

## SE-EPPC E-NEWS November Volume 2.1

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### **1. SAMAB Hosts Workshop on the Prevention and Early Detection of Invasive Plants - Susan Schexnayder, SAMAB's program manager**

Land and water managers have learned that managing an invasive plant once it is established in an area is an expensive and time consuming effort, and often success is uncertain. Success with invasive species is most likely if we prevent their introduction or identify them so early that populations do not become established. With this recognition, SAMAB (Southern Appalachian Man and the Biosphere Program) hosted a workshop on October 23 and 24 in Johnson City to help land and water managers in the Southern Appalachian region learn what practices they could incorporate into their existing management strategies to prevent or at least minimize the possibility of introductions of invasives on their managed property.

“Success at limiting new introductions to the southern Appalachians will require the collective efforts of all of us who have responsibility for land and water resource management,” said Nancy Fraley, a key organizer of the workshop and leader of the National Park Service’s Southeast Exotic Plant Management Team. Fraley noted that a wide variety of people—transportation maintenance crews, park managers, and private landowners, just to name a few—have important roles to play in preventing the spread of invasive plants. Participants in the workshop included private land managers, foresters, representatives from several National Forest and National Park units, and other land management staffs.

Among the presenters were Alix Cleveland, Invasives Activities Leader for the US Forest Service Region 8; Rita Beard, Invasive Plants Coordinator for the National Park Service; and Richard Schwab, leader of the interagency Burned Area Emergency Response Program. They each emphasized cooperation, pre-project planning, and the importance of having an invasives specialist, or, minimally, a botanist, involved in project planning and implementation for activities ranging from road construction to stream restoration. Bonnie Harper-Lore, with the Federal Highway Administration, made clear the highway transportation sector’s role in invasives, reminding participants that the Federal Highway Administration manages 12 million acres of roadside green space.

Professor Dave Moorhead of the University of Georgia discussed a range of best management practices for all types of soil disturbing activities, and emphasized the importance of knowing what is growing next to your managed area. To help build this knowledge, Moorhead and Chuck Barger, also of the University of Georgia, have collaborated on the Early Detection and Distributions Mapping System ([www.EDDMaps.org](http://www.EDDMaps.org)) that will serve as a central source of information on invasive plant occurrence and allows new sightings to be reported and verified.

To help extend the focus on the prevention and early detection of invasives in the Southern Appalachian region, SAMAB is collecting and will post on its website examples of site-specific early detection and rapid response plans as well as examples of contracts that include specifications that minimize the possibility of introduction of invasives. To submit examples, contact Susan Schexnayder, SAMAB's program manager at [schexnayder@utk.edu](mailto:schexnayder@utk.edu) or 865-974-5912. Also, copies of the workshop presentations will soon be available at the SAMAB website, [www.samab.org](http://www.samab.org).

## **2. State Report: North Carolina – Johnny Randall – Immediate past president and current board member representing Public Gardens**

With the conclusion of our very successful 2007 annual meeting (with nearly 80 attendees) on August 29 at the North Carolina Botanical Garden, a change of the guard occurred – of the 12-member board, 8 new individuals were elected. Note that the NC-EPPC board is designed to provide seats for stakeholders within the invasive plant arena.

Current board members and their affiliations include: President, Charles Yelton (NC Museum of Natural Sciences), Vice-President, Katie Mann (Mecklenburg Soil and Water Conservation), Secretary Kristen Sinclair (NC Natural Heritage Program), Treasurer, Cherri Smith (NC Department of Transportation), and board members representing Public Gardens, Johnny Randall (NC Botanical Garden), Conservation Organization, Margaret Fields (The Nature Conservancy), Allied Industry, Steve Manning (Invasive Plant Control, Inc.), Nursery Industry, Doug Chapman (Plantworks Nursery and NC Nursery and Landscape Association), Landscape Industry, David McDowell (Bland Nurseries and NCNLA), Academic Organization, Rob Richardson (NC State Univ., Dept. of Horticultural Science), Government, Rick Iverson (NC Dept. of Agriculture), and Citizen, George Morris (RiverWorks, Inc.).

