



# Florida EPPC

## Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Symposium

Monday April 21<sup>st</sup> through Thursday, April 24<sup>th</sup> 2008  
Crowne Plaza Hotel on the Jacksonville Riverfront

## *Flora non grata*

The Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council will hold its 23rd annual symposium this spring in Jacksonville, Florida. The symposium will take place from Monday, April 21<sup>st</sup> through Thursday, April 24<sup>th</sup> 2008 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel along the St. Johns River at the Jacksonville Riverfront. ***The early registration postmark deadline is April 4th, so be sure to register in time to qualify for the reduced rate.***

The conference promises to be another blockbuster with the latest information on a variety of topics related to invasive species in Florida. This year's theme is ***Flora non grata***, the "diplomatic" term for an unwelcome plant that highlights FLEPPC's desire to send unwelcome invasive plant species packing.

The FLEPPC Board of Directors is pleased to present this year's keynote speaker, **Dr. Bernd Blossey**, Associate Professor of Biology at Cornell University and Director of Cornell University's Invasive Plants Program. Dr. Blossey is a leading researcher in invasion biology who has focused much of his recent attention on quantifying impacts of invasive plants on native flora and fauna as well as biological control of non-indigenous plant species in natural areas.

Here's a preview of what you can look forward to at the Symposium:

- An array of presentations on the latest advances in invasive species research and control technologies

- Updates on biological control research for Florida invasive plant species

- Workshops on plant ID, technology, and natural areas weed management certification

- Unique local field trips to evaluate invasive plant management programs

- Pesticide applicator CEUs

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

This year's banquet will be held at the Crowne Plaza and entertainment will be provided by FLEPPC's favorite rock and roll band, ***The Weeds!*** A limited block of rooms has been reserved for the conference; make your room reservation by calling 800-227-6963 before March 31 to get the special \$99 rate (reference group code "FEP"). For more information about the hotel, visit their web site, [www.cpjacksonville.com](http://www.cpjacksonville.com).

## FLEPPC Board approves slate of nominees for 2008

The 2008 Annual Business Meeting will be held on Thursday, April 24 from 10:20 am -11:00 am. At this meeting, FLEPPC members will be asked to approve nominees to replace outgoing Directors Alison Higgins, Gary Nichols, Bill Overholt and Donna Watkins. The slate of four nominees proposed by the Board of Directors to serve a two-year term, are **Jim Burch**, Resources Management Supervisory Botanist at Big Cypress National Preserve, **Adam Grayson** of Lake and Wetland Management, a private company specializing in invasive plant control, **Dustin Hormann**, Project Manager in the Ecosystem Restoration Division at EarthBalance, and **Kathy O'Reilly-Doyle**, Coordinator for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program in South Florida.

James N. Burch has held several positions that deal with stewardship of natural systems in southern Florida, including National Audubon Society, Collier County Natural Resources Department, Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, the US Geologic Survey Biological Resources Division, Florida Gulf Coast University. He has conducted research in several locations in southern Florida and Latin America and is a member of the Florida Academy of Sciences,

## Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council

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### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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#### Research

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#### Symposium Program

LeRoy Rogers

#### Vendors

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#### Webmaster

Tony Pernas

### TASK FORCE CHAIRS

#### Australian Pine

Tony Pernas

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Society of Wetland Scientists, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He is currently employed by the National Park Service as a Resources Management Supervisory Botanist at Big Cypress National Preserve and oversees the exotic plant management program, a program that has experienced success in exotics control for over two decades, and continues to aggressively address problems with exotic plants.

Adam Grayson has been working in the environmental field since 2000, specializing in exotic invasive plant control. A large part of his job is training field crews and the public on plant identification and proper herbicide practices. He now works for Lake and Wetland Management, a private company specializing in exotic and invasive plant control and removal, located in Palm Beach County. In the past, he has served as Secretary to the South Florida Aquatic Plant Management Society and is currently a member of the Florida Aquatic Plant Management Society, South Florida Aquatic Plant Management Society and the International Society of Arboriculture. In his personal time he is an avid nature photographer, amateur herpetologist, bird watcher and a practitioner in the art of falconry. He also spends many hours in the native plant garden at his home where many unusual species can be found.

