



Florida EPPC

Events of 2005 continue to bring challenges in 2006 . . .

Wow, it seems just yesterday that this newsletter was welcoming everyone to 2005 on behalf of your Board of Directors, Officers and myself. Anyhow, one year later welcome to 2006. I would first like to take a moment to reflect on last year's challenges along the Gulf Coast, remembering not only those lost or still suffering, but also those unsung heroes from across the country that came together during those tragic days. I'm sure that if a tally were taken, a remarkable number of our members were directly influenced by this tragedy, either by losses to family and friends or through involvement in initial recovery and humanitarian efforts. How-



Invasive exotic plants contributed to the extensive damage caused by hurricanes in Florida and the Gulf Coast during 2005.

ever, the recovery for both humanity and the environment within the region is just beginning and it will take sacrifices and understanding from us all even to begin to accomplish this incredible task.

Closer to home, 2005 also gave us plenty of weather woes of our own, from above average rainfall to evacuations from near-miss hurricanes to a late season wind-fest called Wilma. This created its own set of challenges to implementing management plans, conducting control efforts, and dealing with re-directed budgets. So, as stated in last year's address, here's to the ones slogging through the re-growth and dead falls and also to the ones directing the efforts.

This is also the case with FLEPPC. We are going strong to fulfill our Mission of furthering the scientific, educational, and technical aspects of exotic invasive plant control within Florida. The BOD has continued to tackle such issues as development of specific invasive species state-wide management plans, furthering the collection and introduction of biological control agents, and the ever-diligent task of evaluating plants for inclusion in the State prohibited plant list.

Lastly, we would like to openly invite all members and other interested (interesting?) folks to the 21st Annual FLEPPC Conference to be held in Gainesville on April 24-26. There will be plenty of informative presentations, great networking, and spontaneous fun. Hope to see everyone there.

Jim Burney
Chair

Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council

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Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting November 15, 2005

Paramount Plaza Hotel, Gainesville, Florida

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 am by Mike Bodle, Acting Chair in the absence of Chair Jim Burney.

The following Officers and Directors, constituting a quorum of the Board of Directors, were present: Mike Bodle, Karen Brown, Roger Clark, Scott Ditmarsen, Jim Duquesnel, Alison Fox, John Lane, Drew Leslie, Dianne Owen, Tony Pernas, Paul Pratt, Kris Serbesoff-King, Cressida Silvers. Also in attendance were Jim Cuda, Michael Meisenburg, Todd Olson, Cheryl McCormick, Doria Gordon, Ken Langeland.

ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA

Approval of Previous Minutes

Minutes of the previous Board of Directors Meeting of August 9, 2005 were distributed to the Board. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the previous minutes were unanimously approved..

Editor's Report – Karen Brown

The fall *Wildlands Weeds* is in press and will come out December 1. The new FLEPPC calendars for 2006 have been printed and are available on request to Karen.

Treasurer's Report – Kris Serbesoff-King

Several items in the 2006 budget were specifically discussed by the board:

Membership fees- Effective Jan 1, 2006 the membership fee will increase to \$30 for individuals and \$75 for contributors. Student memberships will remain at \$10.

Printing and distribution of management plans- In the future, a limited number of management plans will be printed and alternatives such as electronic distribution and CD copies will be used instead to reduce costs.

FLEPPC Web site – Tony Pernas asked the board to consider a budget item of \$1000 for the programming and software required to convert the FLEPPC site occurrence database (currently text based) to a map based system, in addition to the existing link to the FNAI geodatabase. There was general agreement that this item should be discussed further at the next meeting when Kathy Burks will be present.

The Treasurer's report also included a detailed analysis of cash flows and balances from 10/1/2000 through 9/30/2005 to aid the board in making budget decisions. The analysis showed that annual income and expenses rose steadily over the past five years, with *Wildland Weeds* showing a substantial net profit in 2005. Expenses significantly exceeded income in FY 2005, due in

part to the relatively high cost of the Key West Symposium in 2005, the only year in which the symposium did not realize a net profit.

The written Treasurer's report is attached to the minutes.

Secretary's Report – Dianne Owen

The target deadline for distributing a draft of the minutes for email review by the board will be two weeks after the meeting. The corrected minutes will be printed in the newsletter and mailed to members one month after the meeting. Minutes will be submitted to the board for final review and approval at the following meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

By-Laws - Dennis Giardina

The new By-Laws will be voted on by the general membership at the Annual Meeting in April 2006. The new By-Laws will be posted on the FLEPPC web site and published in the newsletter prior to the general membership meeting.

