

The U.S. National Arboretum
Invasive Plant Management Conference Agenda
“Prevention Strategies for Invasive Species”
 March 18, 2008

Welcome to the National Arboretum	National Arboretum Staff	9:00-9:15
Overview of the Global Invasive Species Prevention Training Course	Randy Westbrook, US Geological Service Invasive Species Specialist	9:15-10:00
Prevention of Invasive Species on US Fish and Wildlife Refuges	Michael Lusk, National Invasive Species Coordinator; National Wildlife Refuge System & US Fish & Wildlife Service	10:00-10:30
Designing a data reporting system for weed control programs	Melissa Bravo, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Botanist/Weed Scientist Bureau of Plant Industry	10:30-11:10
Break	Break	11:10-11:20
National Park Service's Exotic Plant Management Teams' role in the Prevention of Invasive Plants	Sue Salmons, Liaison - Exotic Plant Management Team, National Capital Region	11:20-11:35
The National Invasive Species Council and its Role in the Prevention of Invasive Species	Chris Dionigi, Ph.D., Assistant Director for Domestic Policy, Science, and Cooperation; National Invasive Species Council (NISC)	11:35-12:00
LUNCH	Lunch Served at the Arboretum	12:00-1:00
Prevention of Invasive Species on Municipally Managed Lands	Meghan Fellows, Naturalist Resource Specialist and Invasive Management Area Coordinator; Natural Resource Management and Protection Fairfax County Park Authority	1:00-1:30
The Role of Exotic Pest Plant Councils in the National Strategy for the Prevention of Invasive Species	Lee Patrick Treasurer, Southeast Exotic Pest Plant Council	1:30-2:00
Public Awareness Strategies for the Prevention of Invasive Species	Steven Manning President Invasive Plant Control, Inc.	2:00-2:30
Cookie Break	Break	2:30-2:45
Tour of Invasive Plant Work at the National Arboretum	Lee Patrick, Steven Manning Arboretum staff	2:45-4:00

Co-sponsored by the U.S. National Arboretum and Invasive Plant Control, Inc.

Invasive Plant Management Symposium
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Speaker Biographies

Dr. Chris Dionigi

Dr. Chris Dionigi is the Assistant Director for Domestic Policy for the National Invasive Species Council (NISC). NISC was established by the Executive Order 13112 and is co-chaired by the Secretaries of Interior, Agriculture, Commerce. Chris joined NISC staff shortly after its formation in 2000. He has lead responsibilities for early detection and rapid response, media relations, and invasive species control policy. Chris contributed to the drafting of the 2001 and 2007 National Invasive Species Management Plans. Prior to joining the staff of NISC, Chris was a USDA Graduate School Fellow on the U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture. He is the author or co-author of over 20 peer reviewed scientific publications and holds a Ph.D. in weed science from Iowa State University. His hobbies include cooking, gardening, and performing standup comedy.

Meghan Fellows

Meghan Fellows is the Fairfax County Park Authority's Invasive Management Area Program Coordinator and Natural Resource Specialist. This has been an exciting time for the Park Authority, as they've received their first funds in support of invasive species management. Building the program from scratch, Meghan has hands-on experience of what county's can do to begin (and continue) to address the issue of invasive plants. Meghan has worked with several aspects of both native and rare plants: at NatureServe, scoring over 100 plants using the IRANK system, and in southeast Florida and southern California. Her master degree, in ecological restoration from San Diego State University, focused on the effects of a non-native plant host to an endangered hemiparasite. Meghan is also currently serving as the president of the Mid-Atlantic Exotic Pest Plant Council. And yes, her cat really is named Eleocharis.

Michael Lusk

Education: Received BS and MS in Fish and Wildlife Biology from NC State University.
Thesis: Effects of wild hog rooting on small mammal populations in the upper elevation beech gaps of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Certified Wildlife Biologist by The Wildlife Society.

Work: Endangered Species Biologist, Department of Defense, Fort Bragg, NC
Wildlife Biologist, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Rota, CNMI
Wildlife Biologist, Ecological Services, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Honolulu, HI
Assistant Refuge Manager, Bond Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, Round Oak, GA
Deputy Project Leader, Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge, Ajo, AZ
National Invasive Species Coordinator, NWRS, USFWS, Arlington, VA

Steven Manning

Steve Manning has an MBA from the University of Oregon, with an emphasis in marketing and sustainability of the environment through business practices and a Masters of Science degree in

Parks and Recreation Administration from the University of Utah. Mr. Manning worked extensively with municipal parks in Tennessee as a naturalist, crew leader, and volunteer coordinator prior to starting a business called “Southeast Non-Native Plant Removal Service” in 1994. This business was dedicated to the control of terrestrial invasive plant species in Tennessee. In 1997 he started Invasive Plant Control, Inc. (IPC). IPC was created to extend nationally its dedication to the control of invasive species utilizing a revised Integrated Pest Management approach. IPC has successfully controlled many of the aggressive invasive plants for a wide variety of land managers including Federal, State, municipal and private landowners throughout the United States. Mr. Manning is also heavily involved with local, state and regional industry development projects.

