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**NISC Newsletter: October 2010**

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**NISC NEWETTER**

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October 2010

**International News**

**Conference in Copenhagen demands EU legislation on invasive species**

Posted by Graham Land in Conservation, Politics, Wildlife & Flora, September 19, 2010



Photo by Gidzy (Flickr CC)

Researchers met last week at the NEOBIOTA conference in Copenhagen, Denmark to discuss the problem of invasive species in Europe. The 6<sup>th</sup> NEOBIOTA conference called on the EU to protect Europe's native species against animals, plants and microorganisms that are deemed a threat. The participants are demanding that the EU enact legislation similar to that of New Zealand and Australia. Invasive species – which have, according to research, increased by 76% over the last 30 years – cost Europe an estimated €12 billion every year. Invasive species Piero Genovesi of the Invasive Species Specialist Group (ISSG) and the ISPRA (The Institute for Environmental Protection and Research) says that €12 billion is a low estimate and that the real damage is impossible to gauge, but is probably several times that figure. Invasive species with the greatest impact on Europe include the disease-spreading Asian tiger mosquito and the Canada Goose. For more on the story see the following article from BBC News: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-11286432>

**Report Concludes Invasive Species, Climate Change, Form 'Deadly Duo'**

By David Fogarty – Reuters, October 22, 2010

Climate change is set to drive the spread of invasive plant and animal species, threatening forests, fisheries and crops, in a double blow to nature and livelihoods, a World Bank-funded report said on Friday. The study by Nairobi-based Global Invasive Species Program

(authors Stas Burgiel and Adrianna Muir) says a warmer world, more extreme weather and higher levels of planet-warming carbon dioxide will give some species an edge, devastating ecosystems at sea and on land. "The estimated damage from invasive species worldwide totals more than \$1.4 trillion annually -- 5 percent of the global economy," says the report issued on the sidelines of a major U.N. meeting in Japan aimed at combating the destruction of nature.

The United Nations says climate change, pollution, deforestation and over-hunting have led to a rapid rise in extinctions, threatening the richness of nature that underpins services such as clean air, water as well as food and health.

"Individually, climate change and invasive species present two of the greatest threats to biodiversity and the provision of valuable ecosystem services," says the report for policymakers. It outlines myriad examples of invasive plants and animals that have proven much more adept at survival than other local species, leading to erosion, damage to crops, livestock and fisheries and lost income for tourism. In particular, climate change can lead to some local species becoming much less able to adapt to warmer temperatures or more extreme droughts and floods, making them vulnerable to other species that have much greater tolerance levels. In some cases, invasive species can also curb the amount of carbon dioxide that nature can soak up from the atmosphere. In North America, warmer winter temperatures have led to an explosion in the numbers of native mountain pine beetles, killing off large areas of forest. In the Caribbean, the lionfish, which is native to coral reefs in the South Pacific, Indian Ocean and Red Sea, has quickly spread

**Special points of interest:**

- INVASIVE SPECIES, CLIMATE CHANGE FORM DEADLY DUO
- INVADER OF THE MONTH
- TURNING INVASIVE PLANTS TO FUEL

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since first released in the mid-1980s. The fish is a voracious predator with venomous spines and has no natural enemies in the Caribbean, threatening local fish, shrimp and crab populations. Warming ocean temperatures in the region have helped it thrive. Along the west coast of the United States and Canada, the European green crab is threatening native clam, mussel and crab species and possibly arrived in ship ballast water. Weeds, pests and diseases were also a growing threat to agriculture, the study says, undermining food security. "Indirectly, climate change will impact agriculture by increasing the incidence and intensity of invasive species," says the report. Agriculture supports the livelihoods of more than a third of the world's population. The study also pointed to the likely spread of diseases such as bird flu, plague, Rift Valley fever, dengue, Ebola and malaria. "Climate change combined with global trade and transport networks may significantly increase the threat of such pandemics," the authors say. The study urged policymakers to take steps to halt the spread of non-native species, develop early detection systems, restore and protect existing ecosystems to make them more resilient and eradicate or control species that limit nature's ability to soak up carbon. Read more: <http://www.insurancejournal.com/news/international/2010/10/22/114268.htm#ixzz14RVgKJ74>

