

## A closer look at our presenters

**Mark Barrett** is currently a Wildlife Biologist at Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge in Boynton Beach, Florida. In 2004, he received a Ph.D. in ecology from the University of South Florida in Tampa. His professional interests include plant-animal interactions, community ecology, biodiversity and conservation, and invasive exotic management.

**Christine Bennett** has a BS in Entomology from the University of Florida. Christine has worked for the University of Florida, Department of Entomology at the Florida Biological Control laboratory, Gainesville, from 1973 until the present on biological control of invasive plants. She worked with Dr. G. Buckingham, now retired USDA-ARS, on biological control agents of water hyacinths, hydrilla and Eurasian water milfoil. She is presently working with Dr. Bob Pemberton, USDA-ARS, Ft. Lauderdale, on biological control of Old World Climbing Fern with insects from Australia and Thailand.

**Scott Blackwood** is a postdoctoral research associate at the USDA-ARS Invasive Plant Research Laboratory in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. He has a B.S. in Zoology from the University of Wisconsin – Madison, and an M.S. and Ph.D. in Entomology from Oregon State University. His graduate and postdoctoral research has involved behavioral ecology, population modeling, acarology, ecological education and biological control. During his graduate studies, Scott was awarded the Ernst Mach Stipendium and spent a half year conducting part of his dissertation research at the Universität für Bodenkultur in Vienna, Austria, and serving as a TA at the Free University of Bolzano in Bolzano, Italy. Following completion of his Ph.D., he spent 15 months as an adjunct teaching and research faculty member at Portland State University in Portland, Oregon before joining ARS in March of 2005.

**Sarah Braun** is currently a graduate student at Florida State University working towards her master's degree in Ecology and Evolution, with an emphasis on ecology of invasive plants. She is also the curator for the Robert K. Godfrey Herbarium at Florida State. She received her B.S. in Wildlife Management and Ecology from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point in 2004 and her experience includes three summers as a Biological Technician with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at Rice Lake NWR, MN and Necedah NWR, WI.

**Karen Brown** has worked at the UF-IFAS-Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants (CAIP) for over 20 years. She manages the Online APIRS database and helps coordinate the activities of the Information Office. She edits AQUAPHYTE magazine for the CAIP, and WILDLAND WEEDS magazine for the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council (FLEPPC).

**Katherine Carr** is an Environmental Assessment Specialist for Monsanto Company, working primarily in the Chemical Ecotoxicology and Exposure Assessment areas. Other technical areas in which she has experience include environmental fate and metabolism chemistry, life cycle assessment, environmental issues pertaining to manufacturing, exposure modeling (human and ecological) for agricultural products, and geographic information systems. She holds a B.S. in Chemistry from Indiana University and an M.S. in Chemistry from the University of Missouri - St. Louis.

**Robyn Chiarelli** completed a Biology Major and an Environmental Studies Minor in May 2002 at Brandeis University in Waltham, Massachusetts. While there, she participated in the Semester in Environmental Science in Woods Hole, Massachusetts. Subsequent to graduating, she travelled to Washington State to volunteer for the Student Conservation Association's Fire Education Corps. Then, she moved back to her hometown and worked as a tour guide for Butterfly World in Coconut Creek, Florida. Presently, she is a Biological Science Technician for the USDA - Agricultural Research Service in Fort Lauderdale.

**Dan Clark** is a native Floridian born in Miami. He holds a B.S. in Biology from the University of California, San Diego (1992) where he conducted marine bacterial research at Scripps Institution of Oceanography. He also holds a M.S. from the University of Florida (2002) where he conducted applied research on invasive species ecology and management. Dan has 14 years of professional invasive species management experience having previously served as an Environmental Specialist for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the Conservation Officer for the City of Sanibel where he coordinated natural and cultural resource management activities on public natural lands. Dan is currently the Caribbean Coordinator of the National Park Service's Florida/Caribbean Exotic Plant Management Team and a Research Associate with the University of Florida's Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants. His current responsibilities include coordination, oversight and management of invasive exotic plant management in four Caribbean National Parks, NPS international collaboration for exotic species management in the Caribbean Basin, and conducting applied research in the Virgin Islands National Park

examining the ecological effect of invasive plants on native flora. Dan enjoys fishing, boating, scuba diving, photography, and international travel, and is a 24-year veteran of the US Coast Guard and Coast Guard Reserve.

