Oregon Interagency Noxious Weed Symposium
Speaker Biographies

December 2 – 4, 2014

SESSION I

Shawna Bautista, USFS Invasive Plant Coordinator

Shawna Bautista is the Pesticide Use & Invasive Plant Coordinator, USDA Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Region. She received her B.S. in Wildlife Management from Humboldt State Univ. and her Masters in Zoology and Physiology from Univ. of Wyoming. Shawna has been employed with the Forest Service since 1989. She began her career on the Angeles National Forest where she spent 13 years as a wildlife biologist battling *Arundo donax*, among other activities. She now manages the invasive plant program for the National forests in Oregon and Washington, State & Private weed grants, and pesticide use policies and procedures.

Amber Hughes, BLM Invasive Plant Coordinator

Amber Hughes has served as the coordinator for the Invasive Plant Species program for BLM WA/OR in the Portland BLM State Office since July of 2014. Prior to that, she worked in Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument as Botanist overseeing the Threatened and Endangered plant program, Seeds of Success and of course, the Invasive Species program. Amber has a bachelor’s of Art from Southern Utah University. She has over 15 years of experience with the Department of Interior. She spearheaded the formation of the Canyon Country Cooperative Weed Management Area in Kane and Garfield Co. in southern Utah and provided support for the formation of the Escalante River Watershed Partnership. She started her career with the Natural Resources Conservation Service as a cartographer’s aid, and has worked on vegetation projects with Zion Nat’l Park, Big Thicket National Preserve, along with Colorado State University, and Northern Arizona University. Amber has one daughter and one rambunctious German Shorthair pointer; she enjoys hiking, bicycling, and rafting rivers.

Rick Boatner, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife

Rick Boatner is the Invasive Species, Wildlife Integrity Coordinator for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. In this position his main responsibilities include coordinating the Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Program, Feral Swine Removal Program and Prohibited Species Program. Rick has worked for ODF&W for over 20 years in various capacities: Five years as an Assistant Wildlife Biologist: working with wildlife population monitoring, wildlife diseases and wildlife damage problems; Five years as Fishery Biologist on the Willamette Sport Fishing program; working with steelhead and spring Chinook; Seven years as a seasonal, working on such projects as the Columbia and Willamette Sport Fishing program, Salmon Trout Enhancement Plan, Marine Mammals at Willamette Falls, spawning ground surveys and any other opportunity that would help him gain more experience with fish and wildlife. Rick has a Bachelor of Science degree in Natural Resources from Western Oregon University and an Associate of Science degree in Animal Science from Linn-Benton Community College.
Will Lackey, Oregon Department of Transportation

Will Lackey have been the Vegetation Management Coordinator with the Oregon Department of Transportation since 2002. Will has a B.S. in Crop and Soil Science, and a B.S. Agriculture and Resource Economics from Oregon State University. Prior to working at ODOT, Will worked ten years in the Oregon Grass Seed Industry as a Production/Field Representative for a turf and forage production company. He lives near Silver Falls State Park in Sublimity Oregon, on a 12 twelve-acre hobby farm where he raises Barbados Black Bellied Sheep.

SESSION III

Alex Park, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Alex Park received his Bachelors of Science in Environmental Studies from the University of Oregon, and his Masters of Science in Environmental Science from Oregon State University. He has worked in environmental capacities at the Oregon Department of Forestry, Portland’s Bureau of Environmental Services, and the Institute for a Sustainable Environment. He worked for the Oregon Department of Agriculture’s noxious weed program where he specialized on geospatial modeling of invasive plant species and biological control efficacy reviews. He is currently pursuing his PhD in the Crop Sciences program at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign on food security issues in the mid-hills of Nepal.

Jay Kerby, The Nature Conservancy

Jay Kerby is the Southeast Oregon Project Manager for The Nature Conservancy in Oregon. He received a B.S. from Oregon State University (2000) and a M.S. from Oklahoma State University (2002). Prior to joining The Nature Conservancy, he worked as a research graduate assistant and a faculty research associate at Oklahoma State University studying interactions between fires and grazing in temperate and semi-arid grasslands. In his current role, Jay cooperates with scientists researching restoration of degraded sagebrush-steppe, engages conservation stakeholders on synthesis and incorporation of current state-of-knowledge into land management planning and conservation prioritization, and supervises restoration and management of three Conservancy nature preserves. He currently participates in numerous collaborative efforts in southeast Oregon, including but not limited to: the Fire and Invasive working groups for Oregon’s SageCon Partnership, the High Desert Partnership board of directors, the Beaty’s Butte Working Group, and the Harney Basin Wetlands Initiative.

