



Florida EPPC

Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council

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Message from our Chair

On behalf of your Board of Directors, Officers and myself, welcome to 2005. Hopefully 2004 gave all that you wanted of it. But with the hurricane fest I'm sure that it exceeded most of our expectations. Things have not really slowed down in regards to those invasive exotic pesty plants or with the folks that deal with them. In point of fact, the storms' aftermath hassles have created a much busier pace due to cleanup, propagule spread, and decreased site mobility. So, here's to the ones slogging through the re-growth and dead falls and also to the ones directing efforts.

This is also the case with FLEPPC. We are going full throttle to promote and fulfill our newly defined Mission Statement, which by the way is included in this newsletter. In addition to defining our mission, the BOD has continued to tackle such issues as prohibited plant listing through the State list, the use and/or misuse of the FLEPPC list on problem plants, and the processes of awarding education and research grants.

Lastly, we would like to openly invite all members and other interested (interesting?) folks to the 20th Annual FLEPPC Conference to held in Key West from May 9-11. There will be plenty of informative presentations, an open forum from founding members, field trips, and good times for all. Remember Weed be Jammin'.

Jim Burney
Chair

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.

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting January 18, 2005

The meeting was called to order at 10:15 am by Jim Burney, President

The following Officers and Directors, constituting the entire membership of the Board of Directors, were present: Jim Burney, Robert Egan, Drew Leslie, Roger Clark, Dianne Owen, Jim Duquesnel, Karen Brown, Amy Ferriter, Mike Bodle, Chris Lockhart, Matthew King, Kristina Serbesoff-King, Cressida Silvers.

Also in attendance were: Jim Cuda, Tony Pernas, Kathy Burks, Dennis Giardina

Minutes of the previous Board of Directors Meeting of October 12, 2004 were distributed to the Board. The following corrections to the previous minutes were noted:

The address for the FTP site for the FNAI/DEP plant list should be ftp://146.201.56.15.

Under Training in the Committees section, the date given for the Annual Symposium should be corrected to May 9-11.

The report from the Plant List Committee should be moved from the Working Groups section to the Committees section.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the previous minutes were unanimously approved with the noted corrections.

ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA

Correspondence

The FLEPPC sent a letter to the Key West City Commission regarding the Commission's resolution against the removal of Australian pines at Fort Zachary Taylor State Park. The Commission's final decision was that the Australian pines should not be removed but dead/fallen pines will not be replaced. Jim Duquesnel mentioned that the Australian pines at Long Key State Park are also a problem, but there is opposition from some residents to their removal.

Chris Lockhart sent a letter and the hurricane issue of Wildland Weeds to the City of Parkland regarding their "Save the Australian pine resolution" and responded to their local elementary school regarding removal of carotwood trees. She also provided the hurricane issue of WW to Pamela Crawford, who is writing a book on "Stormscaping" to incorporate with other information on pre- and post-storm landscaping.

Web Site

Correspondence was received from the web site about the possibility of having a Spanish-language web site translation. Several board members expressed interest in this and suggested that it might be possible to obtain grant funding for this purpose.

There was discussion on providing information about specific research that is needed on invasive exotic plants on the FLEPPC web site. It was suggested that the scope of the research committee be expanded to include this function and serve as a conduit for research, possibly appointing a co-chair to focus on this task.

There were inquiries about the possibility of a directory for FLEPPC general members on the web site. It was agreed this could raise privacy issues and that some members might not wish to have their contact information shared in this way.

Tony Pernas distributed information concerning web site usage.

Treasurer's Report – Kris Serbesoff-King

The final 2004 Budget Report and the budget approved by the Board of Directors for 2005 were distributed.

Upon motion duly made and seconded the Treasurer's Report was approved unanimously.

Editor's Report – Karen Brown

A profit of \$1,300 was realized on the December issue of Wildland Weeds, which was distributed to a total of 2,100 people. The issue also contained an insert card for joining EPPC.

The first annual FLEPPC Calendar for 2005 was printed, at a total cost of \$5,400 for production and distribution of 2,200 copies. An *ad hoc* calendar committee (Kristina Serbesoff-King, Matthew King, Karen Brown) is requesting especially striking high-resolution photos of Category I or II plants taken anytime throughout the year to be used for the 2006 calendar (assuming BOD approval.)

Upon motion duly made and seconded the Editor's Report was approved unanimously. The written Editor's Report is attached to the minutes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

By-Laws - Dennis Giardina

The By-Laws committee will present its report and recommendations at the general membership meeting in May.

