



Florida EPPC

Message from our new Chair

As we enter our 24th year, FLEPPC continues set the bar high. We are an organization consistently willing to think and operate “outside the box.” Who else would sell brand new, unsheathed sharp machetes to its members at a nice public hotel during their annual symposium? Only **Tony Pernas** and **Mike Bodle** could come up with another stellar FLEPPC merchandise item like that. With no injuries reported from either machete sales or the evening banquet featuring “The Weeds,” the FLEPPC 23rd annual symposium held in Jacksonville was a huge success. Nearly 180 participants made the “Flora Non Grata” themed symposium an event not to miss. **LeRoy Rodgers** orchestrated an outstanding program while **Mike Bodle** kept local arrangements running smoothly. **Dianne Owen** and **Donna Watkins** made sure we were registered and on the right field trips, **Ellen Donlan** maintained finance accuracy, and **Katy Roberts** ensured we received our CEUs. Many thanks to everyone who worked hard to provide us with another outstanding annual meeting. **Karen Brown** has a symposium synopsis in the current issue of Wildland Weeds. **Alison Fox**, the amazing Past Chair of FLEPPC, presented awards at the annual banquet and of note were **Chuck**



FLEPPC Chair Dan Clark

Barger, Advocate of the Year and **Scott Ditmarsen**, Member of the Year. Both of these individuals have contributed significantly to furthering the mission of FLEPPC. Chuck has modified the FLEPPC website (as well as those of every other EPPC and IPC in the Southeast Region) and launched EDDMapS, the Early Detection and Distribution Mapping System. Check both out often at <http://www.fleppc.org/>. Scott has been instrumental in spearheading the FLEPPC Finance Committee which oversees FLEPPC financial matters and develops recommendations regarding finance-related issues for the FLEPPC Board of Directors that represent the best interest and financial well-being of the organization. Scott and Finance Committee members are working closely with a Strategic Planning Group to help map the future direction of the organization (more about that shortly). Special thanks go to **Gary Nichols**, **Donna Watkins**, **Alison Higgins**, and **Bill Overholt** the four out-going Directors who completed their distinguished two-year terms. Similarly, we welcome their successors **Dustin Hormann**, **Adam Grayson**, **Jim Burch**, and **Kathy O’Reilly-Doyle**. FLEPPC bids Alison Fox, our Past Chair, fair winds and following seas as she begins her new life in retirement sailing with her husband **Randall Stocker**. Alison’s attention to detail, thoughtfulness, superior intellect, and professional excellence added depth and breadth to FLEPPC. Alison and Randall have both been key figures in the exotic pest plant research and management community in the State of Flor-

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ida and Nation for decades and will be missed (and envied) in their retirement. I'm particularly excited about FLEPPC's Strategic Plan born from the need to more effectively and formally guide our organization into the next five years. This need became more evident with the formation of the Finance Committee aimed at developing investment and expenditure strategies, and the unanimous decision of the Board in September of 2007 to establish a special group to propose a Strategic Plan for the organization. **Roger Clark** is leading the strategic planning group consisting of **LeRoy Rodgers, Donna Watkins, Brian Nelson, Jonathan Taylor, and Kris Serbesoff-King** to formulate specific recommendations to the FLEPPC Board of Directors. The group was hand-picked as a representation of a broad spectrum of FLEPPC tenure and professional affiliation and will certainly bring a variety of ideas to the table. The charge of the group is the following:

- ▶ Develop an organizational strategic plan for FLEPPC
- ▶ Identify and prioritize specific actions to accomplish the plan
- ▶ Develop a time-line for implementation of specific actions within the five-year duration of the plan
- ▶ Present the proposal to the FLEPPC Board of Directors at the December 2008 Board of Directors meeting

Formulation and implementation of the FLEPPC Strategic Plan will focus the organization and help to better serve the members and the State of Florida. FLEPPC's mission is supported and accomplished by people (that's why I bolded names in this message). Your active, enthusiastic participation in FLEPPC is what makes it great!

"Weedman Dan" Clark, Chair

**Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting
April 21, 2008
Jacksonville, Florida**

These minutes will be submitted to the Board of Directors for approval at the meeting scheduled for July 15, 2008.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am by Alison Stocker, Chair. Minutes were taken by Dianne Owen, Secretary.

