



# Florida EPPC

## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

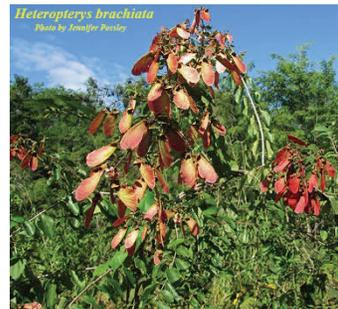
Happy summer solstice everyone! When land managers hear the words “growing season” they think of prescribed burning (yea!) and invasive plants growing like, well, “weeds.” As we all begin our summer marathon of keeping up with treatments, surveying old treatment areas and looking (or not) for new infestations, I would like to share a success story (in progress) with everyone. (I think I did a presentation on this subject at a FLEPPC conference a few years back).

In 2002, the Seminole County Natural Lands Program began in earnest their exotic treatment program by establishing an air potato raid event at Spring Hammock Preserve, located in the middle of the county. This preserve totals 1,500 acres, is located on the west shore of Lake Jesup. It is surrounded by urban development, and includes an environmental studies center, an active ball park, an unstaffed passive park with pavilions and a boardwalk and a paved trail – a perfect storm for invasion!

The air potato raid was held every year until 2013 (at this point we were collecting smaller bulbils, but there were still lots of vines), when we used a one-two punch approach. We applied for and received a treatment grant from the FWC Upland Invasive Plant Management program AND we released the air potato beetle. In that two year period since the treatment and beetle release, the amount of air potato vines and bulbils have decreased by 90%. We still have a few vines coming up, but they are quickly stunted by the beetle. This was a team/multi-agency effort (we all know there is no “I” in team!) that has changed the air potato infestation at this preserve from “out of control” to maintenance control.

I am relaying this story because I think it is important for all of us to regroup as the summer begins, pat ourselves on the back for a job well done thus far, and get outside and fight the good fight!

May the weather be with you!  
Sherry Williams



A few new species that were added to the 2015 FLEPPC List

## Note from Secretary:

This Newsletter contains the minutes from our April 8, 2015 BOD meeting.



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## Annual Meetings & Upcoming Events in Florida

**Florida CISMA 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday Monthly Call**  
1:30 PM  
<http://www.floridainvasives.org/cismas.cfm>

**July 12-15, 2015**  
**Aquatic Plant Management Society**  
Myrtle Beach, SC  
[apms.org/](http://apms.org/)

**October 5-8, 2015**  
**Florida Aquatic Plant Management Society**  
Lake Buena Vista, FL  
[www.fapms.org/](http://www.fapms.org/)

**May 2-5, 2016**  
**Aquatic Weed Control Short Course**  
Coral Springs, FL  
[www.conference.ifas.ufl.edu/aw/index.html](http://www.conference.ifas.ufl.edu/aw/index.html)

**May 19-21, 2016**  
**Florida Native Plant Society**  
Daytona Beach, FL  
[www.fnps.org/conference](http://www.fnps.org/conference)

For announcements and upcoming events in the FLEPPC Newsletter please send information to Aimee Cooper, [aimee.lz.cooper@gmail.com](mailto:aimee.lz.cooper@gmail.com).

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## Welcome New Board Members 2015-2017



**Derek Barber** has been the Livestock and Natural Resources Extension Agent in Columbia County since 2008. He received his B.S. in Agricultural Operations Management from the University of Florida in 1996 and M.A. in Teaching from Nova Southern University in 2001. Mr. Barber's extension program consists of the Production and Management of Livestock and Forages, Natural Resources Education, Small Farms and Alternative Enterprises, and 4-H Youth Development. He also serves as an instructor for the Florida Master Naturalist Program and is currently serving as Secretary for the Northeast Florida Livestock Agents Group and Co-Chair for the North Central Florida Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA). In 2012, he was selected as the NACAA national winner for the Bayer Advanced Communications Award. In 2014, he was elected to serve on the UF Faculty Senate and in 2015 initiated into Gamma Sigma Delta. Prior to joining the University of Florida, Mr. Barber worked in the Miami-Dade County Public Schools and the School District of Hillsborough County as an Agriscience teacher.



