



CalEPPC News

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publication
of the California
Exotic Pest Plant Council

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Several members of the Habitat Restoration Team in Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve after cutting down a date palm tree (safety equipment not shown). Thousands of palm trees have invaded the Preserve from three main loci. Canary Island Date Palm (*Phoenix canariensis*) invaded from a planting of two in the courtyard of the historic adobe ranch house. Fan Palm (*Washingtonia robusta*) have invaded from homes on the rim of the Preserve in two locations. If palms are cut low enough, no herbicide is needed to kill them. Cut at the point or below where the green fronds meet the dead fronds in order to cut through the apical meristem.

Photo by Mike Kelly.

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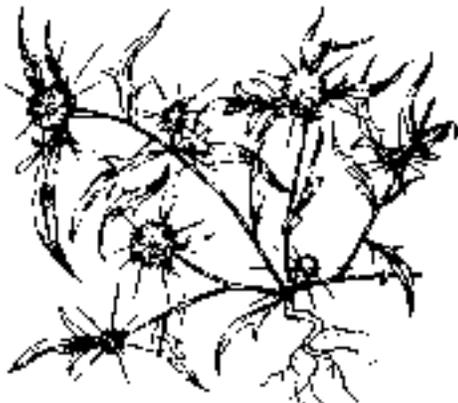
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Who We Are

CalEPPC NEWS is published quarterly by the California Exotic Pest Plant Council, a non-profit organization. The objects of the organization are to:

- ✦ provide a focus for issues and concerns regarding exotic pest plants in California;
- ✦ facilitate communication and the exchange of information regarding all aspects of exotic pest plant control and management;
- ✦ provide a forum where all interested parties may participate in meetings and share in the benefits from the information generated by this council;
- ✦ promote public understanding regarding exotic pest plants and their control;
- ✦ serve as an advisory council regarding funding, research, management and control of exotic pest plants;
- ✦ facilitate action campaigns to monitor and control exotic pest plants in California; and
- ✦ review incipient and potential pest plant management problems and activities and provide relevant information to interested parties.



Please Note:

The California Exotic Pest Plant Council is a California 501(c)3 non-profit, public benefit corporation organized to provide a focus for issues and concerns regarding exotic pest plants in California, and is recognized under federal and state tax laws a qualified donee for tax deductible charitable contributions.

1997 CalEPPC Officers and Board Members

Officers

President	Ann Howald	210 Chestnut Ave., Sonoma, CA 95476; 707.939.0775; email: 102062.170@compuserve.com
Vice-president	Mike Kelly	11875 River Rim Rd., San Diego, CA 92126; 619.566.6489; email: mkellysd@aol.com
Secretary	John Randall	TNC Wildland Weeds Mgmt., UC Section of Plant Biology, Davis, CA 95616; 916.754.8890; email: jarandall@ucdavis.edu
Treasurer	Mike Pitcairn	CDFA, 3288 Meadowview Road, Sacramento, CA 95832; 916.262.2049; email: mpitcairn@smpt1.dfa.ca.gov
Past-president	Carla Bossard	St. Mary's College, Dept. of Biology, P.O. Box 4507, Moraga, CA 94575; 916.758.1602; email: egbossard@aol.com

Board Members whose terms expire December 31, 1997

Editor	Sally Davis	31872 Joshua Dr., No. 25D, Trabuco Canyon, CA 92679; 714.888.8541; email: sallydavis@aol.com
	Stella Humphries	Presidio World College, P.O. Box 29502, San Francisco, CA 94129-0502; 415.561.6590
	Nelroy Jackson	400 So. Ramona Ave., No 212H, Corona, CA 91719; 909.279.7787; email: nejack@ccmail.monsanto.com
	Jo Kitz	6223 Lubao Ave., Woodland Hills, CA 91367; 818.346.9675; email: mtnsrt@aol.com
	Jeff Lovich	USGS Biological Resources Div., 63500 Garnet Ave., No. Palm Springs, CA 2258; 619.251.4823; email: jeffrey_lovich@nbs.gov

Board Members whose terms expire December 31, 1998

	Greg Archbald	GGNPA, Fort Mason, Bldg. 201, San Francisco, CA 94123; 415.673.4067, Ext. 25; email: greg_archbald@ggnpa.org
	Joe Balciunas	USDA Biocontrol, 800 Buchanan St., Albany, CA 94710; 510.559.5975; email: joebalci@pw.usda.gov
	Carl Bell	UC Coop Ext., 1050 E. Holton Rd., Holtville, CA 92250; 619.352.9474; email: cebell@ucdavis.edu
	Joe DiTomaso	UC Weed Science Prog., 210 Robbins Hall, Davis, CA 95616; 916.754.8715; email: ditomaso@vegmail.ucdavis.edu
	Steve Harris	P.O. Box 341, Arcata, CA 95518-0341; 707.826.2709; email: sharris@igc.org

