

Note from Secretary:

This Newsletter contains the minutes from our January 10, 2014 and April 28, 2014 BOD meetings.

Upcoming Events in Florida

July 23, 2014
 CISMA Monthly Call
 (4th Wednesday of every month)
 1:30 PM

July 25-27, 2014
 Caladium Festival
 Stuart Park, Lake Placid, FL
<http://www.lpfla.com/caladium.htm>



Australian pine
Casuarina species
 Photo by Vic Ramey
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Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council

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Join Us in Welcoming Our New BOD Members



Alice Bard has been a District Biologist (ESII) with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Recreation and Parks (Florida Park Service) for the past 24 years. She received both her Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree and Master's (M.S.) degree in Biology from the University of Central Florida. Her background includes working with gopher tortoises, beach mice, Florida mice, prescribed fire, native plants, invasive plants, listed species (plants and animals), seagrasses, diamondback terrapins, habitat restoration, and other conservation issues.



Tina Bond is a Product Specialist for Helena Products Group. She received a bachelor's degree in Agriculture from the University of Delaware. In 2001, Tina moved to Florida to attend graduate school at the University of Florida where she received her doctorate in Plant Medicine. While at UF, Tina assisted Dr. Greg MacDonald in writing Invasive Species Management Plans for Florida, UF/IFAS Circular 1529. After graduation, Tina worked for Osceola County as an Extension Agent on finding new ways to manage invasive aquatic plants. She also served as NPDES Coordinator for the County where she managed lake and stormwater pollution prevention programs. After the County, Tina worked for Red River Specialties as an area manager for aquatics and IVM in Florida, then moved on to work for Helena Chemical. In her new role at Helena, Tina is responsible for supporting all of Helena's adjuvant and value added (EPA registered) products for all specialty markets (including forestry, aquatics, IVM, golf, etc.) across the United States. Tina served on the Florida Aquatic Plant Management Society Board of Directors and was Editor of Aquatics Magazine.



Gwen Burzycki received her Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree in Biological Sciences from Cornell University and a Master of Science (M.S.) degree in Botany from the University of Washington. She has a diverse background that includes working as a research assistant for the Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution (now a branch of Florida Atlantic University) in coral reef and estuarine botany, managing state lands in the Indian River Lagoon for Florida's Department of Natural Resources (now the Florida Department of Environmental Protection), and conducting environmental planning projects for Miami-Dade County. Her current work for Miami-Dade County includes managing conservation land for the Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Program and doing environmental impact assessments. She has been actively involved with invasive plant management issues in South Florida from the first moment she stepped into land management duties, and has been a member of FLEPPC for almost that long.



Ruark L. "Rook" Cleary is an Invasion Biologist (ESIII) with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), Invasive Plant Management Section. He received his Master's (M.S.) degree in Biology in 1985 from the University of Central Florida. From 1987 to 2000, he worked for the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) in conservation planning and reserve design for the Preservation 2000 program. Since 2001, he has worked in the terrestrial invasive plant management (or "Uplands") program, which was transferred from DEP to FWC in 2008. Although trained as a herpetologist, and with an inordinate fondness for geckoes, he notes that the only difference between invasive plants and animals is that the plants don't run away (usually).

Minutes from FLEPPC Board of Directors Meeting and Conference Call

Location: UF Indian River Research and Education Center

January 10, 2014, 10:00 AM

Minutes taken by Dennis Giardina, FLEPPC Chair

ADMINISTRATIVE:

Call to Order/Roll Call: 10:30 AM

Attending: Bill Overholt, Geoff Lane, Christen Mason, Michael Meisenburg, Cheryl Millett, Sherry Williams, Karen Brown, Dennis Giardina

Call In: Jim Burch, Aimee Cooper, Deah Lieurance, Gayle Edwards

First order: Approve minutes from October 30, 2013. Motion Geof Lane; second Cheryl Millett.

Chair Activities and Correspondence: None

OFFICER REPORTS:

Treasurer's Report, Dianne Owen:

To assist Dianne in the numerous duties of Treasurer, Sherry Williams has taken over Membership responsibilities. Also, Aimee Cooper will request budgets from the appropriate committee chairs ahead of the last BOD meeting of the fiscal year so that Dianne can draft a budget. This should be completed by October 31st, as stated in the SOPs.

