



Florida EPPC

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

The Gathering Storm Clouds of Bio-fuel Crop Production

We've all heard the expression, "When something sounds too good to be true, it probably is." Based upon what I've been reading lately, that seems to me the most fitting cautionary refrain for the development of terrestrial plant-based bio fuel feedstock production. On one hand it sounds pretty good; growing weeds that need very little care and no specialized harvest equipment, absorbing more carbon from the atmosphere than releasing into it. Reducing our dependence on fossil fuels in problematic areas of the world, it's a good dream, but there is a dark side. Some of the plants that are being suggested for bio fuel feedstock production have the potential to become invasive in our forests and grasslands.

In the short term, increased bio fuel crop production in the United States will take place on degraded sites and fallow agricultural lands but I am concerned that as it becomes more lucrative, it will compete for arable land with food crops. The other worry I have is that forests will eventually be leveled to plant bio fuel feed stock species. It's not an unsubstantiated fear on my part. The production of oil palms in the tropics is a very good example of what I'm talking about. Get on Google earth and fly over Borneo for example and you'll see an expansive patchwork of palms where some of the richest, most biologically diverse forests that ever existed once stood.

For the bio fuel crop promoters who claim carbon neutrality as an incentive of their industry, I say prove it. If you take Indonesia and Malaysia for example, the countries who primarily divide up Borneo, they produce 80+ percent of the world's palm oil, which has surpassed soybean oil as the planet's most traded oilseed but they also share the loss of **12,500 square miles of forest a year**. Aside from containing half of the earth's terrestrial species, tropical forests store almost 50% of its terrestrial carbon and their continued deforestation is responsible for 25% of total global carbon emissions.

In terms of preventing invasive species from being used for bio fuel production, there are 111 plant species that are currently regulated by the Federal Noxious Weed List. That's comforting, but a recent analysis showed that only 20% of the plants on that list are also on the lists of Exotic Pest Plant Councils which focus on invasive, wildland weeds. Our collective priority is to stop the introduction of new invasive species to natural areas. I think most of us would agree that any new bio fuel species should be run through a standardized weed risk assessment tool like the one UF/IFAS currently uses. If our state EPPC plant lists are also taken into consideration as part of the evaluation process, it will provide another layer of protection and there is currently an effort to make that happen.

Regardless, bio fuels are going to be incentivized by the US government to be able to provide the 36 billion gallons a year they want for to be produced domestically by 2022, which will be over 10% of all liquid fuel sources consumed. One challenger to terrestrial bio fuel agriculture is marine algae, especially kelp. The plant life of the world's oceans is considered an untapped resource and marine ecosystems produce 50% of the annual global biomass. Kelp can produce more of it per square meter than even the fastest growing

Message form the Chair continued.....

terrestrial plants and it can provide other high value commodities in addition to bio fuel. But, I wonder about the consequences of an industrialized wild kelp harvest? It reminds me of John Muir's environmental insight and warning, "When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the Universe."

Dennis Giardina,
FLEPPC Chair

Upcoming FLEPPC Events

May 21-23, 2013

**2013 SE-EPPC/FLEPPC Joint
Annual Symposium**

**Edgewater Beach Resort in Panama City
Beach, Florida**



See <http://www.fleppc.org/Symposium/2013/>
for more information

Silent Auction

This year we are planning to hold a silent auction at the Annual Symposium. The items for the silent auction will be generated by the FLEPPC and SE-EPPC members. Please take a few minutes to look through your closets and attics for something fun to contribute. No item is too big or too small and all donations are gratefully appreciated!

If you wish to donate items please contact Christen Mason at Christen_Mason@fws.gov

Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council

OFFICERS

Dennis Giardina, Chair
Dennis.Giardina@MyFWC.com

Jim Burch, Past Chair
Jim_Burch@nps.gov

Hillary Cooley, Secretary
Hillary_Cooley@nps.gov

Dianne Owen, Treasurer
dowen@fau.edu

Karen Brown,
Editor, Wildland Weeds
kpbrown@ufl.edu

DIRECTORS

Keith Morin
Keith.Morin@dep.state.fl.us

Salvador Medina
Salvador@avcaquatic.com

Sherry Williams
swilliams02@seminolecountyfl.gov

Jessica Spencer
Jessica.E.Spencer@usace.army.mil

Aimee Cooper
acooper@ufl.edu

Christen Mason
Christen_Mason@fws.gov

Michael Meisenburg
Michael@kestreleco.com

William Snyder
William_Snyder@nps.gov

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

By-Laws
Mike Renda
mrenda@tnc.org

Education Grant
Jennifer Possley
jpossley@fairchildgarden.org

Finance
Ellen Allen
edonlan@sfwmd.gov

FNGA/FLEPPC Liaison
Vacant

Legislative
Matthew King
Mking@co.palm-beach.fl.us

Local Arrangements
Karen Brown and Jessica Spencer
kpbrown@ufl.edu
Jessica.E.Spencer@usace.army.mil

