



# NEWS

from the **CENTER FOR INVASIVE PLANT MANAGEMENT**

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## Weed Physiologist Joins Montana State University

This August, Montana State University's Department of Land Resources and Environmental Sciences welcomed a new Department Head. Tracy Sterling, a weed physiologist, spent the past twenty years at New Mexico State University. In her new position, Sterling will continue a research program and teach a graduate course.

## Event in Washington to Focus on Invasive Species

National Invasive Species Awareness Week (NISAW) will be held January 10-14, 2010 in Washington, DC. The all-taxa event will be organized around three themes: Climate Change, Energy, and the 'Green' Economy.

NISAW is organized by a national, bi-partisan coalition of groups representing private citizens, local and state natural resource and agricultural agencies, academia, professional scientific societies, environmental organizations, and businesses such as nurseries and the pet industry that are affected by non-native invasive species.

Additional information will be posted on the [NISAW website](#) as it becomes available. NISAW will replace and expand upon the highly successful National Invasive Weeds Awareness Week of the past ten years.

## Invasive Species Advisory Committee (ISAC) Issues White Paper Regarding Biofuels Programs

In August, the citizens' Invasive Species Advisory Committee (ISAC) released a white paper titled "Biofuels: Cultivating Energy, Not Invasive Species." ISAC recommends that Federal agencies apply the following recommendations to their own biofuels programs and when engaging with the private sector and other partners:

- Review/strengthen existing authorities
- Reduce escape risks
- Determine the most appropriate areas for cultivation
- Identify plant traits that contribute to or avoid invasiveness

- Prevent dispersal
- Establish eradication protocols for rotational systems or abandoned populations
- Develop and implement Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) Plans and rapid response funding
- Minimize harvest disturbance
- Engage stakeholders

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## Public Comment Invited

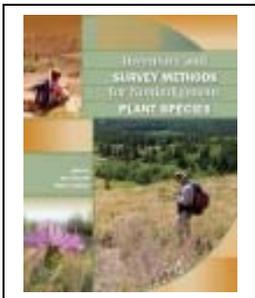
USDA-APHIS is soliciting comments on proposed guidelines to screen imported plants. More specifically, the agency proposes the establishment of a new category: *Plants for planting*, whose importation is not authorized pending pest risk analysis (NAPPRA). Additional information and links to submit comments may be found on the [USDA website](#). The California Invasive Plant Council offers its perspective on the proposal on its [website](#). Comments are due by October 21, 2009.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, is compiling a long-term plan and Environmental Impact Statement for restoration of the Missouri River watershed. This area comprises parts of Montana, Wyoming, North and South Dakota, Nebraska, Colorado, Kansas, Iowa, and Missouri. At this point, they are seeking comments on the purpose and need for the project. Invasive species prevention and management could potentially be a component of the plan. Comments can be submitted electronically at the [Missouri River Recovery Program website](#) and are due by December 1, 2009.

The U.S. Coast Guard is proposing to amend its regulations on ballast water management by establishing standards for the allowable concentration of living organisms in ships' ballast water discharged into U.S. waters. Ballast water is one of the most important invasive species pathways. The Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (DPEIS) can be viewed and commented upon at [Regulations.gov](#). Comments are due by November 27, 2009.

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## CIPM and Western Integrated Pest Management Center Offer Free Web Seminar Series



CIPM received a grant from the Western IPM Center to develop and present a series of six interactive web seminars on inventory and survey methods for invasive plants. The FREE seminar series will be based on chapters from *Inventory and Survey Methods for Nonindigenous Plant Species* (LJ Rew and ML Pokorny, editors, 2006 Montana State University Extension). CIPM coordinated and funded the development and printing of the publication, which presents practical inventory and survey methods for successful application over large areas and provides guidance for selecting methods that best meet the objectives of an integrated pest management strategy.

The six-week web seminar series is scheduled for January-February 2010. There is no fee, but advanced registration is required. If you would like to be notified when the seminar schedule becomes available later this month, please [email the project coordinator](#).

