

SE-EPPC E-NEWS April 7 Volume 1.3

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1. SE-EPPC 9th ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

- Report by Chris Evans, Symposium Program Co-Chair

This year's annual SE-EPPC symposium was held in Athens, GA on March 20-22. There were 136 attendees from across the southeast and some from as far away as Colorado and Iowa. This year's theme, Pulling Together: Cooperation to Combat Invasive Species was evident throughout the meeting. Carla Hoopes, Director of the Montana Statewide Noxious Weed Awareness and Education Campaign, was this year's keynote speaker. She opened the symposium with an informative talk about engaging diverse stakeholders in pursuit of cooperative invasive plant management opportunities. Other plenary talks addressed important topics such as risk assessment, mapping, green industry responses to invasive plants, and non-plant invasive species.

The symposium was packed with workshops, field trips, and sessions with enough variety to keep everyone interested. Concurrent sessions were held on each day of the symposium with attendees getting to choose from a wide variety of session topics. Workshops on invasive plant mapping, herbicide application methods, and bid specifications were held Tuesday afternoon. Wednesday afternoon field trips provided attendees with a chance to get outside for a while and enjoy the beautiful Georgia spring. Field trips to the state botanical gardens and to Tallulah Gorge State Park showcased some of the research and projects on invasive species, while the rafting/canoeing field trip allowed participants to display their skill (or lack thereof) in navigating the rapids of the Broad River.

Sponsors, vendors, poster presentations, and state chapter displays helped create a great atmosphere for the conference and facilitate collaborative efforts. Perhaps the most important aspect of the conference was not in the presentations or workshops, but in the time that attendees got to talk and find ways to better work together across political boundaries.

2. STATE REPORT: TN-EPPC

- Report by Nancy Fraley, TN-EPPC BOD

The Tennessee Exotic Pest Plant Council (TN-EPPC) hosted their 2007 symposium and workshop on March 3, 2007 at the University of Tennessee Agricultural Campus in Knoxville, TN. Approximately 80 attendees enjoyed presentations focusing on the management of invasive plants in residential settings and the use of native plants as an alternative to non-native invasive plant species in the landscape.

In addition, information was provided on the threat posed by invasive exotic plants to Tennessee's natural areas, how to control invasive plants using off-the-shelf products, and native plant alternatives to invasive plant species. The keynote speaker was Neal Denton, Director and County Extension Agent with the University of Tennessee Extension in Knox County. Margie Hunter, author of "Gardening with the Native Plants of Tennessee: The Spirit of Place," provided an information packed presentation on native plant alternatives to invasive exotic plants. Other popular features of the workshop included a reception which provided an opportunity to ask experts for advice on invasive plant management and landscaping with native plants, a book signing session by Margie Hunter, and both a silent and live auction.

TN-EPPC is currently facilitating the revision of the "List of Exotic Pest Plants in Tennessee." Over 25 reviewers including representatives from academia, land management, non-governmental organizations and state and federal agencies have been asked to review the current list and offer recommendations for additions and/or deletions to the current list. This process will include a review of these recommendations and the compilation of a draft revised list in early fall 2007.

Lastly, TN-EPPC has recently published, with the invaluable assistance of gardener and author Margie Hunter, *Tennessee's Native Plant Alternatives to Exotic Invasives: A Garden & Landscape Guide*. The list features those invasive plants frequently available for home landscaping, information about invasiveness and suggested native alternatives with similar desirable aesthetic and practical characteristics. This brochure can be viewed at <http://www.tneppc.org/Landscaping/Native%20Substitutes.pdf>.

3. SETTING TREATMENT PRIORITIES

- Submitted by James Akerson, Mid-Atlantic EPPC BOD & EPMT

The problem for most of us is that there are too many exotic plants and too many infested areas to tackle. There's not enough money and time to get rid of them all. Sometimes the sheer amount of infestation so boggles the mind that we have a hard time getting organized. Whether you are funded by congress, the state, a nonprofit organization, or a private landowner, you need to be able to prove that you're making headway in what seems an insurmountable task. What follows is a way to think, set priorities, and make progress.

The overall strategy

- Treat smaller, newer infestations before larger, older, more extensive ones.
(That allows you to claim victory over infestations rather than treat larger areas for years and never quite win the battle. It also keeps clean areas clean!)