Merchandise
William Snyder
William_Snyder@nps.gov

Membership
Sherry Williams
swilliams02@seminolecountyfl.gov

Nominations
Jim Burney
Jburney@avcaquatic.com

Outreach
Christen Mason
Christen_Mason@fws.gov

Plant List
Patricia Howell
phowell@broward.org

Research Grant
Vacant

Symposium Program
Sherry Williams
swilliams02@seminolecountyfl.gov

Field Trips
Keith Morin
Keith.Morin@dep.state.fl.us

Vendors
Aimee Cooper/Michael Meisenburg
acooper@ufl.edu
Michael@kestreleco.com

Webmaster
Chuck Barger
cbarger@uga.edu

TASK FORCE CHAIRS

Australian Pine
Tony Pernas

Brazilian Pepper
Jim Cuda
jcuda@ifas.ufl.edu

Carrotwood
Chris Lockhart
chris@habitatspecialist.com

Chinese Tallow
Drew Leslie
Drew.leslie@myFWC.com

Dioscorea
Bill Overholt
billlover@ufl.edu

Grasses
Greg MacDonald
pineacre@ufl.edu

Lygodium
LeRoy Rodgers/
Kris Serbesoff-King
Kserbesoffking@tnc.org

Skunkvine
Brian Nelson
brian.nelson@sfwmd.gov

Melaleuca
Francois Laroche
Flaroche@sfwmd.gov

Nominations for New FLEPPC Chair-elect and Board of Directors

Thank you to our four outgoing members of the FLEPPC Board of Directors: Keith Morin, Salvador Medina, Sherry Williams, and Jessica Spencer. We appreciate all your hard work for the past two years.

We are pleased to present the new nominees to the for FLEPPC Chair-elect and FLEPPC Board of Directors. FLEPPC members will vote on the new slate at the next members meeting in Panama City Beach, Florida. May 21-13, 2013.

Our New Chair-elect nominee is Sherry Williams.

Sherry Williams- Sherry Williams is a Biologist for the Seminole County Greenways and Natural Lands Division. She received her Bachelor of Science in Marine Biology from Dalhousie University, Nova Scotia, Canada. She has lived and worked in Florida as a biologist since 1990. Sherry's experience in Florida began with studying Atlantic salt marsh snakes for Volusia County Mosquito Control District. Later, she worked for the Florida Park Service as a District Biologist and the St. Johns River Water Management District as a Resource Planner, prior to coming to Seminole County. In her present position, she is responsible for the invasive species program on 10,000 acres of natural lands, passive parks, paved trails and active parks. Sherry is also responsible for the fire, monitoring, grants program, public outreach and coordinates volunteers for the Division. She is also a guest speaker for the University of Central Florida's Sustainability class. Sherry serves as the Steering Committee Co-Chair for the Central Florida Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA), Vice President for the Cuplet Fern Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society, FLEPPC Board Member (2011-13), FLEPPC Program and Membership Chair, Steering Committee member of the Northeast Florida Scrub Working Group, Steering Committee member of the Central Florida Prescribed Fire Council.

Our new nominee slate for the Board of Directors

Gayle Edwards- Gayle Edwards is a 15 year Florida resident and a Lee County Florida Master Gardener. She is a member of the Coccoloba Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society and a presenter on exotic invasive plants. Gayle also co-chairs the yearly Butterfly Conference. She has tended the Lee County Extension Office butterfly demonstration garden for 14 years. She is President of the Longwings Chapter of the North American Butterfly Association and Coordinator of the Florida Monarch Tagging Program. She lives in Fort Myers, Florida.

Geof Lane- Geof Lane has a Bachelor of Science in Biology/Chemistry/ Marine Science from the University of Miami. He studied fish behavior in graduate school before leaving to pursue a career in fisheries management. This took him nearly around the world to work in places like St Thomas/St John, USVI; Hawaii; and the Galapagos Islands National Park, Ecuador. Ultimately that lead him to a position with the Clearwater Marine Aquarium in Clearwater, Florida where he began to work on improving juvenile fish recruitment through improving shoreline vegetation. Specifically targeting removal of Brazilian pepper, air potato, and Australian pine in mangrove areas, he gave his first talk on finding creative funding for environmental projects at the 2001 SE-EPPC conference in Athens, GA and joined the FLEPPC the following year. Currently he has been working as an independent Environmental Consultant on projects throughout Florida since 2000.

New nominee slate for the Board of Directors continued.....