**MSU, partners in six states consider converting invasive plants to fuel**

October 06, 2010 -- By Evelyn Boswell, MSU News Service



Russian olives (MSU photo by Kelly Gorham)

BOZEMAN -- Invasive plants make life tougher for farmers and ranchers who live in the six headwater states of the Missouri River Basin, so why not turn the plants into fuel and make some money at the same time? Russian olive and saltcedar alone could supply biomass far into the future, according to weed experts throughout the region. Converting invasive plants to fuel is an intriguing idea that's being investigated by partners in a regional project headed by the Center for Invasive Plant Management (CIPM) at Montana State University and the Missouri River Watershed Coalition, said project director Liz Galli-Noble, also CIPM director. The center and MSU were recently awarded \$1 million from the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Conservation Innovation Grant program, to develop innovative ideas for managing invasive plants and work with public and private partners in Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming Colorado and Nebraska. Out of 230 grant proposals submitted and 61 grants awarded for conservation work, MSU's tied for the largest. Invasive plants can be ornamental plants that escaped from the garden, fast-growing non-native plants that were intentionally brought to the region to stabilize soils or river banks, or strange-looking weeds that continuously spread from other states and countries. But Galli-Noble said they all can cause very serious ecological and economic problems in the western United States. She added that their prevention and control are crucial management issues in the Missouri River Watershed. Dense invasive plant infestations choke river systems; restrict access for irrigation, wildlife and recreation; reduce water quality and quantity; and degrade or eliminate habitat for wildlife and livestock. The six states in the upper Missouri watershed contain hundreds of thousands of tons of invasive plant biomass, Galli-Noble estimated. The en-

**Invader of the Month**

**State News**

October 4, 2010

ANNAPOLIS, MD (October 4, 2010) - Winter moth (*Operophtera brumata*), an exotic pest from Europe, has the potential to be a very serious problem in deciduous forests throughout the eastern United States. It already is well established in Nova Scotia, eastern Massachusetts, British Columbia, Oregon and Washington states. Winter moth is a more general feeder than the gypsy moth, which prefers to feed on oaks and hickories. Winter moth does not experience population collapses outside its native range, so several consecutive years of defoliation do occur. Because of its ability to feed on a large range of hosts and potential to have many consecutive years of defoliation, MISC has declared winter moth to be the October Invader of the Month. For more information, please visit: [http://mdinvasivesp.org/invader\\_of\\_the\\_month.html](http://mdinvasivesp.org/invader_of_the_month.html)







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tire river is 2,540 miles long and drains about one-sixth of the North American continent. More than a million acres in the western United States are infested with Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*) and saltcedar (*Tamarix spp.*) alone. "It's a huge supply of currently unwanted and untapped biomass," Galli-Noble said. To read the entire article, visit: <http://www.montana.edu/cpa/news/nwview.php?article=8903>.

**Maryland Sea Grant and the Mid-Atlantic Panel on Aquatic Invasive Species** are pleased to announce the release of our final report from our jointly sponsored workshop on Vector Management in the mid-Atlantic region. The final report from the workshop is at: <http://www.mdsg.umd.edu/issues/restoration/non-natives/workshop09/report/>

