Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group (CIPWG) 2020 Virtual Symposium

Realistic Solutions to Managing Invasive Plants

Program Overview

Wednesday, October 7, 2020

8:30 Check-in

9:00 Greetings and Orientation

9:10 Leslie J. Mehrhoff Award

9:20 Keynote Address: CIPWG: Past, Present, Future

10:05 Invasive Plant Management Roundtable

11:05 *Select a breakout session; break till 11:15*

11:15 Concurrent Sessions 1 & 2

12:15 *Select a breakout session; break till 12:30*

12:30 Concurrent Sessions 3 & 4

1:30 *Select a breakout session; break till 1:40*

1:40 Legislative Update

1:50 General Remarks

2:00 *Select a breakout session; break till 2:10*

2:10 Concurrent Sessions 5 & 6

3:10 *Click to rejoin main program; break till 3:20*

3:20 Closing Remarks

3:30 Adjournment

Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group 2020 Virtual Symposium

Realistic Solutions to Managing Invasive Plants

Detailed Program

Wednesday, October 7, 2020

8:30 **Check-in**: Log in no later than 8:50

9:00 **Greetings and Orientation:** Dr. Charlotte Pyle and Emmett Varricchio, CIPWG Co-chairs

9:10 **Leslie J. Mehrhoff Award:** Presented by Jessie Mehrhoff

9:20 **Keynote Address:** ***CIPWG: Past, Present, Future***

Moderator: Emmett Varricchio, Co-Chair, CIPWG

Panelists: Donna Ellis, Senior Extension Educator Emeritus, UConn Department of Plant Science & Landscape Architecture; **Peter Picone**, Wildlife Biologist, State of CT DEEP Wildlife Division; **Dr. Charlotte Pyle**, Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group Co-Chair; **Todd Mervosh,** General Manager, TM Agricultural & Ecological Services

Abstract: The Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group (CIPWG) formed in 1997 as an ad hoc consortium of individuals, members of environmental organizations, educational institutions, municipal and state agencies, non-governmental organizations, the green industry, garden clubs, and the general public. CIPWG's mission is to promote awareness of invasive plants and the use of native or non-invasive ornamental alternatives. The working group collaborates and shares information on the presence, distribution, ecological impacts, and management of invasive plants affecting Connecticut and the region. Since 2002, CIPWG has hosted biennial invasive plant symposia. The CIPWG website and listserve with 800 subscribers provide relevant invasive plant updates.

CIPWG works like a large family with a reunion (Biennial Symposium) held every two years. Between reunions, the activities and interactions of the family involve small ad hoc groups coming together or individuals working on their own to address various aspects of family business (invasive plant issues) with many points of view represented. Although we have had successes and learned much, issues from the past remain (early detection, appropriate management techniques, prioritization, funding, availability of native alternatives). The future holds creative collaboration, sustained response, outdoor education, and a focus on controlling invasive spread and maintaining native habitat.

Biographies:

Donna Ellis recently retired as a Senior Extension Educator in the Department of Plant Science & Landscape Architecture at UConn, where she worked for 29 years. She has a B.S. degree in Plant Science from the University of RI and an M.S. degree in Plant Science from the University of CT. Donna was the UConn Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Program Coordinator and conducted IPM training programs for the green industry. She taught two UConn courses on plant pests. Donna was involved with educational outreach and applied research for insects, weeds, and diseases, with an emphasis on invasive plants and biological control. Donna was a co-founder of the Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group (CIPWG) and also served as a CIPWG Co-Chairperson.

Peter Picone is a lifelong resident of Connecticut. He is a wildlife biologist and works for the CT DEEP Wildlife Division and manages state lands in the western district and provides technical assistance to municipalities, land trusts, private landowners and other non-governmental entities interested in improving habitat for wildlife. He is a graduate of the University of Connecticut's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (1985 Bachelor of Science). He practices habitat management and enhancement in his official work as a wildlife biologist and also as owner and habitat manager of Charter Oak Tree Farm (40 acres) in Sprague, Conn. He spends a great deal of his spare time working on the land with his family. His work in promoting use of native plants in habitat management spans over 35 years.