**Aimee Cooper** received a BA in Biology from Otterbein College, where she completed a research project studying *Holothuria mexicana*. Currently she is working at the University of Florida Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants as a technician assisting in the research *Colubrina asiatica*.

**Michael Cripps** recently completed his MSc in Entomology at the University of Idaho in co-operation with CABI Bioscience, Switzerland. His research involved a comparative assessment of the phytophagous insect community diversity on *Lepidium draba* in its native (eastern Europe) and invasive (western U.S) ranges. Michael's research conducted at CABI Bioscience has been an integral part of the ongoing biological control effort for *L. draba*. His general scientific interests are in biological control, invasive species ecology, community ecology, and assessing biodiversity. He is particularly interested in studying invasion mechanisms of introduced plants.

**Dr. James P. Cuda** earned his BS (1973) and MS (1976) degrees in Zoology from Southern Illinois University and received a Ph.D. (1983) in entomology from Texas A&M University. He currently is an Associate Professor in the Department of Entomology & Nematology at the University of Florida. Dr. Cuda conducts research on classical biological control of non-native plants that have become invasive weeds. Current projects include the discovery, identification, risk assessment, release, and evaluation of target-specific beneficial natural enemies from foreign sources for biological control of Brazilian peppertree, strawberry guava, tropical soda apple, and hydrilla. Extension activities focus on developing and implementing arthropod pest and weed management programs emphasizing biological control.

**Bobbie Jo Davis** earned her Bachelor's Degree in Wildlife Ecology & Conservation at the University of Florida. Shortly after, she applied for the Dean of Research's Summer Internship Program in hopes of gaining research experience working in the Entomology field. She was awarded a six week paid research internship working for Associate Professor Jim Cuda on the development of an artificial diet for *Anthonomus tenebrosus*. Under the guidance of Drs. Cuda, Medal, and Slansky, Bobbie Jo has continued her exploration of insects at the Graduate level by entering the Master's program at UF where she is currently working on a degree in Entomology with an emphasis on biocontrol.

**Rodrigo Dias**. My interest for invasive plants started during an internship at the Illinois Natural History Survey in Champaign-Urbana. We conducted surveys to assess the impact of biocontrol agents (*Galerucella* spp.) on Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) in several wetlands in Illinois and Indiana. Other projects included: a) Impact of Garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) on native understory plants in Illinois; b) outreach activities in local schools involving invasive plants in wetlands; and, c) mass rearing of biocontrol agents of Purple Loosestrife. During the last two years, I have been in my Ph.D. program at UF working on West Indian marsh grass. As part of integrated management of West Indian Marsh Grass, my thesis includes the study of the biology, host specificity and impact of a potential biocontrol agent (*Ischnodemus variegatus*).

**Robert Doren** is a plant ecologist and serves as the senior science advisor to the Office of the Executive Director of the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force and Working Group and the DOI Director of Everglades Policy. He is responsible for advising the Task Force Executive Director and DOI Director of Everglades Policy on science issues related to the restoration initiative, serves as the Directors' designee for science related venues and committees, and for directing the Noxious Exotic Weed Task Team and the Florida Invasive Animal Task Team's efforts to develop and implement the Strategic Plan for managing invasive exotic plants for Everglades restoration, and assist the Corps of Engineers and South Florida Water Management District in the development of the Master Invasive Species Plan for South Florida Ecosystem Restoration. Robert has published numerous scientific works including over 70 peer reviewed journal articles, several book chapters and two books. He has been active in ecological research in South Florida since 1979 and has traveled extensively throughout the US and internationally as a researcher and speaker on disturbance ecology and invasive exotic plants. Robert also holds a faculty appointment with Florida International University.

**Chris Evans** serves as the Invasive Species and Natural Resource Specialist for the University of Georgia's Bugwood Network. Chris earned a B.S. in Wildlife Biology from Murray State University and a M.S. in Forest Biology from Iowa State University. Before joining the University of Georgia, he served as coordinator for the woodland invasive species survey of Iowa, a project which emphasized training private landowners to identify and report woodland invasive plants. His current duties include conducting research and extension programs on invasive species as well as developing natural resource-related educational material.

**Maria Alejandra Barahona Ferman** completed her BS in Agronomy with a minor in Natural Resources at The Panamerican School of Agriculture, El Zamorano in Honduras in the class of 2000. She started her Entomology Master's in 2004 in biocontrol of weeds and plans to finish this May.

