



Florida EPPC

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Please join us again this year at our annual symposium April 8-10 in Melbourne, FL!



2015
Annual Conference

This promises to be an important conference. Speakers include Chuck Barger, Greg Jubinsky, Doria Gordon, Stephen Enloe, Greg MacDonald, Tony Pernas, LeRoy Rodgers and many others. The agenda will feature research and management updates, a multi-agency panel discussion: **Priorities vs Perfection – Treatment Philosophies for the Long Haul**, a concurrent CISMA session and EDRR Workshop, an aquatics session, technical field trips, CEUs in multiple categories, vendor displays, a welcome reception, silent auction, oceanside banquet, and a chance drawing for a grand prize. We will also have the **FLEPPC Plant List Committee's 2015 List of Invasive Plant Species** ready to distribute. We hope to see you all there!

A number of FLEPPC members (including me) and aquatic and invasive plant managers throughout the state attended the recent **FWC–UF/IFAS Research Review for Invasive Plants in Florida** biennial workshop. The latest in information, research and technology for controlling invasive species was presented over two days. Website guru and invasive plant czar, Chuck Barger, gave a presentation on the website maintenance support he provides to the Florida Invasive Species Partnership (FISP) and the Coordinated Invasive Species Management Areas (CISMAs). He also mentioned that the FLEPPC website had 500,000 hits last year. Woohoo! PowerPoint presentations from the Research Review are available under the Recent Publications tab as PDF files at the UF/IFAS Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants website: <http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/>

The **National Association of Invasive Plant Councils (NAIPC)** hosted a series of five webinars during **National Invasive Species Awareness Week** this year. They ranged from a presentation on EDRR strike teams around the country to the Play, Clean, Go campaign (PlayCleanGo.org) started in Minnesota to give recreationists a clear call to action for stopping the spread of invasive species. All of the webinars were well attended and NAIPC is currently discussing holding national webinars on a more frequent basis. Stay tuned for more. If you missed out on the webinars, the PDF and recordings can be found at nisaw.org/2015webinar.html

I hope everyone has a great spring. Any suggestions or comments on FLEPPC moving forward in the next decade are always welcome. Thank you to all of our members for your continued support!

See you all in Melbourne!
Sherry Williams

Note from Secretary:

This Newsletter contains the minutes from our January 15, 2015 BOD meeting.



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Annual Meetings & Upcoming Events in Florida

April 8-10, 2015

Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council

Melbourne Beach, FL

www.fleppc.org

April 15-17, 2015

Florida Vegetation Management Association

Daytona Beach, FL

www.myfvma.org/

May 4-7, 2015

UF/IFAS Aquatic Weed Short Course

Coral Springs, FL

conference.ifas.ufl.edu/aw/

May 28-31, 2015

Florida Native Plant Society

Tallahassee, FL

www.fnps.org/conference

May 31-June 2, 2015

Florida State Horticultural Society

now with a Natural Resources Section!

St. Augustine, FL

www.fshs.org

July 12-15, 2015

Aquatic Plant Management Society

Myrtle Beach, SC

apms.org/

October 5-8

Florida Aquatic Plant Management Society

Lake Buena Vista, FL

www.fapms.org/

For announcements and upcoming events in the FLEPPC Newsletter please send information to Aimee Cooper, aimee.lz.cooper@gmail.com.

Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council**OFFICERS**

Sherry Williams, Chair
swilliams02@seminolecountyfl.gov

Dennis Giardina, Past Chair
Dennis.Giardina@MyFWC.com

Aimee Cooper, Secretary
aimee.lz.cooper@gmail.com

Karen Brown, Interim Treasurer
kpbrown@ufl.edu

Karen Brown, Editor
kpbrown@ufl.edu

DIRECTORS

2nd Year
Gayle Edwards
edwardsgayle5@aol.com

Geof Lane
kuasales@gmail.com

Deah Lieurance
dmlieurance@ufl.edu

Cheryl Millett
cmillett@TNC.ORG

1st Year
Tina Bond
bondt@helenachemical.com

Gwen Burzycki
BurzyG@miamidade.gov

Ruark Cleary
Ruark.Cleary@myfwc.com

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

By-Laws
Mike Renda
mrenda@tnc.org

CISMA Grant
Gregg Walker
gregory.walker@dep.state.fl.us

Education Grant
Kris Campbell
kristine.campbell@myfwc.com

Field Trips
Jackie Smith
Jackie.smith@myfwc.com

Finance
Ruark Cleary
Ruark.Cleary@MyFWC.com

FNGA/FLEPPC Liaison
Gary Knox
gwknnox@ufl.edu

Legislative
Deah Lieurance
dmlieurance@ufl.edu

Membership
Gayle Edwards
edwardsgayle5@aol.com

Merchandise
William Snyder
William_Snyder@nps.gov

Nominations
Jim Burney
Jburney@avcaquatic.com

Outreach
Christen Mason
cmason@sfwmd.gov

Plant List
Patricia Howell
phowell@broward.org

Research Grant
Jim Cuda
jcuda@ufl.edu

Symposium Local Arrangements
Sherry Williams
swilliams02@seminolecountyfl.gov

Symposium Program
Karen Brown
kpbrown@ufl.edu

Vendors
Michael Meisenburg
Michael@kestreleco.com

Webmaster
Chuck Bargeron
cbarger0@uga.edu

TASK FORCE CHAIRS

Australian Pine
Tony Pernas
Tony_Pernas@nps.gov

Brazilian Pepper
Jim Cuda
jcuda@ufl.edu

Carrotwood
Chris Lockhart
Habitatsp@aol.com

Chinese Tallow
Greg Wheeler
greg.wheeler@ars.usda.gov

Dioscorea
Bill Overholt
billlover@ufl.edu

Grasses
Greg MacDonald
pineacre@ufl.edu

Lygodium
LeRoy Rodgers
lr Rodgers@sfwmd.gov

Melaleuca
Francois Laroche
Flaroche@sfwmd.gov

Skunkvine
Brian Nelson
brian.nelson@sfwmd.state.fl.us

New Board of Director Nominees

Sarah Laroque is a Vice President and Environmental Scientist with EarthBalance®. She has 27+ years of experience working in Southwest Florida in the environmental field. Her work history includes Charlotte County Mosquito Control Biologist, Southwest Florida Water Management District Environmental Scientist - permitting and enforcement, and she has been with EarthBalance® since 1993. Her project experience and project management have focused on wetland delineation and evaluation, biological and ecological assessments, and permitting and permit compliance. Sarah manages business development at EarthBalance® including federal, State and private sector markets. Ms. Laroque holds a BA degree in Environmental Science from SUNY at Plattsburgh, NY with a minor in ecology (land management), is a certified Project Management Professional (PMP), and has an executive certification in business from the University of Florida.

Greg MacDonald is a professor of Weed Science/Agronomy at UF/IFAS and teaches undergraduate and several graduate weed science and crop production courses, including online distance education courses. He investigates the physiology, ecology and management of invasive species, focusing on perennial grasses – cogongrass in particular. He also conducts research on the physiological aspects of herbicides in aquatic systems and mechanisms of herbicide resistance in aquatic plants. He is currently involved in international development with two USAID Peanut Mycotoxin Innovation Laboratory (PMIL) projects in Ghana and Haiti, focusing on peanut production, utilization and value added marketing.

Gregg Walker joined FNAI in 2014 after 11 years with the Florida Park Service (FPS) serving as the invasive plant coordinator for 171 state parks and trails. Gregg has also worked as a natural lands manager/biologist with the FPS, Seminole County, Orange County, and in private consulting. He has extensive experience in prescribed fire, water quality assessment, habitat restoration, as well as managing invasive plants and animals. Gregg also enjoys collaborating with other organizations to reach common goals. He earned a B.S. in Limnology and an M.S. in Biology from the University of Central Florida with emphasis on upland restoration and landscape ecology.