Education – Kris Serbesoff-King reporting for Leesa Souto

For 2006 the Education Committee requested a budget of \$7,700. Leesa would also like to examine the effectiveness of the awards made by the committee, possibly by hiring an independent analyst.

Legislative- Matt King

The 2006 National Invasive Weeds Awareness Week will be February 26-March 3, 2006 in Washington. Legislative goals for the meeting include funding for the Noxious Weed Control and Eradication Act and the National Aquatic Invasive Species Act. The FLEPPC will be represented at the meeting and Tony Pernas will coordinate representation from the National EPPC. The legislative report appended to the minutes also includes the written comments on the Public Lands Protection and Conservation Act of 2005 presented by the National Environmental Coalition on Invasive Species to the Senate Subcommittee on Public Lands and Forests on November 2, 2005.

The written Legislative Committee report is attached to the minutes.

Local Arrangements / Field Trips -

The 2006 Symposium will be April 24-26 at the Paramount Plaza hotel in Gainesville. A minimum of 260 room/nights is expected and the evening social will be held at the hotel, with a catering minimum of \$2000. Several venues were discussed for the Annual Banquet, including Austin Cary Memorial Forest, Kanapaha Botanical Gardens and the UF Livestock Pavillon. Ken Langeland will look

into these and other possibilities before the next meeting. Mike Bodle will look into possibilities for field trips.

Nominations – Mike Bodle

An updated list of proposed nominations will be submitted to the board at the next meeting.

Merchandise - Tony Pernas

The emphasis will be on low-cost items for the 2006 Symposium. Although high-priced items such as the Columbia field shirts with the FLEPPC logo are popular, the profit margin on these items is small and inventory costs are high.

Plant Industry Liaison - Doria Gordon/Kris Serbesoff-King

The committee is working with the horticultural industry for a pilot implementation of the Missouri Botanical Gardens Codes of Conduct in Florida. We are identifying industry partners that create much of the demand for species, such as Lowes and a large developer. These partners will be asked not to use or sell any of the 45 species currently not recommended for use by the Florida Nursery, Growers, and Landscape Association. Factors such as the potential cost of not specifying certain plants and the extent of hardship created across the industry will be examined. Similar tests of the Codes are also being implemented in Hawaii and Oregon.

The committee has also reviewed research underway (Gordon, Fox, Stocker) with funding from DEP/BIPM, DPI/DACS, and USDA/APHIS-PPQ to develop a proactive screening procedure for weed risk assessment in Florida. The Australian Weed Risk Assessment (WRA) is being tested for use in Florida, with minor modifications, by using the assessment to retroactively evaluate known invaders and non-invaders to see how accurately it would have been able to predict invasiveness. Liaison committee members understand the direction of this research and agree with the approach.

Plant List - Kathy Burks

The committee is working on the proposed non-invasive alternatives list for the Liaison committee and on updated notes related to species that should be watched for potential addition to the EPPC list.

Research - John Volin

The call for research proposals for 2006 will be published in the next newsletter and in *Wildland Weeds*.

Symposium Program - Cheryl McCormick

The call for abstracts for the Symposium will be published in the next issue of the newsletter and in *Wildland Weeds*. Presenters may be given the option of oral

or poster presentations.

Training - Jim Duquesnel

At the 2006 Symposium, CEUs will be available for topic sessions and certain field trips and training classes. Some classes, such as chainsaw maintenance, will be given by vendors. To be eligible for CEU credits, topic sessions must be in increments of 25 minutes. Roger Clark will look into field trips that are eligible for CEUs.

Vendors - Todd Olson

Todd Olson of Aquatic Vegetation Control and a member of the FLEPPC Vendor Committee for the past two years, takes over as chair of the Vendor Committee effective November 15. Scott Ditmarsen and Dan Bergeson will remain on the Vendor Committee to assist Todd.

Based on experience with the 2005 Symposium, the committee plans to ask vendors to complete a survey while at the meeting to provide feedback for the committee. The committee is expanding its list of vendor contacts, including new categories such as environmental consultants and engineers. Roger Clark will provide help ensuring that vendors receive recognition for sponsoring Symposium events, such as refreshments during coffee breaks. It was noted that the Silent Auction was not as profitable as it should be: the selling price of many items was below cost, with artwork donations among the most profitable auction items. An initial communication to provide vendor invitees key information about the 2006 meeting will likely be sent out in December, followed by a formal invitation in early 2006.

The written report of the Vendor Committee is attached to the minutes.