Working Group Chairpersons

Database	Steve Harris	707.826.2709
Membership	Sally Davis	714.888.8541
Nursery growers/landscape architects liaison	Dan Songster	714.895.8161
Slide Collection	Tony Bomkamp	714.837.0404
Species Mgmt & Control:		
Arundo	Nelroy Jackson	909.279.7787
Brooms	Carla Bossard	916.758.1602
German ivy/hoary cress	Dave Chipping and Greg Archbald	805.528.0362 415.673.4067, Ext.25
Lepidium	Joel Trumbo	916.355.0128
Pampas grass	Quentin Griffiths	510.235.6501
Yellow starthistle	Mike Pitcairn	916.262.2049
Tamarisk	Bill Neill and Jeff Lovich	281.287.5246 619.251.4823

CalEPPC's web site: <http://www.igc.apc.org/ceppc/index.html>

Presidents Message

Ann Howald, President

As I write this in early January, northern and central California are beginning to dry out after the New Year's floods, and the Santa Ana winds that plagued southern California have died down. These events are termed "natural disasters" for the substantial human harm they cause, but in fact, flooding and wind storms are just natural phenomena that have shaped California's diverse geography and biology over eons. One thing that IS now different is that armies of exotic pest plants are ready, willing and able to invade the newly expose mud, the jumbled landslides, and the eroded riverbanks that this winter's tempests left behind. Hurry! Pull on your boots and get out there, for there is much to be done in 1997.

A bit of a retrospective...1996 was CalEPPC's fifth year, and many of us think it was the best year so far. Our membership was larger in 1996 than ever before and it continues to grow, a sign that more people know about and share our concerns. CalEPPC co-sponsored several workshops on exotic pest plants, including a tamarisk workshop in Rancho Mirage, a broom workshop in Portland, Oregon and several Arundo workshops. The second edition of CalEPPC's "list," *Exotic Pest Plants of Greatest Concern in California** was published and distributed to all members, as well as other interested parties. Based on the mail I have received, it has been widely read and reviewed. Also, our members approved an increase in the size of our Board of Directors which will allow the board to accomplish even more than we have in the past.

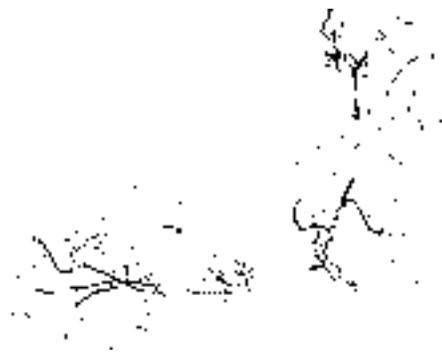
CalEPPC Symposium '96, held in San Diego, was attended by nearly 300 people, including a substantial contingent of new members from southern California. Welcome to CalEPPC! I hope you will join us in the Bay Area for Symposium '97. Many have told me that Symposium '96 was "the best one yet!" And let me again thank Mike Kelly, the organizer, and all of our speakers, and everyone who helped make the symposium happen. Our keynote speaker, Dr. Michael Barbour, gave us his insights on the appearance of California's landscapes before the invaders. Other symposium presentations covered exotics in Arizona and California deserts, a survey of international weed control projects, weed prevention and control policies in Australia, traits that distinguish invasive from non-invasive plants, the evolution of increased competitive abilities in invasive plants, wildlife as weeds, exotic plants in vernal pools, the pros and cons of mechanical weed control by volunteers, a chemical explanation for herbicide selectivity, and control of tamarisk and Arundo in southern California. A special session reviewed all aspects of yellow starthistle biology and control. Posters covered an array of topics including results from a variety of new control experiments. Field trips included expeditions to 1) Camp Pendleton, Bonsall Land Preserve and Fallbrook NWS; and 2) Torrey Pines State Park and Mission Trails Regional Park. For those who were unable to attend Symposium '96, the proceeds will be published. Expect them in mid-year.* In closing, let me say that I look forward to the privilege of represent-

ing the members of our vibrant and active organization. If I, or any of the board members can assist you, please let us know. We're here to serve you, to educate the public, and

**“We’re here to
serve you, to
educate you,
and to protect
California...”**

to protect California's legendary landscapes and bountiful biological diversity from the threats of invasive exotic plants. I wish all of you the best in your weed whacking adventures for 1997!

*(You may order *Greatest Pest Plants of Greatest Concern in California* in any quantity, at no-cost from the editor. Proceedings can be ordered from the editor at the nominal cost of \$10.00).