- Don't treat one highly invasive species at a site while leaving moderately invasive species behind to take over.
(Many a crew has treated, let's say multiflora rose, only to find that some other invasive came in afterwards! If they had examined the site more closely, they would have seen telltale signs of other invaders waiting their turn.)
- Aim for full restoration of native species presence and ecosystem function.
(Though you're busy killing now, eventually your funders will want to see restoration. Is your treatment and subsequent prescription-making leading to healthy forests and fields?)

That as background, how should you prioritize your work? The NPS Mid-Atlantic Exotic Plant Management Team uses a four-part system to pull together species and zonal considerations. The trouble with only prioritizing species is that once the ranking is done, you'll have a devil of a time killing all your priority plants in the dozens-to-hundreds of sites that it resides. You need zonal considerations too.

The four-part ranking system

- Focus on exotics contained in state/professional invasive species lists.
(Those organizations have done much of the work for you in identifying problem plants. Unless you're really shooting for pristine results, skip the dandelions of the world.)
- Create a relative species ranking.
(There are several ranking systems available to use. Those the author knows about include systems by The Nature Conservancy, the states of California and Arizona, and the National Park Service. We've used the latter to good purpose. It takes into account the biological threat of a given plant and the relative potential to control it.)
- Factor in special zones of concern.
(Are there areas that need special protection, like rare species or archeological sites? These considerations have both a "hurry-up" influence and a "take time, be careful" influence. An area may need protection *now*. Your treatment methods may need to be coordinated with other people. The use of chemicals near protected raptors and ground-disturbing activities near cultural artifacts bring on red flags. Think them through.)
- Make your plan operationally sound with an eye to restoration.
(Once you've found the species and areas that need early control efforts, you'll need to make sure that when you enter a site you treat all the exotics at that site. You'll also need to form a work plan that makes logical and operational sense. Get it together!)

The Mid-Atlantic EPMT can provide you with the ranking chapter of one of their park plans if you'd like to see a practical example. Contact James Akerson at james_akerson@nps.gov

4. Governor declares Weed Awareness Week in Kentucky - Report by Joyce Bender – KY EPPC, President

The governor of Kentucky proclaimed the last week of February as Weed Awareness Week throughout Kentucky. On March 1st, 30 people gathered in the rotunda of the Kentucky capitol to talk about weeds invading Kentucky's natural areas and green spaces. Sponsored by the Garden Club of Kentucky, the event was supported by the KY EPPC as well. Ann Fiel,

president of the Garden Club of Kentucky spoke to the group about the club's mission to support the eradication of invasive plants and the protection of Kentucky's natural heritage. Joyce Bender, president of the KY EPPC described the efforts that have been made to pass legislation to create one list that consolidates all of the current weed species mentioned in state statutes as well as the means to add more species. Mary Carol Cooper, Native Plant Program Coordinator for the KY Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources discussed the use of native alternatives. The Garden Club was presented with a signed, framed version of the Governor's proclamation by Dr. Wilbur Frye, Executive Director for the Office for Consumer & Environmental Protection in the Kentucky Department of Agriculture.

Other events held that week included a woody invasive control day at Cove Spring Park in Frankfort, KY and a weed awareness workshop at the Arboretum at the University of Kentucky. Plans are being made to continue this effort next year with more events statewide.

5. NAEPPC UPDATE

- Report by Brian Bowen, SE-EPPC BOD

NAEPPC met at the 8th Annual National Invasive Weeds Awareness Week (NIWAW 8) in Washington, D.C. on February 25. There were 20 EPPC participants attending either by teleconference or who were in DC for NIWAW. This includes those who participated in business meeting (12) from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. and others (8) who joined in for the 08 Natural Areas/ NAEPPC Conference planning meeting from 3:00 – 5:00.

Brief activity reports were presented from the various EPPC's present. This included reports from FL EPPC, CAL-IPC, Mid-Atlantic EPPC, Midwest Invasive Plant Network, SE-EPPC, TN-EPPC and GA-EPPC. After which, Brian Bowen suggested renewing the annual reporting document, maintained by the NAEPPC in the past, that provided basic information about each organization and a brief report on recent activities for that year. It was agreed that these one to two page narratives could be put on the NAEPPC website to provide easy access to EPPC members and the general public. Bowen agreed to send out examples of these reports to each of the EPPCs for review. Reports would be posted and maintained by Bugwood.

