



Florida EPPC

FLEPPC Hosts 21st Annual Symposium in Cocoa Beach

The Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council will hold its 22nd Annual Symposium this spring in Cocoa Beach. The symposium will be held from Monday, April 30th through Thursday, May 3rd 2007 at the Holiday Inn Oceanfront Hotel (www.holidayinn.com). A limited block of rooms has been reserved for the conference, so be sure to register early for the best rates!

The conference promises to be another blockbuster meeting with up-to-date information on a variety of topics related invasive species in Florida. In recognition of the symposium's location on the Florida Space Coast, FLEPPC has chosen "***Invasion of the Habitat Snatchers***" as this year's theme. This parody of the classic science fiction film, *Invasion of the Body Snatchers*, draws attention to the often tragic consequences of non-native species entering "new worlds."



The FLEPPC Board of Directors is pleased to announce that this year's keynote speaker will be **Dr. David Lodge**, Professor of Biology at the University of Notre Dame and Director of the Notre Dame Center for Aquatic Conservation. Dr. Lodge is a leading researcher in invasion biology who has focused much of his recent attention on understanding the interactions of biological invasions and economic forces. In addition, Dr. Lodge is working to develop invasive species risk analyses and risk management tools.

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

- A special "how-to" workshop on Cooperative Weed Management Areas
- An expert panel discussion on risk assessment of invasive species
- Updates on biological control research for Brazilian pepper, Lygodium, and others
- Exploring the intersections between invasive flora and fauna
- Up-and-coming problem species to be on the watch for
- pesticide applicator certification training for natural areas weed management
- ...and much more.

This year's banquet will be held at the Holiday Inn "on the beach." Entertainment will be provided by FLEPPC's favorite rock and roll band, ***The Weeds!***

A number of local field trips and demonstrations will be offered and are scheduled for Wednesday, May 2nd. Natural Areas CEU's will be offered. One of the field trips offered will be con-

Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council

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ducted on Cape Canaveral Air Force Station. The tour will include an overview of mechanical, herbicide, and biological control tactics of Brazilian pepper, with additional stops discussing historical aspects of the cape and the Air Force's role in America's space program.

The 2007 Annual Business Meeting will be held on Thursday, May 3 from 10:00 am -10:40 am. At this meeting, FLEPPC members will be asked to approve nominees to replace outgoing Directors Scott Ditmarsen, Jon Lane, Tony Pernas and Paul Pratt. The slate of four nominees proposed by the Board of Directors to serve a two-year term, are **Alyssa Jacobs**, Environmental Scientist with the Water Resource Management Department of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, **Jennifer Posseley**, Biologist at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden's Research Center, **Jonathan Taylor**, botanist with the National Park Service and **Sandra Vardaman**, Senior Planner with Alachua County Environmental Protection Department, Land Conservation Program.

For the most up-to-date information on symposium schedules, field trips, demonstrations, and registration, please visit the Florida EPPC website at: <http://www.fleppc.org> or contact LeRoy Rodgers at lrodgers@sfwmd.gov.



Hotel Information

Holiday Inn Cocoa Beach-Oceanfront
1300 North Atlantic Avenue
Cocoa Beach, FL 32931
Hotel Front Desk: 1-321-7832271
www.HolidayInn.com

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting
Jan 23, 2007
Cocoa Beach

These minutes will be submitted to the Board of Directors for approval at the meeting scheduled for April 30, 2007.

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 am by Alison Fox, Chair. Minutes were taken by Dianne Owen, Secretary.

The following Officers and Directors, constituting a quorum of the Board of Directors, were present: Karen Brown, Jim Burney, Scott Ditmarsen, Ellen Donlan, Alison Fox, Jon Lane, Gary Nichols, Dianne Owen, Tony Pernas, Donna Watkins. Also attending were: Mike Bodle, Jim Cuda, Dan Clark, Chris Lockhart, Todd Olson, Bill Overholt, LeRoy Rodgers, Kris Serbessoff-King, Jonathan Taylor.

ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA

Approval of Previous Minutes

Minutes of the previous Board of Directors Meeting of September 19, 2006, were distributed to the Board and Alison Fox reviewed the addenda to the minutes. Upon motion made by Tony Pernas and seconded by Karen Brown, the previous minutes were unanimously approved as written.

Correspondence – Alison Fox

Alison Fox distributed and reviewed several official FLEPPC letters that she has sent as FLEPPC Chair since the previous BOD meeting.

A letter was sent to the DOT to express the FLEPPC's appreciation of the DOT's intent to phase out the use of FLEPPC listed species on rights-of-way. As a result of this letter, Alison was invited to speak to DOT Landscape Managers in November 2006.

