



Florida EPPC

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Hi everyone.

I was just reading Jim Burch's Message From the Chair in the November 2011 FLEPPC Newsletter about communicating to the public about exotic plant management. Like Jim and many other members of FLEPPC, I work on public lands. As the Everglades Region Biologist for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Invasive Plant Management Section, I get a chance to visit a lot of the conservation lands of South Florida from Lake Okeechobee down through the Florida Keys. Every one of these lands, whether managed by a federal, state, county, tribe or non-profit organization, has some sort of public outreach program and I think collectively we've done a pretty good job of getting the word out. Apparently all the reaching out we've done at our parks, refuges and preserves and through organizations like FLEPPC has paid off. I've done a lot of talking to people, visiting public lands in South Florida and over the years I have gone from just explaining the basics to having people tell me about the exotic plant issues that they have on their property or know about in their region. It really does seem to me that people in general are more aware of invasive plants and the harm they cause to our environment than they were a decade and a half ago when I first moved to South Florida.

It's been an evolution for me too because I knew very little about invasive plants in 1996 when I landed a job at the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge. I had heard about invasive species like Melaleuca and Brazilian pepper but I had never seen them before. I remember taking my first drive out to the refuge work center on Alligator Alley. As I passed through the tollgate in Naples headed to State Road 29, I thought that if Brazilian pepper and Melaleuca were such threats, then I should be able to see them along the road side. Then I started to notice the same green shrubs along the canal bank and the same papery, white bark on the trees behind them. It was a bit difficult for me in the beginning not to feel self defeated, driving along the trails of the Panther Refuge, spraying Brazilian pepper on the rights-of-way. There was so much of it and it seemed to be everywhere. It kind of reminded me of the feeling I once had while I stood on a dirt road at night in Tate's Hell Swamp in North Florida as the head of a wild-fire a hundred yards wide and fifty feet high ripped through the pine canopy and roared towards me like a freight train. As the flames lit up my surroundings, I looked down at the little orange nozzle in my hand, up the thin hose to my small fire engine and the sense that I had was one of futility and I wondered, "How the hell am I supposed to stop this!"

In 1997 I attended my first FLEPPC Symposium and in 1998, I became a member of the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council. I felt somewhat comforted that a lot of smart, dedicated (and fun-loving) people were also concerned, trying to do something about exotic plants. I was especially encouraged by the work that was being done at the Invasive Plant Research Laboratory (IPRL), developing biological control organisms to help slow down the growth and spread of invasive plants. I remember approaching Ted Center, the Director of the IPRL after a talk and I asked him about the consequences of biological control because of what happened with cane toads and Indian mongooses. He told me those were the examples that everyone cites but that those species are omnivorous animals that were introduced to control agricultural pests without any prior scientific analysis. He explained that his lab was working on insects that are highly specialized parasites of specific plant or insect pests. Their laboratory testing process was rigorous and that there had been a hundred (by now many more) such releases of biological control insects and not one of them had gone wrong.

Message form the Chair continued.....

At that time Melaleuca was one of the primary targets of their program and they were just about to get official permission to release the first biological control insect, the Melaleuca snout weevil (*Oxyops vitiosa*).

The site of the first introduction of *Oxyops* was in Lee County in 1998. I was excited about it and was expecting good news but the first report was less than encouraging. Around the year 2000 I got a call from my friend Marty Main, a professor and wildlife ecologist with the University of Florida IFAS. He said that he was noticing a change in the Melaleuca stands along his 20 mile drive to work, that they were looking reddish and sickly and he predicted that we were going to see a “landscape-wide” change in the environment due to *Oxyops*. Within months, I started noticing the same effects along Alligator Alley and I was psyched! A few years earlier (the then), DEP Bureau of Invasive Plant Management created their Uplands Program. They managed to get the legislature to provide a trust fund to pay for it and they oversaw the creation of 11 regional working groups where public land managers could pitch their projects and prioritize them. They certified a group of contractors to do the work and they set a goal: by 2010 – 430,196 acres of exotic plants treated. They (now we) exceeded that goal by 10% - three years early.