Alicia Campanella- Alicia Campanella worked at Fakahatchee Strand Preserve as a Park Ranger for several years where she created a program that helped identify invasive species priorities and implemented a program that formed a platform for the education and training of new volunteers interested in exotic plant control. She also served the park in an administrative capacity, representing local state parks at South Florida Water Management District meetings, during the planning phases of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Program. Before working at Fakahatchee, Alicia completed a reforestation program in the Amazon, at Ecuador's Jatun Sacha Biological Reserve.

Earlier in her career, she lived and studied in the United Kingdom where she worked with Wirral Environmental Network, a local governmental organization which promoted sustainable living and proper land management practices. She helped to convert parcels of derelict land to small organic farms, and also developed an environmental library. She also drafted a continuing education course called "Planet Earth" which was piloted in 2005.

Alicia currently writes an exotic plant column for the University of Florida's Forest Steward Newsletter, a quarterly publication whose readership consists primarily of private landowners and foresters in the northern portion of Florida. She is finishing her Bachelors degree in Environmental Science, but continues to focus her research and studies on Florida's changing landscape, botany, invasion biology, and the dynamics of exotic species management.

Cheryl Millett- Cheryl Millett is a Biologist at The Nature Conservancy, leading Python Patrol, the Central Florida Lygodium Strategy, and the Heartland CISMA. She graduated from Humboldt State University with a Master in Science in Natural Resources in 2006. Python Patrol is a program to provide containment and early detection and rapid response of invasive exotic Burmese pythons, and other invasive species in south and central Florida, by training detectors to accurately identify and report them, training responders to safely capture them, and providing a hotline to link the two. The Central Florida Lygodium Strategy is a partnership to apply a regional approach to stopping the northern spread of Old World climbing fern on public and private lands. The Heartland CISMA is a partnership to regionally focus efforts to deal with invasive species. She also coordinated and now advises Jay Watch, a citizen science program monitoring the federally threatened Florida scrub-jay, which is now a project of Florida Audubon.

Minutes from Florida EPPC Board of Directors Meetings**October 26, 2012 (8:00AM-Central time, 9:00AM-Eastern time)****Edgewater Beach & Golf Resort and conference call
Minutes taken by Hillary Cooley, FLEPPC Secretary****Administrative**

Call to Order/Roll Call- ~9:20 AM (Eastern Time)-technical issues with the phone delayed the meeting.

At meeting: Tony Pernas, Jessica Spencer, Karen Brown, Aimee Cooper, Michael Meisenburg, Christen Mason, Sherry Williams, Billy Snyder, Hillary Cooley.
(Note: Tony Pernas chaired the meeting for Dennis Giardina, who was out of the country).

On phone: Mike Renda, Jim Burch, Keith Morin, LeRoy Rodgers, Brian Arnold (SE-EPPC President), Chis Lockhart.

Approval of minutes: Karen Brown motioned to accept the minutes from July 18, 2012. Jessica Spencer seconded the motion. The FLEPPC Board of Directors unanimously approved the minutes from the July 18, 2012 meeting.

Chair Activities: Tony Pernas reporting for Dennis Giardina.
Dennis is requesting \$500-\$1000 for the Chair's Discretionary Budget. He is also working to resolve bank issues; he needs to go to the bank in person with Dianne. They are planning to meet in early November.

Correspondence: Tony Pernas reporting for Dennis Giardina.
Karen mentioned that FLEPPC along with other conservation groups signed on to the *Arundo* letter expressing concerns about incentive for planting *Arundo* as a biofuel. The letter was sent to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). (See the Legislative report submitted by Matt King).

Treasurer's Report: Dianne Owen sent e-mail during the meeting (see below).

.....
Treasurer's Report to FLEPPC Board of Directors
Oct 26, 2012

The FLEPPC Income/Expense Budget Report for FY11-12 is attached. Overall, FLEPPC realized a net gain of \$2,324.51 for FY11-12.

FLEPPC profit from the 2012 Symposium, net of expenses we incurred directly, was \$3,424.34. The FLTWS detailed breakdown of expense/income from the symposium is attached.

The current cash balance in checking, savings and CD's is 45,101.31. There is an outstanding liability for \$2,479 (a research award check not yet cashed), leaving current net assets of \$42,622.31.

Treasurer's Report to FLEPPC Board of Directors continued.....

Dennis has taken on the problem of the duplicate merchant accounts and will work with Chuck Bargeron.

.....

Editor's Report: Karen Brown provided an oral update saying that *Wildland Weeds* is being published twice per year. She has not started working on the next issue. Tony said that Dennis is planning to submit an article about Greg Jubinsky and Drew Leslie, who are retiring.