Web Site – Tony Pernas

The new FLEPPC web site is now online and is working well. There have been problems with a few links, but these are being corrected.

Upon motion made by Roger Clark and seconded by Karen Brown, the Committee reports were approved unanimously.

TASK FORCES

Australian Pine - Rob Egan

Development of the new Australian Pine management plan is in the preliminary stages.

Brazilian Pepper - Jim Cuda

The revised Brazilian Pepper Management Plan is almost completed and should be available on

the EPPC website within a couple of months. The release permit for the Brazilian Pepper sawfly, *Heteroperreyia hubrichi*, has not yet been received. The draft Environmental Assessment has been prepared and is under review.

Chinese Tallow – Cheryl McCormick

The management plan has been completed and will be posted on the FLEPPC web site. The SFWMD will publish the plan in 2006.

Lygodium - Jeff Hutchinson / Karen Brown

The Spring issue of Wildland Weeds will be dedicated to Lygodium. A CD of the management plan will be included with the issue.

Melaleuca - Cressida Silvers

The Melaleuca management plan is currently under review by the SFWMD.

Skunk Vine – Brian Nelson

Two insects *Trachyaphthona sordida* and *Dulinius conchatus* are currently in quarantine and will be tested as biocontrols for skunk vine.

There being no other Task Force reports, upon motion made by Tony Pernas and seconded by Drew Leslie, the Task Force reports were approved unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Standard Operating Procedures – The SOPs currently on the FLEPPC web site should be compared to the SOPs approved by the board in May 2005 and updated if necessary.

NEW BUSINESS

FLEPPC Logo

There was general agreement that the existing FLEPPC logo is widely recognized and should not be changed except to improve the resolution/graphic quality.

Advocate of the Year

Dennis Giardina strongly urged the board to recognize Jim Krakowski and Layne Hamilton for their outstanding contribution to increasing awareness and understanding of invasive exotic issues through their workshops on exotic species.

FDAC Petitions

A total of 35 petitions for species to be classified as a Noxious Weed have been received by FDACS, of which 13 were incomplete. The FDACS committee must review the petitions within 30 days but no deadline is set for

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

FOR INVASIVE PLANT RESEARCH

DEADLINE MARCH 15, 2006



The Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council (FLEPPC) has available funding for a small number of research grants/scholarships for students conducting studies related to invasive exotic plant management in Florida.

The deadline for proposal submission is March 15, 2006. Written proposals should be no more than three pages in length and should request funding for no more than \$2,500. The proposal should include a summary of the research project and its relationship with Florida exotic plant management problems. Particular plant species involved in the study should be one or more of the Category I or Category II exotic pest species listed by FLEPPC (see web site: www.fleppc.org). In addition, the applicant should provide complete contact information and detailed budget -- with an explanation of how the funding will be used. Examples include (but are not limited to) travel funds for field work, funds for research equipment or supplies (or temporary use of specialized equipment), stipend for applicant's project work time not otherwise supported, travel funds for presentation of the research, etc. In developing the budget, funds requested are to be used for the direct costs of conducting research on the proposed project and are not to be used for indirect costs incurred by the student's university.

Proposals will be evaluated and ranked on the critical management need for scientific results in the area of study and on the clarity of the submitted request.

Basic eligibility requirements:

To be eligible for funding, applicants must be an undergraduate or graduate student enrolled at an accredited institution of higher learning anywhere within the United States. However, the research must be on a listed Florida invasive plant (http://www.fleppc.org/Plant_list/list.htm). An accompanying letter of recommendation from a faculty advisor is strongly encouraged.

Send Proposals by email, fax or mail to:

John C. Volin, Chair
Research Committee, FLEPPC
Florida Atlantic University
2912 College Ave.
Davie, FL 33314
jvolin@fau.edu
FAX - (954) 236-1099; office - (954) 236-1115

**Call for Abstracts for the 2006
Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council (FLEPPC)
21st Annual Symposium, Gainesville, Florida
April 24th-26th, 2006**

Deadline for Abstract Submissions: February 20, 2006

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Lloyd Loope, Research Program Director, Haleakala Field Station of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)/Biological Resources Division (BRD)/Pacific Island Ecosystems Research Center (PIERC), Honolulu, Hawaii.

We invite abstract submissions for contributed oral or poster presentations at the 2006 FLEPPC 21st annual symposium. The meeting will be held Monday, April 24th through Wednesday, April 26th in Gainesville, Florida, at the Paramount Resort.

Submissions are welcome for any area of invasive species investigation, including ecology, management, risk assessment, policy, and/or evolutionary biology, among others. We also welcome reports of projects that are interdisciplinary.