Charlotte Pyle likes nature, and for the most part has managed to hold connections to nature and natural resources in her work life. Before coming to Connecticut, she worked for the US Forest Service and Nat'l Park Service. She earned a PhD in Forest Ecosystems Analysis at the Univ. of Washington. In Connecticut, she worked at the University of Connecticut as a Forest Ecologist and as a Landscape Ecologist with USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. Now retired from NRCS, she is a Co-chair of the Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group and chairs the group's Native Plant Alternatives Sub-Committee. As a nature writer, she was one of the 2016 Artists-in-Residence at Trail Wood (Audubon's Edwin Way Teale Sanctuary in Hampton, CT).

Todd Mervosh is general manager of TM Agricultural & Ecological Services in Suffield, Conn. An Illinois native, he earned a Ph.D. in agronomy/weed science at the University of Illinois in 1994. For the next 20 years, Todd was a scientist at The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station in Windsor. He conducted weed control experiments in several crops and did research on management of invasive plants including oriental bittersweet, Japanese stiltgrass and mile-a-minute weed. In his business since 2015, Todd consults with growers and property managers about effective and ecologically sound plant management strategies, including proper use of herbicides. He provides vegetation control services on a wide range of lands across Connecticut.

10:05 ***Invasive Plant Management Roundtable***

Moderator: Emmett Varricchio, Co-Chair, CIPWG

Panelists: Lisa Brodlie, Invasive removal volunteer, The Nature Conservancy; **Peter Picone**, Wildlife Biologist, State of CT DEEP Wildlife Division; **Rose Hiskes,** Diagnostician, The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station; **David Roach,** General Manager, All Habitat Services, LLC

Abstract: Invasive plant management is not an easy task, but with commitment, a little science and the right methods, control is possible. This roundtable discussion will highlight a variety of invasive plant managers and their differing management techniques.

Biographies:

Lisa Brodlie is an invasive removal volunteer for the Nature Conservancy in Weston, Conn., and for 10 years was the VP of Land Management for a four town land trust.

For **Peter Picone** biography see page 1.

Rose Hiskes has a Bachelor's Degree in Agriculture from the University of Illinois and a Master's in Plant Science from the University of Connecticut. She has worked as a diagnostician at The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station for the last 22 years. She has volunteered for CIPWG for the last 20 years. Her interest in flower gardening has now turned into pollinator gardening. She has received the Arborist Citation from The Connecticut Tree Protective Association for her work protecting and caring for trees in Connecticut.

David Roach is the owner of All Habitat Services, LLC, which is a recognized provider in the ecological management services field. With a primary emphasis on natural resource conservation and wildlife habitat enhancement, his diverse work encompasses aquatic, emergent and terrestrial features of inland and coastal settings. Drawing from his 25 plus years of professional experience on a broad range of projects, he has demonstrated an ability to develop practical, integrated solutions incorporating innovative holistic techniques. He attributes his dedication to these methods as the foundation for successful project outcomes.

11:05 Select a breakout session; break till 11:15

11:15 Concurrent Sessions 1 & 2:

Session 1 -- *Large Scale Management*

Moderator: Todd Mervosh, General Manager, TM Agricultural & Ecological Services

Speakers: David Gumbart, Director of Land management, The Nature Conservancy; **Chris Polatin,** Restoration ecologist, Land Stewardship, Inc

A. Large Scale Management

David Gumbart, Director of Land management, The Nature Conservancy

Abstract: With invasive species present throughout the state of Connecticut, efforts to control multiple plants across a large land area can be daunting. The good news is, with planning and priority setting, it is possible to make headway on managing some of your invasives. This session will discuss existing planning and assessment tools, as well as provide real world experiences from land managers who have been immersed with invasives and, more important, the native plants and habitats we wish to see maintained or improved.

Biography: David Gumbart is Director of Land Management at The Nature Conservancy's Connecticut Chapter. In this position, he oversees the Chapter's portfolio of preserved lands, including fee-owned preserves and conservation easements. Habitat management is a priority for his position, with invasive species often part of the issue in efforts to improve Connecticut's most unique natural communities. David has been with the Conservancy for 30 years, since 1990. A life-long resident of Connecticut, David lives in Killingworth, where he is a Past-President of the Killingworth Lions Club and current President of the Killingworth Land Conservation Trust. David participates in an over-40 soccer league and enjoys playing the mandolin.

