

California Exotic Pest Plant Council (CalEPPC)

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For more information, contact Executive Director Doug Johnson at dwjohnson@caleppc.org.

Background

- The first symposium was held in 1990.
- CalEPPC was established as a nonprofit organization in 1992.
- CalEPPC serves the entire state, and has relationships with invasive plant specialists in Arizona and Nevada. Within California, CalEPPC works closely with state agencies, especially the California Department of Food & Agriculture and county-based Weed Management Areas organized by CDFA, as well as the California Native Plant Society and other non-profits.
- CalEPPC holds an annual symposium each October, with two days of presentations and workshops, and a day of field trips. Approximately 200 people attend. This year's is titled, "Costs & Consequences of Invasive Plants," and will be held October 11-13 in Sacramento. CalEPPC also teams with other allied organizations to hold workshops and other events during the year.
- CalEPPC has a 15-member board of directors that meets 5-6 times each year. Board members serve staggered two-year terms. There are positions for President, Vice-president, Secretary, Treasurer, and Past-president, plus ten at-large members.
- CalEPPC publishes a 12-page newsletter—CalEPPC News—quarterly.
- CalEPPC charges \$30/year for a basic membership. There are currently over 500 members.
- CalEPPC's webpage is www.caleppc.org.
- CalEPPC hired its first staffmember, Executive Director Doug Johnson, in April, 2002.
- CalEPPC's current membership (Oct.1) is 568, but there are 800 people in our database.

Projects

- **Weed List:** In 1996, CalEPPC published "Exotic Pest Plants of Greatest Ecological Concern in California." Plants are classified by invasiveness and current extent. The list was revised once in 1999, and is currently in revision again. The current process will not only update the list, but develop a more transparent ranking system. The goal is to make increase the scientific credibility of the rankings, and to create a protocol that will be usable by other states, and easily updateable. The new list and protocol will be published in 2003.
- **Landscaping Alternatives:** CalEPPC has convened a working group to develop non-invasive alternatives to invasive plants that are used in horticulture. The first phase of the project will create educational materials for nurseries, and focus on a pilot area in the San Francisco Bay Area.
- **Biocontrols:** CalEPPC has sponsored efforts researching potential biocontrol agents for Cape ivy and for brooms. Both efforts team with the USDA/ARS station in Albany, California. Cape ivy research coordinates with researchers in South Africa, while the broom project coordinates with Australian researchers working in Europe.

Michigan Invasive Plant Council
Briefing Paper September 26, 2002

Members of the Michigan Invasive Plant Council (MIPC) share a concern about the effects of invasive plants in our state. Members of the council include representatives from state and federal agencies, cities, colleges and universities, and private individuals and organizations. Interests include natural areas, botany, horticulture, wildflower conservation, biological control and bee keeping. Since its formation in early 2000, it has allied with similar councils in the eastern United States in an effort to promote the exchange of information about invasive plants and encourage responsible solutions. More information can be found on the MIPC web site located at <http://forestry.msu.edu/mipc/>

A board of directors consisting of eight directors-at-large and the executive committee governs the MIPC. The board meets on a quarterly basis to conduct the business of the council. Elections are held during the annual meeting for all officers and one-half of the directors. MIPC conducts an annual symposium to facilitate exchange of information on invasive plant issues. The St. Louis Declaration will be the theme of the 2003 symposium. The Michigan Nursery and Landscape Association will host the 2003 symposium as part of its Great Lakes Trade Show Exposition, January 7-8, 2003 in Lansing, Michigan.

MIPC is focusing its energies on developing invasiveness ratings for all non-native plant species known to occur in Michigan, as reported in the Floristic Quality Assessment developed by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. The strategy will be to document the economic, aesthetic and ecological effects of the plant species. Criteria have been developed using the Virginia Natural Heritage Program model with additional criteria for the urban ecosystem, production forests, and agricultural systems. MIPC will be reviewing information from surrounding states and documented reports from within Michigan to derive the first filter on the data. Next we will solicit professional input and participation in assessing each species. Once the list is developed, there will be a review process including periodic evaluation and updating. MIPC members will take the listings to their respective organizations and agencies for review. An interim short list will be produced in about one year, detailing some of the most invasive species. A final listing will be produced in approximately two years, contingent upon funding for the initiative.

Mid-Atlantic Exotic Pest Plant Council, Inc.