Abstracts submitted in English must include the following information:

Title of the proposed paper

Full name and professional title of the author, organization to which (s)/he belongs, mailing address, phone number(s), and email address.

If there are multiple authors, please provide the above information for each.

Text of the abstract (limit of 400 words).

General rules regarding abstracts: Please do not include figures, tables or mathematical equation in the abstract. Avoid acronyms. If you use references, provide the journal, volume, year and page numbers. Spell out abbreviations the first time you use them. If you calculate confidence intervals, specify whether they are 90%, 95%, etc.

A letter or notification of acceptance or rejection will be emailed to the author(s) no later than March 1st, 2006. Please submit abstracts and inquiries to:

Cheryl McCormick-Rote
FLEPPC Program Chair
University of Florida
Institute of Food and Agriculture Sciences
Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants
7922 N.W. 71st Street
Gainesville, FL 32653
352-846-2516 v; 352-392-3462 f
cheryl@ufl.edu

approval or denial of petitions.

Operations Committee

There was general agreement that it would be worthwhile to revive an ad hoc Operations Committee, especially in view of the ongoing and upcoming statewide field trials of control methodologies. This would be a co-operative IFAS/FLEPPC effort, with materials and costs covered by manufacturers. Mike Meisenburg will coordinate the activities of the committee, with help from Drew Leslie / DEP and Ken Langeland / IFAS.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING / ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting of the FLEPPC board of directors will be on Tuesday, February 7 in Melbourne at 10:00 am. Leesa Souto will make arrangements for the meeting place. (Note: the meeting will be held at the Indian River

Lagoon House, 3275 Dixie HWY NE, Palm Bay, FL 32905, Telephone: 321-725-7775, FAX: 321-725-3554, Website: www.mrcirl.org

Upon motion made by Alison Fox and seconded by Tony Pernas, the meeting was adjourned by unanimous decision at 12:10 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.



**NEXT FLEPPC BOARD MEETING:
FEBRUARY 7, 10:00 AM
INDIAN RIVER LAGOON HOUSE
PALM BAY, FL**



Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council
Membership Renewal Form

Your membership will lapse on the date shown next to your mailing address.

Keep your membership up to date!

Membership level:

Individual		Institutional	
Student	___ \$10	Library Subscription	___ \$100
General	___ \$30	General	___ \$100
Contributing	___ \$75	Contributing	___ \$500
Donor	___ \$76+	Patron	___ \$1000 +

Name _____

Organization _____

Mailing Address (This is my home office) _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Phone _____ email _____

Deliver my FLEPPC newsletter by email

Make check or money order payable to Florida EPPC.
FLEPPC Fed. ID#65-0140632

MAIL MEMBERSHIP FORM AND PAYMENT TO:

Kristina Serbesoff-King
FLEPPC Treasurer
574 South Beach Road
Hobe Sound, FL 33455-2804

If paying by credit card, please provide the following information:
 VISA MasterCard Discover American Express

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY!

Credit Card # _____

Expiration Date _____

Name on card _____

Billing address _____

Amount \$ _____

Signature _____

For payment questions, contact Kristina Serbesoff King:
kserbesoffking@tnc.org

For general membership questions, contact Jackie Smith:
jackie.c.smith@dep.state.fl.us; 561-722-2479

Plan now to enter the
1st Annual FLEPPC Photo Contest!

FLEPPC will hold the first annual FLEPPC Photo Contest with awards to be presented at the 2006 Annual Symposium in Gainesville, Florida. You must be a current FLEPPC member to participate, but you need not be present at the symposium to win. More than one photograph may be submitted, but no more than three from any one photographer.

Categories include:

- natural area landscape infestation
- before/after control (two photos)
- humor
- close-up of a Category 1 or 2 exotic pest plant
- weed workers working
- artistic.

Winners will be chosen at the symposium by members of the FLEPPC Photo Contest Committee and winning photographs will be published in *Wildland Weeds* magazine and on the FLEPPC website. Photos may be digital or film, but a print must be submitted for the contest entry. Prints should be 5" x 7" or 8" x 10". The photo committee asks that photos not be digitally enhanced or altered, except for the humor and artistic categories in which digital alterations are optional.

To submit photos for the contest, participants may bring them to the symposium or mail them to:

Karen Brown
FLEPPC Photo Contest
7922 NW 71st Street
Gainesville FL 32653

To enter, please download an entry form from the FLEPPC web site (www.fleppc.org) and submit one with each photograph to be entered (no more than three from any one photographer).



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