



# Florida EPPC

## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

### Message from the Chair

On this last day of 2009, I'm pondering the loss of the old and the promise of the new. While I'm sure that some out there don't consider the end of the year as anything but a continuation of the present, I like to mark the milestone of surviving (and hopefully enjoying) another year on our magnificent planet. As with most of us, the loss of the old has both good and bad connotations, but hopefully the new year holds only the promise of better things to come. At least I believe that's the optimistic chord that holds folks together.

So, besides a Chair's (in)discretion, how does this philosophical tangent find its way in to the FLEPPC newsletter? Well, the connection lies in the potential loss of old valuable habitat and the promise that actions in 2010 will protect our habitats from new, unwanted arrivals. Pretty cool how the old/new concept can tie philosophical ramblings with ecological models - one size fits all.

Although 2009 was a rough spell in regards to financial stability and societal hardship, it did yield some advancement in the control of invasive species at the national and state levels. This included national discussion of tightened import scrutiny and the potential dangers of cultivating invasive plant species as biofuels. Nationwide, 2009 also saw increased publicity for and subsequent control of invasive species ranging from quagga mussel to ambrosia beetle to python to hydrilla.

I believe that 2010 holds the promise of better things to come in the effort to control importation of and damage from non-native invasive species. With the proposal and adoption of new legislative measures, the introduction of new herbicides and techniques that have yet to reach their full potential, and funding sources that hopefully have stabilized, 2010 could be an exciting year. Organizations such as the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council will continue to be needed as a voice to ensure that our nation stays the course. It does make one proud to be part of such a group.

Jim Burney  
FLEPPC Chair



## Announcements:

• Mark your calendars for the 2010 Annual FLEPPC Symposium:

\* April 5-8th, 2010 at the Plantation Inn  
Crystal River, Florida

Watch our website to register or look in the next newsletter for a registration form.

• The 2009 Invasive Plant List is now available. It can be found at <http://www.fleppc.org/list/list.htm> and the Fall issue of Wildland Weeds. For hard copies of the brochure, please contact Keith Bradley at [bradley@regionalconservation.org](mailto:bradley@regionalconservation.org) or Karen Brown at [kpbrown@ufl.edu](mailto:kpbrown@ufl.edu)

• A Pepper Bust is taking place Saturday, February 6, 2010 at 8 am til noon in the City of Sebastian, CR 512 west-bound. Please contact Margaret Reynolds at [mreynolds@cityofsebastian.org](mailto:mreynolds@cityofsebastian.org) to help out.

• Sebastian is also holding an Earth Day celebration on April 17th at River-view Park, U.S. Hwy 1, Sebastian, FL. Vendor space is free. For more information contact Margaret Reynolds at [mreynolds@cityofsebastian.org](mailto:mreynolds@cityofsebastian.org)

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**Florida EPPC Board of Directors Meeting  
July 28, 2009 (9:00AM-3:00PM)  
Teleconference, IFAS Extension Offices  
(Fort Lauderdale REC, Gainesville CAIP, Lake, Leon, Miami-Dade Counties)**

The meeting was called to order at at 9:07am by Karen Brown, who acted as chair in the absence of Jim Burney. Minutes were taken by Hillary Burgess, secretary. The following officers and members, constituting a quorum of the Board of Directors, were present: Ken Langeland, Karen Brown, Donna Watkins (as Proxy for Jim Burney), Adam Grayson, Pat Howell, Ben Gugliotti, Robert Farley, Tony Pernas, Jim Burch, Dianne Owen, Ellen Donlan, Keith Bradley (10:30am), and Todd Olson.

***Administrative***

*Approval of Last Minutes:* Minutes from the previous board meeting were approved unanimously by the board following a motion made by Adam Grayson and seconded by Donna Watkins.

*Chair Activities:*

2010 FLEPPC Symposium Conference Calls will begin after site selection. We do not yet have a site selected.

FLEPPC position on genetically engineered Eucalyptus for biofuel Jim Burney reported via e-mail that "a Eucalyptus position paper was submitted during the comment period (prepared by Doria Gordon and signed by me)." FLEPPC's opinion was expressed; no further action is required at this time.

