

CIPC Newsletter

February 2010



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CIPC UPDATE

Highlights from activities conducted by the CIPC from November, 2009 to February, 2010:

- HOT SPOT crews in Duncan and Comox continue working into February, conducting invasive plant removal and inventorying activities in priority sites throughout Vancouver Island under the guidance of the CIPC. Additional crews in Campbell River and Victoria wrapped up in December. These HOT SPOT crews are part of a province-wide initiative led by the Invasive Plant Council of BC (IPCBC), and funded by the Ministry of Community and Rural Development's Job Opportunities Program. Year two of the HOT SPOTS program is anticipated to begin again in April 2010, with planning on the locations and workplans underway between the CIPC and IPCBC.

In addition to HOT SPOTS crews, a Technical Support Assistant has been provided to the CIPC through the IPCBC's Job Opportunities Program. Russell Blake was hired in January 2010 for this two-month position, and is currently assisting the CIPC with completing IAPP data entry and GIS mapping of priority invasive plants within the CIPC's management area.

- The Invasive Plant Council of BC has hired 13 workers in rural communities across the Province to deliver invasive plant awareness programming. "*Stop the Spread!*" is a collaborative education and outreach program between the Invasive Plant Council of BC and the Coastal Invasive Plant Committee, with funding for the program provided by Western Economic Diversification.

Within the CIPC's management area, two outreach workers have been hired under the "*Stop the Spread*" Program. They will be working with the CIPC to provide focused invasive plants education to a wide range of audiences in the CIPC region until March 31, 2010.

Outreach questions or requests can be directed to Education and Outreach Specialists (below), or by contacting the CIPC Coordinator at: info@coastalinvasiveplants.com:

Dave Johnson: outreachisland1@invasiveplantcouncilbc.ca
(Southern Vancouver Island)

Sarah York: outreachisland2@invasiveplantcouncilbc.ca
(Mid to Northern Vancouver Island, Upper Sunshine Coast)

- The recently developed *Aquatics & Riparian Invasive Plants* Module of the Invasive Plant Council of BC's (IPCBC) 'Spotters Network' was piloted by CIPC at the Swan Lake Christmas Hill Sanctuary on January 26th. With feedback provided from pilots held in different regions of the Province, the final version of this presentation will soon be available for interested audiences.
- A long-term management strategy for knotweed containment in the Cowichan River Provincial Park and First Nations lands is being developed, with funding for this initiative provided by the BC Ministry of Environment. The strategy is expected to be completed this spring, and will

provide guidelines to invasive plant management for landowners, stakeholders and crews working within the Cowichan River watershed area.

- The CIPC's DRAFT Invasive Plant Management Regional Strategy is expected to be completed in February. Consultations and meetings with First Nations and stakeholders within the management area are expected to begin soon afterwards, and the final version of the Strategy will be completed and available for the summer of 2010. Support for this initiative is being provided by a number of agencies, including the Agriculture Environment Wildlife Fund (AEWF), BC Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands and BC Ministry of Forests and Range.
- CIPC staff and several members recently attended the Invasive Plant Council of BC's Fifth Annual Forum and AGM, "Unique Habitats, Unique Challenges" in Richmond, January 19 to 20, 2010. The two-day forum was attended by a record number of participants, and featured speakers discussing a variety of topics including "Weed Spotter" programs for increased surveillance, collaborative approaches for increasing Aboriginal involvement, and bioenergy crops as a potential pathway of invasion.

EVENTS

1. CONFERENCE: Western Aquatic Plant Management Society Conference. Seattle, Washington. March 28 - 31, 2010.

Source: Invasive Plant Council of British Columbia website.

Learn more about aquatic plant management by attending the Western Aquatic Invasive Species Society (WAPMS) Conference!

The Western Aquatic Plant Management Society (WAPMS) is the western chapter of the Aquatic Plant Management Society – an international organization.

The purpose of the WAPMS is to:

- Promote the management of non-native and nuisance aquatic vegetation.
- Encourage scientific research.
- Promote student scholarships.
- Provide scientific advancement and knowledge to its members.
- Extend and develop public interest in aquatic plant management activities.

WAPMS members include individuals from the private, public, and academic sectors with an interest in all aspects of aquatic plant management.