### In the News

#### Out, Invasive Species!

10/18/10 Bangor Daily News by David Ricardo

Invasive species don't just choke up local ponds and drive out natives; they cost the United States up to \$200 billion a year. While non-native animals such as Asian shore crabs and pike have gotten a lot of attention, invasive plants also are a growing problem. If you are out driving on a country road, watch out for any Japanese knotweed, purple loosestrife or glossy buckthorn. Those three are the most troublesome along Maine's coast, says Aleta McKeague, an Acadia National Park botanist who leads the exotic plant management project. She will lecture on invasive species and how to combat them Tuesday, Oct. 19, at 7 p.m. in Moore Auditorium at the Schoodic Educational Research Center in Winter Harbor. The park is seeking additional volunteers to cut back or root out these alien plants. Most of that work takes place in the growing season and resumes next May, but now is a good time to learn about the plants. **Japanese knotweed** by this time has lost its triangular leaves and stands up to 13 feet high as fat, green, red-flecked stalks with joints that make them look like bamboo. Gardeners are said to have brought it to this country as an ornamental plant and for use in erosion control. But it spreads quickly and forms thickets that crowd out native vegetation and clog waterways. **Purple loosestrife** is a shrub that stands 3-10 feet tall and can form thick mats along ditches and streams. Its stems are green to purple. A single stem can produce more than a million seeds a year, so uprooting it should take place before the seeds fall. The **glossy buckthorn** is a large shrub or a small tree that can grow up to 20 feet and forms dense stands that can choke out other plants. Park botanists suggest that people consult the Internet for descriptions and pictures of invasive plants. They cite particularly [www.invasive.org](http://www.invasive.org), but other web sites are also easily found by searching for specific plants. To read the entire article, visit: <http://www.bangordailynews.com/story/Opinion/Out-Invasive-Species,156489>

#### Invasive Tallowtree Spreading Rapidly Across Gulf Coast

Science Daily (Oct. 6, 2010)

A study by a USDA Forest Service Southern Research Station scientist shows the numbers of nonnative Chinese tallowtree in Louisiana, Mississippi and east Texas grew by about 370 percent over a 16-year period. The spread of the invasive plant may create problems for plants and wildlife along the Gulf coast. Tallowtree is a deciduous plant with heart-shaped leaves that grows to 60 feet in height. It invades stream banks, riverbanks, and wet areas like ditches as well as upland sites.

Large seeds containing oil are spread by numerous large bird species. The tree is native to China and was introduced to South Carolina in the 1700s. There are approximately 457,000 acres of



tallowtree in nine of the 13 southern states. Experts say tallowtree can change the chemical properties of soil and alter the composition and structure of native plant communities. Additionally, litter from the plant may alter habitat in invaded wetland areas, which could affect some frog and other amphibian species. "I examined Forest Inventory and Analysis data from plots measured in the 1990s and within the last five years and found the increase in tallowtree to be dramatic across the three states," said Sonja Oswalt, a research forester with the Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program based in Knoxville, TN. Forest Service experts believe organization of a coordinated tallowtree management program among impacted states is needed to safeguard the biosecurity of southern and eastern forests. Miller believes the rapid spread of tallowtree poses a serious threat to the diversity and productivity of the South's forests. He says as temperatures rise because of climate change, the probability of tallowtree moving farther north increases. Miller adds that bird-carried seed and ornamental plantings by unsuspecting homeowners will likely contribute to the northward spread of tallowtree. <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2010/06/100608135038.htm>

#### Hunting Asian Carp

Since 2005, Bath, Illinois has played host to the annual "Redneck Fishing Tournament" in late August. The tournament, which was organized by local resident Betty DeFord, requires participants run their motorboats down the Illinois River and catch as many silver Asian carp as possible with their hands, nets, or boats (i.e., no fishing poles or other traditional fishing gear). This is possible





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because the carp jump high out of the water when disturbed by the sound of motors; while this makes the large fish hazardous to boaters and jet-skiers, it makes them easy to catch for participants. The event, which has attracted national media outlets such as CBS World News, NPR, Time, and National Geographic, has brought attention to the destructive impact invasive species have on ecosystems. The winner receives a small cash prize and the satisfaction of knowing they contributed- in a small way- to the control of this runaway invasive species. DeFord runs a local bar called the Boat Tavern that serves as headquarters for the event.