Lessons from the Front: Taking Stock to Avoid Surprises

**Mike Kelly, President of the Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve,
A San diego-based volunteer conservation group**

What a nasty surprise it was. I came back from the Fall 1992 inaugural CalEPPC Symposium feeling lucky that we didn't have that nasty German ivy (*Senecio mikanioides*) we had seen on the Morro Bay field trip. **Not!** Or the 'weed from hell,' giant reed (*Arundo donax*). **Not!**

You get the picture. We hadn't done our homework. We didn't know which weed problems we had or didn't have. And, if you don't have an accurate inventory of your weeds, can you be prioritizing your scarce resources intelligently? We've learned some lessons about taking inventory of our plant resources - native and non-native - that may be of use to others managing wildlands.

I believe it was at the second CalEPPC conference that our then president, John Randall, gave a presentation on managing weed problems on a preserve level. It was an excellent talk. Perhaps John can be persuaded to dig out his notes and write it up as an article for CalEPPC News. Because of several nasty weed surprises, our group took John's suggestions to heart and planned an inventory of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve.

Diverse Weeds Reflect a Diverse Park

Our weeds are many and are to be found in many habitats, both disturbed and undisturbed. This should be no surprise. Our weed problems reflect the diversity of native habitats on the one hand and our history of human use patterns on the other. Peñasquitos Canyon

Preserve is about 3,700 acres and growing. It's a jointly owned and managed City of San Diego and County of San Diego Park. It's a linear, east to west trending park, about 1/2 mile wide at its widest and about 7 miles long, with two main, parallel canyons joining near its west end. It has numerous side canyons, generally trending north to south and south to north into the two main canyons. It has Peñasquitos Creek, historically seasonal, but year-round due to impact from surrounding development; and Lopez Creek, still a seasonal creek with isolated, summer pools.

Some 14 distinct habitat types have been identified, resulting from the fact the preserve starts near the coast where rainfall often averages 5-6 inches a year, to near inland where it averages about 9 inches a year, to inland where rainfall is as much as 15 inches a year. The geology is just as varied, with some 25 soil types mapped throughout the park. Wetlands include vernal pools, brackish marsh, freshwater marsh, oak riparian forest, sycamore-willow riparian, eucalyptus-willow riparian and willow riparian. Chaparral types range from the extremely rare southern maritime chaparral to the common scrub oak and chamise chaparral. Coastal sage scrub is abundant, including a subtype dominated by the rare California spine bush (*Adolphia californica*). We have native grasslands, European annual grasslands and mixtures of the two. The preserve is home to endangered and rare species of both plants and

animals, including the California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica*), San Diego horned lizard (*Phrynosoma coronatum blainvillei*), Mesa mint (*Pogogyne abramsii*), Poway or thin mint (*Monardella linoides viminea*), San Diego thorn mint (*Acanthomintha ilicifolia*) and others.

In other words, there is a great diversity of habitats for weeds to invade, and they have. Modern human use of the preserve may date from the 1770s, when it is thought to have been used for grazing mission-owned cattle. Intensive grazing has been confirmed from 1823 on, when it was part of the first Mexican-era land grant deeded in Southern California. From that time, grazing, ranching and some agricultural activities were carried on until grazing was ended in the late 1980s. The area most impacted by human activity, including weeds, was the historic adobe ranch house area in the eastern half. The reserve didn't formally begin as a park until 1976 and even then, it began with only about 1,100 acres. It was a new type of park, one that was to be resource based, but allowing passive recreation such as hiking and riding horses. At the time, most city and county parks in San Diego County were managed for recreation above all else, including camping. This unique mission explains the slowness in the development of a management plan, and the lack of emphasis on combating weeds or restoring native habitat for many years. In fact, our group, the Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve,

Lessons from the Front (Cont'd)

began restoring native habitats pretty much by ourselves.

Deciding Where to Begin

We gathered up existing biology surveys of the preserve. Several good ones had been done by competent biologists. No one, however, had pulled them all together. None of the surveys were complete, reflecting the limited resources that had been available to develop them. No management plans existed for the preserve, although one was in the planning. We decided to ground truth the existing biological inventories, focusing on both the native and non-native plants. Wildlife surveys came later. With the help of volunteers, including professional biologists and botanists, as well as naturalists, we surveyed the park. We quickly expanded the plant list to about 500 taxa, of which some 23 percent were non-native. We have no average of native versus non-native biomass or cover. Most of our early surveying was what done by what I would call the easy method - using existing trails and utility roads to survey the obvious. Some habitats lend themselves to a gross overview, including our chaparral, coastal sage scrub and grasslands. It's easy to observe them in big sections at a time and spot well-known weeds. However, we missed some important weeds this way, especially in the riparian area and in side canyons without formal trails.

