

**Mid-Atlantic Exotic Pest Plant Council Annual Conference**  
**Invasive Plants: Perspectives, Prescriptions and Partnerships**  
**August 16 and 17, 2005 (Revised Sep. 7, 2005)**

**Speaker Biographies**

Dana K. Berner is Plant Pathologist with the USDA Agricultural Research Service, Foreign Disease-Weed Science Research Unit (since 2000). Before this position, he spent 8 years as Plant Pathologist for the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture, Ibadan, Nigeria. He also spent 4 ½ years as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Sierra Leone. Dr. Berner received a M.Sc. and a Ph.D. from Louisiana State University where he studied rice genetics and soybean pathology, respectively.

Anne Bockarie is an Assistant Professor of Biology at Philadelphia University and teaches Ecology, Biodiversity, Natural Resource Management, Environmental Science, Management of Yellowstone National Park and Tropical Conservation. Dr. Bockarie's MS and PhD degrees in reforestation and forestry extension are from the University of Florida. She has extensive international research, consulting and training experience in agriculture, forestry, and parks management in Africa and the Caribbean.

Dennis Burton is Acting Executive Director of the Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education in Philadelphia. He was Woodlands Manager in Central Park in Manhattan for ten years prior to coming to Philadelphia. He authored "The Nature Walks of Central Park" published by Henry Holt Co. in 1997. He is currently active researching, consulting, and controlling invasive flora and fauna in the Philadelphia region.

Mark Brand is Professor, Ornamental Horticulture and Co-Head, Plant Biotechnology Facility Department of Plant Science University of Connecticut in Storrs, Connecticut. He received his Ph. D. from The Ohio State University in 1988. His current major research projects include development of non-invasive Japanese barberry and burning bush cultivars, and creating transgenic rhododendrons containing antifungal genes and evaluating their resistance to *Phytophthora cinnamomi*. Dr. Brand has developed several useful educational tools including the "[UConn Plant Database](#)", "[Virtual Campus Plant Walks](#)" and the "[Plant Selector](#)". He also introduced 11 new cold hardy rhododendron cultivars that are well adapted to the climate of New England and similar regions.

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John Dighton is the Director of the Pinelands Field Station of Rutgers University. He came to Rutgers about 10 years ago following 15 years as a research scientist at the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology at Merlewood, UK, where he was involved in forest tree nutrition and

mycorrhizae. His current research interests revolve around soil ecology, the impacts of pollutants and the role of fungi in ecosystem process. He has authored a recent book 'Fungi in Ecosystem Process' and was senior editor of a new book 'The Fungal Community: Its Organization and Role in the Ecosystem'. He holds an MSc degree in Ecology from the University of Durham, UK and a PhD in Ecology from London University.

Joan Ehrenfeld is Professor in the Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Natural Resources at Cook College, Rutgers University. She has been studying the interactions of invasive plants with soils in a variety of New Jersey ecosystems, including upland forests and urban wetlands. In her prior research, which focuses on Japanese barberry and stilt grass, she has found that these plants appear to alter both soil microbial communities and nutrient dynamics. Currently, her research is exploring potential methods of soil manipulation to reduce the growth of exotics and promote native species. Dr. Ehrenfeld also conducts research on a variety of plant and soil questions in wetlands. She teaches courses on invasive species, wetland ecology, ecosystems ecology, and general ecology, and serves on a variety of state and federal advisory panels, including the New Jersey Invasive Species Council.

Art Gover is a Research Support Associate with the Roadside Vegetation Management Research Project, of the Department of Horticulture at the Penn State University. The focus of the Roadside Project is to assist PennDOT in the development, implementation, and refinement of an Integrated Pest Management program for PA's roadside vegetation. Examples of some of the research initiatives include management of specific weed species, such as tree-of-heaven, Japanese knotweed, and Canada thistle; evaluation of alternative plant materials for roadside conservation plantings; and comparisons of equipment, herbicides, and procedures. The Research Project also conducts two annual educational conferences, and provides continuing education training for PennDOT's personnel and contractors, as well as applicators in non-crop settings through Industry and Cooperative Extension forums. Art is a member of the PA Invasive & Noxious Plant Working Group; a past-president of the Mid-Atlantic Exotic Pest Plant Council; and served on the Executive Committee of the Northeastern Weed Science Society.