Dustin Hormann is a Project Manager in the Ecosystem Restoration Division at EarthBalance® and is experienced and certified in invasive species management. He provides project coordination, technical supervision, and quality assurance for restoration projects of various sizes and complexities. With a background in ecology, chemistry, wetland morphology, and wetland construction, Dustin has successfully managed phases of a multi-year exotic vegetation eradication project in the US Virgin Islands, as well as many small- to large-scale wetland and coastal restoration projects in the southeast US. He has planned and implemented both exotic removal and native planting for public and private clients.

Kathy O'Reilly-Doyle has been the Coordinator for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program in South Florida since 2000. She holds a B.S. degree from the College of Forestry at the University of Minnesota. Kathy works with landowners and partners throughout Florida to restore and enhance wildlife habitat on private land. Forging partnerships to address the problems of invasive species management on a landscape scale approach has been one of her primary goals. She is currently the Chairperson of the Florida Invasive Species Partnership group (formerly the ISWG Private Land Incentive Sub-Working Group). She is also a member of the Florida Native Plant Society and the Society for Range Management.

# ***Proposed amendments to the FLEPPC Bylaws***

At the Annual Business Meeting on April 24, 2008, the FLEPPC general membership will be asked to vote on proposed amendments to the Bylaws that have been approved by the Board of Directors. The proposed amendments, which contain additional language to clarify the succession of officers and require renumbering of the Sections in Article IV, are shown in italics.

## **Article IV. Officers**

Section 2. ... The Chair shall serve two full years and the term of office shall begin *one year following* the close of the annual business meeting at which he/she is elected *Chair-elect*. ...

*Section 9. Officer “End of Service” and “Leave of Absence”: If during the normal term of their elected position, an officer is absent for extenuating circumstances and is expected to return and perform the duties/responsibilities of their position within six months of being absent, the officer is said to be in a leave of absence status if approved by the Board of Directors. Likewise, if the officer is no longer able to fulfill the duties/responsibilities of their position (“permanently absent”), and they are not expected to do so before the end of their term, the officer’s service has ended.*

Section 10. (renumbered)

Section 11. (renumbered)

Section 12. (renumbered)

*Section 13. Officer Chain of Succession: In the event the Chair’s service has ended prior to the normal elected term (as defined above) during the first year of tenure, the Past-Chair shall assume the duties and responsibilities of the Chair. Likewise, if the Chair’s service has ended during the second year of tenure, the Chair-elect shall assume the duties and responsibilities of the Chair.*

*In the event the Chair’s service has ended prior to the normal elected term (as defined above) during the first or second year of tenure, and if the Past-Chair’s or Chair-elect’s (whom ever would normally assume Chair duties under the conditions above) service has similarly ended, the Board of Directors will elect by quorum a temporary Chair for the duration of the absent Chair’s term.*

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**23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Symposium**

Monday April 21<sup>st</sup> through Thursday, April 24<sup>th</sup> 2008  
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*Flora non grata*

*Early  
Registration*

*Deadline*

**APRIL 4**



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

Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council  
Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting  
December 18, 2007  
Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, Coral Gables, Florida

The meeting was called to order at 9:15 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.

### **Approval of Previous Minutes**

Minutes of the previous Board of Directors Meeting of September 25, 2007 were distributed to the Board. Upon motion made by Bill Overholt and seconded by Ellen Donlan, the previous minutes were unanimously approved as written.

