



Florida EPPC

2009 FLEPPC Symposium will be held in Delray Beach

The Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council will hold its 24th annual symposium this spring in Delray Beach, Florida. The symposium will take place from Tuesday, May 26th through Friday, May 29th, 2009 at the Marriott Hotel near Delray Beach's historic art district, Pineapple Grove. Early registration begins March 1. A limited block of rooms has been reserved for the conference, so be sure to reserve your hotel room early for the best rates!

The conference promises to be another blockbuster with the latest information on a variety of topics related to invasive species in Florida. This year's theme is *The Weeds of Wrath*, a take-off on John Steinbeck's landmark novel, "The Grapes of Wrath," which reminds us to continue our struggle to save Florida's natural areas from pest plants, even during difficult economic times.

The FLEPPC Board of Directors is pleased to present this year's keynote speaker, **Dr. Joseph DiTomaso**, a non-crop weed specialist at University of California, Davis and Director of the UC Weed Research and Information Center. Dr. DiTomaso is a distinguished researcher who has focused his work on understanding invasive plant biology and ecology in order to develop effective control strategies. He has published over 80 refereed manuscripts or book chapters, 160 additional extension papers, and has co-authored five books on Weed Science and invasive plant related topics. Dr. DiTomaso's keynote presentation will explore the intersection of biological invasions and the biofuel industry.

Here's a preview of what you can look forward to at the Symposium:

- An array of presentations on the latest technology in invasive species control
- A special session and expert panel discussion on the issue of biofuel crop species and their po-

tential invasiveness in Florida.

- Information on new worrisome weeds to watch out for
- Updates on biological control research
- The latest on Cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMAs) throughout Florida
- Hands-on workshops related to invasive plant control and monitoring
- Local field trips to evaluate invasive plant management programs and herbicide demonstration plots.
- Pesticide applicator CEUs

...and much more.

This year's banquet will be held at the Marriott Hotel. Entertainment will be provided by FLEPPC's favorite rock and roll band, *The Weeds!*

For up-to-date information on symposium schedules, field trips, workshops, and registration, visit the Florida EPPC website: <http://www.fleppc.org>.

24th Annual Symposium

Weeds of Wrath

**Tuesday, May 26th through
Friday, May 29th, 2009**

Hotel Information:

Delray Beach Marriott
10 North Ocean Boulevard
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A message from our (new) former Chair . . .



Former FLEPPC Chair Dan Clark accepted a new post with the US Fish and Wildlife Service

Amazingly, I assumed the Chair of FLEPPC during the 2008 symposium, held last April in Jacksonville, and have already passed the torch to Scott Ditmarsen effective July 15, 2008. It appears that I will be recognized as having the shortest Chair tenure in the history of the organization to date. Since assuming the Chair, I was offered and accepted a

new position with the US Fish and Wildlife Service as the Coordinator of the Invasive Species Section of the Pacific Islands Fish and Wildlife Office. I'll be stationed in Honolulu and will be responsible for implementing the USFWS positions and policies on interdiction, control, and eradication of various invasive species and diseases that have, or may have, impacts on federal trust resources in Hawaii, Territory of Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Territory American Samoa, the unincorporated US possessions of Johnston Atoll, Wake Atoll, Midway Atoll, Baker Island, Howland Island, Jarvis Island, Kingman Reef, and Palmyra Island, as well as coordinating with and providing expertise to independent nations with historic alignments with the US within the Pacific ecoregion (the Republic of Palau, Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands). Should be a piece of cake for me to rapidly master the complex invasive species issues on 2,300 remote pacific islands covering over 5 million square miles!

In accordance with the bylaws, the FLEPPC Board of Directors unanimously elected Scott Ditmarsen to finish my term as Chair. Scott has been exceptionally active in FLEPPC, is the Finance Committee Chair, and has been a liaison to our Strategic Planning Group. He'll be an outstanding Chair and I'm proud and excited to have Scott as the FLEPPC Lead. I wish you all well and know our "invasive" paths will cross again in the future.

