

Workshop on Invasive Species Prevention & Management: Spotlight on Salty Species
October 7 – 9th, 2008
Silver Beach YMCA Conference Center, Eastern Shore, Virginia

Workshop & Travel Information

Register by August 22, 2008!

Welcome New and Existing Eastern Invasives Network Participants!

This document is your Workshop & Travel Information packet for the 2008 EIN Workshop, to be hosted at the Virginia Coast Reserve on the Eastern Shore of Virginia. The workshop and lodging will be located at the Silver Beach YMCA Conference & Retreat Center, near Exmore. The workshop will start promptly at 8:30 a.m. on October 7th and will end no later than 4:30 p.m. on October 9th. However, an optional WIMS training course will be given on Friday, October 10th (9am – 3pm). You must register by completing and returning the **Registration Form** to Beverly Watson (bwatson@tnc.org) by **August 22nd, 2008**. If you have problems with the form or have questions, please contact Beverly Watson at bwatson@tnc.org or 757-442-3049.

Eastern Invasives Learning Network Statement of Purpose

The Eastern Invasives Learning Network provides a forum and ongoing support for implementation of invasive species threat abatement strategies across conservation areas of various spatial scales. The network focuses on sharing lessons learned from case studies, exporting tools to practitioners, and fostering communication between network participants. Additionally, the network is designed to integrate and nest within state, regional and national level efforts to develop multi-site strategies such as invasive species policy work and an early detection/rapid response system for invasives. Participants have included TNC landscape project areas, state and regional staff and several private and public partners (IPANE, NPS, land trusts, DRIPP, DOD, DNR).

Network participants use the adaptive Conservation Action Planning framework to develop and implement comprehensive invasive species strategies: identify conservation targets, goals and threats; develop and implement strategies; measure target and threat status and the effectiveness of strategies; and evaluate and adapt conservation goals and strategies.

The Eastern Invasives Learning Network contributes directly to the overarching goals of TNC's Global Invasive Species Team (GIST) in at least two major ways:

1. It provides information and training on invasive species assessment, prevention, early detection, and control to a large number of TNC and partner staff working in priority conservation areas.
2. It is the first network to graduate from being led by GIST staff to being led by participants. Other learning networks look to this network as a model.

2008 Workshop Objectives

1. Gain a collective understanding of the state of knowledge regarding coastal and estuarine invaders and the key strategies being implemented to combat them.
2. Determine key government relations strategies for preventing coastal and estuarine invaders and how best to advance these within respective chapters as well as state and regional invasive species councils.
3. Identify best practices in preventing and managing coastal and estuarine invaders in the context of sea level rise and global climate change.

4. Conduct peer review and critique of measuring success of invasive species control and management projects in coastal environments.

Lodging Information

We will manage all lodging reservations for the event. The workshop is FREE, but you are expected to pay for your own travel and lodging. All workshop activities will be held at the **Silver Beach YMCA Conference & Retreat Center**, located near Exmore, Virginia. Plan to arrive later in the day and lodge on October 6th (unless you are a commuter), and check out after the workshop ends on Thursday, October 9th (or checkout on the 10th if you are staying for the optional WIMS training).

Room Reservations

If you plan to stay at the conference facility, be sure to complete and send in your **Registration Form** by August 22nd! We will make our arrangements at Silver Beach as a group, so DO NOT make your own reservations. If you plan to stay elsewhere or commute, please be sure to note that on your registration form and you are responsible for making your own lodging arrangements.

The accommodations are duplex cottages holding 6 people each. Each duplex (half) has a bathroom and a big bedroom with a double size bed and two singles, so we will have 3 people share sleeping quarters. Each cottage has a common room or porch or both. If you plan to bring your family, then you can reserve a room or if needed, a whole duplex. Cottages have heat, AC, Wi-Fi, microwave, coffee maker, minifridge, and TV/DVD combo.

Information about the Silver Beach YMCA Conference & Retreat Center

This is a unique conference venue! The natural setting includes 1200 feet of beachfront on the Chesapeake Bay and 150 acres of woodlands and wetlands. The facilities include a full-service dining hall, diverse catering options, air-conditioned cottages, meeting space, and all sorts of outdoor recreation. October is a perfect time to enjoy the outdoors in Virginia and we think this location will be a nice place to enjoy it, either relaxing or playing. See their website for more information:

<http://www.ymcashr.org/locations/conference>

Amenities: Wi-Fi, fitness center, self-serve laundry, kayaking, fishing pier, basketball, tennis courts, volleyball, ping-pong, horseshoes, alpine climbing tower, campfire pit. See website for others.

YMCA Conference & Retreat Center at Silver Beach
6272 YMCA Lane
P.O. Box 69
Jamesville, VA 23398
(757) 442-4634

Alternative Lodging

Best Western Eastern Shore Inn – Exmore, VA (9.5 miles East)
(757) 442-7378

<http://www.easternshoreinn.com/>

Comfort Inn – Onley, VA (13 miles North)
(757) 787-7787

www.comfortinn.com

There are several bed & breakfast inns located within 15 miles (i.e., Onancock) or 30 miles, in Cape Charles. Search at www.bbonline.com

Food and beverages

All meals during the workshop will be paid for by the EIN Network/Global Invasive Species Team.

