



Invasives Free USA **Protecting America's Wild Places**

December 5-7, 2023
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

Wild Spotter Invasive Species Ambassador Training – Draft Agenda

Day 1 DECEMBER 5th

Part I - Setting the Stage

Welcome Remarks - Steve Manning, Invasive Plant Control, Inc.

Where we've been and where we are going

- **Invasive Species - Where Things Stand and A Paradigm Shift**
 - Mike Ielmini, U.S. Forest Service
- **EDRR: Disruptions to the System**
 - Chuck Bargeron, University of Georgia
- **Invasive Free USA – Capacity Building and Commitment at the Grass Roots Level**
 - Steve Manning, IPC

Part II - The Basics

Keynote: Core concepts every land manager needs to know about invasive species

- Stephen Enloe, University of Florida

Presentations:

- **Invasive Species IPM Principles and Practices – Basic Skills and Techniques**
 - Richard Hall, South Georgia Heritage Trust
- **Innovative Technology for AIS Verification and Modeling**
 - Wesley Daniel, U.S. Geological Survey
- **EDDMapS – From Wild Spotter to “Pro”: Tools for I.D. and Mapping**
 - Chuck Bargeron, University of Georgia
- **10-years of Statewide First-Detector Citizen Science Volunteer Program**
 - Mark Renz, University of Wisconsin
- **The Role of Wild Spotter Ambassadors for Invasive Free USA**
 - Mike Ielmini, U.S. Forest Service

Part III – Elements of Success

Keynote: Community Stakeholder Engagement Principles, Practices, and Mindset

- Anthony “Anth” Boxshall, Science into Action, Australia

Presentations:

- **Invasive Species Community Engagement and Volunteerism**
 - Jessica Tegt, Utah State University Extension

- **Local Community Engagement and Tribal Partnerships**
 - Ken Parker, Seneca Indian Nation - New York
- **Engaging the Whole Community: Successful Mobilization from Decisionmakers to the Public**
 - Justin Bush, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Special Event – Evening Social Gathering -- *Guest speaker: “President” Theodore Roosevelt*

Day 2 DECEMBER 6th

Part IV – Putting Theory into Practice

Citizen Science - Volunteer Recruitment, Management and Retention

Keynote: Social and Human Dimensions of Natural Resources Management – The People Factor

- Nick Furman, University of Georgia

Presentations:

- **Principles of Citizen Science and Volunteerism in Conservation**
 - TBD
- **Engaging and Empowering Communities for Landscape-Scale Action**
 - Jill Silver, 10,000 Year Institute

Partnership Development and Fundraising for Invasive Species Management and Education Programs

Keynote: Building Capacity – Going from Surviving to Thriving

- Damon Waitt, North Carolina Botanical Garden

Presentations:

- **Models of Cooperation and Support in Federal Land Management**
 - Considerations and Collaborations with Tribal Communities to Address Invasive Species in the Southwestern U.S.
 - National Park Foundation - TBD

Branding, Promoting, and Marketing – Boosting Communications for Invasive Species Prevention, EDRR and Management

Keynote: Marketing and Awareness for Invasive Species Issues

- Ken Donnelly, Beyond Attitude Consulting, Canada

Presentations:

- **Communications to Advance Invasive Species Management Operations**
 - Liz Lodman, Montana Invasive Species Council
- **Branding Marketing the Invasive Species Prevention Ethos**
 - Pat Conzemius, Wildlife Forever, Inc.
- **Environmental Education to Achieve On-the-Ground Action**
 - Christie Trifone Millhouse, NAISMA
- **Social Media Strategies and Multimedia to Raise Awareness and Support**
 - Dave Coyle, Clemson University

Community and Regional Invasive Species Management – Making Progress On-the-Ground and In-the-Water

Keynote: Building Community Commitment and Support

- Dan Tompkins, Predator-Free New Zealand

Presentations:

- **Boundary Waters Canoe Area Collaborative**
 - Jeff Forester, Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates

Day 3 DECEMBER 7th

Presentations:

- **EmpowerU – Framing the issue and asking the right questions**
 - Angie Gupta, University of Minnesota
- **Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee Story**
 - Leslie Beckworth, Teton County, Wyoming
- **Reaching Underserved Communities for Invasive Species Management**
 - Jessica Tegt, Utah State Extension
- **Indiana Invasive Species Coordination and Community Involvement**
 - Dawn Slack, Indiana Cooperative Invasive Species Management

Introduction to the Ambassador Team Exercises – Beginning at ~10:15am

Facilitated Team Exercises and Final Team Report-Out – Beginning at ~10:30am

Close-out Banquet and Awards Ceremony – (5:30pm – 8:00pm)

Banquet Keynote: TBD

Awards Ceremony and Closing Remarks