A letter was sent to the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Affairs expressing FLEPPC's strong concern about any planting of *Arundo donax* (giant reed; "E-grass") for biomass fuel generation in Florida and recommending that *A. donax* be immediately listed by FDACS as a noxious weed in Florida to prevent its potential use and spread. A response received from Richard Gaskalla of FDACS included copies of state legislation passed during 2005 to address concerns about large biomass plantings, including the potential for invasiveness of *A. donax*, and stated that it is the intent of FDACS to properly screen all candidates for biomass planting. He also suggested that the FLEPPC complete an application to have *A. donax* included on the Florida Noxious Weed List and submit it to the Noxious Weed and Invasive

Plant Review Committee. Some discussion ensued about the role of the FLEPPC with regard to nomination of plants for the Noxious Weed List, particularly in the case of plants such as *A. donax* that have the potential to be invasive but are not a current problem and are therefore not included on the FLEPPC Category I or II lists. There was general agreement that there is enough evidence to warrant action based on the invasiveness of *Arundo donax* in other states and that it would be appropriate for the FLEPPC to nominate *A. donax* for the Florida DACS Noxious Weed list. Jim Cuda agreed to take on the task of completing the required application.

An inquiry was received from Prof. Donald Rockwood of the University of Florida, who is making a research proposal to the Florida Institute of Phosphate Research on growing *Eucalyptis grandis* and *Eucalyptis amplifolia* on phosphate mined lands and, in this context, was requesting information on the FLEPPC's position in regard to the potential invasiveness of these species. The response from the FLEPPC indicated that neither species is currently listed on the 2005 FLEPPC Category I or II Lists and recommended that Prof. Rockwood contact Keith Bradley, Chair of the Plant List Committee, if he wished to discuss the likelihood that these eucalypt species might change status and appear on the FLEPPC lists.

A letter was sent to the Mayor & City Commissioners of the City of Winter Park, Florida supporting the inclusion of *Cinnamomum camphora* as an exempt species on the Winter Park Tree Protection Ordinance. The letter emphasized that while the FLEPPC does not promote statutory prohibitions of the use of species solely because they appear on our lists, we do have a published statement concerning the placement of FLEPPC listed species on Exemption lists as part of tree protection ordinances. This issue was brought to the attention of the FLEPPC by Stephen Pategas of Winter Park.

A letter was sent to the U. S. Horticultural Research Laboratory (USHRL) USDA-ARS in Fort Pierce regarding FLEPPC concerns about research on guava interplantings in Florida citrus. An informative response was received from Tim Gottwald on behalf of USHRL, clarifying that the intent of the research is to identify, isolate, synthesize and deploy guava volatiles, in order to repel or confuse the Asian citrus psyllid, the vector of citrus greening disease, without the need of guava plants. The response also indicated that the research design, which will involve only a few initial citrus-guava interplantings for test purposes, will include appropriate precautions to deal with the invasive nature of guava.

Alison Fox distributed to the Board a selection of emails received concerning the potential use of

Casuarina cunninghamiana for wind breaks in citrus groves; citrus growers believe this can curtail the spread of citrus canker. Tony Pernas and Dan Clark met with Bob Edsell, a representative of the citrus growers, on Jan. 18. They took him on a tour of Card Sound Road and the East Everglades to show him the problem caused by *Casuarina* in natural areas and treatment work to date. A report on this meeting was distributed to the Board and is included as an attachment to the minutes. The report makes several recommendations, including further meetings and dialogue with other concerned organizations and suggests the content of a letter to be sent to DACS, the Citrus Growers Bureau and Rep. Ralph Poppell, on the Committee on Agribusiness. The letter would outline the FLEPPC's concerns and recommendation and emphasize the FLEPPC's desire to maintain an open dialogue pertaining to windbreak issues and proposed directions. In response to a request from Alison Fox, Dan Clark agreed to draft this letter.

Awards

Past-chair Jim Burney said that the recipient of Environmental Advocate (non-member) of the Year Award is selected by the Chair and does not require Board approval. Alison Fox will be soliciting nominations from the Board by email.

Editor' Report - Karen Brown

The Winter issue of *Wildland Weeds*, which was mailed out in December, was a 32-page issue that also contained a CD with FLEPPC Task Force management plans for Brazilian pepper (*Schinus terebinthifolius*) and Chinese tallow (*Sapium sebiferum*). Karen said that because of cost considerations, and because there are more effective distribution methods, management plans on CD will not be included in any future issues.

As part of SE-EPPCs continuing quest to have more articles in WWs, the December issue had the AL-IPC List of Invasive Plants, an article on the effects of hurricanes on invasive plants by MS-EPPC, a wisteria control article from Alabama, and ads for the upcoming SE-EPPC annual meeting and photo contest.

Costs for graphic design, printing and mailing totaled \$7,635.00 and income from supporters totaled \$9,280, leaving a profit from the December issue of \$1,645. There were no new ads in this issue.