Editor's Report, Karen Brown:

The FLEPPC Plant List was completed on January 9, 2014. Karen, Pat Howell, and members of the Plant List Committee have been working on finalizing the printing of the 2013 FLEPPC Plant List brochure, and getting quotes for printing. For reference, the 2011 FLEPPC Plant List total was \$1,530 and included layout, printing 10K copies, and distribution (8,700 copies to 42 locations). Karen has not yet put a call out for those who need copies of the new list; she usually puts a note out on the list-serve, asks the board, FWC, and former recipients. The board should agree that we want to continue to print these as we always have rather than simply making them available online. That should be a discussion item before we take the next step.

Unfortunately there was no production of *Wildland Weeds* in 2013; however Karen does plan to start an issue in the next two weeks. Karen has been editing the magazine since Summer 2002, when it was a quarterly publication. In the last 12-1/2 years she has produced 38 issues of *Wildland Weeds*. In 2011 and 2012, she moved the production to biannual and dropped advertising due to loss of ads and the time it took to "run the business". From 2007-2012, we made approximately \$12,000 but we suffered losses in 2011 and 2012 (included in the total).

Secretary's Report, Aimee Cooper:

The updated SOPs and revisions of the Chair and Committees for the FLEPPC website were sent to Chuck.

The Newsletter is in process and will be out ASAP.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:**Checklists, Sherry Williams:**

This committee should be assigned to one of the new BOD members as Sherry would like to step down.

The Wildlife Society will be taking the lead in organizing the symposium. In other operations, FLEPPC is a little behind in relation to the field trips. Additionally, we intend to have two keynote speakers to represent each group; Ken Langeland has been suggested to represent FLEPPC.

Membership, Sherry Williams:

Currently we have 122 members. We lost a lot of members due to people not renewing their memberships. In the past, *Wildland Weeds* was helpful in retaining and recruiting members; however this year no issues were published. Dennis will pay direct board member dues.

CISMA Grant, Kris Serbesoff-King:

Request for proposals was sent out to the FLEPPC and CISMA listservs on December 2, 2013. Proposals are due by close of business February 5, 2014. A total of \$1,500 is available. Award recipient(s) will be notified by April 11, 2014. The award period will be for 12 months, with project completion being on or before the end of April 2015. The CISMA grant page on the FLEPPC website was also updated with the 2014 information.

Education Grant, Jennifer Possley:

It was determined that we have \$5000 in the FLEPPC budget for the education grant this cycle. Jennifer circulated request for proposals to the listserv (emailed December 2, 2013), the website, and FNPS. Sherry Williams shared it with the FL Wildlife Society. We have not received any applications yet, but that's normal; they always arrive on the last day. The application closing date is February 5, 2014; applicants will be notified of their award status by April 11, 2014.

Research Grant, Jim Cuda:

The request for proposals was sent out in November.

Legislative, Matt King:

Matt spoke with Dennis and stated that he would like to resign as Legislative Committee Chair. He's been doing it a long time but is willing to continue until the position is filled. Deah Lieurance is willing to serve as Legislative Chair

Nominations, Jim Burney:

There have been four nominations made so far with these results:

- Alice Bard, FDEP: Contacted and awaiting nomination acceptance.
- Ellen Donlan, SFWMD: Contacted but respectfully declined for this year, available for future.
- Jean McCollum, FWC: Contacted and awaiting nomination acceptance.
- John Stiner, USFWS: Contacted and awaiting nomination acceptance.

There are two possibilities being explored from the private sector, but we are still looking for nominations. Please consider nominating someone today and passing along their contact information to the nominations committee.

Outreach, Christen Mason:

A new, much lighter display board has been purchased. An email will be sent out to CISMA chairs and other interested parties as a reminder that the board can be sent out for display at exhibits and events. New FLEPPC and EDDMapS information will be included for display on the board.