B. Managing Large Parcels of Land: A Case Study of Longmeadow Flats in Longmeadow, MA.

Chris Polatin, Restoration ecologist, Land Stewardship, Inc

Abstract: Chris will discuss managing large parcels of land through a case study of his 13-year involvement overseeing invasive plant management projects within a 750-acre area known as Longmeadow Flats adjacent to the Connecticut River in Longmeadow, Massachusetts near the Connecticut border. Chris will address the importance of mapping, prioritization, partnerships and long-term commitment to on-going stewardship for success. He will also share insights into managing particular invasive species such as Japanese knotweed, common reed, Japanese stiltgrass and oriental bittersweet.

Biography: Chris Polatin works as a restoration ecologist for Land Stewardship, Inc, which is dedicated to ecological restoration and natural areas management. He and his crew regularly perform all aspects of invasive plant management including planning, mapping, monitoring and implementing various control activities. He has a BA in Environmental Studies (conservation science & natural history) (University of California Santa Cruz) and an MS in Conservation Biology (Antioch University New England). He is a Certified Ecological Restoration Practitioner through the Society for Ecological Restoration (SER).

Session 2 – *Native Alternatives*

Moderator: Charlotte Pyle, Co-Chair, CIPWG

Speakers: Charlotte Pyle, Co-Chair, Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group; **Darryl Newman**, Principal, Planter's Choice Wholesale Nursery; **Peter Picone,** Wildlife Biologist, State of CT DEEP WIldlife Division

A. ***What are Nativars, Local Ecotypes, and Native Ranges?***

Charlotte Pyle, Co-Chair, Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group

Abstract: When buying "native" plants, there are questions you should ask and words you should recognize. First, ask, "native to where?" Don't confuse current distribution with native range. Over generations, plant populations adapt (change in genetic make-up) in response to local environments, resulting in different ecotypes that grow well under different conditions, for example, swamps vs. dry ridges. There are gradual differences in ecotype corresponding to gradual differences in frost-free days across changes in latitude or elevation; etc. A nativar is a cultivar (cultivated variety) of a native plant (vs. the "straight" species typically found in nature). Nativar names include single quotes. Ecological risks of using nativars vary by species.

For **Charlotte Pyle** biography see page 2.

B. ***Production of Local Ecotypes of Native Plants***

Darryl Newman, Principal, Planters' Choice Wholesale Nursery

Abstract: Darryl will discuss nursery production of local ecotypes of native plants.

Biography: Darryl Newman is a University of Maryland graduate with a degree in Landscape Management. He stayed in the Washington DC Metro area after school for four years, working for two prominent landscape design/build firms as a project manager. He returned to Planters' Choice in 2004, and runs the business with his father, founder Chuck Newman. Darryl is past president of the Connecticut Nursery and landscape Association and the 2008 New England Nursery Association Young Professional of the Year.

C. ***Wildlife and Plants are Inextricably Linked: Enhancing Habitat With Native Plants***

Peter Picone, Wildlife Biologist, State of CT DEEP WIldlife Division

Abstract: The two greatest threats to biological diversity are habitat loss and invasive non-native species. Enhancing the landscape with native plants that have co-evolved with indigenous wildlife helps improve biological diversity and restores native plant communities. Habitat managers can enhance habitats with the simple addition of one genus such as *Asclepias* to aid Monarch butterflies or on a grander scale by planting/restoring larger spaces (plant communities) with diverse native trees, shrubs, grasses and wildflowers. The author will share his insights and experiences working on enhancing habitats both large and small in Connecticut for the past 35 years. You will learn about native plants and tips on the management of invasives.

For **Peter Picone** biography see page 1.

12:15 Select a breakout session; break till 12:30

12:30 Concurrent Sessions 3 & 4

Session 3 – *Aquatic Invasives*

Moderator: Rose Hiskes, Diagnostician, The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, CIPWG co-chair

A. Hydrilla Invades the Connecticut River With a Vengeance

Greg Bugbee, Associate Scientist, Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station

Abstract: Hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*) is among the most troublesome invasive aquatic plants in many southern states. It crowds out native vegetation, harms fisheries, sickens wildfowl, limits recreation, impedes navigation, and reduces property values. Following reports of hydrilla occurring in the southern portion of the Connecticut River, CAES surveyed the CT portion of the river and found extensive areas choked with the weed. The densest beds occurred on shallow shoals and in ecologically sensitive coves where it crowds out native eel grass (*Vallisneria americana*).The hydrilla is far more robust than found elsewhere and genetic tests found it to be a unique biotype. Work on ecologically sensitive management options has begun.