Judith Hough-Goldstein is a Professor in the University of Delaware's Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology where she's been a member of the faculty since 1981. Her research has been primarily in the area of biological control, including (currently) biocontrol of mile-a-minute weed, kudzu, & purple loosestrife. Judy also teaches several entomology courses. She attended Cornell University where she received an M.Sc. and a Ph.D. in Entomology.

Nelroy Jackson has been a leader of invasive plant programs since 1985. In the early 1990s, he helped found the California Exotic Pest Plant Council (now Invasive Plant Council), one of the first such councils. Since 2000 he has been a member of the national Invasive Species Advisory Committee (ISAC) and served as its Vice-Chair 2002/2004. He worked behind the scenes for passage of the Plant Protection Act and the Noxious Weed Control Act of 2004. Nelroy was Co-Chair of the hugely successful IPINAMS (Invasive Plants in Natural and Managed Systems) conference held in Fort Lauderdale in November 2003.

Sylvan Kaufman is the Conservation Curator at Adkins Arboretum in Ridgely, Maryland. She oversees the native plant nursery, restores and manages plant communities, maintains a database of plants grown at the Arboretum, and provides information about plant conservation to the local community through classes, articles and outreach projects. Sylvan has a B.A. in Biology from Vassar College and a Ph.D. in Ecology and Evolution from Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey. She worked as a postdoctoral fellow for three years at Harvard University where she conducted research on the effects of invasive plants on native plant communities. She currently serves on the Maryland Invasive Species Council, the Chesapeake Conservation Landscaping Council, and is chair of the Eastern Shore Chapter of the Maryland Native Plant Society. She is also co-authoring a field guide to Invasive Plants of North America.

Steve Manning is the founder of Invasive Plant Control, Inc. (IPC), a private company focused solely on the control of invasive species. IPC has successfully controlled many of the aggressive invasive plants for a wide variety of land managers including Federal, State, municipal and private landowners throughout the United States. Steve has an MBA from the University of Oregon, with an emphasis in marketing and sustainability of the environment through business practices and a Masters of Science degree in Parks and Recreation Administration from the University of Utah. Mr. Manning is also heavily involved with local, state and regional industry development projects.

Marc A. Matsil was appointed Assistant Commissioner for NJ DEP's Natural & Historic Resources in March, 2002 and was appointed DEP's Senior Policy Advisor in 2004. From 1987 to 2002, he served as Chief of NYC Parks Natural Resources Group, the nation's largest urban ecology program. Marc has been awarded grants and a natural resource damages claims exceeding \$300 million for wetland and forest restoration and land acquisition programs. Before joining NRG, he was natural resources specialist for the National Park Service, including six years as a biologist at Noatak, Gates of the Arctic and Aniakchak National Preserves in Alaska. Marc is the recipient of the prestigious Society for Ecological Restoration International Sperry Award, the US EPA/Environmental Law Institute National Wetlands Award, The Chevron-Times Mirror North America Conservation Prize and others. He has served as adjunct lecturer at Yale University (Distinguished Lecturer Series), University of East London Research Fellow, Columbia University, Rutgers and The New School University.

