

PRESS RELEASE

**CONNECTICUT INVASIVE PLANT WORKING GROUP SYMPOSIUM
MOUNTAINSIDE RESORT, WALLINGFORD, CT
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2006, 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM**

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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On Thursday, October 12, 2006, the Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group (CIPWG) will present **“Working Together for the Landscape of Tomorrow”**, a one-day symposium at the Mountainside Resort in Wallingford, CT. All who are interested in invasive plant issues are invited to attend. This symposium seeks to draw together members of nursery and landscape professions, conservation organizations, town commissions, gardeners, and the public into a discussion of the challenges presented by invasive plants.

The registration fee of \$35 (postmarked by September 15) includes lunch, educational materials, and free parking. After September 15, the late registration fee is \$45. Check-in begins at 8:00 AM. Sessions will run until 4:30 PM, followed by a social hour.

Featured speakers include Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Gina McCarthy and Les Mehrhoff, Director of the Invasive Plant Atlas of New England (IPANE). The Plenary Speaker, Dr. Peter White, Director of the North Carolina Botanical Garden will address “Linking Ecology and Horticulture to Prevent Plant Invasions”. In the afternoon, concurrent sessions will include alternatives to invasive plants, native landscape restoration, and invasive plant management. A panel of experts will address invasive plant issues raised by the audience.

Invasive plants are non-native plants harmful to the environment, such as Oriental bittersweet, autumn olive, multiflora rose, and Japanese knotweed. Non-native invaders displace native plants, reduce biological diversity, and degrade wildlife habitat.

The registration form and agenda are posted on the Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group website (www.hort.uconn.edu/cipwg). For additional questions, contact Charlotte Pyle, 2006 Symposium Chair (email charlotte.pyle@ct.usda.gov; phone 860-871-4066) or Donna Ellis, CIPWG Co-chair (email donna.ellis@uconn.edu; phone 860-486-6448). Associated field trips are also being planned.