### **Correspondence and Announcements – Alison Stocker**

There currently seems little to be done with regard to *Arundo donax*, as the FLEPPC petition to list it as a state noxious weed rests with the DACS administration and their decision whether to convene the Noxious Weed List committee to review the petition.) However, there was some discussion about whether FLEPPC should try to identify other potential biofuel/biomass crops that might have invasive tendencies or alternative species that might be less likely to become invasive and could thus be encouraged as better options. This discussion will be directed to the FLEPPC Plant List Committee for consideration during their January meeting. There is no doubt that without such proactive review, FLEPPC is likely to find itself repeatedly reacting to new proposals for biofuel/biomass plantations of exotic plants.

Following some discussion of whether the FLEPPC should request that the DEP be added to the DACS Noxious Weed List Committee, there was general agreement that this issue would not be pursued at present.

The BOD reviewed a letter drafted by Matt King and LeRoy Rodgers (see attachment) that will be sent on to Governor Crist to show FLEPPC's support for the continuation of the State Invasive Species Working Group or the formation of a similar body.

Alison reiterated her request for current and past members help to fill in the blanks in the FLEPPC historical archive that she and Karen Brown are putting together.

An *ad hoc* strategic planning committee is being developed to put together a report to present to the Board at the July Board of Directors meeting.

### **Treasurer's Report – Ellen Donlan**

Ellen distributed the balance sheet and income/expense report for the first quarter of FY 2007-2008. The Treasurer's reports are now being done on an accrual basis, so income and expenses are now shown in the financial reports for the fiscal year in which they were accrued.

Ellen is currently working on obtaining the most advantageous rates for credit card transactions, but has not yet made any new agreements.

Together with LeRoy Rodgers and Dianne Owen, Ellen will look into the possibility of setting up an agreement with an online service to automate registration for the Symposium.

**Editor's Report - Karen Brown**

A total of 2,600 copies of the 24-page Winter issue of *Wildland Weeds* were printed (2,444 mailed out). Advertiser support has fallen off, but Karen hopes to at least break even on this issue, which had 4 fewer pages than the Fall issue and included an additional ad from EarthBalance. She has contacted other potential new advertisers, without success. After some discussion of whether the SE-EPPC should increase their contribution (currently \$5/year/member) it was generally agreed that this issue would be revisited in the future if necessary.

**Secretary's Report - Dianne Owen**

The next newsletter, to be distributed in February, will include a registration form for the 2008 Symposium, the proposed changes to the Bylaws, and the proposed slate of Board nominees to be presented to the general membership for approval at the annual business meeting. The February issue of the newsletter will be sent both by hardcopy and by email.

Upon motion made by Karen Brown and seconded by Alison Higgins, the Officers' Reports were accepted unanimously. The written officer's reports are attached to the minutes.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Bylaws and Standard Operating Procedures – Sandra Vardaman**

Sandra distributed the proposed changes to the Bylaws, which clarify the term of office and succession of the chair. The changes were approved unanimously by the Board (motion by Donna Watkins, second by Alison Higgins). They will be published in the February 2008 newsletter and presented to the general membership for approval at the Annual Business meeting on April 24 at the Symposium. An up-to-date version of the Bylaws will be published on the FLEPPC web site.

Donna Watkins reported that she is updating the SOPs to incorporate duties in the Symposium checklist. The Symposium checklist is available online, and Donna encouraged everyone involved in Symposium planning to use the checklist and provide feedback. In the future, Symposium checklist dates will be adjusted relative to the actual date set for the Symposium and the timing of BOD meetings. Dan Clark, Chair-elect, emphasized that long term planning of the Symposium and Board meetings is essential, given the busy schedules of the Board and FLEPPC members; he would like to set a date and location for the 2009 Symposium at the next Board meeting.

**Finance – Scott Ditmarsen**

The investment plan developed by the Finance Committee, which proposes that a portion of the funds currently held in a saving account be moved to a combination of money market accounts and laddered CDs, was approved unanimously by the Board (motion by Dan Clark, second by Karen Brown.)

**Control and Evaluation – Michael Meisenburg (absent)**

It has not been decided whether this committee will plan a field trip for the Symposium.