Updated: October, 2002

MA-EPPC STATISTICS:

Original meeting: March 5, 1999

By-laws adopted: May 17, 2000

Incorporated: September 20, 2000

501 (c) (3) Application Approval: July 11, 2001 (date of IRS advance ruling)

Membership: 104 members (as of 9/25/02): 3 lifetime; 6 institutional; 95 Ind.

States Represented: PA, MD, WV, DE, NJ, VA, D.C.

Organizational Structure: MA-EPPC, Inc. is a regional organization with representation on its Board of Directors from the District of Columbia (Washington, D.C.), DE, MD, PA, VA, WV and VA. The organization is a strictly volunteer effort with a Board of Directors that consists of four officers (President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary) and twelve directors.

Number of Meetings/Year: Four, plus our annual business meeting

Website: <http://www.se-eppc.org/states/midatlantic.cfm> (current)
<http://www.ma-eppc.org> (future)

MA-EPPC ACTIVITIES

OUTREACH COMMITTEES:

Conference/Annual Meeting Committee: This committee organizes the group's annual business meetings and symposia. To date, MA-EPPC has sponsored a two-day symposium entitled "Invasive Plants: Action on all Fronts" (August, 2001), an annual meeting/field day at Canaan Valley State Park, WV (August, 2002) and will be sponsoring a two-day Invasive Plant Symposium in Philadelphia, PA on August 6-7, 2003. The Council's annual business meeting will take place at this time.

List Serve Committee: The List Serve has effectively helped MA-EPPC reach its goal of facilitating information exchange and networking at the regional level. There are currently 175 members on the List Serve. To join, send a blank e-mail to ma-eppc-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

Speakers Bureau: This committee is developing outreach tools to assist and encourage members and individuals to "spread the word". Within a few months, a powerpoint (electronic) and slide presentation with accompanying text entitled "Invasive Plants of the Mid-Atlantic Region" will be made available.

On-the-Ground Committee: This committee works with existing programs throughout the region to educate and facilitate information exchange and networking opportunities regarding invasive plant identification, control, management and restoration. These workshops are intended to address the growing need for demonstration and information sharing. They are open to members and non-members and are either free or charge a minimal fee.

Policy Committee: The purpose of this committee is to be knowledgeable and current on important national and state policies related to invasive species and to represent the organization as appropriate. The most recent activities of this committee have been focused on informing the MA-EPPC board and membership on the St. Louis Principles and the implementation of the National Invasive Species Management Plan, and seeking the group's endorsement of these important initiatives.

Website Committee: The website committee has been hard at work developing a new and more compete web page, with a much simpler url (www.ma-eppc.org) that better identifies the organization. Our current web page is hosted by the Southeast-EPPC. Our new web page will provide lots of helpful information on invasive species in the region in an attractive, user-friendly, interactive format.

List Committee: We refer to our list as a Publicity List, a compilation of already available state, local and federal invasive plant lists from the region. Its intention is to provide an educational tool to explain the impact of invasive plants and to provide a thumbnail sketch of what plants are invasive. This will be made available, in final format, in the near future.

Industry Outreach Committee: This committee endeavors to create opportunities for dialogue and partnership with various entities representing the horticultural industry, an industry responsible for a significant number of invasive plant introductions. To date, the committee has met with the Maryland Nursery and Landscape Association, scheduled a meeting with the PA Landscape and Nurseryman's Association and has presented talks at the Perennial Plant Association, the MD Cooperative Extension Service and welcomes these types of interactions.

Scientific Research Committee: This committee is charged with developing and updating literature lists and a database for invasive plants in the mid-Atlantic region, as well as writing species synopsis that focus on research gaps. Literature lists and synopsis have been completed for Japanese stiltgrass and purple loosestrife while Japanese knotweed and porcelain berry are being worked on.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES

Membership Committee: This committee has oversight of membership cultivation and has developed a brochure to solicit new members and to kindle interest in the organization. The committee is also developing a member solicitation plan.

Nominating Committee: This committee serves to identify and recruit new members for the Board of Directors.

New England Invasive Plant Group

The New England Invasive Plant Group is an organization that networks organizations, agencies and individuals concerned about the invasive plant issue in the region.

Established: First informational meeting June 1999

Number of Members: No formal membership yet. Original members - 45. Steering Committee – 22.
Mailing list - 1149

Structure: Regional. All New England States (ME, NH, VT, MA, CT, RI), with NY included on the steering committee. Does not currently have nonprofit status.

Meetings: Steering Committee meets twice a year. Conferences include member meetings planned for every other year. Next one in Fall, 2003.

