



Florida EPPC

Thanks to all who helped make our 20th Anniversary Symposium a success

The FLEPPC returned to its tropical roots May 9-11 to celebrate our 20th anniversary at the 2005 Symposium in Key West. Nearly 200 participants attended two full days of informa-

tive presentations at the historic Wyndham Casa Marina Resort, mingled with native and exotic plants at the Key West Botanical Garden and got together for some local ambience at the VFW hall.

Symposium sessions focused on topics ranging from invasive species threats in the Bahamas to biocontrol agents, and featured a special "Then and Now" anniversary session. Attendees could also participate in a number of expertly guided field trips in the Key West area, including the popular Key West Botanical Garden Mystery Tour.

Many thanks to those whose hard work helped make the 2005 Symposium a success, especially Mike Bodle, who handled local arrangements, Jim Duquesnel who coordinated the field trips, and Dan Clark, Program Chair. Thanks also to our ven-



Key West Botanical Garden was the tropical setting for the Monday evening social.



The informal Tuesday evening event was held at the Key West VFW Hall.

dors for their generous financial support and to the many volunteers who generously donated their time.

Four new directors were elected to the FLEPPC Board of Directors at the annual meeting on May 10th: Scott Ditmarsen, Jon Lane, Tony Pernas and Paul Pratt.

Alison Fox was selected to fill the post of Chair-elect. Alison, an Associate Professor at the University of Florida, brings us her experience as a past FLEPPC board member and former president of the national Aquatic Plant Management Society. She is currently enjoying a six-month sabbatical at the University of Washington in Seattle but looks forward to returning to Florida in August 2005 and will take over from current Chair Jim Burney in 2006.

You can find out more about our new Directors and Chair-elect on the last page of this issue.

The new directors will replace four outgoing second-year directors: Rob Egan, who will continue to direct the Australian Pine task force; Matt King, who will continue as chair of the Legislative Committee; Chris Lockhart who will continue her work as head of the Carrotwood task force; Amy Ferriter, who will continue to work on exotic pest plant issues at her new home in Boise, Idaho.

Our sincere appreciation to our outgoing directors and welcome to our new directors and Chair-elect!

Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council

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Karen Brown

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Leesa Souto

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Merchandise

Tony Pernas

Nominations

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Training

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Vendors

Scott Ditmarsen

Webmaster

Tony Pernas

TASK FORCE CHAIRS

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Drew Leslie

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Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting January 18, 2005 Key West, Florida

The meeting was called to order at 1:15 pm by Jim Burney, President.

The following Officers and Directors, constituting the entire membership of the Board of Directors, were present: Mike Bodle, Karen Brown, Jim Burney, Roger Clark, Jim Duquesnel, Robert Egan, Amy Ferriter, Drew Leslie, Dianne Owen, Matthew King, Kristina Serbesoff-King, Chris Lockhart, Cressida Silvers. Also in attendance were: Dan Clark, Jim Cuda, Kathy Burks, Scott Ditmarsen, Dennis Giardina, Todd Olson, Tony Pernas, Katy Roberts, Jackie Smith, Johnathan Taylor, Steven Weinsier.

Minutes of the previous Board of Directors Meeting of January 18, 2005 were distributed to the Board. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the previous minutes were unanimously approved.

ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA

Correspondence

Kathy Burks reported that the FLEPPC received notification from Richard Gaskalla of FDACS that an application for inclusion on the FDACS Noxious Weed list should be submitted for the five FLEPPC Category I plants *Abrus precatorius*, *Urochloa mutica*, *Colubrina asiatica*, *Scaevola sericea*, *Panicum repens*.

Treasurer's Report – Kris Serbesoff-King

The full Treasurer's report, showing total YTD expenditures of \$52,075 out of the annual budget of \$85,332, will be attached to the minutes. This report will be e-mailed to Board members for review in June and submitted to the BOD for approval at the August meeting.

Editor's Report – Karen Brown

Of the 2,500 printed, 2,425 copies of the Spring 2005 issue of *Wildland Weeds* have been distributed. The number of copies printed will probably be increased for future issues. A



Karen Brown, Editor of FLEPPC's outstanding quarterly magazine, Wildland Weeds, was honored as FLEPPC "Member of the Year" at the 2005 Symposium

profit of \$1,497 was realized on this issue, which can be used to improve future issues and to have funds available for other educational publications such as a 2006 FLEPPC calendar and for reprinting articles and items such as the EPPC Plant List.