The 3rd annual FLEPPC calendar (2007) was created and 2000 copies were printed and sent out in late December to FLEPPC members, officers and board members, people on the "complimentary" mailing list, and places such as public parks, federal preserves, environmental learning centers, etc. Although Karen was able to produce the 2007 calendar for \$4,700, which is almost \$900 less than the 2006 calendar, she thinks this is still fairly expensive, and the calendar has no dedi-

cated support other than profits from *Wildland Weeds*.

Secretary's Report - Dianne Owen

The newsletter with the minutes of the last meeting was distributed to members by email in early December. Approximately 20 emails were returned as undeliverable. A hard copy of the newsletter will be sent to members with invalid or missing email addresses, with a request that they provide a correct email address or indicate that they prefer to receive FLEPPC communications by hardcopy mail.

The SE-EEPC newsletter was also distributed to FLEPPC members in December. The FLEPPC email list will not be used to distribute materials other than official communications originating with, or approved for distribution by, the FLEPPC; other items of potential interest to FLEPPC members will be distributed by means of the FLEPPC listserv, which members can subscribe to on the FLEPPC website.

Alison Fox reviewed the current protocol for email Board votes between regular meetings: The Chair will distribute the proposed motion to Board members by email. Once the motion has been seconded, there will be a 5-day discussion period. At the end of the discussion period, the Chair will call for an email vote on the motion from Board members. The Secretary will record the motion and the result of the email vote, and include this as an addendum to the minutes that will be submitted to the Board at the next meeting.

Treasurer's Report – Ellen Donlan

Ellen distributed the written Treasurer's report, which included the budget approved by the Board for the current fiscal year, fiscal year spending to date, first quarter cash flow, and current cash balance of checking and savings accounts. It was noted that the budget for the Control and Evaluation Committee and the Plant List Committee have not yet been finalized, and changes in the budget for these committees will need to be approved by the Board later in the fiscal year. Travel expenses will not be included in the budget of any Board Member, Officer or Committee Chair. However, in special instances, travel expenses may be paid from the Chair's discretionary funds. In the future, the approved budget and a report of spending for the previous year will be included in the newsletter that is published in the first quarter of the fiscal year.

There was some discussion of whether the FLEPPC would continue to accept American Express, in view of the fact that fees are significantly higher than for other credit cards. Ellen is looking into possibilities for reducing this cost.

The current balance in the FLEPPC savings account is \$20,965, and \$35,657 is in checking. Ellen felt that before investigating alternative investment options, the Board should determine its goals for the use of these funds; this is essential for setting appropriate levels of risk, liquidity and expected return. After some discussion it was agreed that a Finance Committee would be formed to work with the Treasurer on this and related financial issues, and recom-

mendations will be presented to the board at the next meeting. The committee would also be responsible for conducting an annual internal review of FLEPPC finances. Scott Ditmarsen and Jim Burney volunteered to serve on this committee. Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for this committee will be developed for the next BOD meeting.

There has been some confusion related to the Contributing and Donor membership rates. Alison Fox will look into this issue to ensure that the rates in membership materials are consistent in the future.

Upon motion made by Donna Watkins and seconded by Scott Ditmarsen, the Officers' Reports were approved unanimously.

COMMITTEES

Biological Control - Bob Doren

Alison Fox will contact Bob Doren about the status of the preparation of the SOP's for this committee.

Bylaws and SOPs - Dennis Giardina / Alison Fox

Alison Fox distributed the proposed amendments to the Bylaws. There was some discussion about the amendment concerning approval of the FLEPPC Plant List by the Board; it was generally agreed that the language of this amendment refers to approval of the overall list developed by the Plant List Committee, and does not entail "line item" approval or rejection of individual plants by the Board.

Upon motion made by Karen Brown and seconded by Donna Watkins, the proposed amendments were approved unanimously. Subsequently, Karen Brown made a motion proposing an additional amendment to the Bylaws, clarifying the procedure for replacing Board members who must step down before the end of their two-year term. This motion was seconded by Ellen Donlan and approved unanimously by the Board.

The proposed Bylaws amendments, as approved by the Board, are included as an attachment to the minutes and will be printed in the newsletter that will be distributed to members in February. Amendments will be presented to the membership for approval at the annual Business Meeting in May.

Proposed revisions to the SOPs, including new SOPs to be developed for the Finance Committee, will be presented to the board for approval at the next meeting. The SOPs will also include the creation and maintenance of a checklist to facilitate the coordination of individual job responsibilities, particularly as relates to the annual symposium. Donna Watkins presented the Symposium Checklist that she has developed, which lists tasks and due dates for each individual as well as information on who should be notified when each task is completed.

Control and Evaluation – Michael Meisenburg (reported

by Scott Ditmarsen)

This committee is currently refining the SOPs. Plans are being made to have a field trip related to a Brazilian Pepper Control and Evaluation project at the next Symposium.

Education - Leesa Souto

In the absence of Leesa Souto, there was no report from this committee. Alison Fox said that the Request for Proposals for Education Grants for the current fiscal year has been sent out, and the name "FLEPPC - Kathy Craddock Burks Education and Outreach Grants" has been adopted for this grant program. Karen reported that the RFP was included in both the Fall and Winter issues of Wildland Weeds.

