



# Florida EPPC

## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

A few weeks ago I was in the northeastern part of the country, and had anticipated getting a small jump on the cool, dry fall air that ordinarily occurs earlier in those latitudes. It turned out to be unusually warm and humid, so relief from the stifling southern summer was moderated a little, but autumn was clearly present and seasonal weather produced cool air after a couple of days. What I did notice happening in this area was the annual change of leaf colors in deciduous trees. This is quite predictable, and occurs with other autumnal activities that are different from place to place, but happen at about the same time each year. Autumn and changing leaves in most of the country coincide with football, hunting season, mackinaws, and cider.

I realized that similar changes with seasons occur where we work, and thought of this time of year as our fall exotics hunting season. Here the *Schinus* canopies start to turn bright red with fruits, earleaf acacias present yellow inflorescences, and a late season flush of flowers produces points of white in the dark melaleuca foliage (I wax poetic). Most of us will not think of this as beautiful to look at like New England hills in the fall, but it does indicate seasonal changes in plant biology and coincidentally, work activities.

This is when I begin to organize things for crews to hit the woods and get most busy with exotics control. At this time of the year, conditions for outside work improve over the previous four or five months of summer. Temperature and humidity are both lower, there are fewer insects, fewer leaves on the trees to aid spotting target plants, fewer storms and lightning, less standing water, and generally drier clothing. So the cooler months are better, and safer, for much of the work that occurs in our natural areas.

It's a time of year full of activity- maybe no more activity than at other times, but it seems better because its starting things, and there's positive anticipation. We have a lot of hard charging to do in our part of the world to push back our exotic plants, but it's working; it's slow, and it's difficult, but it continues to move in the right direction. So it is a challenging workload, but all over our area, natural resource managers are overcoming the obstacles, and restoring native biological systems. It's important to note that the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council is part of leading this charge; we can, and should, feel good about recognizing each other for the work that is getting done. Maybe with a mug of cider.

Jim Burch  
Big Cypress National Preserve

## Calendar at a Glance

**January 13, 2011** @10:00 AM - next FLEPPC BOD meeting.

**May 17- 22, 2011** -Joint FLEPPC/FNPS symposium at Sheraton Orlando North in Maitland, Florida

## FLEPPC Needs

Would you like to get involved more with FLEPPC? We need your help. We need:

- 1.) a new Committee Chair for the By-Laws Committee. Please see the committee description at: <http://www.fleppc.org/committees.htm> If you are interested please contact Hillary Cooley at [Hillary\\_Cooley@nps.gov](mailto:Hillary_Cooley@nps.gov).

## Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council

### OFFICERS

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**Hillary Cooley Secretary**  
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**Dianne Owen, Treasurer**  
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**Karen Brown, Editor, Wildland Weeds**  
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### DIRECTORS

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### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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**Finance**  
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**Legislative**  
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**Local Arrangements**  
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**Merchandise**  
**Tony Pernas**  
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**Nominations**  
**Jim Burney**

**Outreach**  
**Robert Farley**

**Plant List**  
**Keith Bradley**  
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**Research Grant**  
**Betsy von Holle**  
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**Symposium Program**  
**Jon Lane**

**Field Trips**  
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### TASK FORCE CHAIRS

**Australian Pine**  
**Tony Pernas**

**Brazilian Pepper**  
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**Carrotwood**  
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**Florida EPPC Board of Directors Meeting  
April 5, 2010 (1:00PM)  
Plantation Inn Golf Resort and Spa**

Administrative

*Call to Order/Roll Call*

The meeting was called to order at 2:03pm by Jim Burch, who served as proxy chair for Jim Burney until his arrival.

The following directors and members, constituting a quorum were present: Hillary Burgess, Jessica Spencer, Dustin Hormann, Doria Gordon, Pat Howell, Adam Grayson, Karen Brown, Bob Farley, Ben Gugliotti, Bill Kline, Tony Pernas, Jim Burch, Dianne Owen, Betsy Von Holle, Jim Cuda, Kris Serbesoff-King, LeRoy Rodgers, Jon Lane, Jim Burney, and Mike Renda were present.

Bill Kline served as proxy for Todd Olson.

Jessica Spencer served as a proxy for Jon Lane until he arrived.

*Approval of last minutes*

Upon agreement to incorporate a few minor edits made, Karen motioned and Pat Howell seconded to approve the minutes of the January 19<sup>th</sup> meeting. This motion was approved unanimously by the board.

*Chair Activities*

*Correspondence* - Jim Burney reported that he responded to a lot of homeowner questions related to invasive species. Doria Gordon explained that there was an Environmental Assessment related to the proposed hybridization and mass planting of two species of Eucalyptus that have the potential for invasiveness and high water use. FLEPPC submitted initial comments on this. A permit is required through the USDA because it is a GMO. Jim is going to contact Lewis Handly at the USDA to see about submitting follow-up comments.

*FNPS Codes of Conduct* - Jim Burney signed and sent a letter of support for these. (note: this answers the question raised at the recent board meeting)

*FISP Resolution*- Jim Burney signed and sent a letter of support for these.