Education - Leesa Souto

The Education Committee is currently receiving RFP responses from interested parties.

Legislative- Matt King

The Sixth Annual National Invasive Weeds Awareness Week meeting will be held in Washington DC from 2/27-3/04. Mike Bodle will be representing the FLEPPC at this meeting.

The APHIS (USDA) has released an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Request for Comments on revising its regulations governing imports of plants. The deadline for comments is March 9, 2005. A copy of the proposed rules is included in the Legislative Report.

The written Legislative Report is attached to the minutes.

Local Arrangements for May Symposium - Mike Bodle

Jim and Cynthia Snell are helping with site arrangements for the banquet and socials. Fort Taylor is the probable site for the banquet and food caterers are being hired. Other nearby parks, all within walking distance, are being considered for the socials. The Wyndham Casa Marina has been reserved as the Symposium site. Rooms will be available to attendees at a cost of \$109/night if reservations are made prior to April 4. The hotel provisions for breaks that are included in the minimum fee will be limited, so additional refreshments must be provided by sponsors.

Membership/Publicity - Katy Roberts

One of the two display boards currently in use must be replaced. In addition, the display material needs to be updated

and reprinted. If necessary the FLEPPC can allocate funds in addition to the annual membership/publicity budget to purchase the new display board and have new material prepared by a professional graphic artist and printed. The boards and printed material can be used for multiple venues, with different information presented depending on the target audience. The updated material will be brought to the board before printing.

Merchandise - Tony Pernas

An inventory has been done of existing merchandise. The only items in short supply are ladies t-shirts. It was also suggested that a 20-year t-shirt could be sold at the May symposium.

Symposium Program - Daniel Clark/Amy Ferriter/
Tony Pernas

Daniel Clark reported to the BOD by speakerphone. He requested contributions of pictures for the "Then and Now" symposium slide show.

Dr. Moses Kairo, Bioscience Coordinator of the Centre for Applied Biosciences International's (CABI) Caribbean and Latin American Regional Centre, has agreed to be the keynote speaker. Dr. Kairo's hotel costs will be paid by the FLEPPC, other presenters will be required to pay their own hotel costs.

A total of 6 papers/presentations have been submitted to date and more are expected before the Feb deadline. Kathy Burks will also be giving a talk on plant identification.

The conference agenda and abstracts of the presentations will be posted on the FLEPPC web site.

Volunteer workers will be needed for the symposium. Jim Dusquesnel will contact individuals who may be interested in doing this.

Vendors - Scott Ditmarsen/Roger Clark

Letters were sent in Nov. 4 to 65 potential vendors soliciting their participation for the 2005 meeting, including the 20 that exhibited at the 2004. They were also asked to consider extra monetary support to help offset potentially higher costs associated with the Key West meeting location. No prepayments have been received to date. A formal invitation letter and registration information will be sent as a follow-up in early February.

Scott Ditmarsen has received input from vendors that they would like to have a vendor presentation forum included on the meeting agenda in which each vendor would be allowed to present their products. Vendors are also interested in receiving more recognition for their contributions in the meeting program.

Jim Burney relayed questions and comments from Scott Ditmarsen concerning vendor participation in the symposium. While vendor participation is an important aspect of the symposium, it should not be viewed as a vendor trade show. Adequate time must be allowed for participating vendors and vendors should be recognized in the program. Refreshment breaks sponsored by vendors could be held in the vendor room. Vendors with government contracts could have joint presentations with the contracting agency. Vendors who donate prizes for a silent auction/door prize would also be recognized.

There was discussion of increasing the vendor fee to \$250, with sponsorship of break refreshments for an additional minimum of \$100. Vendors would be given appropriate recognition in the program and during the sponsored breaks. Jim Bur-

ney will contact Scott concerning these possibilities.

Following some discussion, it was agreed that a "New Product Update" session would be included on the agenda, in which a panel of vendors could present information on new products.

A motion was made to allow each vendor to speak on new products for no more than 5 minutes during a "New Product Update" session. The motion was duly seconded and passed unanimously.

Nominations - Mike Bodle/Ken Langeland

As past chair of the BOD, Mike Bodle chairs the nomination committee. The committee will send a list of nominees to the BOD by email prior to the annual meeting in May. Nominees must be "members in good standing" of the FLEPPC.

