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NORTHEASTERN WEED SCIENCE SOCIETY

March 18, 2008

Dear Stakeholders,

With great pleasure, we are announcing the first Northeastern Weed Science Society (NEWSS) Noxious & Invasive Vegetation Management Short Course (NIVM) to be held in Pennsylvania September 15, 16, 17 and 18, 2008

This course has evolved to meet the demand and need for training and instruction of professionals involved in the administration and/or application of management strategies for invasive plants here in the Northeastern United States. At the 2007 Northeastern Weed Science Society Conference in Baltimore, MD a group of stakeholders met to discuss the need for the short course and to review the Western Society of Weed Science (WSWS) history and success in conducting a similar activity for ranchers, federal and state employees and others involved in noxious and invasive weed management. The content of the NEWSS NIVM short course is modeled in part after the Western Course.

The NEWSS NIVM Short Course will target public and private land managers (parks, conservancies, preserves, forests, private parcels and farms) from Maine to North Carolina who desire a better understanding of weed management. The course will stress ecologically-based plant management and include monitoring and assessment, prevention, cultural, mechanical and chemical plant management. Classroom, laboratory and field exercises will be utilized and the program will be designed to encourage interaction between instructors and students.

Weed management professionals from throughout the Northeast will help conduct the program. To cover the cost of instruction, teaching materials and facility rental we are charging \$300.00 for the 2.5 day terrestrial short course and \$100.00 for the 1 day aquatic short course or \$400.00 for the entire event. Students will have to cover travel, lodging and some meal expenses.

At this time we request your assistance in circulating this announcement. The Society has posted the announcement flyer and pre-registration documents on the <u>NEWSS Website</u>.

We appreciate your assistance in disseminating this important and exciting information to potential registrants.

Sincerely,

Melissa A. Bravo

Melissa A. Bravo, Coordinator for NEWSS NIVM Short Course Botanist/Weed Specialist Bureau of Plant Industry PA Department of Agriculture 2301 North Cameron Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110 mbravo@state.pa.us 717-787-7204