



Florida EPPC

FLEPPC Hosts 21st Annual Symposium in Gainesville

For the 22nd consecutive year, the City of Gainesville, Florida, has been honored as a “Tree City” by the National Arbor Day Foundation, so there’s no better place to host the 21st Annual Florida EPPC Symposium than the home of the University of Florida “Gator Nation”. The Symposium will be held from **Monday, April 24th through Wednesday, April 26th, 2006** at the Paramount Plaza Hotel and Suites (www.paramountgainesville.com). A limited block of rooms has been reserved for the conference, so be sure to register early for the best rates!



The theme of this year’s conference is “**Little Crop of Horrors**”, a playful reminder of how some invasive plant species that first appear as interesting or innocuous novelties can quickly grow into huge problems that defy control. This year’s conference promises to be another blockbuster. Dr. Lloyd Loope, Director of the Haleakala Field Station of the USGS /Pacific Island Ecosystems Research Center in Hawaii, and one of the most well-known authorities on issues of invasive plant biology, will be the keynote speaker.

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

- An overview of Florida’s progress in managing invasive species since the 1993 U.S. Congress-Office of Technology Assessment Report, “Harmful Non-Indigenous Species in the United States”

- Updates on biological control research for Brazilian pepper and tropical soda apple

- Incorporating invasive species issues into the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP)

- Perspectives on invasive plant issues in Hawaii, Idaho, the Virgin Islands, and Australia

- Outreach education and nursery industry liaison programs

- Investigating impacts of herbicides on amphibian populations

- Exploring the intersections between invasive flora and fauna

- Up-and-coming problem species to be on the watch for

... and much more.

This year’s banquet will be held at the Savannah Grande Reception Center, located in the heart of Gainesville’s historic district. Entertainment will be provided by FLEPPC’s favorite rock and roll band, *The Weeds!*

A number of local field trips and demonstrations will be offered and are scheduled for Monday, April 24th. Rights-of-way and Natural Areas CEU’s will be offered.

For the most up-to-date information on Symposium schedules, field trips, demonstrations, and registration, please visit the Florida EPPC website at: <http://www.fleppc.org>.

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Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting

February 7, 2006

Indian River Lagoon House, Palm Bay, Florida

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am by Jim Burney, Chair. The following Officers and Directors, constituting a quorum of the Board of Directors, were present: Mike Bodle, Jim Burney, Karen Brown, Roger Clark, Scott Ditmarsen, Jim Duquesnel, Jon Lane, Drew Leslie, Matt King, Dianne Owen, Tony Pernas, Kris Serbesoff-King. Also in attendance were Cheryl McCormick, Todd Olson, Leesa Souto.

ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the previous Board of Directors Meeting of November 15, 2005 were distributed to the Board. Upon motion made by Tony Pernas and seconded by Drew Leslie, the previous minutes were unanimously approved.

Correspondence – Jim Burney

Most correspondence is received through the FLEPPC web site and forwarded to the relevant Committee Chair. A recent PBS special presentation on air potato generated a number of inquiries. Other specific inquiries are addressed under New Business.

Treasurer's Report – Kris Serbesoff-King

The 2006 budget, as discussed at the previous meeting, was distributed and unanimously approved by the board (motion by Roger Clark, seconded by Drew Leslie.) There was general agreement that expenditures should be closely watched in view of the negative net income for the 2005 fiscal year. Specific expense items discussed included the fee for accepting credit card payments and costs for the FLEPPC web site. The 2006 Symposium is expected to realize a net profit.

Upon motion made by Roger Clark and seconded by Jim Duquesnel, the Treasurer's report was accepted unanimously. The written Treasurer's report is attached to the minutes.

Editor's Report – Karen Brown

The Winter issue of *Wildland Weeds* realized a net profit of \$2,500. The Spring 2006 *Wildland Weeds*, a special 32-page issue on *Lygodium* with a CD included, will be more costly but will also have new advertising.

