



Florida EPPC

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

2014 was a year of change for FLEPPC. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to convey a huge THANK YOU and well wishes to all those folks whose tenure with us is up. Our wonderful (past) Chair, Dennis Giardina, finished his very successful two-year term that included creating a new grant category for Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas (CISMAs). Kris Serbesoff-King, who helped with developing the CISMA Grant and was chair of the committee, has stepped down from this role. Our Education Grant chair, Jennifer Possley, decided that it was time to pass the torch to someone else and is taking a well-deserved break from her long tenure in this position. Sandy Wilson stepped down as Plant Industry Liaison and Matt King decided it was time for a break from the Legislative Committee. Dianne Owen, our long-time Treasurer, is trying to take a hiatus, but we have not cut all the strings yet! Some of our departing board members still serve as committee chairs and we are grateful for your continued service. YOU WILL ALL BE MISSED AND WE KNOW THAT YOU WILL BE AROUND TO ASSIST WHEN POSSIBLE.

Of course a new year signifies a new start. I would like to welcome our new committee chairs: Kris Campbell, Education Grant; Gregg Walker, CISMA Grant; Deah Lieurance, Legislative; Gary Knox, Plant Industry Liaison; Jackie Smith, Field Trips and CEUs. And, of course, our new-ish Board members, Rook Cleary, Gwen Burzycki, Tina Bond, and Alice Bard. All of our board members are amazing! I would like to thank Rook Cleary and the Finance Committee for getting us back on track with our budget and Gayle Edwards for doing a fantastic job with membership. You all ROCK! Of course none of this would be possible without the glue that holds us together – THANK YOU Karen Brown!

Looking into the new year, please be sure to join us April 8-10, 2015 in Melbourne (Florida!) for our annual symposium. In addition to our regular technical sessions, we are planning an aquatics session, student session, and some great field trips, all of which will garner CEUs in several categories. It should be a great time and a chance to refresh your knowledge, renew your acquaintances and, of course, your FLEPPC membership! Also, watch for our 2015 Invasive Plant List coming out this spring.

Kudos to all of our members for continuing to support this great organization!

Sincerely,
Sherry Williams

Note from Secretary:

This Newsletter contains the minutes from our October 2, 2014 BOD meeting.



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Announcements & Upcoming Events in Florida

The [UF/IFAS Assessment of Non-Native Plants](#) has been completely revised — check out the new, improved, easy to use format!

January 17, 2015
10th Annual Festival of Trees
 Lake Worth, FL

January 26-28, 2015
Southern Weed Science Society Annual Meeting
 Savannah, GA
www.swss.ws/

February 22-28, 2015
National Invasive Species Awareness Week
 Washington, DC
www.nisaw.org/

April 8-10, 2015
Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council Annual Conference
 Melbourne Beach, FL
www.fleppc.org

April 15-17, 2015
Florida Vegetation Management Association Annual Meeting
 Daytona Beach, FL
www.myfvma.org/

May 4-7, 2015
UF/IFAS Aquatic Weed Short Course
 Coral Springs, FL
conference.ifas.ufl.edu/aw/

For announcements and upcoming events in the FLEPPC Newsletter please send information to Aimee Cooper, aimee.lz.cooper@gmail.com.

Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council

OFFICERS

Sherry Williams, Chair
swilliams02@seminolecountyfl.gov

Dennis Giardina, Past Chair
Dennis.Giardina@MyFWC.com

Aimee Cooper, Secretary
aimee.lz.cooper@gmail.com

Dianne Owen, Treasurer
dowen@fau.edu

Karen Brown, Editor
kpbrown@ufl.edu

DIRECTORS

2nd Year
 Gayle Edwards
edwardsgayle5@aol.com

Geof Lane
kuasales@gmail.com

Deah Lieurance
dmlieurance@ufl.edu

Cheryl Millett
cmillett@TNC.ORG

1st Year
 Alice Bard
alice.bard@dep.state.fl.us

Tina Bond
bondt@helenachemical.com

Gwen Burzycki
BurzyG@miamidade.gov

Ruark Cleary
Ruark.Cleary@myfwc.com

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

By-Laws
 Mike Renda
mrenda@tnc.org

CISMA Grant
 Gregg Walker
gregory.walker@dep.state.fl.us

Education Grant
 Kris Campbell
kristine.campbell@myfwc.com

Field Trips
 Jackie Smith
Jackie.smith@myfwc.com

Finance
 Ruark Cleary
Ruark.Cleary@MyFWC.com

FNGA/FLEPPC Liaison
 Gary Knox
gwknnox@ufl.edu

Legislative
 Deah Lieurance
dmlieurance@ufl.edu

Local Arrangements
 Sherry Williams
swilliams02@seminolecountyfl.gov

Membership

Gayle Edwards
edwardsgayle5@aol.com

Merchandise

William Snyder
William_Snyder@nps.gov

Nominations

Jim Burney
Jburney@avcaquatic.com

Outreach

Christen Mason
cmason@sfwmd.gov

Plant List

Patricia Howell
phowell@broward.org

Research Grant

Jim Cuda
jcuda@ufl.edu

Symposium Program

Sherry Williams/Karen Brown
swilliams02@seminolecountyfl.gov
kpbrown@ufl.edu

Vendors

Michael Meisenburg
Michael@kestreleco.com

Webmaster

Chuck Bargeron
cbarger0@uga.edu

TASK FORCE CHAIRS

Australian Pine

Tony Pernas
Tony_Pernas@nps.gov

Brazilian Pepper

Jim Cuda
jcuda@ufl.edu

Carrotwood

Chris Lockhart
Habitatsp@aol.com

Chinese Tallow

Greg Wheeler
greg.wheeler@ars.usda.gov

Dioscorea

Bill Overholt
billover@ufl.edu

Grasses

Greg MacDonald
pineacre@ufl.edu

Lygodium

LeRoy Rodgers
lrodders@sfwmd.gov

Melaleuca

Francois Laroche
Flaroche@sfwmd.gov

Skunkvine

Brian Nelson
brian.nelson@swfwmd.state.fl.us

Minutes from FLEPPC Board of Directors Conference Call**October 2, 2014, 10:00 AM****Minutes taken by Aimee Cooper, FLEPPC Secretary****ADMINISTRATIVE:****Call to Order/Roll Call:** 10:04 AM

Attending: Dennis Giardina, Cheryl Millett, Mike Renda, Tina Bond, Karen Brown, Sherry Williams, Gregg Walker, Deah Lieurance, Brian Nelson, Chris Lockhart (joined 11:00 AM).

Not Attending: Dianne Owen, Gayle Edwards, Geof Lane, Alice Bard, Rook Cleary, Gwen Burzycki.

Chair activities, Sherry Williams:

- Sherry participated in the National Association of Exotic Pest Plant Council (NAEPPC) conference call on August 5. Discussions comprised of changing their current name to National Invasive Plant Council (NAIPC) and asking the New Jersey Invasive Species Strike Team to become a member of the NAEPPC. Additionally, the NAEPPC/NAIPC included National Invasive Species Awareness Week, February 22-28, 2015, to the calendar and they will likely provide a webinar that week. They also sent a letter to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to support increased funding of the Pulling Together Initiative (PTI) program. Brian Nelson asked for the status of the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) Invasive Plant List Standard. Negative comments had to be addressed so they withdrew the application and postponed until next year until these issues can be resolved. An email message was circulated to Chapter representatives on August 25, 2014 informing them of this delay. Lastly, Sherry was voted in as a member-at-large on the NAEPPC/NAIPC board.
- Sherry also participated in the SE-EPPC conference call September 4th. They were notified that *Wildland Weeds* will be circulated as a PDF to members only at first, and then will be available on the FLEPPC and SE-EPPC websites after six months. Lastly, the SE-EPPC and GA-EPPC joint conference will be held November 12-14 2014 in Athens, GA. The Mississippi chapter of SE-EPPC was disbanded due to inactivity.
- There are a number of vacancies among the FLEPPC Committees, including Education, CEUs, and Checklists. There is also an immediate opening for Treasurer, an Officer position. Education Committee members include new Chair Kris Campbell, Jennifer Possley (vacating chair), Karen Brown, Jerome Jackson, Chris Lockhart, Kris Serbesoff-King, Bob Repenning, Jon Lane, and Erick Smith.
- ☆ Sherry has organized a 2015 Conference Program discussion with the FLEPPC BOD that will take place on December 17th at 1:00 PM.

