

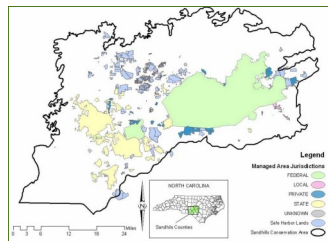
What's in the News...

North Carolina Sandhills WMA

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Welcome to NCSWMA



Welcome to North Carolina Sandhills Weed Management Area (NCSWMA). NCSWMA is composed of federal, state, and local agencies working

with public and private landowners in an effort to control noxious and invasive weeds from causing ecological and economic damage in the region.

NCSWMA strives to facilitate cooperation among members, which benefit from coordinated efforts, as well as shared information, resources and expertise. Some of the

many important activities of the NCSWMA include education, public outreach, regional prioritization, fundraising, early detection of invasive weeds not yet widely distributed in the region and rapid response control initiatives.

We invite you to contact us, if you have questions regarding invasive weeds, or you're interested in participating in NCSWMA.

Website Unveiled

The North Carolina Sandhills Weed Management Area (NCSWMA) website is now online at www.ncswma.org.

The website details current NCSWMA activities; a master list of all documented invasives within the Sandhills region; NCSWMA projects including summer field site profiles; NCSWMA outreach materials and public presentations; species profiles; and a listing of native xeriscape (dry tolerant landscape) alternatives. A photo gallery featuring invasive species photos and identification

keys as well as photo documentation of summer field site management has been added to aid website readers in the identification of NCSWMA invasives.

Professionals and the general public are invited to participate in the forum page, where invasive species issues, problems, and potential solutions can be discussed. Additionally, the website provides links to other invasive species resources and to NCSWMA partner organizations.

Check out this new website today!



Japanese honeysuckle



flowering shrubby bushclover



mimosa, silk tree

Get Involved

Event: NCSWMA Working Group Meetings

Dates: June 3, August 26, or December 2.

Time: 2 p.m.

Location: Weymouth Woods Library

Interested in NCSWMA, attend one or more of the listed meetings. Contact info@ncswma.org for more information.

We need your real-life experiences with invasive plant management in the Sandhills. If you have an experience, whether successful or not, we would like to feature your story in either our newsletter or website.

Not only will your control efforts be informative to others, we will also be able to document what management techniques are being used and their effectiveness.

By sharing information, land managers in the NCSWMA will be able to collectively learn from one another.

Future Events

Event: SE Exotic Pest Plant Council Meeting

Date: May 20-22

Location: Biloxi, MS

NCSWMA will present an abstract and poster, entitled: "The North Carolina Sandhills Weed Management Area: Facilitating Regional, Invasive Plant Management Partnerships among Neighboring Land Stewards" at this meeting in May.

For more information contact us.

Storylines...

"Storylines" portrays real life NCSWMA stories...our first story begins on Boyd's Tract.

An extremely unique, ecologically valuable natural area; Boyd's Tract was preserved for generations from logging that otherwise devastated the longleaf pine forests of North Carolina Sandhills.

Now part of Weymouth Woods State Nature Preserve, Boyd's Tract is home to several old-growth longleaf pines, including one aged at approximately 459 years old, and multiple clusters of Red-cockaded Woodpecker cavity trees.

In the summer of 2007, NCSWMA field team worked on one section of Boyd's Tract to control the invasive vine, wisteria.



Wisteria vines

Covering a significant portion of the forest floor and the area's native vegetation; wisteria was also evident in several

tree crowns. Smaller infestations of Japanese honeysuckle, multiflora rose and autumn olive were also recorded.

Cutting the larger wisteria vines, the field team applied a 20 percent glyphosate solution to the cuttings. Smaller plants were sprayed

with a two percent solution.

The field team returned for two follow-up visits to treat re-sprouts from the larger cut vines.

Results: Concluding the first treatment visit, it was estimated approximately 90 percent of the wisteria initially present had been killed. The second treatment resulted in 98 percent control.

The long-term success of the treatment methods are not known, but the preliminary results lend optimism. Continued monitoring and treatment of re-sprouts and seedlings will be necessary to maintain the integrity of this majestic natural treasure.



Field team

Plant-of-the-Month

This month, the first profile is of *Murdannia keisak*, commonly known

as aneilema, marsh dayflower, wart-removing herb, marsh

dewflower, and Asian spiderwort.

M. keisak is a native of eastern Asia, most likely introduced to the U.S. through rice cultivation. A succulent, annual plant that grows along stream banks, swamps, wetlands, and the edges of ponds and lakes, it can reproduce both by seed and vegetatively.

Plant stems form roots at the nodes, growing

prostrate along the ground, forming dense mats of vegetation. Leaves are alternate, lance-shaped, and up to three inches in length, with leaf bases clasping and surrounding the plant stems. Small, pink, three petaled flowers occur singly or in small clusters are located terminally and in the leaf axils.

Although very little information is available concerning the control of this noxious weed, as with all vegetatively reproducing plants, care should be exercised if mechanical methods are used. Plant fragments can easily re-establish or facilitate spread from existing infestations.

This spring, NCSWMA hopes to attempt to control

M. keisak through the use of herbicides, documenting their effectiveness for future eradication efforts.

For a full species profile and additional photos of *Murdannia keisak*, go to the NCSWMA website at www.sandhillswma.org and clicking the Species Profiles tab.



courtesy of Univ. of Washington



Murdannia keisak