**Amy Ferriter** is a researcher in invasive species at Boise State University in Boise, Idaho. Before moving to Idaho in 2005, she spent 13 years working on weed management issues in the Florida Everglades for the South Florida Water Management District. Current projects include the continuation of Systematic Reconnaissance Flights (SRFs) in Florida, compiling a spatial database of nonindigenous melaleuca populations for the TAME Melaleuca project, and the development of an interactive website for display of this data. She is also working to learn about invasive species issues in the West and chairs a Rush Skeletonweed Task Force for the State of Idaho.

**Alison Fox** is an alien invader of Florida, having arrived from Great Britain in 1987 after earning a Ph.D. in botany from the University of Glasgow. She started at the University of Florida as a post-doctoral associate working on aquatic plant biology and control and has evolved into an Associate Professor conducting research on invasive plants in aquatic, wetland, and terrestrial habitats in Florida and the US Virgin Islands. She teaches undergraduate and graduate courses on invasive species and weed ecology at the University of Florida, and is the Chair-elect of FLEPPC.

**Nancy Fraley** serves as the Liaison for the Southeast Exotic Plant Management Team. A native of east Tennessee, she holds bachelors degrees in botany and cultural anthropology and a masters in botany. Prior to joining the NPS in 2003 she worked with the Tennessee Valley Authority's Regional Natural Heritage Project as the Natural Areas Manager. She is currently duty stationed in Asheville, NC at the Blue Ridge Parkway.

**Mary Ann Furedi** is a post-doctoral research associate in the Department of Biological Sciences at Florida Atlantic University. Her research interests include: population dynamics, biological interactions, and conservation biology. She is currently working on two projects on tree islands in the Florida Everglades, detection of *Lygodium microphyllum* and the use of hydrological data to determine tree island elevation.

**Crysta Gantz** is a Lead Researcher, IFAS Assessment of the Status of Non-Native Plants in Florida's Natural Areas, University of Florida. Received a BSc, University of Washington, Seattle - 1997; MSc, University of Edinburgh, UK - 2003. Employment at the University of Florida: I have worked on this project since August 2004. Other career experience: Microbiologist - 2 years.

**Dennis J. Giardina** my career has focused on endangered species research, management and monitoring for the US Forest Service and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. I have participated in the recovery efforts related to the Puerto Rican Parrot, The Puerto Rican Boa, The Red-Cockaded Woodpecker, The Florida Panther and the Eastern Indigo Snake. I am the Bylaws committee chair for the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council. I am a member of the Big Cypress National Preserve Panther Capture Team and I am a member of the Eastern Indigo Snake Recovery Team. I am the President and CEO of Eco-Logical Systems International a 501 C 3 non profit organization that promotes ecologically sound, sustainable agriculture, forestry and wildlife management. Currently my professional focus is on exotic plant, animal and micro-organism issues in South Florida and I organize an annual regional symposium called "The Exotic Species Workshop for Southwest Florida" to educate environmental professionals of this region about exotic species ID, ecology and control.

**Doria Gordon** has 15 years of experience working for The Nature Conservancy, where she is the Senior Ecologist and Associate Director of Conservation Science for the Florida Chapter. Dr. Gordon is also a Courtesy Professor of Botany at the University of Florida. Her research focus includes identification and prediction of invasive non-indigenous plant species, restoration of longleaf pine ecosystems, and rare species biology, demography, and management. Dr. Gordon completed a M.S. and Ph.D. in Ecology at the University of California at Davis. Her research focused on competitive interactions between blue oak seedlings and herbaceous neighbors within native perennial and non-native Mediterranean annual grasslands.

**Alison Higgins**, has been waging war against island invaders for 8 years. Originally a SCA environmental education intern for the Florida Keys National Wildlife Refuges, Alison found her niche when she asked those she educated to actually apply their new knowledge using bowsaws and herbicide. She started with the Nature Conservancy of the Florida Keys soon after as a "chick with a chainsaw" and has since become their Land Conservation Program Manager, and chair of the Florida Keys Invasive Exotics Task Force. In her off hours, Alison overcommits her time volunteering as Chair of the Refuge's non-profit Friends group, Vice Chair on the Keys Green Living and Energy Education group and works on making her 30' liveaboard sailboat as sustainable as possible. She recently received her Masters in Environment and Community from Antioch University and is easing herself into a social life.