For registration and call for posters, visit: http://www.wapms.org/wapms_conference.htm

2. CONFERENCE: 9th Prairie Conservation and Endangered Species Conference. Winnipeg, Manitoba. February 25 - 27, 2010

Source: Invasive Plant Council of British Columbia Website

Patterns of Change: Learning From Our Past To Manage Our Present And Conserve Our Future

The 9th Prairie Conservation and Endangered Species Conference will bring together decision-makers, researchers and community and grass-roots groups along with farmers, ranchers, Aboriginal groups and other private citizens who have an abiding interest in sustaining prairie land, water, plants and animals.

The conference theme, Patterns of Change, reflects the goal of this event to give divergent prairie

interest groups the chance to explore ideas and approaches to sustain land owners and users as well as the rich natural heritage that is the endowment of all prairie landscape dwellers.

For more information, visit: www.pcesc.ca

3. CONFERENCE: The Western Canada Turfgrass Association (WCTA) Annual Conference and Trade Show. Nanaimo, B.C. January 29 – February 3, 2010.

Source: Western Turfgrass Association.

The Western Canada Turfgrass Association is actively involved in the promotion and support of research, education and discussion in turfgrass management. WCTA members represent a diversity of interest such as golf courses, school boards, municipalities, sod farms, nurseries, landscapers, lawn bowling greens and the trade which supplies the industry.

The Conference, including an extensive Exhibitors' Display, provides an opportunity to take part in a comprehensive education program relating to Turfgrass management. In addition to training in soil science, plant physiology, environmental management, irrigation methods and cultural practices, seminars typically include a variety of professional development topics, human resource management, strategic planning, occupational health and safety, financial controls and more. The conference is also a valuable opportunity to network with other Turfgrass Managers, exchanging experiences and ideas with others having the same interests.

For more information on this conference, please visit:

<http://www.wctaturf.com/topics/conference/media.html>

4. CONFERENCE: Island Invasives Conference. Auckland, New Zealand. February 8-12, 2010.

Source: Aliens ListServe

Now open for registration. Go to <http://www.cbb.org.nz/conferences.asp> to read the updated information and proceed to the payments page. If you are considering presentation of a paper, remember the deadline for abstracts is 31 August. Details about abstracts and papers are in the webpage and files attached to that. Please pass this information on to as many people as possible.

Regards, Dick Veitch. Conference Manager.

5. WORKSHOPS: Garry Oak Ecosystem Recovery Team hosts two events in Victoria, B.C. March 4th and 5th, 2010.

Source: Garry Oak Ecosystem Recovery Team.

Mark March 4th and 5th in your calendars, as GOERT is hosting two events at the Pacific Forestry Centre on those days. First up is the 7th annual **Research Colloquium**, a popular all-day event that showcases research on Garry oak ecosystems. The next day, Friday March 5th, GOERT's Native Plant Propagation Steering Committee is hosting a workshop titled '**Native Plants in the Urban Landscape.**'

For descriptions and registration information for both events: <http://www.goert.ca/news/2010/01/26/two-march-events/>

6. EVENT: 15th Annual Spring Festival Celebration of Island Gardening, Celebrating Spring Gardening in Nanaimo. March, 12th to 14th 2010.

The Theme of this show will be "Growing your Own Food at Home" The celebration takes place Friday, March 12 to Sunday, March 14, 2010 at Beban Park Social Centre 2300 Bowen Road, Nanaimo. Show hours are: Friday: 1 PM to 7:30 PM Saturday: 9:30 AM to 5 PM Sunday: 9:30 AM to 5:00 PM Admission is \$6.00 per day or \$15.00 for all three days.

For more information go to: www.islandgardenshow.com

NEWS

7. NEWS RELEASE: Government of Canada takes action to protect Garry oak ecosystems.

Source: http://www.pc.gc.ca/apps/cp-nr/release_e.asp?id=1468&andor1=nr

Actions on the ground happening in Gulf Islands National Park Reserve of Canada and Fort Rodd Hill National Historic Site

Sidney, British Columbia, November 20, 2009--On behalf of the Honourable Jim Prentice, Canada's Environment Minister and Minister responsible for Parks Canada, Gary Lunn, Minister of State for Sport and Member of Parliament for Saanich-Gulf Islands, today announced a Government of Canada investment of \$2.5 million for restoration of Garry oak habitats in Gulf Islands National Park Reserve and Fort Rodd Hill National Historic Site over five years.

