

Invasive Plant Management Symposium  
“*Prevention Strategies for Invasive Species*”

Tuesday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008

9:00 am – 4:00 pm

U.S. National Arboretum  
Administration Building Auditorium

As invasive species continue to disrupt our native ecosystems, land managers must create and implement sound prevention strategies as a first line of defense. This symposium will identify current and potential tactics to prevent the spread of invasive species.

Drawing from research and practical in-the-field experience, speakers will detail effective practices that private citizens and institutional land managers can use. Topics include:

- Global Invasive Species Prevention Training Course
- How non-profit organizations can help prevent the spread of invasive species
- Public awareness strategies for the prevention of invasive species
- Utilizing exotic plant management teams to prevent the spread of invasive plant species

*A tour of invasive plant work at the National Arboretum will be included in the program.*

Symposium speakers:

- Randy Westbrook, Invasive Species Prevention Specialist, U.S. Geological Survey
- Michael Lusk, National Invasive Species Coordinator, National Wildlife Refuge System
- Lee Patrick, Restoration Ecologist and Co-founder, Invasive Plant Control, Inc.,
- Steven Manning, Founder and President, Invasive Plant Control, Inc.
- Meghan Fellows, Invasive Management Area Program Coordinator, Fairfax County Park Authority, and President, Mid-Atlantic Exotic Pest Plant Council.
- Sue Salmons, Liaison, National Capital Region Exotic Plant Management Team, National Park Service
- Dr. Chris Dionigi, Assistant Director, National Invasive Species Council

**Registration for the symposium and lunch is required and due by January 11<sup>th</sup>.** The registration fee is \$55 (\$45 for Friends of the National Arboretum members). Lunch, morning, and afternoon refreshments are included.

To register, go to <http://www.usna.usda.gov/Education/events.html>. Phone and walk-in registration may be available after January 11<sup>th</sup>. For more information please call the National Arboretum at 202-245-4521.

The symposium is co-sponsored by the U.S. National Arboretum and Invasive Plant Control, Inc.

# **Invasive Plant Management Symposium**

## **Tuesday, January 15th, 2008**

### **Speaker Biographies**

#### **Chris Dionigi, Ph.D.**

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. Westbrooks 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. Westbrooks 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. Westbrooks' Motto is: *Partnerships Now.... Weeds Won't Wait!*