Lars Anderson, University of California Davis

Dr. Anderson retired in 2013 after a 37 career with the USDA where he was Research Leader and Lead Scientist at the Agricultural Research Service’s Exotic and Invasive Weed laboratory on the UC Davis campus. He did basic and applied research on the biology and management of invasive aquatic weeds, including work on projects in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, Lake Tahoe, Washington, Alaska, Texas, Brazil and Mexico and Australia. Dr. Anderson was part of a multi-agency team (SCCAT) that successfully eradicated the first (and as yet only) US infestation of Caulerpa taxifolia, an invasive marine alga. He’s taught courses in aquatic plant biology and management at UCD, including this fall (2014) quarter. He is currently a consultant with Sierra Environmental Associates and is assisting in developing integrated aquatic plant management plans for the Tahoe Keys Property Owners Association. For the past 30 years he’s also been on the Explorit Science Center Board of Directors and currently is Interim Executive Director there. Explorit just completed its 2014 Summer Science Camps and is now delivering its hands-on science programs to schools throughout 15 northern
California counties and at its home site in Davis. Dr. Anderson received his BA in Biology from University of California, Irvine, his MA from San Diego State University and his Ph.D. from University of California, Santa Barbara.

**Dominic Maze, City of Portland, Bureau of Environmental Service, Invasive Species Coordinator**

Dominic Maze is a biologist and the Invasive Species Coordinator for the City of Portland. He has two decades of experience in restoration and conservation: having worked for private firms, universities, non-profit organizations, and as a business owner. Dominic also serves on the steering committees for the Western Invasive Network and the 4-County Cooperative Weed Management Area and is also an appointed member of the Oregon Invasive Species Council.

**Robert Marheine, PGE Wildlife Biologist**

Robert Marheine graduated from Humboldt State University with B.S. Wildlife Management. For the past 17 years he has been employed by Portland General Electric (PGE), for the last 9 years as the Lead Terrestrial Biologist for the company. His main job duties include implementing the terrestrial resources portion of the FERC license which allows PGE and the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs (Co-Licensees) to operate the three hydroelectric dams located on the Deschutes River near Madras Oregon. The Terrestrial Resources Management Plan has 12 different strategies covering everything from aquatic vegetation, upland habitats, noxious weeds, road closures, hunting access, raptor monitoring and threatened and endangered species management. The Co-Licensees own almost 13,000 acres of habitat lands located mostly to the west of the reservoir. Robert is responsible for that land and how it is managed. So to say the least he is a jack-of-all trades and a master of a few!

**SESSION IV**

**Jason Space, Oregon State University**

Jason graduated with Master’s of Environmental Science from Oregon State University in 2014. He earned his Graduate Geographic Information Systems (GIS) certificate from OSU in 2012. Jason has many interests in his life. Professionally, he enjoyed working with non-native and native plant species management. While working for the Oregon Department of Agriculture, Native Plant Conservation Program, Jason provided valuable contributions to all the major projects undertaken in 2014. He participated in a vegetation inventory and community-mapping project at the Umatilla Chemical Depot as part of a cooperative project for the Oregon Military Department. He synthesized data collected in the field by digitizing the vegetation communities in GIS. He participated in the manual control of the invasive yellow tuft alyssum in southern Oregon and contributed to the refinement of a habitat suitability model to help guide the control of this weed in the future. He played a major role in the inventory of the federally endangered rough popcorn flower across that species’ range in Douglas County. Following the collection of field data for this species, he compiled spatial and population information in GIS to help evaluate its’ status. Finally, in a culmination of his GIS work, he stepped up to develop a habitat suitability model for the Siskiyou mariposa lily, which is a rare plant of southern Oregon and northern California that's a candidate for federal listing. This model will be used to help conserve this species in the future. Jason enjoys hunting, fishing, hiking, and camping. Jason is married to Jessica Space and they are expecting a new baby girl in December of 2014.
Mark Sytsma, Portland State University, Center for Lakes & Reservoirs