Biography: Greg Bugbee is Founder and principal investigator of the CAES Invasive Aquatic Plant Program. He is an associate scientist in the Department of Environmental Sciences. He has led over 350 aquatic plant surveys of nearly 250 Connecticut lakes and ponds and directed research on invasive aquatic plant control statewide. Authored numerous scientific and layperson publications on invasive aquatic plants and is the recipient of the 2015 Journal of Aquatic Plant Management "Outstanding Paper of the Year Award." Director of the Northeast Aquatic Plant Management Society from 2004 – 2007, Vice President in 2019, and President elect in 2020.

B. Management of Invasive Common Reed Grass (Phragmites australis)

David Wong, Environmental Analyst, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

Abstract: Invasive common reed grass (*Phragmites australis*) is a hardy and resilient species for nature resource managers to deal with. This presentation offers five management options for managers to consider: 1) monitoring and mapping, 2) mechanical cutting, dredging, and burn, 3) chemical control through herbicide application, 4) permitting and regulation, and 5) biological control. Each approach has advantages and disadvantages. Therefore, an integrated management approach is recommended to better control and prevent the spread of this invasive species.

Biography: David Wong is an Environmental Analyst overseeing the 401 Water Quality Certification Program within Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. He holds a PhD in Marine Ecology, a MS and BSc in Fisheries/Aquaculture. David's interests include Biological Invasions, Environmental Monitoring, Risk Assessment, Eutrophication Management, Ecological Restoration, and the Clean Water Act. He has provided consulting services for +100 entities and other services to 24 local/regional/national professional committees and 12 grant agencies. He has over 160 public presentations (including keynote addresses) and 3 edited books.

Session 4 - *Tools & Timing of Invasive Plant Management*

Moderator: Victoria Wallace, UConn Extension Educator of Sustainable Landscapes

Speakers: Randy Prostak, UMass Extension Weed Specialist, UMass Amherst; **Michael Bald,** Founder|Owner, *Got Weeds?*; **Joshua Tracy**, Invasive Species Management Technician, South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority

A. Chemical Tools

Randy Prostak, UMass Extension Weed Specialist, UMass Amherst

Abstract: When we decide that herbicides are the best option for the management of an invasive plant it is important that we focus on key aspects to optimize herbicide efficacy. This presentation will outline some basic strategies that will help you get the most out of your herbicide applications including the correct identification of target weed, herbicide selection and rate as well as application timing.

Biography: Randy Prostak joined UMass in 1994 and has been a UMass Extension Specialist since 2000 where he specializes in weed management. He is a member of the UMass Extension Landscape, Nursery and Urban Forestry Team and is an active contributor to the Crop Dairy Livestock Equine, Turf and Pesticide Education Extension Programs. He currently serves on the Massachusetts Invasive Plant Advisory Group. Randy is an active member of the Weed Science Society of America and served as president of the Northeastern Weed Science Society. In February 2013, Randy received the Northeastern Weed Science Society's Outstanding Educator Award. The 2020 growing season will mark Randy's 32nd year working in weed science.

B. Manual and Non-Synthetic Control: The Importance of Timing in Weed Control

Michael Bald, Founder|Owner, *Got Weeds?*

Abstract: What is the most commonplace obstacle encountered in attempting to stick to a designed treatment plan? Which site specifics most greatly impact treatment timelines? If the immediate goal is to break seed production, do you follow a particular sequence with the species on hand? Does timing continue to be critical as a site is brought under control and successfully transitioned?

Biography: Michael Bald founded his company, *Got Weeds?*, in early 2011 to offer non-chemical weed management options to landowners across the New England states. His focus is on long-term site stewardship, soil health, and native plant diversity; Mike seeks to integrate the worlds of invasive species, youth education, organic farming, and sustainable operations. With a BS in Biology from the University of Notre Dame, four years of service in the Army Corps of Engineers, and nine years working for the US Forest Service in Vermont, Mike appreciates the importance of healthy habitats, site specificity and ecosystem resilience. *Got Weeds?* specializes in the “danger plants", solarizing as a treatment technique, and safety training in field operations.