The Summer 2005 issue, scheduled for publication in June, will contain the 2005 FLEPPC plant list as a removable centerfold, and extra copies of the list will be printed.

The written Editor's report will be attached to the minutes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

By-Laws - Dennis Giardina

A proposed amendment to the By-Laws will be presented to members at the 2006 annual meeting. This amendment will modify the FLEPPC By-Laws, Article II, to include the following:

“Mission Statement: The mission of the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council is to support the management of invasive exotic plants in Florida’s natural areas by providing a forum for the exchange of scientific, educational and technical information.”

Education – Chris Lockhart reporting for Leesa Souto

The education committee has awarded five grants for a total of \$4,915. to the following recipients:

- 1) Florida Keys Green Thumb Program, \$1,000.
- 2) Invasive Exotic Plants in Charlotte County Neighborhoods, \$1,000.
- 3) City of Hollywood’s Invasive Species Program, \$1,000.
- 4) Natives not Invasives, The Rose Bay Legacy Project, \$1,000.
- 5) Invader Raiders: Non-Native Invasive Plant Species in Florida Environment, \$925.

In addition to these five projects, the committee voted to continue support of The 7th Annual Great Air Potato Roundup in the amount of \$500.

The written report of the Education Committee will be attached to the minutes.

Legislative- Matt King

Matt King reported that the comment period has not yet closed for the APHIS importation rules. The Nature Conservancy has already submitted comments and the National and SE EPPC should also submit comments.

A bill has also been proposed that would require FDACS permitting of large plantings (>100 acres) for biomass energy production and regulate containment practices. Also, Senate Bill 144, supported by FLEPPC, which would have allocated \$14 million to the NPS for exotic control, did not pass.

Local Arrangements / Field Trips - Mike Bodle /

Jim Duquesnel

The total bill for local arrangements for the Key West Symposium will be approximately \$16,000. This includes catering at the Key West Botanical Gardens, the fee for the Key West VFW gathering and two breakfast buffets. It is anticipated that income from the Symposium will be sufficient to cover expenses.

Jim Duquesnel reported that the Symposium field trips have been very successful. A Certificate of Appreciation will be presented to those who have generously volunteered their time as field trip guides.

Nominations – Mike Bodle

Four candidates have been nominated to replace outgoing directors: Scott Ditmarsen, Jon Lane, Tony Pernas and Paul Pratt. All nominees are members in good standing of FLEPPC. The outgoing directors are Rob Egan, Amy Ferriter, Matt King

and Chris Lockhart.

Alison Fox has accepted the nomination as the chair-elect, to begin in 2006.

Membership/Publicity - Katy Roberts

The membership committee will be updating the graphics for the educational displays and acquiring a new traveling display case. Jackie Smith reported that the current membership has dropped to 283, with 186 memberships lapsed during 2002/2003. She recommended the need for a membership drive to increase membership, including coordination of membership renewal notices with quarterly newsletter mailings. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted unanimously to set individual membership expiration dates at one year after the date of dues payment, rather than by calendar year.

Merchandise - Tony Pernas

The merchandise inventory has been completed in anticipation of the May Symposium. Two vendors have purchased some items for free distribution to conference attendees. Additional Control-Freak t-shirts are the only item that has been ordered for the Symposium.

Plant Industry Liaison - Doria Gordon/

Kris Serbesoff-King

At the FNGA meeting the recommended list of do-not-sell plants, including 40 species, was adopted. Certain retailers have agreed to remove these species from their stores. In cooperation with the Plant List committee, the Industry Liaison committee is developing a list of plants that can be substituted for those on the do-not-sell list.

Plant List - Kathy Burks

The new FLEPPC plant list has been finalized. It was sent in April to webmaster Tony Pernas for the website, is now



Kathy Burks, Plant List Committee Chair, thoroughly researches every candidate for the FLEPPC list

available in pamphlet form, and will be included in the next issue of Wildland Weeds. Kathy Burks also reported that the committee plans to review the idea of a ranking system for plants within a List Category, because rankings could be useful to resource managers. The FLEPPC list has become widely recognized, and categories assigned to plants on the FLEPPC list can have implications for funding of management efforts.

Research - John Volin

Five proposals for research funding have been submitted and are currently under review. Recommendations of this review will be presented at the next BOD meeting.