**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.

**Minutes from FLEPPC Board of Directors Conference Call**

**April 8, 2015, 9:30 AM**

**Minutes taken by Aimee Cooper (FLEPPC Secretary)**

**ADMINISTRATIVE:**

**Call to Order/Roll Call: 9:45 AM**

**Attending:** Tina Bond, Karen Brown, Jim Burney, Rook Cleary, Aimee Cooper, Jim Cuda, Gayle Edwards, Dennis Giardina, Pat Howell, Colette Jacono, Greg Jubinsky, Geof Lane, Deah Lieurance, Greg MacDonald, Christen Mason, Michael Meisenburg, Keith Morin, LeRoy Rodgers, Erick Smith, Al Suarez, Gregg Walker, Sherry Williams, Kim Zarillo; **Call-in:** Gwen Burzycki, Kris Campbell

**Chair activities, Sherry Williams:**

- Geof Lane and Aimee Cooper received FLEPPC commemorative plaques, recognizing them for their two-year service on the Board of Directors. Additionally, a big THANK YOU was extended to Karen Brown, who has agreed to act as our interim Treasurer while still fulfilling her decade-plus (13 years to be exact!) role as Editor.
- Sherry has started to work on location site ideas for the 2016 FLEPPC Symposium. The location of the meeting may determine whether we will have a joint conference. For example, the Florida Chapter of the Wildlife Society, who we've held joint meetings with in the past, will be holding their proceedings in Gainesville. Also on the table is a return visit to the well-attended Crystal River area.
- Treasure Coast Resource Conservation and Development Council has agreed to act as the financial institute for CISMA grants.

**Correspondence, Sherry Williams:**

- Sherry corresponded on numerous FLEPPC matters, including: 1) questions concerning the length of time Mexican petunia has been on FLEPPC's list; 2) referring Mike Knight with the Brevard County EELS program to Florida Today, who was requesting information about Australian pine in Brevard County for an editorial piece; and 3) fielding general questions about invasive species from public inquiries.

**OFFICER REPORTS:**

**Treasurer's Report, Karen Brown (Interim):**

Bank of America checking account balance	\$31,023.34*
Bank of America savings account balance	\$14,924.50
12 month Bank of America CD (matures 7/27/15; 0.08% interest)	\$ 5,323.33
<b>TOTAL ASSETS:</b>	<b><u>\$51,271.17</u></b>
*Includes registration income moved from PayPal to Bank of America:	\$16,700.00
Minimum conference hotel expenditures per contract:	\$15,325.00

**Expenditures:**

Corporate Filing Fee (Florida)	\$ 70.00
Printing: 2015 FLEPPC Plant List (10K)	\$ 1,016.55
Honorarium to keynote speaker	\$ 500.00
Certified copy of corporate filing to effect name change w/PayPal	\$ 8.75
Eventbrite fees for conference registrations	\$ 1,120.43

Bank of America: We received a \$60 refund for special service fees (\$20 per month) since they could see we hadn't used them. Our account now incurs no charges unless our average daily balance falls below \$15K – then we are charged \$29.95. If we think we might fall below that average daily balance often, we could change the account to a “streamline account”. All account information now reflects my contact information. I see no reason to have a savings account separate from the checking as the interest is virtually nothing (0.02% or 25 cents for January).

PayPal: All account information now reflects my contact info except for the name on the account. I am still trying to accomplish that change. It does not prevent me from transferring funds from PayPal to Bank of America.

American Express: Moved transaction service to a no charge account so we won't be charged \$7.95 per month anymore. We were charged \$60.00 in 2014 according to a 1099 that was received by Ellen Donlan at the SFWMD address (she was Treasurer from 2007-2008; Kristina Serbesoff-King was Treasurer at that same address from 2002-2006; and Dan Thayer at the same address from 1999-2001). Account information has been switched to my contact info and they issued a 6 month credit (\$47.70) since we had not used their services in a long time. Any future credit card transactions will cost 2.89% + 15 cents per transaction but we plan to stick with PayPal only.