Secretary's Report: Hillary Cooley. We approved the minutes from the July 18, 2012 FLEPPC board meeting. Hillary needs to start the next FLEPPC newsletter which should be completed in November 2012. It will have the minutes from two board meetings (April and July) as well as the member's meeting in April. Hillary will follow up with Dennis about the Message from the Chair article. Hillary also needs to check with Jennifer Possley and Betsy Von Holle to see if they want to place a request for grant proposals in the next newsletter. Since we are combining the minutes from two Board Meetings we will only have three newsletters for 2012 and not four.

Approval of the Officer's Reports: Karen Brown motioned to approve the Officer's Reports; Jessica Spencer seconded the motion. The FLEPPC Board of Directors unanimously approved the above Officer's Reports.

Committee Reports

Symposium Planning/Program: Sherry Williams/Jessica Spencer/Karen Brown. The FLEPPC Chair mentioned needing to change the Symposium Program Chair from Jessica Spencer to the Co-Program Chairs of Sherry Williams and Jessica Spencer. Billy Snyder motioned to approve Sherry Williams and Jessica Spencer as Co-Program Chairs of the Symposium Program Chair and Christen Mason seconded the motion. The FLEPPC Board of Directors unanimously approved Sherry Williams and Jessica Spencer as Co-Symposium Program Chairs. Karen Brown also said she would serve as a committee member. Jessica and Sherry are planning to meet today and work on the annual committee budget. Sherry has also been talking with Keith Morin, the Field Trip Chair, about coordinating field trips with the local area CISMAs. Sherry thought that a call for abstracts should go out sometime in November 2013. Karen Brown offered to help communicate our planning with the SE-EPPC. She is on the SE-EPPC Board and has already e-mailed them about the hotel information. Certain states, such as Alabama and Georgia are already planning to offer their own CEUs.

Dennis wanted to have an opportunity for the different CWMAs (Cooperative Weed Management Areas) and CISMAs (Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas) to have a plenary session instead of a workshop. The CISMAs typically have a workshop at the FLEPPC meeting, but a plenary session would allow more time and be open to more people.

Chuck Bargeron wants to do a session/workshop on EDDMapS workshop.

We need to decide on a theme for the 2013 meeting. Past themes include: Little Crop of Horrors (2006), Invasion of the Habitat Snatchers (2007), Flora Non Grata (2008), Weeds of Wrath (2009), Changes in Latitude (2010), Exotics on the Run (2011) and Invasion of the Habitat Snatchers Part II: Wildlife Invades (2012).

Symposium Planning/Program continued

Theme suggestions for this year include Alien Nation; 50 Shades of Green; Invasives: Coming soon to a Land Near You; Plant Wars: The EPPCs Strike Back; Putting Invasive Plants on the MapS; and 8 States of Green: Putting Invasive Plants on the Maps in the Southeast. The winner was Plant Wars: The EPPCs Strike Back with 6 votes; 50 Shades of Green received 5 votes and Putting Invasive Plants on the MapS received 2 votes.

Sherry Williams and Karen Brown both said that they would ask people if they could do art work for the theme.

Symposium Local Arrangements: Karen Brown/Jessica Spencer

Jessica mentioned needing to double check the contract and talk to the hotel because she thought that the per diem rate was \$79/night, but she was charged \$88 when she checked in last night. The front desk said that there also resort fees. We checked the contract and on the Special Concession section it said resort fees waived. Jessica said she would follow-up on this topic.

Our room night guarantee is 148 room nights, but we have the option to reduce the room nights by 20% if we do so before April 29th 2013.

People also have the option to extend their stay 3 days prior at the conference rate, but we cannot extend at the conference rate after May 24th, since that runs into a holiday.

CEUs/Field Trips: Keith Morin/Ben Gugliotti

Keith sent report. (See below). Note: there was a bit of confusion over if Ben was stilling doing CEUs or not. Keith said that he would work with Ben.

Once we get an idea about how many people are attending the symposium, we can decide if we need additional field trips or not.

Keith will also follow-up with LeRoy and see if they are planning to do a demonstration plot workshop. He has spoken to Salvador Medina about the possibility of using one of the field sites for the demonstration field trip and doing an equipment demonstration and possibly a sprayer calibration demonstration. Since the symposium location is so far away this year, it makes setting up our typical demonstration plots difficult.

.....
Probable field trips for May 2013 FL-EPPC/SE-EPPC conference that I have made successful contact with:

1. Tyndall AFB
 - a. Contact is Wendy Jones, Wildlife Biologist
 - b. (850) 527-2009
 - c. Drive time 20 minutes (or less), a bus is available there to get around the base.
 - d. cogon, tallow, Japanese climbing fern, air potato, Chinaberry, mimosa, camphor tree, and a few other Category 2 plants.
 - e. Discussing the obvious multiple use aspect of management on a military base will be interesting.
2. Topsail Hill Preserve State Park
 - a. Contact is Jeff Talbert, Park Service Specialist
 - b. 850-267-8332
 - c. Drive time is 40 minutes.
 - d. They have torpedo grass and tallow that they have various stages of treatment done on.