Additionally, bowfishing Asian carp is becoming an increasingly popular and lucrative recreational activity. There are individual bowfishing tours available, as well as large tournaments dedicated to snagging as many of these invasive species as possible. Carpbusters (carpbusters.com) is an organization of conservationists that hosts a number of Asian carp tournaments. For example, on July 31, 2010, they sponsored the "Southern Iowa Carpfest." Other sponsors of bowfishing Asian carp tournaments include the Illinois Bowfishers and the Bowfishing Association of America. (NISC Intern, Andrew Gall)



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## New Website

### Landscape for Life Helps Homeowners Create Sustainable, Beautiful Gardens!

A new website launched by the United States Botanic Garden and the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center gives every home gardener the resources to harness lessons from nature to create a garden that supports the environment. Based on the **Sustainable**

**Sites Initiative**, Landscape for Life helps home gardeners work with nature. From a garden in city or suburban lot to a community garden plot or common area of a condo, the website carries the message that we all garden within an ecosystem and offers a wealth of helpful and accessible information to build on this connection. For additional information visit: <http://www.weedcenter.org/mrwc/index.html>

## NISC Staff Updates

NISC is pleased to welcome **Stanley (Stas) Ware Burgiel** as the new **Assistant Director for Prevention and Budgetary Coordination**. Stas has significant experience working on both domestic and international invasive species issues as Policy Director for the Global Invasive Species Programme and Senior Policy Analyst for The Nature Conservancy. Stas has written extensively on invasive species issues including how invasive species issues relate to climate change, international trade and island ecosystems. NISC is very pleased Stas will soon be on board (November 22, 2010) to work with NISC members on important prevention and coordination issues.

**Phillip Andreozzi**, who serves as senior policy analyst for NISC, has accepted a detail assignment with the Office of Policy Analysis at the Department of the Interior (DOI) for the next six months. Phil will continue working on Pacific invasive species issues as well as a variety of policy issues for DOI.

### Highlights of Recent Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force (ANSTF) Meeting from NISC DOC Policy Liaison

Here are the highlights from last week's Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force (ANSTF) Fall Meeting which was held on November 3 – 4, 2010 in Arlington, VA. Briefly the ANSTF received informational briefs which included: Mexican Invasive Species Legislation and Policies (Roberto Mendoza, Universidad Autonoma de Nuevo Leon); US EPA's Vessel General Permits (Ryan Albert, EPA); updates on the Chinese Mitten Crab and Asian Carp Management and Control Plans (Ron Smith, U.S. FWS, Steve Shults, Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources); summaries of the International Symposium on Genetic Biocontrol of Invasive Fish and the Aquatic Invasive Species Vector Management workshops (Leah Sharpe, Univ. of Minnesota, Jonathan McKnight, MD Dept. of Natural Resources); and a demonstration of the Wetland Plants Database by Bob Lichvar (Army Corp of Engineers).

Highlights of the ANSTF decisions and recommendations included:

- Approval of the Wyoming and Nebraska Aquatic Nuisance Species State Management plans. The Alabama State Management Plan was conditionally approved, the state will have 90 days to make the recommended changes and resubmit their plan to the ANSTF.



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- An ANSTF committee will be established to update the Aquatic Invasive Species Recreational Guidelines.
- An ANSTF committee will be established to make recommendations regarding an invasive species component to the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, ANSTF will review these recommendations and submit them to the EPA and Dept. of State upon approval.
- An ANSTF committee will be established to research the rapid response and Incident Command System training capability of federal agencies.
- The ANSTF co-chairs will request increased U.S. federal agency participation within the regional panels.
- ANSTF will consult with the National Invasive Species Council (NISC) to establish a Pathways Working Group to address invasive species vectors and request volunteers to staff this group.