Other reports included an update on the NAEPPC web site by Chris Evans, GA-EPPC and Bugwood. Following the report, it was agreed that the website would maintain a NAEPPC resource page that includes a list of all the products and publications developed by various EPPCs, as well as upcoming events and activities. These would also be provided by the EPPCs.

Doug Johnson, Cal-IPC gave the legislative and policy committee report. This included an update on the letters sent to federal legislatures in support of S291 & PL-108-412. It was reported that approximately 20 letters to legislatures had been faxed and mailed by SE-EPPC, in addition to letters sent by KY, NC, GA, FL, TN, and SC to representatives and senators on pertinent committees. Doug was pleased that there was renewed interest in supporting CWMA's, particularly with the new support emerging in the eastern US.

Janet Clark discussed the status of CWMA's in the US and described how more could be developed through a national collaborative approach combining NAEPPC's efforts with the on-going activities in the west.

Before launching into the 08 NAA/NAEPPC conference planning session, there was a brief report by Kate Howe, MIPN, regarding an effort to publish an eastern version of the naturalist pocket guide on invasive plants that has been published in the west. MIPN has taken the initiative to see if there was interest through EPPC to support its publication. This was useful information as EPPCs are still considering this action. Janet Clark was able to provide information related to how this publication was done in the west.

Lastly, Brian Bowen recommended that NAEPPC organization membership be revisited. He suggested that a signature MOU be developed with standard language that all participating EPPCs would sign. The most recent MOU (2004) provided guidelines on how NAEPPC would function and required interested participants to provide an email response acknowledging their interest. A new MOU would provide a formal record of the organization's participation. Doug Johnson suggested that this be carefully composed to address different levels of participation, such as direct membership (EPPC's with 501c3 status), pending (those organizations seeking 501c3 status), and other non-EPPC type organizations who might be indirectly affiliated (such as other non-natural area focus invasive weed organizations). Bowen agreed to draft such an MOU for review.

6. The Natural Resource Protection Cooperative Agreement Act: March 19, 2007, *the Natural Resource Protection Cooperative Agreement Act* (H.R. 658) passed the House by a 390-10 vote on March 19, 2007.

7. Midwest Invasive Plant Network (MIPN) hosts Cooperative Weed Management Areas Workshop for SE-EPPC. – Report by Brian Bowen

On March 6th, MIPN hosted an online teleconferenced CWMA workshop for 26 SE-EPPC members. The workshop provided information on how CWMA's get established and function, as well as what their success and failures have been. MIPN has taken the lead in the east to encourage the formation of CWMA's, as well as provide assistance and support of up and running CWMA's. In that effort, they facilitated a two-hour workshop for SE-EPPC, the second of its kind that they have done. SE-EPPC is very interested in working with MIPN in promoting CWMA's in the southeast and will work to make it an organization priority.

8. Florida Partnership to Prevent Sale of Invasive Plants: On March 21, 2007, the Southeast and Florida Exotic Pest Plant Councils and The Nature Conservancy partnered with Lowes to discontinue sale of 45 species of invasive plants at Lowes Garden Centers in Florida. For additional information, please see <http://www.nature.org/magazine/spring2007/misc/index.html>

9. SOUTHEAST EXOTIC PEST PLANT COUNCIL: EARLY DETECTION & DISTRIBUTION MAPPING SYSTEM (EDD MapS) WORKSHOP AND ASSESSMENT FORUM

WHEN: - June 29, 2007 - 10:00 AM - 3:30 PM

WHERE: (downtown) Chattanooga Electric Power Company Building 10 W. MLK Blvd., Chattanooga, TN 37403

PURPOSE OF THE WORKSHOP: To launch the new SE-EPPC Early Detection & Distribution Mapping System (EDD MapS) project in the southeast region in cooperation with SE-EPPC state chapters. We are inviting all SE-EPPC state chapter board members and all interested land managers to

this important train the trainer workshop that will provide participants the tools to implement this project in their state.

WHAT IS EDD MapS? EDD MapS is an interactive data-mapping project developed by SE-EPPC through Bugwood, UGA to be implemented by SE-EPPC state chapters in cooperation with land managers. The project goal is to create a regional mapping database that adequately represents the distribution of invasive plant species throughout the southeast. This on-line user accessible product will enable us to develop early detection and rapid response strategies in the southeast, conduct regional invasive plant assessments, and support developing and reviewing state chapter invasive plant weed lists.