All Officers and Directors were present: Karen Brown, Dan Clark, Ellen Donlan, Alison Higgins, Gary Nichols, Bill Overholt, Dianne Owen, Jennifer Possley, LeRoy Rodgers, Alison Stocker, Jonathan Taylor, Sandra Vardaman, Donna Watkins. Also attending were Keith Bradley, Jim Burney, Roger Clark, Jim Cuda, Scott Ditmarsen, Doria Gordon, Adam Grayson, Matt King, Kris Serbesoff-King, Drew Leslie, Chris Lockhart, Todd Olson, Tony Pernas, Katy Roberts, Steve Weinsier.

ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA

Approval of Previous Minutes

Minutes of the previous Board of Directors Meeting of December 18, 2007 were distributed to the Board. Upon motion made by Jonathan Taylor and seconded by Donna Watkins, the previous minutes were unanimously approved as written.

Correspondence and Announcements – Alison Fox

The FLEPPC has formally supported a resolution, proposed by the Florida Forever Coalition, that urges the Florida Legislature to create a successor to the Florida Forever program, with funding level of \$600 million. The signed resolution was sent to Florida legislators in March.

To date there has been no response to the letter supporting continuation of the State Invasive Species Working Group, or the formation of a similar body, that was sent to Governor Crist in January.

Treasurer's Report – Ellen Donlan

Ellen distributed the balance sheet and income/expense report for the second quarter of FY 2007-2008. Income from *Wildland Weeds* is now being reported by the fiscal year in which it is accrued. A State sales tax account has been set up to report sales tax on merchandise sold at the Symposium.

Ellen and the finance committee will be working with Chuck Barger, who is setting up an automated signup and payment site for all the SE-EPPC's, to develop an automated, online system for the FLEPPC that will integrate dues payment and registration for the annual symposium.

Editor' Report - Karen Brown

The Spring issue of *Wildland Weeds* was mailed the first week of March. This was a 24-page issue and there was a slight profit. Due to declining revenues, Karen has been avoiding any extra costs and has kept the past two issues to 24 pages. A financial evaluation of costs determined that the average yearly cost per copy to publish *Wildland Weeds* is \$11.16. SE-EPPC continues to pay \$5 per member, per year for the publication and distribution of *Wildland Weeds*. Although this amount does not completely cover their costs, it does par-

tially offset expenses. Although the idea of increasing the SE-EPPC contribution from \$5 per member per year to a higher amount has been discussed at past board meetings, Karen suggested that this action be postponed until further notice since the magazine continues to pay for itself.

Secretary's Report - Dianne Owen

As of April 1 the total current membership was 308. The next newsletter, with the minutes of the April 21 board meeting and the April 24 annual business meeting, will be distributed by email in June. Members whose membership has already expired, or will expire before August 31, will receive a hardcopy of the newsletter with a renewal reminder, and will also receive an email reminder.

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

Bylaws and Standard Operating Procedures – Sandra Vardaman

The proposed changes to the Bylaws, which clarify the term of office and succession of the chair, were published in the February 2008 newsletter and will be presented to the general membership for approval at the annual business meeting on April 24.

Donna Watkins reported that she is incorporating the ongoing changes to the online checklist of Symposium tasks. Checklist dates for future Symposia will be adjusted relative to the actual date set for the Symposium and the timing of BOD meetings.

Finance – Scott Ditmarsen

The Finance Committee met in March to review 2007 priorities and accomplishments, discuss action items still in progress, and identify financial issues, needs, and creative ideas going forward. Since its formation and first official meeting in May, 2007, the Finance Committee has completed several significant initiatives, which include creating committee SOPs: developing a balanced budget process; reviewing the FLEPPC budget history and developing recommendations for increasing revenue, cutting costs, and improving symposium profitability; resolving tax-related issues; identifying investment options for FLEPPC cash reserves and opening the appropriate accounts; creating a budgeting process timeline; developing a timeline for symposium financial transactions. The committee also prompted the formation of a FLEPPC Strategic Planning Committee charged with identifying medium- and long-term organizational goals, mission objectives, and, ultimately, an overall financial strategy.