Correspondence, Sherry Williams:

- An invasive species officer from Port Stephens Council, Australia requested a tissue sample of *Asystasia gangetica* from Florida to help identify the specific variety they have.
- There was a request for a FLEPPC representative to speak at Moccasin Lake Nature Park about non-native and invasive plants of Florida. They are trying to offer programs to the general public in an effort to get them interested in not planting exotic plants in their yard. Sherry forwarded this request to the local CISMA.

- The National Association of Invasive Species (formerly NA Exotic Pest Plant Council) requested funds from all of the member groups to help pay travel expenses for a team of three to attend the ASTM meeting in Anaheim in April. These team members will be present to support and explain the initiative, to establish a national standard for listing invasive plants. A final vote will be counted at this meeting. Sherry suggested donating funds in the amount of \$200.00 from the Operating Expenses (formerly Chair Discretionary).

OFFICER REPORTS:

Treasurer's Report, Vacant (Dianne Owen officially stepped down):

- As of July 27, 2014, our account standings are as follows: checking = \$17,473.54, savings = \$16,923.26, CD = \$5,321.22. It was proposed that the amount of the CD be allocated to the scholarship fund that we've been attempting to enhance. Cheryl made the motion and it was seconded by Karen. We are paying a significant amount, \$74.95/month, to Suntrust for a business account we have not used for quite some time. Sherry contacted Ellen Allen (former Treasurer) and will follow up with her on Friday to have that account canceled as soon as possible.
- Numerous bookkeeping items were addressed: as of August 1, 2014, \$6,000.00 in deposits were made; we have a \$49.99/month Bank of America fee for our business account; \$150.00 was reimbursed to Mike Renda (he was unable to attend the symposium but had paid registration); PayPal, online transactions in the amount of \$1,300.00; there should be an additional \$250.00 coming in for new memberships; lastly, we received a check from FL TWS in the amount of \$5,400.00 for the conference. We have a \$4,000.00 outstanding expense for two research grants (FY 2014-2015) that have not yet been paid. Since both are with UF, Karen will contact Jim Cuda to expedite those payments.

Editor's Report, Karen Brown:

- Both FLEPPC and SE-EPPC have agreed that *Wildland Weeds* magazine shall be published online. Rook, Gwen, and Karen will try to start working on the second issue for 2014 soon. They hope to have Rook do the layout to save the expense (\$60 per page) of having a professional perform that task.
- Karen was able to create an 8-1/2" x 11" version of the [2013 FLEPPC Plant List](#) that is similar to versions that appeared in *Wildland Weeds* magazine in the past. This will enable more people to print their own copies as the trifold pamphlet version required legal size paper. Both versions are available online at <http://www.fleppc.org/list/list.htm> and they both contain links back to UF/IFAS Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants webpages for all but four of the Category I species, and many of the Category II species.
- Some of the articles that were submitted for the Spring 2014 issue of *Wildland Weeds* were posted under [Publications](#) on the FLEPPC website as Karen was unable to fit them in the print version. They are:
 - [Florida CISMAs and FWC Upland Invasive Plant Management Working Groups - What's the Difference? By K. Serbesoff-King and L. King - Wildland Weeds Spring 2014 - Suppl 2 - ONLINE ONLY](#) – **NEW**
 - [New Additions to the FLEPPC 2013 List of Invasive Species - Wildland Weeds Spring 2014 - Suppl 1 - ONLINE ONLY](#) – **NEW**
 - Some of the articles that appeared in the print version were also posted online [Mexican-petunia \(*Ruellia simplex*\) invasions: management challenges and research opportunities](#) – **NEW** and [Ficaria verna quietly naturalizing in the Southeast](#) – **NEW**

- The entire Spring 2014 issue has been sent over for uploading to the FLEPPC website.
- The FLEPPC Plant List has been placed on the Kanapaha Botanical Gardens website! “Please don’t sell any Category I species” is on the vendor form and website for their annual Spring Garden Festival which attracts approximately 175 booths!