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## Investigating the Complexity of Weed Invasion and Management

The following papers explore some complexities of weed invasions and the challenges these present for weed management. The take home message from these papers is that the invasion process is much more complicated than we once believed, and that management of invasive species will not be successful without a better understanding of the entire ecosystem and the altered processes that led to and/or resulted from the invasion. In other words, simply controlling invasive species and not addressing the ecosystem is a recipe for failure.

### Deer Facilitate Invasive Plant Success in a Pennsylvania Forest Understory

Tiffany M. Knight, Jessica L. Dunn, Lisa A. Smith, JoAnn Davis, and Susan Kalisz. *Natural Areas Journal* 29(2):110-116. 2009.

The researchers state that while many North American forests experience both deer overabundance (as a result of anthropogenic changes to the landscape) and exotic plant invasions. They suggest that forest understory degradation by excessive deer populations leads to the success of exotic plants. To test this hypothesis with regard to two exotic herbs, garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) and Japanese Stilt Grass (*Microstegium vimineum*) in Pennsylvania forests, a series of

plots inside and outside of exclosures were sampled. It was shown that the percentage of bare ground and the relative abundances of the exotic forbs were greater while native plants were smaller with fewer flowering in plots with deer access versus deer-excluded plots. This indicates that these invasive plants are aided by deer and are not solely responsible for native species decline. The authors conclude that for invasive species management to be successful, the overabundance of deer must be considered as well as the exotic plants.

### **Management of Novel Ecosystems: Are Novel Approaches Required?**

*Timothy R. Seastedt, Richard J. Hobbs, and Katharine N. Suding. *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment* 6(10):547-553. 2008.*

The authors state that unaltered, pristine ecosystems are extremely rare and that nearly all ecosystems have been affected to some degree and now exist in a state of new environmental conditions and new or altered disturbance regimes. These "novel ecosystems" are the result of factors such as climate change, enhanced CO<sub>2</sub> or atmospheric nitrogen deposition and species introductions that push the ecosystem out of its normal range of geochemical conditions, resulting in species shifts and further changes to geochemical processes. According to the authors, attempts to restore ecosystems to their original state may not be possible, and management activities directed at removing undesirable features of novel ecosystems may only perpetuate the problem. It is suggested that manipulating ecosystem mechanisms that enhance desirable system components, rather than removing or suppressing undesirable species will be a more successful approach to restoration.

### **Earthworm Invasion as the Driving Force Behind Plant Invasion and Community Change in Northeastern North American Forests**

*Victoria A. Nuzzo, John C. Maerz, and Bernd Blossey. *Conservation Biology* 23(4):966-974. 2009.*

It is stated that exotic plants are assumed to be the driving force that shifts native plant communities, but evidence that supports this is lacking. The authors say that other factors may contribute to plant invasions and native species decline. Research was conducted in 15 northeastern forests on the invasion fronts of garlic mustard (*Allaria petiolata*), Japanese Stilt Grass (*Microstegium vimineum*) and Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*). For each of the three exotic species, plots were established within and outside of invaded areas, and percent cover of all species present was recorded semi-annually for several years. The abundance of non-native earthworms was also assessed in each plot. Earthworm biomass was negatively associated with native woody and herbaceous cover and significantly greater in invaded than uninvaded habitats, suggesting that earthworm invasion rather than non-native plant invasion may be the driving force behind changes in northeastern forest plant communities, and earthworm invasions appear to support plant invasions. The authors conclude that management that focuses on invasive plant removal may be insufficient to protect understory species in northeastern forests.

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## **CIPM Partnership with Center for Aquatic Nuisance Species**

This summer, CIPM was presented with a unique opportunity to partner with the Livingston, Montana-based Center for Aquatic Nuisance Species (CANS). Tess Wood, spending her second summer with CIPM, worked alongside CANS founder Bob Wiltshire, mapping terrestrial invasive plants along two hundred miles of the Yellowstone River.

Along with local volunteers, including Livingston-based fishing guides who provided use of their boats, Wiltshire and Wood spent at least one day per week boating down some of Montana's most beautiful waterways. They used GPS devices to create maps and record infestations of spotted knapweed, Dalmatian toadflax, leafy spurge, and saltcedar. GPS data and notes on the invasive plants were then uploaded onto a computer, and will eventually be made available online for local weed coordinators and the public.