In June, 2005 I was in Miami Beach and I picked up a copy of the Miami New Times. In it there was an article called “Die, Weed, Die,” about the threat of exotic plants to the Everglades Ecosystem and the development of a biological control for Old World climbing fern (*Lygodium microphyllum*). The article was so well done and I just happened to have my laptop with me so I typed a comment. In it I said, “It is important to me and many other biologists and land managers that the public know what Old World climbing fern and the myriad other invasive exotic plants and animals are doing to the natural areas of our fair state. We need to do everything we can to stop or at least stymie the worst of them. It’s chilling to know that right behind the wholesale destruction and development of our natural areas, the invasion of what’s left by exotic species is the greatest threat to our native plant and animal communities.” I finished by saying, “The biological control work being done by the Invasive Plant Research Laboratory helps me sleep at night.” So here’s to you IPRL and IFAS scientists for all the work you’ve done, and to the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council for your efforts to inform me and my colleagues at the annual symposium and for all of our outreach initiatives to the public so that they better understand and support our efforts. We are making a difference and it’s been very gratifying for me to watch it all happen.

Dennis Giadina, FLEPPC Chair

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Grant Announcements for 2012

FLEPPC Kathy Craddock Burks Education Grant

Awardees:

Top awardees: full funding:

Rosalind Rowe. “*Florida guidelines for disposal of terrestrial invasive plants.*” \$1,000

UF/IFAS Extension, Calhoun County, via applicant Judy Ludlow. “*Invasive plant management workshop & tradeshow: ‘tools of the trade for the private landowner.’*” \$900

Runners-up: partial funding

Miami-Dade County, Dept. of Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces, Natural Areas Management Division, via applicants Joanne Case and Eduardo Salcedo. “*Natural Areas Management and TERRA Environmental Academy partnership for the management of Kendall Indian Hammocks Park.*” \$700

Central Florida CISMA (Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area), via applicant Sherry Williams . “*Tabletop display.*” \$700.

Anglers for Conservation, via applicants Karen and Rodney Smith. “*Escape the invasive invasion [invasive plant videos].*” \$700

Julia Morton Invasive Plant Research Grant Program

Awardees:

Adrienne Smith, Environmental Horticulture, University of Florida, “*Restoration of native plant species following invader control: *Ruellia simplex* (*R. tweediana*) –invaded forest floodplains*”. \$2,479

Samantha Sardes, Biological Sciences, Florida Atlantic University, “*The effects of hydrology on nodulation and nitrogen fixation in the invasive plant catclaw mimosa (*Mimosa pigra*)*”. \$1,150

Thanks to everyone who helped to make the 2012 joint FLEPPC and The Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society symposium a success. Below are some photos from the symposium.



Congratulations to Russ Lowers from Kennedy Space Center. Above are pictures of Russ with the kayak on his vehicle and the kayak in the pool at the banquet. Russ was the lucky winner of this year's chance drawing of the kayak. The funds raised by this chance drawing go to the FLEPPC scholarship fund.



Photos above are from the Beast Feast. The Beast Feast was held Tuesday, April 17, 2012. Special thanks to our musical group The Weeds for the great music.

**Minutes from Florida EPPC Board of Directors Meetings
February 16, 2012 (10:00 AM)
Conference call
Minutes taken by Hillary Cooley, FLEPPC Secretary**

Administrative

Call to Order/Roll Call- Jim Burch, Hillary Cooley, Bill Kline, Dan Bergeson, Salvador Medina, Erin Myers, Keith Morin, Jessica Spencer, Sherry William, Ben Gugliotti, Stefanie Nagid, Mike Renda, Karen Brown, Dianne Owen, Mike Yustin. Jim Burney called at 11:00, Dennis Giardina join Jim Burch in Jim's office later in the meeting.

Approval of minutes from November 17, 2011- Jessica Spencer motioned to except the minutes. Sherry Williams seconded the motion. This motion was unanimously approved by the FLEPPC BOD.