Lee Patrick

Lee Patrick graduated East Tennessee State University with a Bachelor of Science degree with an emphasis in resource management in 1990 and is working on a master’s degree part-time at Vanderbilt University. Since 1990, his career has led him to numerous opportunities of studying our natural resources, from fisheries management and environmental education to vegetation management.

As a co-founder of Invasive Plant Control, Inc. in 1997, Lee is responsible for the identification and management of invasive exotic/noxious weeds in natural areas and the restoration of these sites with native plant material. These sites are normally in rare plant communities where the natural integrity of the area is threatened.

Lee served on the board of directors for both the Tennessee Exotic Pest Plant Council (TN-EPPC) and the Southeast Exotic Pest Plant Council (SE-EPPC) as the treasurer for both organizations.

Susan E. Salmons

Liaison, Exotic Plant Management Team – National Capital Region (NCR EPMT)

Sue Salmons earned a B. S. (1983) in Mathematics and Energy-Efficient Architectural Design from Worcester State College, Massachusetts. Then she returned to studies in the subject of her passion - wildlife ecology. She conducted wildlife habitat research for the Massachusetts Audubon Society (1986-1989) and the U.S. Forest Service (1989-1996), including graduate research at Humboldt State University, California, on spotted owl habitat and demography in Oregon. As a Resource Management Specialist in Vegetation for Rock Creek National Park, Sue worked for 9 years researching and implementing effective controls for invasive non-native plants. She is currently Liaison for the National Capital Region Exotic Plant Management Team, which is responsible for managing exotic pest plants in 14 parks covering nearly 72,000 acres of diverse habitats.

Randy G. Westbrooks, Ph.D.

Randy Westbrooks, a native of Gaffney, South Carolina, received his B.S. and M.S. degrees in biology from the University of South Carolina, and his Ph.D. in Botany and Weed Science from North Carolina State University. Since 1979, Dr. Westbrooks has served as an Invasive Species Prevention Specialist with the U.S. Government, in the U.S. Department of Agriculture, as well as the Department of the Interior.

Internationally, Dr. Westbrooks is working to develop a **Global Early Detection and Rapid Response Working Group** – in cooperation with the **IUCN Invasive Species Specialist Group**, based in Auckland, New Zealand.

On the domestic front, Dr. Westbrook is working with numerous interagency groups to develop a **National Early Detection and Rapid Response System for Invasive Plants** in the United States. Currently, the effort is focusing on the establishment of **State EDRR Coordinating Committees** to lead the development of local, state, and regional elements of the National EDRR System. These include **Regional Invasive Plant Atlases** (data synthesis and volunteer training), **State Invasive Species Councils** (interagency coordination), **Trained Volunteer Networks** (detection and reporting of new invaders), and **Invasive Plant Task Forces** (for eradication of confirmed invaders).

Currently, Dr. Westbrook and Steven Manning, President, Invasive Plant Control, Inc., are partnering with **Southeastern Community College** in Whiteville, NC, to develop and offer an **Invasive Species Management Training Program** – starting in January, 2008. The program will include five online courses covering all facets of invasive species management – including strategies for prevention, exclusion, detection, containment, eradication, and control – as well as a hands on student internship where concepts and principles covered in the program are put into practice.

Dr. Westbrook's Motto is: *Partnerships Now.... Weeds Won't Wait!*

Melissa Bravo

Melissa Bravo is a botanist and weed scientist for the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. She is responsible for noxious, invasive and poisonous plant identification, outreach and administration of the state's noxious weed control law for the Bureau of Plant Industry. Notably, she implements the state's Giant Hogweed, Goatsrue, and Kudzu Eradication Programs. Concurrent with her responsibilities in the Bureau of Plant Industry, Melissa is the acting interim coordinator for the Pennsylvania Invasive Species Council and Terrestrial Work Group Chair. A major achievement for the council was the creation of the Governor's Invasive Species Council website under her direction. Her education includes a bachelor's degree in large animal science from Delaware Valley College of Science and Agriculture and a master's degree in agronomy from the Department of Weed Science at Penn State University.