C. Using Drones to Map and Monitor Water Chestnut (Trapa natans) Infestation

Joshua Tracy, Invasive Species Management Technician, South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority

Abstract: The monitoring of an invasive population is important once you've performed a treatment. Using drones can make the process much easier, yielding detailed maps and real time images of how the population looks as a whole, allowing for more accurate planning during the next phase of treatment. Water chestnut grows very vigorously, and can take over a body of water in just a few years. It shades out any of the native species trying to grow, and reduces oxygen levels in the water. Joshua Tracy will go over the general process of getting your unmanned aerial vehicle certification, a few options on drones, and how his team is using UAVs for mapping and monitoring of invasive species (Water Chestnut, in this case)

Biography: Joshua Tracy earned his B.S. in 2014 from the University of Connecticut on a presidential scholarship in natural resources, concentrating in water resources and climate. He is currently the invasive species management technician for the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority, and a licensed forester in the state of Connecticut. From 2014-2017, he worked as a technician in Connecticut’s DEEP wildlife division trapping and carrying out research on the New England cottontail. From 2017-2018 he worked as a technician for the Regional Water Authority alongside the forester performing timber harvests and GIS/ cartographic related work.

1:30 Click to rejoin main program; break till 1:40

1:40 ***How to be Heard by Your Legislator; Moving your Ideas into Law***

Patricia Wilson Pheanious, State Representative, 53rd District

Abstract: This presentation will provide basic elements of how to be an effective advocate before the General Assembly and explore the following issues: How to develop useful relationships with legislators. What legislators need to know in order to understand and become invested in your issue? What timing needs to be kept in mind as you plan to move your idea forward? What obstacles might you face in your advocacy and how do you work around these? What resources are available to you to help navigate the legislative process? If your idea progresses to a public hearing, how do you prepare and follow up? How do you

locate allies who can help you to move your idea forward? What are reasonable expectations of the legislative process?

Biography: Pat Wilson Pheanious is a graduate of the University of Connecticut and its Schools of Law and Social Work. She became an Attorney in 1981. Her career in public service spans 40 years. Before becoming a legislator, Pat was an educator (Assistant Professor of Social Work at St Joseph College, adjunct at Eastern, Southern and UConn) and a Human Services Executive (Regional Administrator and Commissioner of CT Department of Social Services, and Director of Human Services for the City and County of Denver, Colorado). Pat is a lifelong resident of Ashford, a wife, mother and grandmother completing her first term in Connecticut's General Assembly where her committee assignments included Human Services, Childrens and Labor/ Public Employees.

1:50 ***General Remarks***

Dr. Indrajeet Chaubey, Dean, UConn CAHNR

Biography: Dr. Indrajeet Chaubey was appointed Dean of CAHNR at UConn on March 1, 2019. He also serves as the Director of the Connecticut Cooperative Extension System and the Storrs Experiment Station. He came to UConn from Purdue University where he enjoyed a distinguished career in teaching, research, and administration for more than 12 years. Chaubey was named a fellow by the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers in 2017. He earned his doctoral degree in biosystems engineering from Oklahoma State University and a master's degree from the University of Arkansas. His undergraduate degree is from the University of Allahabad in India.

2:00 Select next breakout session; break till 2:10

2:10 Concurrent Sessions 5 & 6

Session 5 -- ***Japanese Knotweed Management***

Moderator: Peter Picone, Wildlife Biologist, State of CT DEEP Wildlife Division

Speakers: Tom Zetterstrom, Invasive Management Advocate / Fine Arts Photographer, NW Conn. Knotweed Network; **Frank Belknap III,** Manchester Conservation Commission, Hockanum River Linear Park Committee Chairman; **Petie Reed**, Owner, Perennial Harmony Garden & Landscape; **Abby Stokes**, Author, Activist, Playwright

A. Defeating Knotweed in the Wild and Scenic Housatonic Region

Tom Zetterstrom, Invasive Management Advocate / Fine Arts Photographer, NW Conn. Knotweed Network

Abstract: Presentation includes surveying and mapping of riparian and roadside knotweed, prevention through management of knotweed contaminated gravel and fill, Best Management Practices for effective chemical treatments, and follow up monitoring to assure all knotweed roots and rhizomes are dead. Review ground cover establishment and native cover reintroduction and native shrub replanting of former knotweed monocultures to increase diversity and food web interactions to support fish and avian populations