Local Arrangements - Mike Bodle

The 2007 Annual FLEPPC Symposium will be held at the Holiday Inn in Cocoa Beach. It is anticipated that one of the evening socials will be held at the hotel's beachside facility and one will be held in the Vendor room. Ample space for displays will be available in the Vendor room, and provisions will be made for posters.

The possibility of holding a joint meeting with the Florida Native Plant Society in 2008 was discussed, but there was general agreement that this had several major drawbacks. Mike Bodle pointed out that, based on past experience, a joint meeting presents a number of practical difficulties, and differences in the topics of particular interest to the members of each group can lead to problems integrating the program. Mike Bodle will solicit suggestions from Board members by email for possible locations for the 2008 Symposium and will make recommendations to the Board at the next meeting.

Legislative - Matt King

Matt King was unable to attend the meeting. The written report from the Legislative Committee was distributed to the Board and is included as an attachment to the minutes.

Merchandise - Tony Pernas

Several merchandise options are being considered by the committee for sale at the annual symposium, including mouse pads, t-shirts and a machete with the FLEPPC logo on the wooden handle. Columbia field shirts with the FLEPPC logo will also be available; although these are expensive and the profit margin is small, they are very popular.

Nominations - Jim Burney

The committee presented the final slate of nominees to fill the 4 seats on the Board that will become open in May, 2007: Alyssa Jacobs (Seminole Tribe), Jennifer Posseley (Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden), Jonathan Taylor (National Park Service) and Sandra Vardaman

(Alachua County Environmental Protection). Upon motion made by Dianne Owen and seconded by Ellen Donlan, the proposed slate of nominees was unanimously approved.

Jim Burney presented the criteria used by the nomination committee to select nominees, which included experience, qualifications, geographic area and organizational affiliation, with a view toward ensuring diverse representation on the Board in each of these areas. The Chair also indicated that she will appoint Bill Overholt (UF-IFAS) as a replacement for Cheryl McCormick, who has left Florida.

Alison Fox announced that Dan Clark (National Park Service) had agreed to accept the nomination as Chair-Elect for the one-year term beginning in May 2007. Donna Watkins made a motion, seconded by Jim Burney, that the Board approve the nomination of Dan Clark as Chair-Elect, and the motion was approved unanimously by the Board.

Short biographical sketches of each nominee are included as an attachment to the minutes and will be included in the next newsletter.

Outreach - Katy Roberts

The written report of the Outreach Committee is included as an attachment to the minutes. New display materials are being designed, using the photographs from the FLEPPC calendar, with the aid of the professional graphic artist that Karen Brown has access to as Editor.

Plant Industry Liaison - Doria Gordon (reported by Alison Fox)

Alison Higgins is working with Doria to develop a state-wide list of recommended alternative landscape plants to replace exotic pest plants.

Plant List – Keith Bradley (reported by Chris Lockhart)

Chris Lockhart reported on the highlights of the most recent meeting of the Plant List Committee. It was decided that the committee will use Richard P. Wunderlin's *Guide to the Vascular Plants of Florida* (University Press of Florida) as a reference, but that plant nomenclature and origin will not be formally "based on" *Wunderlin*. The committee has also decided to meet more frequently than in the past. The next meeting is planned for June, 2007.

The committee will be making recommendations to the Board for a ranking system, including a two-tiered "to be watched" list based on the level of concern. The committee will be seeking input from the Department of Environmental Protection and the FLEPPC board relative to this issue.

Some of the suggestions made in the committee meeting for changes to the lists included:

Ludwigia peruviana (Peruvian primrosewillow) - according to recently published research, *L. peruviana* is not native to Florida and it is currently listed as a non-native species by *Wunderlin*. May be recommended for the Category I list.

Pyrostegia venusta (Flame vine) - Jeff Hutchinson is looking

into the potential invasiveness of this species, which is able to reproduce by seeds and by rhizome/root fragments. May be recommended for listing as a Category II species.

Tradescantia spathacea (oyster plant) - may be recommended for moving from Category I to Category II.

The Committee also discussed guidelines for the sharing and validation of records submitted to the FLEPPC plant occurrence database and strategies for meeting the long-term objective of encouraging more submission of occurrence reports.

Tony Pernas provided additional information concerning the operation of the online FLEPPC database. In the future the database will be housed on the SE-EPPC server at no cost to FLEPPC. The FLEPPC logo will appear on the page viewed by users. Initially, reports will be flagged as "unverified." Once reports have been verified by the Plant List Chair the record will be posted accordingly. Sharing of the FLEPPC database will generally be accomplished by means of a link to the FLEPPC database website. Periodically, FLEPPC data will be shared directly with the Florida Natural Areas Inventory for inclusion in their database, with appropriate citation of FLEPPC as the source. Personal information of individuals making reports will not be shared. The revised FLEPPC occurrence database website will be launched within the next few weeks and will be the subject of a Symposium presentation and hands-on workshop.