- Dan Clark, former Chair

... and a message from our new (current) chair



*Scott Ditmarsen
New FLEPPC Chair*

Equally amazing, I assumed the Chair of FLEPPC on July 15, just a few weeks after hearing of Dan's job transfer to Hawaii (all together now, "It must be nice!") and being asked if I would ever consider taking on the role of Chair. It also appears that I will be recognized as having the longest interim Chair tenure in the history of FLEPPC, if things go according to plan. In all seriousness, we will miss Dan and thank him for his many years of dedication, service, and contributions to the FLEPPC organization (and the United States armed forces) and wish him continued success in his new employment opportunity. He did tell me that he may have a chance to get back to the mainland from time to time to attend some invasive-related meetings, so be on the lookout for him!

In his short tenure as FLEPPC Chair, Dan identified several priorities and initiatives in support of the FLEPPC mission and to benefit the organization. I had the opportunity to visit with him about these before he left and plan to carry several of them forward, along with some other ideas I have, as we work to continue to make FLEPPC an ever better and more effective organization. Many significant accomplishments have been made but opportunities and challenges remain. Great, hard working people with a common cause are FLEPPC's greatest asset and our membership is now 300+ strong, so I would encourage each of you to get involved and contribute to the organization in any way that you can. Actively participate in our annual symposium, join a FLEPPC committee or task force, or take up the FLEPPC cause locally...and always feel free to provide feedback and ideas to your Chair and board members. I am honored to serve as your FLEPPC Chair and look forward to working with you over the next couple of years in support of this great organization.

- Scott Ditmarsen, Chair

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting July 15, 2008 Hobe Sound, Florida

These minutes were approved by the Board of Directors at the meeting held on October 21, 2008, at the Canaveral National Sea Shore.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30am by Dan Clark, Chair. Minutes were taken by Dianne Owen, Secretary.

The following officers and members, constituting a quorum of the Board of Directors, were present:

Dan Clark, Mike Bodle, Karen Brown, Jim Burch, Ellen Donlan, Adam Grayson, Dustin Hormann, Dianne Owen, Jennifer Possley, LeRoy Rodgers. Hillary Burgess served as proxy for Jonathan Taylor, Scott Ditmarsen served as proxy for Sandra Vardaman and Greg Jubinsky served as proxy for Kathy O'Reilly-Doyle.

Committee Chairs, Task Force Chairs and guests also in attendance were: Mike Bodle, Jim Burch, Scott Ditmarsen, Greg Jubinsky, Benjamin Koubek, Drew Leslie, Chris Lockhart, Kris Serbesoff-King, Dan Thayer, Donna Watkins.

ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA

Approval of Previous Minutes

Upon motion to approve made by Hillary Burgess and seconded by Ellen Donlan, the minutes of the previous meeting, with minor non-substantive changes suggested by Jennifer Possley, were approved unanimously.

Correspondence and Announcements – Dan Clark

In response to an article in the Orlando Sentinel that encouraged use of the Surinam Cherry (*Eugenia michelii*), a Letter to the Editor was sent to explain why the FLEPPC opposes the planting of this and other invasive exotic species.

A payment of \$1,000 was sent to SE-EPPC for the Na-EPPC/NAA meeting, with a request for an accounting of how funds are spent.

A letter supporting the continuation of the Florida Invasive Species Working Group (ISWG) was sent to the Governor's Office.

Letters of thanks were sent to supervisors of active board and committee members.

A letter was sent to the FFWCC regarding the transfer of the Bureau of Invasive Plant Management to that agency.

All correspondence is included as an attachment to the Minutes.

Treasurer's Report – Ellen Donlan

Ellen stressed that all budget requests are due by July 18. All grant monies have been disbursed for the fiscal year. Ellen requested clarification from the Board of how to include, budget, and record certain Symposium costs such as complimentary items and keynote speaker expenses. She suggested that some changes in forms and reporting for the next symposium would be useful. The written Treasurer's report is attached to the Minutes.

Editor's Report – Karen Brown

Karen reported that *Wildland Weeds* is on schedule and continues to operate in the black, although barely. Dianne requested submissions for the newsletter when there are too many for the magazine, or when they might be more suitable for the newsletter. The written Editor's report is attached to the Minutes.

Secretary's Report – Dianne Owen

Dianne asked the BOD to review the bylaws to confirm that newsletters, including the issue that notifies members of board nominations and bylaw changes to be voted on at the Symposium, can be distributed online and/or with a postcard. The written Secretary's report is attached to the minutes.