SunTrust: An unused merchant services account was closed October 8th, 2014 that was also sending statements to the SFWMD address. We received a 1099-K from them for 2014 for \$550.00. They were charging us \$74.95 per month even though we weren't using the account.

Bank and Credit Card Charges per the 2014 Cash Flow report to SE-EPPC:

2014 bank charges totaled	\$1,579.32
2014 credit card charges totaled:	\$ 335.30
Total	\$1,914.62

Corporate Filing Fee: The annual corporate filing fee for 2015 was paid to the Florida Dept of State – Div. of Corporations in the amount of \$70. All contact info was updated.

FLEPPC PO Box: The post office box has been closed and any mail that goes there should be forwarded to my office address: 7922 NW 71st Street, Gainesville, FL 32653. This address is now shown on the membership application on the back of the trifold FLEPPC 2015 List of Invasive Plant Species and on the website.

Sales tax certificate: Name/address change is in progress. The first quarter report has been filed with the state (we have to send a quarterly report even if we have no sales taxes to report).

Conference expenses to date:

Keynote honorarium	\$ 500.00
Cardboard for poster backing	\$ 24.10
Name badges and card stock	\$ 91.81
Eventbrite fees for conference registrations	\$1,120.43
Program printing	TBD (pending)
Award frames	\$ 125.74
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,862.08</b>

**Editor's Report, Karen Brown:**

- There has been no activity on producing Wildland Weeds, although she has been receiving article submissions mostly from our grant recipients. The FLEPPC Conference Program Schedule has demanded a lot of her time but she expects to be freed up upon the completion of the Symposium, and hopes to start the next issue with the help of Rook Cleary and Gwen Burzycki.
- Karen worked with Plant List Committee Chair, Pat Howell, to publish the new 2015 list. The list is available in both a printed tri-fold pamphlet format that includes a membership form on the back and a printable PDF file (format: 8.5 x 11). Both versions will soon be accessible on the FLEPPC website. Both online versions link the plant names to either the UF/IFAS Center for Aquatic & Invasive Plants website or the Florida Natural Areas Inventory website. Both of these websites have species descriptions and control information. 10,000 tri-fold pamphlets were printed and available at the conference. Printing cost was \$1,016.00.

**Secretary's Report, Aimee Cooper:**

- The January 8, 2015 BOD minutes were approved via email in mid-March. The Spring 2015 FLEPPC Newsletter was distributed March 25, 2015.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:****Finance – Rook Cleary**

- Forms will be sent out this month to each committee chair for budget requests.

**CISMA Grant, Gregg Walker:**

- FLEPPC received two grant applications in 2015, totaling \$1,555.00 in requested funds. The total 2015 grant budget was for \$1,500.00. Gregg asked the FLEPPC BOD for an increase of \$55.00 so that both proposals could be fully funded. The BOD accepted his request, allowing both applications to be fully funded. He has not notified the applicants yet but he will announce the results at the conference:
  1. Central Florida CISMA – Oakland Nature Preserve Educational Event and Treatment Workday: \$795.00 requested.
  2. First Coast CISMA – Printing of Invasive Plants You Should Know brochure: \$760.00 requested.
- Gregg would like to request \$1,500.00 for next year's grant cycle.

**Education Grant, Kris Campbell:**

- Kris received six applications this year! The committee has selected 3 applicants to receive funding for the following projects. All applicants have been notified of the amount awarded and have agreed to the amount if less than originally proposed. None of the applicants will be at the 2015 FLEPPC Symposium, therefore the checks will need to be mailed out:
  1. NCF CISMA...Unity Through Training (4 Workshops): \$800.00
  2. FO Gamble Rogers...Plant This, Not That!: \$400.00
  3. Swamp Girl...Swamp N Sweep: \$800.00

**Membership, Gayle Edwards:**

- We are 185 members strong and still counting! This is, by far, the highest membership we've had in some years.