Getting Beyond the Obvious - the Fine Art of Bushwhacking

We decided to do a comprehensive and thorough survey of our creek in a systematic fashion. We decided that we couldn't see enough

of the riparian habitat in the preserve by staying on existing trails and crossings - we were missing too much. Yet the creek and surrounding riparian presented practical problems. The creek isn't big enough to float a boat down, yet is too deep for wading in many places. Often, thick stands of cattails (*Typha domingensis* and *T. latifolia*) and sedges (*Scirpus* spp.) made passage difficult. Much of the adjacent habitat is dense and dominated by poison oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*). We fielded teams of 4-5 volunteers. Their task was to describe the vegetation, from the ground cover on up to the canopy by dominant plants, but to take special note of exotics and rare plants. A GPS (Global Positioning System) was used to periodically locate the team's position.

The team also took basic measurements of the water, including temperature, pH, salinity, depth

“This often involved bushwhacking along and off game trails, up and down steep slopes. Volunteers loved it.”

and girth of pools (potential turtle habitat), and width. Algal cover and bank conditions were noted, as were seeps and springs, storm drain

outlets, fish and crustacean species, animal runs, etc. To be thorough and not miss a foot of the creek, we put a team into the water. This team walked and swam the stream while keeping contact with others who recorded data on the banks using micro tape recorders. While the team on the banks often had to leave the stream to go around thick brush, especially poison oak, the team in the water was able to stay in the water with very few exceptions. When the warm water of late summer/early fall gave way to colder winter temperatures we donned wet suits. *Volunteers loved it.* It was a lot of fun and the usefulness seemed obvious to participants and others. It took 12 sessions the first year, averaging about four hours, to cover seven miles of stream. It took almost as many hours to transcribe the data tapes later. A similar survey was conducted of two miles of our upstream drainage the following year. The upstream drainage is outside the park, but is being conserved as open space.

Following the stream surveys we also penetrated the many finger canyons and drainages. This often involved bushwhacking along and off game trails, up and down steep slopes. Again, volunteers love this opportunity to see places they normally wouldn't. We ground truthed a sensitive species map we inherited, and surveyed for exotics at the same time. From both types of surveys, we came away with an accurate picture of the health of the riparian and non-riparian habitats, both in and out of the water, species coverage and problems challenging the system.

Continued on next page

Lessons from the Front (Cont'd)

Riparian Surprises

While pros and nonpros alike who participated in the survey were pleased to see the riparian in overall good shape, with a great diversity of species, we encountered several nasty surprises in the riparian area. We found Brazilian pepper (*Schinus terebinthifolia*) in large patches and scattered along many miles of the creek. This exotic is one of two trees destroying the Florida Everglades, meeluca being the other. We had no idea this tree was spreading in our preserve. We have since confirmed it in other riparian areas in San Diego. In retrospect this shouldn't have been surprising, since this pepper tree is a favorite ornamental, found on many streets and in many yards throughout the city. Our infestation, however, were manageable in size.

We found German ivy in the upstream drainage in about seven locations, but all within 1/4 mile of each other. We have since confirmed this highly invasive vine in a number of locations in San Diego. It has already taken over a preserve in nearby Bonsall, California. This was an incipient invasion in our preserve, less than an acre total coverage among the seven locations.

We found moderate infestations of giant reed in the upstream creek, outside the park. We found none in the main canyon, but did find several patches in the smaller López Canyon. It was possible to trace these patches back to their likely source: a home on the rim of the preserve.

We discovered a domestic iris in thick patches in the willow understory along a mile or so of the creek. Because of our survey we have an accurate picture of where this started and how far it has spread.

We had previously mapped a serious salt cedar (*Tamarix ramosissima*) patch in only one easy-to-see location in the main canyon, with scattered clumps elsewhere. However, through the new survey we found a large infestation of mature salt cedar in our upstream drainage. This appeared to be older than the previously documented downstream problem. [Note: salt cedar is showing up all over San Diego, outside parks, particularly on fill slopes associated with recent development. The irrigation being used keeps the soil surface perfect for tamarisk. We don't know if the source of the seed is wind blown or as a contaminant in hydroseed mixes that have been cultivated in areas near salt cedar. Salt cedar seed is so small and easily carried long distances on the wind, it could be either.]

Another surprise was to find Chinese elm (*Ulmus parviflora*) spreading along the creek. The more we look the more we find of this tree. It is definitely spreading and, in my opinion, has the potential to become a serious problem. It does not appear to be explosive in its spread however.

Another potential problem tree that popped up in our upstream drainage was *Catalpa bignonioides*. Catalpa is a widely used ornamental tree that is fast growing and capable of topping out over willow. With its large leaves it is capable of quickly shading out plants beneath it. Its distribution showed it was spreading downstream, probably not explosively. We have since identified it in another riparian system in the city.

Lastly, Fuller's teasel (*Dipsacus sativus*), a biennial exotic, appears to be spreading in several of our

riparian areas. We say "appears" since we have no long-term data on density and spread. However, in another local park, Marian Bear Park, it is definitely spreading in the exotic grasslands and quite explosively. This has not been reported elsewhere. [We would love to receive advice on eradicating this.]