The annual meeting was opened with a presentation by NC Department of Agriculture weed specialist, Rick Iverson, who led us through the state noxious weed listing process. Presentations followed by George Morris, Nancy Fraley, Marek Smith, and Charles Yelton on restoration and management activities. Outgoing NC-EPPC VP, Joe Neal, gave the final presentation on the NC Nursery and Landscape Association risk assessment initiative (the subject of a graduate student program at NC State University).

Our action agenda for the coming year is to help form a state early detection and rapid response committee with Randy Westbrook at the helm, participate in the NC Invasive Species Advisory Committee, join the Coalition for Eastern Invasive Plant Species Control (CEIPSC), and engage our legislators in D.C. during the next Weed Awareness Week. We also plan to educate our congressmen and senators on invasive plant issues during the summer when they are in North Carolina, provide posters and materials to environmental educators about invasive plants, hold community service projects, and propose an invasive plant boy scout/girl scout badge.

We are very excited about the coming year and the energy infused by a number of new board members. There is much work to do, so wish us success!

### **3. Cogongrass Workshop** - Chris Furqueron, Program Coordinator IPM and Exotic Plant Management Teams National Park Service

Over 350 resource managers and other professionals from forestry, agriculture, natural areas, transportation, research, turf grass and nurseries, recreation, energy, private land ownership, and governmental agencies gathered in Mobile, AL on November 7-8 for two days of presentations at the first workshop of its kind devoted solely to the understanding, management and prevention of cogongrass in the southern United States.

The meeting location is not far from Grand Bay, AL where, in 1911, this invasive, exotic plant first established itself in the US. Since then, human activities and its own biological characteristics continue to facilitate its spread along ROW corridors and into disturbed areas, and then out into the natural landscape. Currently, cogongrass can be found from East Texas to South Carolina with Florida, Alabama, and Mississippi having the most wide-spread infestations. Active eradication programs are underway in Louisiana and Georgia. Since the rate of spread occurs at thousands of acres a year, it's crucial that NC, TN and AR intercept it at their borders. However, most of the US, except for sites in high altitudes or near the Canadian border, is believed to be susceptible to invasions by cogongrass.

Dr. Jim Miller, US Forest Service, Research & Development, opened the conference by putting the South's cogongrass crisis in context. Speakers presented findings from the most up-to-date cogongrass research, current operational programs, and collaborative efforts. On the second day Miller summarized management and containment strategies before symposium participants headed out to view successful on-the-ground cogongrass management programs in a longleaf pine restoration site and a loblolly pine establishment site.

Dr. Nancy J. Loewenstein, Auburn University assistant professor of forestry and wildlife sciences and Dr. Miller have compiled the presentations into Proceedings of the Regional Cogongrass Conference: A Cogongrass Management Guide - Confronting the Cogongrass Crisis Across the South. Abstracts and PowerPoint presentations are posted at <http://www.cogongrass.org/conference.cfm>. Hard copies of the Cogongrass Management Guide can be obtained by contacting Dr. Loewenstein, at [loewenj@auburn.edu](mailto:loewenj@auburn.edu). Recordings of each of the speaker's presentations should soon be available at this website.

### **4. NAEPPC Update** – Brian Bowen, NAEPPC vice president

The NAEPPC board had its second of two yearly meetings in Cleveland, Ohio October 12, 2007 at the 34<sup>th</sup> annual Natural Areas Conference. There were 11 participants at this meeting and four participants who teleconferenced. Brief updates of current activities were given for the EPPCs. EPPCs represented at this meeting were CA, WISC, KY, SC, GA, FL, TN, Mid Atlantic - EPPC, Midwest Invasive Plant Network (MIPN) and SE-EPPC. SE-EPPC was amply represented with seven participants from five states.

Some of general topics discussed included all the various recent EPPC/IPC conferences, workshops, and symposia for this year and those that are up-coming. All the many topics

discussed in the various reports included mapping projects, state legislation initiatives, education and outreach, work with the horticulture industry in certain states and regions, EPPC weedlists, early detection and rapid response initiatives, and weed risk assessments.

The final and most comprehensive discussion addressed the up-coming NAA/NAEPPC joint conference to be held in Nashville, October 14 – 17. Lisa Smith, the conference program chair reported that the majority of the program was decided and session organizers had been identified and they were working to develop the sessions. It was noted that Dan Simberloff would be one of the keynote plenary speakers and a small committee was actively pursuing Vice President Gore's participation. It was noted that on this day he had just become a Nobel laureate.