Several committee action items are currently in progress. The committee is setting up accounts for FLEPPC cash reserves, reviewing the current FLEPPC membership and registration cost structure and developing a proposal to the Board for any recommended changes. *Wildland Weeds* revenues and expenses are also under review to identify possible options for maximizing profitability of our premier publication. We are also exploring FLEPPC scholarship funding

and payout options and ways to encourage and solicit possible endowment funding for the organization. The committee will also review the accrual accounting template identified by the secretary last year and compare it with alternative accounting tools and procedures to identify the most efficient process going forward.

Other committee priorities for 2008 will include definition of staggered terms for committee members, re-searching FLEPPC membership database management and symposium online registration software/services options, and further review of FLEPPC profitability and recommendations for improvement, including interaction with the membership and vendor committees. Other ideas proposed for future committee consideration included the future of the FLEPPC calendar and possible advertising/sponsorship, expanding FLEPPC merchandising at the symposium and during the year, holding the symposium at University or government facilities periodically to vary the experience and reduce costs, securing and maintaining advertisers for *Wildland Weeds*, the research and education grants process, and virtual attendance/video conferencing of the symposium and associated training/CEUs.

Control and Evaluation –

Drew Leslie, Jim Cuda, Dan Clark

Drew Leslie, Jim Cuda, Dan Clark are working together to make recommendations to the Board about the future direction of this committee.

Education – Jennifer Possley

The 2008 recipients of Kathy Craddock Burks education grants will be announced at the annual Awards Banquet. Total funding of \$12,563 was requested by 14 applicants, more than twice the usual number. All of the applications were worthy and deciding which projects to fund was very difficult. In order to fully fund the selected projects, Jennifer requested \$1028 in additional funding for the education grants, bringing the total awarded to \$6,028. Alison Higgins made a motion specifying that, if the additional \$1028 requested by the Education Committee could not be covered by the Chair's discretionary funds, the shortfall would be met by an amendment to the FY0708 budget. Upon second by Karen Brown, the motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

Jennifer has asked the Strategic Planning Committee to consider increasing the annual budget for education grants to meet the expected increase in demand; for FY09 she plans to request \$8000 from the budget, depending on the recommendations of the SP Committee.

Committee members were not inclined to fund Gainesville's Great Air Potato Roundup. FLEPPC has repeatedly funded this successful project in the past, but it is now financially viable and its continuation does not depend on funding from the FLEPPC. However, Jennifer noted that several committee members expressed a desire to keep FLEPPC's name associated with this event; she proposed that FLEPPC continue to have a booth at the event, but did not recommend continued funding.

Jennifer reported that follow-up and record-

keeping for grants has proven difficult. Of the five grants awarded to agencies in 2007, only two have reported back; in one case, Jennifer does not know whether the project was completed. She will continue her efforts to track the results of grant awards, working with the recipients to write an article or make a presentation at the Symposium, and is also working on compiling a history of grants awarded in the past.

Legislative - Matt King

Matt reported that citrus growers are again proposing a bill to permit the planting of *Casuarina cunninghamiana* as windbreaks in citrus groves. This bill, which is pending committee review in the Senate and House, is somewhat more restrictive than a similar bill proposed last year. Permitting would be limited to a five-year program in only three counties and would require annual review by the FL Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS). However, opposition from the Florida Nursery, Growers and Landscape Association (FNGLA) and other lobbyists was an important factor in the shelving of last year's bill, and these groups are not actively opposing the current bill. Matt is watching its progress and will write letters of opposition, or support revisions, as appropriate.

The FLEPPC sent a letter to the Senate Fiscal Policy & Calendar Committee opposing legislation that provides for transfer of the Bureau of Invasive Plant Management (BIPM) in the Department of Environmental Protection to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FFWCC). The legislation also transfers specified authority relating to aquatic plants & invasive nonnative plants from the BIPM to FDACS. This legislation has been approved by the House and is currently under committee review in the Senate. Jonathan Taylor noted that, if this bill gets Senate approval, the FLEPPC should be pro-active in proposing specific language.

Matt reported that legislation which required the preservation, maintenance, and replacement of *Casuarina equisetifolia* at Fort Zachary Taylor State Park in the Florida Keys was pulled due to a Memorandum of Understanding between FDEP and Florida Representative Saunders. The MOU requires that the *C. equisetifolia* trees be preserved, but does not require replacement of trees lost by natural attrition.

