



Florida EPPC

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Time to Surrender?

There have been articles and papers recently commenting on exotic organisms as non-threatening, inevitable, and concluding that their control is a skirmish not worth fighting. Authors have pointed out exotics' invasive nature as primarily expressed in human-disturbed areas, with little perturbation occurring in stable, natural ecosystems. Many of these ideas are valid enough, but it is short-sighted to consider all alien organisms' establishment as benign or inevitable. One of the contentions mentioned by those not too concerned about aliens is the idea that few of these exotics become established in natural areas. This is fundamentally correct—the list of exotics with which we contend in our work areas is quite short, but the compromises caused to the native biological communities, and resources required to correct these compromises, are very large.

The scale of invasive populations is perhaps most significant regarding establishment. Arrival of new species' propagules in natural communities is normal and occurs constantly, but quick succession arrivals of many types of organisms is not likely to occur in nature. This recent rapid migration is a human-enhanced situation. Native systems have limited ability to accommodate many simultaneous arrivals, so native populations are compromised with occurrence of several non-natives.

Invasive organisms commonly prosper in disturbed areas, as they are often early colonizers in areas with little competition. Disturbances are common in nature and these organisms are the ones that become established quickly and stabilize natural areas after changes, such as floods, fires, storms, or glacial retreat. In most of our area, low elevation means that change in sea level alters our ecosystems when ocean depths change. Sea levels change often in geologic time, and much of Florida has been alternately sea bottom and dry land about ten times over the past million years or so. A hundred thousand year cycle is a long time in terms of human history, but is not especially long in ecological time, or years that may be expected for development of stable biomes. In this respect, much of our area has been subject to significant alteration and recovery constantly for millennia, so that its "natural" condition is largely early-successional and species depauperate. This is fertile territory for colonizing organisms, particularly exotics with few limiting factors. Exotics that live in the natural area are, by definition, now resident; those residing with minimal limiting factors can become established as part of the biological community, sometimes as community dominants.

In this case, active management is necessary to maintain examples of native, natural biological communities. In the past few decades, the National Park Service has become involved with the public movement toward wilderness experience, indicting a public demand for pristine biological systems. Management entities in natural systems have an obligation to maintain areas without compromise by non-natives. This includes humans, as the people who visit these areas are asked to leave no trace. Similarly, management of these areas must follow requirements that allow a minimum of impact to the natural

Message form the Chair continued.....

resources, while managing fires, visitor services and exotics control. These areas are similar to museum displays, so that people are able to experience uncompromised nature. They are refugia for native organisms, many of which are rare, unique or endangered, that would have little chance of survival in competition with nearly unlimited proliferation of non-natives.

So, clearly it is important to people and natural systems to maintain native areas with minimal compromise by non-natives. Abandoning this work is apparently attractive to some, as environmental problems may seem self regulating in some places, and the work looms steep ahead. But backing down now is way too much like giving up our native ecosystems and resident species. It's too much like surrender, and most of us won't do that.

Jim Burch
Big Cypress National Preserve

Upcoming FLEPPC Events

April 16-19, 2012-The Wildlife Society/Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council Annual Conference in Ocala, Florida

See <http://fltws.org/STD2012SpringConference.php> for more information.

Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council

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Nominations for New FLEPPC Board of Directors

Thank you to our four outgoing members of the FLEPPC Board of Directors: Mike Renda, Michael Yustin, Erin Myers, and Dan Bergerson. We appreciate all your hard work for the past two years.

We are pleased to present the new nominees to the FLEPPC Board of Directors, FLEPPC members will vote on the new slate at the next members meeting in Ocala, Florida April 16-19, 2012.

Aimee Cooper : Aimee Cooper is a Biological Scientist with the Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants at the University of Florida. She holds a B.A. in Biology from Otterbein College. She leads the investigation of non-native plants for the IFAS Assessment of Non-Native Plants in Florida's Natural Areas. Prior to this work she spent time in the field combating various noxious weeds and participating in research in remote areas of South Florida.

Christen Mason: Christen Mason is an Invasive Species Biologist for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, stationed at Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge. She graduated from Palm Beach Atlantic University with a degree in Biology, focusing on botany. She was responsible for overseeing exotic plant removal contracts across 60,000 acres as an Invasive Species Biologist for Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Her current duties include vegetation monitoring, coordinating and overseeing invasive plant removal contracts and supporting invasive species research projects. Christen has been an active member of the Treasure Coast CISMA since 2008 and has recently joined the Everglades CISMA.