Upon motion made by Dan Clark and seconded by Sandy Vardaman, the Officers' Reports were accepted unanimously. The written officers' reports are attached to the minutes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS**Strategic Planning Committee**

Kris Serbesoff-King reported for Roger Clark. A member survey that can be completed in 15 minutes is being designed. SurveyMonkey may be used to conduct the survey. It was suggested that the survey be sent to both previous members and current members. The intent of the survey is to identify gaps in membership and seek valuation of FLEPPC services, symposia, training sessions, etc. A draft of the proposed survey will be sent to the BOD before it is released. Other potential areas the survey may address include public information/education, sources of advice or information for public such as contacts via the website. Karen suggested that questions be checked against a survey protocol to guarantee accurate results. The target date for committee's plan is the end of 2008.

Bylaws – No report, Sandra Vardaman absent.

Control & Evaluation - currently no Committee Chair

LeRoy Rodgers reported that Francois Laroche is interested in participating in this committee. LeRoy would like to get demonstration plots started soon; he heard disappointed comments about not having plots during field trips at the Jax Symposium. LeRoy will ask Francois to contact Dan Clark.

Education & Outreach Grants – Jennifer Possley

Recipients of 2008/09 awards have been notified. Emails were also sent to those not selected; since they were all good proposals, they were encouraged to reapply in 2009. The 2009/10 RFP has been sent out and listed on the FLEPPC website. De-

linquent recipients from 2007/08 have all been accounted for and have reported. Jennifer is trying to create an archive and has received materials from Leesa Souto (previous chair). She hopes to get some of this information into an electronic format.

Finance Committee – Scott Ditmarsen

The committee has established priorities and is seeking feedback from the Board. Membership and cost structure needs work; it should be simplified and address issues such as variable vs fixed expiration dates, what benefits are included, etc. This needs to be coordinated with SE-EPPC, and we need determine whether we are currently being reimbursed for Florida members who join via SE-EPPC. Dan Thayer is working on clarifying some of these issues. It was agreed that an overall symposium committee should be formed to streamline planning and ensure better coordination. Recommendations included establishing a registration committee, training multiple people to perform functions at the symposium, and developing a financial transaction timeline for symposium functions and overall budget functions. Cost-saving ideas, such as using the same hotel chain for multiple symposia to get better rates, were suggested. Some of these recommendations overlap with Strategic Planning Committee and the Symposium Timeline Checklist (Donna Watkins) so Dan Clark suggested that these two committees cooperate and continue working together. Ultimate responsibility for program coordination rests with the Chair. Alison created a notebook of activities to perform as Chair, including contacting officers and committee chairs responsible for symposium tasks. Kris Serbeoff-King suggested a monthly conference call between symposium committee chairs and continued utilization of the existing timeline/checklist to keep the symposium on task and to keep the board from spending time on details that don't necessarily require full board consideration. She suggested monthly conference calls beginning 8 months out, with participants including treasurer, secretary, program chair, local arrangements, field trips, vendors, and others. Ellen Donlan has contacted Chuck Bargerone regarding a 1-2-3- sign-up type registration process. Dianne Owen noted this needs to be up and running before December in order for us to be able to use it for the '09 symposium. Dan Clark will communicate with Chuck Bargerone to make sure this happens. A recommendation was also made to have budget requests considered in advance by the Finance Committee in order to plan for changes ahead of time and avoid last-minute budget requests. The written report of this Committee is attached to the Minutes.

Merchandise – No report, Tony Pernas absent.

Although this committee did not present a report, it was noted that merchandise sales went smoothly at the Symposium this year and the new FLEPPC machete was very successful.

Nominations – No report, Jim Burney absent.**Legislative Committee** – Karen Brown suggested the Chair

write a letter of appreciation to Al Tasker of USDA/APHIS for working on a rule to prohibit the importation of Lygodium foliage. Dan Clark agreed to do this. The written report of this Committee is attached to the Minutes.

Local Arrangements – Mike Bodle

Mike reported that Naples gave no response. Coral Gables gave a good proposal and Mike mentioned Key Largo as another option. It was noted that travel funding is tight and attendees may have difficulty obtaining approval for venues that are too distant or are perceived as party. Potential conflicts with other meetings (FVMA, IFAS Short Course, FNPS, FLMS) were considered. Upon motion made by Dianne Owen, seconded by Karen Brown, the Board agreed to move ahead with the Coral Gables location from April 20-23, 2008). The written report of this Committee is attached to the Minutes.