Chair Activities-Jim Burch- Jim is keeping up with symposium planning.

-Ken Langeland sent in a nomination for a non-member award (the name of the award was later clarified as the FLEPPC Environmental Advocate of the Year).

-Andi Christinson sent a request for student participation support to the TWS/FLEPPC symposium.

-Jim sent out an e-mail yesterday from the Merchandise Committee about a t-shirt design for the symposium.

-Jim also talked with Drew Leslie, with the band The Weeds and thinks he has the bands needs straighten out.

Correspondence-Jim Burch- Has dealt with a number of people looking for information about how to deal with their neighbor's exotics. Jim has been referring them to County and or City managers.

Treasurer's Report -Dianne Owen

-Proposed 2012 budget needs approval, Finance had some questions, Dianne answered the questions. One of the questions was about merchandise t-shirts losing money at last year's symposium. Excluding last year's symposium the t-shirts usually make a small profit or break even.

-Jessica Spencer used the estimated symposium budget to work out the amount needed; the only question was about the band and what the \$600 was for? Stefanie said they have budgeted \$200 for an entertainment fee and money for four rooms for one night for the band, so that is approximately \$600. Jim thinks that this will meet the band's needs. In the past when we meet hotel attendance numbers, we have received complimentary room nights and then we gave those rooms to the band, so there was not a direct cost to FLEPPC, but last year we did not meet our hotel room numbers, so we had to pay for the band's rooms.

-We do have complimentary room nights, however we are also providing student rooms and VIP rooms. So, we budgeted to cover the cost of all the rooms and then if we get any complimentary that will save us money.

We have one complimentary room night for every 40 rooms and we have two complimentary room nights for planning purposes that we have not used.

We need to meet 220 room nights. The cost for these guest rooms is included in the cost of registration, so it is not like TWS or FLEPPC is picking up any additional fees.

-Dianne Owen asked if she had any tasks that she needs to do for registration for the for symposium, Dianne typically handles name tags, printing the registration list, the list of people needing lunches for field trips.

-Stefanie said that the registration is taken care of with TWS treasurer, but if Dianne wants to help out with printing of name tags then she is welcome to help. Dianne can contact Larime and sort the printing of name tags, programs, and receipts. TWS will most likely have some student volunteers to help with the registration desk. The program itself is actually being designed by a company called AE Com whose donation to TWS is to do the design of the program. Stefanie said that she would e-mail Larime and then cc Dianne, so that the two of them can chat more.

-Dianne also said if there were any on-sight cost she would bring the FLEPPC checkbook, but if the cost was over \$1,000 then we need to have the FLEPPC board approve the cost. Dianne also said that even if under \$1,000 she would still need to find a second officer to co-sign the FLEPPC check.

-Karen asked to discuss the plant list, we can get 10,000 plant list printed for about \$950, but may be we want to scale back that back a bit, since all versions are on the FLEPPC website? We gave out all of the 2009 printed lists, but if the budget is tight then maybe we want to save some money and get fewer printed.

--Karen was looking for some feedback from the board about printing and mailing.

The board thought that the Plant List was one of our most important products and thought that the printed lists were very helpful to have and to give out at outreach events and that by printing fewer copies we would only be saving a few \$100. The FLEPPC board thought spending the \$950 for the plant list was worth the money.

-Karen will contact people who may want copies of the list and get the Plant List out to them.

-We are leaving in \$500 for merchandise.

-Mike commented that the budget looked good, and thought that it was realistic.

-Dianne said that even last year we did not lose money, we just did not make any money like we had in some past years. In the past we have made money on the symposium, and Wildland Weeds, but the income from those places has dropped off and we have continued to fund both the Education and Research Grants.

-In Strategic Planning Committee, one thing that has come up is that maybe we should announce the winners on the Education and Research grants after the conference. So, that we know how much money we have and we are not chipping away at our reserve?