**Nominations, Jim Burney:**

- At the time of this meeting, there are three confirmed nominees: Sarah Laroque, Greg MacDonald, and Gregg Walker. We are waiting for the confirmation of the fourth nominee.
- We are desperately seeking a Chair Elect!

**Outreach, Christen Mason:**

- The FLEPPC display was set up at the Central Florida Invasive Species Workshop on February 25, 2015 by Cheryl Millett. Additionally, we were invited to The Festival of Trees in Lake Worth; however we were unable to find someone available to staff the booth that weekend. The organizer of the event will likely ask a FLEPPC member to speak at a City meeting to speak about invasive species in the near future. Mike Yustin will be present at an event in Martin County on April 11.
- Karen Brown corresponded with Kanapaha Botanical Gardens director Alexis Caffrey in Gainesville and she agreed to ask vendors not to sell Cat I species at their annual Spring Garden Festival. They posted a notice on their vendor application forms and put the FLEPPC Plant List on their website.
- The Silent Auction is a go. Gayle sewed a quilt representing invasive species and kindly donated it for the silent auction. Al Suarez has generously volunteered to assist with a donation towards the raffle prize.

**Plant List, Pat Howell:**

- The 2015 Plant List is complete and, thanks to Karen, it is printed and available here at the Symposium. In total, 10,000 pamphlet-style lists were printed. Additions included **Category I:** *Sporobolus jacquemontii* (= *S. indicus* var. *pyramidalis* [West Indian dropseed]) and *Vitex rotundifolia* (beach vitex); **Category II:** *Crassocephalum crepidioides* (Okinawa spinach), *Heteropterys brachiata* (red wing), *Praxelis clematidea* (praxelis), *Spermacoce verticillata* (shrubby false buttonweed).
- Thank you to the Board for the approval of the Lifetime Membership Awards for Dr. David Hall, Dr. Daniel Ward, and Dr. Richard Wunderlin. These awards were presented at the last Plant List Committee meeting. The wood used to make the awards was from the African mahogany tree, *Khaya nyasica*, that had blown over during Hurricane Wilma in one of our natural areas. Ironically, this tree was considered for listing in 1997.
- Members of the Plant List Committee helped the BOD and other FLEPPC members better understand how species are listed after concerns/confusion arose during the discussion of the new 2015 Plant List. Adding to the confusion was that the Plant List Committee meetings are not typically announced, even though they are open to FLEPPC members. Colette Jacono explained how each species is examined and the steps that are taken to begin the process, such as performing herbaria reviews, examining the botanical understanding of the plant, etc. She also encouraged FLEPPC members to join the meetings, but calling in would be preferred because their meeting locations are often held in smaller venues with limited seating. Future Plant List Committee meetings will be better broadcasted to the BOD and FLEPPC meetings so that anyone can join/listen in. Also suggested was an activity calendar on the FLEPPC website so that BOD and committee meetings are available for FLEPPC members to participate in.

**Symposium Local Arrangements – Sherry Williams**

- We exceeded our room block this year with the 103 people that have registered for the Symposium; we do expect a few more walk-ins to join. The hotel is prepared for us and able to

furnish tables, A/V equipment, and easels for posters, and also assist with room set up. Breaks are set for Wednesday afternoon and both Thursday and Friday mornings. We may also include morning coffee at 7:00 AM on either Thursday or Friday. The final meeting with the hotel to cover any last minutes details is scheduled for Tuesday afternoon (April 7). Karen will secure payment for the Symposium with hotel staff.

- This evening's social will be held in the vendor/poster room following the last session of the Symposium and includes a complimentary keg of beer. The Thursday evening banquet dinner menu has been confirmed and we have planned for 103 people to attend.