CEUs/Field Trips report continued.....

- e. Coastal interdune lakes and some beach restoration efforts are good additional points of interest.
3. Ponce de Leon Springs State Park
 - a. Contact is Park Manager, Jacob Strickland
 - b. 850-638-6130
 - c. Drive time is approx 50 min.
 - d. Not sure the species, but he left a message that there are some good treatments to view
 4. Point Washington State Forest
 - a. Contact is Daniel Young, FFS Forester
 - b. 850-267-8325
 - c. Drive time is 30-35 minutes
 - d. They have cogon, tallow and some other misc. to show.
 - e. They are a coastal property managed by FFS, which in itself makes it unique. Most FFS properties are further inland.
 5. Demo site could be a fifth field trip if we work out the details by then

If it looks like we will need an additional trip based on numbers of attendees, I will try to contact Econfina Creek WMA and one or two others. I will send all field trip hosts the CEU links in Feb to make sure they are all providers in case we can't cover that through board liaisons. I think it worked well in Ocala to have a board liaison on each trip to corral the attendees and gather lunches. At the Feb meeting we can take volunteers to accompany the different trips.

.....
Control and Evaluation: LeRoy Rodgers/Salvador Medina

LeRoy said that he and Salvador have been talking and had an idea that instead of putting in demonstration plots this year they would do a demonstration of techniques. Calculating effective rate per acre and equipment calibration are all ideas. Having people that are local or closer to the symposium site help with set-up of the demonstration field trip site would be helpful. LeRoy has talked with Ken Langeland. LeRoy has also e-mailed Judy Ludlow and Patrick Minogue to see if they could help out. Brian Pelc from one of the local CISMAs also offered to help. Keith and LeRoy are going to follow-up with the people Keith has already talked to about field trips and see if one of the sites would be good for a demonstration.

Keith is not sure how many field trips we need; that will depend on the number of people attending the symposium. He thinks that 25 people or less is a good number for a field trip and more than 25 people can be difficult to coordinate. Keith's target number of field trips is five, and we now have four field trips. We may be able to nest another field trip. Karen also suggested that may be Patrick Minogue could help with a field trip that focused on Lygodium.

LeRoy sent report below.

.....
FLORIDA EXOTIC PEST PLANT COUNCIL

Control & Evaluation Committee Report

Board of Directors Meeting - October 26, 2012

Submitted by: LeRoy Rodgers The Control & Evaluation Committee has not established a demonstration plot in the Panama City area at this time. Due to travel restrictions, we have made no visits to the area.

Control and Evaluation report continued.....

There have been several phone and email conversations with local land managers (Arthur Stiles, FDEP, Brian Pelc, TNC) but we have so far been unable to identify a site that meets our needs (e.g., sufficient infestation levels, ease of access). As such, we are looking into alternative approaches for the next symposium. The leading idea is to conduct treatment and/or calibration demonstrations during one of the field trips. Salvador Medina (AVC) has offered to provide equipment. The obvious benefit of this option is the reduced travel requirement. We will still need to coordinate with the field trip leaders to locate a good site. Once all field trip locations are set, our committee proposes to visit the sites in order to determine the best location.

Online registration:

Dennis is working with Chuck to set up online registration; it is likely that we will be using Event-Bright. We are going to have to figure the registration cost. That is going to be based on the cost of the symposium. We need to figure out the menu. There are some pre-set packages; we just need to make sure that we have some vegetarian options. The banquet would be easier if we chose from a pre-selected package. We get one complimentary keg of beer. They have a meatless pasta station, a fajitas bar, a wok station, and roasted turkey. Boxed lunches are \$12. The cost of registration also includes membership. There are no entrance fees to any of the parks for the field trips.

There was a suggestion to combine the social with a fishing tournament. We may need to have the social at Edgewater, but we can look into the idea more.

Vendor:

The FLEPPC Chair mentioned needing to nominate new people for the Vendor Chair Committee. Aimee Cooper and Michael Meisenburg were suggested. Karen Brown motioned to approve Aimee Cooper and Michael Meisenburg as Co-Program Chairs, and Billy Snyder seconded the motion. The FLEPPC Board of Directors unanimously approved Aimee Cooper and Michael Meisenburg as Co-Vendor Chairs. However Aimee's job is ending at the first of the year. It is likely that she will stay on at least part time for a few months. She does not know how that may affect her ability to travel, but she is still willing to help.

Michael mentioned getting outdoor stores to donate merchandise. We also talked about a silent auction. Several folks mentioned that they would like to donate items. We could send out a request to the list-serve and just say bring items with you. Some of the donated items could be for door prizes or the silent auction. Billy also said that he would be willing to help with the Silent Auction. We also talked about doing a state license plate, but thought that this may be difficult, but a front mounted license plate or bumper stickers with the FLEPPC logo may be an option.