**Education** – Jennifer Posseley

The request for proposals for the Kathy Craddock Burks education grant is now on the FLEPCP web site, and one application has already been received. The application deadline is in March, and recipients will be announced at the Symposium.

Jennifer is also looking into the possibility of developing a landscaping award program for municipalities, but at present there is no one available to take on this task.

**Legislative** - Matt King

Matt provided information concerning a proposed bill for the Florida Legislature to permit the use of *Casuarina cunninghamiana* in citrus groves. His initial review of the bill indicated that the current proposal is better than that originally proposed last year, but lacks some of the language that had been added later. Matt and Dan Clark will coordinate with personnel from The Nature Conservancy to watch the progress of this bill and write letters to oppose it, or support revisions, as appropriate.

**Local Arrangements** - Mike Bodle

It was suggested that the Miami area be considered for the 2009 Symposium or if suitable hotels are outside our price range, the Naples area be an alternative. Mike Bodle will be asked to evaluate these options but it was acknowledged that these areas might be expensive unless the Symposium was later in our April/May window.

**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** -

The Nominations committee will distribute a proposed slate to Board members by email in January. Discussion and votes will be conducted by email; the Board-approved slate will be printed in the February newsletter and distributed to the general membership by mail.

**Outreach** – Katy Roberts

In her written report, Katy said that the display was not used much during the summer, but things are getting busy as winter approaches. She also reminded the board that the display is available and that she needs people to staff the booth at events, particularly the Tampa Bay Growers Show, which will be held the same weekend as the FFA state group.

Alison Higgins reported that she is beginning preparation of a “How-To” guide for identifying target audiences.

**Plant List** - Keith Bradley

The next meeting of the committee will be held in January 2008. The committee will address the biofuels issue at this meeting.

**Research** - Betsy Von Holle

The RFP for the research grants has been announced and Betsy will be distributing it to an email list of university department chairs and researchers. Following committee review, grant recipients will be announced at the Symposium.

### **Symposium Program - LeRoy Rodgers**

The Board approved "*Flora non grata*" as the theme for the 2008 Symposium. The keynote speaker will be Bernd Blossey, the director of Cornell University's Invasive Plants Program and the "Weeds" have agreed to play at the banquet. The call for abstracts was distributed on the FLEPPC listserv in November. Additional distributions were sent in early December to targeted entities. The symposium website is now up with improvements to the automated abstract submittal page. Registration and field trip information will be included on the website once completed. A preliminary symposium agenda, field trip information, and last year's program will be forwarded to the Board. Katy Roberts will submit applications for CEUs (FNGLA, ASI, Pesticides) once the program agenda has been finalized; the CEUs available will be posted on the Symposium web page. Workshops will include Invasive Plant Identification, Control Technologies and Natural Areas.

### **Field Trips - Donna Watkins**

Three field trips are planned for the Symposium: Julington-Durbin Preserve, Kingsley Plantation and Jacksonville Arboretum. Trips will leave from the hotel Wednesday afternoon and the cost for a box lunch (\$8.50) to be distributed before departure will be included in the price of the field trip. The total cost for the Kingsley Plantation Trip will be \$25 to cover the additional cost of bus transportation; Alison Stocker agreed that if there was not enough participation in this field trip to cover the cost, the difference would be made up from the Chair's discretionary fund. Transportation will be provided for the Julington-Durbin trip at no cost, and the Jacksonville Arboretum trip will be organized by carpool. Annette Nielsen has agreed to help on the Field Trip committee.

### **Vendors - Todd Olson**

A letter has been sent to potential vendors for the 2008 Symposium. Vendor fees will be the same as in 2007.

### **Website - Tony Pernas**

The few remaining glitches in the web site have been fixed. There are some compatibility issues that interfere with data sharing between the EDMAPS occurrence database used by the FLEPPC and the FNAI database; these will have to be resolved by FNAI. Chuck Barger is revamping the SE-EPPC web site and will develop a template that can be used by the state EPPCs.

