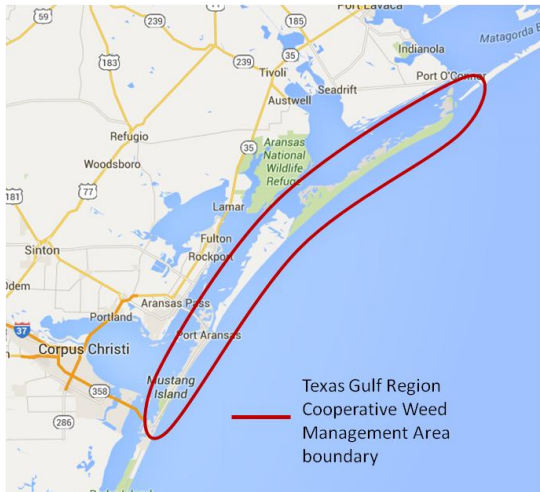




CBBEP Provides Boost for Texas Gulf Region Cooperative Weed Management Area



Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program (CBBEP) joins local, state, and federal partners in providing support to the newly formed Texas Gulf Region Cooperative Weed Management Area (TGR-CWMA), to address invasive Brazilian peppertree (*Schinus terebinthifolius*) from Port O'Connor to Packery Channel on the Texas Gulf Coast. The CWMA seeks to prevent the spread and movement of the species by advocating for cooperative control amongst willing landowners and managers.

“Infestation of the Brazilian peppertree is devastating to the plant and animal communities in the Coastal Bend. We are excited to be a part of this effort, and look forward to working with the stakeholders to take control of this problematic species,” said Rosario Martinez, project manager with the CBBEP. All of the CBBEP funding for this project will be used for Brazilian peppertree removal at the Port Aransas Nature Preserve at Charlie’s Pasture on Mustang Island, Nueces County.



Photo: CBBEP File

Beyond removal efforts, the TGR-CWMA is focused on establishing baseline distribution data, and raising awareness of Brazilian peppertree impacts to our landscapes through education and outreach efforts. Most recently the group hosted an Eat the Invasives Community Event where participants dined on invasive species including grilled lionfish, Asian tiger shrimp, and wild boar tacos, seasoned with Brazilian peppertree peppercorns, and then headed out to Port Aransas Nature Preserve at Charlie’s Pasture the following day to remove and treat Brazilian peppertree, and replant with native shrubs and trees.



Photo: Mission-Aransas NERR

“Involving the community is a key component in the success of our efforts to control the invasive Brazilian peppertree, and this event was the perfect opportunity for locals to get involved and become a part of the solution.” said Katie Swanson, Coordinator of the TGR-CWMA and Stewardship Coordinator at Mission-Aransas National Estuarine Research Reserve.



Brazilian peppertree is a non-native, invasive species in Texas that invades disturbed areas such as fallow fields, ditches, drained wetlands and roadsides. As infestations grow, they quickly form dense thickets, shading out native grasses, shrubs, and taking over native grasslands, tidal flats and other habitats. Once sold as an ornamental, its importation, sale and distribution are now prohibited in Texas and several other states. Learn more about the TGR-CWMA <http://www.texasinvasives.org/professionals/gulfregion.php>.



Photos: Mission-Aransas NERR



The Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program is a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting and restoring bays and estuaries in the 12-county region of the Texas Coastal Bend. CBBEP is partially funded by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

For more information about the Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program, contact Kathryn Tunnell at (361)885-6202 or ktunnell@cbbep.org.

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