Major current focus (funded through USDA):

Invasive Plant Atlas of New England (IPANE)
Early warning system
Sharing of information

Future focus: Rapid response program

Newsletter: Electronic, twice a year, with sporadic time-sensitive information sent by email. First issue in hardcopy format. No fee currently.

Symposium: every other year, sometimes in conjunction with other organizations' conferences. Next one in Fall, 2003.

Website: IPANE website: www.eeb.uconn.edu/ipane
NIPGro website: goal for 2003

Services provided:

- *Electronic newsletter*
To be published twice a year, a newsletter provides updates on member's projects, notification of conferences, control information, and other newsworthy items affecting New England. Intermittent *Email notices* provide time-sensitive information between newsletters. Available to all upon request.
- *Slide Library*
Invasive plant slides are available on loan or at cost for presentation purposes
- *A compilation of invasive species outreach materials* prepared by organizations in the region is available on loan.

Upcoming offerings:

- *Invasive Plant Atlas of New England (IPANE)* Invasive plants and noxious weeds of New England will be inventoried by volunteers and documented on an online atlas. This resource will form the basis for

an “early warning and rapid response system” for new invaders. Websites:
<http://www.eeb.uconn.edu/ipane/> and www.newfs.org. New volunteers welcome.

- A *NIPGro Webpage* will be developed in 2003.
- *Research Repository*
Links will be made with researchers working on the issue so they can keep us abreast of their research findings and we can provide them with ideas for needed research.
- *Conferences* will be held in 2003 and 2005
- An “*Alternatives Think-tank*” will bring together groups recommending replacements for invasive plants still in use. Resources will be compiled and assessed with the goal of designing useful tools for professional designers and homeowners.

Funding:

Under a grant from the United States Department of Agriculture and previous grants from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge supports the administration activities of the group. The USDA grant also funds the Invasive Plant Atlas of New England, developed by the University of Connecticut and the New England Wild Flower Society.

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The Invasive Plant Council of New York State

415 River St, 4th Floor

Troy, NY 12180

Phone: 518-271-0346

The Invasive Plant Council of New York State was incorporated in 1999. Our goal has been to organize an effective partnership among public and private organizations to address the need for invasive species information and control across the state. Working together, public and private agencies and concerned private citizens will find practical solutions to invasive species problems and protect our diverse natural heritage.

We are a comprehensive statewide effort to increase public and agency awareness of invasive plant species issues. We have worked to develop practical field tools for the control of the most serious invasive plant species. To date we've done so by supporting field research, building a website, a library of fact sheets, and doing presentations for interested groups in an effort to educate.

IPC's mission clearly states a direction that provides for a long-term vision; to compile and facilitate access to information on invasives, define policies and goals for invasives management, educate the general public about invasives, develop an "official" state list of invasive species, develop a list of alternative plants to invasives, promote management projects in the field and to hold conferences/forums on invasives and their management. Given the growth that has taken place in the past two years, as well as what should be expected in the next five years, these directives are in need of refining. In order to allow for further growth some need "pruning" to allow others the ability to grow for the future.

In order to fulfill our mission statements of education and access to the data collected in the field, the daily focus of the IPC has changed. Where in the past year or more we've supported field projects, in 2002 we have been focused on building our internal infrastructure that supports the exchange of information for education, study and management of invasive plant species. The need for a strong centrally located and managed database from which to draw predictive, accurate information has driven this new focus. It has become apparent that in order to best utilize the data collected in research we need to develop and maintain a database of species information. Working cooperatively with other federal, state, local and private agencies we are collecting and compiling the database.

This database will be used to generate GIS maps to identify invasive plant distribution and local and regional areas at risk. The vision also includes two other, separate databases, which will house management procedure specifications and resource people contact information.

Collectively, the database will offer the ability to illustrate invasive plant distribution New York State. It will also increase our ability to build cooperative relations with federal, state and private partners for research and increase our ability for early detection, rapid response, and statewide strategic planning for controlling individual species. Access to our database information will be through our updated website, offering educational and control materials.

North Carolina EPPC Really Exists

While folks from North Carolina have attended Exotic Pest Plant Council meetings in other states, an official NC-EPPC had just been in the formative stages for the past few years. We gathered information from other EPPCs and have been doing things like writing by laws and establishing our purposes under the leadership of Gene Cross from the NC Department of Agriculture. One of our objectives from the outset was to encourage participation by the diversity of interests impacted by Invasive Plants. We wanted the many points of view on the subject of Invasive Exotic Plants considered for the benefit of all North Carolinians.

