



Second Annual Tennessee Invasive Weed Awareness Week
February 22 - 27, 2010
Press Release

The Tennessee General Assembly is issuing a Joint Legislative Resolution declaring Feb. 22-27, 2010, as Invasive Weed Awareness Week (IWAW) in Tennessee. The Tennessee Exotic Pest Plant Council (TN-EPPC), an all-volunteer, nonprofit organization and sponsor of the second annual TN-IWAW, is working closely with various local, state and federal organizations and agencies to promote public education on the harmful impacts of nonnative, invasive plant species through several “plant pulls” or pest plant removal events and public lectures around the state. Events are planned in Memphis, Jackson, Nashville, Murfreesboro, Winchester, Savage Gulf, Chattanooga, Maryville, Vonore, Knoxville, Oak Ridge, and Johnson City. (Details attached below.) We are pleased to acknowledge our list of supporting groups and organizations in this statewide education effort. (List attached below.) Several of these supporters have organized a plant pull in their area and invited local citizens to participate.

Throughout urban and rural areas, invasive, non-native plants pose numerous threats to the Tennessee landscape, especially public lands such as parks and state natural areas. Invasive plant species overrun a variety of habitats, displace native plant populations, disrupt plant/animal associations, deprive wildlife of needed food sources, significantly reduce plant and wildlife diversity, imperil rare and endangered plants and animals, support nonnative pathogens and pests, and can alter ecosystem processes such as fire frequency/intensity, water and nutrient availability, soil chemistry and erosion. In addition, invasive plants have a significant negative impact on agriculture and forestry. Nationally, costs for control plus crop and land losses reach into the tens of billions of dollars annually. Gardeners, farmers, boaters, hikers, wildlife watchers, landscapers, hunters, anglers, landowners, and many businesses have a stake in recognizing and doing what they can to combat the most troublesome plant species.

TN-EPPC’s volunteer role is to monitor invasive species in the state and provide advice and counsel to local, state, and federal government entities as well as private land managers and landowners. A board of directors meets quarterly to identify and develop invasion response protocols, important partnerships, and education and outreach opportunities. Our newly redesigned Web site, www.tneppc.org, is a great informational resource, featuring a list of plants exhibiting invasive behavior in Tennessee, the best control methods, alternative native plant species for landscaping, and a calendar of events statewide.

For more information on TN-EPPC, please contact:

Terri Hogan – Terri_Hogan@nps.gov (615) 893-9501

Claude Bailey, Jr. – cbailey@jscc.edu (731) 424-3520 ext. 204

Pat Parr – parrpd@ornl.gov (865) 576-8123

Tennessee Invasive Weed Awareness Week Events

Feb. 22-27, 2010

Memphis (two events)

1. Lucius E. Burch, Jr. State Natural Area, Shelby Farms Park

Feb. 27, 9:00 a.m. CST, Shelby Farms Park visitors center. Reservations required by February 25.

Removal of privet along with Wolf River. Wear sturdy shoes, bring loppers (cutting shears) or a small hand saw, bring water and a snack, and dress appropriately for the weather. We will not go in the event of inclement weather. Directions: <http://www.state.tn.us/environment/na/natareas/lucius/>

Contact: Allan Trently, Stewardship Ecologist, Natural Areas Program, TDEC Resource Management
(731) 512-1369 Allan.Trently@tn.gov

2. Wolf River Conservancy, Lovitt Woods, Germantown

Americorps volunteers removed privet in late January and early February

Contact: Cathy Justis

(901) 452-6500 education@wolfriver.org

Jackson (two events)

1. "Exotic Invasive Plants & their Ecological Impact" lecture by Claude Bailey, Jr., Assistant Dean of Science/Assistant Professor of Biology, Jackson State Community College

Feb. 24, 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Jackson State Community College, Science Bldg. Rm. 125. Open to public. Directions: <http://www.jscc.edu/about/campusmap.htm>

2. Cypress Grove Nature Area

Mar. 19, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Privet removal. Jackson State Community College Biology Club and faculty. Public volunteers welcome. May be rescheduled in the event of inclement weather. Directions: http://www.tnvacation.com/vendors/cypress_grove_nature_park/

Contact for both Jackson events: Claude Bailey, Jr.