Michael Meisenburg: A founding partner of Kestrel Ecological Services, a private firm since 2007 that specializes in invasive plant control, native plant restoration, tree surveys and hazard tree evaluations, wetland determination and delineation, and biological inventories. Michael is licensed by the State of Florida as a commercial pesticide applicator with natural area, rights-of-way, aquatic, and landscaped certifications. He has a Master's degree in Agronomy from the University of Florida after studying avian-assisted seed dispersal of *Ardisia crenata*, and a Bachelor's degree in Wildlife Ecology & Conservation, also from UF. He is past president of the Alachua County chapter of the Florida Audubon Society.

Billy Snyder: Billy Snyder is a biologist for the National Park Service. He manages the exotic plant control program at Big Cypress National Preserve. Billy earned his bachelor's degree in American History from Black Hills State University in 1993. He is also a past BOD member for EPPC. Billy resides in Everglades City Florida with his wife and two young sons.

**Minutes from Florida EPPC Board of Directors Meetings
November 17, 2011 (10:00 AM)
Hilton Hotel, Ocala, Florida
Minutes taken by Hillary Cooley, FLEPPC Secretary**

Administrative

Attendance: Jim Burch, Hillary Cooley, Karen Brown, Salvador Medina, Keith Morin, Stefanie Nagid, and Jessica Spencer. Jim Cuda arrived after lunch.

On phone: Sherry Williams, Mike Renda, Erin Myers, Dianne Owen, Chris Lockhart, Matt King, and Jim Burney

Call to order at 10:06 AM

Approval of Last Minutes-(from August 16, 2011)

Changes to the minutes from the August 16, 2011 meeting mentioned by Erin Myers, that the meeting with NPG was just with herself and Stefanie Nagid and that Stefanie did not work for NPG and that Erin was not on the strategic planning committee, but Mike Renda is on the strategic planning committee. Also Sherry Williams mentioned that she did not call in to the last meeting.

Karen Brown motioned to approve the minutes pending the changes mentioned, Mike Renda seconded. This motion was unanimously approved by the FLEPPC BOD.

Chair Activities

Jim Burch- last month Jim attended the National EPPC meeting that was held in Tallahassee in conjunction with the Natural Areas Association Conference, and attended the NA-EPPC business meeting. Jim said the conference was well attended, but no actual votes were taken, but that they discussed the next conference that will occur in Norfolk, Virginia next year and that it will be a joint conference with the Natural Areas Association and NA-EPPC again. There was also discussion about applying the Federal Noxious Weed list to the green industry. What is being proposed is developing a list of noxious plants using the ASTM (American Society for Test and Materials) that will provide some clout for listing of plants that are not to be recommended for green development and landscaping industry. The ASTM is looking for participation; Jim is going to get in touch with Keith Bradley, since Keith is familiar with species in our state and chair of the Plant List Committee, so hopefully we will have some participation in the list.

Other topics included a meeting for National Invasive Species Awareness Week in late February and early March. Also there is a meeting, Weeds Across Borders, that will be in Cancun, Mexico the 23-27 of April, 2012 that includes Mexico and Canada.

North America Invasives Meeting in Sault Ste. Marie, Canada in August, 2012. Jim said that he will write-up and circulate the information from this meeting. December 1, 2011 is the South East Exotics meeting at FGCU- (Florida Gulf Coast University). Jim Burch plans to attend.

Correspondence-Jim Burch –Jim answered many questions and noticed that in the last few months there were many questions about local governments and responsibilities to treat exotic vegetation. Jim said that his response to these questions was to call the local or county office.

Karen Brown also mentioned that she gets many similar questions and in the report that Doria Gordon sent, FLNGA did not want to add any more Plants to their voluntary do not sell list.

Karen Brown suggested an article that explains the use of the FLEPPC Plant List and also where to find information about local or county ordinances we could then use as a flyer to give out to people.

Keith Morin suggested this could be a good extension product that could then also be something that local county extension contact could use or modify to explain what is the local ordinance that may apply. That way when someone asks we can refer them to the article that explains the various lists and where to look to for guidance.

Karen said that Ken Langeland could most likely help her get this information together. Karen also mentioned that there was new language on the FLEPPC list that says that “The FLEPPC list of Invasive Plant Species is not a regulatory list. Only those plants listed as Federal Noxious Weeds, Florida Noxious Weeds or in local ordinances are regulated by law.”