#### **Symposium Planning/Program, Sherry Williams/Karen Brown:**

- We have 24 speakers, including three students, in seven sessions. We have six posters, including one student. One speaker was asked to submit a poster instead of a presentation in order to fit the time allotment, while another speaker was asked to be a stand-by in case of a no-show/cancellation. The panel discussion will take up two time slots (50 minutes) on Thursday from 9:00 AM – 9:50 AM. The CISMA/EDRR concurrent session will take place Friday from 8:00 AM – noon. Gayle has designed directional signs for the Symposium for easy orientation.
- Timeline of announcements:
  - 11/20/14: Meeting information was first posted on the website.
  - 12/12/14: First Call for Abstracts was sent to the list-serv; deadline for submissions 2/16/15.
  - 2/5/15: Registration reminder, including critical dates and agenda outline, sent to members.
  - 2/12/15: Final call for abstracts.
  - 3/17/15: Invitation to attend with select speakers listed was sent to membership.
  - 3/10/15 and 3/19/15: Acceptance of abstracts/posters was sent to authors.
  - Website information was changed as needed.
- EventBrite fees as of 5:00 PM Friday, April 3rd, totaled: \$1,120.43
- After initially being turned down, we were able to obtain Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Continuing Education Units thanks to the extraordinary effort by Tamara James at DACS, and with lots of leg work from Jackie Smith and Eric Reiss. CEU categories for this year's Symposium are as follows:
  - Natural Areas = 12
  - Forestry = 10
  - Right of Way = 10
  - Aquatics = 2
  - Demo & Research = 2
  - Additionally, 12 Continuing Forestry Education Credits were obtained by Chris Demers from the Society of American Foresters (Category 1)

#### **Vendor – Michael Meisenburg/Karen Brown**

- This year's Symposium has nine registered vendors. We would like to see more vendor registrations in the future but there are some issues we've had in the past that need to be addressed. Over the years we have lost vendors for reasons out of our control, such as company-imposed travel restrictions, declining economy, etc. However, there are several instances that are in our control and are of concern: 1) there have been times where vendors felt separated from the networking breaks and/or poster presentation/socials because their booths were not located in the same areas where these events were taking place; 2) when travel restrictions and memberships dwindled, vendors stopped traveling to our conference because they thought that their marketing money wasn't working for them; and probably the most concerning is 3) our reputation was damaged when some vendors perceived that we are anti-

herbicide use from the joint meeting we held with the Florida Native Plant Society in Maitland where several talks consisted of anti-herbicide views. We have worked to correct the first issue, holding networking breaks and the poster presentation and evening social in the same room where vendors have their booths. Tina Bond also mentioned that other conferences allow vendors time to update their products, an idea that we discussed during the planning of this year's Symposium and that we have included on our agenda. To address the misconception that we are anti-herbicide, Dennis suggested having vendors join with the Vendor Committee members to discuss herbicide use. We will continue to work on correcting this misunderstanding.

#### **Website –Chuck Bargeron/Karen Brown (Liaison)**

- A very useful suggestion that an activities calendar be placed on the FLEPPC website so that scheduled BOD and committee meetings (e.g., Plant List Committee) are made available to FLEPPC members.

#### **LIAISONS WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS**

##### **SE-EPPC Liaison – Sherry Williams**

- Sherry participated in the SE-EPPC board meeting on February 5, 2015, providing a summary of activities for the upcoming 2015 FLEPPC Symposium. New SE-EPPC Chair/President Stephen Enloe introduced himself and expressed his vision for SE-EPPC. He encouraged all chapter chairs to make suggestions or recommendations that would contribute to the over-all goals for SE-EPPC.
- The SE-EPPC Annual Meeting will be held May 26-28, 2015 in Chapel Hill, NC at the North Carolina Botanical Garden in conjunction with the NC-IPC Annual Meeting.

