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# Apalachicola

Regional Stewardship Alliance CISMA

DEC, 2011 UPDATE

The first half of the 2012 Fiscal Year has been full of new developments for ARSA CISMA. In an effort to keep our community up to date on the CISMA's activities, I'm trying a newsletter update. You'll find a brief overview of our private land treatment project from fall '11, as well as our plans for the rest of the year. Enjoy and send any feedback to [bpelc@tnc.org](mailto:bpelc@tnc.org).

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## *Microstegium vimineum* at ABRP, Liberty Co



Point 2 of 5 before treatment



Point 2 of 5; 45 days after treatment

Japanese Stiltgrass is an invasive annual grass that has spread throughout the eastern seaboard and west to the Mississippi Valley. This infestation at ABRP is the first officially documented site in Florida. ARSA CISMA has treated the area two years in a row and we plan to make it a special focus for Early Detection/Rapid Response in FY2012.

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## "Site A" Property, Jackson Co



L. japonicum in 80 acres of planted pine



60 days after treatment using a private contractor

This private property site is surrounded on three sides by the Apalachee WMA. While the property is mostly in peanut and hay production, there is an 80 acre Slash Pine stand on the southern boundary with a wide-spread *Lygodium japonicum* infestation. ARSA CISMA hired a private contractor to spray the site as well as approximately 5 acres of infested Chinese Tallow on the property.

## “Site B” Property, Jackson Co



*Melia azederach* (Chinaberry) surrounding a 35 acre hay field before treatment



60 days after treatment; the 8 acre woodland surrounding hay fields surveyed and treated.

This is the second year ARSA CISMA has treated invasives on this private site near Three-Rivers State Park in Jackson CO. The property owner is a Master Gardner and has taken a special interest in keeping her woodlands dominated by native hardwoods. We hired a private contractor to survey and treat the 8 acre woodland surrounding a 35 acre hay field. Invasive species treated include: *Lygodium japonicum* (Japanese Climbing Fern), *Nandina domestica* (Heavenly Bamboo), *Ligustrum sinense* (Chinese privet) and *Sapium sebiferum* (Chinese Tallowtree.)

## “Site C” Property, Jackson Co



Fenceline between private farm and Three-Rivers State Park is infested with *Pueraria Montana* (Kudzu) and *Albizia julibrisin* (Mimosa). Woodlands to the southeast next.



60 days after treatment using a private contractor.

The property owner is the third generation in Jackson Co family farmer who grows peanuts, hay and cotton on the boundary of conservation lands, in this case Three-Rivers State Park. This project was an opportunity to show our professional abilities on the fenceline immediately separating his property from DEP’s park property. The homeowner reported his satisfaction with the project and has invited us back to continue treatment in the most infested areas...the hills above his fields. Park staff have also identified these hill tops as the source of major infestations in the park after rain events.

## Semi-annual ARSA and ARSA CISMA Meetings, St. Marks NWR



*Fall 2011 ARSA Meeting, St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge*

- The Nature Conservancy
- Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
- N.W. Florida Water Management District
- USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service
- U.S. Forest Service
- Florida Forest Service

On Nov 8th, 2011 St. Marks NWR hosted our semi-annual ARSA meeting. We also conducted an ARSA CISMA and ARSA Longleaf Pine committee meetings at the beginning of the meeting. We had wide representation from the area agencies and participated in a lively discussion about Lygodium control across the region and ways to prioritize, strategize and fund control projects in the area. ARSA CISMA steering committee has also conducted two phone conferences, one in September and one in December to work on the 2012 work plan...see action items on the backpage.

## Other ARSA CISMA Action

- Several trips to Tyndall to scope out 2012 workday sites and private lands projects
- Gave the "Our Fine Land" presentation to Tallahassee Garden Club and signed 18 people up for weed ID/treatment workshops (NISAW event)
- Completed and ratified the 2012 workplan (see reverse side) and action plan
- Assisted the 6-Rivers CISMA through a leadership transition



Herbicide training for the public

Save the Date: ARSA Spring 2012 meeting is currently scheduled for April 5th at the St. Joe Buffer Preserve... watch for email updates in the coming weeks.

## 2012 ARSA CISMA ACTION PLAN

- **ACTION 1.** NISAW Presentation to Tallahassee Garden club and Master Gardeners about yard weed control; 2nd presentation on regional EDRR priorities depending on results of EDRR taskforce meeting . **National Invasive Species Awareness Week: Feb 27th-Mar 2 Brian and Judy**
- **ACTION 2.** Form EDRR taskforce and host spp priority workshop to develop an EDRR list for ARSA CISMA. **Due Late Feb-early March. Brian and Frank**
- **ACTION 3.** Liberty & Calhoun “Transportation Professionals” training for roadside treatment. As soon as reasonable. **Brian and Judy**
- **ACTION 4.** Tyndall AFB workday coordinated to treat either control or EDRR infestations and develop relationships among various professionals in Bay CO. **Early Summer '12. Brian and Wendy**
- **ACTION 5.** Panama City area private property project using DOD Legacy grant funding to treat priority control spp. **March 2012. Brian and Wendy**
- **ACTION 6.** Partner training/workday at Apalachicola Bluffs and Ravines Preserve (TNC) to educate partners regarding EDRR species, control techniques and to treat infestations of control and EDRR species on and around the preserve. **March or April 2012. Brian and Judy**
- **ACTION 7.** CISMA meeting(s) both phone and in person to continue work on action items in annual plan. **Late March, April...summer? Steering Committee**
- **ACTION 8 .** Regularly scheduled reviews of weed data. **On-going, Brian Judy, Frank**

### 2012 ARSA CISMA Steering Committee

Brian Pelc-The Nature Conservancy (Chair)

Wendy Jones-Tyndall Airforce Base

Leroy Crocket-NRCS

Judy Ludlow– UF IFAS Extension

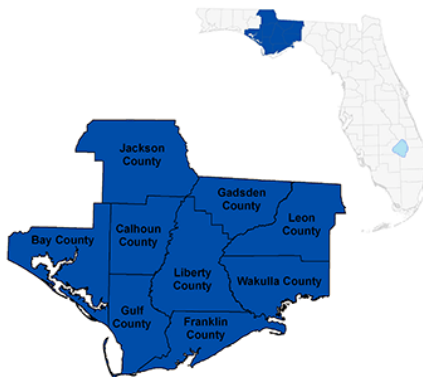
Frank Price-FNAI

Drew Leslie– Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Greg Jubinsky-Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Dr. Pat Minogue-University of Florida (ad hoc)

Kimberly Wren– DEP-ANERR (ad hoc)



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