The protocol for Plant List approval by the Board of Directors will be included in the proposed changes to the FLEPPC Bylaws (see Bylaws attachment.)

Research - John Volin (reported by Dianne Owen)

The Committee has reinstated use of the name "FLEPPC - Julia Morton Invasive Plant Research Grants" for the research grants program. The Request for Proposals has been released, published in the Winter issue of *Wildland Weeds*, and John Volin is contacting researchers personally to solicit proposals. The RFP will also be included in the next newsletter.

Symposium Program – LeRoy Rodgers (replacing Cheryl McCormick)

The theme of the 2007 Symposium will be "Invasion of the Habitat Snatchers." LeRoy distributed sketches of graphics that have been created to illustrate this theme. Prof. David Lodge of the University of Notre Dame (<http://biology.nd.edu/lodge.shtml>) has been asked to be the keynote speaker. The call for abstracts has been sent out and several have already been submitted.

A tentative program schedule has been prepared, and LeRoy is developing the registration form that will be distributed to members and interested parties during the second week of February. Registration rates will include categories for members, non-members, students/interns,

one-day rates. Invited speakers (e.g., the keynote speaker) will not be asked to pay a registration fee.

The program schedule will allow for interactive poster sessions as well as hands-on workshops about establishing regional Comprehensive Weed Management Areas (CWMA) and the online FLEPPC database. Short presentations will be made during the first day of the regular program to inform attendees about these workshops. To the extent possible, the program schedule will be planned to maximize the number of CEU credits that can be earned by participants.

Committee sign-up lists, accompanied by printed SOPs, will be available at the Symposium. If time allows, short presentation will be made on committee activities to draw attention to the need for volunteers and encourage participation.

The early registration fee for the Symposium was set at \$80 for members and \$110 for non-members; the non-member fee will include one year of free membership. After the early registration closing date the respective fees will be \$90 and \$110. Rates for students and interms will be kept at \$45. The one-day registration fee will be \$45.

Field trips – Gary Nichols

Gary Nichols is coordinating the efforts of those arranging specific field trips. He will put together the field trip schedule and track pre-registrations.

Plans are underway to combine several possible field trips in the Cape Canaveral area; Scott Ditmarsen and Mike Meisenberg are planning a Brazilian Pepper control demonstration tour/workshop in the Cape Canaveral National Seashore and Tony Pernas is planning for a bus tour of the space center. Leesa Souto has recommended several local "on-your-own" tours that could be suggested to Symposium participants. Chris Lockhart suggested a hands-on GIS and field techniques workshop/field trip in Brevard County or in the Lori Wilson Park just north of the hotel, which was the location of an early FNAI pilot study.

Symposium attendees will be asked to register in advance for workshops and field trips, and an additional fee to cover special costs (such as box lunches and bus rental) may be required for some field trips. The organizers of individual field trips will be responsible for providing a cost estimate.

Training –Alison Fox reporting

Ken Langeland has agreed to handle the CEU credits awarded to Symposium attendees, which have been the responsibility of Jim Duquesnel in the past. The future role of this Committee, now that Jim Duquesnel has stepped down as Chair, will be addressed at the next board meeting.

If possible, Natural Areas Certification Training will be provided as one of the workshop options, and on Thursday afternoon after the Symposium, the certification examination will be given for those who complete the training. Ken Langeland and Jeff Hutchinson are organizing this

training session, which will be included on the field trip/workshop pre-registration list.

Vendor - Todd Olson

Todd reported that he will be sending an initial email letter to potential vendors for the Symposium and will follow up with the registration form once it is ready for distribution. He explained that the silent auction was not an effective fund-raising strategy unless prizes are unique items such as signed books or artwork. For the upcoming Symposium, vendors will be asked to contribute to door prizes or raffles that can be timed to encourage attendance at Symposium events such as the evening social in the Vendor Room or the last morning of presentations. There was also discussion and general agreement that participation in fund-raising raffles or auctions could be increased if participants knew that the funds would be used for a specific purpose. Tony Pernas made a motion that a raffle would be held at the Symposium to raise dedicated funds for a FLEPPC Scholarship Fund. This Fund would be distinct from the research grants awarded to students. The motion was seconded by Donna Watkins and approved unanimously by the Board. Tony will lead an ad hoc committee to establish guidelines and financial goals for the scholarship fund, in conjunction with the newly formed Finance Committee.

Website - Tony Pernas

Tony reported that the FLEPPC website receives over 18,000 visits monthly and provided a breakdown of the most popular pages. He would like to increase the number of links on the website to information sources, and requested input from the Board and FLEPPC members. Tony said that by moving the FLEPPC website to the University of Georgia server (see also the Plant List Committee report concerning the FLEPPC occurrence database), it will be possible to implement some improvements to the membership payment interface and the listserv.