Biography: Tom Zetterstrom has led environmental efforts since the first Earth day. He helped establish the Connecticut Citizen Action Group in 1971, opposed super highway expansion in northwest Connecticut, and supported renewable energy options in the mid-70's. As a fine arts photographer of trees, Zetterstrom also engaged in community forestry projects for the past 30 years. He was the founding director of Elm Watch, protecting and restoring hundreds of American elm on the western New England landscape. He is the recipient of the 2011 Arbor Day Foundation's Public Awareness of Trees national award, and of the 2013 Connecticut Urban Forest Council's Ossenbrugen Award. For the past decade he has led numerous invasive management efforts in northwest Conn.

B. Knotweed: How One Person Can Control Connecticut's #1 Invasive

Frank Belknap III, Manchester Conservation Commission, Hockanum River Linear Park Committee Chairman

Abstract: Managing knotweed is a daunting task. Yet even a single individual can have an impact. With a simple but disciplined approach, you can practice integrated pest management and successfully control knotweed. These areas can be changed from knotweed monocultures to diverse native plant habitats. It takes dedication, time, and utilization of multiple approaches to reach successful control.

Biography: Frank Belknap III received a BS from Penn State University. After moving to Manchester, CT in 1986, he became involved in the maintenance of the Hockanum River Linear Park. This evolved into becoming a member of the Manchester Conservation Commission, Chairman of the Hockanum River Linear Park Committee, and on the Manchester Land Conservation Trust Board. As Invasives became a more prevalent part of the Hockanum Park's maintenance he consulted the DEEP regarding control methods. This led to becoming a CIPWG member. In 2019 he completed a DEEP Pesticide Supervisor's course. Knotweed was his initial area of concentration as it had degraded the Hockanum's riparian zone. He would like to thank Peter Picone for his guidance and encouragement.

C. Knotweed Conquered: A Surefire Method

Petie Reed, Owner, Perennial Harmony Garden & Landscape, **Abigail (Abby) Stokes,** Author, Activist, Playwright

Abstract: Japanese Knotweed, aka Mexican Bamboo, is listed in the top 10 worst invasive plants in the world and is very prevalent and highly invasive in New England. The Pine Grove Beautification Committee began a pilot program in a 100’x40’ area to eradicate Japanese Knotweed and restore low-growing, native plants and grasses to prevent erosion, minimize maintenance, and negate the use of chemicals. Within three years that pilot area was virtually knotweed free and is a happy and healthy river bank now. Since then we’ve honed in on the most effective and efficient method for knotweed eradication using Mechanical, not Chemical, Control. Join us to learn how to Nip the Knotweed!

Biographies:

Petie Reed has owned Perennial Harmony for 14 years and has been a NOFA Organic Land Care Professional for 10 years. A lifelong environmentalist, Petie is active with Save the River-Save the Hills is a non-profit grassroots organization protecting the Niantic River.

Abby Stokes got her hands dirty 16 years ago when she purchased a cottage in Pine Grove – a peninsula in the Niantic River. She co-founded the Pine Grove Beautification Committee in 2007 with Petie Reed. Abby is a playwright, activist, and bestselling author of "Is This Thing On?" A Friendly Guide to Everything Digital for Newbies, Technophobes, and the Kicking & Screaming.

Session 6 - *Small Scale Management*

Moderator: Kathleen Connolly, Landscape Designer, Speaking of Landscapes, LLC

Speakers: Kathleen Connolly, Landscape Designer, Speaking of Landscapes, LLC; **Lydia Pan,** President, Wild Ones Mountain Laurel Chapter; **Michael Nadeau,** Ecological Landcare Consultant, Wholistic Lancare Consulting, LLC

A. ***Reclaiming the Meadow Walk: A Tale of Time and Woodchips***

Kathleen Connolly, Landscape Designer, Speaking of Landscapes, LLC

Abstract: One size does not fit all when it comes to invasive plant management. Some management methods are effective at a small scale but are difficult to apply on larger areas. Kathy Connolly will briefly compare the aspects of small-project methods that may limit the options--or that may be too labor-intensive or equipment-driven to "scale up." Then she'll illustrate how a woodchip smother and patience helped a determined garden club in Westbrook, CT, reclaim an 8000-square-foot feral (and sometimes muddy) landscape in a high-visibility location along the Boston Post Road. She'll discuss why woodchips became the method of choice and explain how the project unfolded over three growing seasons.

