

ALIPC Bits and Pieces

February 2008

This e-newsletter is intended for current members of the Alabama Invasive Plant Council. If you are not a member please consider joining us in our efforts to identify and address the issue of invasive plant species in the State of Alabama. You can find an application at www.se-eppc.org by clicking on the State Chapter link for Alabama.

It's that time again to share success stories, educational opportunities, and general news regarding invasive species in Alabama

Some of the information provided in this issue you may have seen before. Those items are very important and we hope you get an opportunity to review them if you have not done so before. Please feel free to share with us your hard work and efforts at controlling your "favorite" invasive pest. Your project and techniques may be just what someone else is looking for to deal with their own invasive pest problem.

The following tidbits are some general information, activities, and educational forums that are going on. Take a moment to read through and feel free to provide feedback! The only way this newsletter works is to provide actual projects and useful information everyone can relate to. Please forward your thoughts, ideas, and ongoing projects to andy@landtrust-hsv.org to be shared with the ALIPC membership!

There are a lot of educational opportunities coming up:

We've updated the ALIPC conference information!

First and foremost is **ALIPC's 6th Annual Conference**. This year's conference will be held at the Alabama 4H Center in Columbiana, Alabama. It is centrally located in the state and very easy to get to just Southeast of Birmingham. Reserve time on your Calendars for **May 13th, 2008**

If you need accommodations, instead of making a long drive, the 4H center has some great accommodations! Click on the link for more information.

<http://www.aces.edu/4hcenter/>

Here is a copy of the conference agenda. As you can see there are some great topics of discussion and opportunities for participation! If you have not been before, you will find it well worth your time.



**Alabama Invasive Plant Council
6th Annual Conference
May 13th, 2008
Alabama 4-H Center, Columbiana, AL**

7:45 – 8:45

Registration ... visit vendor displays and silent auction

8:45 – 9:00

Welcome

Michelle Isenberg, ALIPC President

- 9:00 – 9:30 **Adaptive Collaborative Restoration (ACR): A Key Concept in Invasive Plant Management**
Dr. Jim Miller, Invasive Species Scientist, USDA Forest Service R& D
- 9:30 – 10:00 **ACR in Action: Alabama’s New Cogongrass Task Force**
Bill Baisden, Assistant State Forester, Alabama Forestry Commission
- 10:00 – 10:30 **ACR Networks at Work in Alabama to Combat Invasive Plants**
Gary Kobylski, NRCS State Conservationist
- 10:30– 11:00 **Break** ... visit vendor displays and silent auction
- 11:00 – 11:20 **AL DOT’s Cogongrass Strategy**
Howard Peavey, State Agronomist, AL DOT
- 11:20– 11:40 **A Successful Grassroots Effort to Combat Cogongrass**
Bart McPherson, SOAR (Save Our Alabama Roadways)
- 11:40 – 12:00 **Update on Alabama’s First Cooperative Weed Management Area**
Andy Prewett, The Land Trust of Huntsville and North Alabama
- 12:00 – 12:30 **Business Meeting**
- 12:30– 1:30 **Lunch** provided on site ... visit vendors, silent auction
- 1:30 – 3:15 **Concurrent Workshop** (rotate among three 30 minute outside stations)
- 1) **Herbicide Equipment and Safety Training**
Dr. Jim Miller and Erwin Chambliss, USDA Forest Service
 - 2) **Invasive Plant ID and Discussion of Control Options**
Dr. Stephen Enloe and Curtis Hansen, Auburn University
 - 3) **Invasive Plant Mapping and use of EDDMapS**
Dr. Nancy Loewenstein, Auburn University
- 3:15 – 3:30 **Break** ... last chance to visit vendor displays and silent auction
- 3:30 – 3:50 **Biofuel development using Invasive Plants**
Dr. Josh Herring, Alabama A&M University
- 3:50 – 4:10 **Production and Cost Issues when using Invasive Plants for Biofuels**
Dr. Mathew Smidt, AU School of Forestry & Wildlife Sciences and ACES
- 4:10 – 4:30 **Challenges for EDRR, CWMA’s and Biofuels: Where do we go from here?**
Dr. Stephen Enloe, AU Agronomy and ACES Invasive Weed Specialist
- 4:30 – 4:45 **Closing remarks**
Dr. Nancy Loewenstein, ALIPC President-Elect

Easy ALIPC Conference Registration!