**Joy Honegger** is Team Lead for Chemical Ecotoxicology, Monsanto Company. During her career at Monsanto she has worked in the areas of herbicide translocation and mode of action, environmental fate, metabolism and residue chemistry, ecological effects, and risk assessment. She has a B. S. in Chemistry from the University of Illinois, an M.S. in Chemistry from Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville, and Ph. D. in Molecular Biology from Washington University (St. Louis). She is an author of 13 external publications and numerous studies submitted for regulatory purposes.

**Karen Hupp** received my BS degree in Environmental Science from Catawba College in North Carolina in 2003. During that program I worked on invasive plant removal at the Cowpens National Battle Field and conducted research on the restoration of granite outcrops at Dunn's Mountain, NC. Since September 2003, I have worked as an OPS assistant with Alison Fox's research team, providing support to many projects related to invasive plants. As a consequence of all my experiences working with invasive plants in Florida, I decided to enter Graduate School at the University of Florida. In Fall 2005, I starting my MS program with the objective of further increasing my knowledge of invasive plant ecology and management.

**Jeff Hutchinson** received a BS in Wildlife Ecology at the University of Florida, and a MS in Forestry at University of Kentucky. He served as a district biologist for the Florida Park Service (1998-2002), and as a land manager for the Archbold Biological Station (2002-2004). He is currently a doctoral candidate in Weed Science at the Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants, Agronomy Department, University of Florida.

**Eileen Ketterer** currently is a first year grad student. I am working at the University of Florida on my Master's in Agronomy with a concentration in Weed Science. My projects at UF include anything related to invasive species especially cogongrass, torpedograss, tropical soda apple, channeled apple snail, and others. My interest in invasive species began as an undergrad at Bucknell University where I spent 2 years working on purple loosestrife.

**Jon Lane** has a BS in Biology from Marymount University (a Catholic girls school), Masters of Ag in International Development Economics from Colorado State University. Two tours in the Peace Corps (the former Zaire and Cameroon), 3 years as a fisheries biologist with the FWS in Wyoming and Montana, and 7 years with the Corps of Engineers in Florida as Biologist working on invasive species issues.

**Dr. Ken Langeland** is well known for his extension activities, such as the many short courses and other training he gives to numerous aquatic plant managers in Florida and elsewhere. Langeland's research is directed primarily toward the ecology and management of aquatic and upland invasive plants. He also is the Extension Specialist for aquatic plants for northern Florida, and often meets with homeowners and other Extension clients.

**Deah Lieurance** is a plant ecophysiologicalist with the USDA-ARS Invasive Plant Research Laboratory in Ft. Lauderdale. She is currently investigating the physiology of *Melaleuca quinquenervia* and its response to various biocontrol herbivores. Deah has a B.S. in Environmental Studies from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio and an M.S. in Environmental Studies from Ohio University in Athens, Ohio where she focused in invasive plant biology.

**Chris Lockhart** - After graduating from Purdue University years ago, and more recently completing her Masters at FAU with a thesis on *Melaleuca*, Chris Lockhart seems to have a affinity for invasive plants. While self-employed as Habitat Specialists, Chris completed research on carrotwood among other things. Information from this study led to this tree being added to Florida Noxious Weed List. She remains the Carrotwood Task Force Chair for FLEPPC. Recently, she joined ranks with Florida Natural Areas Inventory as their *Lygodium* Specialist, becoming more in tune with how both invasive climbing ferns grow and respond (or not) to treatment in Florida.

**Lloyd Loope's** research interest has been focused for the past 25 years on conservation biology of Haleakala National Park and the island of Maui (biology of invasions, dryland forest restoration), but has also related to geographically broader issues such as statewide and Pacific-wide prevention, early detection, and management of invasive alien species problems and strategies for restoration of endangered plant species. He is involved in collaborative research on impacts and control of alien ant species and potential effects of global climate change on the Hawaiian Islands. He is also interested in facilitating environmental education of the local population, especially regarding appreciation of native biota and understanding damage caused by alien species. Loope has been active for 15 years in the Maui Invasive Species Committee and its predecessor the Melastome Action Committee and has participated actively for the past six years in Hawaii's state Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species. He is a member of IUCN's international Invasive Species Specialist Group (ISSG), and has worked with ISSG and the USGS Pacific Basin Information Node of the National Biological Information Infrastructure toward more effective information sharing on invasive species, especially among islands. He has also participated within the past several years in

ISSG's effort toward implementing a Pacific Ant Prevention Plan, with special emphasis on preventing Red Imported Fire Ant (*Solenopsis invicta*) from establishing on Pacific islands.