Non-riparian Surprises

In general, our coastal sage scrub and chaparral habitats are free of exotics with a few exceptions. This shouldn't be surprising since they are not as subject to disturbances as the riparian, which is subject to frequent flood events that move things around and open things up. Of course, exotic annual European grasses penetrate the coastal sage scrub since it is a more open habitat, colonizing the interstices. In addition, we found thistles on and besides a number of wildlife trails in both habitats, probably transported by deer and other animals. We found Tocalote (*Centaurea solstitialis*), a yellow-star thistle look-a-like and Italian thistle (*Carduus pycnocephalus*) in patches. We also occasionally found Cardoon or Wild artichoke (*Cynara cardunculus*) colonizing interstitial spaces in both scrub oak chaparral and coastal sage scrub. In several cases it had already begun to form dense clumps and patches. Although this plant is a grassland, rangeland invasive, our observations show it capable of gaining a foothold and spreading in riparian, coastal sage scrub and chaparral. Although it may begin in the ecotone next to one of these habitats, or in small openings, it is capable of spreading since it is rhizomatous and forms dense,

Lessons from the Front (Cont'd)

underground root systems.

Triage: Prioritizing Scarce Resources

Our inventory results led us to change our priorities. While our original emphasis on artichoke thistle and tamarisk removal were confirmed as priorities, we downgraded our pampas grass (*Cortaderia jubata*) and eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus globulus*) eradication programs. We added German ivy, giant reed and Brazilian pepper to the priority list. Why prioritize them? The eucalyptus and pampas grass were not spreading as fast as several of the new plants we discovered. Neither had the short-term destructive potential of German ivy or giant reed. It's unclear how fast Brazilian pepper is spreading in our system or the rest of San Diego. However, given its track record in the Florida Everglades, we decided it would be prudent to prioritize it. Also, the infestations of these three ranged from light to moderate. An important factor is that all three were more or less incipient in nature - the ideal time to jump on a weed.

Eradication of all three was achievable with modest resources. In fact, all three are now under control. We are in a maintenance mode on all three, having treated all known populations, stopped their reproduction and spread, and eradicated many populations and combated resprouts in the remaining populations. For these exotics, our inventories proved to be timely in identifying budding problems.

Technology: GPS and GIS

A GPS (Global Positioning System) and a GIS (Geographic

Information System) are two good tools for natural resources management, including weed management. We used a GPS for our stream

“Finding exotic plants in a densely vegetated system is only half the battle.”

surveys. We are now upgrading to a new GPS with a higher degree of accuracy and are getting a GIS system up and running. Finding exotic plants in a densely vegetated system is only half the battle. Remembering where they are and relocating them for control efforts is the second half. Just a few months of growth or a flood event can change landmarks dramatically, making it difficult to refind populations. An accurate GPS reading can make it much easier to refind a problem population. Mapping this data into a GIS system is invaluable from a management perspective. It gives you the ability to map all of your exotics and display them for easy reference. Control efforts can be tracked this way as well. Such visual presentations can turn up relationships that might not be obvious. Hot spots of multiple infestations may point to a particular drainage as a source of exotics and may lead to a campaign to educate the homeowners whose plantings are contributing the naughty propagules to the nearby wildlands. We identified three such hot spots. We already have homeowner cooperation in some places to get rid of

one of these exotics (Pampas grass). GIS creates a record that will survive the personnel who developed it and who may have dropped away as volunteers or moved on professionally.

Summary

Early exotic pest plant control efforts in Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve were based on the easy-to-see weed problems, but missed potentially serious incipient infestations due to the lack of a systematic inventory of the preserve. Subsequent inventories revealed serious problems developing in the dense riparian system and in several remote finger canyons.



CalEPPC Symposium '97 to be Held in Bay Area

Mark your calendars to reserve Columbus Day weekend, October 10-12, 1997, for **CalEPPC Symposium '97**. In order to keep room charges affordable (\$78.00/night), the CalEPPC Board of Directors has selected the Sheraton Concord for the site of the next symposium. The city of Concord is accessible by BART, and air transportation is available through San Francisco or Oakland. Full-day and half-day field trips will tour Bay Area restoration sites. The Program Committee is planning an informative and entertaining program. Details will be forthcoming.

