in EDDMapS. Through this process, we identified species for which information is needed. We will be working to fill those gaps.

Changes to the TNEPPC Board of Directors

The TNEPPC Board is undergoing some changes. Some of these changes sadden us as when long-time board members Carrie Miller and Richard Clements stepped down. New additions to the board, however, have been happy events. New members include Claude Bailey, instructor at Jackson State Community College and former Tennessee State Botanist, Mike Berkley, owner and operator of GroWild, a native plant nursery in Fairview, Andrea Bishop, biologist for the Tennessee Natural Heritage Inventory Program and a returning board member, and Margie Hunter, author and dynamo. We say a sad farewell to Carrie and Richard who have made significant contributions to TNEPPC during their years of service. We embrace and welcome our new board members.

3. Kentucky EPPC Annual Conference by Joyce Bender, KY EPPC President

The University of Kentucky and the Kentucky Exotic Pest Plant Council hosted a two day conference on Invasive Species in Lexington, Kentucky on December 12th and 13th. The conference's purpose was to demonstrate a sense of urgency regarding the threats posed by the most significant invasive species in Kentucky and to propose and share possible solutions.

Participants included university faculty and staff, state and federal agency staff, students, city and county government staff, horticulture industry representatives, plant nursery representatives and the general public. One hundred thirty people attended the Friday sessions which included keynote speakers Randy Westbrooks, Daniel Simberloff, Kerry Britton and Robin Osborne. The rest of the morning's speakers presented information on their agencies' efforts to combat invasives. The afternoon sessions focused on research, policy and

legislation, mapping and control. Seventy five people participated in the Saturday morning sessions and an afternoon visit to the UK Arboretum to tour areas where a number of invasive plants are being treated and monitored.

One of the desired outcomes of the conference was to help create linkages within and across organizations to capitalize on funding, research, and applied opportunities. Based on the level of interest from participants and positive feedback, reaching this goal may be possible. A subset of the participants will be working to develop the Early Detection Rapid Response Network that Randy Westbrooks would like to have established across the country. Others signed on to investigate legislative initiatives. Having the chance to gather with several of the nation's leading experts on invasive species was inspiring to the attendees and has provided needed impetus for moving Kentucky forward.

4. NC-EPPC Updates by Johnny Randall NC-EPPC board member representing Public Gardens

The NC-EPPC held its annual meeting on December 10 in Charlotte at the Reedy Creek Nature Center. There were approximately 50 attendees. We shared chapter updates that included an unveiling of the **Green Invaders Study Guide** prepared for the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System (that was supported by a grant from NC-EPPC) and the **Field Guide to Invasive Exotic Plants of North Carolina** prepared by NCDOT (with input from NC-EPPC and available on the NC-EPPC web page).

Presentations included those on eradication projects such as cogongrass, bushkiller (*Cayratia japonica*), using volunteers in both mapping and invasive plant control, and on the risk assessment program being developed for the NC nursery industry.

We also enjoyed demonstrations and descriptions of gizmos such as the “tongs of death,” Felco “wet blade” pruners, propane torches, and “death sticks.” This was so well received that we plan to invite all attendees of our 2009 annual meeting to bring show-and-tell invasive plant control contrivances.

NC-EPPC now has a T-shirt for sale and free logo stickers. The T-shirt can be seen on the NC-EPPC web page and we welcome orders (\$8.00 each or \$12.00 for two).

5. State Report: Alabama Invasive Plant Council by Nancy Loewenstein, ALIPC board member

The following are notes from the ALIPC Board of Directors meeting in Montgomery on 12/11/08:

- ALIPC's next Annual Meeting will be held on May 5th, 2009 at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens.
- The board recently approved the initiation of an Education and Outreach Grants Program through which ALIPC will provide funding (up to \$1000) 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.
- Tentative plans were initiated for the organization and/or support of invasive plant ID and control workshops to help supplement the need for CEUs across the state.

- ALIPC is taking an active role in the newly formed Alabama Cogongrass Task Force, with members serving on each of the four task force committees.

6. On-line Resources; articles, news and more

The Center for Invasive Plant Management is pleased to announce the second of two learning websites developed for the US Fish and Wildlife Service National Wildlife Refuge System and beneficial to other natural resource managers. The website, *Managing Invasive Plants: Concepts, Principles, and Practices*, provides an overview of invasive plant management supported by case studies, quizzes, scientific literature, and web-based resources. The website is best viewed in Internet Explorer. [View website](#)

Alien Invasion-South Carolina's other immigration problem — non-native plants and animals
<http://www.charlestoncitypaper.com/gyrobase/Content?oid=oid%3A46841>

Can Weeds Help Solve the Climate Crisis?

http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/29/magazine/29weeds-t.html?_r=1&ref=magazine&oref=slogin

Once Thought Invasive, Some Galápagos Plants Can Call the Place Home, as reported in the NY Times – Science section:

http://www.nytimes.com/2008/11/25/science/25obplants.html?_r=1&ref=science

Plant Seeds Hitch Rides on Shoes

http://www.ceh.ac.uk/news/news_archive/2008_news_item_36.html

Plant Seeds Hitch Rides on Traveling Shoes

http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/14/science/14obshoe.html?_r=1&ref=science

7. Upcoming Events and Opportunities

Please plan now to attend the **11th Annual Southeast Exotic Pest Plant Council Symposium** to be held May 13-15, 2009 in Georgetown, South Carolina. We hope to have an informative conference with some great field trips (Belle Baruch, Francis Marion National Forest, Mepkin Abbey, Mansfield Plantation and Hampton Plantation State Historic Site). More detailed information to follow!

You can now submit your symposium abstracts on-line for the SE-EPPC symposium. Use this link <http://www.se-eppc.org/2009/abstractsubmission.html> and submit by January 16, 2009.

Spread the word! Hope to see you there.

2009 NAWMA Conference – mark your calendars!

The 2009 North American Weed Management Association Conference will be hosted by Nebraska, and held in Kearney September 21st to 24th. The Nebraska host committee has selected the theme "Response to the Riparian Invasion" with the idea of telling the story of Nebraska's Riparian Vegetation Management Efforts. We are putting together a preliminary program that covers Nebraska's response, Nebraska's plan, tools to do the job, North American Situation and a panel on setting up a structure to address potential new riparian plant invaders while they are in the early stages of the invasion process. For more information about NAWMA, please visit www.nawma.org

Stewardship Network Conference 2009: The Science, Practice and Art of Restoring

Native Ecosystems

January 23-24, 2009

East Lansing, MI

Event Website:

www.stewardshipnetwork.org

Weed Science Society of America Annual Meeting

February 9-12, 2009

Orlando, FL

Event Website:

www.wssa.net