

## **FICMNEW/NAWMA EDRR Partner Network Expands to Kentucky – the Bluegrass State.**

On December 11-12, 2008, USGS scientist Dr. Randy Westbrooks\* served as a keynote speaker at the first annual Bluegrass State Invasive Species Conference. The conference, which was hosted by the University of Kentucky Invasive Species Working Group in Lexington, Kentucky, was attended by over 140 people from across the state. As part of the conference, Dr. Westbrooks co-hosted an organizational meeting of the Kentucky Early Detection and Rapid Response Coordinating Committee. The new committee, which is comprised of representatives from federal, state, and local agencies and organizations that are involved in invasive species management, will lead in the development of state and local elements of the National EDRR System for Invasive Plants, within the Bluegrass State. Joyce Bender, with the Kentucky State Nature Preserve Commission ([Joyce.bender@ky.gov](mailto:Joyce.bender@ky.gov)), and Dr. Steven Bullard, Chair of the U-KY-LEX Forestry Department ([steve.bullard@uky.edu](mailto:steve.bullard@uky.edu)), are coordinating the EDRR effort in Kentucky.

\*Dr. Randy Westbrooks is the Co-Chair of the NAWMA EDRR Committee.

Phone: 910-648-6762

E-mail: [rwestbrooks@usgs.gov](mailto:rwestbrooks@usgs.gov)