CAST Representative – no report

Alison Fox announced that this liaison is no longer active and will be dropped.

SE-EPPC Liaison – Karen Brown

The SE-EPPC Symposium will be held in Athens, GA from 3/20-3/22/07. A call for papers has been released.

NA-EPPC Liaison – Matt King / Tony Pernas

The NA-EPPC, a coalition of state and regional EPPC's that formulates positions on issues of national importance, is planning its advocacy strategy for National Invasive Weeds Awareness Week. This will include positions on legislation related to funding for Comprehensive Weed Management Areas and the use of federal money for invasive control outside of federal park boundaries. The first NA-EPPC Symposium will be held in Nashville in April,

2008 in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Association of Southeastern Biologists.

Highway Beautification Board

Alison Fox announced that this liaison is no longer active and will be dropped.

TASK FORCES

Australian Pine - Tony Pernas

The target for the new management plan is the end of 2007. The section on ecological and cultural impacts is still not completed. More pamphlets also need to be printed. Robert Egan has agreed to remain active on the task force but does not have time to be the chair.

Brazilian Pepper - Jim Cuda

The recently released Brazilian Pepper Management Plan is the most frequently visited and downloaded page on the FLEPPC website. The committee is currently working on the development of a new brochure.

Carrotwood - Chris Lockhart

The committee is working on a management plan, but no time goal has been set.

Chinese Tallow - Cheryl McCormick

The new Management Plan is now posted on the FLEPPC web site. Drew Leslie has replaced Cheryl McCormick as the chair of this task force.

Colubrina - Cheryl McCormick

The new Management Plan is now posted on the FLEPPC web site. This task force may be dissolved now that the management plan is complete.

Dioscorea - Bill Overholt

The committee is working on the Management Plan. Mike Meisenberg is working on the Control section and Mike Bodle is working on the Legislation section. Applications for release of two beetle biocontrol species were submitted in the summer of 2006, and are still pending approval. Bill said that unacceptably long delays in the APHIS permitting process have been an ongoing problem.

Exotic Grasses – no report

Alison Fox suggested that this task force might be dropped if there is no activity soon. She will check with Greg MacDonald about the Cogon Grass Management Plan. Kris Serbesoff-King asked to be informed before any decision was made to drop this task force.

Lygodium – LeRoy Rodgers/Kris Serbesoff-King

This task force had a well-attended meeting and recommendations were made to begin working on a Management Plan for *Lygodium japonicum*. This species is listed by the Florida Dept. of Agriculture as a Noxious Weed, however, it is not listed in Georgia. The Task Force recommended that

FLEPPC write a letter to the appropriate authority in Georgia to see about getting *Lygodium japonicum* listed. There has been one recent internet observation of a fern nursery in GA still selling *Lygodium japonicum*. The task force meeting also resulting in Andi Van Loan being asked to lead the effort to complete and submit a petition to have *Lygodium japonicum* listed federally. Other recommendations from the task force will be held until next board meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Memorial Contribution Standards *ad hoc* committee – Jim Burney

This committee will set the guidelines and establish the monetary amounts for future FLEPPC memorial contributions.

Plant Conservation Alliance

Karen Brown provided the URL address (<http://www.nps.gov/plants/>) and asked Board members to visit the website of the Plant Conservation Alliance prior to the meeting in order to make an informed decision about whether the FLEPPC should join the Alliance. Upon motion made by Karen Brown and seconded by Tony Pernas, the Board voted unanimously in favor of joining the Alliance. Karen will submit the application.

Position papers

Discussion of the development of position papers as needed on specific topics (or from student paper contests) was tabled until the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

National Invasive Weeds Awareness Week

Karen Brown, Tony Pernas and Mike Bodle will attend the National Invasive Weeds Awareness Week event in Washington from February 25 through March 2 and will represent the FLEPPC. Matt King, the Legislative Chair for the NA-EPPC, may also be able to attend.

Getting the word out about invasives

Bob Doren, who was not present at this meeting, has suggested that the FLEPPC consider using new approaches for getting the word out about invasives, such as YouTube. Discussion of this item was tabled until the next meeting.

NEXT MEETING and ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be at 10:00 am on April 30, 2007 at the Holiday Inn in Cocoa Beach. Upon motion to adjourn made by Donna Watkins and seconded by Scott Ditmarsen, the meeting was adjourned by unanimous decision at 4:00 pm.

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

These amendments have been approved by the FLEPPC Board of Directors and require approval by a two-thirds majority of the general membership voting at the 2007 Annual Business Meeting that will be held as part of the Annual Symposium. Deleted language is indicated by ~~striketrough~~; added language is underlined.

1. To expand options for disseminating minutes and notices

Rationale: Minutes and notices may now be disseminated by email so “mail-out” is replaced with a more generalized term.