Everlasting Sleeper

Jake Sigg

A classical example of just the sort of plant for which the CalEPPC Red Alert list was created is represented by an herbaceous-shrubby composite from the coast of South Africa, *Helichrysum petiolare* (syn. *H. petiolatum*). There is no generally used common name, but it is sometimes listed as licorice plant. It is in the *Inuleae* (everlasting) tribe (of the large and diverse *Asteraceae*) which contains the strawflowers, pearly everlasting, and the cudweeds (*Gnaphalium* spp.). It strongly resembles the latter except the size of the plant and all its parts greatly exceed any *Gnaphalium* growing in California. The plant was offered by specialist nurseries in California by the 1960s. It is an attractive plant which eventually can become a meter high but sprawling much wider (it has even been known to climb). Branches are lax and those touching ground root; thus it spreads vegetatively as well as by wind-dispersed seed. Aromatic, roundish-deltoid leaves, dime or nickel size, are densely matted on both surfaces with soft white hairs. The plant appears white, making it easy to distinguish (except from white or purple sage) even from great distances in most plant communities. Flowers are cream-colored in dense heads. Provenance, known infestations, and known tolerances indicate potential invasiveness along the California coast.

Helichrysum petiolare was reported in the Del Monte forest of Monterey County in 1969. The 1992 *A Flora of the Vascular Plants of Mendocino County* cites a population on Highway One north of Gualala. Famed plantspeople Arthur and Barbara Menzies reported

an infestation of the plant on the slopes of Mount Tamalpais above their home in Stinson Beach in Marin County in 1968. It was included in the Supplement to John Thomas Howell's *Marin Flora* the following year. There was no CalEPPC in 1969, nor anyone who took further note, leaving the plant to spread freely from what would have been an easily eradicable patch to today's many-acre sally into otherwise apparently healthy *Baccharis-Artemisia* dominated scrub community covering 100 + meters in vertical elevation. The layering



Helichrysum petiolare

(rooting of branches) habit will make manual eradication time consuming as its root system becomes entangled with that of the native shrubs. How much better it would have been to have spotted this in an incipient stage. A small, second Marin County colony has been found in Tennessee Valley, approximately two miles from Stinson Beach. CalEPPC is attempting to develop an effective alert system to avoid repetition of the *Helichrysum* story.

Jake Sigg, 338 Ortega Street, San Francisco 94122, 415.731.3028; Fax 415.731.3020 (call first)

Proceedings Available

The *CalEPPC Symposium '95 Proceedings* are available from the editor for the low cost of \$10.00 each, including shipping.

Orders are now being accepted for the *CalEPPC Symposium '96 Proceedings* which are expected to be printed by early summer 1997. The cost for the '96 Proceedings is also \$10.00.

Send your request with a check payable to CalEPPC to: Sally Davis, 31872 Joshua Drive, No. 25D, Trabuco Canyon, CA 92679.

If you want a copy of the *Salt Cedar Workshop Proceedings*, you can download them from: <<http://bluegoose.arw.r9.rws.gov/nwrfiles/habitatmgmt/pestmgmt/saltcedarworkshopjun96/workshoptoc.html>>, or contact Carl Bell at 619.352.9474; email: <cebell@ucdavis.edu>

Looking for the Perfect Gift?

Help native ecosystems and avoid shopping all in one step! The next time you are struggling to buy a gift for your favorite nature lover, consider giving a membership in CalEPPC, or a donation in that person's honor. This is a great way to give a gift that helps the natural places we all love... and therefore honor the special people in your life. This type of consumerism is good for nature, good for recipients, and good for you... you won't have to go shopping!

Team Arundo del Norte

Paul Jones, EPA

Team Arundo del Norte has been formed in the Bay Area. We are represented by agencies, non-profit organizations, academia, consultants, and members of the public whose mission and goals are as follows:

Mission:

Team Arundo del Norte is a partnership that is dedicated to the reduction and eventual elimination of giant reed (*Arundo donax*) in central and northern California where it threatens rivers, creeks and wetlands.

Goals:

1. To create a general awareness about the existence and impacts of *Arundo donax*.
2. To stimulate a concerted effort to reduce and eliminate the species in the region.
3. To conduct scientific research to better understand the species within the region.
4. To foster support for these goals by those involved in government, business, academia and with the public at large.
5. To support efforts of others working to control or eliminate invasive exotic species.
6. To foster use of adaptive watershed management in local watersheds.

Objectives:

1. A Public Outreach and Education Committee will produce outreach material to targeted media,

landowners, nurseries, legislators, etc. They will create a web site as an electronic information resource for use by the public via the Internet. The committee will also explore the creation of a video or multi-media product for presentations to groups.

2. A Science and Technical Issues Committee will study issues related to Arundo, including: herbicide risk assessment, plant-plant interactions, plant-animal interactions, soil changes, water quality and supply effects, eradication methods, establishing historic conditions in key watersheds, and coordinating research. The committee will create protocols for use in eradication efforts and provide additional oversight as needed.

3. A Policy, Regulations, and Permits Committee will address issues related to permits, mitigation banking, etc. It will also assist in policy coordination with other groups (e.g., Team Arundo in Southern California, CalEPPC, etc.).