Various citizen questions through website concerning invasive plants. Karen was not aware of any correspondence.

Correspondence from NAEPPC members - none

Charity run sponsorship (Cheryl McCormick – Cal-IPC)  
No motion was made to use FLEPPC funds to support Cheryl.

Review and edit of Chair checklist (Donna Watkins)

Donna commented that this does not need to be on the agenda. If anyone has questions or changes about their checklists, they can contact Donna. In the future it will not appear on the agenda, but will be added as a committee report.

*Treasurer's Report --* Diann Owen-Report available. Folks need to submit receipts/reimbursement requests for expenses. Dianne is working with Chuck to resolve the issues with online registration so that we can avoid them next year. Dianne commented that because the symposium didn't make any money, our costs, namely our grants, are coming out of our assets. Dianne outlined the discrepancies between budgeted costs and actual costs. The symposium cost more than anticipated. Many of these costs were associated with facilities and catering during the symposium, including a 21% service fee attached to everything. AV charges and catering costs were the highest costs. Bob Farley wondered if the local arrangements chair was the only person to scrutinize the contract and commented that having more people review the contract, possibly even the entire board, might be beneficial. Ellen commented

that unforeseen costs arose when changes and additions were made at the symposium as needs arose. She suggested that we evaluate our needs for the future, and make no changes after the contract has been signed. Karen mentioned that Mike Bodle did, in fact, send the contract around prior to signing it. She suggested that in the future, the finance committee very carefully review the contract prior to it being signed. Karen thought that during the symposium conference calls, we could discuss where additional costs might come from so that during the symposium, folks could be more frugal with any ad-hoc requests. Ellen also commented that Mike should be made aware of what is needed, so that he can negotiate accordingly. Karen made a motion that the treasurer and finance committee chairs work together with the local arrangements chair to evaluate the symposium contract. Ellen wanted to ensure that the needs for the conference were decided by more than just the above persons. Karen suggested that any questions could be brought to the board, but that the invoice from this year's symposium could be a starting point. Karen revised the motion to be that because the treasurer and finance committee are charged with financial and expenditure issues, they should work with the local arrangements chair to review the contract beforehand and come up with guidelines for expenditures. Dianne seconded the motion. Donna suggested that it not just be the contract, but the menus for the breaks and meals, so that more frugal options could be chosen. This was approved unanimously by the board. Budget requests will be due August 15th. Dianne will send a reminder via e-mail soon. Ben

made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report. Karen seconded this motion. This report was approved unanimously by the board.

*Editor's Report* --Karen Brown—Report Available. The summer issue of Wildland Weeds went out in July and was well received. She would like to find someone to be mentoring as future editor. Adam volunteered to help. Dianne wondered if in the future Wildland Weeds could be produced by committee or if it would require someone with Karen's level of commitment for it to be successful. Karen responded that several aspects could be delegated to other folks, such as coordinating with advertisers, keeping track of finances, recruiting of articles, and editing content. Hillary motioned to accept the editor's report. Jim Burch seconded. This report was approved unanimously by the board.

*Secretary's Report* – Hillary Burgess—The June newsletter went out July 27th. The newsletter was sent to all members listed, including those whose membership had recently expired. Dianne commented that the grace period is three months. Hillary will send out a reminder via e-mail that the most recent issue of Wildland Weeds will be their last if they don't renew their membership. Dianne has always done this in the past. Dianne also wrote in red marker on the printed newsletters that the Wildland Weeds would be the last unless membership is renewed.

Hillary intends to have the next newsletter out by September 21. She would like to receive the message from the chair and any other announcements or submissions by September 7th. She will send out a reminder on the 26th of August to

request submissions. Ben Gugliotti motioned to accept the secretary's report. Dianne seconded, and it was approved unanimously by the board.

### *Committee Reports*

*Bylaws* — Sandra Vardaman—No Report. Sandra is willing to continue chairing this committee unless someone else is interested. If anyone is interested, please contact the board.

*Checklists*--Donna Watkins--No Report. Donna will remind folks to update their checklists.