The 2006 FLEPPC calendar was very successful; an article in the Orlando Sentinel generated more than 30 requests for a copy. All 2,000 of the calendars have been distributed. When total production costs are considered, the calendars cost approximately \$2.50 each. The possibility of offsetting the cost of the calen-

dar through advertising was brought up and Karen said that in the past the board had decided that it was best for the FLEPPC to be the sole sponsor of the calendar. This issue can be re-addressed at the Fall board meeting when the 2007 calendar is discussed.

Upon motion made by Kris Serbesoff-King and seconded by Drew Leslie, the Editor's report was accepted unanimously.

Secretary's Report

The target deadline for distributing a draft of board meeting minutes for email review by board members will be one week after the meeting. Revised minutes will be printed in the newsletter and mailed to members within three weeks. (new paragraph?)

Cheryl McCormick will provide an informative article about the 2007 Symposium to be printed in the upcoming newsletter. The newsletter also will include the registration form for the 2006 Symposium, and the slate of Nominations for the four new directors for the Board to be voted on at the Annual Meeting.

Upon motion made by Tony Pernas and seconded by Roger Clark, the Secretary's report was accepted unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

By-Laws - Dennis Giardina

As there have been no changes to the By-Laws since the 2006 Annual Meeting, no action is required.

Education –Leesa Souto

The Education Committee has an established procedure for review of applications for small education grants. The deadline for responses to the Request for Proposals for 2006 is March 1. Proposals are scanned and sent to committee members for review and comment, which includes a standardized form that is used in the evaluation. Grant recipients must present a final report, and deliverables include any media created as part of the grant project. All grant recipients must either make a presentation at the annual FLEPPC Symposium or submit an article for *Wildland Weeds*. Committee members are assigned responsibility for following up on grant deliverables.

Leesa also discussed the need for research to evaluate the effectiveness of the Education grants in raising awareness of exotic pest plants and changing public behavior. The program she envisions would focus on three main strategies: assessing the current knowledge and values of the public with regard to exotic pest plant issues; developing an inventory of organizations that identify increasing awareness about exotic pest plants as an important priority; and identifying the most effective

education strategies. This information can be used to develop criteria for evaluating grant proposals and help to maximize the impact of Education grants. Leesa suggested several possible options for funding the program, which she estimates would cost a total of \$45,000, half of which would be in the form of in-kind contributions. Some funding could come from the Education funds for small grants, and additional funding could be sought through matching funds, partnerships with other organizations, or research grants from agencies such as the DEP. Some of this research could dovetail with an inventory being done to identify organizations and agencies that conduct environmental education and outreach in the Indian River Lagoon region; a question related to exotic pest plants could be included in the survey. Leesa will facilitate an email discussion to formulate a question for the survey. The decision on whether the Education small grants funding could be used next year to support this research was tabled until later this year when the FY 2007 budget is discussed.

The written Education Committee report is attached to the minutes.

Legislative- Matt King

Issues currently before the state legislature include revisions to the Noxious Weed list and regulations relating to biomass planting. There also has been a proposed rule change to prohibit FDACS permits from being issued for the importation of non-native plants. At the federal level, HR4294, proposed in November 2005, provides for cooperative agreements that would allow the use of government funds for control of noxious weeds outside of national park boundaries.

Matt will provide Mike Bodle, who will attend the National Invasive Weeds Awareness Week (NIWAW) meeting in March, with educational information on legislative issues that are of concern to the FLEPPC.

Karen Brown presented information about efforts to gain legislative support for eastern invasive plant control funding at the upcoming NIWAW meeting. This program would be similar to programs that already exist for invasive plant management in western rangelands. BASF is actively promoting this bill, and has prepared a standardized one-page fact sheet for specific species, as well as a umbrella fact sheet on invasive plants in the eastern US. There was discussion and general agreement that it would be appropriate for FLEPPC to support this effort, which is also seeking support from other groups such as the Aquatic Plant Management Society and other EPPC chapters. Scott Ditmarsen emphasized that it was important to ensure

that this did not entail support of any specific product or method of control. Karen Brown moved that the FLEPPC formally support the EIPCF bill at the NI-WAW meeting, contingent on her review and evaluation of the final version of the bill. The motion was seconded by Tony Pernas and passed unanimously by the Board.