Mark Sytsma earned his MS from the University of Washington and his PhD from the University of California-Davis. He is a Professor of Environmental Sciences, Associate Vice-president for Research at PSU, and the director of the Center for Lakes & Reservoirs, and co-director of the Aquatic Bio invasion Research and Policy Institute. At the Center for Lakes & Reservoirs Oregon’s first comprehensive program for managing ”aquatic invasive species” is underway. Introduced plant and animal culprits, like the mitten crab, can clog screens and block flow in the irrigation canals that are critical for crop production. Mark is working with a team of state and federal agencies, industry partners, and students, to keep an expert eye on them and protect the bounty of our entire region. His primary research interest is in limnology and the biology and management of aquatic invasive species. Long-term, ongoing projects include the limnology of Waldo Lake, an ultraoligotrophic lake in the Cascade Mountains; aquatic plant surveys in Pacific Northwest lakes; invasive species in the Columbia River; dreissenid mussel monitoring in western states; spartina management in Oregon estuaries; and invasive species policy. He co-authored the Oregon Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan and is responsible for implementation of the Plan in collaboration with other state agencies. He is a founding member of the Oregon Invasive Species Council, the Columbia River Basin Team of the 100th Meridian Initiative, and the Western Regional Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species.

Lauri Holts, City of Eugene

Lauri Holts is a Natural Resources Coordinator in the City of Eugene’s Parks & Open Space Division. She has 20 years of experience in the natural resources field with an emphasis on planning and implementing habitat enhancement projects. She has worked for a range of employers including educational institutions, non-profits, watershed councils, and government agencies. She has a B.S. in Biology and a M.S. in Marine Science from University of California-Santa Cruz. Lauri has been with the City since 2003 and has been the lead for habitat enhancement work and fish and wildlife monitoring on the Delta Ponds project, a large-scale Willamette River side channel habitat restoration project. Lauri has a strong background in natural resource issues with an ability to communicate well and work effectively with diverse groups of people.

Maret Pajutee, USFS Sisters District

Maret Pajutee is the District Ecologist for the Sisters Ranger District on the Deschutes National Forest. Her responsibilities include managing the District’s Invasive Plant and Rare Plant Programs as well as planning Watershed Analysis, Forest Restoration, and Wild and Scenic River management. She has a passion for partnerships and works to build relationships to help tackle complicated natural resource issues. She has worked for the Forest Service for 25 years. Her education includes a BS in Zoology and a MS in Entomology from Oregon State University.
SESSION V

Bill Bruckart, USDA-APHIS-ARS

Bill Bruckart is a Research Plant Pathologist with the USDA, Agricultural Research Service, Foreign Disease-Weed Science Research Unit. After graduating from Cornell University, he joined the USDA at Ft. Detrick, where there is a unique microbial containment greenhouse facility, to study and develop foreign plant pathogens for biological control of invasive weeds. To date, two fungi have been approved for biological control and released. One causes a rust disease of musk thistle and the other causes a rust disease of yellow starthistle (YST). The musk thistle rust has spread throughout the United States, and establishment of the YST rust has been confirmed in Oregon this year. There are two other fungi under review for release; one is a rust fungus on Russian thistle (in review by APHIS), and the other is a leaf spotting fungus on common crupina (in review by the TAG). Recent research focus has been on characterization of the rust disease of invasive blackberry in Oregon and other locations along the Pacific Coast.

Mark Schwarzlander, University of Idaho

Mark received his Masters and Ph.D., University of Kiel, Germany. Mark conducts research on biological control of weeds, insect-plant interactions, quantitative impact of specialist herbivore insect species on individual host plant and host plant population level, combined influence of insect herbivory and plant competition on weeds as part of integrated weed management strategies, and non-target effects of biological control agents. Areas of expertise include host-specificity evaluation and bionomics of herbivore insects, and foreign exploration for biological control agents for weeds.

