

# **Korean Broadcasting System to Showcase U.S. Efforts to Address Kudzu, Beach Vitex, Bur Cucumber, and Giant Ragweed on Public Television in Korea.**

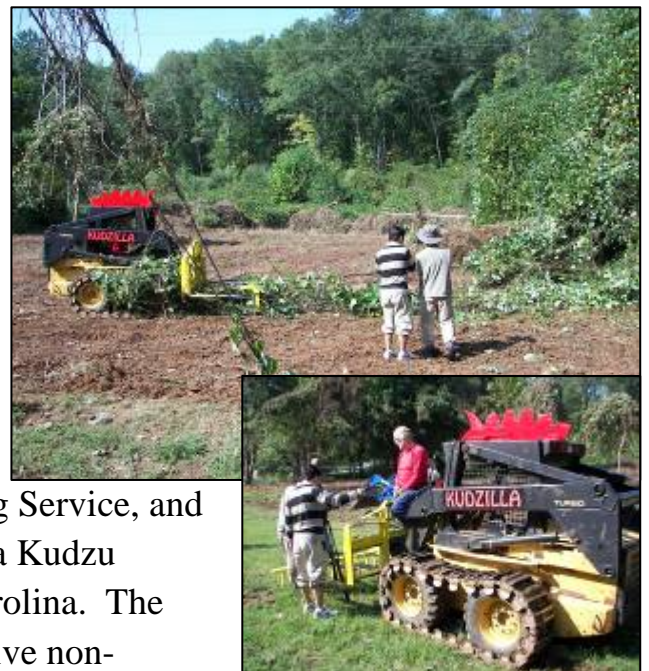
**By: Randy Westbrooks. U.S. Geological Survey, Whiteville, North Carolina.**  
October 7, 2009.

In recent years, [Kudzu](#), [Bur Cucumber](#), and [Ragweed](#) have become serious problems in Korea. Kudzu, which is native to Korea, is spreading rampantly throughout the mountainous regions of the country, following roads and housing developments that have been built there in recent years. Bur Cucumber, a spiny-fruited vine from the northeastern U.S., has become a serious problem in croplands of Korea. Ragweed, which was accidentally introduced to Korea from the U.S., is causing serious public health problems in much of the country.

In order to educate the Korean public about these serious new problems, as well as problems with [Beach Vitex](#) along the Carolina Coast\*, the [Korean Broadcasting System](#) is currently developing a 40 minute film segment that will be shown on the *Environment Special*, which is an hour long television nature series which is similar to *NOVA* on PBS in the United States. The *Environment Special* is viewed by 5 million people nationwide in Korea. Newt Hardie (Kudzu Coalition), Betsy Brabson (BVTF Coordinator), Dr. Faith Keuhn (Delaware Department of Agriculture), and Dr. Randy Westbrooks (USGS BRD in Whiteville, NC), are assisting KBS in the project.

\*NOTE: Beach Vitex is native to the beaches of Korea.

Initially, on Monday morning, September 28, 2009, Chong Lee, a San Francisco based producer with the Korean Broadcasting Service, and Randy Westbrooks filmed the South Carolina Kudzu Coalition in action in Spartanburg, South Carolina. The Kudzu Coalition has developed a very effective non-chemical approach for kudzu control – *manual removal methods that will be very effective in controlling Kudzu in the mountains of Korea.*



On Monday afternoon, Randy Westbrooks brought Chong Lee and KBS videographer So Ho Kim to Litchfield Beach, South Carolina, to learn more about the [Beach Vitex Task Force](#) from Betsy Brabson and Dr. Chuck Gresham.



In the interview, Betsy Brabson described her initial concerns about the impact of Beach Vitex on Sea Turtle nesting along the Carolina Coast in the late 1990s. She discussed ongoing efforts by the Beach Vitex Task Force to address the problem. She also stressed the importance of volunteers in addressing new invaders such as Beach Vitex.



Dr. Chuck Gresham, who recently retired from Clemson University at Hobcaw Barony in Georgetown, S.C., provided an overview of control methods he developed that are being used to eradicate Beach Vitex from the Carolina Coast.



The interview was conducted at the last major Beach Vitex infestation along the South Carolina coast – in south Litchfield Beach.



On Tuesday morning, September 29<sup>th</sup>, Chong Lee and So Ho Kim visited Randy Westbrook at the USGS Coastal Plains Invasive Species Field Station near Whiteville, North Carolina. During the visit, Randy gave an indepth interview to KBS on the worldwide issue of invasive species.

Randy explained that the [South Carolina Kudzu Coalition](#) and the [Beach Vitex Task Force](#) are good examples of the current trend in interagency partnering to address new and emerging invasive species across the United States. After the interview, Chong concluded that lessons learned by the Kudzu Coalition and the Beach Vitex Task Force will be very helpful to the people of Korea as they deal with new invaders like Kudzu and Bur Cucumber.



On Wednesday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, Chong Lee interviewed Dr. Faith Keuhn and Todd Davis of the Delaware Department of Agriculture [Division of Plant Industry](#) about Bur Cucumber and Giant Ragweed in Delaware. Bur Cucumber and Giant Ragweed are both listed as a State Noxious Weeds in Delaware.



According to Chong, it will take about three months to produce the final version of the film segment that will be aired on Korean Public Television. Once the segment is aired, a copy of the story will be posted on the Kudzu Coalition Website and the Beach Vitex Task Force Website – including Korean subtitles.....

*Stay tuned!*