Letter from the president

As my term as the President of GA EPPC comes to a close, I have taken some time to reflect on some of our organizations accomplishments during the five years I have served as an officer on the board. The short list includes:

- Hosting a very successful SE EPPC Conference in Athens in 2007
- Creating the “Alien Invaders” curriculum in partnership with the GA Forestry Commission and Elachee Nature Science Center (available online at www.gaeppc.org)
- Collaborating with the Georgia Green Industry on the “Alternatives to Non-native, Invasive Plants List” (also available online)
- Hosting invasive plant workshops across the state
- Expanding the Annual Membership meeting to include many great speakers on a variety of important topics
- Updating the list of invasive plants for Georgia with the creation of a new GA EPPC brochure and expanded online list (in progress)

I have enjoyed working with such a wonderful organization and a talented group of board members. I would like to encourage each and every member to become actively involved with GA EPPC by coming to a board meeting, serving on a committee, or helping with outreach and education. Your continued support, commitment and involvement are what it takes to make GA EPPC a success.

I am not giving up my commitment to educating the public about the problem of invasives or my drive to create weed-free natural areas, but I need to shift my focus back to my primary responsibility of managing the Chicopee Woods. I will continue to participate as a member of GA EPPC.

I am excited that Brian Arnold has agreed to serve as our next president. Brian has been a very active board member and brings years of experience in the Green Industry to the job. His ability to effectively collaborate on projects and build consensus are just what our organization needs.

I see great opportunities for GA EPPC in the coming years, and I believe that the 2011 board members and officers (see nominated slate below) are a dynamic group of talented people who will work to make sure the organization continues to succeed.
2011 GA EPPC Board Members:

- Jim Allison  Davidson-Arabia Mountain Nature Preserve
- Brian Arnold  Natures Landscape Services, Inc
- Stewart Chandler  Monrovia
- Matthew Chappell  UGA Horticulture Department
- Gary Dye  Georgia Power/Southern Company
- Chris Furqueron  National Park Service
- Meghan Hedeen  GA Department of Transportation
- Malcolm Hodges  The Nature Conservancy
- Mincy Moffett  GA Dept of Natural Resources
- Elaine Nash  GA Native Plant Society
- Karan Rawlins  UGA Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health

Non-Voting Members:

- David Moorhead & Chuck Barger, UGA Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health

2011 Officer Nominations:

- President  Brian Arnold
- President Elect  Karan Rawlins
- Secretary  Meghan Hedeen
- Treasurer  Elaine Nash

2010 Annual Meeting & Conference

GA-EPPC will host its 2010 Annual Meeting & Conference, Invasive Plants: The Impact on Georgia’s Ecology and Economy, on November 4, 2010 at Zoo Atlanta. Keynote speaker, Dr. Damon E. Waitt, is Senior Botanist at the University of Texas Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, an institution nationally recognized as an innovative leader in plant conservation and environmental sustainability, as well as the premier national source of information on native plants and landscapes.

Complete Program and Registration details can be found at www.gaeppc.org
It’s been a busy year for the board

A year has passed since the last issue of GA-EPPC NEWS was published, though not due to a lack of news to report. Board members have had a busy year in carrying out the mission of GA-EPPC.

The 2009 Annual Meeting, “Meeting the Challenges of Invasive Non-native Plants”, was held in November with over eighty registrants in attendance. Feedback from attendee surveys was very favorable, and is being used to help shape future meetings. Presentations from the 2009 Annual Meeting can be found on the GA-EPPC website, www.gaeppc.org.

Several board members have made multiple appearances before a diversity of groups, spreading the message about the perils of invasive plants. Programs designed to educate specific audiences including Green Industry professionals, home gardeners, and hunters have been held. Addressing what is arguably the most crucial audience, the message has been delivered to several school age students by way of the “Alien Invaders” program, which can be found on the GA-EPPC website.

