



Tennessee Invasive Weed Awareness Week
February 22 - 28, 2009
Press Release

Governor Phil Bredesen has issued a state proclamation declaring Feb. 22-28, 2009, as Invasive Weed Awareness Week (IWA) in Tennessee in conjunction with the 10th Annual National IWA in Washington, D.C. The Tennessee Exotic Pest Plant Council (TN-EPPC), an all-volunteer, nonprofit organization, 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 'pest plant removal events' around the state. Events are planned in Memphis, Jackson, Nashville, Murfreesboro, Chattanooga, Knoxville, and Great Smoky Mountains National Park. (Details on separate page.) We are pleased to acknowledge our list of supporting groups and organizations in this statewide education effort. (See separate list.) Several of these supporters have organized a plant pull in their area and have invited local citizens to participate.

Throughout both 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 plant species have a significant negative impact on agriculture and forestry. Nationally, costs associated with control as well as 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, all 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, provide advice and counsel to local, state, and federal government entities as well as private land managers and landowners. Our Web site, www.tneppc.org, features a list of plants exhibiting invasive behavior in Tennessee, along with information on the best control methods and alternative native plant species for landscaping. A board of directors meets quarterly to identify and develop invasion response protocols, important partnerships, and education and outreach opportunities.

National Invasive Weed Awareness Week, now in its tenth year, features events focused on educating our federal policy makers and elected officials about the environmental and economic losses caused by invasive weeds. State, regional, and national invasive plant organizations across the country participate. TN-EPPC sends a representative each year.

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. 22-28, 2009

Memphis, TN

Memphis Botanic Garden (meet at Visitor's Center)

Feb. 24, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Volunteers will work on the native woodland site, four and a half acres of bottomland hardwoods with native shrubs and herbaceous perennials, to remove winged euonymus, privet, Japanese honeysuckle, Italian arum, and English ivy.

Contact: Traci Denton, Director of Volunteers, Memphis Botanic Garden
(901) 576-4102 traci.denton@memphistn.gov

Jackson, TN

Cypress Grove Nature Area

Feb. 28, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Members of the Jackson State Community College Biology Club and faculty will work with park officials to remove Chinese privet on the property.

Contacts: Claude Bailey, Jr., Jackson State Community College
(731) 424-3520 ext. 204 cbailey@jsc.edu
Sandy MacDiarmid, Superintendent of Recreation
(731) 425-8316 smacdiarmid@cityofjackson.net

Nashville, TN (two events)

1. Bells Bend Park

Feb. 28, 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Friends of Bells Bend, park staff, and volunteers of all ages will remove invasive plant species around the park's historic structures.

2. Beaman Park

Feb. 28, 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Friends of Beaman Park, park staff, and volunteers of all ages will remove invasive plant species along the roadway.

Contact for both events: LinnAnn Welch, Bells Bend Nature Center Director
(615) 862-4187 linnann.welch@nashville.gov

Murfreesboro, TN (three events)

1. Stones River National Battlefield
Feb. 28, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Invasive plant removal project

Contact: Terri Hogan, Ecologist, Stones River National Battlefield
(615) 893-9501 Terri_Hogan@nps.gov

2. Murfreesboro Greenway and Wetland Program
Feb. 28, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Invasive plant removal project

Contact: Angela Jackson or Rachel Singer
(615) 893-2141 ajackson@murfreesborotn.gov

3. Discovery Center at Murfree Spring
Feb. 23, 24 & 25, 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. each day
Children, ages pre-K through 2nd grade (others welcome), will learn the value to native landscapes and how to recognize invasive plant species with the help of a 'sneaky species' coloring wheel and a walk through the wetland. \$5.00 regular admission, members free.

Contact: (615) 890-2300

Chattanooga, TN

Reflection Riding Arboretum & Botanical Garden
Feb. 28, 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Dr. Hill Craddock, University of Tennessee Chattanooga, Dr. Richard Clements, Chattanooga State Technical Community College, and students will work with garden club volunteers pulling invasive plants on the grounds. Dr. Clements will speak about the problem of invasives at 9:30 a.m.

Contact: Dave Hopkins, Executive Director, Reflection Riding
(423) 505-7708

Knoxville, TN (two events)

1. Ijams Nature Center

Feb. 25, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. & Feb. 28, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

University of Tennessee students are invited to help clear invasive plants at the nature center both days.

Contact: Ed Yost, Park Manager, Ijams
(865) 577-4717 eyost@ijams.org

2. Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge

Feb. 28, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., continuing that afternoon

Knoxville Zoo and Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge will partner to host an invasive weed pull at the refuge. They will break for a picnic lunch (bring your own) at noon and resume work in the afternoon for anyone willing to stay. Volunteers are asked to please bring their own tools and gloves.

Contact: Wayne Schacher, Natural Resource Services, Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge
(865) 457-4355

Great Smoky Mountains National Park

Big Creek Campground (meet in Picnic Area parking lot)

Feb. 21, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. with a break for lunch (bring your own)

Volunteers will work to remove garlic mustard and Japanese honeysuckle. Big Creek is 30 minutes east of Newport near Interstate 40. Take the Waterville Exit, enter the park, pass the Ranger Station, and travel to the end of the road where the picnic area, campground, and Baxter Creek/Walnut Bottoms Trailheads are located. For more information or to RSVP, please see contact.

Contact: Kristine Johnson, Supervisory Forester, GSMNP
(865) 436-1707 Kristine_Johnson@nps.gov

**Organizations Supporting TN-EPPC Invasive Weed Awareness Week in Tennessee
February 22-28, 2009**

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 South Cumberland State Recreation Area
Friends of the Smokies
Friends of Warner Parks
Garden Club of Signal Mountain
Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont
GrowWild Inc., Fairview
Ijams Nature Center, Knoxville
Knoxville Garden Club
Knoxville Zoological Gardens
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
Rachel Jackson Garden Club, Mt. Juliet
Reflection Riding, Chattanooga
Smoky Mountains Hiking Club, Knoxville
Southern Appalachian Botanical Society
Southern Appalachian Plant Society, Tri-cities
Steele Creek Nature Center, Bristol
Swan Conservation Trust, Summertown
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 Trails Association

Tennessee Wildlife Federation

The Nature Conservancy of Tennessee

Tyne Meade Garden Club, Nashville

University of the South Herbarium, Sewanee

UT Arboretum, Forestry Resources Research & Education Center, Oak Ridge