##### **NA-IPC Liaison – Sherry Williams**

- Sherry participated both in the NA-IPC (formerly NA-EPPC) board meeting in February and on March 31, 2015 (see attached minutes) and the NA-IPC hosted webinar series for NISAW (<http://www.nisaw.org/2015webinar.html>). These webinars may soon be offered monthly or quarterly. NA-IPC has quarterly conference calls with the chairs or presidents of all invasive plant groups calling in. Contact Nancy Loewenstein [loewenj@auburn.edu](mailto:loewenj@auburn.edu) if you would like to call-in. For more information visit their website at <http://na-eppc.org/>
- Kate Wilson conducted a survey during her graduate work at University of Florida gathering information on plant lists among SE-EPPC chapters. The NA-EPPC Update from *Wildland Weeds* (Spring 2014) states, "... NA-EPPC has taken a lead role in the process of developing an American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) standard for invasive plant listing." This is being coordinated with a person with the Codes, Standards and Sustainable Design Division of the EPA. "NA-EPPC's involvement focuses on assuring that the proposed standard is scientifically sound and rigorous, and that the standard has wider application than informing building codes, lending validity to current invasive plant lists." A copy of the draft standard can be obtained by contacting Dr. Nancy Loewenstein at [loewenj@auburn.edu](mailto:loewenj@auburn.edu) or Doug Johnson at [dwjohanson@cal-ipc.org](mailto:dwjohanson@cal-ipc.org) The ultimate goal is to have invasive plant lists recognized at the federal level for various uses. NAEPPC (now NAIPC) recently went to Anaheim, CA for an ASTM conference and following is Doug Johnson's report from that event:
  - The good news is that everything we did here at the ASTM meeting in Anaheim needed to happen for us to move forward with an invasive plant listing standard. The bad news is that ASTM procedures worked against us and we were not able to get the standard approved as we had hoped. ASTM's committee on sustainability standards is

made up predominantly of individuals from the building industry who are cautious about getting too far ahead of the curve, especially on anything that potentially leads to regulation. The comments of two critics were enough to sway some of the voters (none of whom are familiar with our issue) to vote against the standard. There was not sufficient time allowed in the meeting structure for voters to understand the standard, the critics' concerns and our responses. Very frustrating, as you can imagine. We did get formal concurrence rejecting several of the negative comments, we did satisfy the concerns of one negative voter, and we did get to meet people personally so they have a better feel for who we are. And of course we learned a lot. A big thank you to Read Porter, Dave Moorhead, Sara Kuebbing, Susan Gitlin and Kelly Scanlon for being here to represent, and for Dave Gorchov and Nancy Loewenstein for participating over the phone. And a sincere thank you to all of the IPCs/EPPCs that helped finance our presence here. We're already working on our next steps. We'll keep you posted."

- Four representatives will be sent to California to present a proposed new practice for ASTM standardization: New Practice for Creating a List of Invasive Plants that are Environmentally Harmful in a Defined Region (<http://www.astm.org/DATABASE.CART/WORKITEMS/WK40773.htm>). An ASTM citation would allow the FLEPPC List to be more resilient and effective. With ASTM accreditation, individuals/entities would have to be compliant with the recommendations according to the FLEPPC List.

## **OPERATIONS**

### **New Business**

- Kim Zarillo (FNPS) announced that Marlene Rodac has offered a possible joint conference in 2017 with the Florida Native Plant Society (FNPS). Gregg Walker may attend the 2015 FNPS conference held in Tallahassee next month (May).
- Deah Lieurance has agreed to extend her term on the BOD for a member who could not serve the full term of their appointment.
- Concurrent sessions present a problem because folks miss talks that they would like to attend but can't because they are attending another session. Is there a way to address this issue?