Participants in National Invasive Weeds Awareness Week (NIWAW) from Florida were encouraged to contact their state representative on the Senate's Energy & Natural Conservation Committee to request a hearing on Senate Bill 1949. This bill establishes the 100th Meridian Invasive Species Revolving Loan Fund to provide loans to governors of eligible states, for distribution to qualified organizations, to prevent and remediate the impacts of invasive species on habitats and ecosystems. Total appropriations of \$410,000 have been approved for 2008 through 2012. The scope of the current bill includes only the western states. NIWAW participants were asked to advocate for increasing the scope to include all states and to co-sponsor the legislation.

Local Arrangements – Mike Bodle

Dan Clark reported that Mike is looking into several possible sites for the 2009 Symposium. Dan will coordinate with Mike and facilitate an email vote by the Board to decide on a site before the next Board meeting.

Merchandise – Tony Pernas

Items in the existing inventory, as well as new FLEPPC machetes, will be sold at the Symposium. Sales tax will be charged (and reported) for all items sold.

Nominations – Jim Burney

Letters confirming their nomination by the Board were sent to Jim Burch, Adam Grayson, Dustin Hormann, and Kathy O'Reilly-Doyle. This slate of new nominees, who will serve a two-year term on the Board, will be submitted for approval by members at the Business Meeting on April 24, 2008. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor, but any proposed nominees must meet the vetting requirements specified in the bylaws.

Outreach – Katy Roberts

Outreach efforts have been very successful this year; Katy estimates that the FLEPPC display reached an audience of over 20,000 during the past year, including the annual meeting of the Tampa Bay Wholesale Growers (TBWG). The display, which has newly updated graphics, can be tailored to different audiences. Karen Brown will also work on creating a poster-size pdf file that can be sent electronically and printed locally as an alternative to shipping the display.

Plant Industry Liaison – Doria Gordon

The Liaison Committee met in March 2008, with Doria and industry representatives Ben Bolusky and Hugh Gramling attending. Doria reported that the FNGLA and the TBWG remain interested in using the IFAS Assessment results to work with their members to reduce the use of species that will not be recommended by IFAS Extension. They received insufficient response from their membership to a letter asking about the economic impact on their operations of ceasing to produce / sell species not recommended for use within the specified zone(s). As a result, they will convene an internal FNGLA Invasive Species Group by early summer to see if they can endorse the IFAS Assessment results and develop recommendations for the FNGLA membership. At the request of the FNGLA, Doria worked with Karen Hupp of the IFAS Assessment to provide data to send out to FNGLA members. This included the results for species screened by the IFAS Assessment and a list of the taxa that are not recommended in any zone in Florida as of March 2008.

The FNGLA will renew efforts to develop recommendations on how to address the 53 species “not recommended for use” by the IFAS Assessment of Non-native Plants in Florida’s Natural Areas. Disney is expected to announce soon that the company will sign voluntary codes of conduct to reduce the introduction and spread of non-native invasive plants. These codes were developed at a meeting at the Missouri Botanical Garden in 2001 (<http://www.centerforplantconservation.org/invasives/>). FNGLA, TBWG, and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) have already signed these codes. Lowes stores in Florida have also discontinued sale of any of the 45 species not recommended for production or use by FNGLA. The committee hopes to continue to reduce the use of invasive plant species by all sectors of the plant industry.

Plant List - Keith Bradley

The List Committee met in January 2008. Nine committee members attended this meeting, which was the first since the publication of the 2007 Plant List. The items discussed are summarized below.

The FLEPPC “To Be Watched List”: Discussion addressed the basis and focus of the To Be Watched (TBW) list. This informal list exists as a varied collection of records on 116 introduced species not ranked as FLEPPC Category I or II, and in many cases it is unclear why the species are on the list. Committee members will review the list for potential deletions and corrections in the coming years. Distribution of the list was also discussed, noting that in keeping the list private we cannot sufficiently “watch” anything because the public does not know we need data. The possibility of distributing the list as “Species for which FLEPPC is seeking data” will be discussed at the next committee meeting.

Listing Procedures: There was a unanimous decision that a voucher specimen, collected from within a natural area, be cited before any species is recommended for Category I or II status. Each listing year, the Committee will also submit a written statement to the Board, summarizing the committee’s decision, for each species to be added to the List.

Discrepancies between FLEPPC and IFAS lists: There are 96 species identified as precautionary by IFAS that are not on the current FLEPPC lists. Discussion of this discrepancy will be on the agenda for the next committee meeting.