Merchandise: William Snyder.

Sherry Williams brought up the idea of water bottles; we can get them printed for about \$5 each and sell them for \$10. We can get them printed with the SE-EPPC or FLEPPC logo. We could sell the bottles or we could add to the registration cost. We decided to see what registration cost was going to be and then decide, since we want to keep the registration cost low. We should try and keep the registration cost at or below the cost of last year.

It was suggested that we include a shopping bag with the symposium registration cost and sell the water bottles. We decided on 100 water bottles with the FLEPPC logo in silver with black and most likely will sell them. The bag (flat bottom) will have the SE-EPPC, FL-EPPC and conference art work and will most likely be given out with registration.

Strategic Planning: Mike Yustin/LeRoy Rodgers.

Not a lot to report; the group has not met in several months, but there is an e-mails effort going on now to set-up a meeting before the next board meeting. From the membership survey we are trying to ask and answer three basic questions:

1. Where are we now?
 2. Where do we want to go?
- How do we get there?

Jim Burch mentioned that other people may want to see the summary PowerPoint that LeRoy put together. This could even be given at the symposium meeting. Several of the survey questions involved the program so it may be good to review the survey comments before we start working on the program. LeRoy said that he will resend the symposium recommendations that sounded helpful.

Some of the comments were:

1. CEU logistics improved.
2. Reduced cost for students.
3. Maybe we should have the symposium every two years?
4. We should try and have the symposium at a central location.
5. We should choose more modest venues.
6. Increase variety of the presentation and workshop topics.
7. We should find more ways to get more student involvement, may be a section for student talks and specific awards for students presentations.
8. Better define FLEPPC role with CISMAs.
9. Why are not FLEPPC Board Member positions advertised on the list serve?

From the survey we have the affiliation of the people that answered the survey.

16% were Federal Government, 26% were State Government, 15% were local, 9% non-profit, 7% for profit, and 20% academic.

Next step is to look at strengths and weaknesses and see where we go from here.

Bylaws: Mike Renda

Mike is working to update the SOPs.

1. For the symposium program the chair/co-chair was going to be Sherry Williams and Jessica Spencer.
2. For local arrangements chair Mike Renda still has Mike Bodle listed and thought that this was supposed to be Karen and Jessica.
3. For the Plant List Committee Keith Bradley has stepped down and the Plant List Committee has recommend that Patricia Howell take the Chair position. As a formality, the FLEPPC Chair recommended Patricia Howell as the new chair for the Plant List Committee. Tony Pernas (acting for Dennis Giardina) motioned to nominate Patricia Howell and Karen Brown seconded the motion. The FLEPPC Board unanimously approved Patricia Howell as the Chair for the Plant List Committee.
4. We also need to update the Outreach Chair. The FLEPPC Chair nominated Christen Mason. Karen Brown motioned to appoint Christen Mason as the Outreach Chair and Sherry Williams seconded the motion. The FLEPPC board unanimously approved Christen Mason as the Outreach Chair.
5. We also already voted on the Vendor Chair and the co-chairs are Aimee Cooper and Michael Meisenburg.

Mike Renda said that he would make these changes in the SOPs.

Checklists: Sherry Williams

Sherry has been sending out the check list reminders and most people have been up-dating their lists. The only response that she has gotten is from Jennifer Possley (Education Grants Committee). See Education Grant section below for more information. Sherry has not heard from Betsy Von-Holle, but will follow-up with her about an RFP for the Research Grant Committee and the uncashed check.

Membership: Sherry Williams

We have 92 members. Sherry has been sending out reminders about renewing if people are not renewing during the conference. We have a list of 502 expired members and Sherry has sent a reminder to each one of them and a few have responded and have renewed their membership. Sherry also planned to send a membership reminder to the FLEPPC and CISMA list-serve. It would be interesting to see what the membership trends are. Karen mentioned that she may be able to look at the past mailing list for *Wildland Weeds* and get an idea of what our membership has been. We may also be able to look at our conference attendance numbers.

It was also brought up that some committee members are not members. The Plant List Committee is an example; many people on the Plant List Committee are not members of FLEPPC. This is something that we should talk to Patricia Howell about. Karen Brown motioned that the Plant List Committee Chair be provided a list of the unpaid the Plant List Committee members and ask that the unpaid members either renew their FLEPPC membership or resign from the committee; Tony Perinas seconded the motion. The FLEPPC Board unanimously approved the motion that all Committee members need to be FLEPPC members. Tony said that Dennis will contact the Plant List Committee Chair with a list of the unpaid members and tell them that the Plant List Committee needs to up-date their membership or not be members of the Plant List Committee.