Sherry said that Kris Serbesoff-King already wrote an article that explains the difference between FLEPPC and the CISMAs. This may have been in Wildland Weeds and also explains the regulatory part. Sherry will try and dig that up. It would be nice to have standard language the County Extension agencies could use.

Ken Langeland sent Jim Burch a suggestion for a non-members award. Ken sent a video from an extension agent in Lee County that explains natural resource issues, and he has done a lot with exotic issues. Jim Burch will circulate the video. Jim said this could be a possible candidate for the nominee for the award.

Treasurer’s Report – Dianne Owen-Dianne sent report this morning. The report is the fiscal year 2011/12 budget and the fiscal 2011/12 income expense year to date. The budget itself has not been reviewed by the Finance committee or approved by the FLEPPC board and it might not necessarily be correct, but is an estimate based on previous years. The FLEPPC Board needs to iron out what they want and Dianne will make the changes. Dianne has not participated in a discussion about the symposium budget since about August, and is not aware of what the 2012 anticipated symposium budget is, so the symposium budget is based the on the previous year.

Stefanie said that the Florida chapter of The Wildlife Society typically estimates between \$6,000-\$9,000 for a spring conference, so FLEPPC’s portion would be about half that, so about 4,000 for Symposium budget for 2012.

This \$4,000 is considerably less than last year.

Stefanie has information about this year’s symposium, she will hand it out today and she can e-mail the information to Jim Burch and he can e-mail it out to anyone who needs it.

Stefanie and Jessica are planning to meet over the next few weeks to discuss the menu and that way they will be able to finalize what the registration fee will be. Stefanie said she should know all this information by the middle of December at the latest.

Karen sent request for Wildland Weeds contributions to Ellen and Dianne. Dianne said that she got the \$7 dollars per person request and that it was in there and that it shows up on the expense side and the income side, so it is basically money we are segregating for a specific purpose.

Jim said that we will check our e-mails when we get back and we will approve that budget by e-mail.

Dianne said she still needs to look at moving our savings and CDs in to something more profitable. The first one that will roll around will be after the semester is over so maybe she will be able to look into something with a better return, but really we are not going to be able to get much anywhere right now.

Karen is a little concerned because FLEPPC has not been bringing in much money and she knows that we have money that we allocate for grants. We seem to be running a bit of a deficit, and we are not making money on meetings like we use to, but hopefully it will be all right.

On line Registration. Dianne said that last time we said we would use the Wildlife Registration web-site, but Karen pointed out that we do not have the same pricing for members and for non-members.

Stefanie said they had online registration already setup, but last time she went on to the FLEPPC web site there was not a link to The Wildlife Society (TWS) web site. So, if FLEPPC can just link to TWS website, TWS has their conference page already set-up with the information there. Stefanie has a draft blank registration form, which she will e-mail to Jim and he can distribute to whoever needs it, but FLEPPC must link to the FWS website. There is a way to integrate the two registration forms.

Erin said that she would take care of contacting Chuck and getting him the link and all the information.

Editor's Report – Karen Brown

Karen sent report by e-mail yesterday, the summer/fall issue of Wildland Weeds (WW) is out and Karen has extra copies of WW if people need them for meetings or office. This issue has the 2011 Plant List in it.

One item to discuss, but will need to be held until the budget is approved, is if there is money in the budget for the printing of the brochure version of the FLEPPC 2011 Plant List. Karen sent message to Dianne and Keith, because Karen does not know if money was budgeted to print the brochure version of the 2011 Plant List. We could print the 10,000 copies that we normally order for about \$1,000. Once Karen knows if there is money available for printing, she has the final file; it just needs to be sent to the printer. In the meantime there are three on line versions of the 2011 FLEPPC List on the FLEPPC website.

Karen has combined issues of Wildland Weeds to two per year, because she cannot get four per year out and we are discontinuing advertising, so there is less money available. All issues are available as PDF files on the FLEPPC website and there is an archive of articles that is searchable by issue, by author and by plant. This has not been updated since winter of 2008. If anyone knows of someone wanting to make PDF files, let Karen know. It would be nice to get the latest issues in the searchable database.

SE-EPPC makes an annual contribution per member for the magazine, and they just paid their fiscal year invoice, so they are up to date. Karen put in a budget amount for FLEPPC and it is essentially just moving money into an encumbered column, it is not so much an expense as just moving money over.

There is a new Pacific Northwest Exotic Pest Plant Council and they want to receive the magazine. There are 106 members in the Pacific Northwest chapter and they are paying \$7 per member.