A volunteer is needed to set up and manage an FAQ section to deal with the recurring queries that are received more efficiently.

### **NA-EPPC Liaison – Matt King/Tony Pernas**

A joint meeting of the NA-EPPC and the Natural Areas Association, hosted by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, will be held in Nashville in October, 2008.

### **SE-EPPC Liaison – Karen Brown**

The SE-EPPC Annual Symposium, sponsored by the Mississippi Forestry Commission, will be held May 20-22, 2008 in Biloxi.

Karen is trying to obtain a copy of the SE-EPPC bylaws in order to clarify our position as a chapter.

## TASK FORCES

### **Designation of Task Force Status**

As Chair-elect, Dan Clark will establish guidelines for designating the current status of Task Forces; those that are actively involved in current development of a management plan would be distinguished from those that serve primarily as a point-of-contact for issues or information related to a particular species.

### **Management Plan Distribution**

The Board has agreed that the most efficient and cost-effective distribution method for future invasive species management plans will be looked at on a case-by-case basis. In general, distribution will only be by electronic methods or low-cost printed materials, such as bookmarks with website links listed. Printed copies of management plans will only be made in special circumstances approved by the Board.

### **Australian Pine** - Tony Pernas / Jonathan Taylor

Ellen Donlan has provided a case study that will be included in the plan. Greg Wheeler is providing information on biocontrol. An ethnobotany section, which will address issues such as social value systems and the interaction of resource managers with the public, will also be included.

### **Dioscorea** – Bill Overholt

The management plan is 99% completed; work still to be done on the introductory sections will be completed over Christmas break. A completed study on the factors which influence the timing of bulbil sprouting will be published in the next edition of *Wildland Weeds*.

Efforts to import a potential biocontrol, a chrysomelid beetle from Benin in West Africa, have failed; the collaborator who was to collect and ship the insect simply did not do the work. A new collaborator has been identified who will take up the work early next year. The DEP has indicated that it is very unlikely that the grant which is funding the exploration work in West Africa will be continued after June 2008.

## OLD BUSINESS

### **FLEPPC Scholarship Fund**

A raffle in support of this fund – with a ticket color different from that of door prize tickets - will be held at the Symposium. The *ad hoc* committee that was established when this scholarship was created in 2007 recommends holding the funds in a separate account until sufficient principle is built up.

## NEW BUSINESS

### **Florida Invasive Partnerships**

Alison Higgins explained that she is working with a group, originated as a subgroup of the state Invasive Species Working Group, which is addressing the need to disseminate information about funding opportunities for invasive plant control to private land managers. Tentatively called the “Florida Invasive Partnerships,” the group has developed an information matrix to help private landowners determine where they might be able to get assistance in funding invasive plant removal. The BOD agreed to host this matrix on the FLEPPC website and have Alison Higgins act as either a FLEPPC Liaison or Point-of-Contact Task Force Chair for this group.

### **Legislation supporting planting of *Casuarina cunninghamiana***

Matt King, Doria Gordon and Dan Clark will be watching the progress of draft language being developed by proponents of the planting of *Casuarina cunninghamiana* around citrus groves in order to prevent the potential spread of citrus canker. FLEPPC has previously sent comments to FDACS, Florida Department of Environmental Protection and State Representatives Richard Machek & Ralph Poppell regarding a bill with similar language that was proposed during last year’s legislative session. Specific concerns of the FLEPPC are the impacts on efforts to manage or control *Casuarina cunninghamiana* and on research or release of biocontrol agents for *Casuarina*. Bill Overholt will also request information from Greg Wheeler concerning genetic studies of *Casuarina* populations in Florida.

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be held during the 2008 Symposium at 10:00 am, April 21 at Crowne Plaza Hotel on the Jacksonville Waterfront.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Upon motion to adjourn made by Karen Brown and seconded by Bill Overholt, the meeting was adjourned by unanimous decision at 3:30 pm.