Leslie Mehrhoff has served as Curator for the University of Connecticut's (UCONN's) George Safford Torrey Herbarium since 1996. Since 2001, he has been Director for the Invasive Plant Atlas of New England (IPANE) a 6-state regional consortium that gathers and disseminates reliable information on invasive plants (<http://ipane.org>). He trains volunteers to identify invasive plants, compile museum and current field information to be used to evaluate invasiveness, and make these data available to a large and varied user group. The IPANE project will also establish an Early Detection – Rapid Response network for the region and assist in the creation of a national early detection network. Les received his Ph.D. from the University of Connecticut where he produced "A Phytogeographical Analysis of the Vascular Flora of Connecticut" for his Dissertation. He is an active member of the Connecticut Botanical Society, Connecticut Invasive Plants Council (Senate appointment), Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group, Connecticut Natural Areas Preserves Advisory Committee (Gubernatorial appointment), Josselyn Botanical Society of Maine Board Member, Massachusetts Invasive Plant Evaluation

Subcommittee, National Park Service Northeast Parks Invasive Plant Consultant, New England Botanical Club, New England Invasive Plant Group, New England Plant Conservation Program, New York Flora Association, The Nature Conservancy's Eastern Invasives Management Network, and is a Yale Peabody Museum Curatorial Affiliate.

R. Wayne Mezitt is a third-generation nurseryman and a Massachusetts Certified Horticulturist, now chairman of Weston Nurseries of Hopkinton, MA ([www.WestonNurseries.com](http://www.WestonNurseries.com)). He has served as president of the Massachusetts Nursery and Landscape Association, the New England Nursery Association, and the American Nursery and Landscape Association, based in Washington, DC. Wayne was an original member of the Massachusetts Invasive Plant Advisory Group (MIPAG) which established and tested scientific criteria for plant invasiveness in Massachusetts.

Victoria Nuzzo is a biologist with Natural Area Consultants (Richford, NY), specializing in protection, management, and monitoring of natural areas, with an emphasis on invasive species and their impacts on plant community structure. Nuzzo has conducted research on garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) for over 15 years, documenting spread, impact on native flora and fauna, seedbank survival, and effectiveness of control methods. Other current research includes impact of invasive plant species on forest and grassland food webs, patterns of recovery following control of invasive plants, and recovery of heavily browsed forests when protected from deer herbivory.

Craig J. Regelbrugge became the American Nursery & Landscape Association's Senior Director of Government Relations in November 1999. ANLA is the national trade organization representing nursery and greenhouse crop growers, independent garden retailers, landscape design and installation professionals, and related industry suppliers. In his position, Craig oversees ANLA's entire government relations program and relationships with national, regional, and state green industry groups. From December 1989 until then he served as ANLA's Director of Regulatory Affairs and was responsible for advocating industry's interests before federal regulatory agencies. Craig serves in a leadership capacity on several national committees and coalitions dealing with diverse issues such as invasive species and plant trade and quarantines. In 1999 and 2000, he co-chaired a comprehensive review of the USDA-Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service's plant pest prevention programs. At present, he serves as co-chair of the Agriculture Coalition for Immigration Reform, the national coalition working to secure an affordable and legal workforce for agriculture and the green industry. Before working with ANLA, Craig was an Agricultural Extension Agent for Fairfax County, Virginia, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. Immediately after college, he was a Horticulturist with Merrifield Garden Center in Merrifield, Virginia. Craig received a Bachelor of Science in Horticulture (*cum laude*) from Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University, in Blacksburg, Virginia, in 1986. Craig is a Virginia Certified Nursery Professional, and a member of the American Society of Horticultural Science and the American Society of Association Executives. He grew up outside of Charlotte, North Carolina. Favorite hobbies and activities include gardening, sailing and historic preservation.