Secretary’s Report, Aimee Cooper:

The July 22, 2014 BOD minutes were approved via email in late August. All relevant email correspondences from the July 22 BOD meeting through September 19 were included in the Fall 2014 newsletter. The Fall 2014 newsletter was distributed on September 30. Aimee will contact Gayle Edwards regarding sending the newsletter to the membership.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance, Rook Cleary:

- Summary of September 25, 2014 conference call: A provisional budget was recommended of \$5,000.00: the CISMA Grant will remain at \$1500.00; the Research Grant was budgeted for \$0.00 (this was based on Jim Cuda stating that we could deferred it for a year); *Wildland Weeds* was budgeted at \$1,000.00 for layout; Merchandise was budgeted for \$0.00 (remnant merchandise from previous symposia can be sold); Outreach was budgeted for \$200.00; the Plant List Committee was budgeted for \$0.00 (the list will be included in the PDF version of *Wildland Weeds* and can be printed off as needed); the Chair Discretionary, now known as Operating Expenses, was budgeted for \$300.00. Rook is devising an official budget request form to distribute and will include items such as budget history, amount, justification, etc. Dennis motioned to accept the provisional budget and it was seconded by Tina Bond. Amendments can be made to the budget if the Finance Committee is agreeable and if approved by the BOD.
- There was a request to FLEPPC to manage grants for the CISMAs. Sherry contacted the Treasure Coast CISMA to discuss grantee status. The Resource Conservation and Development Council (RC&D) is the holder and they are considering doing this for all the CISMAs throughout the state.

CISMA Grant, Gregg Walker (replaced Kristina Serbesoff-King):

- Gregg Walker, Florida Park Service and current FISP member, has agreed to step in as the Chair of the FLEPPC/FISP CISMA grant committee. Kris will remain as a member of the committee. Kris and Gregg will work together to update CISMA grant documents and get them on the FLEPPC website for the 2015 grant cycle.
- Tentative 2015 grant cycle:
 - Announce RFP in early December 2014.
 - Proposals are due by close of business February 2, 2015.
 - Award recipient(s) will be notified by April 10, 2015 then will be announced publicly via listerv(s) and at FLEPPC 2015 conference.
 - Award period will be for 12 months, with project completion being on or before the end of April 2016.

Education Grant, Kris Campbell (replaced Jennifer Possley):

- Kris Campbell, existing FLEPPC member, was nominated and accepted by a two-thirds majority vote to fill as the Education Grant Chair. Jennifer Possley, vacating Chair, will be

available to assist Kris in the position, if necessary.

- A past award winner from Bethune-Cookman University has finalized their (PDF) book and will soon go live with the companion website about Plants of Retention Ponds and Drainage Ditches in the Greater Daytona Beach area. After some logistics with the PDF are worked out, Jennifer will ask our webmasters to place a link on FLEPPC's Publications page.

Research Grant, Jim Cuda:

- There is \$4,000.00 in outstanding grant funds owed to the 2014-2015 winners. Once the names of the winners have been verified, Karen can send them their award checks.
- There was some confusion as to whether the Research Grant would be funded this year. During a budget discussion at the July 2014 BOD meeting Jim recommended that the Research Grant could be deferred for a year, however it was recognized as a program that we don't want to cut. Ultimately, the Finance Committee accepted the recommendation and the BOD approved the budget without funding the Research Grant.

Legislative, Deah Lieurance:

The letter concerning HR 3994 was sent to representatives in late August.

Membership, Gayle Edwards:

- We currently have 121 members. Pay Pal does not give the affiliation or phone numbers of memberships so Gayle has started sending a thank you note and asking members for these details.
- Discussion concerning Lifetime Achievement Award/Lifetime Membership Award (LMA) was addressed. Ken Langeland suggested lifetime memberships, as it expresses our utmost gratitude for their service to FLEPPC. The BOD unanimously agreed that we should honor recipient(s) of this award, perhaps with a recognition letter in *Wildland Weeds* or an announcement on the list-serv. At the very least, an announcement will be made at the annual symposium. Karen would like to codify the awards so that they are consistent.
- Pat Howell recommends Dr. Daniel B. Ward, Dr. David W. Hall, and Dr. Richard P. Wunderlin for the Lifetime Membership Award. "They have been with the Plant List Committee from the beginning and their contributions are innumerable. The 1991 Plant List is a testament of their dedication and knowledge and is still applicable. This award, ever so humble, would show our deepest appreciation before they depart [the Committee] which she hopes will not be in the foreseeable future. They are the only ones still serving on the committee [from the early years] although many of the former committee members still respond to her numerous questions." Pat motioned this proposition (by email) and it was seconded by Karen.