Local Arrangements / Field Trips - Mike Bodle

Mike reported that he is applying for funding of some field trip expenses, such as bus transportation, through Alachua County Tourism Development grants. The location of the banquet has not yet been determined; Magnolia Landing was mentioned as a possible site. The *Weeds* will be performing at the banquet and rooms at the Paramount Plaza will be provided for band members.

Membership/Publicity - Katy Roberts

There are currently 343 members, including nearly 100 members whose membership has recently lapsed. A renewal reminder will be sent to those members as part of the newsletter / Symposium registration mailing. Katy suggested that members be offered discounts on Symposium registration and merchandise. New membership brochures are needed (\$1,500) and membership display materials also need to be updated (\$1,000). Upon motion by Kris Serbe-soff-King and seconded by Tony Pernas, the board unanimously approved a budget increase of \$2,500 to a total budget of \$2,700 for the Membership/Publicity committee.

Web Site - Tony Pernas

The FLEPPC web site receives an average of 17,000 hits per day, of which 3,200 are visitors who click on links to additional pages within the site. An average of 4,200 kb of data is downloaded daily. Tony gave a demonstration of the open-source software he is using to develop an online map interface for the FLEPPC occurrence database. A link on the FLEPPC web site will allow users to seamlessly access the map interface, which features numerous search options, zooming to background aerial images, distance measurements and generation of printable pdf maps. Tony asked board members to consider whether any information in the existing occurrence database needs to be changed or added to, so that these changes can be made before the map-based system is implemented. For example, latitude / longitude coordinates will be needed for each occurrence report in the future.

Nominations – Mike Bodle

The Nominations list has not yet been finalized. Mike will facilitate an email discussion and board vote for approval of the list within the next week. The approved Nominations list will be published in the upcoming newsletter.

Plant Industry Liaison - Doria Gordon

The current nursery growers "Do Not Sell" list was distributed to the board. Lowe's has agreed not to carry any of the species on this list, and has sent letters to individual stores, but is not yet ready to make a public announcement. Doria would like to initiate an informal effort to survey Lowe's stores for the 45 listed plants. Anyone who sees these species for sale in Lowe's stores should let Doria know the species, the store address and the date and she will compile and report the information to Michael Chenard. Lowe's staff may not be aware of the agreement or responsible for ordering material, so confrontations in stores is not appropriate. Doria is working with Michael Chenard of Lowe's, Brian Bowen of SE EPPC and Valerie Vartanian of The Nature Conservancy to develop codes for Florida consistent with the voluntary Codes of Conduct established in 2001 and 2002 in St. Louis (the St. Louis Declaration on Invasive Plant Species) that Lowe's will be able to sign.

The Nature Conservancy is working with Missouri Botanical Gardens to determine whether their industry Codes of Conduct are working. There was discussion of the need for government Codes of Conduct, since agencies such as the Department of Transportation are the largest single purchaser of horticultural products.

Plant List - Kathy Burks

The Plant List Committee continues to handle a large portion of the requests for information about exotic pest plants that are received through the web site. The current Plant List is not due for review and update until 2007.

Research - John Volin

The call for research proposals for 2006 was published in *Wildland Weeds* and the newsletter and will be posted on the web site. Proposals are due on March 15.

Symposium Program - Cheryl McCormick

The draft Symposium program was distributed to the board. The theme of the Symposium will be "Little Crop of Horrors." The keynote speaker, Lloyd Loope, will speak on invasive exotic management issues in Hawaii and a follow-up panel discussion will focus on comparable issues in Florida. Speakers will include Skip Snow who will talk about the status of python invasion in Everglades National Park.

Karen Brown moved that registration fees be in-

FLEPPC members can help . . .