This collaborative project was conducted in preparation for a statewide effort to be put into effect in 2010. CANS hopes that the maps will help inform anglers, members of various sporting and conservation groups, as well as other interested parties, about the seriousness of invasive species issues and the need for collective management efforts. Furthermore, CANS hopes that the experience gained over the summer will be helpful in formulating outreach efforts for a broader audience over the course of the winter and spring.

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## **Help Needed to Collect Knotweed Samples**

University of Idaho researchers are requesting help collecting Japanese knotweed, Bohemian knotweed, Giant knotweed, and Himalayan knotweed specimens. This appeal is part of an effort to gain a stronger understanding of distribution, hybrids, and reproduction strategies of knotweed by utilizing DNA analysis. An identification bulletin is available to assist

and inform individuals of the risks posed by knotweed. [Collection instructions](#) and a collection sheet are provided to simplify the process and encourage volunteers.

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## Reminder: New Plastic Weeds Are Here!



The long-awaited perennial pepperweed, garlic mustard, purple loosestrife, and saltcedar (tamarisk) models are on sale now. The four original models--spotted knapweed, yellow starthistle, leafy spurge, and Dalmatian toadflax--are also restocked and ready to ship. Visit the [CIPM Store](#) for information on how to order.

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## CIPM Online

### RESOURCES

Visit our website to browse extensive resources for funding opportunities, invasive plant information, management, education, CWMA's, agencies and organizations, and more.

#### **National Invasive Species Council: New Website**

The National Invasive Species Council has posted its new website which includes the federal National Invasive Species Management Plan and other resources.

#### **Policy News from CIPM**

Explore CIPM's new webpage devoted to invasive species policy-related news. The page includes links to news about special issues such as biofuels and climate change, as well as archives of stories that you read here in this newsletter.

#### **The River Network**

The River Network focuses on watershed protection and "engages, trains and empowers people and their local organizations to effectively protect, preserve and restore clean, healthy waters." Biodiversity and land use are two of their key issues. Great opportunity for invasive species folks to partner with others in their communities.

### CALENDAR

View our [CALENDAR](#) page for more upcoming events.

#### **2009**

##### **California Invasive Plant Council Symposium**

7-10 October 2009 | Visalia Convention Center | Visalia, California (USA).

##### **59th Annual Washington State Weed Conference**

4-6 November 2009 | Yakima Convention Center. Yakima, Washington (USA).

##### **Central California Invasive Weed Symposium - Save the Date**

13 November 2009 | To be held at the Santa Cruz Fairgrounds in Watsonville, California (USA).

##### **Texas Invasive Plant and Pest Conference**

13-14 November 2009 | Texas Invasive Plant & Pest Council will host the third statewide invasive species conference | Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas (USA).

#### **2010**

##### **National Invasive Species Awareness Week 2010**

10-14 January 2010 | To be held in Washington, DC. Information about this all-taxa event will be widely circulated soon.

##### **The Science, Practice & Art of Restoring Native Ecosystems**

22-23 January 2010 | Kellogg Center, East Lansing, Michigan | Co-hosted by the Stewardship Network and the Midwest Invasive Plant Network.

**Weeds Across Borders 2010**

1-4 June 2010 | National Conservation Training Center | Shepherdstown, West Virginia. A biennial conference bringing together people from Canada, the U.S., and Mexico to focus on "Plant Invasions, Policies, and Politics."

**7<sup>th</sup> Eastern Native Grass Symposium**

5-8 October 2010 | Knoxville, Tennessee (USA) | A call for papers and more information will be available in the future.

**JOBS****Crew Foreman, Riparian Restoration (Arizona and Southwestern US)**

Working for Rivers is seeking a seasonal, part-time employee for the position of Crew Foreman to manage restoration crews.

**Sweetwater County Weed Supervisor (Wyoming)**

Sweetwater County Weed & Pest Control District Board of Directors is seeking a full-time employee for the position of Supervisor.

**Research Associate (Kansas)**

The Department of Entomology at Kansas State University is offering a full-time, 12-month, non-tenure track position. Application deadline is October 1 or until suitable candidate is found.