Plant List, Patricia Howell:

A meeting was finally held after the long government shut-down at Everglades National Park on December 6, 2013. Five species were added to the list:

Cat. I – *Ludwigia hexapetala* – Uruguay waterprimrose

Cat. II – *Eulophia graminea* – Chinese crown orchid

Macroptilium lathyroides – phasey bean

Momordica charantia – balsam apple, balsam pear

Richardia grandiflora – large flower Mexican clover

Additionally, a bold disclaimer was placed on the list stating that it has no regulatory authority.

Jean McCollum, a biologist with FWC who works in the Okaloacoochee Slough Wildlife Management Area in southwest Florida is the newest member of the committee. Our next meeting will be April 14, 2014 at Archbold Biological Station in Lake Wales.

Cheryl Millett motioned to approve up to \$2,000 for printing and shipping; second by Gayle Edwards.

Symposium Local Arrangements, Sherry Williams:

We have committed to Safety Harbor for the venue. The first announcement for the Symposium will go out through the listserv. TWS will take care of registration through their website; fees are \$150 to attend without FLEPPC membership renewal or \$180 with FLEPPC membership renewal. A Square will be available for credit card transactions. A potential schedule was discussed.

Symposium Field Trips, Keith Morin:

Potential locations included Gulf Port, where an exotic plant control project has not yet started and Weedon Island, a kayak field trip. Keith Morin, Sherry and Geof will coordinate field trip development.

Vendor Report, Mike Meisenburg/Aimee Cooper:

Michael will contact vendors for sponsorship.

Merchandise, Billy Snyder:

Machetes:

Previously, the board discussed getting machetes to sell at the symposium. Billy recommends 100 18" Tramontina machetes and sheaths with printing would cost about \$1,340. Once Billy determines if there will be an adjustment for increased number of machetes, he will let the board know and we'll send him a check

Control Freak t-shirt:

Sherry motioned and Christen seconded. The BOD approved the purchase of 50 Control Freak T-shirts in the following sizes: S – 10 / M – 10 / L – 20 / XL – 10 at a cost of \$572.00.

LIAISONS WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:

SE-EPPC Liaison, Karen Brown, Tony Pernas:

Not much since the Symposium.

NA-EPPC Liaison, Matt King, Tony Pernas, Jim Burch:

Board is reviewing an ASTM for exotic species that will have federal support.

OPERATIONS:

Jim Burch spoke with a few people with Florida Native Plant Society (FNPS), and proposed the idea of combining our annual meetings in 2015. They were receptive to the suggestion and had some good ideas, so he'd like to pursue this for next year's meeting. FNPS usually has meetings at a local college/university campus (they are looking into this), so that lodging with meeting facilities will be less of a necessity, and may cost less. Jim will continue discussions with FNPS.

TASK FORCE REPORTS:

Australian Pine, Tony Pernas:

As a direct result of FWC funding NPS Melaleuca projects in FY2014, the NPS will fund Casuarina biological control research (USDA) in 2014.

Brazilian Pepper, Jim Cuda:

Jim Cuda has submitted a petition for a stem boring weevil. Bill Overholt has two insects in his lab; thrips and a leaf galling psyllid. They are finished with host specificity testing and petitions will be submitted in June.

Dioscorea, Bill Overholt:

Air potato beetle initial results are very positive. UF has submitted a grant proposal to the USDA Forest Service to rear beetles. The other beetle in same genus feeds upon bulbils and reduces sprouting.

Adjourned: Michael motioned to adjourn; seconded by Sherry.

Minutes from FLEPPC Board of Directors Meeting and Conference Call**Location: Safety Harbor Resort and Spa****April 28, 2014, 9:00 AM****Minutes taken by Aimee Cooper, FLEPPC Secretary****ADMINISTRATIVE:**Call to Order/Roll Call: 9:30 AM

Attending: Geof Lane, Jennifer Possley, Pat Howell, Michael Meisenburg, Karen Brown, Jim Cuda, Dennis Giardina (outgoing Chair), Christen Mason, Dianne Owen, Sherry Williams, Cheryl Millett, Aimee Cooper, Pat Smith, Gwen Burzycki, Nico Sebesta, Gale Edwards, Deah Lieurance, Greg MacDonald

Call In: Keith Morin

First order: Approve minutes from January 10, 2014. Motion Geof Lane; second Karen Brown.