Internet Access / Wi-Fi

Free wireless internet access is provided by Silver Beach and covers the conference site and cottages. A PC with internet access is available for visitor use in the recreation/fitness center.

Distance to Silver Beach in hours, from:

Norfolk International Airport: 1 hour 15 mins

Newport News - Williamsburg Airport (AirTran fliers): 1 hour 45 mins

Richmond: 3 hours

Annapolis, MD: 3½ hours

Driving Directions to Silver Beach YMCA Center

From Norfolk International Airport (*approximately 1 hour 15 mins*):

Exit the airport and take Norview Avenue travelling one mile west to I-64.

Take I-64 East to Northampton Blvd. (Highway 13), Exit 282.

Get in the right lane to exit I-64 and at the end of the ramp, proceed right onto Highway 13.

Stay on Highway 13 and you will cross the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel (CASH toll is \$12.00).

After you exit the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, continue on Highway 13 (Lankford Hwy) for approximately 30 miles to Exmore. Pass the Rite-Aid Pharmacy on the right and at the next stoplight turn left onto Occohannock Neck Road (Rte 183). Travel 9 miles until you reach the Camp Silver Beach sign.

Turn right onto Downing Beach Drive and go 0.4 mile to YMCA Lane on your right.

From Salisbury, MD area (*approximately 1 hour 45 minutes*):

Heading south from Salisbury, proceed approximately 55 miles on Highway 13 (Lankford Highway) to Exmore, Virginia. Turn right onto Occohannock Neck Road (Highway 183). Travel nine miles until you reach the Camp Silver Beach sign. Turn right onto Downing Beach Drive and go 0.4 mile to YMCA lane on your right.

Local weather

October is a great time to visit coastal Virginia, with temps normally ranging from 50s to 70s. Weather can be variable so plan to bring clothing for layering in both warm and cool temperatures, a hat, and a rain jacket.

Field Trip

The *Virginia Coast Reserve* is one of the oldest Conservancy programs and includes a barrier island – lagoon system that is one of the greatest expanses of coastal wilderness remaining on the Atlantic coast of North America. The Conservancy owns and manages 14 undeveloped barrier islands which include thousands of acres of pristine salt marshes, vast tidal mudflats, shallow bays, and maritime forests. Because of this, VCR is recognized as one of the most important migratory bird stopover sites in the Western Hemisphere, including songbirds, migratory shorebirds and waterfowl, and nesting waterbirds including piping plovers and oystercatchers. The Eastern Shore of Virginia has been designated an United Nation's International Man and the Biosphere Reserve, an U.S. Department of Interior National Natural Landmark, a National Science Foundation Long Term Ecological Research Site, and a Western Hemisphere International Shorebirds Reserve Network Site.

For the field trip, we will go to one of the barrier islands where you can explore an exceptional array of habitats, an old shipwreck, and a ghost forest. You'll also learn about the invasive *Phragmites* and predator control programs taking place here. This will be a fun trip!

Local Attractions (*Consider taking the weekend to vacation on the Eastern Shore or in Hampton Roads.*)

- Eastern Shore of Virginia National Wildlife Refuge (visitor center, bird viewing blinds, kayaking, trails)
- Kiptopeke State Park (beach, trails, playground)
- Savage Neck Dunes Natural Area Preserve (no facilities, hike to dunes and wild beach on the Bay)
- Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge
- The Barrier Island Center (cultural history museum) www.esva.net/~bic/
- Historic town of Cape Charles (galleries, dining, shops, public beach, historic buildings)
- Historic town of Onancock (galleries, dining, shops, historic buildings)

Speakers/Presenters/Notebook Materials/Handouts

We will have a laptop and computer projector available for your presentation. If you need any other type of A/V equipment, please let us know at least two weeks in advance of the workshop. Bring your presentation on either a CD or thumb-drive.

If you would like to have paper copies of your powerpoint presentation or other handout materials (sample pamphlets, strategic plan, data collection sheets, etc.) available for participants, please e-mail or mail these materials to Joe Scalf (jscalf@tnc.org) by October 1, or bring 50 copies for inclusion into our notebook folders.

PLEASE BRING YOUR LAPTOP if you have one as we will be doing several group research assignments that involve using the internet.

Homework

For those attending the network workshop for the first time, each meeting has corresponding homework that is to be completed by participants prior to the meeting. The homework assignment is designed primarily to assist you in your invasive species planning and implementation efforts, and secondarily helps us gauge your program's current involvement with invasive species issues. You are expected to spend no more than 1-2 hours on the homework assignment. Please complete and send your homework to Mandy Tu (imtu@tnc.org) by Monday, September 29th.

Optional WIMS Training Session on Friday, October 10th

We will have an optional training session on Friday from 9am to 3pm for TNC's Weeds Information Management System. If you wish to attend, be sure to check this option on your registration form, and either stay at the Center, or plan to arrive that morning at the conference center. You will be sent information individually about what to bring, prepare, etc., prior to this training. Need more information about WIMS and if it might be appropriate for you and your project? See the WIMS webpage <http://tncweeds.ucdavis.edu/wims.html> or contact Mandy Tu (imtu@tnc.org or 503-802-8150) for further details.