"Garry oak ecosystems are some of the rarest and most beautiful landscapes in Canada," said Minister Lunn. "This investment will help us restore habitat, conserve rare species and continue to develop innovative programs that involve local citizens and visitors."

The project will focus on Garry oak ecosystem habitat restoration in Gulf Islands National Park Reserve and Fort Rodd Hill National Historic Site. By removing invasive plant species and planting several thousand native plants, Parks Canada will improve the natural environment of one of Canada's rarest ecosystems. More than a hundred rare species that are at risk of extinction are dependent on the plants, animals and climate found only within Garry oak ecosystems.

Today's announcement is part of Government of Canada's Action on the Ground Program, a nationwide initiative where real and tangible actions are taken on the ground that engage Canadians in a range of conservation activities that focus on improving the natural environment of Canada's national parks and other heritage areas. This investment is another demonstration of the Government of Canada's international leadership in the area of ecological management and restoration.

"I am delighted to see this Action on the Ground project rallying public support in Gulf Islands National Park Reserve and Fort Rodd Hill national historic site," said Minister Prentice. "Protecting the environment and its most vulnerable elements is our shared responsibility. This is exactly the type of project that yields long-lasting results and has the potential to influence visitors and inspire them to reflect on their actions and impact of the environment."

Information:

Alison Manley
External Relations Manager
Coastal British Columbia Field Unit
Parks Canada
250-654-4048

To read this full article and related backgrounders visit: http://www.pc.gc.ca/apps/cp-nr/release_e.asp?id=1468&andor1=nr

8. ANNOUNCEMENT: Garry Oak Ecosystem Recovery Team (GOERT) Wins National Award. January 22, 2010.

Source: Garry Oak Ecosystem Recovery Team Website

Last fall out of the blue, GOERT received notice that we had been awarded The Paul McGaw Memorial Conservation Award from the North American Native Plant Society (NANPS). The award recognizes the extraordinary contribution of an individual or group to the conservation, protection or restoration of the natural heritage/native flora of North America at the community, regional, provincial, national or continental level.

Specifically, GOERT was recognized for its 'dedication in working towards the protection and recovery of Garry oak and associated ecosystems, and for creating public awareness of the value of — and threats to — this endangered ecosystem.'

The North American Native Plant Society is dedicated to the study, conservation, cultivation and restoration of native plants.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.goert.ca/news/2010/01/22/nanps-award/>

9. NEWS ARTICLE: *On the Boots of Fishermen: The History of Didymo Blooms on Vancouver Island, British Columbia.*

Source: BioNews, Volume 19 No. 3. October 2009.

In 1989 blooms of the river benthic diatom *Didymosphenia geminata* (didymo) first appeared and rapidly spread among rivers on central Vancouver Island, covering the bottoms with thick, woolly looking mats. Although didymo is native to North America, extensive field surveys of rivers on Vancouver Island and other data indicate that didymo blooms are new. No known environmental changes were associated with the onset of didymo blooms. However the pattern of didymo spread among rivers on Vancouver Island correlates with the activity of fishermen and the commercial introduction and widespread use of felt-soled waders in the late 1980s. Since 1994 nuisance blooms of didymo have appeared in numerous other places in the Northern Hemisphere and South Island, New Zealand, all areas frequented by fishermen. Actions by government agencies to educate the public and restrict the use of felt-soled waders have been undertaken in some jurisdictions and at least one commercial manufacturer of waders will discontinue production of felt- soled models in the near future.

To read the full article, visit: <http://www.apbbc.bc.ca/files/BioNews19-3.pdf>

10. NEWS ARTICLE: *Goats forage on invasive knotweeds in Courtenay.*

Source: Invasive Plant Council of British Columbia, Ebulletin: Issue 1 - December 2009

Municipalities looking for tools to combat invasive plants in herbicide-free areas may now have an effective option to consider for future management programs—foraging goats.

A pilot project to battle invasive knotweeds using foraging goats began in Courtenay last summer, and is now entering its second season. Millard/Piercy Watershed Stewards has partnered with the Comox Valley Farmers' Institute and the Shamrock 4H Oddstock and Craft Club to run the program and engage youth in the foraging schedule. Last summer, a small herd of 20 goats significantly reduced the energy stores of the invasive knotweeds at the test site by more than half of their size. Projections for this season look just as promising. The aim is that goats foraging on the leaves and shoots will dramatically decrease the energy of the roots, to slow or eventually halt the growth of the knotweeds.