Article IV - Section 6

Secretary: The Secretary shall keep minutes of all meetings, ~~mail-out~~ distribute minutes, and notices as directed by the Board, and perform all duties usually associated with the office. The Secretary shall also prepare the quarterly FLEPPC Newsletter.

2. To clarify requirements of an annual review of finances

Rationale: FLEPPC does not have formal audits (by professional, independent accountants) so this change reflects current practices.

(SE-EPPC annually collects information from the regional Exotic Pest Plant Councils in relation to our tax-exempt status.)

Article IV - Section 5

Treasurer: The Treasurer shall be custodian of all dues and funds of the Council, pay all bills authorized by the Board of Directors, assist the chair in the preparation of the council’s annual budget, and at the annual meeting give a true and complete report of the financial status of the Council. The Treasurer shall deposit all receipts in a bank designated by the Board, and the Treasurer's signature or the signature of the Chair or Secretary shall be authorized on Council checks. An annual ~~audit~~ financial review of the books shall be made, and a report ~~of the audit~~ presented to the Council membership at the annual meeting.

3. To clarify the expenses that do not need a co-signer to the Treasurer

Rationale: There is a slight inconsistency in the current language, but the intention is that the Treasurer can write checks without a co-signer for up to, and including, \$1,000.

Article X – Section 3

The signature of the treasurer and one other officer shall be required for the disbursement of funds of the Council in excess of \$1,000.00. The treasurer can disburse funds for Board approved expenses of ~~less than~~ that are not in excess of \$1,000.00 without the co-signature of another officer.

4. To clarify who approves the annual budget

Rationale: It has been established practice that the annual budget has been approved by the Board of Directors at the Fourth Quarter Board of Directors Meeting in preparation for the new fiscal year beginning on October 1st (Article X Section 7). The general membership does not typically attend this meeting.

Article X - Section 6

The annual budget of FLEPPC should be approved by the ~~general membership~~ Board of Directors at the Fourth Quarter Board of Directors Meeting.

5. To remove the membership fee schedule and references to it from the Bylaws

Rationale: Article X Section 4 states that “The Board may, at their discretion, amend or revise the membership schedule from time to time.” However, inclusion of the membership fee schedule in the Bylaws requires that the general membership approve Bylaw amendments every time that the

membership fee schedule is changed, thus, making the process no longer at the discretion of the Board of Directors. Excluding the membership fee schedule from the Bylaws is also more compatible with the practices many similar organizations.

Article III - Section 1

Any individual or institution shall be eligible for membership provided that such prospective members pay the required membership fee ~~pursuant to Article X Section 6~~ and provides all requested background information necessary to ascertain consistency with the membership categories listed below in Article III, Section 2.

Article III – Section 2 c)

Contributing, Donor, and Patron members: Any individual or institutional members who demonstrate a strong commitment to the goals and purpose of the Exotic Pest Plant Council through increased financial contribution ~~pursuant to Article X Section 6.~~

Article X - Section 6 (although this was min-numbered and should have been section 8) (Fees currently listed in the Bylaws do not reflect the adjustments approved by the Board of Directors on November 15th, 2005, effective January 1st, 2006.)

~~Article X – Section 6~~

~~Membership Fee Schedule~~

Membership Type	Membership fee/contribution
Individual	Student \$10 per year
General	\$ 20 per year
Contributing	\$ 50 per year
Donor	\$ 100 – 500 per year
Patron	\$ 1,000 or more
Institutional	Public and Nonprofit Libraries \$ 15 per year
General	\$ 100 per year
Contributing	\$ 500 per year
Donor	\$ 1,000 – 10,000 per year
Patron	\$ 10,000 or more per year

6. To correct an erroneous cross-reference in relation to membership

Rationale: Article V is about the responsibilities and election of Directors, whereas Article III is about the membership categories and is a more appropriate cross-reference.

Article X – Section 4

The Board of Directors shall establish a membership fee schedule for each of the membership categories, in accordance with the provisions of Article ~~V~~ III. The Board may, at their discretion, amend or revise the membership schedule from time to time.

7. To add a requirement for Board of Directors approval of the Invasive Plant List

Rationale: The chair of the Plant List Committee has requested that there be a mechanism to show that the Board of Directors approves and supports the Invasive Plant List developed by the Plant List Committee.

Article V - Section 7 (new section number)

A majority of the Board of Directors will approve the FLEPPC Invasive Plant List prior to publication. This should be achieved prior to the appropriate annual Symposium, preferably at the First Quarter Board of Directors meeting.

8. To clarify how vacancies for a Director-at-large position are filled

Rationale: According to the current Bylaws vacancies for a Director-at-large position can only be filled by election at a business meeting which only occurs at the annual Symposium. Thus, a vacancy occurring soon after the Symposium would remain vacant for a year. To improve the functioning of the Board of Directors this should be accomplished as soon as the vacancy occurs.