New Evaluation System: The committee discussed the recurring issue of the need for a ranking system as a way to better document species data. Comments indicated 1) the time required to initiate such a system, and past experiences with other systems, preclude application to FLEPPC, 2) a ranking system is not necessary for evaluating new species and 3) a ranking system is incompatible with expert opinion. After some discussion, there was general agreement not to support a ranking system for the process of listing FLEPPC species.

Individual species: Discussions on species for the 2009 list were initiated. These included *Hyparrhenia rufa*, *Urochloa plantaginea*, *Koeleria paniculata*, *Marsilea minuta*, *Marsilea mutica*, *Luziola spruceana*, *Pyrostegia venusta*, *Nandina domestica*, *Paspalum acuminatum*, *Poncirus trifoliatus*, *Cyrtopodium polyphyllum*, *Oeceoclades maculata*, and *Alstroemeria pulchella*. Dan Ward initiated discussion of *Ruellia* taxonomy. FLEPPC currently lists Mexican petunia as *R. tweediana*, although Dan believes that the correct name for plants in Florida to be *R. brittoniana*. Dan has done extensive research on this issue since the meeting on this issue; it will be discussed and a decision made before the next Committee meeting. A discussion was also initiated on the definition of “Native”; this issue will be revisited at a future meeting.

Biofuels: In June 2007 the Committee was asked for direction in regard to biofuel species that may be useful or were potentially invasive. The committee response was that there was considerable literature available. Karen Brown will compile a list of references for biofuel species that are on the current FLEPPC lists; the committee will look into species listed in other states that could be potential biofuels.

The Committee will meet again in the Gainesville area on August 8, 2008.

Research - Betsy Von Holle

Applications for six student research grants were received and four projects were awarded a total of \$5,000 in funding. Letters of acceptance or regret have been sent and awardees will be announced at the annual Awards Banquet.

Symposium Program - LeRoy Rodgers

LeRoy reported that costs to date for the 2009 Symposium Program are \$500 under budget. For 2009 he will move up the abstract submission date to allow more time for planning the program.

Katy Roberts reported that the 2008 FLEPPC Symposium will offer 21 Continuing Education Credits (CEUs) 's approved by FDACS, and 14 CEUs approved by FNGLA. In the future Katy will coordinate more closely with the Symposium Program Chair to ensure that CEU determinations are made earlier and the information posted online for prospective Symposium attendees. Donna Watkins will continue to handle the task of entering CEU credits into the database after the Symposium.

Field Trips - Donna Watkins

Donna reported that the Symposium field trips to the Julington-Durbin Preserve and the Jacksonville Arboretum are full to capacity, but only 24 reservations were made for the Kingsley Plantation trip. A minimum of 41 participants is needed for this field trip, which includes bus transportation, to break even. If participant fees are not sufficient to cover costs, the difference will be made up from the Chair's discretionary fund.

Vendors - Todd Olson

A total of 18 vendors will have reserved booths for the 2008 Symposium. Vendors have also contributed a total of \$350 for door prizes and the chance drawing. There will also be a silent auction of donated items.

Website - Tony Pernas

The University of Georgia server managed by Chuck Bargerone is currently hosting the updated FLEPPC website, which includes a link to the FLEPPC occurrence database. Tony stressed that members should inform him of any errors in the website. A volunteer is urgently needed to set up and manage an FAQ section to deal more efficiently with the recurring queries that are received. Karen suggested that the "Invasives 101" section of the website could be used as a FAQ section and merely be renamed. The possibility of setting up a Symposium forum or blog area was also discussed.

National EPPC Liaison – Matt King/Tony Pernas

More than 600-800 attendees are expected at the joint conference of the NA-EPPC and the Natural Areas Association (NAA), to be held in Nashville in October, 2008. A total of 200 speakers have been invited, of which approximately 1/3 will be speaking on invasive species. Costs for speakers are expected to be \$10,000 to \$13,000. The NAA will contribute \$5,000 to help cover these costs and NA-EPPC has asked FLEPPC to make a contribution of \$1,000. Dan Clark moved to approve a \$1,000 contribution to cover speaker costs for the NA-EPPC meeting and the motion was seconded by LeRoy Rodgers. Dan and

LeRoy accepted an amendment by Karen Brown to require that the contribution be contingent on the NA-EPPC providing FLEPPC with a full accounting of how contributed funds are spent after the conference. The amended motion was approved unanimously by the Board.

