Dear members and friends,

I hope you enjoy the 2nd GA-EPPC newsletter. I would like to thank Brian Arnold of Natures Landscape Services for his hard work and patience in producing it.

The 2009 GA-EPPC Annual Meeting is scheduled for November 5th at the State Botanical Garden of Georgia, and will consist of informative presentations and opportunities to share ideas. An outline of the Agenda can be found on page four. The GA-EPPC Board is excited to have such a great venue for the event. I hope that you will join us.

GA EPPC continues to provide our Invasive Plant Control workshop once a year in the Spring, 2010 date to be decided, as well as hosting a program at Georgia Green Industry Association’s Wintergreen in January. Additionally, our Board of Directors do presentations and other educational programs at various venues throughout the year. If you are interested in having a speaker at your meeting or event, feel free to contact me.

Working in partnership with representatives from the Georgia Green Industry Association, GA EPPC has developed a list of non-invasive alternatives to the most serious invasive exotic plants in Georgia (Categories 1 and 2 from the GA-EPPC list). It is now available online at www.gaeppc.org.

As this organization grows, we continually re-evaluate how we can improve our effectiveness. We would like to find ways to get more people involved. If you are interested in becoming involved with any of our committees, plan to attend the annual meeting. If you cannot attend, contact me and I will put you in touch with the committee chair.

GA EPPC Committees:
Invasive non-native plant list
Education
Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR)
Policy/legislation

We are always interested in hearing from members. Please contact me if you have any questions, suggestions, or would like to become more involved. And if you have news or articles for our next newsletter, please submit to brian@natureslandscapeservices.com.

Hope to see you at the annual meeting in November!

Cynthia C. Taylor
Secretary

GA-EPPC Officers:
President – Connie Gray
cp_gray@bellsouth.net
President Elect – Mincy Moffett,
Georgia Department of Natural Resources
mincy.moffett@dnr.state.ga.us
Secretary – Cynthia C. Taylor, Elachee Nature Science Center
preserve@elachee.org
Treasurer – Elaine Nash, Georgia Native Plant Society

Board of Directors:
Brian Arnold, Natures Landscape Services, Inc.
Bob Brinkman, Biological Services, Georgia Power Company
Chris Furqueron, National Park Service
Danielle Green, Curator of Horticulture and Environmental Initiatives, Zoo Atlanta
Meghan Hedeen, Ecologist, Georgia Department of Transportation
Malcolm Hodges, The Nature Conservancy
Gary Wade, University of Georgia, Horticulture

Dave Moorhead, UGA Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health, Co-Director
Chuck Bargeron, UGA Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health, Technology Coordinator
Gainesville/Hall County Cooperative Weed Management Area Continues to Serve As A Model For Success

Elachee Nature Science Center in Gainesville, GA coordinated the establishment of the Gainesville/Hall County Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) in 2007. Partners in the CWMA include GA EPPC, the Chicopee Woods Park Commission, City of Gainesville, Hall County, the Georgia Forestry Commission, Hall County Soil and Water Conservation, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Gainesville State College, Fockele Garden Company, and Atlanta Botanical Garden’s Smithgall Woodland Garden. The partners agree to work together for education, early detection, mapping, control and prevention of the spread of exotic invasive plants within Hall County.

Under Elachee’s leadership, the CWMA had accomplished a great deal:

- Mapped over 50 acres of infestations in the Chicopee Woods Park and surrounding area
- Treated over 50 acres of infestations
- Worked with GA EPPC to develop curriculum for K-12th grades and trained teachers & non-formal educators to use the new curriculum
- Educated 1,000+ local students
- Offered identification and control workshops to the public
- Trained and supervised 150 volunteers who donated over 600 volunteer hours working to control exotic invasives in the Chicopee Woods Park
- Created a brochure to educate the public and showcase the work of the partnership

For more information contact: cwma@elachee.org, 770-535-1976

Volunteers remove Microstegium in the Chicopee Woods

2009 GA-EPPC Annual Meeting & Two Landmark Events Scheduled

The 2009 GA-EPPC Annual Meeting is scheduled for November 5th at the State Botanical Garden of Georgia, and will consist of a day filled with informative presentations and opportunities to share ideas regarding nonnative invasive species. An outline of the Agenda can be found on page four. The GA-EPPC Board is excited to have such a great venue for the event, and a great line up of topics to be discussed.