*Treasurer's Report-Dianne Owen*

Dianne passed around the updated Budget, which did not yet include the Wildland Weeds or Education Grants expenses.

121 people are registered as of today. \$21,925 is the total symposium income so far. Online registration has helped a lot and there were many improvements from last year.

Dianne moved \$10,000 from savings into checking so that it would be usable in case there was need during the symposium. She suspects that in the end we may be a few thousand dollars behind because of the cost of scholarship and education grants. She noted that Wildland Weeds and the symposium are no longer guaranteed to make money, and we will not be able to continue on our savings indefinitely. Dianne is beginning a new accounting system that she thinks will be easier, more professional and clear. She donated the software to FLEPPC.

*Editor's Report-Karen Brown*

Spring Issue is in the layout stage. Karen is working on ad support. This upcoming issue will be shorter to help with expenses. She would like to have an ad hoc strategic planning meeting to discuss the future of Wildland Weeds. A lot of ad support has dropped off. One consideration might be to charge an additional fee for the magazine, or to explore different formats. Chuck Barger, among others, is interested in exploring the options. The previous issue of Wildland Weeds lost some money. The SE- EPPC annual meeting is

in May. Possibly the meeting could be set up then. Bill Kline offered to be on the committee. Bill noted that there have been new vendors for the symposium and that a method to encourage them to advertise in Wildland Weeds would be to offer an initial sale rate. Karen suggested that Jim Burch be on the ad hoc committee as well.

#### *Secretary's Report-Hillary Burgess*

Hillary received the FLEPPC files from Dianne. The latest newsletter came out at the end of February and contained the announcement for the symposium, program at a glance, and registration information. Hillary sent several e-mail announcements regarding the symposium and registration to LeRoy's mailing list and the membership list. She also sent out an announcement of the Annual Business Meeting, with the proposed slate of board members. After the symposium Hillary will send a welcome document to each new board member, and will announce them in our upcoming newsletter. She will work with Chuck to get new BOD member bios and photos on the web site and revise the letterhead to reflect the new roster.

Hillary Burgess motioned to accept the reports as presented; Jim Burch seconded. This

motion was approved unanimously by the board.

#### *Committee Reports*

##### *Bylaws - Sandra Vardaman*

Not present, no report.

##### *Checklists - Donna Watkins*

Not present, no report.

##### *Control and Evaluation-LeRoy Rodgers*

Report available. LeRoy is working on SOPs and explained that the original intent of the committee was to have a demonstration site associated with each symposium to show invasive plant management, herbicide trials etc. Jim Burney suggested that the plots be revisited after longer periods of time because the demo plots are usually established and monitored for only a few months. Doria Gordon suggested having a map of currently existing plots and their statuses. LeRoy said to contact him if there are any other suggestions. He will finalize the SOPs and submit them to Chuck Barger to put on the website.

##### *Education- Jennifer Possley*

Report available.

##### *Finance-Ellen Donlan*

There was a teleconference a few weeks ago. The finance

committee is pursuing alternate sources of income. There is a need for new committee members since Jim Burney and Tony Pernas are rotating off. Karen suggested that Ellen should be on the Wildland Weeds committee. LeRoy suggested that Jonathan Taylor might also make a good member for that group. During the business meeting there will be an announcement looking for new Finance Committee members.

##### *Legislative-Matt King*

No Report.

##### *Merchandise-Tony Pernas*

Tony showed the merchandise for this year. There are symposium t-shirts, as well as a new batch of Control Freak t-shirts.

##### *Nominations-Jim Burney*

Jim explained that there is an attempt to maintain a balanced board of experience, geographic location and organization affiliation. The proposed slate was adopted by the board unanimously by e-mail vote prior to the board meeting and will be voted on by the membership at the annual business meeting.

##### *Outreach-Robert Farley*

Katie Roberts had a display at

an Audubon Society conference as well as a growers' event. Karen Brown participated in an event at a spring garden festival in Gainesville. She was concerned that FLEPPC listed plants were being sold and auctioned at the event and plans to write a letter urging the garden to consider not allowing the sale of invasive species. Bob announced that there is another event in Brookesville and is looking for volunteers who might be able to participate. Kris mentioned that Brian Nelson will be there representing his CISMA and that he could do a joint booth. Jim Burney mentioned that the Finance Committee was thinking of expanding the budget to accommodate paid table/booth fees.

*Plant Industry Liaison-Doria Gordon*

Doria is awaiting response from FNGLA regarding a new suite of species that they would announce as not recommended for growers. There was some discussion surrounding a list of alternatives for nursery growers and homeowners. Doria said that this list is a work in progress that has not been a large priority because FNGLA did not seem receptive. The group agreed that it should still be pursued. Doria suggested that the list should not be restricted to native plants. Doria will send the current list to folks

who are interested and we will revisit it at the next board meeting. Hillary expressed an interest in being involved in its development.

*Plant List-Keith Bradley*  
Report available.