On March 21, 2002 the North Carolina Chapter of the Exotic Pest Plant Council officially came into existence. In general, the purposes of the Council are to:

- Provide a focus for issues and concerns regarding exotic pest plants in North Carolina
- Facilitate communication and the exchange of information regarding all aspects of exotic pest plant control and management
- Provide a forum where all interested parties may participate in meetings and share in the benefits from the information generated by Council
- Promote public understanding regarding exotic pest plants and their control
- Serve as an advisory council regarding funding, research, management, and control of exotic pest plants
- Facilitate action campaigns to monitor and control exotic pest plants in North Carolina
- Review incipient and potential pest plant management problems and activities and provide relevant information to interested parties

The board consists of:

Arboreta – Alison Arnold, The North Carolina Arboretum
Citizen – Jeff Birk
Conservation – Kim Douglas, Triangle Land Conservancy
Government – Jame Amoroso, NC Natural Heritage Program
Nursery Industry – Rick Crowder, Hawksridge Farms
Landscape Industry – Tom Suddreth, UNC – Chapel Hill

Officers are:

President – Dick Bir, NC State University
Vice President – Johnny Randall, NC Botanical Garden
Secretary – Ann Gill, Mecklenburg County
Treasurer – Steve Manning, Invasive Plant Control, Inc.

Anyone with questions can contact me at dick_bir@ncsu.edu, 828/684-3562 or FAX 828/684-8715

Additional information and upcoming activities:

- NC-EPPC's annual mtgs. will be held as symposia as close to the first day of spring each year as possible.
- NC-EPPC had an invasives awareness educational session at the Native Plants Conference in Cullowhee last summer (2002). . . about 100 participated.
- Numerous projects involving NC-EPPC are under way. . . mostly just helping or cooperating with others. The next one locally is a 'Bittersweet Sweep' with a group of local folks working with the Blue Ridge Parkway on their corridor through Asheville. Johnny Randall has been working with property owners in the Chapel Hill area. There is a weed team working with Ann Gill in the Charlotte area with diverse projects including public school education programs . . . a video is being produced as a result.

Organization: **Southeast Exotic Pest Plant Council (SE-EPPC)**
4824 Torbay Drive
Nashville, Tennessee 37211

Type: Regional with state chapters: 1) Florida 2) Tennessee 3) North Carolina 4) Georgia 5) Kentucky 6) Mississippi
Alabama (forming) South Carolina (affiliate: represented by the South Carolina Native Plant Society)

501C3 non-profit: Group exemption status enables SE-EPPC to add or remove state chapters annually by a letter to the IRS. New state chapters are given provisional status for one year and must submit bylaws for approval by the SE-EPPC Board.

Incorporated in Tennessee

Bylaws provide governing authority to the Board of Director. The Board of Directors meets quarterly. It is comprised of one delegate from each state chapter, four officers, a past president, and liaisons to federal agencies (regional office). SE-EPPC requires that state chapters have a Board of Directors that meet four times per year. Minutes from SE-EPPC and state chapter board meetings are posted on the SE-EPPC webpage.

Established: 1999 – Oak Ridge Tennessee at the 1st annual symposium

Membership: 580 members from state chapters, 47 members at large (not represented by state chapters)

Activities: Annual symposium, SE-EPPC News (in transition from hardcopy newsletter to electronic web based news updates), Wildland Weeds (quarterly magazine printed by Florida EPPC contains SE-EPPC news) webpage: www.se-eppc.org and web list serve, electronic SE-EPPC Vegetation Management Manual (under construction)

Committees: Executive Committee (officers), Membership Committee, and Budget Committee

Mission: Raise public awareness about the spread of exotic plants into the Southeast's natural areas and their impact on native plant communities of the Southeast.
To facilitate communication and the exchange of information with all interested parties regarding any and all aspects of exotic pest plant control and management.
Provide a forum for all interested parties to participate in meetings, workshops, and an annual symposium, and to share the benefits from the information provided by SE-EPPC.
Serve as an educational, advisory, and technical support council on all aspects of invasive exotic pest plants.
Initiate campaign actions to prevent future introductions.
To facilitate action campaigns to monitor and control exotic pest plants that impact native plant communities in the Southeast.

TENNESSEE- EPPC Update

October 14, 2002

Jack Ranney, TN-EPPC VP

TN-EPPC Mission – Focus on Educating the Public to:

- Raise TN public awareness of invasive plant threats,
- Inform on identification, management, and control of invasive exotic plants,
- Provide forums for exchange of information on invasive plants,
- Serve as an educational, advisory and technical support council,
- Initiate actions to prevent further introductions,
- Host and facilitate studies on invasive plants.