(731) 424-3520 ext. 320 cbailey@jscc.edu

Nashville (three events)

1. Owl's Hill Nature Sanctuary, Brentwood

Feb. 23, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. CST

Removal of honeysuckle and privet. Meet at Owl's Hill, 545 Beech Creek Road South, Brentwood, TN 37027. Directions: <http://www.owlshill.org/location>.

Contact: Margaret or Nancy

(615) 370-4672 owlshill@bellsouth.net

2. Friends of Radnor Lake

Feb. 27, 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon CST

Removal of bush honeysuckle, tree of heaven, and privet. Meet at the visitors center. Bring water. Tools will be supplied. Directions: http://www.radnorlake.org/Find_Radnor_Lake.html

Contact: Steve Ward, Park Manager

steve.ward@tn.gov

3. Mt. View Glade Designated State Natural Area

Feb. 25, 2010

Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation Resource Management Division will remove infestations of shrub honeysuckle, privet, and English ivy in a small woodland adjacent to the pristine glade that supports the federally endangered Tennessee Coneflower.

Murfreesboro

Stones River National Battlefield

Feb. 27, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon CST (Rain date is Mar. 6)

Garlic mustard pull. Meet at visitors center. Directions can be found at the park's web site at <http://www.nps.gov/stri/planyourvisit/directions.htm>. Volunteers must wear sturdy shoes and be prepared for the wide range of weather possibilities Middle Tennessee may offer at this time of year.

Contact: Terri Hogan

(615) 893-9501 terri_hogan@nps.gov

Winchester

Tims Ford State Park

Feb. 27, 12:00 Noon to 2:00 p.m. CST

Removal of exotic invasive plants. Meet at the visitors center. Bring gardening gloves and water. Long sleeves and sturdy shoes recommended. Directions: 570 Tims Ford Dr., Winchester 37398

Contact: LouAnn Partington

(931) 393-4835 louannpartington@yahoo.com

Savage Gulf State Natural Area

Feb. 27, 10:00 a.m. CST

“Multiflora rose raze.” Meet at the Collins West trailhead of Savage Gulf SNA. Bring work gloves, clippers, water, and lunch. Two-mile hike in and out may be strenuous. Sponsors: Tennessee Native Plant Society, Sewanee Herbarium, Highland Rim Chapter of Tennessee Trails Association, and Friends of South Cumberland State Park. Directions: Collins West trailhead is on 55th Avenue in Gruetli-Laager, about 5 miles off Hwy 108, <http://www.friendsofscsra.org/images/scsra-map-trace-bryndal-compressed.jpg>

Contact: Mary Priestly

(931) 598-0157 marypriestley@bellsouth.net

Chattanooga

Reflection Riding Arboretum & Botanical Garden

Feb. 27, 9:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m. EST

Privet and bittersweet. Hand tools will be available and light refreshments will be provided. Directions: http://www.reflectionriding.org/visitor_information.html

Contact: Mary Katherine Harper

(423) 821-9582 ext. 200 mkat@reflectionriding.org

Oak Ridge (two events)

1. “Invasive Pest Plants in the Home Setting,” lecture by Harry Quarles, invasive plant control manager US Dept. of Energy Oak Ridge Reservation

Feb. 25, 7:00 p.m. EST, Oak Ridge Civic Center Craft Room

Sponsored by Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning and Oak Ridge Environmental Quality Advisory Board. Directions: <http://www.cortn.org/departments/recreationparks/recreation/maps.html#directions>

2. Oak Ridge Cedar Barren State Natural Area

Mar. 6, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. EST

Invasive pest plant removal workday. Meet at Jefferson Middle School, 200 Fairbanks Rd. Lunch will be provided. Sponsored by Tennessee Citizens Wilderness Planning and City of Oak Ridge. Directions: <http://jefferson.ortn.edu/?PageName=%27Directions%27>