This meeting was in part utilized as a planning session for the conference. There were many participating in this meeting involved in the conference planning process. Brian Bowen, conference chair, provided an update on logistical aspects of the conference. Then there was discussion about video taping the conference, how abstracts would be handled and how websites might be best used. It was stressed that conference organizers were making this a green conference.

Brian Bowen also discussed EPPC financial support for the conference. He noted that Mid Atlantic had already pledged \$1,000. This sponsorship would be used to cover expenses related to conference travel and invited speaker expenses, as there will be many experts invited to address the invasive species symposia. Bowen suggested that a letter would be drafted to the EPPC's to request this support. Doug Johnson seconded that notion and thought a letter would be important to take back to his Cal – IPC board.

In addition to the topic items mentioned above, Doug Johnson did give a brief update on progress to establish the "National Coalition for Invasive Plant Advocacy." Its first initiative is to get the funding for cooperative weed management areas allocated from congress. This was an initiative that NAEPPC supported last year at NIWAW. This newly formed organization is meant to be all-inclusive of organizations beyond EPPC and is primarily being organized for the purpose of lobbying congress. All groups polled have agreed to be in the coalition.

Much was addressed during this hour and half board meeting. The next NAEPPC board meeting will be held in DC during NIWAW the end of February, time and place to be determined. Numerous other 08 NAA/NAEPPC planning meetings will occur between now and NIWAW with another planning meeting to be scheduled in conjunction with the next NAEPPC board meeting.

## **5. Upcoming Events and Opportunities**

**Southeast Exotic Pest Plant Council 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium Hosted by the Mississippi Exotic Pest Plant Council "Managing Invasive Plants in Disturbed Landscapes" May 20-22, 2008 Imperial Palace Casinos Biloxi, Mississippi**

The symposium will offer a timely forum for considering how best to manage invasive plants in disturbed landscapes. Ecological disturbances, such as Hurricane Katrina and the 2007 wildfires

in southern Georgia and northern Florida, should raise awareness of these events in the southeastern United States. Two important issues arise out of these disturbances:

- Understanding the responses of invasive plants to natural disturbances and associated recovery and salvage efforts.
- Coordinating ecological restoration of disturbance regimes with the management of invasive plants.

The program of the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual SE-EPPC Symposium will emphasize, but is not limited to, presentations addressing how invasive plants respond to natural and man-made disturbances and how local communities and stakeholders take action to anticipate and respond to the increased threats posed by invasive non-native plants following such disturbances. The symposium will include plenary sessions, workshops, and field trips.

### **Registration**

Information on registration and a registration form will soon be available on the SE-EPPC Website, [www.se-eppc.org](http://www.se-eppc.org).

### **Posters and Papers**

Volunteer papers may be presented orally or as a poster. Abstracts must be submitted electronically by **February 1, 2008** to be considered. Send the paper's title, author(s), and the abstract to John Madsen at [jmadsen@gri.msstate.edu](mailto:jmadsen@gri.msstate.edu). Please see the Call for Papers for details. Authors of abstracts accepted for presentation will be contacted with presentation submission details.

### **Additional Information**

For additional conference information, visit the SE-EPPC Website, [www.se-eppc.org](http://www.se-eppc.org), or contact either John Madsen, [jmadsen@gri.msstate.edu](mailto:jmadsen@gri.msstate.edu) or Lisa Yager [lisa.yager@mmns.state.ms.us](mailto:lisa.yager@mmns.state.ms.us)

### **35<sup>th</sup> Natural Areas Conference - Natural Areas Revival In Music City: Tuning into a changing climate and biological invasion** *A joint conference of the Natural Areas Association and the National Association of Exotic Pest Plant Councils*

The Doubletree Hotel - Nashville, Tennessee

The 2008 Natural Areas Conference will be a joint conference of the Natural Areas Association (NAA) and the National Association of Exotic Pest Plant Councils (NAEPPC). The conference will celebrate the 30th anniversary of the NAA and will be an inaugural national conference for NAEPPC. The conference will focus on ecological management themes with an emphasis on invasive exotic species issues. The NAEPPC will bring its invasive species expertise to the conference and the two organizations will provide synergy in organizing what is expected to be an outstanding conference. Join us for an informative and rewarding experience.