*Control and Evaluation* –LeRoy Rodgers-- Not present, no report.

*Education* — Jennifer Possley—Report Available. Jennifer worked with Chuck Bargeron to develop a website for the education grant program. It is up and running at <http://www.fleppc.org/edgrants.html>

*Finance* — Ellen Donlan—Not Present, No Report. These folks are waiting for direction from the strategic planning committee so that they can set priorities.

*Legislative* — Matt King—Report Available. Hillary will follow up with Doria, Matt and Keith, with a copy Jim, on commenting on Q-37. Due October 21, 2009.

*Merchandise* — Tony Pernas—Tony thanks Jim Burch and others for taking on the merchandise table during the symposium. All "vintage" material has been sold. They are going to come up with new merchandise for next year. This year they were able to break even and still have 300+ dollars worth of inventory. Karen wondered if merchandise could be sold online. Tony commented that it had been deemed that non-profit organizations

could not sell merchandise. Tony is willing but needs to know what is legal for non-profit organizations. Dianne will look into this. "Control Freak" shirts and machetes are especially popular.

*Nominations* -- Jim Burney—New board members and a chair-elect are installed.

*Outreach* — Katy Roberts—No Report. Katy has indicated that she is willing to continue to do local outreach but she would like someone else to take on the responsibility as chair. Responsibilities include sending materials to folks who are giving presentations or intend to do a FLEPPC display for an event. Karen and Adam plan to put together a .pdf poster that could be emailed to folks to print themselves. Dianne suggested that she is able to print posters for much cheaper than Kinkos etc. If others among the board have this capability we could list contact folks to get these posters available cheaply.

Hillary will survey the board about who has printing capability to make poster sized FLEPPC posters. Bob Farley offered to chair the Outreach Committee and to communicate with Katy Roberts on materials.

*Plant Industry Liaison* — Doria Gordon—Not present, no report.

*Plant List* — Keith Bradley— Report Available. The committee met on July 6 to finalize the list. There are seven new additions and three changes. These need to be approved by the board. The committee is also asking for grant money to fund student research projects that would address questions related to the plant list.

Karen motioned to accept the 2009 Plant List as presented; the motion

was seconded by Bob Farley. Dianne suggested making an appendix for the synonyms instead of listing them in the presented table. It was agreed that common synonyms are helpful in the table, but that additional synonyms could be added in an appendix, if space is available. Keith will discuss this with Karen and others regarding layout and printing.

*Research*—Betsy Von Holle—Not present, no report

*Scholarship*—Tony Pernas—Tony will come up with SOPs for the next board meeting. Dianne wondered if the silent auction funds go to the scholarship fund. Tony thought that this was the case. Donna thought that the chance drawing went to the scholarship fund. Dianne will look through old minutes to see where these funds are supposed to go.

*Strategic Planning* --This is on hold until Jim Burney selects a chair for the committee. Donna wondered if there was really a need for a Strategic Planning committee. The committee was formed by Alison Fox in response to questions about the direction of FLEPPC and its goals. Karen asked that Hillary get in touch with Jim Burney regarding the future of this committee—should this committee be more clearly defined and reactivated, or disbanded. Ellen offered the scenario that the Strategic Planning Committee proposes possible directions/scenarios for FLEPPC, and the finance committee figures out how to make them happen. Karen suggested that the SPC be reactivated by the next fiscal year.

*Symposium Local Arrangements*—Mike Bodle-- From an e-mail: “We need to select dates for next year’s symposium. SE-EPPC hopes we

won’t have it in May. So far, I have only asked for May proposals since per diem rates are higher all over Florida in April. Best proposal I have received for 2010 meeting is from Plantation Inn, Crystal River which was quoted for May 2010. Costs would be much more manageable than at two hotels from which I’ve also received proposals (Embassy Suites near USF, Tampa; Renaissance Golf World, St. Augustine). Some details include: \$90 room rate, Free meeting space, Very good conference facilities, Discounts on snorkel tours and boat rentals, Lower catering menu costs.” Karen suggested looking into the cost of the Plantation Inn for April. Folks agreed that Crystal River was a good site, but that looking into April might be a good idea because of competition with other events. The summer season is too busy for land managers to attend conferences. Tony found that per-diem rates were the same in April and May. Native Plant Society has confirmed a date in late May. Hillary will convey this to Mike and to please communicate with the board as soon as possible. Bodle—Mike is still uncertain if FLEPPC will meet the needed room block. One way to deal with this would be to agree to come back in two years and add the balance to that contract.