-We need to get the word out about the meeting, and sending our E-mail blasts and putting information on the list serve, hanging posters in our offices, as of right now we only have four abstracts and deadline is March 1st.

-Erin sent an e-mail with poster to the FLEPPC BOD.

-Jessica Spencer motioned to approve the budget, Mike Renda seconded the motion. This motion was unanimously approved by the FLEPPC BOD.

Editor's Report – Karen Brown

-Karen is in process of preparing the next issue of Wildland Weeds. She still needs a picture for the cover, so if anyone has a favorite picture that they would like to submit they can, this will be our first issue without advertising.

Secretary's Report – Hillary Cooley

-Sent minutes from November meeting out and we just approved those minutes. So, I will be working on our next newsletter, the minutes that were approved today will go in the upcoming newsletter, I will also need the message from the Chair.

Committee Reports

Symposium Planning/Program - Jessica Spencer and Stefanie Nagid

-We need abstracts, and we need to get them in on time, so that we can send that information in for CEU credits.

-It is normal for people to drag their feet and to wait to the deadline to submit abstracts. But we are concerned because we need the abstracts in order to do the CEU paperwork and that paperwork needs to be submitted at least four weeks before the conference and we need to give Ben time to process the paperwork.

-Jessica has sent the conference information out to the list serve.

-Dianne thinks that she has been dropped from the list serve and is not sure how Chuck keeps the list serve up-to-date.

-If want to be on the list-serve that they need to go to the FLEPPC web site and sign-up for the list serve. The list serve is not automatically linked to the FLEPPC membership.

-So, we potentially could have FLEPPC members who do not know about the FLEPPC list serve?

-Dianne sent out the current FLEPPC membership list plus the membership list for the past four years.

-We should send out the call for abstracts and the conference announcement to the FLEPPC membership and past membership list.

-Hillary will coordinate an e-mail blast to members and the list serve. She will send out message to current and past members on the excel file that Dianne sent.

-Stefanie thinks that it might be a good idea to talk again on March 9 and see where we are at with abstracts? If we are lacking participation then we may want to think about canceling the conference, before we move closer to some of the contract deadlines with the hotel.

-Jim Burch thought that maybe we should have another symposium meeting around that time anyway.

-Bill Kline cannot remember getting information about the symposium and submitting abstracts.

-Dianne said that a few years ago we also use to send out snail mail reminders about the symposium.

-The FLEPPC website link needs to be updated to connect to TWS, the link is still going to the save the date site and not linking to the registration web page.

-Erin will follow up with Chuck about updating the link.

-Hillary will contact current and past members that are on the most resent list that Dianne sent.

-Sherry will contact CISMAs.

-Karen will contact Aquatic list server.

-Bill Kline mentioned that Stefanie sent out the agenda and the meeting runs Monday-Thursday night. Bill thought that that was a lot of time and that we would need a lot of papers in order to fill all that time. Stefanie said that she had to reserve the space with the hotel and that we could always subtract, but not add and that Thursday could always be dropped if needed.

-Dianne asked if prospective presentations would be accepted. Stefanie said yes. Dianne also mentioned that past Research and Education grants recipients should also be submitting abstracts.
- Dianne will call the past winners, and remind them to submit abstract.

-The strategic planning committee has been thinking of new ideas to excite members, the control and evaluation techniques and information about herbicide resistance might be good topics. Bob Stands from the Apopka Research Station and also Bill Haller, may be able to give good talks about those topics.

-So, to follow-up if you know of anyone who may have done studies or research that you are interested in then please let them know about the symposium and the abstract deadline.

-It was also mentioned that maybe we should think about having the symposium bi-annually and not annually? But for now let's just concentrate on this year's symposium. This year's symposium has not been a failure, but we have had a lack of publicity, and we just need to focus on spreading the word about this year's symposium within the next few weeks.