Nominations, Jim Burney:

The First Call for Directors and Chair-Elect Nominations.

Outreach, Christen Mason:

- The FLEPPC display was setup at the Florida Small Farms and Alternative Enterprises Conference on August 1-2 in Kissimmee, by Rose Godfrey. The conference was attended by 600-700 farmers, industry representatives, researchers, and other stakeholders.
- On September 27 Christen Mason staffed the exhibit at the first annual Indian River Lagoon Science Festival, in honor of National Estuary Day. The event was very well attended, with over 100 guests visiting the booth.

Plant Industry Liaison, Gary Knox (replaced Sandy Wilson):

- Sandy Wilson vacated her position as Plant Industry Liaison and nominated Gary Knox, Assistant Professor of Environmental Horticulture at the University of Florida REC in Quincy, FL. Sherry accepted the nomination and requested a vote via email from the BOD. The vote was carried by the majority and Sherry appointed Gary as the new Plant Industry Liaison on October 30th, 2014.
- Sandy attended the annual Florida Nursery and Grower's Association Landscape Show (<http://www.fngla.org/thelandscape/show/index.aspx>; the Southeast's premier landscape and horticulture conference and trade event with more than 450 exhibiting companies and 6,500 attendees) serving as FLEPPC's plant industry liaison and professor of environmental horticulture.
- Ornamental update as of September 28, 2014 (Karen will disseminate this information from Sandy to the FLEPPC list-serv):
 - *Ligustrum sinense*: On July 22, 2014 the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FLDACS) Division of Plant Industry (DPI) listed Chinese privet as a "noxious weed". According to Patti Anderson of FLDACS, all cultivars fall under this designation unless a provision is granted by FLDACS rule FB-57.007. <https://www.flrules.org/gateway/ruleNo.asp?id=5B-57.007>. Currently only 1 cultivar 'Variegatum' is excluded from the rule (not state regulated), but this cultivar has been known to revert back to its green form (Wilson et al., 2014). Dr. Deng (UF plant breeder) will be leading new efforts to improve cultivars with sterility and variegation stability, with potential funding from the Horticulture Research Institute.
 - *Pennisetum setaceum*: The green form is currently a FLEPPC category II. There is discussion of increasing it to a category I. There is new discussion that the red form has also escaped, according to reports provided to St Johns River Water Management District. Research by Wilson and Knox (2009) found up to 90% germination of the green form, but viable seeds were not produced during the timeframe of the study for commercial cultivars 'Rubrum' and 'Dwarf Rubrum'. IFAS Status Assessment of non-native plants determined it was not a problem species in 2003 but that further data is needed. In 2014 it was reassessed and concluded not to be a problem species in all zones, although "documented in natural areas in North and Central region" (Deah Lieurance, UF IFAS Assessment). Zhanao Deng (UF plant breeder) has volunteered to look at the genetics of the cultivated red forms that are commercially available.
 - *Lantana camara*: Listed as a FLEPPC Category I and not recommended by the UF Status Assessment in all zones. Breeding lines T2, T3, T4, and T9 (developed by Dr. Deng as part of a T-STAR grant) are sterile (Czarnecki et al., 2012) and were approved by the IFAS Intraspecific Taxon Protocol in 2011.
 - *Ruellia simplex*: Listed as a FLEPPC Category I and not recommended by the UF Status Assessment in all zones. Cultivars 'Mayan White', 'Mayan Purple', and 'Mayan Pink' (developed by Dr. Freyre at UF as part of a T-STAR grant) are sterile (Freyre et al., 2012) and have been approved for use by the IFAS Intraspecific Taxon Protocol in 2012.
 - *Nandina domestica*: Listed as a FLEPPC Category I and not recommended by the UF Status Assessment in north and central Florida. Cultivars 'Firepower', 'Gulfstream' and 'Harbour Dwarf' have been approved for use by the IFAS Intraspecific Taxon Protocol in 2008-2010 based on research by Knox and Wilson (2006).
- Questions concerning vegetative spread were briefly discussed and it was a unanimous agreement amongst the BOD that this matter should be addressed, as this would be beneficial knowledge for land managers. Currently, cultivars are only tested for viable seeds. Sherry

plans to send a letter to the primary investigators requesting vegetative spread investigation in the development of these cultivars. Patti Anderson (FDACS) suggested a petition to list the wild-type species of the sterile cultivars. Ken Langeland petitioned to list certain species for prohibition and can assist Deah with this process.