Biography: Kathy Connolly is a landscape designer who specializes in naturalized designs, low-impact techniques, and native plants for homeowners, municipalities, and other organizations. A graduate of the Conway School of Landscape Design, she is also a columnist for The Day newspapers and media, which circulates throughout southeastern Connecticut. She gives talks on land care and horticulture for organizations throughout southern New England. Connolly has a master's degree in landscape planning and design from the Conway School. She completed UConn's advanced master gardener program and is an Accredited Organic Land Care Professional through NOFA. She is on the management committee for The Preserve State Forest in Old Saybrook, CT, her hometown.

B. ***From Mugwort to Meadow***

Lydia Pan, President, Wild Ones Mountain Laurel Chapter

Abstract: There is an urgent need for low-cost, environmentally friendly methods to control invasive mugwort (*Artemisia vulgaris*) that can be implemented by homeowners or community volunteers. I will discuss why mugwort is so difficult to control, then share our experience with side-by-side, small-scale applications of solarization and smothering in order to control mugwort (and other invasives) as part of site preparation for meadow planting. We were encouraged by the degree of control achieved by both methods, although each has its limitations. Based on observations during the year after planting, we suggest strategies for maintaining control and preventing reinfestation.

Biography: Lydia Pan is a retired pharmaceutical industry scientist turned environmental steward with a focus on native plant communities. She holds a BSc in Biology (Yale) and a PhD in Biological Sciences (UC San Diego). Her professional career included more than 20 years in research on musculoskeletal diseases and 7 years in science policy. Lydia joined Wild Ones in 2014 and has served as President of the Mountain Laurel Chapter since 2019. For the past 3 years she has led a volunteer effort to help manage invasives and restore habitat at Coogan Farm. Lydia is also a docent at the Connecticut College Arboretum and member of the Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group and Connecticut Native Plant Working Group.

C. ***Managing Reed Canary Grass Without Synthetic Chemicals***

Michael Nadeau, Ecological Landcare Consultant, Wholistic Lancare Consulting, LLC

Abstract: I will share tips and techniques for successful control of Reed Canary Grass (and other unwanted vegetation) from an ongoing project transforming an old pasture into a native grass and wildflower meadow. No synthetic herbicides were used to achieve >95% control. We will discuss cultural practices, materials, seed selection, equipment, timing, and ongoing maintenance. Since every meadow from seed is an experiment, we will look at mistakes made and surprises that seemingly came from nowhere and how they are being dealt with. So far, the result has been very positive.

Biography: Michael Nadeau is a lifelong student of Nature, and his personal and professional life trajectory has sought to understand the intricacies of the plant/soil/environment relationship. From a young start at 12 years old behind a lawnmower working for a neighbor's landscaping company to today, he has spent the vast majority of his life in the outdoor classroom. As a former CT Licensed Arborist & Pesticide Applicator, he endeavored to control Nature. As he matured he realized this folly and began to learn from Nature. Much formal horticultural and ecological training is a part of his learning experience, but it is the dirt-under-the-fingernails experience that has served him best.

3:10 Click to return to main program; break till 3:20

3:20 Closing Remarks and 2020 "Theme Song": Everything's (not) Coming Up Roses…

Anne Rowlands, publisher/business manager of Connecticut Gardener Magazine; member of CIPWG planning committee; **Jerry O'Neil,** singer/performer

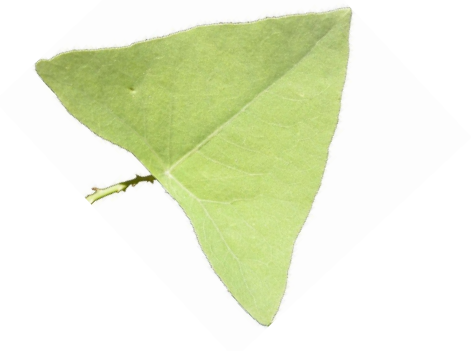
Abstract: A virtual Invasive Plant Symposium could only happen through the dedication of many people. Hear a quick rundown of all who made it possible, and enjoy the grand finale: CIPWG's 2020 symposium "theme song."