-Stefanie Said that, to recap we have agenda, budget, hotel, registration is set-up, sponsor and vendor registration is set-up, everything is on line, so please check-out the website. The conference logo is ready to be used. At the time the webpage went up Stefanie only had information for four workshops, so those four field trips/workshops are for pre-sign-up, and another workshop or field trip, where the information came in later will be on-site sign-up only. We will need to have people sign-up when they register in person at the conference, since we will need to know how many box lunches to put with each field trip.

-Ben asked Stefanie how the box lunches were going to work, because he did not see the box lunches as an option on the registration page. Stefanie said that a box lunch is included in the cost of registration. Stefanie said that the box lunches would all be the same and everyone will get the same thing.

Ben asked what about vegetarians and Stefanie said we can ask folks that question when they register on site, since she will not need to give that information to the hotel until Tuesday night, for Wednesday lunch.

-Jim mentioned that he did not receive the agenda, there is a short form of the agenda on the web site and Stefanie will send out an e-mail today and cc all of the FWTS and FLEPPC board with the full agenda.

CEUs - Ben Gugliotti - Ben needs abstracts and bios in order to get the CEU schedule organized and submitted. Ben e-mailed Paul and tried to call Paul. Ben has not heard back from Paul. FLEPPC submits by session, since there is a minimum of 25 minutes for ½ CEU or 50 minutes for one CEU.

Symposium Field trips-Ben Gugliotti- Ben had a question about the CISMA workshop. Stefanie clarified that the CISMA workshop would be on site and not a field trip. There are two Sliver River field trips, the canoe field trip and also the demonstration plot field trip. The demonstration plot field trip came in too late to get on the web page, so it will be an on-site registration form. The canoe trip came in earlier and because of the cost is on the registration form.

Juniper Springs is also on the registration form. We will caravan to the field trip locations. Other than the canoe rental fee, the cost of the fieldtrips are built in to the registration cost.

-Ben will also need Bios for field trip leaders, so that we also can submit the Field trips for CEUs .

Vendor-Bill Kline- Bill said that he spoke with Larry Parin of the Florida Chapter of the Wildlife Society, in December and that Larry asked that we wait until mid-February to send out vendor/ sponsor information. Bill said he is ready to send out vendor/sponsor information now, that it is mid-February.

Bill has two letters that are ready to go. One of the letters is to vendors that participated in the 2010 and/or 2011 symposium and that letter says thank you for your support and the second letter is going to 70 potential vendors. Both letters tell the vendors when and where the meeting is and give the link to the TWS website where the vendors can register.

-Bill and Larry will work together on door prizes and raffles. The donations for silent auction will be identified as either TWS or FLEPPC, and that way the money donated to each organization will then go to that organization. The door prizes will have different colored raffle tickets for the different organizations.

Checklists –Sherry Williams –Sherry will send out reminders.

Strategic Planning - Mike Yustin/LeRoy Rodgers- LeRoy e-mail a powerpoint with the member survey presentation.

-Mike gave a brief update of the FLEPPC member survey; based on survey results the strategic planning committee is working to craft a strategic plan. They wanted to come up 3-4 things that we can really accomplish.

1-Increase and diversify membership-Maybe we need to send a reminder when membership is about to expire.

2-Look at the long term budget.

3-Find ways to increase participation in symposium.

4-Better define roles and responsibilities between FLEPPC and CISMAs and FISK.

-The number one thing that the Strategic Planning committee came up with was that we need a membership chair and maybe we could send out reminders to members of when their membership was about to expire. This is especially needed even more now that the symposium attendance has been low and that is historically how and when most people renew their membership. The Strategic Planning committee also mentioned staying focused on what we think are our strengths and those are: the FLEPPC Plants list, the symposium and trainings. The committee also said that we need to do a better job with outreach, this would be outreach focused at professionals working in the natural resource field, the local CISMAs and students. Also, working with the Finance Committee and developing a 5 year budget plan and maybe spending more in the short term to keep us going, but also looking a level of our reserves that we would not want to go below.

-Sherry Williams volunteered to take a stab at writing up SOP for the membership Committee, Diane mentioned that maybe membership and outreach are linked. Karen said that there are already standard operating procedures for outreach and they are posted on the website.