**Melissa R. Martin** is a graduate student at the University of Florida in the Department of Soil and Water Science. She completed her M.S. thesis on the invasion of *Melaleuca quinquenervia* in southern Florida in the spring semester of 2006. Melissa has been awarded an IGERT fellowship (funding through NSF) for her Ph.D. research and will be investigating ecosystem-level effects of exotic plant species invasion in the United States, Africa, and South America.

**Chris Matson** holds a bachelor's degree in restoration ecology from Prescott College, Prescott Arizona, and holds minors in philosophy and the humanities. I have worked in numerous technical field positions with for-profit, nonprofit and state agencies in Wisconsin, Minnesota, South Dakota, Illinois and Indiana, involved with seeding, prescribed fire, invasive plant suppression and ecosystem restoration in tallgrass prairie, oak savanna and other ecological communities in the prairie-forest transition of the Upper Midwest. I have been a sole-proprietor--installing, managing and giving advice on the restoration of native grasslands, savannas and fire-managed woodlands in western Wisconsin and adjacent states. I founded and presided for five years over an eight county chapter of The Prairie Enthusiasts, a Midwest-based land trust dedicated to native grassland and savanna conservation, which has assumed title/easement transfer of several smaller parcels of tallgrass prairie and oak savanna from the Wisconsin chapter of The Nature Conservancy. I have served on the executive board of directors of The Prairie Enthusiasts and on advising committees in two other land trusts in Wisconsin. I am an avid outdoorsman, with interests in primitive skills, ethnobotany, edible fungi and heirloom vegetable gardening. My wife, Amy, and I raise two daughters, who both love flowers. I have worked as Restoration Projects Coordinator with The Nature Conservancy's Disney Wilderness Preserve for just over 3 years.

**Cheryl M. McCormick** works as a plant ecologist at the Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants at the University of Florida, Agronomy Department, Gainesville, Florida. Her research interests include the ecology, biogeography, and evolution of dormancy and germination of coastal invasive species. She is also an ABD doctoral candidate at the Institute of Ecology, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia.

**Greg MacDonald** is an Associate Professor in the Agronomy Department at the University of Florida. His research focuses on environmental/ecological and physiological factors influencing herbicide activity and subsequent impacts on weedy plant management. Additional research activities involve fundamental studies into mechanisms of herbicide action and weed resistance. His teaching responsibilities include courses in Weed Science, Herbicide Technology, and Plant/Herbicide Interactions

**Jessica McKenny** is a 2005 entomology graduate from the University of Idaho. While at the UI she collaborated on a cross-continental comparison of the invasive plant *Lepidium draba*. She graduated from Springfield College, Springfield, MA, in 2000 with a degree in Environmental Science.

**Julio Medal**. Weed Biocontrol Researchers at the U of FL since 1994..Current research projects: tropical soda apple (PI), Brazilian peppertree (Co-PI), Wetland nightshade. Publications: more than 40 papers/book chapters, 1 book & 2 Proceedings editor. First biocontrol Agent Released for tropical soda apple; Preliminary screening tests (1994-06 and initial TAG approval for field release in FL of the Brazilian peppertree sawfly.

**Michael Meisenburg** is a research biologist with the Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants and the Agronomy Department at the University of Florida. He received his B.S. from UF in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, and for several years now has been trying to finish his M.S. in the Agronomy Department. His thesis research examined seed dispersal of coral ardisia (*Ardisia crenata*), and his current research at UF is evaluating herbicides efficacy on invasive species. He has six years experience as a nozzlehead with two lake management companies.

**Onour Moeri** received a BS in Marine Science and Biology with a minor in Chemistry at the University of Miami in 2002. Immediately following graduation, she received an internship at the Smithsonian Marine Station in Fort Pierce that involved working on the interaction of nutrients and salinity in the mangroves of the Indian River Lagoon. Following the internship, Onour held positions at the Indian River Research and Education Center working for Dr. William Overholt on the Biological Control of Weeds and at the USDA in Fort Pierce with Dr. Erin Roskopf on Alternatives to Methyl Bromide-Weed and Disease Control. She quickly developed an interest in the biological control of weeds and working with insects which led to her pursuit of a master's degree in Entomology and Nematology at the University of Florida.

