Southeastern Equestrian Trails Conference

July 29-31, 2004

The WESTIN Perimeter North
Atlanta, Georgia

Hosted by the

Chattahoochee Trail Horse Association, Inc.

Invasive Plant Species
How They Can Affect Trail Access
(And How You Can Help Prevent Their Access)

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The natural beauty of our southern forest landscapes is under attack and our access to lands and trails are becoming increasingly restricted. Alien invasive plants are the culprits and they are spreading, occupying and controlling our lands like armies of invaders that they are. Kudzu is a world-wide recognized invader of the South, but few people sense the threat from other plant invaders that even occupy more land than kudzu, such as Japanese honeysuckle, Chinese privet, tree-of-heaven, and multiflora rose. There are actually over 50 non-native plant species invading temperate southern forests and many more in pastures, aquatic systems, right-of-ways, and croplands as well in South Florida. You can help stop their spread and devastative results.

Non-native invasive plants infest all land-use, water-use, and natural landscapes in our region, increasingly eroding productivity, hindering recreational use and management activities, and degrading diversity and wildlife habitat. Often called non-native, exotic, nonindigenous, alien, or noxious weeds, they occur as trees, shrubs, vines, grasses, ferns, and forbs. Some have been introduced into this country accidentally, but most were brought here as ornamentals or livestock forage. These robust plants arrived without their natural predators of insects and diseases that tend to keep native plants in natural balance. Now they increase across the landscape with little opposition, beyond the control and restoration measures applied by individual landowners and managers and the actions to prevent spread by concerned land users.

We need to promote and assist with actions that stop plant invasions, control infestations that exist, and restore native communities. Trails are avenues of introduction and spread. Once established, these plants hinder or degrade the experience of trail rides. Several severe invaders, like Tropical Soda Apple and tall fescue are being spread by horses and cattle as well as wildlife. Attention to feed contamination prior to rides and sanitation of horses and riders will result in less spread and occupation by these plants. As citizens, trail riders and their associations can promote the need for organized programs at all levels of government to stop the spread and restore infested lands. It will take cooperation to address this problem that is shared by all and will greatly influence the heritage of land-use and trail enjoyment that we pass on to future generations.

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National Invasive Species Plan's
Definition of Invasive Species
1. Nonnative (or alien) to the ecosystem, and
2. Its introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environment harm or harm to human health.

Nonnative Invasive Plants come in all forms
1. Trees
2. Shrubs
3. Vines
4. Grasses
5. Ferns
6. Forbs

Invasive Plants that will hinder trail access the most

Trees: mimosa, tallowtree, tree-of-heaven, paulownia, and chinaberry.

Shrubs: Chinese privet, bush honeysuckles, autumn olive, and multiflora rose.

Vines: kudzu, Japanese honeysuckle, Japanese climbing fern, and oriental bittersweet.

Invasive Plants associated with Horses
1. Forage species: fescue, bahiagrass, bermudagrass, and johnsongrass (All these are considered invasive in natural areas).

2. Plants that seed stick to coat and riders: cogongrass, needlegrass, smutgrass, and Nepalese browntop.

3. Consumed by horses: Tropical soda apple is a Federal Noxious Weed being spread by cattle, horses, deer, and other wildlife.

4. Wildlife wood plot and road cover species: Chinese and bushy lespedezas (sericea and bicolor), chufa (yellow nutsedge, The World's Worst Weed), and autumn olive.

Websites on Invasive Plants in the South

Southeast Exotic Pest Plant Council and links to State Exotic and Invasive Plant Councils
http://se-eppc.org/

"Nonnative Invasive Plants of Southern Forests: A Field Guide for Identification and Control"
This book can be viewed and downloaded at:
Adobe Acrobat version: http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/fia/manual/exotic_pest_plants.htm
HTML version: http://www.invasive.org/weeds/
Order hardcopy: http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/viewpub.jsp?index=5424

Invasive Species, Control Recommendations, and Images:
http://www.bugwood.org/, http://www.invasive.org/, and http://www.forestryimages.org/

Conference Schedule

Thursday July 29th

9:00 am to 5:00 pm	**Trail Techniques for the 21st Century Workshop** Presented by Mike Riter, Georgia Trails Education Specialist This class will be a primer on the proper way to design, construct and maintain natural surface, shared use trails. Many of these techniques are focused on problem solving through design and looking at "the big picture". Lunch provided.
1:00 to 8:00 pm	**Registration**
6:00 to 8:00 pm	**Happy Trails Welcome Reception**