*Symposium Program* — Adam reported that he had talked with LeRoy about being involved in this committee. Jon Lane has expressed willingness to chair the program and Adam will assist him. Jim Burch reported that Jackie Smith is interested in being involved as well. He suggested that because Jackie is interested in both this committee and local arrangements she could serve as a liaison between the two.

*CEUs* —Katy Roberts—Katy is still willing to apply for credits. Dianne is

willing to administer the portion on the symposium end. Ben Gugliotti offered to assist with this task and will look into getting approval to request and administer CEUs from FDACS.

*Symposium Field Trips* — Donna Watkins—Donna wondered how to approach the budget request for the field trips. Karen suggested that she make a request and strive to stay within the amount granted, rather than making amendments later. Donna also wondered about charging for the field trips in the future; she might consider dropping the cost and asking participants to bring/provide their own lunch.

*Training* —Ken explained that the Training Committee was originally suggested by Jim Duquesnel, who wanted to add training to FLEPPC activities. The committee is no longer active and Ken is not acting as a committee chair. This committee name is often confused with the task of requesting CEU credits for the annual symposium, which Katy Roberts has been overseeing. Ken suggested this task be considered part of the Program Chair activities, and that Katy or, in the future, Ben Gugliotti, be responsible for its completion each year. This committee name should no longer appear on the agenda. Karen will look into the confusion between the Training, Outreach, and Control and Evaluation Committees on the website and the SOPs, and try to clarify.

*Vendor*—Todd Olson—Todd attended and reported that he will be transferring all of the information and materials to Bill Cline. Tiffany Poley (Dow AgroSciences) is also willing to be involved. He will continue to stay involved.

This year sponsorship was about average, but Todd did receive comment that there were folks that wanted to participate but that the event was too late in the year (i.e. too late in the fiscal year for business people).

### *Liaisons with other organizations*

*SE-EPPC Liaison*—Karen Brown/Tony Pernas—Report available.

SE-EPPC and the SE-Society for Ecological Restoration are going to co-host a symposium in Tennessee in May 2010. In 2011, the Natural Areas Association (NAA) is having their annual meeting in Tallahassee and SE-EPPC is going to coordinate an invasive species track. This meeting takes place in the Fall. Chuck Bargeron, with SE-EPPC, has suggested that FLEPPC play a role.

Florida Native Plant Society has contacted FLEPPC and is interested in a collaborative meeting in 2011. They are negotiating with the Sheraton Hotel in Maitland for May 12-15th.

Karen mentioned that SE-EPPC had received sponsorship for their symposium. This is something that FLEPPC could pursue. Jim Burney could initiate this. Tony suggested a request to the NPS could be done in the form of a letter. In the case of the NPS it would be sent to the Atlanta office. There are other agencies that could be approached. He said that the farther in advance that a request is made, the more likely we are to be successful. Karen asked about what details would be needed to make the request. Tony said the more details the better, and that the letter should include how FLEPPC and its symposium would benefit the NPS. Other funds were received from the FL Division of Forestry, NRCS, BASF and a private foundation. Karen will try to obtain a letter from the SE-EPPC as a sample.

*NA-EPPC Liaison* – Matt King / Tony Pernas (Jim Burney BOD rep)

Tony stated he is no longer president of NA-EPPC and is no longer the liaison.

*Florida Invasive Species Partnerships (FISP)* – Alison Higgins—No report

### *Old Business*

*Dan Ward recognition*

Karen hopes that she and others will be able to have lunch with Dan soon to give him his plaque.

*Select Location for 2010 Symposium*—Crystal River, Clearwater, Plantation

Everyone is in agreement that this is a suitable venue.