## **TASK FORCE REPORTS**

### **Brazilian Pepper – Jim Cuda**

- Patricia Prada will be updating the management plan.
- The Brazilian Pepper Task force, led by Jim Cuda, has had an eventful year presenting and publishing useful information concerning biological control efforts with several potential insects, including the stem boring weevil *Apocnemidophorus pipitzi*, the gall-forming psyllid *Calophya latiforceps*, the Brazilian peppertree psyllid *Calophya terebinthifolii* and two populations of thrips, *Pseudophilothrips ichini*. The candidate insect, a leaf-defoliating moth *Paectes longiformis*, was found to not be a suitable biological control agent based on results from a host range test. A summary of each of the biological control agents has been provided below. For references of the published articles visit the University of Florida's Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants Library APIRS Database <http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/APIRS/>
- **Biological Control Updates:** Significant progress has been made towards the release of two biological control agents in Florida; the completion of a field release petition for the thrips *Pseudophilothrips ichini*, and near completion of a release petition for the psyllid *Calophya latiforceps*. Results of the host range tests and impact study will determine if another petition requesting field release of the stem boring weevil *A. pipitzi* is warranted. Colonies of the

weevil and psyllids are being maintained for species description (*Calophya* sp.), host range and temperature tolerance studies (*A. pipitzi*, *C. terebinthifolii*, *Calophya* sp.) and/or anticipation of field release (*P. ichini*, *C. latiforceps*).

- Shoot Feeding thrips *Pseudophilothrips ichini* (Hood) (*Thysanoptera: Phlaeothripidae*). Host range testing was completed in collaboration with USDA/ARS and a petition for field release was submitted for TAG review in August 2014.
- Leaflet Galling Psyllids, *Calophya* spp. (*Hemiptera: Calophyidae*). A petition for release of the leaflet galling psyllid *Calophya latiforceps* (*Hemiptera: Calophyidae*) was submitted to UF/IFAS for internal review in June 2014, but has not yet been approved for submission to TAG. Since September 2013, up to 9 generations of three leaflet galling psyllids *Calophya* spp. from Brazil were successfully reared at the BCRCL, Ft. Pierce, FL. The life cycle from egg to adult is completed in ~ 40 days.
- Stem Boring Weevil, *Apocnemidophorus pipitzi* (Faust) (*Coleoptera: Curculionidae*). A field release petition was submitted to the TAG in October 2012. Additional no-choice host range tests requested by the TAG were initiated during 2014 to more clearly define the weevil's "fundamental host range". Because of space limitations, the experiment was divided into 2 phases. Phase 1 included the following test plants: *Pistacia vera* var Kerman, *Schinus molle*, *Metopium toxiferum*, *Rhus copallium*, *R. glabra*, *R. typhina*, *R. aromatica*, *P. chinensis*, *Toxicodendron vernex* and *Schinus terebinthifolia* (control). Each container received a stem of each test plant (~2cm diameter x 10 cm length), one newly emerged female weevil and two males. The weevils were fed with fresh leaves from the same plant from which the stem was obtained. The test was initiated in May 2014 with five replications. To date, adult weevils emerged from *R. aromatica* ( $5.6 \pm 5.2$ ), *M. toxiferum* ( $2.4 \pm 2.5$ ), *P. vera* var. Kerman ( $0.4 \pm 0.4$ ), *S. molle* ( $2.6 \pm 2.2$ ), *R. copallium* ( $0.2 \pm 0.2$ ), *P. chinensis* ( $10.2 \pm 7.9$ ) and Brazilian peppertree, *S. terebinthifolia* ( $10 \pm 1.8$ ). Phase 2 was initiated in September 2014 with 10 additional plant species: *P. vera* var Kerman UCB1 (*Pistacia* rootstock), *Malosma laurina*, *S. polygamus*, *Comocladia dodonaea*, *T. pubescens*, *P. texana*, *R. integrifolia*, *T. radicans*, and *S. terebinthifolia* (control), also with 5 replications. Phase 2 is still in progress.
- The non-native ornamental *P. chinensis* and the native *R. aromatica* were two of the non-target plant species from the Phase 1 tests in which reproduction of the weevil *A. pipitzi* was comparable to its natural host Brazilian peppertree. *Pistacia chinensis* is invasive in Australia and is potentially invasive in the US based on a 2012 Weed Risk Assessment conducted by APHIS PPQ. The native *Rhus aromatica* only occurs in the western Panhandle of Florida- Escambia and Jackson counties. Because north Florida often is subjected to freezing temperatures during winter months, a temperature tolerance experiment was conducted to see if *A. pipitzi* life stages developing inside the stems of *R. aromatica* would survive the freezing temperatures. The weather data from two weather stations that are in close proximity to these counties were obtained from the FAWN website. The longest continuous freezing period for 2013-2014 (temperature  $\leq 0$  oC) was 53 hours in late January 2014. Newly emerged adult weevils were exposed to five Brazilian peppertree stems (~3cm diam.) in colony cages for about two months. Control logs were kept in the cages and the treatment logs were placed in Ziploc freezer bags, placed in a freezer for 53 hours, removed and then returned to the cages. There were three replications and each cage is being monitored for adult emergence. To date, weevil adults have emerged only in the control cages whereas no weevils have emerged from the stems subjected to freezing temperatures for 2.2 days.