Plant Industry Liaison - Doria Gordon/Kris Serbesoff-King

The Plant Substitution List will be reviewed by the Plant List Committee. The list has already been reviewed by representatives from the nursery industry. Once reviewed by the Plant List Committee, this list will be taken back to the Florida Nursery Growers/FLEPPC Liaison committee for further discussion.

On Feb. 24-26 UF will host a Florida Public Environmental Conference at which the Florida Native Plant Society will hold a workshop on native plant models for landscaping ordinances.

It was also suggested that the FLEPPC seek inclusion on the approved NGO list used by Florida DEP for the on-site land management review process for the Florida Natural Areas Inventory. Drew Leslie will look into this.

Plant List - Kathy Burks

Kathy Burks suggested 5 plants on the FLEPPC Category I list as good current candidates for submitting to the FDACS Noxious Weed list: *Abrus precatorius* (rosary pea), *Urochloa mutica* (para grass), *Colubrina asiatica*, *Scaevola sericea*, *Panicum repens* (torpedo grass). A letter of support is needed for each species and information packages must be prepared. *Scaevola sericea* has already been reviewed by UF IFAS, so this would be the easiest to prepare. The petition for including species is highly detailed, this could be done jointly with TNC and UF IFAS. After a plant is proposed for listing a decision is made within two years.

A meeting will be held on Feb 18. (probably at Disney Preserve) to develop the 2005 FLEPPC list. A preliminary agenda of species topics will be circulated to committee members. The deadline for consideration on the agenda is January 31. The list will be finalized and printed in time for the May symposium and will be published in the fall issue of Wildland Weeds.

The FLEPPC invasive plant database was reported to now include 5228 records. More information on the new FDEP geodatabase of invasive plants was shared. It tracks occurrences on public conservation lands, and will meet state requirements to track invasive plants on these lands by 2010. Its new features include latitude/longitude, estimated acres infested, and other tracking information for each site, and it will be searchable by text or map attributes with links to the FNAI. This geodatabase is not meant to replace other agency surveys but can include them as part of the statewide map. The current FLEPPC database is not georeferenced and is

currently being maintained separately from the FDEP geodatabase. It could be correlated to the geodatabase at some time in the future as a separate layer. A principal difference is that the FLEPPC database includes occurrence records for private lands that would not be included in the FDEP database at this time.

Research - John Volin

As discussed previously, the research committee will look at ways to expand its scope to disseminate/provide information about specific research needs in invasive plants. There are currently no proposals for research funding under consideration.

Training / Symposium Schedule - Jim Duquesnel

A backpack sprayer (clean) has been donated for use in training. Jim will be in Altamont Springs to train AmeriCorps volunteers on Jan. 24 and park rangers on 4/1-7. He recommended that the web site could include links to information about how to contact sources of expertise on invasive control issues.

The scheduling of the symposium training for the Natural Areas exam was discussed. This ½ -day training could be scheduled for Wed, 5/11 after the symposium if arrangements can be made for facilities and hotel availability for participants. A complimentary room would be provided for Mary Lambert, who will be teaching the course.

Possibilities for symposium field trips were also discussed. These could include Bahia Honda, Key West Botanical Gardens, Saddlebunch Key, and the Navy Base. Tony Pernas reported that a day trip to Dry Tortugas could be listed with a link on the web site so that interested individuals could sign up independently, but that an official Dry Tortugas field trip would not be compatible with other scheduled symposium events.

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

WORKING GROUPS

Brazilian Pepper - Jim Cuda

The revised Brazilian Pepper management plan was sent to the Task Force in Fall 2004. Jim would like to receive input and comments on the plan. Revisions will be merged with the 1997 plan and should be ready for the Symposium. The initial release of the sawfly biocontrol agent is also nearing approval.

Australian Pine - Rob Egan

A text of hurricane recommendations for Australian Pines is being prepared for submission.

Carrotwood - Chris Lockhart

Chris has developed a carrotwood "factoid" sheet with information about the invasive potential of a single tree

Chinese Tallow -

No one is currently chairing this group. Drew Leslie will look into putting together a group to develop a Chinese Tallow management plan.

Lygodium - Amy Ferriter

Input on the Lygodium management plan has been received from all members except Bob Pemberton and it will soon be going out for review. On 2/14 there will be an official ceremony at Jonathan Dickenson State Park for release of the moth biocontrol, with Clay Shaw attending.

Melaleuca – Francois Laroche

Cressida Silvers reported that T.A.M.E. Melaleuca will be holding its Melapaleuza outreach events at several locations during February, March and April. (see below).