Break to tour the Edge Water Resort conference facility.

Outreach: Christen Mason

We had three outreach events since the last meeting. Christen has been keeping track of whether a CISMA was involved and how many people attended and an estimate of how many people were spoken to. Sherry Williams attended the Wings and Wildflower festival and spoke to about 40 people and Christen attended the Florida Sportsman event in combination with the Everglades/ Treasure Coast CISMA and spoke to about 30 people. The display was also set-up at Jonathan Dickenson State Park by Ann Cox with the Treasure Coast CISMA. Christen also plans to contact the Native Plant Society and see if they may want to use the table top display.

Christen plans to put in a budget request to update the display board. We need to put our logo, banner and something about EDDMapS and then have the rest interchangeable, so that different regions can tailor the display for their region. The new display board should be lighter than the current board.

Legislative: Matt King

Matt sent a report and Tony read it aloud.

**FLORIDA EXOTIC PEST PLANT COUNCIL
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Board of Directors Meeting – October 26, 2012

Respectfully Submitted by: Matthew King

Legislative Report continued.....

NEW LEGISLATIVE/INVASIVE SPECIES ISSUES

1. National Wildlife Federation Letter on Invasive Biofuel Rule FL EPPC was one of many (96) signatories on to a letter penned by the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) concerning a potential new rule from the EPA that would incentivize the plating of *Arundo donax* for biofuel use. FL EPPC through NA EPPC and the National Environmental Coalition on Invasive Species (NECIS) submitted comments on this proposed rule back in February of this year. These comments raised the issue that EPA was violating Executive Order 13112 which prohibits Federal agencies to carry out programs or actions that promote the use of invasive species. The comments caused EPA to pull the rules for further review. However, it now appears that the rules are being pushed through by the Office of Management & Budget (OMB). The letter was hand delivered to OMB on October 5th. A copy of the letter is attached.

In addition to the above letter by concerned organizations, the NWF also submitted a letter signed by over 200 scientists concerning invasive bioenergy crops. A copy of the letter is attached. (Note: Due to length of the letter the letter is not included in the body of the minute. Please contact the FLEPPC Secretary or Matt King for a copy of the letter).

More information here: [Scientists Call on Obama Administration to Look Before You Leap](#)

ONGOING/PREVIOUS LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

1. FLEPPC Letter of Support for the Invasive Fish & Wildlife Prevention Act of 2012 (HR 5864, S3606) approved at the July 2012 meeting. Letter is pending.

Status of Legislation:

Senate: Referred to the Senate Committee on Environment & Public Works on 9/20/2012

House: Referred to the following House Committees; Natural Resources; Judiciary; Ways and Means; Budget

2. SB 2094 & HB 7117: Energy. Amending 581.083 Biofuels

State Rule 581.083 requires a permit for large-scale planting (> 2 acres) of non-native plants and it also requires that a bond be posted in order to ensure that said plants are cleared from a site if the permit holder is no longer maintaining the site according to permit conditions. This amendment would not require a permit for plants that are deemed not invasive. In addition, the amendment would also either reduce or eliminate the bonding requirements for non-native plants. The requirement for the plants to be removed is still intact, but the financial stick/backup would be removed. Upon further review FLEPPC had no objections. The rule was expanded to include regulation of blue-green algae along with any 2-acre or greater planting of a newly introduced species.

In the Senate it passed the Agriculture & Communications and the Energy & Public Utilities committees. Passed in the Senate on 3/8/12 and the House on 3/9/12. Became Law on 4/14/2012.

LEGISLATIVE STATE/FEDERAL TRACKING LIST

None

.....
-Tony Pernas gave an update on *Barringtonia racemosa* and said the Everglades Cisma sent a letter to Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden requesting that they not sell *Barringtonia racemosa* until there was a risk assessment completed.

ECISMA received a response back from Fairchild saying thank you and that they will follow the advice of E-CISMA and not sell *Barringtonia racemosa* until the risk assessment is completed.

Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden also offered to help with the assessment by sharing their information on *Barringtonia racemosa*. Aimee Cooper is going to follow-up on this topic and talk more with Tom Smith and Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden. Right now Aimee does not have a lot of information about *Barringtonia racemosa*.

Nominations: Jim Burney

Karen Brown mentioned needing to check by-laws because she thought that the past FLEPPC Chair became the Nominations Chair. If this is the case then the Nominations Chair should pass from Jim Burney to Jim Burch. We can ask Mike to check the bylaws. Jim Burney asked everyone to send him nominations. We also need to advertise for nominations on the FLEPPC list-serve. We need to find out when he needs the names of the new nominees since we need to announce that information a certain number of days before the symposium. Jim Burch will talk to Jim Burney more about this topic. Karen is on the Nominations Committee with Jim Burney so she call talk to him more about the idea of putting a notice about nominations on the FLEPPC list serve.