Symposium Program - Daniel Clark

Dr. Moses Kairo, Director/Regional Representative of CAB International Caribbean and Latin America Regional Center, will be the keynote speaker at the 2005 Symposium. A 20th Anniversary "Then and Now" session will also be a highlight of the Symposium. A record total of 14.5 CEU credits are being offered for attendees of the 2005 Symposium sessions.



"Rastaman Dan" took centerstage with Chair Jim Burney while "Weedman Dan" worked behind the scenes as Program Chair

Training - Jim Duquesnel

The FDACS has developed a speakers bureau for its program on safe pesticide use. FLEPPC speakers with expertise in this issue are encouraged to register with FDACS.

Vendors - Scott Ditmarsen

Vendors have expressed their appreciation of the additional time allocated for them on the Symposium agenda, in particular the panel on product updates. The committee will meet later to discuss the Silent Auction / Raffle procedures and decide on how to recognize contributing vendors.



Symposium participants started each day with a buffet in the Vendor's Room

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Committee reports were approved unanimously.

TASK FORCES

Australian Pine - Rob Egan

The Australian Pine flyer has been very well-received. A pdf version will be provided for posting on the web site and anyone who would like to receive copies of the flyer can contact Rob Egan.

Brazilian Pepper - Jim Cuda

The task force would like to produce a brochure on management of Brazilian Pepper. There will be a demonstration project in Immokalee on June 2 at the South Florida Research and Education Center. Release of the sawfly as a biocontrol agent has been approved by the state Review Board and is now under review by APHIS. A letter from FLEPPC could help in the APHIS review process. The task force would also like to investigate other potential biocontrol agents.

Lygodium - Amy Ferriter

The 2005 Management Plan is in the final stages and will be completed in June.

Melaleuca - Francois Laroche/Cressida Silvers

The Melaleuca Management Plan is due to be updated, information on this will be provided to the Board at a later date.

There being no other Task Force reports, upon motion duly made and seconded, the Task Force reports were approved unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business not already addressed by the Board under previous agenda items.

NEW BUSINESS

NAWMA/EPPC

Amy Ferriter reported that the North American Weed Management Association (NAWMA) has been very successful at the national level and has formulated effective position papers. The effectiveness of the national EPPC could be enhanced by producing joint position papers with the NAWMA, but thus far the EPPC has not functioned well at the national level. In the absence of a national EPPC voice, the FLEPPC and SE-EPPC can collaborate with NAWMA to develop joint position papers on specific issues. A conference call is planned for June to discuss future collaboration between NAWMA and state/regional/national EPPC.

Email Distributions

It was noted that frivolous email has reached an excessive level on the FLEPPC list-serve and a request was made to limit the use of "Reply All" to comments that are germane to the issue under discussion. It was also noted that many email addresses on the FLEPPC list-serve are "undeliverable" and that subscribers should notify the list-serve of email address changes.

Institute for Regional Conservation

Karen Brown reported that the IRC is searching for sponsorship. Their web site, which provides users with region-specific information on native plants using a zip-code lookup, also links to the FLEPPC web site. Although the FLEPPC currently has no funding category, the Board could consider providing funding from discretionary funds. Chris Lockhart mentioned that the educational grant program is another source of support. This topic was tabled for further discussion at the next board meeting.

Locations for 2006 Symposium

Sites mentioned for consideration include Delray, Captiva and Altamonte Springs/Wekiva.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING / ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting of the FLEPPC board of directors will be on Tuesday, August 9 at the Riverwoods Field Lab at 10:00 am.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned by unanimous decision at 4:00 pm.

FLEPPC announces new Education Grant Awards for 2005

Florida Keys Green Thumb

Program: \$1,000

A collaborative partnership effort between The Nature Conservancy, The UF/IFAS/Monroe County Extension, and the Florida Keys Scenic Highway Program, acting as the educational committee of the Florida Keys Invasive Exotic Task Force, will establish a "Green Thumb" recognition to plant nurseries in Monroe County that pledge to not sell invasive exotics and to educate their customers on the adverse effects of invasive exotic plants and environmentally harmful landscaping practices. The project will also produce an updated Florida Keys Invasive Exotic Removal Guide, an educational poster for display, and a Green Thumb Nursery website.