Biographies:

Anne Rowlands has been a nature lover and plant geek since early childhood, and after a 40-year stint as administrator and fundraiser, came full circle to focus once more on her passions of ecology, botany and biology. She and her husband Will publish a regional gardening magazine that reflects and illustrates their intense curiosity and delight in the natural world, while instructing readers in the art and science of living with the land in Southern New England.

Jerry O'Neil loves to sing and has performed at many clubs, restaurants and concert venues in the Tri-State area. Jerry is a lifelong clarinetist who plays with Westport Community Bank, and he is also a frequent vocal soloist for that 60-piece group. Jerry sings with the Norwalk Community Chorale and is also a recurring soloist with that 70-person ensemble. He is a retired CPA and audit partner form PricewaterhouseCoopers and also PKF O'Connor Davies. His specialty was assisting not-for-profit organizations improve their operations, controls and finances.

3:30 Adjournment



The 2020 CIPWG Symposium Planning Committee

Emmett Varricchio
Rose Hiskes
Charlotte Pyle
Frank Belknap III
Lisa Brodlie
Kathy Connolly
Donna Ellis
Dave Laiuppa
Todd Mervosh
Peter Picone
Anne Rowlands
Linday Suhr
Joshua Tracy
Victoria Wallace

***Bold** denotes Co-Chairs

Thanks also to:

- Juliet Kapsis, Anne Hill, Kate Copeland, Karen Zajac, and Harley Erickson from UConn's Events and Conference Services
- Total Webcasting's Joe & Robert Feldman
- Kristin Ponak, CIPWG Webmaster
- Thanks to Bryan Connolly, Assistant Professor at Eastern Connecticut State University, for providing identification videos during the virtual symposium. He holds a B.A. from the University of Vermont, and a M.S. and Ph.D. from the University of Connecticut. He is currently an Assistant Biology Professor at Eastern Connecticut State University, previous to this appointment he was an Assistant Professor at Framingham State University and served as the Massachusetts State Botanist for the MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. Earlier in his career Bryan was the volunteer coordinator for the Invasive Plant Atlas of New England (IPANE).
- Special thanks to Victoria (Vickie) Wallace, statewide Extension Educator of Sustainable Landscapes for the University of Connecticut. She is a member of the UConn IPM Team, Turfgrass Science Team and is the UConn Liaison for CIPWG. She evaluates turfgrasses for low input use and serves as the PI for a swallow-wort biological control research project. Prior to joining the faculty at UConn, Ms. Wallace worked in the turfgrass seed industry as an agronomist. Ms. Wallace received her B.S. from Penn State University and her M.S. from the University of Rhode Island. Ms. Wallace currently serves as chairperson of the Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA) Environment Committee and of the STMA Task Force that is developing a national template for Sports Turf BMP's. She also serves on the Board of Directors for the New England Sports Turf Managers' Association (NESTMA) and is Past President of the CT Nursery and Landscape Association.

Everything's (Not) Coming Up Roses

inspired by Ethel Merman's performance of *Everything's Coming Up Roses* from *Gypsy* (1959)
original music by Jule Styne, original lyrics by Stephen Sondheim
CIPWG 2020 Symposium version lyrics by Anne Rowlands, sung by Jerry O'Neil (à la Ethel)

I have a scheme...
A scheme to rout them, baby,
It's gonna come true, maybe,
I think that they're through,
But, maybe...

They'll resprout, they'll regrow,
And I'll head right back out there to mow,
Sprouting here, looming there,
Honey, everything's coming up knotweed!

I sure hope for success,
But I'm looking out over a mess,
Sprouting here, sprouting there,
Honey, everything's coming up stiltgrass!

Now I'm in it,
Get it out of my yard,
Mile a minute,
How do I even begin it?

Hack them back, block the light,
There's so many invaders to fight

All those vines wrapped around,
Pulling trees to the ground,
But I'll get out and work until I'm through,
Pulling everything out but my roses,
Until I turn blue.

I can do it,
All I need is a hand,
I'll get through it,
Glyphosate's gonna see to it!

Zero in, set my sights,
It's the scourge of us suburbanites,
I can't tell, can you see,
Are they back? Mercy me,
A 15 foot wide barrier will do!

Honey, everything's coming up mugwort and barberry,
Everything's coming up loosestrife and swallowwort,
Everything's gonna be Knockouts and hybrid teas.
Everything's coming up roses *[*multiflora!]
For me and for you...

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