*Possibly select new Bylaws Chair*--

Update: Sandra is still willing to chair this committee if no one else is interested.

*Select new Strategic Planning Chair*--

Roger Clark resigned  
Jim Burney will be asked to name a new chair.

*LeRoy Rogers; new Control and Evaluation Chair*--

LeRoy is currently working on SOPs for this committee.

*Establish Student Chapter*; update  
Corrie Pieteron is working on this, and is thinking about making it a regional group because there are not very many students working on invasive plants in Florida alone. Karen suggested that this group establish a FLEPPC website presence.

*Organize 2011 joint Symposium with FNPS* --(conference call between LeRoy Rodgers, Mike Bodle, Kris Serbesoff-King and Karina Veaudry (FNPS) per minutes), Orlando

Karen has heard from Karina Veaudry that FNPS is interested in a joint conference with FLEPPC in 2011.

### *New Business*

*Follow up with volunteers for committee members*--Jim Burch took the lead to follow up with folks that had signed up for committees at the symposium, and reported specifically on Takako Sato's interest in getting involved on several committees. Jim will follow up with her. Jim did not contact anyone that expressed interest in Task Forces because he thought that the chairs of those committees would be the most appropriate people to do so.

*Establish Position Paper Committee and select Chair*--Jim Burch agreed to frame a committee with a definition and SOPs and a potential position paper.

*AFNN*--Karen mentioned that we have a relationship with the Florida Association of Native Nurseries (AFNN). We pay \$100 annually for a membership and FLEPPC is listed as Invasive Pest Plant Experts and the full FLEPPC plant list is printed in their publications, which receive wide distribution. She recommends continuing this membership and will submit a budget request for the upcoming fiscal year.

*Select new Symposium Program Chair--* may need to split duties with sub-chairs. This was discussed during the Program Committee report.

Karen also mentioned that FNPS asked that FLEPPC review and comment on voluntary codes of conduct regarding invasive species. Karen will send them out to the whole board today. As they were not received in time to comment, this will be tabled until the next board meeting.

*Bill Cline; new chair of the Vendor Committee--*(see vendor committee report from Todd Olson)

*Continuation of teleconferenced BOD meetings--*The Polycom videoconference system worked well. Ellen suggested that the district could host one location. Karen is going to look into it. Ellen also suggested a potential schedule: Every other board meeting would be Polycom. The other two would take place at the symposium site, as pre-site or during the symposium.

*Acquire new call-in number for symposium conference calls--* Hillary will remind Jim to look into this. Ellen offered that the SFWMD might be able to help with this.

*Explore possibility of FLEPPC receiving grant or other supports for operations or symposium--*This was touched on earlier.

*Set aside 1-2 hours during future symposia for Task Force and Committee meetings--*This was suggested by Jim Cuda at the last board meeting.

*Select new Program Chair--*This will be Jon Lane, with Jackie Smith as a committee member.

Ben Gugliotti offered that he is willing to help with any committees and is looking for the best way to get involved. He suggested CEUs and Field Trips as areas that he is interested in. Dianne is willing to pass on the symposium on-site CEU responsibility to Ben, and Donna will work with Ben on field trips.

Ken Langeland suggested that there was no longer a need for a training committee. He said that others can request certification from FDACS to sign off and apply for CEUs. Ben will move forward with this. Donna wondered what was required to eliminate the training committee and or remove it from future agendas. Karen will look into this. As far as CEUs, Ken suggested that the program chair should be responsible, but that they could delegate this to anyone to make sure that it gets done.

*Set next BOD meeting October 2009--*(budgets will need to be submitted to the Treasurer and an e-mail 2009/2010 budget vote will be required before October meeting)

Hillary will ask Jim to set a date, it is tentatively set for October 20th.

Bob Farley asked that the meeting be set for a Friday or end of week for travel.

Dianne suggested that the teleconference option be set up for all meetings in case folks are unable to attend due to financial restrictions. It was agreed that this is a good idea.

### *Adjourn*

Ben motioned and Adam seconded to adjourn at 1:48pm.



# January 2010 | FLEPPC Newsletter



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