According to Millard / Piercy Watershed Stewards' Watershed Coordinator, Ronna-Rae Leonard, one of the key advantages to using goats is how gentle they are in their foraging. Many invasive plants, such as invasive knotweeds, spread vigorously when their root systems are disturbed and broken; however, goats leave the roots untouched.

Invasive knotweeds are some of the most potentially damaging invasive plants to riparian systems, said Jeff Hallworth, Agrologist and Coastal Invasive Plant Specialist for the Ministry of Forests and Range. "The biodiversity of native flora, salmon populations, and water quality are all potentially threatened by this most formidable of invasive alien plants."

Knotweeds threaten biodiversity by reducing available habitat and increasing soil erosion. Without any natural enemies, knotweeds quickly dominate freshly disturbed soil in roadside ditches, low-lying areas, irrigation canals, and other water drainage systems. Knotweeds can reduce or eliminate access to water bodies for recreational activities including fishing, swimming, boating, canoeing, and kayaking. Stream banks are at particular risk as exposed roots break off and float downstream to form new infestations. Riparian areas are herbicide-free zones, making the use of goats a potentially effective alternative.

Although foraging goats will not completely eradicate an infestation, they are proving a cost-effective control option for managing invasive plants with the added benefit of providing economic benefits to local farmers.

To read the full article visit: <http://www.invasiveplantcouncilbc.ca/resources/ebulletin/339-goats-forage-on-invasive-knotweeds-in-courtenay>

11. NEWS ARTICLE: *Challenging Weed Meets its Match in Field Trials.*

By Jan Suszkiw, December 22, 2009.

Source: United States Department of Agriculture.

In Oregon, California and other western states, infestations of medusahead have marched across rangeland habitats like the Genghis Khan of grasses. But at the base of Steens Mountain in southwestern Oregon, a small but stubborn band of defenders—desert wheatgrass plantings— have held fast against the invader, offering hope of a new, ecologically based approach to controlling it.

Agricultural Research Service (ARS) rangeland scientist Kirk Davies is monitoring the Steens Mountain "standoff" as part of a broader research effort at Burns, Ore., to develop new tools and strategies for land managers to use in controlling medusahead, (*Taeniatherum caput-medusae*). This invasive species infests millions of acres there and in other western states. It has decimated native plant communities, reduced forage quality, degraded wildlife habitat and caused other harm, according to Davies, who works at the ARS Range and Meadow Forage Management Research Unit in Burns.

He and ARS ecologist Roger Sheley and range technician Aleta Nafus first established the desert wheatgrass, (*Agropyron desertorum*), in February 2006 as a dozen 49- by 33-foot bands on the leading edge of a medusahead infestation near the foothills of Steens Mountain. Beyond the bands lay undisturbed communities of sagebrush, squirreltail, needlegrass and other native plants.

In June 2008, the team measured the density and canopy cover of medusahead whose seed had managed to spread beyond the desert wheatgrass barriers and become established in the plant communities. Medusahead spread data also was collected from a dozen barrier-free sites.

The team's analysis, presented in Oregon State University's 2009 Field Day Report earlier this year, showed that native plant communities without the barriers harbored more medusahead than those with the barriers—a difference of more than 40-fold. Davies attributes the reduction to the ability of wheatgrass to compete for soil resources and potentially snare wind-blown medusahead seed.

Future research could focus on fine-tuning the approach and ensuring the compatibility of desert wheatgrass with native species—its "protectees." Ideally, the barriers would be integrated with other measures, including prescribed grazing and judicious use of herbicides.

To see this article online, please visit: <http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/pr/2009/091222.htm>

12. NEWS ARTICLE: *Courting Controversy with New View on Exotic Species.*

By Greg Breining, Yale Environment 360, November 19, 2009.

Source: GVI PC Listserve

A number of biologists are challenging the long-held orthodoxy that invasive species are inherently bad. In their contrarian view, many introduced species have proven valuable and useful and have increased the diversity and resiliency of native ecosystems.

To read the full article, visit: <http://www.e360.yale.edu/content/feature.msp?id=2212>

13. WEBSITE: *British Columbia seeks input on cosmetic use of pesticides.*

Source: GVI PC Listserve, British Columbia Ministry of Environment.