Chair Activities and Correspondence: None

OFFICER REPORTS:**Treasurer's Report, Dianne Owen:**

All CDs were moved to the savings account except for one 12 month CD. A balance of \$22,000 is in the savings account and can be transferred to the checking account at any time. We've been successful at spending down but it is highly recommended that we have a budget approved by the BOD. Budget requests for the subsequent year should be submitted by the annual symposium for BOD approval at the fall quarterly meeting. Aimee Cooper will request budgets from the appropriate committee Chairs for the summer quarterly meeting (approx. June/July meeting) so that they may be approved at the fall quarterly meeting (approx. October). It is also recommended that we have a reserve (this is a Finance Committee issue) and establish an annual financial plan. A buffer of about \$15,000 would be ideal prior to the symposium. Our budget is generally based on 50 registrants; this year we had 132 registrants. We spent more than we usually would spend for the 2014 symposium.

Editor's Report, Karen Brown:

Wildland Weeds has moved from a quarterly publication to a biannual publication. Wildland Weeds is tiered to include regional and other southeast chapter updates, not just Florida. A 32-page issue of Wildland Weed was recently published and distributed, for a total cost of about \$5,000. Each chapter was billed \$5.65/chapter member. The bills for this publication have been satisfied and we should break even on this publication. Checks from the other chapters should be arriving any day. Finally, we budgeted \$2,000 to print the 2013 plant list but we only spent \$1,200.

It has been suggested that we publish Wildland Weeds in an electronic format (PDF). We will need to decide whether to keep it in hard copy, electronic form, or possibly an option for both. Karen will prepare a report comparing both formats for the next BOD meeting (approx. June/July).

Secretary's Report, Aimee Cooper:

With the release of the most recent newsletter containing the minutes from the July and October BOD meetings we are current on the minutes. The next newsletter will contain the January minutes as well as the events of the symposium (e.g., new BOD members, award, grant, & research winners, etc.). Additionally, there are some ideas about making the newsletter more engaging by possibly adding headlines about invasive species, upcoming events/festivals going on throughout the state, etc. These are things that are posted to our social media sites and they may be of interest in the newsletter as well. We will add the social media sites to the FLEPPC homepage (i.e., Facebook and Twitter) and encourage folks to 'Like' us on Facebook and 'Follow' us on Twitter in an effort to reach a broader audience.

It was suggested that we begin approving the minutes through email, allowing BOD members to review and approve the minutes prior to the BOD meeting. Additional items that will be sent out to all BOD members in the upcoming weeks leading up to our next meeting include the SOPs and Bylaws to review, available positions on the BOD, and budget requests from committee chairs so that a budget may be drafted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:**Strategic Planning, Mike Yustin and LeRoy Rogers:**

Included are the goals below. At the next meeting we will try to flesh them out better and come up with strategies/objectives.

- Increase and diversify our membership — In the short term we would focus on stopping the loss in memberships while increasing our numbers in the long term.
- Improve FLEPPC's financial outlook — Our main goal would be to stop operating in a deficit situation.
- Improve our annual symposium — We would look at ways to increase participation and to make sure that the symposium meets the big areas of need for our membership.
- Reassess FLEPPC's role in Florida given the growth of CISMA's, FISP and other management entities — We would look at whether FLEPPC's role would change and how well we are coordinating with these other entities.

Bylaws, Mike Renda:

Karen and Aimee have been reviewing the SOPs and making minor updates, including the addition "allow BOD minutes to be approved by email" under the Secretary.

Checklists, Vacant:

A workplan would be helpful and an overhaul of the checklists to make them more useful. A new BOD member will likely be assigned to this committee at the next BOD meeting (approx. June/July) to assist in these duties.

Membership, Sherry Williams:

We have 134 members according to the symposium registration.