Sue Salmons has worked in the field of environmental management for 28 years, beginning with restoration of a 60-acre woodlot in Massachusetts. She earned a B.S. in Mathematics and

Energy-Efficient Architectural Design from Worcester State College, Massachusetts. Prior to relocating to Washington, D.C. in 1996 she conducted wildlife habitat research for Massachusetts Audubon Society and the U.S. Forest Service, including graduate research on spotted owl habitat and demography in Oregon. Until March of this year, Sue was a Resource Management Specialist in Vegetation for Rock Creek National Park (Washington DC), where she worked for 9 years researching and implementing effective controls for non-native invasive plants. Her research with invasive plants includes two 3-year projects funded by the National Park Service NRPP Program, with Dr. Richard Hammerschlag of the U.S. Geological Survey acting as principal investigator. The first (1996-1998) investigated control methods for Oriental bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*) and other woody vines and shrubs; the second (2000-2002) investigated control methods for lesser celandine (*Ranunculus ficaria*). Sue is currently Liaison for the National Park Service's Exotic Plant Management Team (EPMT) in the National Capital Region where her team is responsible for managing invasive exotic plants in 12 parks covering about 80,000 acres of very diverse habitat types.

Lisa Smith has worked as a consulting ecologist for 4 years following an 11-year career with the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy as a Heritage Ecologist and their Director of Stewardship. Her current focus is assisting local land trusts, watershed organizations and other land management agencies in the western Pennsylvania region with projects related to biodiversity protection on natural lands. To this end, she has assisted with the development of stewardship programs, the identification, planning and management of invasive exotics and the development of education materials that support natural areas protection and stewardship.

Alan Tasker is National Noxious Weed Program Manager with the USDA APHIS Plant Protection & Quarantine (PPQ) Pest Detection & Management Program. He has been associated with strategic planning for the weed program as a member of the APHIS National Weeds Team since its inception in 1992. Alan currently represents APHIS PPQ on the interagency weed group FICMNEW (Federal Interagency Committee for the Management of Noxious & Exotic Weeds). He also serves on the APHIS PPQ committee working on proposed revisions to 7 CFR 319.37, aka Quarantine 37 and as APHIS representative on the Biocontrol Technical Advisory Group (TAG). Alan's training as a weed scientist and agronomist and his knowledge of general agriculture have led to experience in government, industry, and consulting, including regulatory program management and pesticide registration, research, and market development. His responsibilities have included inter- and intra-departmental liaison activities, writing and review of scientific literature, and support of automated information systems. Dr. Tasker received his Ph.D. in agronomy from the University of Missouri-Columbia.

Valerie Vartanian has extensive background in working with the public and the natural environment. Her Associate, Bachelors, and Masters of Science degrees cover a range of studies including Natural Resources Management, Outdoor Recreation, and Biogeography. She has worked in the zookeeping field, teaching elementary school science, and a park ranger for Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation managing wildlife sanctuaries. In the 1990's Valerie worked for The Nature Conservancy of Southern California where she managed habitat restoration and invasive species control projects. Currently, Valerie holds the position of Horticulture and Landscape Professions Liaison for The Nature Conservancy's Invasive Species Initiative and is stationed at the Missouri Botanical Garden.

Barry Yinger is owner of Asiatica Nursery in York County, Pennsylvania and co-owner of New Life Partners Thai Plants, a plant export/import company. He has been collecting and introducing plants from Asia for 36 years, with more than 90 visits to Asia. He studied plant science and Asian languages at the University of Maryland and holds a MS from the Longwood Program at the University of Delaware. He has introduced hundreds of new plants to the nursery trade from Japan and Korea. The Korean hosta species *Hosta yingeri* has been named in his honor.

Lewis Ziska is Plant Physiologist, USDA Crop Systems and Global Change Lab in Beltsville Maryland who has been studying the impacts of rising carbon dioxide and global climate change on weed biology in managed and natural eco-systems for the past 15 years. He began his career as a Smithsonian fellow, then took up residence as the Project Leader for global climate change at the International Rice Research Institute in the Philippines before joining USDA. At present he is investigating the role of rising carbon dioxide and changing climate on weed-crop competition, invasive/noxious weeds and weeds and public health. Dr. Ziska's research has appeared in *National Geographic*, *The New York Times*, *USA Today*, *The Washington Post*, *Newsweek*, *U.S. News and World Report* and *CNN Headline News*.