Of course board meetings and committee meetings have been held throughout the year. As in the past, EPPC members are encouraged to attend board meetings and get involved with committee work, something that is being made easier in the future as members will be emailed with notification of scheduled board meetings.

Board members provided GA-EPPC’s “Invasive Non-Native Plant Control Workshop” at the Georgia Green Industry Association (GGIA) Wintergreen and Winterschool last January. The GGIA conference is widely respected in the industry, and provides an ideal opportunity to reach green industry professionals seeking knowledge about invasive plants.

Pictured: Attendees at GGIA Winterschool listen as GA-EPPC President Cynthia Taylor discusses Management of Invasive Plants.
Changes take place on Board of Directors

As in years past, the Annual Meeting will serve as the venue at which members will be asked to confirm officers for the Board of Directors.

Brian Arnold has been nominated as President, to replace outgoing President Cynthia Taylor. Brian is with Natures Landscape Services, Inc. and currently serves as GA-EPPC Secretary.

Current board member Karan Rawlins has been nominated for President Elect, replacing current President Elect Mincy Moffett, who is unable to continue in officer’s position, but will remain on the board. Karan is an Invasive Species Coordinator with The Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health at UGA.

Current board member Meghan Heeden has been nominated as secretary. Meghan serves as an Ecologist with the Georgia Department of Transportation.

Elaine Nash has been nominated as Treasurer, a capacity in which she already serves.

Leaving the Board of Directors is Cynthia Taylor of Elachee Nature Preserve, current board President and a founding member of GA-EPPC. The board is very appreciative of the sacrifice and leadership provided by Cynthia.

Dr. Gary Wade, Horticulture Specialist with UGA Department of Horticulture, is resigning from the board due to retirement. Gary has served actively and his perspective and contributions will be missed.

Danielle Green, Curator of Horticulture at Zoo Atlanta and active board member since 2008, is stepping down from the board as well. Danielle’s contribution will be missed.
“The List”

You might not think that a plant list could serve as a source of stress and lack of sleep, but put together a committee of individuals, each with a strong opinion regarding the issue of non-native invasive plants, incorporate input from a separate panel of professionals that also have strong opinions with regards to invasives, and some degree of stress is a sure thing. In the end though, the process will yield a Non-native Invasive Plant List that is as reliable as current knowledge provides.

“The List” committee, led by board member Mincy Moffett, has met on three occasions thus far in 2010, with hopes of producing a final product by years end.

Pictured: The List Committee during one of the work sessions
Board members participated in several community oriented programs, spreading the message about non-native invasive plants.

Pictured: Secretary Brian Arnold speaks with hunters and other general public at the March 13 “Community Trees Day” event sponsored by the Macon Museum of Arts and Sciences and the Georgia Urban Forest Council

Pictured: An attendee at Community Trees Day gathers information at GA-EPPC’s Alien Invader display
EDDMapS
Invasive Species Mapping Made Easy!

EDDMapS, started in 2005 with a Southeastern U.S. focus, is now providing a picture of the distribution of invasive species across the U.S.

- Fast and easy to use - no knowledge of GIS required
- Web-based mapping of invasive species distribution to help fill gaps and identify "leading edge" ranges
- Facilitates Early Detection and Rapid Response implementation with online data entry forms, e-mail alerts, and network of expert verifiers
- One Database for both local and national data
- Data can be searched, queried, and downloaded in a variety of formats
- Cooperates with and aggregates data from other invasive species mapping projects
- Custom-hosted applications can be quickly and inexpensively developed

MAP INVASIVES!
Quickly Enter or Select on a Map the Location of Invasive Species in Your Area.

ZAP INVASIVES!
Remove or Treat the Invasive Species You Find, Use EDDMapS to Document that treatment.

MAP IT AGAIN!
Monitor the Occurrence, Report the Monitoring Efforts, and Follow-up Treatments.

STATISTICS
595,443 County Reports
222,590 Point Reports
1,668 Species / 742 Users

Start Using EDDMapS!
www.eddmaps.org

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