So, at this point we are relying on contributions from the membership fees to pay for the publication of the magazine. Since now there is no advertising there should be fewer pages, so the cost of printing should be less; also there will be fewer issues, so there will be less mailing cost. We are just going to have to see if the \$7 per member covers expenses.

There is a new free App for iPhones to identify and report invasive species; it is featured on the back of the latest Wildland Weeds magazine. Chuck Barger developed it and it uses a lot of images and text that the University of Florida provided. There are 84 non-native plants featured and some lizards and snakes. At this time it is not good for other smart phones, but that may change.

Secretary's Report – Hillary Cooley

Minutes were sent out and approved from the last meeting (August 16, 2011) and Hillary will make changes to the minutes that were mentioned at the beginning of the meeting. If there are any additional corrections please e-mail them to Hillary.

Jim Burch sent the Message from the Chair, Hillary will be working on the November 2011 Newsletter next week, so if there are other items for the newsletter, please get them to her. Jim Burney had also submitted a letter to be included in the newsletter about forming an advocacy group.

Karen Brown motioned to approve the officer's reports and Jessica Spencer seconded. This motion was approved unanimously by the board.

Committee Reports

Symposium

Stefanie Nagid with The Florida Wildlife Society attended the meeting and reviewed the status of the joint Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society (TWS) and Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council Conference (FLEPPC) planned for Ocala, Florida on April 16-19, 2012.

The theme is *Invasion of the Habitat Snatchers Part II: Wildlife Invades!*

Stefanie provided a great amount of detail on the joint TWS/FLEPPC April 2012 meeting.

-Below is an abridged summary of the information that Stefanie Nagid provided; for the full minutes about the conference please contact the current FLEPPC Secretary.

- 1) Save the date information has been posted on the web on October 15, 2011. The save the date is on TWS Facebook page, web site and on their List Serve.
- 2) The call for papers was sent out yesterday (November 17, 2011).
- 3) The sponsorship letter will be sent out to past sponsors.

4) Draft of the second announcement is also planned to go out in January. This announcement will have the official registration information and the registration price.

-The other details to be worked out are field trips and workshops. Jessica gave Stefanie the field trip information. TWS would prefer that the workshop cost include the cost of a box lunch.

-In the past the TWS registration fees typically include the cost of the social and the dinner. In the past FLEPPC has had the cost of the reception dinner (banquet) as a separate cost. TWS would prefer to keep the cost of the social and reception dinner to be included in the total registration cost.

-TWS typically does raffle and silent auction. On sign-up sheet for raffle/auction it would indicate FLEPPC or TWC as option and the profits go to each group, but the main fee from the registration will be split down the middle.

-It was also mentioned that the Florida Vegetation Management Association (FVMA) conference is April 19 and 20, 2012, so the FVMA conference overlaps the TWS/FLEPPC conference by one day. This may affect attendance and we may want to make sure that we maximize our CEUs.

-We have asked that vendors be set-up through the entire length of the conference, however break- down is scheduled at noon on Thursday.

-The draft budget is based on what TWS has done in the past. There is a cost break down for each day, the cost of food, rooms, and what we might need to pay for students, VIPs ect.

-The Wildlife Society gives a \$200 award to the best student paper presentation. On Wednesday in order to get good student participation we decided to have a whole section of student presentations. The student award will just be a TWS event.

-The other thing for students is that TWS provides one boys room and one girls, where up to 4 boys and 4 girls could come and stay in the rooms for free. The contract with the hotel gives us one comp room for every 40 room nights, so we could have up to 3 or 4 comp room nights. Would FLEPPC want to contribute to two rooms nights for students?

-May be FLEPPC would pay for the Key Note speakers room, so that FLEPPC is contributing.

Note: That the hotel is also giving us two rooms nights complementary for planning purposes.

- TWS has a travel grant program, where people fill out an application and a committee looks at the application and decides is there room in our budget to pay for someone's registration fee or hotel room.

-In the FLEPPC budget there is \$600 for paid for rooms (except for the Key Note Speaker) what is this for? We think that this may be for the band?

-Last year's FLEPPC conference attendance was down, was this because of agency travel budgets? TWS looked at doing this a few years ago, and you may think that it will add to your total cost, but actually you are bring more people in.

A lot of federal and state agencies are only funding mandatory travel or training, so it is less about the cost and more about is it mandatory for the performance of your job.

FLEPPC is also low on money, and someone would need to coordinate a travel grant program and administer the program. This is a good idea, but it is not in place now.