**Brian V. Nelson** - Vegetation Management Manager at SW Florida Water Management District. Implementation of the District's vegetation management operations on public waters throughout SW Florida and on 250,000 acres of District-owned conservation lands. Currently serves as chairperson of the Statewide Invasive Species Working Group. B.S., Limnology, University of Central Florida, 1980.

**Michael D. Netherland** is a Research Biologist for the US Army Engineer Research and Development Center (USAERDC). He started working with nuisance aquatic plants while pursuing a Master's degree in 1987. Upon completion of studies at Purdue, Mike took a position as a Research Biologist with the USAERDC in 1989 and worked on improving chemical control methods for invasive aquatic plants under the Aquatic Plant Control Research Program. In 1995, Mike started a Ph.D program at the University of Florida. Upon completing his Ph.D in 1999, Dr. Netherland took a position as Research Manager for Aquatics with the SePRO Corporation. In December of 2003, he accepted a position as Research Biologist for the USAERDC stationed at the University of Florida Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants. Dr. Netherland has recently focused his research on screening and development of new herbicide modes of action, impacts of management on plant propagules, and resistance of hydrilla to the herbicide fluridone.

**Bill Overholt** began his professional career in entomology by serving in the U.S. Peace Corps in Senegal, Africa. It was in Senegal that Bill first became interested in invasive species. At the time, a South American insect, the cassava mealybug, had invaded Africa and was devastating the cassava crop, a staple food plant for millions of people in tropical Africa. It was determined that biological control was the only viable method for controlling the invasive pest. In 2002, Overholt joined UF/IFAS at IRREC, where he leads a program of research and extension on biological control of invasive plants. Currently, his research efforts are focused on Brazilian peppertree, air potato, tropical soda apple, hydrilla and West Indian marsh grass. During his professional career, Bill has published over 100 peer-reviewed scientific papers, authored or co-authored five book chapters and written a number of non-peer reviewed articles.

**Jennifer Possley** has been the GIS Lab Coordinator and a Field Biologist at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden's Center for Tropical Plant Conservation for over 5 years. Prior to joining Fairchild's conservation team, she completed a master's degree in Agronomy at the University of Florida and worked as an Americorps in Big Cypress National Preserve, removing the invasive tree, *Melaleuca*. She is originally from the village of Dexter, Michigan.

**Paul Pratt** is a research scientist at the USDA-ARS Invasive Plant Research Laboratory in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. He has a B.S. in Agriculture from California State University - Chico, and an M.S. and Ph.D. in Entomology from Oregon State University. Paul is the PI on the TAME *Melaleuca* project. This project promotes areawide, integrated management of the Australian paperbark tree, *Melaleuca quinquenervia*, with an emphasis on the use of biological control. Paul's lab works on a range of research topics related to biological control of *M. quinquenervia*. Paul has been a research scientist with the Invasive Plant Research Laboratory since 1999, and was named the USDA-ARS South Atlantic Area "Early Career Research Scientist of the Year" for 2005. His TAME *Melaleuca* project also received an award in 2005 for "Outstanding Effort in Technology Transfer".

**Kenneth Puliafico** is currently working on his PhD in Entomology at the University of Idaho where he is studying interactions between insect herbivores and plant competition on the invasive mustard plant hoary cress, *Lepidium draba*. His master's degree in Entomology from Montana State University focused on researching the bionomics, host specificity, and molecular taxonomy of the Swiss strain of a biological control of weeds insect, *Longitarsus jacobaeae*.

**Amy Richard** is the Design and Production Coordinator at the UF/IFAS Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants, overseeing and performing much of the writing, editing, photography and desktop production of their educational materials. This includes their newly published Recognition Guides, mouse-pads, informational brochures, flyers, photo displays and a number of web pages. Prior to 2004, Amy served as Sr. Information Specialist for the Florida LAKEWATCH program for eight years, producing dozens of information circulars and newsletters about lake ecology and water management in Florida. During her 17 years in Texas, she worked as a freelance artist/illustrator and editor of a children's publication about marine ecology. When she's not at the office, Amy enjoys fishing with her family or making art in her Gainesville studio.