SE-EPPC Liaison – Karen Brown

Karen attended the January meeting of the SE-EPPC by conference call. She reported that the Arkansas Natural Heritage is interested in becoming an institutional member for \$500. Texas will be forming an EPPC chapter under the direction of Damon Waits. The Michigan chapter was officially dropped for inactivity. Apparently, commercial horticulture interests took control and let it die. Tony Pernas has resigned as SE-EPPC president, effective with the annual meeting in May in Biloxi, and Chuck Bargerone was nominated as the new president. Chuck has added an online membership list to the SE-EPPC website, enabling individual chapters to maintain their lists in more detail, and enabling Karen to access the lists for *Wildland Weeds* mailings. Chuck has also added blog capabilities, which all chapters have access to. Chuck has been presenting workshops on EDDMapS and has been to Tucson, Anchorage, and the Rocky Mountain region working on the project. The mid-Atlantic region is also trying to finance a workshop.

The SE-EPPC board was apprised of the costs of publishing *Wildland Weeds*, and the fact that their \$5 per member, per year payment does not cover costs. Since FLEPPC is still realizing a profit from the magazine, Karen did not push the idea of increasing their charge at this time. A bylaw change has made the editor of *Wildland Weeds* a voting board member of SE-EPPC. Efforts are being made to encourage more chapter participation in board meetings.

Florida Invasive Species Partnerships Liaison

– Alison Higgins

The "Florida Invasive Species Partnership (FISP)," has developed an incentive program matrix that is designed to help landowners find financial assistance and develop effective landscape-level partnerships for invasive plant control. The matrix can be queried by location and species. FISP has acquired a website address (floridainvasives.org) and is working to develop a website to host the matrix and to serve as a central information clearinghouse for Cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMAs) and other partnerships. The website should be up and running by the end of 2009 (or sooner). Alison distributed a list of outreach venues identified by the FISP and requested suggestions for other venues to publicize the website and promote partnership efforts. A temporary position for someone to work on outreach efforts and train extension agents in the use of the information matrix has been funded through UF/IFAS. A poster about the FISP will be displayed at the Symposium and a presentation will be made during the CWMA session on Wednesday.

TASK FORCES**Designation of Task Force Status**

Dan Clark has been receiving input from Task Force

chairs on their groups' current activities. Task Forces that are no longer working actively on a management plan or other focused efforts will continue to serve a point-of-contact function but will not be expected to attend Board meetings or present regular reports to the Board.

Australian Pine - Tony Pernas / Jonathan Taylor

Tony reported that the draft Management Plan is not progressing as quickly as anticipated; the group is still working actively on the plan, but additional information is needed for some sections.

Brazilian Peppertree – Jim Cuda

Currently, the Brazilian Peppertree Task Force consists of 24 official members. This working group reflects a broad range of federal, state and local agency interests as well as participation by private industry and the general public. A Task Force luncheon meeting is scheduled for Monday, 21 April.

The revised 2006 version of the comprehensive management plan for Brazilian peppertree has been well received by both land managers and the public alike. The plan also received the GOLD Image Award in the Web-based and CD-Rom categories from UF/IFAS. The 2006 Management Plan can be accessed on the FLEPPC and IPM Florida Web sites.

Because of the recent reports of Brazilian peppertree in northeast Florida and the Panhandle, Jim was invited to make presentations in February about current management practices for the First Coast Invasive Working Group at Camp Blanding and the Nassau County Master Naturalist Training Workshop on Amelia Island. A herbarium sample was collected from Fernandina Beach so that Nassau County can be added to Wunderlin and Hansen's Atlas of Florida Vascular Plants website. Jim also reported on the progress of research and permitting efforts for several potential Brazilian peppertree biocontrol agents:

The shoot- and flower-attacking thrips, *Pseudophilothrips ichini* Hood (Thysanoptera: Phlaeothripidae), was recommended for release by the Federal Interagency Technical Advisory Group for biological control agents of weeds (TAG) in May 2007. The Environmental and Biological Assessments were prepared and submitted to APHIS PPQ and the State Arthropod Committee in September. From a biological control perspective, this was a major milestone because it should allow APHIS to issue a release permit soon.