The 2010 Joint Conference of Southeast Exotic Pest Plant Council and Southeast Chapter of Society for Ecological Restoration is scheduled to take place in Chattanooga, Tennessee in May of the respective year. The combined conference will provide a rare opportunity to take advantage of a wealth of information to be presented, and to network with attendees from other organizations. Watch the GA-EPPC website (gaeppc.org) for a link to details of the conference, when the agenda is finalized.

The 2011 Natural Areas Conference is scheduled to take place in Tallahassee, Florida sometime during fall of that year, and will provide another great opportunity to keep abreast of the most effective natural area management practices. A link to details of the event will be posted on the GA-EPPC website, when available.
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! ZAP INVASIVES! MAP IT AGAIN!

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

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

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
Meeting the Challenges of Invasive Non-native Plants
A Symposium Sponsored by:
The Georgia Exotic Pest Plant Council
November 5, 2009
The State Botanical Garden of Georgia, Athens, Georgia

The 2009 Georgia Exotic Pest Plant Council (GA-EPPC) Annual Meeting will be held at The State Botanical Garden of Georgia in Athens on November 5th. The theme of this year’s meeting is “Meeting the Challenges of Invasive Non-native Plants”. The day will be filled with informative presentations from speakers that are authorities in their subject matter. There will also be opportunities to share ideas and network with others involved in management of non-native invasive species. Professionals involved with Forest and Natural Resources, Land Management, Vegetation Management, Green Industry, Agriculture, and related professions, as well as land owners and other individuals concerned about non-native invasive species and natural areas, are encouraged to attend.

Agenda

• 8:00  Registration
• 9:00  Welcome, GA-EPPC Board
• 9:10  Keynote Address
  Heroic Group and Individual Efforts are Finally Making a Difference
  Dr. James H. Miller, USDA Forest Service Southern Research Station, Auburn Univ. School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences
• 10:00  Georgia’s Invasive Species Incentive Program – Economic Stimulus Funding
  James Johnson, Georgia Forestry Commission
• 10:50  Break
• 11:00  Using Farm Equipment to Kill Kudzu
  Newt Hardie, Kudzu Coalition
• 11:50  GA-EPPC Election of Officers
• 12:00  Lunch (included with registration)
• 1:00  Non-native Invasive Species and the Challenge of Landscape Design
  Steve Sanchez, Hughes, Good, O’Leary and Ryan
• 1:50  Georgia Invasives – implementing volunteer mapping using EDDMapS in Georgia
  Chuck Bargeron, UGA Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health
• 2:40  Break

• 2:50  Engaging Volunteers in Fighting Invasives
       Newt Hardie, Kudzu Coalition

• 3:40  Utilizing Volunteers for Invasive Plant Projects -
       A Panel Discussion
       See panel participants below

• 4:20  Closing remarks, evaluation, pesticide credits

• 4:30  Adjourn

Credits Available:
5 hours of Georgia Pesticide Credits (Cat. 21, 23, 24 and 27), 3 hours of CFE credits (Cat1-CF),
1.5 hours of South Carolina Pesticide Credits, 5.5 Certified Arborist CEU’s, & 5.5 Municipal
Specialist CEU’s

About the Speakers:

James (Jim) Miller is a Research Ecologist with the U.S. Forest Service, Southern Research Station, on
the Auburn University Campus and is an Affiliate Professor of Forestry with Auburn University's School of
Forestry and Wildlife Sciences.
Jim has Southern Regional responsibility for invasive plant research and development within the Forest
Service. He currently leads a Regional Task Force including all branches of the Forest Service to identify
the alien invasive species that most threaten southern forest sustainability.

Newt Hardie has led the Kudzu Coalition, an organization based in Spartanburg, S.C. that has pioneered
innovative, non-herbicidal means of kudzu and other non-native species control, with a volunteer work
force. The Coalition is also gaining knowledge for its "Kudzu College" program, in which attendees are
taught principals of the Kudzu Coalitions work.