TN-EPPC Information:

- Year established – 1994
- Members – 44 (+ 40 not yet renewed)
- BOD meetings – 4 (quarterly)
- Account holdings – about \$20,000.00
- Newsletter – recently integrated into *Wildland Weeds*
- Working toward list-server for newsletter
- Symposia – help SE-EPPC symposium; plan on annual TN-EPPC symposium
- Website: <http://www.tn-eppc.org>

What Else is TN-EPPC Doing?

- TN-EPPC Manual – expanding 20 species to 30 by Dec., 2002 for SE-EPPC manual
 - (*Sericea lespedeza*, *coltsfoot*, *Chinese silvergrass*, *crown vetch*, *English ivy*, *bamboos*, *Chinese tallotree*, *Chinese yam*, *hydrilla*, *water hyacinth*)
- Plant list for the State (in TN Academy of Science Journal)
- Membership brochure (in progress)
- Helping UT Herbarium voucher specimens
- Special partnerships with TVA, SAMAB, UT, FWS to cost-share (training materials, volunteer training, invasives data management with NBII node)

More Accomplishments:

- Displays, videos and presentations
- Volunteer training, classroom teaching, stakeholder workshops
- Assist communities on ordinances
- Literature Review (published and gray) (done)

Near Future Plans

- Flash cards and new posters
- Planning annual symposia
- Considering TN invasive species management plan
- Target specific stakeholder groups
 - The nursery and landscaping industry (workshop in 2003)
 - R.O.W. managers
 - Selected communities
 - Federal agencies (to encourage coordination)
 - Conservation groups (e.g. land trusts)

Major Challenge and Actions

- Low membership
 - initiating strategic planning process to focus on stakeholder and actions
 - developing membership tracking system
 - workshops (stakeholders, regions)
 - internet presence
 - more active training efforts/materials
 - colorful benefits for members
- Other Invasive Plant Groups
 - Seeking active partnerships
 - Uncertainty with agriculture
- Securing Sponsors/Projects
 - Seeking active partnerships on proposals
 - Meeting specific stakeholder interests

Invasive Plants Association of Wisconsin

IPAW was initiated in March of 2001 in conjunction with the first "Plants out of Place" conference in Eau Claire, WI. Approximately 80 people participated in the organizational meeting and selected board members. The board currently has 11 members and meets almost monthly. The following committees were formed:

- Nominating
- Membership
- Communications
- Science
- Plant Industry Relations
- Conference 2003
- Education
- Government Relations
- Fundraising
- Regional Groups- currently includes 5 regional groups and 5 county groups

Membership is roughly 100 paid members, with additional persons as members of the IPAW email distribution list.

Major activities include:

- Obtaining 501c3 non-profit status
- Establishing a brochure, website (www.ipaw.org) and an email discussion group
- Publishing and distributing two newsletters
- Staffing an educational display at numerous conferences
- In conjunction with the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Commission, conducting and analyzing a survey assessing the status of approx 250 non-native plants. This data will be used to develop a state list of invasive plants for the state.
- Working with representatives of nursery, landscape and seed industries to develop ways to work with these industries to minimize the use of known invasives and to deal with invasive species used in agriculture (eg, reed canary grass) and for landscaping.
- Participating on the Governor's Task Force on Invasive Species. This task force developed recommendations that recently were passed into law regarding developing a state invasive species program and Governor's Council on Invasive Species.
- Participating in a technical advisory committee to revise the state's weed laws.

IPAW will be hosting a one-day symposium on "Invasive Plants of the Upper Midwest" on **Saturday, Sept. 27, 2003**, as a part of the next Natural Areas Conference. The conference will be held from Sept. 24 - 27, 2003 in Madison Wisconsin. Posters and presentations for the symposium are being sought, as well as ideas for session topics.

IPAW will also be working with the US Forest Service to facilitate an organizational meeting to develop a regional invasive plant group (EPPC) for the Upper Midwest. This meeting will be Tuesday evening, **October 29, 2002** at the Chicago Botanic Gardens Invasive Plant Conference.

Contacts for more information:

IPAW - Nancy Braker - nbraker@tnc.org - 608-251-8140

2003 Symposium or Regional EPPC meeting - Kelly Kearns - kelly.kearns@dnr.state.wi.us
608-267-5066

IPAW website - www.ipaw.org

September, 2002