4. A Coordination and Funding Committee will be established to secure and leverage funds in order to support goals and projects of Team Arundo del Norte, to provide oversight and feedback to help the group benefit from its experiences, and to disseminate information from the PR, science, policy and eradication committees to the various stakeholders.

5. An Eradication Committee will provide oversight in efforts to remove and control Arundo. Using techniques and protocols created by the Science Committee, they will

provide guidance for work teams such as CCC and CDF crews as well as citizen efforts. They will coordinate with and assist federal, state, and local government efforts as possible and appropriate. They will provide feedback from these efforts to Team Arundo members. Demonstration sites could include such sites as: 1.) Gray Lodge State Wildlife Refuge (low gradient, seasonal and palustrine emergent marsh); 2.) Union Island (levees in a riverine setting in the Delta); 3.) Sonoma Creek (high and low gradient riverine with agriculture and urban uses); and 4.) Coyote Creek (low gradient, urbanized riverine system); 5.) Russian River (high and low gradient riverine with agriculture and urban uses).

We are trying to get funding for some eradication and outreach efforts through EPA's State Wetland Grants program. Subscribers to the user group should send an email message to:

<team_arundo@ceres.ca.gov> with the text "subscribe [email address]" in the message to be able to receive and send messages to Team Arundo del Norte members.

If you have questions, please call Paul Jones, 415-744-1976 or email: <jones.paul@epamail.epa.gov>



Arundo donax
Sally Davis

Responses to “Letter to the Editor,” CalEPPC News, Summer/Fall 1996

Following CalEPPC’s 1996 Symposium, Cooper and others suggested in a letter to the editor that the symposium lacked balance, giving too much attention to herbicides and too little attention to mechanical removal using volunteers. Their letter states that they “have no quarrel with the judicious use of herbicides” and that their “concern here is merely with balance.” Their letter also states, “In its apparent focus on chemical control as the favored control technique, CalEPPC is limiting its effectiveness as a broad based advocacy group.” Their letter strongly supports using mechanical methods of weed control and describes the many benefits of community-based volunteer stewardship programs.

In response, I want to say first, that CalEPPC welcomes comments from our members on all topics of concern. I will try to respond to the main concerns of the letter, in particular, the question of balance in symposium presentations and the perception that CalEPPC is focusing on chemical control as a preferred technique.

For each of our five symposia the program committee has attempted to include a variety of topics and points of view having to do with effective control of exotic pest plants. Results from questionnaires show that our members are interested in all methods of weed control. However, equal treatment of all control methods every year is difficult to achieve. The mix of talks in a particular year is determined by several factors, including the meeting’s theme, the availability of speakers, the meeting’s location, and the topics discussed in previous meetings. In response to the concerns about balance expressed in

the letter from Cooper and others, the board invited one of the signers, Pete Holloran, to be a member of the CalEPPC Symposium ‘97 Program Committee. Pete has offered us many useful suggestions. The program for Symposium ‘97 is now finalized, but in the future, we invite any interested member to participate in development of the symposium program.

With regard to the perception that CalEPPC favors chemical control, I want to say that from its inception more than five years ago CalEPPC has sought to be a “big tent” organization that promotes open discourse on all effective weed control methods. Our bylaws state that CalEPPC shall “facilitate communication and the exchange of information regarding all aspects of exotic pest plant control and management.” One of CalEPPC’s most important roles is to disseminate and examine ideas about how to deal effectively with exotic pest plants. The knowledge and experience of our members have demonstrated repeatedly that “there’s more than one way to skin a cat” when it comes to weed control methods. What is the “best” method? In virtually every circumstance the answer is, “It depends.” It depends on the weed, the location, the budget, the time frame, and other factors. Even what is meant by “most effective” is open to debate, since there are many different ways to measure weed control effectiveness. CalEPPC wants to promote an open dialogue with regard to weed control. It has never been our intent to focus on any one method.

The Board recognizes that there are many issues relating to the impacts, efficacy, and benefits of using herbicides, and working with volunteers and using mechanical removal, that need additional discussion and study. As an organization dedicated to finding effective solutions to exotic pest plant problems, the board invites CalEPPC’s members to participate in these discussions by writing letters and articles for CalEPPC News, or forming new working groups to focus on these questions, or offering suggestions for symposium talks or panel discussions.

*Ann Howald, President, writing for
CalEPPC’s Board of Directors*

Letter to the CalEPPC News

I agree with Kim Cooper’s letter (*CalEPPC News* Volume 4 No. 3) that we need “Better Ways” than chemical control which work and we can afford. I joined CalEPPC because I feel the manufacture and sale of products from exotic pest plants can provide sustained, affordable answers while creating jobs and income. EBC Company is attempting to find a market for material removed from thinning operations as part of the forest fire risk reduction.