- **Additional Information:** According to Rodgers et al. (2015), Brazilian peppertree remains a high priority invasive plant problem on South Florida Water Management District (District) lands. During FY 2014, the District spent a total of \$2,004,657 controlling Brazilian peppertree on four of the six management regions. Biological control is considered a critical need for sustainable management for this invasive shrub.

### Dioscorea – Bill Overholt

- The air potato biological control program, a collaboration of USDA/ARS, FDACS/DPI and UF/IFAS, released 322,076 air potato leaf beetles (*Lilioceris cheni*) at 1010 locations in Florida from 2011-2014. On-going research is comparing life history traits of *Lilioceris cheni* populations from China and Nepal to determine whether the Nepalese type should be released (currently only the Chinese type is being released). Scientists at USDA/ARS are conducting quarantine testing of a second beetle which feeds primarily on air potato bulbils. A website has been developed for the air potato biological control program at: <http://bcrc1.ifas.ufl.edu/airpotatobiologicalcontrol.shtml>

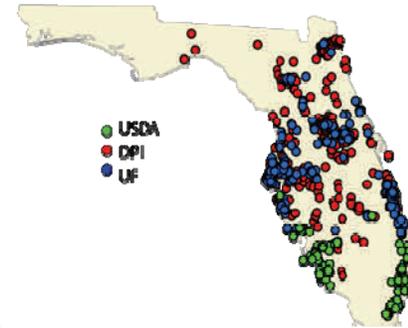


Figure 1. Releases of *Lilioceris cheni* in Florida from 2012-2014..

The FLEPPC Air Potato Management Plan has been updated to include information about the biological control program. Beetles will soon be available for the 2015 release season (May to October). Beetles can be requested from FDACS/DPI for north and central Florida and USDA/ARS for south Florida. See website for details on ordering beetles.

### Lygodium – LeRoy Rodgers

- Ellen Lake (USDA-ARS) submitted a proposal for a similar movement for lygodium as TAME Melaleuca. (Post note-- this proposal was unfortunately rejected last month.)
- Florida Representative Ben Albritton (also Chair of House Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee) took an aerial tour of Everglades Restoration areas. When he noticed the “lime green plants” (lygodium) growing over everything he asked about it. The SFWMD helicopter pilot was able to provide information about lygodium. Rep. Albritton was very concerned and is currently working through the Florida Legislature budget process to fund lygodium management--potentially up to \$5M.

### Skunkvine – Robbie Lovestrand

- There have been successful treatments of skunkvine using “Milestone TM” (aminopyralid) at 1.2ml/gal. with a nonionic surfactant. This herbicide is effective and fairly selective. Robbie recommends that the management plan by Greg MacDonald found on the UF/IFAS CAIP website (<http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/node/303>) be amended to include this information. He is willing to make these changes but would like to be advised on how to proceed.

### Adjourned:

Sherry motioned to adjourn at 11:35AM; the motion was seconded by Aimee Cooper.

### Next Board Meeting:

Conference call will be held on July 28, 2015 from 1:00-3:00 PM.