Plant List, Pat Howell:

- A letter to the Plant List Committee regarding their non-member status was drafted by Karen but not sent.
- Colette Jacono sent a letter concerning the origin of *Pistia stratiotes* to the BOD and the Plant List Committee following an email from Jason Evans who claims it is native. Karen plans to distribute the letter to the FLEPPC list-serv. The Plant List Committee discussed the issue and is leaving it listed as Category I invasive. The National Park Service cannot remove *P. stratiotes* from their list because research is ongoing. *P. stratiotes* will also remain on the FLEPPC list until the genetic research is completed. If it is determined that *P. stratiotes* is native, it could be treated similarly to cattails, a native but a nuisance. This is not the only species where this has occurred; Camphor tree appears in fossil records in coastal plains of FL but was extirpated some time ago. When it was reintroduced it was considered an invasive species on the FLEPPC list and is funded to be treated as such.
- The Finance Committee recommended not printing future FLEPPC Plant Lists but Chris Lockhart made the argument that they are extremely useful and appreciated by people, and Karen added that the back panel of the tri-fold list has a membership application on it, enhancing its usefulness. This discussion was tabled but will resume when the 2015 Invasive Plant List is ready for distribution.

Symposium Planning/Program, Sherry Williams/Karen Brown:

- Planning for the 2015 symposium is ongoing. The City of Melbourne has been decided for the location, and accommodations will be at the Crown Plaza. The BOD meeting will be held on the morning of the 8th and the symposium will begin later that afternoon.
- We have been invited back to Ocala with the Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society (FL TWS) for a joint symposium in 2016.
- ☆ Keith Morin has expressed that he would like to step down as the CEU Committee Chair but he is able to assist his successor.

TASK FORCE REPORTS:

Australian Pine, Tony Pernas:

The Australian Pine Management Plan has been downloaded 2,293 times since it was posted on the FLEPPC Website on May 13, 2014. They would also like to add the following link to the FLEPPC website: The Turtle and the Tree, a great video on the positive effects of Australian pine removal on Keewaydin Island http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gJyrD1EX_UY.

Dioscorea, Bill Overholt:

The USDA Invasive Plants Research Laboratory (USDA/IPRL), the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Plant Industry (FDACS/DPI) and the University of Florida, Biological Control Research and Containment Laboratory (UF/BCRCL) have released nearly 310,000 air potato leaf beetles (*Lilioceris cheni*) at 986 locations in 44 counties in Florida. Substantial beetle damage has been observed at several sites, with reductions in vine height, coverage, and bulbil production. In general, beetles are performing best at sites that received beetles furthest in the past, indicating that beetle populations are increasing each year. Variability in establishment and level of damage to air potato at different locations suggests that site specific

factors influence beetle survival and performance. Beetles are being found at many locations where they were not released, often as far as 10 miles from release sites. Scientists at the USDA/IPRL are investigating a second biological control agent, a beetle which feeds primarily on air potato bulbils. A website has been developed for the air potato biological control program at: <http://bcrc1.ifas.ufl.edu/airpotatobiologicalcontrol.shtml>. Beetles are available for release during the spring, summer and early fall and can be requested from FDACS/DPI (north and central Florida), USDA/IPRL (south Florida) and UF/BCRCL (north and central Florida). See website for details.

☆ In the Ocala National Forest, Jim Duby observed a small patch of air potato that was stricken by the beetles, but it appeared that a beautyberry had a similar pattern of herbivory. Sherry or Jim will report this to the appropriate individual(s).

Adjourned:

Sherry motioned to adjourn at 11:26 and was seconded by Cheryl Millett.

Next Board Meeting:

A Doodle Poll was sent out to the BOD to schedule the January BOD meeting. The meeting will be held January 15, 2015 in Melbourne at the Crowne Plaza at 2:00 PM with a walk-through of the site at 1:00 PM.