Article V – Section 3

Directors-at-large shall have staggered two-year terms. Four members-at-large will be elected every year. ~~Elections to fill vacancies of any Director at large can be held at any business meeting. To fill a vacancy in the Directors-at-large, the Chair will appoint an individual to serve the remaining term, subject to a 2/3 majority confirmation by the board.~~ A vacancy may be considered to exist when a Director resigns or in the event a member of the Board of Directors fails to attend two (2) consecutive meetings. Directors-at-large shall not be elected to serve consecutive terms.

9. To make election processes consistent within the Bylaws and with current practices

a. To remove reference to the election of directors and officers (other than the Chair-Elect) from the Article (IV) about Officers

Rationale: The election of directors should not be discussed in the Article (IV) about Officers but should be addressed in the Article (V) about the Board of Directors. Also, officers (other than Chair-Elect) are not elected but are appointed by the Chair with the approval of the Board of Directors (Article IV - Section 2).

Article IV - Section 9

Council officers ~~and directors~~ shall be selected from the membership and must reside within the State and be members in good standing of the Council for two consecutive years.

Article IV - Section 10

Nominations for Chair-Elect ~~and directors~~ shall be recommended by a nominating committee. *(Additional language follows which is proposed for amendment in item 9 c.)*

Article IV - Section 11

Election of ~~officers and directors~~ the Chair-Elect shall be by secret ballot.

b. To clarify how the Chair-Elect is elected

Rationale: There has been repetition and inconsistency where the nomination and election of the Chair-Elect is discussed in Article IV – Section 3 and again in Article IV – Sections 10 and 11.

Article IV - Section 3

Chair-Elect: The Chair-Elect shall perform the duties of Chair when the latter is absent and other duties as may be assigned by the Chair or Board of Directors. The Chair-Elect shall be elected by the voting membership. ~~Nomination and election shall be held at the annual business meeting. A simple majority of members shall elect.~~ The Chair-Elect shall serve one full year immediately prior to assuming the duties of the Chair.

c. To codify the current practice of providing a slate with a single nominee for Chair-Elect and clarify the mechanism of voting consistent with having a slate

Rationale: The current practice is for the nominations committee to provide a slate with a single nominee for Chair-Elect rather than providing several nominations. Consistent with this is an open ballot to be used to accept or reject the slate if there are no nominations from the floor.

Article IV - Section 10

Nominations for Chair-Elect shall be recommended by a nominating committee. ~~The nominees~~ One nominee for Chair-Elect shall be approved by majority vote of the Board of Directors upon

recommendation of the Nominating Committee chair. In addition, nominations may be submitted from the floor at the annual business meeting. ~~A candidate must receive a plurality of the votes cast to be elected to the office for which the candidate was nominated.~~

Article IV - Section 11

~~Election of officers and directors~~ the Chair-Elect shall be by secret ballot and a candidate must receive a plurality of the votes cast to be elected, unless there are no nominations from the floor and an open vote is made simply to accept the nominated Chair-Elect or not.

d. To make the election of directors compatible with the election of officers

Rationale: The existing Bylaws are confusing about the election of directors because it is partially addressed with officers in Article IV (see amendment 9 a) but is also, but inconsistently, addressed in Article V. The existing language about a “simple majority” does not address how directors should be elected if there are nominations from the floor and, hence, more nominees than director positions available. To improve clarity and consistency, election processes similar to those for officers are proposed for directors. (This adds two new Sections and thus requires all Sections, other than Section, 1 to be renumbered.)

Article V - Section 2

~~Directors at large shall be nominated from the voting membership. A simple majority shall elect. Nominations and elections will be held at the annual business meeting. Directors shall be selected from the membership and must reside within the State and be members in good standing of the Council for two consecutive years.~~

Article V - Section 3

Nominations for directors shall be recommended by a nominating committee. One nominee for each available director position shall be approved by majority vote of the Board of Directors upon recommendation of the Nominating Committee chair. In addition, nominations may be submitted from the floor at the annual business meeting.

Article V - Section 4

Election of directors shall be by secret ballot and a candidate must receive a plurality of the votes cast to be elected, unless there are no nominations from the floor and an open vote is made simply to accept the nominated slate of directors or not.

Sections previously numbered 3, 4, 5 will be renumbered 5, 6, 8, respectively (assuming that amendment 7 is accepted adding a new Section 7 – if not, Section 5 will become Section 7)

e. To clarify the membership status needed for nomination as a director and to expand the pool of eligible candidates

Rationale: Assuming that amendment 9 d is accepted such that the mechanism for electing directors is similar to that for Chair-Elect, the availability of suitable director nominees can be expanded and options made more flexible by dropping the requirement for two consecutive years of membership in FLEPPC. This provision has also excluded the nomination of excellent candidates who are new to the field or state.

Article V - Section 2 (assuming that amendment 9 d has been accepted)

Directors shall be selected from the membership and must reside within the State and be members in good standing of the Council for two consecutive years.