Education Grant: Jennifer Possley

Plans to ask for \$5,000 for the Education Grant Committee. This will need to be approved by the budget. She is also working on several articles for *Wildland Weeds*. Jennifer and the Education Committee just revised their RFP (Request for Proposals) and they plan to have the RFP posted on November 9, 2012.

Research Grant: Betsy Von Holle

Not on call; did not send report. Sherry Williams will follow-up with her.

Finance: Ellen Donlan

Not on call and did not send report. We need to get her more information about the budget.

Plant Industry: Liaison: Vacant.

Plant List: Patricia Howell was nominated and approved by the FLEPPC Board earlier today. (See above).

Scholarship: Tony Pernas

Nothing to report. We need to check with Diane about how much is in the FLEPPC scholarship fund, but Tony said we need at least \$20,000 to start an endowment and we are not really all that close.

Website: Chuck Bargeron (Karen Brown may report for Chuck)

We need to up-date the FLEPPC website Committee chair page. The website could also use some updating or rearranging. Tony thought that we could also use a Facebook page. We also mentioned a LinkedIn in page. Tony said that for E-CISMA there are several administrators so the responsibility does not all fall on just one person.

Aimee and Jessica will help with the Facebook account. This may be a way to get more students involved. Maybe we should also post a request to the FLEPPC list serve and see if any of our members have more experience creating Facebook accounts. We should have it so that anyone can post to the wall, but the administrator can delete postings if they are not appropriate.

Liaisons with other organizations

SE-EPPC Liaison - Karen Brown/Tony Pernas

Karen is talking with SE-EPPC about the symposium planning.

NA-EPPC Liaison - Matt King /Tony Pernas/Jim Burch

Typically the National EPPC meeting is at the Natural Areas Conference. This year the NA-EPPC

Liaisons with other organizations continued.....

meeting was canceled because Tony Pernas and Jim Burch were the only people to attend. Chuck asked Matt to be an Officer on the National EPPC Board. Matt is following-up with Chuck. We should also ask Dennis if he wants to be the representative or if he wants to appoint someone.

Task Force Reports

Brazilian Pepper - Jim Cuda - no report

Australian Pine - Tony Pernas - Tony thought that he was close to being done with the report, and then he realized that there was really no information about how Australian pine seeds float and travel. Tony is doing his own seed study in his office. So far he has found out that there are about 50 seeds per cone and that they typically all come out in September/October. This corresponds with hurricane season. So far the seeds have floated for three weeks in salt water, and every ten days he takes out a group to see if they germinate. So far all the seeds have germinated, and some are actually germinating on top of the water. Tony has great photos of germinated seeds floating on the water.

Carrotwood - Chris Lockhart said that she had nothing new to report.

Lygodium - (Vacant?)

Chinese Tallow - Drew Leslie - no report

Melaleuca - Francois Laroche - no report

Operations***Old Business***

Australian Weed News website update. At the July meeting we approved \$50 for listing FLEPPC on the Australian Weeds Website. Diane sent them \$50, but they were asking for more information so Diane is following up with that information. Once they get what they need, FLEPPC will be listed on their website.

Tony said that Dennis told him to mention that Dennis thinks that next year is the 30th Anniversary of FLEPPC.

New Business

FISP (Sherry Williams) - Sherry said that FISP drafted a letter to FLEPPC asking that FLEPPC add the following to the FLEPPC mission statement.

1. Help develop a CISMA specific competitive grant that helps with CISMA outreach. It would be a \$1,500 grant that three CISMAs (\$500/CISMA) would be awarded each year. The grant could be supported through donations.
2. They also suggested developing a FLEPPC/CISMA list that outlines FLEPPC/CISMA members' area of expertise so that they could be asked to help with workshops.

Sherry will send out an electronic copy of the letter. FISP is also sending a similar letter to the Native Plant Society.

Karen Brown motioned to review the letter and consider it at the next board meeting; Jessica Spencer seconded the motion. The FLEPPC board unanimously voted to review the letter and discuss this more at the next FLEPPC Board meeting.

Jim Burch sent information (map) about the past FLEPPC meeting locations. He is interested in

New Business continued.....

looking at meeting locations for the 2014 and 2015 syposiums.

The southern Gulf Coast and the northern Atlantic Coast are areas that we have not had meeting in recently. Jim also spoke briefly with professors at Florida Gulf Coast University and they may be willing to offer CEU's for teachers. So they may be good to partner up with. It was mentioned that we should put the map and meeting years on the FLEPPC website.

Adjourn-Karen Brown motioned to adjourn and Billy Snyder seconded the motion. The FLEPPC Board unanimously approved the motion to adjourn.