Opportunity We are still working to confirm our fourth nominee for the Board of Directors. If you or someone you know would like to become more involved with FLEPPC, please contact our Nominations Chair, Jim Burney jburney@avcaquatic.com To learn more about the committees and the Standard Operating Procedures for the position please visit <http://www.fleppc.org/committees.htm>

Minutes from FLEPPC Board of Directors Conference Call**January 15, 2015, 2:00 PM****Minutes taken by Cheryl Millett and Aimee Cooper (FLEPPC Secretary)****ADMINISTRATIVE:****Call to Order/Roll Call:** 2:00 PM

Attending: Karen Brown, Aimee Cooper, Gayle Edwards, Greg MacDonald, Cheryl Millett, Dianne Owens, Sherry Williams. Call-in: Kristine Campbell, Ruark Cleary, Dennis Giardina, Deah Lieurance.

Not Attending: Alice Bard, Tina Bond, Gwen Burzycki, Geof Lane

Chair activities, Sherry Williams:

- NISAW 2/22-28 will have a series of webinars 2/23-26 at 3PM EST (first one on 2/23 includes Cheryl Millett talking about Central Florida Lygodium Strategy as an EDRR program)

Correspondence, Sherry Williams:

- Karen wrote a letter on behalf of FLEPPC in support of the City of Gainesville's Wells Fargo Environmental Solutions for Communities grant application for the Great Invader Raider Rally and Gainesville Greenway Challenge Projects.
- Linda Petz, with Environmental Consulting located in Stuart, contacted Aimee because one of the regulators said that she needed to include dog fennel (*Eupatorium capillifolium*) as an invasive (native) species that needs to be treated. She visited the FLEPPC list and of course it was not listed there. Aimee provided her with contact information for her local County Extension Agent, and EDIS document and USDA Plants and Forestry websites containing the biology and control of dog fennel.

OFFICER REPORTS:**Treasurer's Report, Vacant (Dianne Owen officially stepped down):**

- Bank balances, \$14,971 in checking and \$14,921 in savings; >\$5000 in CD with 0.08% yield for scholarship fund. \$702.13 transfer from PayPal to checking accounts.
- Dianne Owen has stepped down as Treasurer. Karen Brown has agreed to be interim-treasurer.

Editor's Report, Karen Brown:

- Karen has material for next Wildland Weeds issue and hoping to release soon. Karen has also been assisting with editing the plant list to include updates of existing species.

Secretary's Report, Aimee Cooper:

- The October 2, 2014 BOD minutes were approved via email in late November.
- The Winter 2014 FLEPPC Newsletter was distributed in December.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:**CEUs – Jackie Smith**

- Jackie is currently working on the agendas for the field trips to receive CEUs.

Checklists – Vacant

- Sherry Williams reviewed the timeline of checklists and we are all on track. She will send reminders for items needing attention if necessary.

Control and Evaluation – Greg MacDonald

- Greg planned to get with Jackie Smith to look at field sites for demonstrations but nothing was formalized.

Finance – Rook Cleary

- Rook will be preparing to distribute RFP/budget request forms in April to FLEPPC committee chairs.
- He stated that an FNAI representative will be conducting an EDRR workshop during concurrent session.

CISMA Grant, Gregg Walker:

- Call for proposals were announced on the CISMA and FLEPPC list-servs; submissions are due February 6, 2015. Winners will be announced in April at the FLEPPC Symposium

Education Grant, Kris Campbell:

- The 2014 award winners will be submitting articles to Wildland Weeds: 1.) Dr. Cho (2013) submitted an abstract for a poster which s/he will present at the Symposium; 2.) Jim Davis is currently drafting his article; 3.) Jennifer Giblin/Goodwin received approval from DEP administration to submit the article to Wildland Weeds on behalf of Chandler Zimmerman who is no longer with DEP but was the original grant recipient.
- Call for proposals were originally announced in November 2014; however, no applications have been received. Another call will be announced on the CISMA and FLEPPC list-servs.

Membership, Gayle Edwards:

- Our membership status is staying about the same, 123 members total (2 were donations, \$75/ each). Sherry will forward ‘thank you’ letters to those who donated.
- Chris Stephens is renewing his membership and would like to join the Plant List Committee. This information was forwarded to Pat Howell.
- Lifetime membership awards: Pat Howell motioned (by email) for Dan Ward, David Hall, and Richard Wunderlin, three long-time members of the Plant List Committee to receive lifetime membership awards. Karen Brown seconded and the motion was unanimously passed by the BOD.