These species are no longer recommended for use, propagation, or sale by the Florida Nursery, Growers, and Landscape Association. Lowe's stores in Florida have agreed not to carry any of these species. If you see these species in a Lowe's garden center, please contact Doria Gordon (dgordon@tnc.org) with the date, store address, and species, so she can report the sighting to Lowe's Environmental Management Office. Please do not question the garden center staff, who may have no information about the decision made at the higher level. Your continuing survey for these species will help FLEPPC to ensure that the agreement is working on the ground.

Category I:

<i>Albizia lebbek</i> *	woman's tongue	<i>Nephrolepis cordifolia</i> *	sword fern
<i>Bauhinia variegata</i> *	orchid tree	<i>Psidium guajava</i> *	guava
<i>Bischofia javanica</i> *	bischofia	<i>Rhoeo spathacea</i> *	oyster plant, large variety
<i>Cupaniopsis anacardioides</i> *	carrotwood ¹	<i>Syzygium cumini</i> *	Java plum; jambolan
<i>Macfadyena unguis-cati</i> *	cat's claw vine	<i>Thespesia populnea</i> *	seaside mahoe
<i>Melia azedarach</i> *	Chinaberry		

Category II:

<i>Adenantha pavonina</i>	red sandalwood	<i>Melinis minutiflora</i>	molasses grass
<i>Agave sisalana</i> *	sisal hemp	<i>Merremia tuberosa</i>	wood-rose
<i>Aleurites fordii</i> *	tung oil tree	<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>	Eurasian watermilfoil ²
<i>Alstonia macrophylla</i>	devil-tree	<i>Ochrosia parviflora</i> *	kopsia
<i>Alternanthera philoxeroides</i>	alligator weed ²	<i>Oeceoclades maculate</i> *	lawn orchid
<i>Anredera leptostachya</i>	Madeira vine	<i>Passiflora foetida</i> *	stinking passion vine
<i>Aristolochia littoralis</i> *	calico flower	<i>Pteris vittata</i>	Chinese brake fern
<i>Broussonetia papyrifera</i>	paper mulberry	<i>Rhynchelytrum repens</i>	Natal grass
<i>Callisia fragrans</i>	inch plant	<i>Ricinus communis</i>	castor bean
<i>Casuarina cunninghamiana</i>	Australian pine ¹	<i>Sesbania punicea</i>	purple sesban
<i>Cereus undatus</i>	night-blooming cereus	<i>Solanum diphyllum</i>	two-leaf nightshade
<i>Dalbergia sissoo</i>	Indian rosewood	<i>Solanum jamaicense</i>	Jamaica nightshade
<i>Enterolobium contortisliquum</i>	ear-pod tree	<i>Syzygium jambos</i>	rose-apple
<i>Flacourtia indica</i>	governor's plum	<i>Terminalia catappa</i> *	tropical almond
<i>Flueggea virosa</i>	Chinese waterberry	<i>Tribulus cistoides</i>	burrnut
<i>Hiptage benghalensis</i>	hiptage	<i>Triphasia trifoliata</i> *	limeberry
<i>Leucaena leucocephala</i>	lead tree	<i>Urena lobata</i>	Caesar's weed

1 - Prohibited by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

2 - Prohibited by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection

* - Commercially available when recommendations were made.

creased by \$5.00 over the rates for the 2005 Symposium, with the exception of student and one-day registrations that will remain unchanged at \$45. The motion was seconded by Mike Bodle and approved unanimously by the board. The banquet will remain at \$20 and vendor registration has been set at \$300.

Application for CEU credits for Symposium attendees will be handled by Jim Duquesnel. Some field trips and training sessions, such as the chainsaw workshop, will also be eligible for CEU credits.

Training - Jim Duquesnel

The IFAS Training web site is being modified to allow organizers to enter information on available training directly into the database.

Vendors - Todd Olson

A letter has been sent to vendors announcing the Symposium. A follow-up letter will be sent with a regis-

tration form. The committee also is looking at the best options for conducting the fundraising auction, including donations from well-known artists. Todd estimated that the room provided for vendors at the Symposium will accommodate approximately 20 tables, but will look into exactly how much space is available.