Steve Sanchez is a Landscape Architect with Hughes, Good, O'Leary and Ryan. He has gained
recognition from both in and outside the Green Industry for his vision and practice of using non-invasive
plant material on projects in which he is involved.

Chuck Bargeron is Technology Coordinator at the University of Georgia Center for Invasive Species and
Ecosystem Health. He has led the effort of the Early Detection & Distribution Mapping System
(EDDMapS), which provides distribution information of non-native invasive species and serves as an
important tool in nonnative invasive species management. Chuck is also President of the Southeast
Exotic Pest Plant Council, SE-EPPC.

James Johnson is Forest Health Coordinator for the Georgia Forestry Commission. He leads the
Commissions invasive plant management programs and has been instrumental in the Commissions
Cogongrass management program. He is involved with management of the Federal Stimulus Programs
related Cost Share Incentives available on private and state lands.

Panelists:
Danielle Green, Curator of Horticulture and Environmental Initiatives for Zoo Atlanta;
Cynthia Taylor, Natural Resource Manager for Elachee Nature Science Center, Gainesville, GA
Newt Hardie, the Kudzu Coalition, Spartanburg, S.C.
Ayanna Williams, Park Pride
Blake Watkins, Trees Atlanta
Dave Butler, Dekalb County Parks Department
Registration
Meeting the Challenges of Invasive
Non-native Plants
A Symposium Sponsored by:
The Georgia Exotic Pest Plant Council
November 5, 2009

Name(s) of those attending: _____________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
Mailing Address:________________________________________________________________
City/State/ Zip Code: ___________________________________________________________
Phone: _____/_________________ Email address: __________________________________

Registration fee (before Friday, October 23):
Members of GA-EPPC:   $25/person
Non-members:  $45/person (includes 1-yr. membership in GA-EPPC)

Registration fee after October 23:
Members of GA-EPPC: $35/person
Non-members:  $55/person (includes 1-yr. membership in GA-EPPC)

Check here if you need a vegetarian lunch: _____
# attending ______   X  $ _______ = Total Enclosed:  $ _______________

Registration Payment Options (Federal Tax ID#586001998)
Sorry: Cash or phone registration can not be accepted
1. By Check: Please make check payable to: The University of Georgia.
   Mail registration form and check to:
   Athens Conference Office, 202 Hoke Smith Building, Athens, GA 30602

2. By Credit Card:  Mail or FAX registration form with credit card information to:
   Athens Conference Office, 202 Hoke Smith Building, Athens, GA 30602, FAX: 706/583-0348
   Type of Card:   ____ Visa   ____ MasterCard   ____ American Express
   Credit Card Number __________________________________
   Security Code: ___________   Expiration Date: _____________
   Name on Card: ______________________________________
   Signature: _________________________________________

For directions to the State Botanical Garden of Georgia, see http://www.uga.edu/botgarden/directions.html
Questions? Phone: 706/542-0808
New GA-EPPC Board Members From Diverse Professions Share Common Concerns of Nonnative Invasive Plants

The GA-EPPC board welcomes some new faces in 2009 to help in steering the organization toward the task of combating nonnative invasive plants.

**Meghan Hedeen** graduated from the Wildlife Conservation program at the University of Delaware with a B.S. in Entomology. For years she worked as a field biologist and as an educator. Now, she works as an Ecologist for the Georgia Department of Transportation.

**Bob Brinkman** is a senior environmental analyst for Georgia Power Company. Bob works with Georgia Power land management foresters, right-of-way foresters, and lake managers throughout Georgia to review natural resources issues, including invasive exotic species. He is responsible for protection of protected plant species on Georgia Power properties, designated as Special Management Areas.

**Brian Arnold** graduated from the University of Georgia for studies in Ornamental Horticulture. He is also a Certified Arborist. He has been in the Green Industry for over twenty years and manages Tree/Shrub & Turf Care operations for Natures Landscape Services, Inc. in the Southern Crescent of Atlanta. His passion for the preservation of natural areas evolved into involvement with GA-EPPC.