Education Grant, Jennifer Possley:

Application closing date was 2/5/14; we only received 2 applications this year and will be awarding \$2000. Note that we had budgeted \$5000 for this grant. Committee members discussed and ranked the two proposals and decided to approve full funding for both:

- The Institute for Regional Conservation via applicant Sarah Martin will be awarded \$1000 for “Coastal Palmetto Bay and Cutler Bay Habitat Restoration Interpretive Sign.” This large sign will provide interpretation about an invasive plant restoration project that will be very visible to passing commuters.
- Stetson University’s Gillespie Museum via applicant Karen Cole will be awarded \$1000 for “Why plant native: protecting native landscapes from invasive exotics.”

A followed up with our 2013 grant recipients:

- Bethune-Cook University via applicant Hyun Jung Cho was awarded \$1000 for “Invasive plants and their counterparts in retention ponds.” Ms. Cho is working on a Wildland Weeds article.
- UF/IFAS of Sumter County via applicant Jim Davis was awarded \$990 for “Invasive plants commonly sold in nurseries and garden centers.” Jim is working on a Wildland Weeds article.
- Friends of Gamble Rogers State Park via applicant Chandler Zimmerman (who has now been replaced by Jennifer Giblin) was awarded \$570 for “Plant This, not that! Invasive and native plant family education day.” This event has been rescheduled for Fall 2014.

Jennifer has been the Education Grant Committee Chair for seven years and she is interested in stepping down if we can identify a motivated replacement chair.

Research Grant, Jim Cuda:

There were seven outstanding applications for the 2014 FLEPPC Julia Morton Invasive Plant Research Grant Program. Once Dr. Jim Cuda received the applications, he invited six Florida invasive plant researchers to review the proposals (4 agreed to provide reviews) and rank them based on the following criteria: (a) application complete according to guidelines, (b) clearly defined conceptual framework, (c) clearly defined hypothesis & objectives, (d) experimental design & methods consistent with hypothesis, (d) likelihood of success and meaningful results, (e) importance of study species to FLEPPC, and (f) independent project, clearly run by the student.

Based on the reviews, the following two students were awarded research grants for FY 2014-2015:

- Mr. Drew Hiatt, University of Florida, Agronomy Department, awarded \$2,000 for the research project “Variation in competitive ability and response to management treatments among ecotypes of the dominant invasive grass *Imperata cylindrical*.”
- Ms. Adrienne Smith, University of Florida, Environmental Horticulture, awarded \$2,000 for the project “Restoration of native plant species following invader control: *Ruellia simplex* (*R. tweediana*) - invaded forest floodplains.”

CISMA Grant, Kris Serbesoff-King:

For the 2014 CISMA grant cycle, two CISMA grants were awarded:

- Southwest Florida CISMA awarded \$900 for “Keeping Weeds at Bay through Education and Outreach in the SWFL CISMA.”
- First Coast Invasive Working Group awarded \$600 for “Yards to Parks: Building Community Partnerships to Prevent the Spread of Invasive Plants from Private Yards into Public Parks and Natural Areas.”

A follow up with our 2013 grant recipients:

- Central Florida CISMA awarded \$1,000 for “Oakland Nature Preserve/CF CISMA Invasive

Plant Treatment and Mapping Workday.” Partnership of the signage at Oakland Nature Preserve was fulfilled. A Wildland Weeds article will be submitted to fulfill the educational requirement of the grant.

- Suncoast CISMA awarded \$500 for “Suncoast CISMA: Instruments for the Battle against Invasive Butchers of Biodiversity!” The brochures will be professionally printed. Also, an abstract was submitted and accepted to the Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society and Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council 2014 Spring Conference in Safety Harbor. An update of the recent successes of the Suncoast CISMA and description of this funding will be presented.

Nominations, Jim Burney:

Four new nominees were include in the Spring 2014 newsletter:

- Alice Bard, District Biologist (ESII) with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Recreation and Parks (Florida Park Service).
- Tina Bond, Product Specialist for Helena Products Group.
- Gwen Burzycki, Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Program, Miami-Dade County
- Ruark L. “Rook” Cleary, Invasion Biologist (ESIII) with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), Invasive Plant Management Section.