Merchandise – William Snyder

- We will not be purchasing new items but will sell existing inventory at reduced rates.

Nominations, Jim Burney:

- Four directors will reach the end of their terms and vacate their position in May: Deah Lieurance, Gayle Edwards, Geof Lane, and Cheryl Millett. Deah has agreed to stay on one more year to fill a vacancy. Sherry, Karen, and Jim are working on board nominees. This year we will also need nominations for Chair Elect. Jim will distribute a description for the position on the FLEPPC list-serv.

Outreach, Christen Mason:

- Christen has taken a position with the SFWMD. Karen Brown will contact her to see if she’s still willing to organize the silent auction for the symposium.

Plant Industry Liaison, Gary Knox:

- Gary attended the American Society for Horticultural Science Conference in Orlando in July. An audience of horticulture researchers, extension specialists and county agents learned about approaches to invasive plant management as developed by Florida agencies and researchers. Presentations and speakers included Deah Lieurance (University of Florida), Patti J. Anderson (Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services), and Adrienne M. Smith (University of Florida).

Plant List, Pat Howell:

- Two new Category I species and four new Category II species will be added to the plant list. Karen Brown will contact Pat to see if the updated list will be available in time for the symposium.

Symposium Field Trips –Jackie Smith

- There will be multiple field trips to choose from on Thursday afternoon of the symposium. Each field trip is limited to 25 participants at \$25/person.

Symposium Planning/Program, Sherry Williams/Karen Brown:

- December 17, 2014 a conference call was held to touch base with the planning of the symposium.
- The FLEPPC Symposium will take place at the Crowne Plaza on Wednesday, April 8th – Friday, April 10th. Accommodations are \$105/night (including 3 days prior to and after symposium).
- Confirmed volunteers from CISMAs: 1 from Heartland and 7-8 from Treasure Coast. We'll need approximately 20 volunteers for the symposium, including:
 - Registration: for walk-up registrations (transactions will occur on computer via PayPal; chance tickets will be available at the registration table)
 - At least four people will be needed for the Field trips (e.g., CEU providers)
 - Session moderators: assisting with CEUs, introduce speakers for each session, announce chance drawing tickets for purchase at each session, etc.
 - Silent auction volunteer(s) to receive donation items and set up table. Christen Mason can organize the auction but she may not be able to attend.
 - Judges needed for student poster and oral presentations (awards for posters: 1st (\$150), 2nd (\$100), 3rd (\$50); awards for oral presentations: 1st (\$300) and 2nd (\$200). No award will be presented for 3rd place). Awards will be limited to only one primary author per competition.
- Everyone needs to help get the word out and encourage people to submit abstracts.
- Gayle Edwards has volunteered to make signs to help direct for registration, field trips, chance drawing, etc.
- Rook Cleary is working on an EDRR workshop with FNAI and will contact the BOD if he needs assistance with getting live materials. An idea was suggested to have EDRR ID as part of the CISMA workshop. Rook will contact Kris Serbesoff-King.
- Symposium schedule:
 - Wednesday, 9:30-11:30am: FLEPPC BOD meeting; Wednesday afternoon: regular session; Wednesday evening: social in vendor room where posters will be set up
 - Thursday morning: regular session; Thursday afternoon: field trips; Thursday evening: banquet (Sherry Williams seeking sponsor for kayak)

- Friday morning: CISMA workshop concurrent with regular session.

Vendor – Michael Meisenburg/Karen Brown

- Karen Brown will send out letters to all vendors on FWC contractors from official list. We will also be asking vendors to sponsor the symposium. To date, AVC has committed. It has not been decided whether vendors will present updates on their products/services.

Adjourned:

Sherry motioned to adjourn at 3:50; seconded by Aimee.

Next Board Meeting:

The next BOD meeting is scheduled at 9:30-11:30am, Wednesday April 8th, the first day of the symposium at the Crowne Plaza Oceanfront in Melbourne, FL.