*Position Paper-Jim Burch-*

This group was proposed to construct positions on various topics as needed. Jim is in the process of developing SOPs for this committee and a framework for positions papers. He went to other organizations and looked at how they have developed similar committees. He sent a draft to some individuals and is still looking for feedback. It became apparent that there were some differing thoughts about the purpose of this committee: whether or not it would frame general positions that could be placed on the website or correspondence. Everyone agreed that both purposes would be valuable.

*Research- Betsy Von Holle*

During the symposium this committee will determine who will receive the awards. Betsy wondered if there should be a rule about whether recipients could reapply for the same project in subsequent years. Doria suggested looking at precedents from other

organizations such as the Native Plant Society and revisiting the intent of the research grants fund—if it is meant to stimulate new work and provide seed money or to fund an entire project. Jessica suggested that it could be part of the scoring criteria. Betsy also commented that because of FLEPPC's financial situation, it would be possible not to award the entire Research Scholarship budget. Betsy is going to follow up with Karen to see if winners have submitted reports to Wildland Weeds.

*Scholarship-Tony Pernas*

Tony has not yet purchased prizes for the raffle but will.

*Strategic Planning-Jonathan Taylor*

Not present, no report. LeRoy commented that they are struggling to get started.

*Symposium local Arrangements-Mike Bodle*

Bill Kline reported that the no-see-ums were a large source of discomfort in the evenings at the outdoor venue, so LeRoy went to find Mike to discuss the possibility of moving the banquet to an indoor location. Mike returned and recommended keeping the banquet in the outdoor location because of concern for handicap access being unavailable

to the indoor location. Bill Kline offered to go and buy citronella using Jim Burney's discretionary funds. Jim is going to check with Dianne to get approval for using this money.

*Symposium Program- Jon Lane*

Jessica Spencer served as a proxy for Jon. There were last minute changes to the rooms and Jessica sought ideas about how to disseminate these changes to the attendees. It was decided that she would create a separate sheet that describes the location for each session that would be available for people during registration.

*Training Ben Gugliotti*

Ben reported that CEU forms are lined up and ready for the symposium.

*On-line registration-Dianne Owen*

Registration was much smoother this year.

*Symposium Field Trips- Donna Watkins*

Not present, no report.

*Vendor- Bill Kline*

Bill reported that there are several new vendors. Bill asked how to recognize donors for door prizes and Mike suggested that thanks be given at each drawing and during announcements. Bill purchased

door prizes and twelve poster boards. Bill suggested giving winners the option of whatever winners want and creating a display of door prizes to garner interest and incentive for being in the room during giveaways.

*Website-Chuck Barger*

Not present, no report.

*Liaisons with other organizations*

SE-EPPC Liaison - Karen Brown/Tony Pernas. The annual meeting is in May in Chattanooga and is co-hosted with the Society for Ecological Resotation and Karen is attending. She is the secretary of SE-EPPC. Chuck Barger is currently president but will be stepping down in May.

NA-EPPC Liaison - Matt King / Tony Pernas. Tony suggested that there is a need to fulfill the role of involvement with NA-EPPC. Tony is no longer the chair.

*Task Force Reports*

Brazilian Pepper - Jim Cuda. Report available. Jim noted that the management plan is four years old and outdated. He is willing to update it and submit the changes to Chuck for the website.

Australian Pine - Tony Pernas. Report available. Tony is still

working on the management plan and says it is close to being completed. He noted that there are several groups active in promoting and protecting Australian pine and wants to investigate strategies to campaign against this. Karen suggested utilizing the box of Australian pine brochures in Tony's office and possibly billboards in south Florida.

Carrotwood - Chris Lockhart.

Report available.

*Operations*

*Old Business*

Karen announced that Gil Nelson's new book on Best Native Plants for Southern Gardens is about to become available.

FNPS/FLEPPC Joint 2011 Conference - Jim Burch reported that there was a conference call with Karina Veaudry a couple of months ago. He explained the current proposal of an overlapping conference with the regular FLEPPC conference taking place initially, FNPS following and joint sessions and field trips in the middle. The dates are May 10-15<sup>th</sup>.

Developing a Speakers Bureau - This has not yet come into fruition. It could dovetail with outreach and is still in the works. When Jim Burney steps down as chair and has more

?? on this.

*New Business*

Ben Gugliotti received an e-mail inquiring if FLEPPC has an anti-discrimination policy. This brought up the question as to whether FLEPPC is required as a non-profit to have such a policy. There is a need to investigate this; Jim Burney offered to consult his lawyer.

LeRoy announced that Bob Pemberton is pursuing a proposal to SFWMD for research to develop a white list of proven non-invasive exotic plants that could be planted at a demonstration site such as Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden.

He asked that interested people see him about the potential to fund this research.

The next board meeting will be July 20<sup>th</sup> via PolyCom at 10:00am.

Dustin Hormann motioned and Adam Grayson seconded to Adjourn at 5:13pm.  
Adjourned.

Reports submitted by Tony Pernas (Australian pine), Jennifer Possley (Education/Outreach Grant), Leroy Rodgers (Control & Evaluation), Jim Cuda (Brazilian pepper), Keith Bradley (Plant

Committee).

Subsequent report on Annual Business meeting submitted by Karen Brown. Reports available by contacting the secretary,  
hillary\_Cooley@nps.gov