Outreach, Christen Mason:

The FLEPPC display was staffed at two event:

- March 15 at John D. MacArthur Beach State Park’s Naturescaping event staffed by Christen Mason. The booth was well received; many stopped to read display material, and approximately 30 people were spoken to at length.
- April 10 at the Florida Association of Native Nurseries Conference staffed by Todd Olson. Over 400 people attended the conference, including landscapers, landscape architects, growers, and homeowners.

Christen also presented a draft of a new bulletin highlighting specific invasive species that would be unique to Florida. Jennifer and Christen will work on this new bulletin and we will revisit this in the next meeting (approx. June/July).

Plant List, Patricia Howell:

Smut grass was presented to be listed, however there is very little information of its introduction into natural areas. There are some occurrences but in order to get this species listed, information will need to be submitted to Pat. Further, there could be some dispute with its nativity and therefore, could be difficult to get it listed.

Website, Chuck Bargeron:

- Karen Brown is the liaison, and therefore all updates for the website should be sent to her.
- Dennis Giardina will follow up with Chuck to see that the Suntrust account is eliminated and the PayPal account established for memberships.
- There was discussion to have the website updated; Deah Lieurance has an individual that we could speak to about this.

Symposium Planning, Sherry Williams/Jim Burch:

After several attempts to arrange a co-hosted meeting with the Florida Native Plant Society, it became evident that things were not going to come together expediently, and so we ended this endeavor. We will sponsor the 2015 meeting unaccompanied, much as in previous years.

Jhanna Gilbert no longer works for the meeting planning company, so she indicated that she will not be available to provide this service. Jim spoke with Beth Miller-Tipton (Jhanna's former employer) and she will forward some information.

Vendor Report, Mike Meisenburg:

Vendor registration was down this year due to the larger meetings before and after our symposium. We need to get more presence from contractors and land managers. The federal agencies have a list of approved herbicides that can be used on their property. Contacting the representatives of those herbicide companies could make a big difference in vendor registration in the years ahead.

LIAISONS WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:

SE-EPPC Liaison, Karen Brown:

Next annual meeting will be sometime in November in Athens, GA.

NA-EPPC Liaison, Sherry Williams:

FLEPPC will begin to have more of a presence at the NA-EPPC board meetings and/or quarterly conference calls.

OPERATIONS:

The Florida Aquatic Plant Management Society (FAPMS) has asked FLEPPC to host a session at their meeting this fall. In return, FAPMS will host a session at our spring 2015 meeting that will likely be held in the Daytona area.

Regarding conference location, in the past we used to hold them in a more “bio-nerd” setting (i.e., lodges, camps, etc.) rather than at a hotel or resort. We would like to return to that as a way to save cost for FLEPPC and for attendee. Let's all work together to think of some ideal locations!

TASK FORCE REPORTS:

Australian Pine, Tony Pernas:

An omnibus agriculture bill (HB 7091) is moving its way through Tallahassee; it includes a provision to eliminate a pilot program that monitors Australian pines that are used as windbreaks in citrus groves. For a 5-year period, special permits were to be issued authorizing commercial citrus groves to plant *Casuarina cunninghamiana* as windbreaks in Indian River, St. Lucie, and Martin Counties. If passed, permits will still be required but strict monitoring as required by the pilot program will be eliminated. There is no knowledge that permits have been issued to date.

Brazilian Pepper, Jim Cuda:

The 2nd edition of the comprehensive management plan for Brazilian peppertree published in 2006 still needs to be updated to incorporate significant new findings about the plant and its management. Lack of technical support has prevented these long overdue projects from being completed. There is a need to get new information published since there has not been an update since 2006. A new graduate student would be ideal for this work that would include a literature review. Importation of a gall midge (reported in the 80s) for cogongrass will be brought to

University of Florida's Indian River Research and Education Center in Ft. Pierce.

Grasses, Greg MacDonald:

Currently there is a natal grass management plan in progress. Also, more thorough research investigating cogongrass seed viability is being conducted. If folks would like to see other grass species management plans, please contact Greg.

Adjourned: Karen motioned to adjourn at approximately 11:58 AM; seconded by Sherry.