Jennifer Andreas, Washington State University

Jennifer started working in biological weed control in 1998 at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada - Lethbridge Research Centre while completing her undergraduate degree at the University of Lethbridge. She continued with biocontrol research at CABI - Switzerland and then completed a Master’s of Science in Entomology at the University of Idaho, where she investigated the environmental safety of the houndstongue root weevil. In 2005, she joined WSU Extension and shifted her focus onto biocontrol implementation and education with a small component still dedicated to research projects. Jennifer is currently the Director for the Integrated Weed Control Project (IWCP). The IWCP provides biocontrol education and biocontrol agents free of charge to land managers and landowners across Washington State.
**SESSION VI**

**Michael Wing, Oregon State University, College of Forestry**

Michael Wing is an associate professor of geomatics in the Forest Engineering, Resources, and Management Department at Oregon State University. His research interests include unmanned aerial systems (UAS), remote sensing for landscape and land use measurement and analysis, decision support systems, and geographic information science. Dr. Wing is co-author of the textbook “GIS Applications in Natural Resources Management” and has authored 49 peer-reviewed publications. He is also registered as a professional land surveyor and professional engineer in Oregon. Dr. Wing teaches courses in GIS, remote sensing, surveying, and computations at OSU while also serving as the director of OSU’s Aerial Information Systems laboratory. In addition, Dr. Wing is the technical point of contact for FAA-issued Certificates of Authority that are granted to OSU for UAS flights.

**Crystal Durbecq, Benton Soil & Water Conservation District**

Crystal Durbecq works with the Benton Soil and Water Conservation District as a plant specialist who coordinates an ecological assessment and invasive plant management program for the Willamette River. She has a Bachelor’s of Science in Natural Resources from Oregon State University and a background in plant identification and botanical research, especially concerning invasive species. Her hobbies include hiking, biking and fully exploring the abundant wild areas of the Pacific Northwest.

**Greg Fitzpatrick, Fitzpatrick Ecological Consulting, LLC**

Greg has 25 years of experience in natural resource-related services including research and monitoring of the Fender’s Blue butterfly and Kincaid’s lupine, seed-bank dynamics, invasive non-native species, and native oak and prairie systems. He planned, implemented, and supervised oak and prairie habitat restoration projects and recently started using a drone to capture aerial photographs to document them. Prior to starting his consulting business he worked with The Nature Conservancy from 1996-2010. Greg holds a B.S. in Biology from Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington, and a M.S. in Entomology and ecology from Oregon State University.

**Joost Besijn, Confederated Colville Tribes**

Joost Besijn is a Weed Control Specialist working for the Colville tribes in Nespelem, Washington. After graduating from his B.Sc. in Wildlife management in the Netherlands in 2010, Mr. Besijn worked in South Africa for two years. After this he completed his M.Sc. in Conservation Biology in the U.K. and moved to Idaho to contribute to a land management project from March to September 2013. This was followed by his position with the tribe where he has implemented a simple data sharing method to focus weed control management, and eliminate counter-productive strategies.

**SESSION VII**

**Matt Wenick, Grant Soil & Water Conservation District**

Matt Wenick is the Noxious Weed Control Coordinator for Grant Soil and Water Conservation District in John Day, Oregon. He has been with the district since March of 2012. During his time there he has been in charge of all noxious weed treatment projects. This includes project planning, grant writing, noxious weed treatments, public education and working with landowners on weed identification and treatment plans. Working with landowners gives Matt a great sense of satisfaction knowing he is helping them maintain and improve health rangelands in Grant County.
Alexis Brickner, Coos Watershed Association

Alexis Brickner is a Restoration Project Manager with the Coos Watershed Association in Coos Bay, Oregon. She received her B.S. in Environmental Science from Kansas University and her M.S. in Ecology from Oregon State University where she studied rare plant conservation with ODA’s Native Plant Conservation Program. Alexis found a passion for restoration work during a riparian restoration internship in Colorado. She has also worked for the Institute for Applied Ecology in plant conservation research. At the Coos Watershed Association, Alexis is in charge of lowland restoration projects. This includes grant research and writing, restoration project planning, riparian planting, noxious weed removal, and landowner outreach.

Brian Scott, Northwest Youth Corps

Brian is a long time member of the NYC team. He has built trails in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Arizona, California, and Nevada; co-managed a horse stable on the Olympic Peninsula; organized communities for grassroots programs across the Pacific Northwest; and been a literary critic. Brian graduated from Evergreen State College with a Bachelor of Art Degree in Literature and Poetry, with a minor focus in Sociology. He has traveled as far as County Donegal, Ireland, and enjoys an eclectic range of music, travel, food, provocative sociological texts, and bad fantasy/Sci-fi novels.