-Christa works for Chuck, and can also update the website and she is very responsive.

Symposium Local Arrangements - Mike Bodle- Mike was not on the call, Between Jessica and Erin, local arrangements for this year are taken care of. For the next symposium local arrangements chair may be needed.

Student request- There was a request from Andi for help with student/AmeriCops travel to TWS/ FLEPPC symposium. The suggestion was to tell Andi to fill out the travel request on the website. Erin will send the information to Andi.

Non-member award- (The name for this award was later clarified as being called the “Environmental Advocate of the Year Award”)- Ken Langeland recommend a person from Lee County who has done videos about exotics. Jim will send out the information again and call for a vote by e-mail.

Merchandise – William Snyder

The board decided to have the conference t-shirt be the FLEPPC logo, on the front left and the conference logo with the theme “Invasion of the habitat snatcher, wildlife invades” on the back. There was talk about getting away from having the conference theme on the t-shirts since then the t-shirts were difficult to sell, but the board thought as long as it was only the logo and not the date that the conference logo would be fine. The herbicidal maniac logo that was sent out earlier was not approved by the board.

-Karen Brown motioned to use the conference logo, with no date, FLEPPC logo on front left and meeting logo on back. Dianne Owen second the motion. This motion was unanimously approved by the FLEPPC BOD.

- Jim and Bill will work out the details of how many t-shirts we can get for the \$400 or \$500 budget.

On-line registration - Dianne Owen- TWS is handling registration this year. Dianne will follow-up with Larime to get the list of FLEPPC membership that renewed, since she does not have access to the TWS registration information. Dianne has gotten about 10 new memberships since the last time she sent out the membership information that have come not through the Symposium registration page. Dianne will send the updated membership list to Sherry and Hillary.

Nominations - Jim Burney-Jim Burney sent out the slate of new nominations. The four new members on the slate are:

-Michael Meisenburg with Kestrel Ecological Services,

-Aimee Cooper-with the Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants at the University of Florida,

-Christen Mason with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge,

and Cheryl Millett with The Nature Conservancy.

-The nomination committee solicited many nominations and reviewed and then then came with recommending these four.

Karen Brown motioned to approve the slate offered by the nomination committee. Dianne Owen seconded. This motion was unanimously approved by the FLEPPC BOD.

-The slate of four new nominees will need to be voted on by the general membership at the annual membership meeting during the symposium in April. When it goes to the FLEPPC membership we also need to present Dennis Giardina as the nominated Chair Elect.

Bylaws -Mike Renda – No update for this meeting

Legislative - Matt King sent report. See the report below and the FLEPPC Secretary for the letter that is mentioned being drafted in the report.

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FLORIDA EXOTIC PEST PLANT COUNCIL
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT
 Board of Directors Meeting – February 16, 2012
 Respectfully Submitted by: Matthew King
NEW LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

1. Proposed Rule: Qualifying Renewable Fuel Pathways Under the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) Program

A rule that was published in the Federal Register that identified Giant Reed (*Arundo donax*), Napiergrass (*Pennisetum purpureum*), *Cameliana sativa* and energy cane as acceptable renewable fuel pathways under an EPA program.

A letter was drafted by Matt King and modified by the National Environmental Coalition of Invasive Species (NECIS) which objected to the rule using the argument that the rule violates Executive Order 13112. The letter/comment was submitted on February 6. NAEPPC and hence FLEPPC is a member of NECIS. A copy of the letter is available by contacting the FLEPPC Secretary.

2. SB 2094 & HB 7117: Energy. Amending 581.083 Biofuels

State Rule 581.083 requires a permit for large-scale planting (> 2 acres) of non-native plants and it also requires that a bond be posted in order to ensure that said plants are cleared from a site should the permit holder is no longer maintaining the site according to permit conditions.

This amendment would not require a permit for plants that are deemed not invasive. In addition, the amendment would also either reduce or eliminate the bonding requirements for non-native plants. The requirement for the plants to be removed is still intact, but the financial stick/backup would be removed.

