

# The Renewable Resources Extension Act (RREA) Program at The University of Georgia, FY 2008



The University of Georgia

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The Renewable Resources Extension Act (RREA) program funds allocated to The University of Georgia are administered by the Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources. Programs address three RREA Strategic issues: Forest Stewardship and Health, Wildlife and Fisheries Resources, and Invasive Species. RREA funding is leveraged with state, private, local, and institutional funding to provide needed, current information to private landowners and practicing professionals to enhance the application of new knowledge in natural resources management.

**Early Detection and Distribution Mapping System (EDDMapS)** - Warnell faculty played a lead role in this invasive species project, which expanded to a national level in 2008. An example of its use is the Everglades Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area, a partnership of eight federal, state, and local government agencies, tribes, and various interested groups that manage invasive species within a 2.68 million-acre area containing the Big Cypress National Preserve, Everglades National Park, Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, Miccosukee Indian Reservation, and Water Conservation Areas 1, 2A, and 3A in Florida. In 2008, a cooperative invasive exotic plant survey and mapping project identified six major invasive exotic plant species at a cost of \$0.035 per acre and 92 hours to complete.



Burmese pythons captured in Everglades National Park, Florida. Image credit: Bob DeGross, National Park Service/Bugwood.org

**Fighting Drought's Devastation** – A region-wide severe drought of 2008 impacted all trees in landscapes, especially young and old trees. The Warnell School provided media, professionals, and general audiences with educational goods and services on water, trees, and drought interactions. A monograph on drought and tree issues was published, distributed, and used as a training guide for helping tree owners and managers better cope with the effects of drought.



## Forest-Based Bioenergy Educational Materials and Training

With the completion of our online encyclopedia, web page, notebooks, fact sheets, and online training modules, the Warnell School implemented a training program directed at Georgia county agents, loggers, foresters, rural development committees, and the Association of County Commissioners. Information provided included the woody biomass resource, availability, utilization, harvesting and transportation, economics, policy, and environmental topics. More than 275 participants attended seven workshops in Georgia. Faculty also assisted with two conferences in Virginia where 65 attended.

*“Being aware of this material and how to access it will make my job easier in providing biomass information to my clientele.”* - Bioenergy Workshop participant.

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