Invasive Exotic Plants in Charlotte County Neighborhoods: \$1,000

Charlotte County and its partners will design, print, and distribute informational brochures about exotic invasive trees, shrubs, vines, grasses, ground covers and aquatic plants found in Charlotte County neighborhoods. Brochures will focus on invasive exotic plants commonly found on vacant residential lots and plants that homeowners may plant without knowing that they are invasive species, with a list of suitable plant replacements. Bro-

chures will be posted on the Charlotte County web site, and distributed to county citizens through various public venues and offices.

City of Hollywood's Invasive Species Program: \$1,000

This project will promote public knowledge and supervise volunteer participation in the removal of invasive plant species by developing literature and website information on invasive species in the City of Hollywood in Broward County. High risk students in an apprentice program at Whispering Pines Apprentice Program will work with the Adopt-A-Park program with Public Works Operations, including invasive plant removal. Literature will be distributed to residents that apply for tree removal permits.

Natives not Invasives: \$1,000

The Rose Bay Legacy Project will educate students and community members about non-native plants. Students from Mainland High School will research and create a trifold brochure on identifying exotics in salt marshes, and determine the best native plant replacements. Volusia County Environmental Management mentors will train students to identify exotics from the 33-acre wetland site, and to identify preferred native plant replacements. This will be helpful particularly

where there is resistance by local residents. Photos of invasives will be placed in student-built kiosks on trails at Rose Bay.

Invader Raiders: Non-Native Invasive Plant Species in the Florida Environment: \$915

An annual seventh grade life science unit on plants at Saint Stephen's Episcopal School. Students will identify both Florida native and non-native plants on their 38 acre campus using identification books and dichotomous keys. A laminated flip book of campus plant life will be made that can be used for identification by other students. Pressed plants and digital photographs of plants and their habitat will be added to the flip book. Third grade students will research botanical history to be printed on the reverse side of each specimen. High school photography students will work with the seventh grade students. This multi-aged project will bring an environmental sensitivity to the students of the importance of preserving and encouraging native plant habitats and the removal of invasive species.

In addition to these five projects, the committee voted to continue support of **The 7th Annual Great Air Potato Roundup** in the amount of \$500.



Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council Membership Renewal Form

Your membership will lapse on the date shown next to your mailing label. Keep your membership up to date!

Membership level:

___ Individual \$20 ___ Donor \$51-\$500
___ Contributor \$50 ___ Student \$10

Name _____

Organization _____

Mailing Address (This is my home office) _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Phone _____ email _____

Deliver my FLEPPC newsletter by email

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

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

MAIL MEMBERSHIP FORM AND PAYMENT TO:

FLEPPC
P.O Box 23426
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33307

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 _____

Meet our new Directors and Chair-Elect



Scott Ditmarsen has a Master's degree in Forestry from the University of Minnesota and an M.B.A. in Finance from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He is a Senior Sales Specialist in Industrial Vegetation Management for Dow AgroSciences. Scott has been an active

member of several Weed Science Societies, the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council and the Florida Vegetation Management Association.



Jon Lane is a biologist with the US Army Corps of Engineers, Invasive Species Management section in Jacksonville. Jon also has worked for the US Fish and Wildlife Service and The Peace Corps. He received his Masters degree in Agriculture and Natural Resource Economics from Colorado State University.



Tony Pernas is with the National Park Service, Florida and Caribbean Office, Palmetto Bay, Florida, where he is the coordinator for the Florida/Caribbean Exotic Plant Management Team. He received his Bachelors Degree in Environmental Studies from Florida International University.



Paul Pratt is a scientist with the USDA-ARS Invasive Plant Research Laboratory in Davie, where he conducts research on biological control agents and serves as Project Director of TAME Melaleuca. He earned a Ph.D. in Entomology from Oregon State University.



Chair-elect **Alison Fox** will take over the helm from Jim Burney in 2006. Alison describes herself as an alien invader of Florida, having arrived from Great Britain in 1987 after earning a Ph.D. in Botany from the University of Glasgow. She started at the University of Florida as a post-doctoral associate working on aquatic plant biology and control and has evolved into an Associate Professor conducting research on invasive plants in aquatic, wetland, and terrestrial habitats in Florida and the US Virgin Islands. Alison is a Past-President of the national Aquatic Plant Management Society and has served on the Board of Directors of the Florida Aquatic Plant Management Society, the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council, and the Weed Science Society of America. She is currently enjoying a six-month sabbatical at the University of Washington in Seattle but looks forward to returning to Florida refreshed and invigorated in August 2005.



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