Subsequent to the Board Meeting, following a site visit to the Coral Gables location, it was determined that the Coral Gables venue was too small to accommodate the Symposium. Following email discussion of a motion made by Karen Brown and seconded by Dustin Hormann on September 8, a quorum of the Board of Directors voted unanimously on September 15 to approve the **Delray Beach Marriot as the venue for the 2009 FLEPPC Symposium, to be held May 26-29.**

Field Trips – Donna Watkins

Donna has agreed to Chair this committee for this year's Symposium, and will be getting in touch with individuals who can serve as local contacts.

Outreach – Katy Roberts, absent.

Katy has said that she is willing to apply for CEUs again for '09 symposium, but has asked that someone else coordinate the distribution and collection of forms at the meeting.

Plant Industry Liaison – No report, Doria Gordon absent.

Plant List – No report, Keith Bradley absent.

Research – No report, Betsy Von Holle absent.

Symposium Program – LeRoy Rodgers

The Call for Abstracts will be sent out in October, earlier than for previous Symposia. LeRoy also suggested concurrent sessions; in 2008 there were 31 presentations and 4 were turned down. This is a problematic issue since it may entail extra costs for the additional space needed; Mike Bodle will look into the costs involved. LeRoy would also like to schedule time slots for Task Force chairs to hold committee meetings. Other changes will include better planning of poster sessions (location, lighting) and longer Workshop sessions. Karen Brown suggested innovations that could be handled by students, such as a student group activity/meeting, job board, networking, career potentials, a student poster/paper contest, etc. as has been done by the

California IPC.

The written report of this Committee is attached to the Minutes.

Vendor – No report, Todd Olsen absent.

Dan Clark said Todd has indicated that he may consider stepping down as Chair of this committee, but no decision has been made.

Website – Dan Clark reporting for Tony Pernas.

Dan Clark reported that Tony and Chuck Bargeron are working together on updating and incorporating changes to the FLEPPC website.

LIAISON REPORTS

SE-EPPC/FLEPPC Liaison – Karen Brown

Karen attended the SE-EPPC BOD meeting that was held in Bilozi, Missouri on May 19 in conjunction with the SE-EPPC Symposium. Chuck Bargeron was confirmed as the new president. The *Wildlands Weeds* Editor has also been officially included as a member of the Executive Committee. Neither the BOD meeting nor the Symposium were well-attended. Plans are now underway for the 2009 Symposium, and there was discussion of ideas to improve future attendance. Karen also reported that EDDMapS, the most important and useful program sponsored by SE-EPPC, is continuing to gather data from other organizations and make presentations and hold workshops (Alaska, mid-Atlantic EPPC, Invasive Plant Atlas of the Mid-South, Texas, Forest Service-Southern Region).

NA-EPPC Liaison – Karen Brown reported for Matt King/Tony Pernas

Karen Brown reported that there is a lot of excitement about the October NA-EPPC / NAA meeting in Nashville. Registration is \$250. All chapters have been asked to present several slides for a continuous PowerPoint presentation that will run at the meeting. The FLEPPC should plan to have a representative there.

FISP (FL Invasive Species Partnership) Report

– Kris Serbesoff-King

The FISP is a private lands incentive program made up of multiple agencies/organizations that encourages private and public land managers to work together to solve invasive plant problems. The Florida Department of Transportation is now involved (Jeff Castor and Tim Allen) in this group. Benjamin Koubek has been hired to update matrix information, develop fact-sheets and provide in-service training and website assistance. He will help to plan monthly webinars, lasting no more than one hour, to provide a statewide update. The group is also paying Chuck Bargeron to develop a website. They would like the webinars to be mentioned on the FWC website and the FLEPPC website. Dan Clark asked if E-CISMA has an open dialog with FISP. The FISP website should be operational between October and December. Donna Watkins asked about getting the word out to people in the panhandle area and bringing them in, as they are often underrepresented. Kris stressed that individuals on the ground are always needed to get the Comprehensive Weed Management Areas going.

Upon motion by Karen Brown, seconded by Jennifer Possley, the

Committee Reports were unanimously accepted by the Board.