For easy registration, you can find a registration form at www.se-eppc.org by clicking on the State Chapter link for Alabama. **Register Early!!!** Registrations at the door will not guarantee a lunch!

Remember, your registration for the conference includes your annual ALIPC dues!

You are also invited to participate in the **2008 ALIPC Annual Meeting Silent Auction**

The Silent Auction will provide some fun and fellowship for the meeting attendees. The proceeds will be used to educate the public and landowners about invasive species threatening Alabama's natural environment. If you would like to participate in the auction by donating an item, contact Tim Albritton, 3381 Skyway Dr., Auburn, AL 36830, Email to: tim.albritton@al.usda.gov , Or Fax to: (334) 887-4551. Tim will be happy to coordinate your donation.

SE-EPPC Annual Symposium!

Southeast Exotic Pest Plant Council 10th 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 SE United States.

The 10th 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.

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. 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, or contact either John Madsen, jmadsen@gri.msstate.edu or Lisa Yager lisa.yager@mmns.state.ms.us

This is big!!! Here's another reminder!

35th 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.

For those in aquatics

The **APMS (Aquatic Plant Management Society) annual meeting** will be held July 13-16, 2008 in Charleston, SC. If you have any questions, contact:

Tyler J. Koschnick, PhD, Aquatics Research Manager
SePRO Corporation
3021 Gary Kyle Ct.
Medina, OH 44256
440-665-2748

How do you like Snakes?

Python Snakes, An Invasive Species In Florida, Could Spread To One Third Of US

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/02/080223111456.htm>

Burmese pythons -- an invasive species in south Florida -- could find comfortable climatic conditions in roughly a third of the United States according to new "climate maps" developed by the U.S. Geological Survey. Although other factors such as type of food available and suitable shelter also play a role, Burmese pythons and other giant constrictor snakes have shown themselves to be highly adaptable to new environments. Non-native giant constrictor snakes, such as the Burmese python are now spreading from Everglades National Park in Florida. New "climate match" maps show where climate in the U.S. is similar to places in which Burmese pythons live naturally (from Pakistan to Indonesia). A look at the map shows why biologists are concerned.

Fire Retardant spreads Invasive Plants?

Although this article does not directly apply to us in Alabama, it is a good example of how the spread of invasive species can come from the most unlikely sources. This is a very interesting article on fire retardant giving invasive species an advantage out west.

<http://www.missoulia.com/articles/2008/02/03/news/mtregional/news07.txt>

Like to talk about Invasives?

Here is something very interesting for those who cannot get enough reading material on invasive species! Go to www.invasivespecies.blogspot.com

Remember to renew your membership!

Your ALIPC annual membership period coincides with each year's annual conference. **We make it easy!** Your paid registration of \$35, for the annual conference, includes your new or renewing membership dues! By joining or renewing, you help support a very worthwhile organization in its efforts to inform, educate, and involve the public in the very real problem of invasive plants in the state of Alabama. Click on the link below, print out your application, and send it in!!! Make sure to add a note to your \$35 payment that you are registering for the conference!

<http://www.se-eppc.org/alabama/membership/tr.pdf>

Again, If you need accommodations for the ALIPC conference, instead of making a long drive, the 4H center has some great accommodations! Click on the link for more information.

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HELP FILL THE GAPS!

The Southeast Exotic Pest Plant Councils (EPPCs) need your help to fill in county distribution maps for invasive plant species in the southeastern U.S. Point your web browser to:

<http://www.se-eppc.org/eddMapS/choosecounty.cfm> and view the invasive plant species reported in your county. Then report any plants that are located in your county but missing from the map. This will help state EPPCs determine which plants should be listed and targeted for Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) efforts.

Please help us out!!!

If you have a noteworthy invasive plant project, interesting article, or a presentation or seminar coming up, that you would like to recognize, please let me know. We would like to share and recognize all of the wonderful efforts that are going on around our state. Send your information to me at andy@landtrust-hsv.org.