WHY IT IS IMPORTANT FOR YOU TO ATTEND: The success of this project will be determined by your state EPPC's participation in providing the data. It is important that all state EPPC's support this project and become active in its implementation. This is a regional effort that will benefit all of the states in the southeast. It brings together SE-EPPC and all its state chapters in an important collaborative effort.

EDDMAPS Workshop topics include:

- Introduction to GPS/GIS
- Introduction to Plant Photography
- How to Enter Data into EDDMapS
- How to Receive Data from EDDMapS

Assessment Forum topics include:

- Invasive Plant Atlas Concept
- Invasive Plant Assessments
- Invasive Plant Weed Lists

REGISTRATION: Is free to SE-EPPC and state chapter members. Registration for non – members is \$25 (which will provide a one year membership to SE-EPPC). We are requesting that participants pre-register on line. Payment instructions for non-member registration will be posted on the web. There will also be on-site registration.

SPONSORS: Chattanooga Electric Power Company, SE-EPPC, TN-EPPC, Mississippi State University - Invasive Plant Atlas of the Mid-South, University of Georgia - Bugwood Network For Updates.

Directions, and More Information, visit www.se-eppc.org.

10. Upcoming Events

Florida EPPC 22nd Annual Symposium

April 30th, 2007, 7-12pm Meet @ Port Canaveral @6:30 pm. Cost for fishing tournament is \$45.00 and includes everything (rods/bait etc.) Link Below has driving directions as well as additional Information. <http://www.misscape.com/>

Mid –Atlantic EPPC bi-annual symposium - “Invasive Plants: Research, Removal and Renewal August 15 and 16, 2007at the University of Pennsylvania Philadelphia, PA

Certain plants that have been introduced to ecosystems cause a great deal of harm and have become a threat to biological diversity. These invasive plants reduce populations of other plants

and the animals that depend upon them. This is a problem we all face and we can all contribute to the solutions. Our quality of life ultimately depends on the health of our natural resources.

In this seminar you will find out: the extent of the invasive plant problem in the mid-Atlantic region; the latest invasive plant control technologies; native plants that are good alternatives for invasive garden plants; Federal invasive plant efforts; how deer contribute to the spread of invasive plants; new technologies to measure and monitor invasive plant populations; and how native plant recovery prevents the spread of invasive plants. For a complete brochure, contact the Morris Arboretum at 215-247-5777, ext. 156 or 125 or jlm@pobox.upenn.edu Sponsored by the Mid-Atlantic Exotic Pest Plant Council and the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania

Principles of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) - August 20 – 24, 2007 at the National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, WV

The course will be conducted over 5 days for a total of 36 hours. Topics include: key components of the IPM decision-making process; practical pest management problem solving; and writing effective and comprehensive IPM plans. Tuition is \$850. The deadline for enrollment is July 9, 2007. There is no tuition fee for U.S. Fish and Wildlife or National Parks Service personnel. To register, visit <http://training.fws.gov>. For registration questions, call the Registrar at (304) 876-7692. For course information please contact Gary L. Schetrompf, Gary_Schetrompf@fws.gov or SoLan Ching, SoLan_Ching@fws.gov at 304/876-7771

11. Jobs, resources, announcements, and other opportunities

Research Grant that Climate Change to Invasive Species: April 2, 2007, a new research grant opportunity entitled, "*Ecological Impacts from the Interactions of Climate Change, Land Use Change and Invasive Species*" is available through a joint research solicitation between the U.S. EPA's Science to Achieve Results (STAR) Program and the USDA's National Research Initiative (NRI) Competitive Grants Program. Research will quantitatively investigate how climate change, climate variability, and land use change:

- (1) Influence the establishment, abundance and distribution of invasive species;
 - (2) Interact with invasive species to create feedbacks that increase their success;
 - (3) Interact with invasive species to cause threshold responses in natural and managed systems;
- or
- (4) Affect the chemical, biological and mechanical management of invasive species.

The EPA is primarily interested in proposals addressing aquatic ecosystems and the USDA in terrestrial systems. For more information please see:

http://es.epa.gov/ncer/rfa/2007/2007_star_ecoimpacts.html. The submission deadline is June 26, 2007