GA-EPPC Loses A Friend

GA-EPPC mourns the loss of **Marty Langmaid**, killed by a drunk driver on July 1, 2009. Marty had been recently named as a GA-EPPC Board member and represented the Georgia Green Industry. Marty was employed by Monrovia Growers in Cairo, Georgia and was well respected by his peers. He left behind a wife, son, and daughter-in-law.
Meet the GA-EPPC Board

**Connie Gray, Ecological Resource Specialist**

Connie has been an active member of the GA-EPPC for several years and currently serves as President. She was instrumental in developing the Invasive Plant Control Workshop Program that GA-EPPC has conducted since 2004.

Connie’s background in horticulture, integrated pest management, and landscape architecture has evolved into a specialization in natural plant communities and restoration of natural areas, particularly in urban areas.

**Gary Wade, Professor and Extension Horticulturist, Department of Horticulture, University of Georgia**

Dr. Wade holds a B.S. degree in Horticulture from West Virginia University, an M.S. degree in Horticulture from Michigan State University, and a Ph.D. in Horticulture from Louisiana State University. He is responsible for planning and coordination of statewide and regional programs for the professional landscape industry. He serves on the Boards of the Georgia Green Industry Association and the Georgia Water Wise Council.

**Meghan Hedeen, Ecologist, Georgia Department of Transportation**

Meghan graduated from the Wildlife Conservation program at the University of Delaware with a B.S. in Entomology. For years she worked as a field biologist and as an educator. Now, she works as an Ecologist for the Georgia Department of Transportation.

**Bob Brinkman, Georgia Power Company, Biological Services**

Bob is a senior environmental analyst for Georgia Power Company. His responsibilities include working with land management foresters, right-of-way foresters, and lake managers throughout Georgia to review natural resources issues, including invasive exotic species. He is responsible for protection of protected plant species on GPC properties, designated as Special Management Areas. This responsibility allows him to be actively involved in the Georgia Plant Conservation Alliance.

**Danielle L. Green, Curator of Horticulture and Environmental Initiatives, Zoo Atlanta**

Danielle holds a BS in Biology with concentration in Horticulture from Christopher Newport University. She is responsible for the development and management of the Zoo’s public and exhibit landscape, exhibit construction and renovation projects, botanical and environmental education programs, resource use and recycling, and staff training.
**Mincy Moffett, Botanist and Conservation Ecologist,**  
**Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources, Nongame Section**  
Mincy’s diverse background is in business, environmental public policy, and science. He holds a B.A. in Economics from The University of the South (Sewanee), a M.B.A. from Georgia State University, and is finishing a Ph.D. in Plant Biology from Auburn University.

Mincy transitioned from banking/insurance, to environmental work with Greenpeace, and on to science and conservation with Georgia DNR. His research and conservation interests include Xyris taxonomy, rare plant floristic surveys, restoration of S. Appalachian mountain bog and upper Piedmont oak/pine savannas, and invasive plant species education and control.

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**Chris Furqueron, National Park Service**

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**Cynthia C. Taylor, Natural Resource Manager,**  
**Elachee Nature Science Center**

Cynthia is Natural Resource Manager for Elachee Nature Science Center and manages the 2600-acre Chicopee Woods Area Park. She is responsible for identifying, mapping, and coordinating control efforts on the many acres of invasives in the park. She serves on the Gainesville/Hall County Weed Management Area steering committee and as secretary for GA-EPPC.

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**Brian Arnold, Horticulturist, Natures Landscape Services, Inc.**

Brian earned his B.S.A. in Ornamental Horticulture at the University of Georgia and has worked in the Green Industry for over twenty years. He manages Tree/Shrub & Turf Care operations at Natures Landscape Services.

As a wildlife enthusiast, Brian decided to become involved with GA-EPPC as a result of realizing the habitat destruction brought forth by non-native invasive plants.

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**Elaine Nash, Georgia Native Plant Society**

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**Malcolm Hodges, Conservation Biologist,**  
**The Nature Conservancy, Georgia Chapter**

“Non-native invasive plants and animals are the second greatest threat to natural species and ecosystems, after development. I think GA-EPPC offers an effective avenue of combating invasive plant problems statewide, so my involvement as GA-EPPC vice president is important for my work at TNC.”
As a source of plant material used in landscapes of homes and businesses, the Green Industry has been and is expected to continue to be an important factor with regards to the issue of invasive species. In an effort to increase industry awareness of the issue, as well as involvement with the issue, the following article was recently submitted to and subsequently published within an Atlanta Green Industry Newsletter, MALTA News. Content within the article offers the opinion of the author, and should not be construed as the opinion of GA-EPPC or MALTA.

