

Proceedings California Exotic Pest Plant Council Symposium '95

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***CALIFORNIA
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Carpobrotus edulis illustration from *Illustrated Flora of the Pacific States*. Leroy Abrams, Stanford, California: Stanford University Press, 1994.

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President's Message

Carla Bossard, president

As those of you who were there already know, the CalEPPC Symposium '95 was a very successful forum which facilitated information exchange about multiple aspects of exotic pest plant problems. Since I was not on the symposium committee this year, I could, to a greater extent than in previous years, experience it as an attendee, and consequently I offer the following observations.

Randy Westbrook led off an excellent set of speakers by clearly delineating the new USDA APHIS weed policy and regulatory strategies aimed at preventing further introduction and spread of exotic pest plants. Presentations elucidated fire and water impacts on exotic infestations; biological control options; new academic, volunteer, and government groups involved with exotics management; and reports on the ecology and management of five exotic pest plant species. The crowd of 260+ attendees enthusiastically listened to and questioned the speakers through late afternoons on Friday and Saturday. The fact that the speakers were more tempting to attendees than the beautiful Pacific Ocean coastal views surrounding them at Asilomar is a great accolade to the speakers.

The poster presentations were equally enlightening and well done with much "hot off the press" information. After a sunset tour of Asilomar dune restoration Friday, a very stimulating set of discussions took place Saturday evening pertaining to the control of individual exotic species. The concerns and insights shared at these discussions by other weed warriors fresh from the field are often, for me, the most useful information of all. The notes from these discussions will be published in the Winter CalEPPC News.

In breaks between speakers, and during early morning and late night hours, meetings were held by members of the boards of Pacific Northwest EPPC, Tennessee EPPC, Florida EPPC, and California EPPC to launch the process of forming the National Association of Exotic Pest Plant Councils (NAEPPC) and to determine its goals and operational details. A Memorandum of Understanding: The Asilomar Accord was signed by the Presidents of the four EPPCs to be ratified by the respective boards of directors. As elucidated on page 12, this collaboration will improve our ability to act on exotic plant issues of national scope.

The field trips on Sunday gave attendees the opportunity to personally experience some of the habitats and exotic plant problems which exist along the Central California coast. It was a pleasant conclusion to a very worthwhile two and one-half day symposium. All those involved in CalEPPC Symposium 95 should feel very satisfied that it was a job well done.

We are left with a year to apply what we learned and a pleasant anticipation of CalEPPC Symposium '96 in San Diego, October 4-6, 1996.

Carla

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