FLEPPC is not obligated to give anyone the money. Maybe this could be part the Chair Discretionary fund? Maybe we could start off by only offering two travel grants? The travel grant could be just a travel grant and not necessarily a student travel grant. When the second announcement comes out we will just say travel grants may be available.

-TWS has about 200 members and we typically plan for about 75-100 people the conference. Last year conference held at Safety Harbor and attendance was down due to travel restrictions.

Ocala should have good student participation due to close location to UF and Gainesville.

-Stefanie sent Jessica and Erin information about getting contacts for speakers.

-Sherry said that she will help Jessica out with communication and planning. Erin has already contracted Chuck about the information on the website. The other three key FLEPPC people are Ben, Dianne and Bill. Information can also just be sent to the FLEPPC board and then anyone with a key role will be included. Hillary can send the FLEPPC board list or the website if fairly up to date, there are a few things on the FLEPPC board website page that need to be up-dated, Hillary said that she will contact Chuck and get the FLEPPC board website page up-dated. Sponsorship and vendor people, from both organizations will need to be in contact with each other. Paul and Ben will need to talk about CEUs.

-TWS is in the process of getting a survey out about what type of certifications they have and what type of CEUs they most need.

-One of the FLEPPC field trips is typically an herbicide test plant field trip that LeRoy Rodger's coordinates, Salvador said they put out the test plots yesterday for this year's conference. That field trip is at Sliver River State Park and they also do hog removal and there are Recess monkeys that live around the River. This may be a good opportunity for a combined TWS/FLEPPC field trip, but we will need to really look at these field trips and workshops, if we are trying to offer CEUs then we need to make sure that we are not diluting the topic.

-Ben is keeping Keith in the loop about CEUs and the standards are all on the DBCS website.

-For this symposium TWS wants to have two field trips and two workshops.

Bylaws --Mike Renda – No report left the call, may call back later?

Checklists –Sherry Williams – Sherry sent out a request for up-dates and only got a few updates. LeRoy sent an update for the Control and Evaluation Committee and Salvador will talk about more about that.

Sherry asked if the check lists useful.

Jim Burch thinks that they are useful and valuable, we need to keep them in place and up-dated.

There was a suggestion to send out reminders to people about up-coming things that need to be accomplished.

Sherry said that she could send out a brief reminder in December and then a more comprehensive update in January.

Control and Evaluation - LeRoy Rodgers – Salvador Medina said yesterday nine test plots were laid out at Silver Spring Sate Park, the test plots are to evaluate surfactants and adjuvants. We are treating cogon grass using glyphosate at a standard rate and then just trying various other adjuvants to see if there is a difference in control. We have nine different test plots, one is a control plot of just glyphosate and no adjuvant.

The plots will be evaluated in March. LeRoy will send out a paper with more information.

Education - Jennifer Possley-Not on the call, but sent report please see report below.

Report:

FLEPPC EDUCATION GRANT COMMITTEE REPORT

Prepared for 11/17/11 BOD meeting in Ocala, FL

Budget – On 9/1/11, I emailed a FY2012 budget request to the treasurer and finance committee. I requested \$5000, though I know only \$4000 may be granted due to financial constraints. I do not yet know how much money is in our budget for the upcoming grant cycle.

RFP – I will circulate a revised Request for Proposals in late November, incorporating changes discussed by the Ed Grant Committee. The following statements will be added. This is an attempt to avoid situations where we send grand funds and the recipient either does not deliver as promised, or else delivers a sub-standard product.

For proposals that include printed material (brochure, sign, etc), applicants must submit a rough draft or a sample of previously published work. Alternatively, applicants may submit a draft within 3 months of award notification, with funds provided after the draft is accepted by the FLEPPC Education Grant Committee.

Follow-up with past winners – This summer I spent some time contacting past winners who had not yet submitted reports or given presentations. As a result, the current issue of Wildland Weeds has 4 articles in it from previous Ed Grant winners.

Website – I've continued to have our webmasters post Ed Grant products to FLEPPC's publications page. There are some great lesson plans, brochures and flyers that have resulted from this program.

Report submitted by:

Jennifer Possley

Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden

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-Four of the Grant funded projects are written up in the most recent issue of Wildland Weed and can be found on pages 18-20.

-We may need to look at the recipient sending a draft, before we give them the money.

Finance – Ellen Allen (Donlan) – Ellen not on the call and did not send a report. We will need to follow-up with Ellen and Dianne.

Legislative - Matt King- Sent Report out late yesterday. See FLEPPC Secretary for full report.