The next ANSTF meeting will be held the first week of May, 2011 in Little Rock, Arkansas

## Conferences

**November 3-4, 2010: The Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force (ANSTF)** will meet: For additional information, contact Susan Mangin, ANSTF/U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Arlington, VA 22203, 703-358-2466.

**November 8-10, 2010: Minnesota-Wisconsin Invasive Species Conference 2010** will be held in St. Paul, Minnesota. For additional information about the conference go to, <http://www.minnesotaswics.org/>

**November 10-11, 2010: 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Symposium: The Business of Biodiversity** hosted by the Wildlife Habitat Council at the Baltimore Marriott Waterfront in Baltimore, Maryland. For more information go to: <http://quest.cvent.com/EVENTS/Info/Summary.aspx?i=b759afc7-bafe-4119-a4a6-11a9276e33ab>

**November 13-17, 2010: The 5th National Conference on Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration** meeting will be held at the Galveston Island Convention Center in Galveston, TX. For additional information, visit: [www.estuaries.org/conference](http://www.estuaries.org/conference).

**November 15-17, 2010: North American Invasive Species Network (NAISN) Workshop** will be held in Boise, Idaho at the Grove Hotel.

**November 30-December 2, 2010: The Partners in Environmental Technology Technical Symposium & Workshop** will take place in Washington, DC. This event is sponsored by the Strategic Envi-

ronmental Research and Development Program (SERDP). The CALL FOR POSTER ABSTRACTS has been released. For information on registration and Poster Abstract: <http://www.serdp-estcp.org/symposium2010/posters/posters.cfm>.

**November 30 – December 2, 2010: The Western Weed Coordinating Committee Annual Meeting** will be held in Las Vegas, Nevada at the Orleans Hotel and Casino. For additional information, visit: <http://www.weedcenter.org/wgcc/docs/Invitation-2010.pdf>

**December 7-9, 2010: Invasive Species Advisory Committee (ISAC) Meeting** will be held at the USDA Economic Research Service Conference Center in Washington, DC. For more information, visit: [www.invasivespecies.gov](http://www.invasivespecies.gov).

**December 6 to 9, 2010: A Community on Ecosystem Services (ACES) Conference** will be held at Sheraton Wild Horse Pass, 5594 West Wild Horse Pass Blvd., Chandler, AZ, USA 85226. This conference includes a session on Invasive Species and Ecosystem Services. <http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/aces/index.html>.

**December 8-9, 2010: Great Lakes Panel (GLP) on Aquatic Nuisance Species** will hold a two-day meeting at the Courtyard Marriott in Ann Arbor, Michigan. To view the draft agenda, visit: <http://glc.org/ans/pdf/10-10-08-GLP%20Meet-Dec-2010-Prelim-Agenda-Extended-GLP.pdf>.

**February 16-17, 2011: The Landscape Ecology of Tamarisk 2011 Research Conference** is being held in Tucson, AZ at the Marriott University Park Hotel. The deadline to submit abstracts is October 1, 2010. For additional information go to: <http://www.tamariskcoalition.org/2011ResearchConference.html>.

**March 5-9, 2011: Global Conference on Entomology, 2011, Thailand.** The main objective of the Global Conference on Entomology is to showcase advances in entomological research and development in the insect world. For additional information, visit: [www.entomology2011.com](http://www.entomology2011.com)

**March 10, 2011: Ecological Effects of Invasive Plants, Western Society of Weed Science Symposium** will be held at the Double Tree City Center Hotel in Spokane, Washington. For additional information, visit: <http://www.wsweedscience.org/Meeting/2011/WSWS%20symposium%20description%20FINAL.pdf>

**July 6-8, 2011: Noxious and Invasive Plant Short Course** will be held at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. For additional information, contact Dr. Stephen L. Young, Weed Ecologist. Email address: [syoung4@unlnotes.unl.edu](mailto:syoung4@unlnotes.unl.edu)