

## SC-EPPC Update

By Travis W. Rogers, President

On Thursday, September 13, 2012 the SC-EPPC held its annual conference at Hobcaw Barony near Georgetown, SC. It was well attended with almost 60 participants. The program was diverse with topics ranging from current and emerging invasive plant threats such as Chinese tallow, cogongrass, and Japanese climbing fern to plant and animal community responses to invasive plant removal, community-based education and NRCS programs, costs associated with invasive plant management, wetland impoundment invaders, and strategies for Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR). The one day conference concluded with a field trip to see Chinese tallow management in a longleaf pine forest.

Elections for new board members were held and several new board members will be joining the leadership team. They are Lauren Pile with Clemson University, Lauren Serra with Congaree National Park, Bill Steele with Leroy Springs & Company and Ben Powell with the Clemson Extension Service. We are pleased to welcome them to our board and look forward to their contributions. If you are interested in joining the SC-EPPC board or becoming more involved with our state chapter, please visit [www.se-eppc.org/southcarolina/about.cfm](http://www.se-eppc.org/southcarolina/about.cfm) and contact one of our board members. New officer elections will be taking place at our next board meeting which will be held before the end of January 2013.



Wade Harper, a plant manager with Applied Aquatic Management, Inc., with a captured Burmese python that has ingested an adult white-tailed deer.

## FLEPPC UPDATE

By Dennis Giardina, Chair

FLEPPC had a very successful joint annual meeting with the Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society (FL-TWS) in Ocala, Florida with approximately 150 attendees. The theme was "Invasion of the Habitat Snatchers — Wildlife Invades!" Florida is a haven for invasive wildlife and many species are found in the same natural areas where invasive plants flourish. This results in a lot of cross-training or simply cross-experience in capturing, dispatching, searching and reporting of everything from Burmese pythons to feral hogs to Nile monitor lizards and green iguanas. FLEPPC and FL-TWS joined forces to provide an interesting menu for the "Beast Feast" banquet that featured southern fried python chops, fried snakehead (fish), and alligator-venison-tegu lizard gumbo among other novel dishes. The hotel chef graciously agreed to prepare these innovative dishes with ingredients furnished by members.

FLEPPC provided Education/Outreach grants to five groups this year and Research Grants to two graduate students.

FLEPPC will be the next chapter to co-host the annual SE-EPPC meeting in Panama City Beach on May 21-23, 2013. We hope to see you there for informative presentations, field trips, workshops, continuing education credits, a silent auction and more. Visit the FLEPPC website, [www.fleppc.org](http://www.fleppc.org), for updates.



with the native alternatives being Passionflower, Dutchman's Pipe and Virgin's Bower. We are currently developing the 2013 poster, which will feature Autumn and Russian olives as the least wanted plants. As an extension of the Least Wanted posters, we are also in the process of developing pocket guides featuring native alternatives to invasive plants. These could be particularly useful for homeowners and landscapers.

Recently, we have been working with the University of Kentucky in planning the 3rd Invasive Species Conference which will be held in April of 2013. Stay tuned for more details and a call for papers.

Finally, three new board members have joined this year: Frank Melton from Bowling Green, Mary Turner from the Garden Clubs of Kentucky, and Larry Brewer from Northern Kentucky University.