**Don Schmitz** is a leading expert on invasive non-native species in Florida. He has co-edited a book, "Strangers in Paradise: Impact and Management of Nonindigenous Species in Florida (with D. Simberloff and T. C. Brown)," coauthored several publications concerning national policy towards invasive species, and coauthored numerous publications and book chapters about the ecological impact of invasive non-native plant species in Florida. He initiated and organized the process that led to a Presidential Executive Order creating our nation's first Invasive Species Management Plan and established the National Invasive Species Council, was a member of Congress's Office of Technology Assessment Panel on Harmful Nonindigenous

Species, is a former chair of the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council, a present Co-Chair of the Florida Invasive Animal Task Team which is part of the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Working Group, and he serves as a staff member to the state's Invasive Species Working Group. Mr. Schmitz received his Bachelor's degree from Bloomfield College and a Master's degree from the University of Central Florida in Biology. Mr. Schmitz currently manages the Research Program for DEP's Bureau of Invasive Plant Management.

**Brent Sellers** is a native of Indiana, Dr. Sellers completed both his B.S. degree in Biology and M.S. degree in Botany and Plant Pathology with a specialization in Weed Science at Purdue University. Upon completion of his Ph.D. program in Agonomy at the University of Missouri, he continued his research and extension activities as a post-doctoral fellow. Dr. Sellers started with the University of Florida in January, 2005 and his current research and extension areas consist of weed management in pastures and rangeland as well as invasive weed control.

**Cressida Silvers** is an entomologist with the USDA-ARS Invasive Plant Research Laboratory in Fort Lauderdale. She is currently project coordinator of TAME Melaleuca, a multi-agency program demonstrating and promoting long term, integrated melaleuca management based on biological control. Cressida has a B.A. in Biology from Swarthmore College and an M.A. in Entomology from the University of California, Riverside. She worked for several years in integrated pest management in California's fruit orchards, and then spent two years as a research associate for a non-profit agricultural policy group in Washington, DC before joining ARS in Florida in 2001.

**Ray W. "Skip" Snow** has over 30 years experience with the National Park Service, 17 of which have been addressing natural resource management issues at Everglades National Park. Snow's experience in South Florida has involved a broad range of natural resource issues including evaluating effects of recreational use and water management scenarios on wildlife resources. A major focus of Snow's recent work focuses on the management and control of non-native invasive animal species and the reintroduction of native extirpated species. Current projects include control strategies for non-native Burmese pythons and non-native channeled apple snail, and reintroduction plans for native eastern bluebirds, brown-headed nuthatches, and Florida wild turkeys.

**Marianna Szucs** received her Master of Science degree in geology at the University of Szeged, Hungary in 2001. In the following 3 years she worked on the biological control of the western corn rootworm (*Diabrotica virgifera virgifera*) and hoary cress (*Lepidium draba*) in Hungary and in Switzerland at the CABI Bioscience Centre. She is currently a Phd student in Entomology at the University of Idaho, having begun her program in April 2005.

**William Thomas, Jr** serves as the Region 4 Invasive Species Strike Team Leader for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and directs the invasive species management program for Florida's National Wildlife Refuges. This recently formed program (2004) is geared toward management of invasive exotic plant species and to a lesser degree, exotic animals. Mr. Thomas began his career as a laborer on the Loxahatchee NWR exotic plant crew in 1992, and has been involved with exotic plant management in South Florida for over 13 years. B.S. Economic Zoology (Fish and Wildlife Biology), Clemson University, Clemson, SC (May 1986).

**Greg Wheeler** has worked as a Research Entomologist for 10 years at the USDA/ARS Invasive Plant Research Unit in Ft Lauderdale. In this capacity Dr. Wheeler has worked on biological control of numerous weeds including hydrilla, melaleuca and most recently Brazilian pepper and Australian pine.

**Rachel Winston** received a BS in Biology with an emphasis in Botany from Idaho State University in 2004. She worked for four years as the coordinator of a summer weed mapping program, teaching high school students to use GPS/GIS technology to map invasive plant infestations in Idaho. She is currently pursuing her Master of Science degree in Environmental Science from the University of Idaho where she is studying the effects of biological control agents against an invasive plant in Hell's Canyon.

**Ms. Susan A. Wineriter** is an entomologist with the USDA ARS Invasive Plants Research Lab in Gainesville, Florida. She has conducted host range studies of potential biocontrol agents for melaleuca for more than 10 years.