The Topics of the Report include:

1. Florida Invasive Species Advocacy Group.
2. USDA Q37 Protocol.
3. National Pollutant discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Pesticide General Permit.
4. National Environmental Coalition on Invasive Species.
5. Comments on NAPPRA process.
6. Comments on individual quarantine pest plant proposals.
7. Comments related to NAPPRA and Federal Noxious Weed listings.

- Jim Burney sent message about lobbying legislative. Jim Burney checked into lobbying efforts for exotic plant control and found that there were efforts at the federal level, but not much at the state level, except for UPI and Aquatic efforts.

-Jim contacted other application companies and herbicide manufacturers in forming a lobbying group. Jim Burney asked if the FLEPPC board would approve the insertion of the letter below into the FLEPPC newsletter and the FLEPPC list serve.

-Jessica Spencer read the letter.

-Matt King said that from what he could tell putting the letter in the FLEPPC newsletter was not a conflict with lobbying legislation, and that FLEPPC is not financially supporting this and FLEPPC is allowed to lobby as long as it is not a substantial percent of what we do. This letter is really more about supporting the effort to form an independent lobby group.

-Karen Brown motioned to insert the letter into the FLEPPC newsletter, Keith Morin seconded, The FLEPPC Board unanimously approved to insert the letter in to the FLEPPC newsletter and the FLEPPC List Serve.

-See the FLEPPC November 2012 Newsletter at http://www.fleppc.org/Newsletters/Nov_2011_newsletter.pdf for the letter.

-Two other items for the Legislative Committee

1) USDA Q 37 protocol- We submitted comments before. Now Q 37 is being implemented. There is a new category called not authorized for import pending pest risk assessment (NAPPRA). USDA wishes to add 41 plants to this category. There is a sixty day commenting period on these plants and if approved then these plants cannot be imported into the United States until there is a risk assessment. They are now looking for comments on these first 41 plants, National EPPC as well as the National Coalition of Invasive Species has submitted comments on these plants. Matt thought it would be a good idea if FLEPPC submitted comments as well. We have until Nov. 25, 2011 to submit comments, and it can be done on line. There are three comments that we could make.

A. There is a loop hole in the legislation that during the 60 day comment period that people could take that opportunity to import these plants during that time period.

B. Are there any other plants that FLEPPC thinks should be on the list.

C. There needs to be greater clarification about labeling of what is already present in the United States, because if a plant is already present in the United States then it is less likely to be added to the list.

Matt will write-up a draft letter and send to Jim and the FLEPPC board and if they are O.K. with the letter then Matt will post the letter on line.

2.) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System- This legislation is now in effect. Florida has a permit in place and it is on-line.

Jim said there is a Bio-fuel Review Panel and there is an open space on the committee. Jim Burch through that either Matt or Doria would be a good fit for that committee.

Matt may be interested, but would like to research the topic more.

Karen asked Matt if the draft USDA Q 37 letter was going to lead more toward the National EPPC letter or the shorter letter? Matt thought that the FLEPPC letter would be a balance between the two, but lean toward the shorter letter. Matt thinks that it will be about a one page letter.

Merchandise – William Snyder – Billy not on the call, but Jim Burch said Billy is working with Tony on merchandise for the April Symposium.

Nominations - Jim Burney- Last part of December Jim Burney will send out call for nominations. We do not have to do a Chair elect this year, only the four Board Members. When the nominations slate is determined, the Nominations Committee (Karen Brown, Jim Burney and Dianne Owen) will send them to the FLEPPC Board for review.

We need to inform the membership that Dennis Giardina is the nominated Chair elect. We need to vote on this in April to make it final. The nomination information and his bio can go in the next newsletter.

This year our outgoing board members are Erin Myers, Mike Renda, Mike Yustin and Dan Bergeson.

Outreach- Bob Farley- Not on the call, but said that he would still like to be on the committee and asked that we keep him in the loop about the hotel set-up and space for vendor table. Bob also e-mailed Karen and said this company may be able to help with printing the symposium program.

Plant Industry Liaison - Doria Gordon-Doria was not on the call but sent a report. See FLEPPC Secretary for full Report. Topics in the report included.

-Recommendations to the Florida Nursery, Growers, and Landscape Assoc., about progress on the list of species he had brought to their Board to add to species not recommended for use, propagation, or sale by FNGLA to their membership. This list included a number of potential biofuel species that are not currently grown by the industry.