Environment Minister Barry Penner is asking British Columbians for their input on whether additional restrictions should be placed on the use of pesticides for cosmetic purposes. "It just makes sense to limit pesticide use to what is actually required to accomplish a particular task, which is why we already require the use of integrated pest management for many pesticide uses in B.C.," said Penner. "We now want to have a discussion about how we can encourage all British Columbians to reduce unnecessary pesticide use."

Pesticides used in B.C. must first be approved by Health Canada and are also regulated through the Integrated Pest Management Act, which sets rules for both the sale and use of pesticides. The act requires pest control companies to practice integrated pest management, which includes pest prevention and considering alternatives to pesticides. The act also requires that people be notified when pesticides are used on public land, and around multi-resident buildings.

The public consultation will remain open until Feb. 15, 2010. The results of the consultation will be made public in the spring of 2010, along with information about any next steps to address cosmetic use of pesticides in British Columbia. People can participate in the consultation by visiting the website at <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/ipmp/> and clicking on the Cosmetic Use of Pesticides Consultation button.

To participate in this public consultation, please visit: <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/ipmp/>

RESOURCES

14. WEBSITE: *Invasive Plant Council of British Columbia Ebulletin.*

Source: Invasive Plant Council of British Columbia

IPCBC is now generating bi-monthly Ebulletins that showcase invasive plant management projects around the province, in Canada and abroad, as well as council news, upcoming meetings, and calendar of events.

Please visit the Ebulletin at: <http://www.invasiveplantcouncilbc.ca/resources/ebulletin>

15. WEBSITE: Conservation Maven

Source: GVIPC Listserve, www.HEAR.org

Conservation Maven is a new website that has been developed as a resource for the conservation community. We profile new academic studies every day to help keep conservation researchers and practitioners connected to new information. We also have a conservation funding board that is updated daily with new foundation and grant funding opportunities. - Rob Goldstein, Editor

Conservation Maven
130 Irving Street
San Francisco, CA 94122
(415) 308-4669

Visit Conservation Maven at: <http://www.conservationmaven.com/>

16. WEBSITE: Pollinator Conservation Resources – Pacific Northwest Region.

Source: GVIPC Listserve

Here is a new resource from XERCES; the society for invertebrate conservation, which may be of use for plant species management and restoration efforts:

“Welcome to the pollinator resource center, where you can find regional information about plant lists, habitat conservation guides, and more. The pollinator resources found on this page support habitat projects in Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia”

Please visit the Pollinator Conservation Resources at: <http://www.xerces.org/pollinators-pacific-northwest-region/>

OTHER

17. TRAINING SEMINAR: Free Web Seminars on Inventory and Survey Methods for Invasive Plants.

Source: www.weedcenter.org

Six FREE interactive web seminars on inventory and survey methods for invasive plants are offered by the Center for Invasive Plant Management (CIPM) during January and February 2010. There is no fee for the seminars, but advanced registration is required. Participants will be provided with reading materials in advance of each seminar.

In 2009, CIPM received a grant from the Western IPM Center to develop and present a series of six interactive web seminars on invasive plant inventory and survey methods. This FREE seminar series is based on chapters from the publication *Inventory and Survey Methods for Nonindigenous Plant Species* (L.J. Rew and M.L. 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 that are successfully applied over large areas, and provides guidance on selecting methods to best meet the objectives of an integrated pest management strategy.

To learn more and register visit: <http://www.weedcenter.org/outreach/project-webseminar.html>

CENTER FOR INVASIVE PLANT MANAGEMENT | Montana State University | PO Box
173120 Bozeman, MT 59717
tel: 406 994 5557 | fax: 406 994 1889 | web:
www.weedcenter.org

18. TRAINING PROGRAM: Spotters Network Workshops. Invasive Plant Council of BC.

Source: IPCBC

Spotters Network is a FREE 1-1.5 hour orientation workshop designed to enable local community groups or organizations to learn about invasive plants in their area including identification, management, and reporting. Workshop materials and resources are publicly available for downloading (or on CD) and are applicable to all communities across BC. The delivery of each workshop can be tailored to focus on regionally important invasive plants.

For more information and forms, visit the Invasive Plant Council's 'Spotters Network Workshops' webpage at:

<http://www.invasiveplantcouncilbc.ca/news-and-events/234-sign-up-for-spotters-network-workshops>.

The CIPC would be pleased to assist any volunteers who are willing and able to give an invasive plant talk in our region, so consider giving it a try. We need all the eyes we can get that are trained to spot and report invasive plants to successfully stop the spread across our region.