A fungal pathogen from Brazil, *Septoria* sp. (Sphaeropsidales), was successfully cultured in the Florida DACS pathogen quarantine laboratory in Gainesville. Establishing a laboratory culture of the fungus *Septoria* sp. was significant because this is the first time that an exotic pathogen was purposefully introduced into a quarantine laboratory in Florida for classic biological control of a terrestrial weed (Brazilian peppertree). Preliminary results of host range tests with California peppertree (*Schinus molle*), cashew, mango, and two native sumacs (fragrant and winged) showed that only Brazilian peppertree was infected.

A colony of the stem boring weevil *Apocemidophorus pipitzi* (Faust) (Coleoptera: Curculionidae) from eastern Para-

guay was established in the Florida Biological Control Laboratory for biological and host range studies. This is the first stem boring insect of Brazilian peppertree that has been successfully reared in captivity. Preliminary results on the biology and host range testing of this weevil will be presented at the Symposium.

The host range testing of the leaflet rolling moth *Episimus utilis* Zimmerman (Lepidoptera: Tortricidae) was completed. A TAG petition for field release is in preparation and will be submitted later this year.

A field study that evaluated the growth and nitrogen content of Brazilian peppertree and wax myrtle, which are both allelopathic species, was completed. The purpose of the study, which was conducted at the UF/IFAS Southwest Florida REC in Immokalee, Collier Co., was to demonstrate the importance of revegetation as part of an integrated weed management plan for Brazilian peppertree.

Carrotwood – Chris Lockhart

Chris reported that Aimee Cooper, who will be conducting germination studies of carrotwood, has joined this task force. They will be reviewing and updating case studies and begin work on a management plan during the summer.

Chinese Tallow – Drew Leslie

The Chinese Tallow Management Plan is completed and has been posted on the FLEPPC web site. The task force is following the progress of several Chinese tallow field trials that are currently underway.

Dioscorea – Bill Overholt

The Dioscorea Management Plan is completed and has been posted on the FLEPPC web site. The plan does not have the planned case study of an Air Potato Roundup event because no reply was received from two people who had agreed to provide information, but this case study will be included in a future electronic update of the Plan. To date, no *Dioscorea* biocontrol agents with the necessary level of specificity have been identified, but Bill reported that Bob Pemberton has been working with a beetle from Nepal that shows promise as a potential biocontrol.

Exotic Grasses – Greg MacDonald

The committee is currently focusing on cogongrass and expects to have a Management Plan online soon. A meeting is planned during the Symposium.

Lygodium - LeRoy Rodgers/Kris Serbesoff-King

LeRoy reported that China has petitioned the USDA APHIS to approve a permit request to import *Lygodium* for the floral trade. *Lygodium* is not currently on the Federal Noxious Weed List; an expedited risk assessment for both *L. microphyllum* and *L. japonicum* is needed to move forward with the listing more quickly. FLEPPC will recommend a temporary suspension of the Chinese petition until the risk assessment is completed. The SFWMD is also requesting an expedited risk assessment.

The committee is working on a short guide to control-

ling *Lygodium* that can be used by managers as an alternative to the full management plan.

A motion by Ellen Donlan to accept the committee and task force reports was seconded by Bill Overholt and approved unanimously by the Board.

OLD BUSINESS

FLEPPC Scholarship Fund – Tony Pernas

The *ad hoc* committee established when this scholarship was created in 2007 recommends holding the funds in a separate account until sufficient principle is built up. The committee is recommending that the target for the fund's start-up principle be set at \$20,000. A chance drawing will be held at the Symposium to encourage donations to the scholarship fund.

Memorial Contribution Standards – Jim Burney

This *ad hoc* committee has developed guidelines for memorial contributions that include recommended standard contribution amounts and criteria for naming of special memorial funds that will be incorporated into the FLEPPC SOPs.

NEW BUSINESS

Advance Planning for FLEPPC Meetings

Dan Clark proposed that the schedule for FLEPPC Board meetings and the Annual Symposium be established at least one year in advance to facilitate planning. He proposed that the Board decide on the schedule for the upcoming year at the next meeting.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be held at The Nature Conservancy Blowing Rocks Preserve in Hobe Sound on July 15, 2008, from 9:00 - 4:00.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion to adjourn made by Dan Clark and seconded by Karen Brown, the meeting was adjourned by unanimous decision at 4:30 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.



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