

USDA Forest Service Botany in the News

Eastern and Southern Regions Partner on Non-Native and Invasive Species (NNIS) and Native Plant Classes at Eastern and Southern Regions University

Who: The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Eastern and Southern Regions of the USDA Forest Service System, Northeastern Area State, and Private Forestry.

What: Eastern and Southern Regions University (ESRU).

When: March 2007

Where: Regions 8 and 9, Columbus, Ohio.

How: Over the past 16 years, the Eastern and Southern Regions University (ESRU) has become a learning institution for Forest Service personnel in these two regions. In March 2007, the ESRU convened in Columbus, Ohio. For the last 5 years, TNC, State and Private Forestry, and the Eastern and Southern Regions of the Forest Service have partnered to offer three classes relating to invasive species and native plants.

The Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) class discusses why formation of CWMAs is important; examples; organizing; funding opportunities and resources available; contacts and authorities; and a field trip to the Darby Creek Preserve area. The Non-Native Invasive Species (NNIS) Management Class highlights tools and techniques to manage priority NNIS in the eastern and southern United States; principles to develop interdisciplinary NNIS programs; priority NNIS identified by students; and a hands-on exercise using TNC's weed management template for plants and animals of concern. The Native Plants in Restoration class offers: basic elements and techniques to develop native species programs on national forests; information regarding the use of native plant materials in restoration.

Why: Over the years, students in these three classes have represented numerous program areas, such as wildlife, fisheries, landscape architecture, engineering, botany, range, timber, fire, and more. These classes have thus provided an excellent means to integrate information and programs within these two Regions.

Contact: Jan Schultz Eastern Region (414) 297-1189.



Native plants restoration class.