- The FNGLA Board declined to add more plants to the voluntary FNGLA-FLEPPC invasive plant list at this time in light of what it sees as a proliferation of plant lists, especially within local landscape ordinances. The Board sees too many lists out there, which, in turn, seem to be causing confusion and frustration among local officials, homeowners and industry professionals. Although it declined to add more plants to the voluntary list, the Board was quite emphatic that FNGLA will continue to be involved actively and will promote responsible action with respect to plants proven by sound science to be invasive.

-Doria responded with the query of how FLEPPC can continue to help FNGLA with that active involvement.

Plant List - Keith Bradley- Keith not on the call, but the Plant List has been submitted, reviewed and accepted. Please see FLEPPC website for the 2011 Plant List.

Research - Betsy Von Holle- Betsy not on the call and did not send a report. Karen said that she co-signed some checks that went out to last year's Research Grant recipients award winners. Sherry said she will contact her.

Scholarship - Tony Pernas-Tony not on the call, and did not send a report, but indicated that he would still be interested in running this committee.

Strategic Planning -Mike Yustin- LeRoy has compiled the information from the FLEPPC Strategic Planning survey. The Strategic Planning Committee will get together later this month to review the results.

Symposium Local Arrangements - Mike Bodle- Mike not on the call and did not send a report. For the past two years the Symposium has been co-sponsored with other organizations, the need for a FLEPPC local arrangement person has been less.

Symposium Program - Jessica Spencer- The symposium program has already been started. The Wildlife Society and FLEPPC plan to meet in early December, to plan more. The Keynote speaker still needs to be discussed.

-We have a theme and Jessica has contacted the artist that did the artwork for the last Invasion of the Wildlife Snatchers, but Jessica has not heard from her lately.

-Chuck has listed the past themes on the website now as provided by Karen.

-We officially voted on the new theme name that is similar to what we originally voted on, but now the theme is "Invasion of the Habitat Snatcher part two: Wildlife Invades".

-Jim Burch motioned to except the new theme name and Jessica seconded the motion. The FLEPPC board unanimously approved the new name.

CEUs - Ben Gugliotti- Was not able to call in, but indicate that Keith Morin may be able to give up-date.

-Keith said that he would work with Ben to see how CEUs are provided; Keith helped to organize a field trip last year and saw how to register as a CEU provider. We just need to make sure providers register about 4 weeks ahead of time, which would put the due date around March 19, 2012. The Checklist could be helpful in checking to make sure we are meeting the deadlines. Erin mentioned that we are planning to have all the papers in by March 1, 2012, so we should have six weeks to get all the CEUs arranged. We need to make sure that Erin is in the loop, since she will be working on TWS CEUs. Erin said that Paul will keep her in the loop when he gets all the papers in.

On-line registration - Dianne Owen-This year The Wildlife Society will handle this.

Symposium Field Trips – Ben Gugliotti- Ben was not able to attend, indicated that Keith Morin may be able to give up-date.

-Sherry sent Ben a list of 6 or 7 sites in the area, but not sure what he has done with it. Sherry will send the list of field trip sites to Erin and Keith. Keith knows who was granted FWC money through their working group and it would be possible to line up some field trips to those sites.

-How many field trips are we offering? We usually offer more than two. The discussion above was two field trips and two workshops, the workshops are very similar to field trips, but are a bit more hands on.

-The Wildlife Society has offered Python handling workshops in the past.

-We are estimating 125 people attending the conference; this includes the number for both groups.

-Erin, Keith, Ben and Sherry plan to have a conference call about field trips and workshops. They need to set limits on the number of people on the field trip and have this information on the website by the end of January.

-Keith thinks 3-4 field trips, one of which will include the test plots.

-Jim Burch mentioned that it is always good to put information about what to bring on field trip, in the field trip description.

Vendor - Bill Kline-Bill was not able to attend. He asked that we give him an idea of how much floor space there will be for vendor tables.

-Vendors and posters will be in different section. There should be space for about twenty vendors.

Website - Chuck Bargeron- Chuck was not on the call, but has been very responsive to post up-dates when asked. Hillary will contact Chuck about up-dates to the Committees webpage-Merchandise, Symposium Program, Symposium Field Trips, all need to be up-dated. Chuck has a helper too, Christa Barlow, Karen said she could send me her contact information.

-Erin will contact Chuck to link to FWS registration website.

Liaisons with other organizations- SE-EPPC Liaison - Karen Brown/Tony Pernas –

-Karen attended the last annual meeting and is the secretary for SE-EPPC, she reported at the last meeting about the most recent annual meeting.

-SE-EPPC is planning to get together a travel grant and an education grant for each annual meeting.

