

ALIPC Bits and Pieces

April 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.

Sorry we missed you last month! We'll try to get caught up here!

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!

NEXT WEEK!!!! Tuesday 5/13

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**

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|---------------|--|
| 7:45 – 8:45 | Registration ... visit vendor displays and silent auction |
| 8:45 – 9:00 | Welcome
<i>Michelle Isenberg, ALIPC President</i> |
| 9:00 – 9:30 | Adaptive Collaborative Restoration (ACR): A Key Concept in Invasive Plant Management
<i>Dr. Jim Miller, Invasive Species Scientist, USDA Forest Service R& D</i> |
| 9:30 – 10:00 | ACR in Action: Alabama's New Cogongrass Task Force
<i>Bill Baisden, Assistant State Forester, Alabama Forestry Commission</i> |
| 10:00 – 10:30 | ACR Networks at Work in Alabama to Combat Invasive Plants
<i>Gary Kobylski, NRCS State Conservationist</i> |

- 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
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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**

We still need auction Items!

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.

Additional Information

For additional conference information, visit the SE-EPPC Website, www.se-eppc.org, or contact either John Madsen, jmadsen@grj.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

The Princeton Invasive Mapping Program has recently completed percent cover maps for **privet**, **kudzu**, and **cogongrass** across the Southeast. The maps are based on data contributed by many invasive plant experts from around the Southeast. You can download these maps and all associated data at <http://invasive.princeton.edu>.

The maps provide a regional view of these species at a six-kilometer resolution. We hope they will be useful for identifying invasion hot-spots, coordinating management efforts across the region, and attracting funding and political support for containment and restoration efforts. Please visit <http://invasive.princeton.edu> to view and download the maps/data. We will be updating the maps periodically, so you still may sign up and contribute through our website. If you have any questions or a particular data request, please feel free to contact me.

Dave Marvin
dmarvin@princeton.edu
609-258-2448

NOTE: A quick update from the Princeton Invasive Mapping Program. A mistake in the map image processing led to the inclusion of an outdated legend on all maps. If you downloaded any map images (PDF, JPG, or TIFF) on Thursday May 1st or Friday May 2nd, **please delete those images** – the legend contains an incorrect color scheme. You may download the new, corrected images at <http://invasive.princeton.edu>. Please note, this **does not** apply to any of the data files (shapefile, microsoft excel, or google earth kmz) and you may continue using these files. We apologize for the inconvenience this may have caused you. As always if you have any questions or requests, please contact me.

The first National CWMA conference (Conservation Weed Management Area) was held April 15th – 17th in Reno Nevada. SE-EPPC was one of the partners in making that happen. Nearly all 50 states were represented. THAT IS GREAT NEWS! Nearly all 50 states have some sort of local on the ground organization in the fight against invasive species. For more information from that event check out The Center for Invasive Weed Management; www.weedcenter.org

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/membershipltr.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.

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

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.

Southeast Watershed Forum Announces New Online Mapping Service at www.watershed-assistance.net/mapper

This month the Southeast Watershed Forum launches a new and valuable resource for land and water protection. The [Community Resource Mapper](http://www.watershed-assistance.net/mapper) provides a free, user-friendly, on-line mapping service that will help communities integrate natural resource protection into their land use planning efforts.

Visitors to the site can create maps at a county, watershed or state level, that compare impaired streams, impervious surface, protected lands, wetlands, State Wildlife Action Plans and much more. The Mapper is unique in that it blends private data with a variety of public data sources and allows the integration of multiple resource layers for a custom view of your community. Much of this resource data is overlooked in the local comprehensive planning process.

“Now communities have a tool to identify their important natural resources and 'green infrastructure' before growth and development impact land critical to protecting water supplies, water quality and prime habitat,” explains Forum Executive Director, Christine Olsenius. “The Mapper is a planning tool for visualizing the location of resources critical to reducing the cost of community services and maintaining the local quality of life.”

The Community Resource Mapper will help in targeting land conservation efforts, identifying riparian buffers, wetlands and stormwater management areas and can help shape growth and development patterns. For example, the image on the right from Hamilton County, TN overlays three sets of data: land cover, protected lands and impervious surfaces. It can showcase areas where growth and development should be directed and identify partners to help conserve key resource areas.

The Mapper is a cooperative project of the Southeast Watershed Forum, NBII SAIN, the University of Tennessee Chattanooga, the Land Trust Alliance and the Southeast Aquatic Resource Partnership. The Land Trust Alliance helped in securing protected lands data and the Aquatic Resources Partnership helped in securing early data for State Wildlife Action Plans. The National Biological Information Infrastructure (NBII – part of USGS) has been critical to launching the on-line mapping service. Financial support has also been received from Merck Family Fund, TVA, the World Wildlife Fund and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

For more information about how to use the Community Resource Mapper, go to www.watershed-assistance.net/mapper.

Thanks to Jim Miller for letting us know about this new website.

Finally! The native plants for wildlife website is up and running. The URL is www.ncsu.edu/goingnative. The website contains multi-layers of information, an interactive native plant database, recommendations for ID and management of select invasive plants, and a 10-minute video.

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.