MELAPALEUZA 2005

Demonstrating biologically-based management of the invasive melaleuca tree

FOR PROFESSIONALS: A full-day program is scheduled for March 30 in Clewiston. Four total allowable CEUs for Natural Areas, Right of Way, Aquatics, and FNGLA certified horticulturalists; 3.5 allowable CEUs for ISA certified arborists. Pre-registration and \$15 fee required.

FOR THE PUBLIC: A half-day program with the homeowner in mind is scheduled for April 2, in Naples.

For information and registration: <http://tame.ifas.ufl.edu>.

OLD BUSINESS

The issue of the FDACS invasive list was addressed by the Plant List committee report.

It was recommended that the policy statement concerning the use of the FLEPPC lists be included on the web site.

NEW BUSINESS

FLEPPC Mission Statement

Several possible mission statements were suggested by email prior to the meeting. It was suggested that the Statement of Purpose in the corporate Articles of Incorporation should also be looked at. Karen Brown will facilitate an email forum to finalize a mission statement. Note - The board has subsequently approved 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.

Other New Business

It was noted that there are upcoming conferences at which the FLEPPC should be represented. Jim Burney will contact Katy Roberts concerning coordinating the use of FLEPPC presentation materials.

Chris Lockhart suggested that the impact of hurricanes on the spread of invasives should be a topic of research. She recommended contacting Andy Van Loan, the Invasive Coordinator for the Division of Forestry.

Standard operating procedures for FLEPPC officers and board members were distributed by Mike Bodle.

Jim Burney reported on the SE-EPPC meeting he attended in November. The need for a paid position for a Coordinator and defining the role of the SE-EPPC were key issues. The principal role of the SE-EPPC is to provide a unified lobbying voice, to provide information through the newsletter, define goals and develop a strategic plan for achieving these goals, and to maintain a vouchering system. Also, possibly in conjunction with the National EPPC, a mission statement should be developed. The lobbying and outreach efforts of the SE-EPPC are aimed at the state EPPCs, not the general membership.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING / ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting of the FLEPPC board of directors will be Monday, 5/9 at 1:00 pm during the annual symposium in Key West. The meeting was adjourned by unanimous decision at 3:00 pm.

Registration

Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council 20th Annual Symposium

Weed Be Jammin' - Back to our Tropical Roots

May 9-11, 2005 • Wyndham Casa Marina Resort • Key West, Florida

Name _____

Today's date _____

Organization _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

e-mail _____

\$ _____ **Registration** – \$75.00 members, \$85 non-member on/before April 15, 2005
\$85.00 members, \$95 non-member after April 15, 2005
\$45.00 student (with student ID)

\$ _____ **Vendor Registration** – \$250 includes vendor table and registration for one person.
All vendors will be recognized during the symposium. In addition, those sponsoring breaks will be recognized prior to the break.
\$ _____ Donation for coffee/hospitality breaks (minimum \$100.00)
\$ _____ Donation for door prizes
\$ _____ Donation to Research and/or Education and Outreach grants fund

\$ _____ **Annual Banquet**, Tuesday evening - \$20.00 per person

\$ _____ **Membership dues** – annual dues for individual: \$20.00 general, \$10.00 student, \$50.00 contributor,
\$51.00-\$500.00 donor

\$ _____ **Donation to Research** and/or Education and Outreach grants fund

\$ _____ **TOTAL**

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

If paying by credit card, please fill in the following information:
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MAIL REGISTRATION FORM AND PAYMENT TO:

PLEASE PRINT

FLEPPC Annual Symposium

P.O Box 23426

Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33307

For registration questions, contact Dianne Owen at:
dowen@fau.edu; 954-236-1085

Credit Card # _____

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FLORIDA EXOTIC PEST PLANT COUNCIL 20TH ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

Weed be Jammin'

Back to our Tropical Roots

May 9-11, 2005

Wyndham Casa Marina Resort Key West, Florida

For Hotel Registration:

Refer to FLEPPC and the conference rate: \$109.

Make reservations by calling: 305-296-3535 or 800-626-0777.

For more information on this resort, including directions, please visit their web site:

<http://www.casamarinakeywest.com>

You must call by April 8th to get the special conference rate.



Florida EPPC
P.O. Box 23426
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33307

Weed be Jammin' with "The Weeds" at the FLEPPC Symposium Banquet
Tuesday evening, May 10. Be there!