**Ninth Annual National Invasive Weeds Awareness Week February 24 - 29, 2008  
Washington, D.C.**

The Ninth Annual National Invasive Weeds Awareness Week (NIWAW 9) will be held in Washington, D.C. the week of **February 24 to February 29, 2008** to bring people and groups from across the country together to focus national attention on the severe impacts caused by invasive weeds. Individuals and organizations interested in this issue are invited to participate in this event and help build on the success of NIWAW activities in previous years. NIWAW 9 events are designed to focus on the important roles the Federal government must play to help the U.S. deal with invasive weed problems. We have also designed the schedule to provide ample time for attendees to meet with their Congressional delegations, individual federal agencies and each other.

**For More Details Please Visit The NIWAW 9 Website**

[http://www.nawma.org/niwaw/niwaw\\_index.htm](http://www.nawma.org/niwaw/niwaw_index.htm) Points by Sheraton Hotel 1201 K Street NW, Washington, DC is the Headquarters Hotel for NIWAW 9 **For additional information on NIWAW 9 contact:** Dr. Nelroy Jackson (951-279-7787) or [nelroyjackson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:nelroyjackson@sbcglobal.net)

**JOB OPPORTUNITIES**

Job Opportunity: Position: **Invasive Species Coordinator**, Location: University of Georgia, Tifton, Georgia USA Appointment: Grant-funded full-time position (salary \$39,781 with benefits). The position is currently funded for one year with renewal contingent upon availability of continuing grant funds and satisfactory progress of employee Available: Closing date for receipt of applications is November 1, 2007. Position could be available as early as December 1, 2007.

Position Description: This is a grant-funded position in the Bugwood Network that will oversee the plant-related invasive species programs of the Bugwood Network, [www.bugwood.org](http://www.bugwood.org). The Bugwood Network is a technology-based working group collaboration between faculty in the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CAES) and the Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources (WSFNR). The Bugwood Network focuses on developing and providing information on forest health, invasive and exotic species, entomology, silviculture, integrated pest management, agriculture, and natural resource management that operates and serves 20 web sites that receive 130 million hits a year (see [www.bugwood.org/bugwood2007.pdf](http://www.bugwood.org/bugwood2007.pdf)).

Qualifications: MS or higher in one of the following or related fields: ecology, forestry, weed science, botany, horticulture or plant sciences. Cross-discipline experience with focus on invasive species preferred. Ability and experience using Windows-based computers, Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint, and utilizing the Internet as a research tool. Experience using geographic information system (GIS) software such as ArcGIS and Global Positioning System (GPS) equipment is desired. A thorough understanding of scientific nomenclature and systematics is preferred. Candidates must have good communication skills, both written and verbal, the ability to work independently and with others.

Applications: Interested persons must complete official online University application at: <https://www.ugajobsearch.com>; Select Search Postings, Enter Position Number: 20070628. Please direct any and all questions to: Dr. G. Keith Douce, Dr. David J. Moorhead or Chuck Bargeron, The Bugwood Network

DIRECTOR, Center for Invasive Plant Management, Montana State University. Seeking talented and enthusiastic individual to promote ecologically sound invasive plant management by facilitating collaboration and communication among researchers, educators, and land owners/managers. Complete announcement and application instructions: <http://www.montana.edu/level2/jobs.html> under Professional Positions or contact M. Johnson (406-994-5633; email [maraj@montana.edu](mailto:maraj@montana.edu)). Screening begins December 15, 2007. No fax/email applications. ADA/AA/EO/VET PREF

The Nature Conservancy Northwest Florida Program is seeking a Non-native Invasive Species Coordinator Position based out of the NWFL Program Office in Bristol, FL. It is a shared position with the Apalachicola National Forest with an emphasis on invasive species management and habitat restoration. If you are interested I encourage you to apply or if you know of some one please pass it along and encourage them to apply. Please direct all inquiries to the contact listed on the description.

See the link below to view a copy of the job description.

<http://www.nature.org/careers/dynamic/natureorg/20071022180423.html>

If the link does not work go to the TNC internet website [www.nature.org](http://www.nature.org), scroll to the bottom of the page and look for 'careers'. Click on that link and search for the job description.