

**Georgia Exotic Pest Plant Council**  
**General Membership Meeting – Summary of Minutes**  
**August 21, 2005**

**Nature Conservancy of Georgia Presentation**

Malcolm Hodges of the Nature Conservancy of Georgia gave a presentation on combating invasives in Nature Conservancy Preserves in Georgia. The web site <http://tncweeds.ucdavis.edu> provides further information.

**Georgia Green Industry**

Gary Wade described a GGI survey sent out to 400 land managers, to determine which plants are invading various parts of the state. They learned that 41% of respondents were not knowledgeable enough to identify many of the potential invasives and that 45% wanted help learning how to identify them.

An advisory task force to the Georgia Green Industry board is focusing on invasives in the nursery trade, with three main goals: 1) to reduce the introduction of invasive species; 2) to reduce demand for invasives by encouraging nurseries to take invasives out of production and identifying other species that can substitute for the invasives and 3) to provide education in regard to native alternatives to exotic invasives.

**Comprehensive List of Georgia Invasives**

Ga-EPPC currently has a list of the top ten invasives for the state. Rich Reaves, Malcolm Hodges and Connie Gray will begin working on a more comprehensive list based on data, and categorized by priority and region.

**Policy Issues**

Gretchen Musser will head a committee to write ordinances regarding invasive exotics.

**Rivers Alive Privet Pull**

The fifth annual Rivers Alive Privet Pull will occur on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October at 10:00 at Paces Mill Park.

**Educational Outreach**

In addition to workshops, Ga-EPPC will research the huge amount of information that is already available regarding exotic species and explore partnering with other organizations.

**Further Discussion**

Many ideas for expanding the reach and scope of the organization were put forth including using the state system of nature centers, to promote awareness of exotics; presentation of a paper on Ga-EPPC at the next Georgia Environmental Education Alliance conference and use of the Georgia Plant Conservation Alliance poster on invasives.

**Next Meeting**

A General Membership Workday will be held in November at Tallulah Gorge. A general membership meeting in January will be scheduled to set goals for the year