TASK FORCE REPORTS

Carrotwood – Chris Lockhart

Chris reported that Aimee Cooper from UF is helping with the carrotwood committee. They are working with caged fish crows to determine their preference for seed consumption. The written report of this Task Force is attached to the minutes.

Chinese tallow - Drew Leslie

Drew reported that tallow is the sixth most targeted plant statewide. \$600,000 was spent this year in projects on 5,000 acres with tallow as a major component. Drew has been contacted by people who want to use the seeds as a biofuel and promote sterile cultivars. Benjamin Koubek mentioned an article that was convincing for using tallow for a fuel source. A discussion ensued on this topic. Five species are being promoted as biofuel species that Doria is running through the IFAS assessment. Dan Clark mentioned that we've had the suggestion before that the FLEPPC should develop a white paper on the use of invasive species as biofuels. Karen suggested that Drew and Greg Jubinsky would be good sources of experience for writing such a paper. The written report of this Task Force is attached to the minutes.

Lygodium – LeRoy Rodgers

LeRoy reported that Al Tasker (USDA/APHIS) contacted FLEPPC for information in order to establish a new rule prohibiting *Lygodium microphyllum* importation.. In order to have a similar rule for *L. japonicum*, on the ground control and economic impacts must be documented. A new stem borer, found in Thailand and currently being tested by Bob Pemberton, looks very promising for *Lygodium* control. A promising new mite species has also been identified. The written report of this Task Force is attached to the minutes.

Melaleuca – LeRoy Rodgers reporting for Francois LaRoche Francois will be looking into setting up a Melaleuca control demonstration for the 2009 Symposium.

OLD BUSINESS

Kathy Burks Memorial

Karen Brown mentioned that a memorial was created and dedicated to Kathy Burks at the FSU Herbarium and suggested that this could be recognized in the next newsletter.

NEW BUSINESS

Election of New Chair

Dan Clark is departing as Chair due to his acceptance of a new position in Hawaii. Karen Brown made a motion to elect Scott Ditmarsen as chair to fulfill the remainder of Dan Clark's term. The motion was seconded by LeRoy Rodgers. Former Chairs Greg Jubinsky and Dan Thayer offered help and support in the absence of an immediate past-chair; former

Chairs Jim Burney and Tony Pernas are also available. The board voted unanimously to elect Scott as Chair to serve the remainder of Dan's term, effective with the date of this board meeting.

YTB Passport to Giving Program

Karen Brown expressed concerns that it might not be within the legal guidelines for a not-for-profit organization to participate in a commercial venture of this type. Jim Burch asked if we know of any other organizations using or participating in this service. Kris Serbesoff-King mentioned that she had found somewhat critical comments from the Better Business Bureau websites about the YTB program. There would also be administration required, and it is not clear who could handle this. Dan feels that we would have to proselytize our membership and that this is not in keeping with our goals. In view of these considerations, Dianne Owen moved that we decline Geoff's invitation at this time. The motion was seconded by Karen Brown and approved unanimously by the Board. Scott will report this to Geoff Parks.

Future BOD Meeting Schedule

Dan Clark proposed setting quarterly meetings ahead of time and suggested the following schedule:

10/21/08 – Canaveral National Seashore – Tuesday.

12/16/08 – Coral Gables Delray Beach – Tuesday

(note: subsequently changed to 2/3/09)

5/26-5/29 – Coral Gables Delray Beach (Symposium)

07/14/09 – Sanibel Island

10/20/09 – Gainesville

12/15/09 – Clearwater Beach

April 19-22/2010 – Clearwater/St Pete (Symposium)

Karen made a motion to accept this plan; it was seconded by Hillary Burgess and approved unanimously by the Board. Dan Thayer recommended that we put this on the website, FLEPPC listserv announcement and in Wildland Weeds to encourage local participation.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be held at the Canaveral National Seashore on 10/21/08 at 9:00am.

ADJOURNMENT

The board meeting was adjourned by unanimous decision at 3:30 pm. A simultaneous gavel pounding by Dan Clark and Scott Ditmarsen ended the meeting; Dan delivered the Chair's materials (Alison Stocker's notebook, two gavels and a box containing various documents) to Scott.

Attachments referenced in the minutes can be obtained by contacting the board member, committee chair or task force chair who presented that agenda item.

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Weeds of Wrath

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Early Online Registration Begins March 1

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