Friday July 30th

7:00 to 8:00 am	**Registration / Breakfast Buffet**
8:00 to 8:15 am	**Welcome SETC 2004** Diane Ayres and Brian Boume
8:15 to 8:45 am	**"A Brief History of SETC and Glimpses of Its Potential Future" Keynote Address** Dr. Gene Wood, Clemson University
8:45 to 9:15 am	**"Getting Organized: Creating an Equestrian Trails Organization"** Kandee Haertel
9:15 to 9:45 am	**"Kemo Trails Project – Bringing Diverse Users Together"** Leah Urban, Marion Harris and Jerry Givan
9:45 to 10:15 am	**"Invasive Plant Species – How They Can Affect Trail Access"** James Miller, USDA Forest Service
10:15 to 10:45 am	**Networking Break**
10:45 to 11:15 am	**"Federal Transportation Funds Benefit Recreation"** Christopher Douwes, Trails And Enhancements Program Manager, Federal Highway Administration
11:15 to 11:45 am	**"The Federal Highway Administration Recreational Trails Program in Georgia"** Eric Hunter, Georgia Trails and Greenways
11:45 am to 12:00 pm	**Q&A with Morning Speakers**
12:00 to 1:00 pm	**Lunch**
1:00 to 2:45 pm	**Senior Public Land Manager Panel Discussion** National Park Service, USDA Forest Service, US Army Corps of Engineers, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Georgia Department of Natural Resources
2:45 to 3:15 pm	**Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest Update** Kathleen Atkinson, Supervisor
3:15 to 3:45 pm	**Networking Break**
3:45 to 5:00 pm	**"Trail Contractors – Who We Are, What We Do, How We Can Help You and Why You Need Us"** Woody Keen, Trail Dynamics
5:00 to 5:45 pm	**"The Real Poop" A Discussion of Horses on Trails and the Ecosystem** Dr. Cyla Allison
5:45 to 6:00 pm	**Q&A with Afternoon Speakers**
7:00 to 9:00 pm	**Dinner**

Saturday July 31st

7:00 to 8:00 am	**Registration / Breakfast Buffet**
8:00 to 9:00 am	**"Best Practices in Trail Design and Construction"** Mike Riter, Georgia Trails Education Specialist
9:00 to 9:15 am	**Virginia – "Establishing Trails in a Suburban Environment"** Robin Rentsch
9:15 to 9:30 am	**Tennessee – "Trail Etiquette, Etc."** Joanne Grimes
9:30 to 10:30 am	**"Designing Shared-Use Trails to Include Equestrians"** Anne O'Dell
10:30 to 11:00 am	**Networking Break**
11:00 to 11:15 am	**South Carolina** Bobby Anderson, SC Horsemen's Council
11:15 to 11:45 am	**"The Politics of Keeping Our Trails"** Jerry Fruth
11:45 am to 12:00 pm	**Q&A with Morning Speakers**
12:00 to 1:00 pm	**Lunch**
1:00 to 1:15 pm	**North Carolina – "Making Trails Happen"** Barbara Oslund
1:15 to 1:30 pm	**Louisiana – "Woodlands Trail ~ The Legacy Begins"** Katie Brasted
1:30 to 2:30 pm	**"Trail Riders in the Ecosystem"** Dr. Gene Wood, Clemson University
2:30 to 2:45 pm	**Georgia – "Frady Branch Multi-Use Trail System ~ A Partnership of Many"** Michael Gryson, USDA Forest Service
2:45 to 3:00 pm	**Florida – "Bits and Pieces"** Alexandra Weiss
3:00 to 3:30 pm	**Networking Break**
3:30 to 4:00 pm	**"Multi Use Trail Development Along the Blue Ridge Parkway"** Larry Hultquist, National Park Service
4:00 to 4:15 pm	**Arkansas – "Land of Opportunity"** Jacque Alexander
4:15 to 4:30 pm	**Alabama – "Building Bridges"** Tim Slone, USDA Forest Service
4:30 to 5:00 pm	**Q&A with Afternoon Speakers, Open Discussion, Suggestions, Etc.**
5:00 to 5:30 pm	**Closing Ceremony** **Passing of the Horseshoe to North Carolina**

Location of Activities

(Refer to the Westin Floor Plans in this notebook section)

Main Conference Sessions ..... **Kern/Porter/Rogers/Gershwin Grand Ballroom, Concourse Level**

Registration, Exhibits, Breakfast Buffet, Breaks: **Prefunction Lobby & Corridor, Concourse Level**

Friday/Saturday Lunch & Dinner ..... **Bernstein Ballroom, Lobby Level**

Trail Techniques Workshop ..... **Concourse North & South, Concourse Level**

Trail Techniques Workshop Lunch ..... **Acacia Dining Room, Concourse Level**

Happy Trails Welcome Reception ..... **Jasmine Lounge, Hotel Lobby**