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

TASK FORCES

Brazilian Pepper – Jim Cuda

The revised Brazilian Pepper management plan will be posted on the FLEPPC web site on or before the Gainesville meeting.

Australian Pine - Rob Egan

A poster on Australian Pine has been prepared and will be presented at the Symposium.

Chinese Tallow – Drew Leslie

The completed management plan has been posted on the FLEPPC web site.

Dioscorea – Bill Overholt/Mike Bodle

Bill Overholt has formally agreed to take over the position of Chair of this task force.

Lygodium - Jeff Hutchinson / Tony Pernas

Tony Pernas reported that reconnaissance flights for Lygodium and other exotic plant species are planned for the Bahamas.

Melaleuca - Cressida Silvers

The Melaleuca management plan that is currently posted on the web site. It is being updated and is currently under review.

Colubrina – Cheryl McCormack

The board unanimously approved the formation of a Colubrina task force.

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.

NEW BUSINESS

Standard Operation Procedures

The Secretary will compare the SOPs currently posted on the FLEPPC web site with the updated SOPs presented to the board at the August 2006 meeting and facilitate the email review and approval of the revised SOPs by the board.

OLD BUSINESS

Departing Board Members

The departing Board Members, Roger Clark, Drew Leslie, Cressida Silvers and Jim Duquesnel, will receive plaques at the Annual Meeting.

Advocate of the Year

A link for nominations for Advocate of the Year will be created on the FLEPPC web site by Jim Burney and Tony Pernas.

FDOT Beautification Advisory Board

Two new positions, that could be filled by the FLEPPC and the Florida Native Plant Society, will be created on the FDOT Beautification Advisory Board in the spring of 2007. Prior to this time, the board will determine who should be the FLEPPC representative.

Family Forests for Watersheds and Wildlife Foundation

The American Forest Foundation has contacted the FLEPPC about their search for partners in each state to provide matching funds for their conservation initiative, Forests for Watersheds and Wildlife. Roger Clark will contact the organization to get more information about their existing programs.

SE-EPPC / National EPPC

Jim Burney and Tony Pernas will represent the FLEPPC at the upcoming SE-EPPC meeting later in the week. One item on the agenda be the issue of hiring a paid director, which the FLEPPC has opposed in the past. There was discussion and general agreement that the SE-EPPC should consider the strategy used by some other NGOs, whose directors are responsible for obtaining grant monies to help fund their position.

At the NIWAW meeting the week of February 13, representatives of the state and regional EPPC/IPPC organizations will meet to continue efforts initiated last year to create a national EPPC, which would be loose coalition that focuses on formulating position papers on issues of national importance.

Formation of Operations Committee

Pursuant to discussion of the revival of the Operations Committee at the last board meeting, Scott Ditmarsen and Jim Burney will develop Standard Operating Procedures for the committee before the next meeting.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING / ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting of the FLEPPC board of directors will be on Monday, April 24 at 1:30 PM, at the Paramount Plaza Hotel in Gainesville, FL.

Upon motion made by Roger Clark and seconded by Drew Leslie, the meeting was adjourned by unanimous decision at 2:45 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.

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.

For more information, and to download an entry form, go to the FLEPPC web site, www.fleppc.org.

FLORIDA EXOTIC PEST PLANT COUNCIL 21ST ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

“Little Crop o’ Horrors”

April 24 -26, 2006

Paramount Plaza Hotel, Gainesville, Florida

Monday, April 24, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Field Trips, Board of Directors meeting, Evening Social

Tuesday, April 25 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

General Sessions, Vendor Displays, Annual Business Meeting, Evening Banquet

Wednesday 8:30 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.

General Sessions, Vendor Displays

Early registration deadline: April 7, 2004

For Hotel Registration:

Refer to FLEPPC and the conference rate of \$71

Make reservations by calling 877-992-9229

For more information on the Hotel, including directions, please visit their web site:

<http://www.paramountplaza.com>

You must call by March 24 to get the special conference rate.



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