Contact for both Oak Ridge events: Jimmy Groton

(865) 805-9908 groton87@comcast.net

Knoxville

Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge with Knoxville Zoological Gardens

Feb. 27, 2010

Vonore

Sequoyah Birthplace Museum

Feb 27, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. EST (Rain date is March 5)

Manual removal of privet and Japanese honeysuckle. Meet in parking lot. Snacks, water and lunch will be provided. Please bring cutting tools and work gloves, and wear heavy boots. Directions: <http://www.sequoyahmuseum.org/index.cfm/m/19>

Contact: Avi Askey

423-295-2288 avi@overhillgardens.com

Maryville

“Plant This, Not That,” lecture by Kristine Johnson, Supervisory Forester, Great Smoky Mountains National Park

Feb. 25, 7:00 p.m. EST, Blount County Public Library

Sponsored by Blount County Master Gardeners and open to the public. Address: 508 N. Cusick Street, Maryville, TN 37804

Johnson City

Tipton-Haynes Historical Farm

Feb. 26, 9:00 a.m. EST

Sullivan County Master Gardeners project. Fridays are invasive plant removal work days throughout the year weather permitting. Directions: <http://www.tipton-haynes.org/site/visit/directions.php>

Contacts: Cathy Ciolac, Sullivan County Master Gardeners, cjciolac@yahoo.com

Bruce Fowler, Tipton-Haynes Historical Farm board member, brufowler@hotmail.com

**Organizations Supporting TN-EPPC's
Invasive Weed Awareness Week in Tennessee
February 22-27, 2010**

Association of Southeastern Biologists
Bowie Nature Center, Fairview
Chattanooga Nature Center
Cheekwood Botanical Garden, Nashville
Cumberland Trail, Crossville
Discovery Center at Murfree Spring, Murfreesboro
Foothills Land Conservancy, Maryville
Friends of Beaman Park, Nashville
Friends of Bells Bend Park, Nashville
Friends of Cedars of Lebanon
Friends of Radnor Lake
Friends of South Cumberland State Recreation Area, Grundy County
Friends of the Smokies
Friends of Warner Parks, Nashville
Garden Club of Signal Mountain, member Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs
Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont
GrowWild Inc., Fairview
Ijams Nature Center, Knoxville
Knoxville Garden Club, member of the Garden Club of America
Knoxville Zoological Gardens
Little Garden Club of Memphis, member of the Garden Club of America
Lookout Mountain Conservancy
Memphis Botanic Garden
Nashville Natives, Fairview
Nashville Zoo at Grassmere
North American Butterfly Association, Middle Tennessee Chapter
Overhill Gardens Landscaping and Nursery, Vonore
Owl's Hill Nature Sanctuary, Brentwood
Perennial Plant Society of Middle Tennessee, Nashville
Quail Unlimited
Rachel Jackson Garden Club, Mt. Juliet, member Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs
Reflection Riding, Chattanooga
Smoky Mountains Hiking Club, Knoxville
Southern Appalachian Botanical Society
Southern Appalachian Forest Coalition
Southern Appalachian Man and Biosphere (SAMAB) Cooperative
Southern Appalachian Plant Society, Tri-cities
Steele Creek Nature Center, Bristol
Sunlight Gardens Nursery

Swan Conservation Trust, Summertown
Tennessee Aquarium
Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning
Tennessee Clean Water Network
Tennessee Environmental Council
Tennessee Master Gardeners
Tennessee Native Plant Society
Tennessee Ornithological Society
Tennessee Parks & Greenways Foundation
Tennessee Preservation Trust
Tennessee Recreation & Parks Association
Tennessee Trails Association
Tennessee Wildlife Federation
The Land Trust for Tennessee
The Nature Conservancy of Tennessee
Tyne Meade Garden Club, Nashville, member Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs
University of the South Herbarium, Sewanee
UT Arboretum, Forestry Resources Research & Education Center, Oak Ridge
Wolf River Conservancy, Memphis