In the Senate it passed the Agriculture & Communications and the Energy & Public Utilities committees. In the House it passed the Finance & Tax Committee.

Matt is still reviewing this bill to determine if FLEPPC should submit comments.

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Control and Evaluation - LeRoy Rodgers-Salvador said that the plots had been put in and they have scheduled March 30, 2012 as the evaluation date. One of the field symposium field trips will be to visit these sites.

Education - Jennifer Possley- Jennifer was not on the call, but sent an e-mail saying that RFPs has been posted and the closing date is March 1, 2012. Jennifer would like the FLEPPC board to confirm the final budget for the Education Grant. Since the FLEPPC board voted to approve the budget this morning we just need to follow-up and confirm to Jennifer that the final budget for the Education Grant program is \$4,000.

-Hillary will follow-up with Jennifer.

Finance - Ellen Allen -Not on call the call and did not send a report.

Outreach- Bob Farley- Bob did not send a report.

Karen Brown said that Katie Roberts submitted report a report because she attended the Tampa Bay Wholesale Growers Show in early February and put up a FLEPPC booth. Katie said that the attendance at this show was down, but still many people stopped by and talked with her and mentioned that people are aware of the invasive plant problem.

Karen mentioned that maybe we need to find a new outreach chair that is able to dedicate some time? We do have two outreach displays and a FedEx account so that the displays can be shipped.

Plant Industry Liaison - Doria Gordon-Doria was not on the call, and did not send a report, but Matt King has been communicating with Doria on some of the legislative issues.

Plant List - Keith Bradley-Printing of the 2011 plant list will occur if approved by the budget. Karen has all the information that she needs.

Research Grant - Betsy Von Holle- Betsy was not on the call and did not send a report, but said that she would post the RFP information on the website soon. Karen said that the information was already posted on the website.

Karen said that she would post the message to the FLEPPC List Serve.

Scholarship - Tony Pernas- Tony was not on the call and did not send a report but said that he was still willing to be the Scholarship Committee Chair.

Website - Chuck Bargeron-Chuck was not on the call and did not send a report. We will make sure Chuck get information about updates to the symposium.

Liaisons with other organizations

SE-EPPC Liaison - Karen Brown/Tony Pernas

Karen is going to the meeting, it is being held at Auburn University in Alabama May 8-10, 2012. There is a link on the FL-EPPC website. Jim Burch is also going to try and go.

SE-EPPC is also looking for a president.

NA-EPPC Liaison - Matt King / Tony Pernas/Jim Burch- Jim had an update about the National EPPC meeting that was held in conjunction with the National Natural Areas Conference at the FLEPPC meeting in November 2011 and has nothing new to report.

Task Force Reports

Brazilian Pepper- Jim Cuda- Jim talked about the report he sent for the last meeting (November, 2011.)

Australian Pine- Tony Pernas- Is working on this report and hopes to have a draft soon.

Carrotwood- Chris Lockhart-Nothing new

Lygodium- Nothing new

Chinese Tallow-Drew Lesile-Nothing new

Melaleuca-Francois Laroche-Nothing new

Karen mentioned that there is a new tropical soda apple plan that has been approved and written by UF and IFAS. Karen said that she would send a message to the FLEPPC List Serve when the plan is available.

Operations

Old Business

-Bio-fuel Control Panel- Request to see if a member of FLEPPC would like to be on a Bio-fuel panel. Jim will call Steve Woodmanse to find out more about this. Matt also said that he would give Steve a call about this.

New Business

-Plant List brochure printing- We already talked about this.

-AmeriCorps students FLEPPC conference request-We already talked about this. We are telling them to fill out a travel grant request. Erin has already sent the message Andi.

-Comments on EA for giant Miscanthus.- This date has passed, so it is a non-issue.

Karen Brown motioned to adjourn, and Dianne Owen seconded. This motion was unanimously approved by the FLEPPC BOD.

Adjourn 1:26 PM.