A key to forest fire risk reduction to the required level is the development of a market for removed materials. Such a market must be found or developed to the degree that income from the sale of the removed material will cover the expenses of the required forest removal operations and provide a

Letter to the Editor (cont'd)

margin of profit sufficient for entrepreneurs to carry out the vital work. A successful approach should make full use of the removed material which may include short piece lumber for fine wood products, charcoal, animal feed and compost.

Unfortunately, under the Forest Practice Act, a Timber Harvest Plan (THP) must be prepared before any products from wildlands can be sold. Since THP's cost from \$10,000 - \$20,000, this becomes a major obstacle.

Our efforts to get a special THP comparable to a controlled burn permit has been unsuccessful thus far.

R. Edward Burton, EBC Company,
222 Franklin Avenue, Willits, CA
95490, 707.459.6219

Calendar of Events

- March 9-14** The Ecosystem of the Gray Whale at Laguna San Ignacio, San Diego/Baja California, Mexico. Sponsored by UC Santa Cruz Extension. Call: 408.427.6610
- March 10-13** Western Society of Weed Science Annual Meeting, Portland, OR. Contact: Wanda Graves, 510.792.1252
- March 16-19** 12th Annual Symposium, US Regional Association, International Association for Landscape Ecology, Durham, NC. Contact: Dean Urban, US-IALE Program Chair, Duke University, 919.6133.8076; fax 919.684.8741; email: <iale97@pinus.env.duke.edu>
- April 18-19** 2nd Interface Between Ecology and Land Development in California, Los Angeles. Contact: Dr. Jon Keeley, Occidental College, Los Angeles, CA 90041
- June 9-13** Changing Water Regimes in Drylands, Lake Tahoe, CA. Contact Dr. Nicholas Lancaster, 702.673.7304; email: <nick@maxey.dri.edu>
- July 23-26** Interactions: Managing Ecosystems on a Watershed Basis, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, sponsored by the Soil and Water Conservation Society. Contact: 515-289-2331 or 800.843.7645; fax 515.289.1227; email: <swcs@swcs.org>
- August 27-30** Bridging Natural and Social Landscapes, the 24th Natural Areas Association Conference, Portland, OR. Co-sponsored by CalEPPC and PNWEPPC. Contact Reid Schuller, 541.388.8123; fax 541.388.5414; email: reid_schuller@together.org>
- Oct. 10-12** CalEPPC Symposium '97, Concord, CA. Contact Sally Davis, 714.888.8541; email: <sallydavis@aol.com>

Weeds in Cyberspace!

CalEPPC: <<http://www.igc.apc.org/ceppc/index.html>>

Center of Aquatic Plants: <<http://www.aquat1.ifas.ufl.edu/>>

Aquatic Weed Species: <<http://www.nfrcg.gov/nas/nas.htm>>

Federal Interagency Committee for the Management of Noxious and Exotic Weeds (FICMNEW):
<<http://bluegoose.arw.r9.fws.gov/ficmnewfiles/ficmnewhomepage.html>>

Bureau of Land Management: <<http://www.blm.gov/>>

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service: <<http://www.fws.gov/>>

U.S. Forest Service: <<http://pwww.fs.fed.us/>>

Weed Science Society of America: <<http://piked2.agn.uiuc.edu/wssa/wssanetscape.htm>>

National Plants Database: <<http://www.itis.usda.gov/>>

Biological Control: <<http://www.nysaes.cornell.edu:80/ent/biocontrol/index.html>>

1997 CalEPPC Membership Form

If you would like to join CalEPPC, please remit your calendar dues using the form provided below. All members will receive the CalEPPC newsletter, be eligible to join CalEPPC working groups, be invited to the annual symposium and participate in selecting future board members. Your personal involvement and financial support are the key to success. Additional contributions by present members are welcomed!

<input type="checkbox"/> Status	Individual	Institutional
<input type="checkbox"/> Retired/Student*	\$15.00	N/A
<input type="checkbox"/> Regular	\$25.00	\$100.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Contributing	\$50.00	\$250.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining	\$250.00	\$1000.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime	\$1000.00	N/A

Please make your check payable to **CalEPPC** and mail with this application form to:

CalEPPC Membership
 c/o Sally Davis
 31872 Joshua Drive, #25D
 Trabuco Canyon, CA 92679-3112

Name

Affiliation

Address

City/State/Zip

Office Phone

Home Phone

Fax

email

* Students, please include current registration and/or class schedule



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CalEPPC would like to welcome the following people who have joined in the months from November through January 1997:

Peter Baye
 Joanna Clines
 Stevee Duber
 Ann Glauber

Paul Jones
 Annette LaFleur
 Carol Lippincott
 Milton McGiffen, Jr.

Gail Newton
 Rosemary Raphael
 Consuelo Specht



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