-SE-EPPC got a grant from the Forest Service to hire an invasive species specialist who is compiling the state plant lists in to a master regional list and over-lap this master list with state regulated lists and non-regulated plant lists, to develop a master's south-east list. This list is due next spring.

-SE-EPPC is looking for Chair Elect.

-NA-EPPC Liaison - Matt King / Tony Pernas/Jim Burch – Jim Burch attended this meeting this year and talked about the national meeting at the last FLEPPC meeting. Jim plans to write up the notes he has from that meeting soon, and get it out to the FLEPPC board, this may also be good information for the next newsletter.

Task Force Reports

Brazilian Pepper- Jim Cuda

-Jim Cuda will provide an annual written report as mandated by the SOP.

-Jim Cuda provided a few updates to Management Plan. The last Management Plan was from 2006.

-Jim Cuda asked if there were funds available through FLEPPC to hire a student to do a literature search. Jim Burch said the 2012 FLEPPC budget was still under review, and that the budget was looking tight. Karen Brown said she could compile the list. Jim Cuda said that if Karen could compile the list then he (Jim Cuda) could then pull the information he needed out of the list.

-The second issue is that last year we discovered a new insect in South America on Brazilian pepper, it is one of these insects that you think that you have one species, however there are also cryptic species, that are similar. Because we have two different haploid-types of Brazilian pepper in Florida that have hybridized, now we have to make sure that we are screening the right insect, with the appropriate haploid-type. Jim Cuda and a student are planning a trip to Brazil in the spring to collect insects.

-Jim is also finishing a petition for the weevil.

-The third item is that Jim Cuda got an e-mail from Tony Pernas, who sent Jim a report that Brazilian pepper is growing along the Virgin River in Nevada. Jim Cuda researched this a bit more, and found out that in Nevada the plant is likely *Schinus molle*. Jim Cuda said that folks needed to be careful when using common names and posting weed alerts.

-Jessica Spencer has questions about restrictions burning Brazilian pepper, she knows that sometimes that smoke can affect people. Jim Cuda said he had heard this also, but he did not know about any burning restriction. Jen Steven who was a student of Brian Beckage, conducted an experiment in Everglades National Park and found that burning some seedling and sapling sized Brazilian pepper plant was effective at killing them, but that larger Brazilian pepper plants just re-sprouted. No one knew of any restriction on burning Brazilian pepper.

Australian pine- Tony Pernas- Tony Pernas is not on the call, but has said he is still working on the Australian pine Management Report.

Carrotwood- Chris Lockhart- Sent a short message saying she had nothing new to report.

Lygodium- No report was sent and the FLEPPC Board was not sure if Rosalind Rowe and Corrie Pieteron were still the points of contact for the Lygodium task force.

Chinese Tallow-Drew Leslie- Drew was not on the call and did not send a report.

Melaleuca- Francois Laroche- Francois was not on the call and did not send a report.

Old Business

Bio-fuel Control Panel- Jim Burch said that we just talked to Matt King about this topic and that Matt may be interested in serving as a member on the Bio-fuel panel. We should also follow-up with Doria about this topic. Jim Cuda also expressed interest in serving on this panel, but wanted to find out more.

FY2012 Budget Requests and update- Dianne sent the budget this morning and we need to review.

New Business

2013 Symposium locations- A few people have made suggestions about possible joint meetings. Dan Thayer suggested a joint meeting with the Florida Aquatic Plant Management Society (FAPMS).

-Jim Burney- Said that Florida APMS is locked into two to three year venue. So this would not be for the next few years. FAPMS usually has their annual meeting in the fall and FLEPPC usually has their meeting in the spring, so this would need to be worked out. Florida APMS has quarterly training sessions, so maybe that would work? There was some talk of even merging FAPMS and FLEPPC, but at this point it is just talk.

-Another symposium possibility is that we have a joint meeting with SE-EPPC. Next years (2012) SE-EPPC meeting is in Auburn, Alabama, but 2013 may be a possibility.

-Karen Brown mentioned that FLEPPC may have more in common with FAPMS, due to the aquatic nature of a lot of the work in Florida, than with SE-EPPC, since a lot of SE-EPPC focuses on forestry.

-New Chair elect nominee- We need to get Dennis Giardina in the loop.

Adjourn

Karen Brown motioned to adjourn, Keith Morin seconded the motion. The FLEPPC board unanimously approved the motion to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 2:12 PM and the FLEPPC board members present at the meeting toured the hotel.