**Nonnative Invasion & the Green Industry**

Having developed a livelihood in the Green Industry over twenty years ago, the observation of how others in the industry feel in regards to the outdoors, has been more or less unavoidable.

With no exceptions that I am aware of, the industry is comprised of people that love to be outdoors enjoying God’s creation, and finding satisfaction in the part they play in proliferating it.

By the very nature of their work, Green Industry professionals have made countless environmental contributions. On the surface, they have performed simple praiseworthy task such as planting trees, shrubs and groundcovers. Upon closer observation, they have provided more significant contributions such as cooling the environment, controlling erosion, and creating environments that improve quality of life.

Environmental benefits from the Green Industry are many. Still, there is an emerging issue that if mishandled, may portray our industry with an image of having a detrimental environmental impact. The issue is that of “Nonnative Invasive Species” originating from our industry and eventually invading and damaging natural habitat.

I believe that addressing the issue of Nonnative Invasive Species, in a pro-active manner, is essential to our long term sustainability.

Nonnative Invasive Species originating from our industry include some ornamental plants, and also includes pathogens and insects that hitch-hike on plant material used.

Due to being the issue in which we can most easily focus and impact, and because it is the issue that the public is beginning to associate us with, the issue of nonnative invasive plants is the issue that we should direct most of our attention at present.

Spread by birds and other wildlife, other natural means, and human activity, the presence of nonnative invasive plants vary considerably from area to area. It is within the “natural” areas, areas that we don’t necessarily focus on, ranging from areas peripheral to man made landscapes to areas that are literally miles away from the source problem, that the impact of nonnative invasive plants can be seen. Competing with natural plant communities, invasive plants in these areas cause dysfunction in the habitat.

Due to the seriousness of invasive species of all types, The University of Georgia recently created the “Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health”, which among other things maintains a list of nonnative invasive plants. The list includes well known plants such as Chinese Privet (*Ligustrum sinense*), which due to its ability to out compete virtually all native plants, has invaded over three hundred thousand acres in Georgia alone. It also includes other common plants such as English Ivy (*Hedera helix*), which invades by its creeping habit, and Sacred Bamboo Nandina (*Nandina domestica*), which easily spreads by seed.

Shifting away from the use of some of the ornamental plants in question will present some challenges, but having been in the industry as long as I have, I know that challenges for us are nothing new. We need to be among the leaders surrounding this issue, not portrayed as a source of the problem. Too many of our colleagues have worked too hard at conveying our impact on the environment, to allow it be handled any other way.

Both supply and demand of the economic scenario make an abrupt shift away from using any plant material considered to be invasive, virtually impossible. But though an immediate and complete shift away from respective plants may be impossible, substituting with noninvasive plant material, when possible, will have a significant impact and should be considered seriously by each of us.
Professional Associations such as GA-EPPC (Georgia Exotic Pest Plant Council) and SE-EPPC (Southeast Exotic Pest Plant Council), along with institutions such as the UGA Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health mentioned above, provide information and resources that are accessible online.

Having attended just a few EPPC functions, I have noticed involvement from professionals in land care, forestry, and related areas. Though there is some involvement from within our industry, we need more. Management of alternate plant list, as well as the list of plants considered to be invasive, are areas where Green Industry professionals with plant knowledge can contribute.

The GA-EPPC conducts a statewide Annual Meeting, attendance at which provides for more insight to the issue and an opportunity for involvement. Speakers who are authorities with regard to the subject matter present the issues and offer solutions to an audience of land care-related professionals. The 2009 Annual Meeting, when confirmed, will be posted at gaeppc.org, and is certainly worthy of consideration.

With quarantines and legislation regarding the issue being considered, we will sooner or later be forced to confront this issue far more than we presently do. By becoming involved sooner as opposed to later, we can protect the image that we have worked so hard for and help in protecting the environment that we love. We may also protect ourselves from the burden of additional legislation.

Brian Arnold
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