



Florida EPPC

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Communicating About Exotic Plant Management

The past several months have involved many projects and other activities that required my travel to unfamiliar areas. While traveling, I can't help thinking about exotic plants in these other places. Looking at things in other parts of the country (or the state), most of us will recognize some exotics and have some awareness of problems that occur in these distant areas. We innately compare and contrast situations related to exotic plants that occur in these places with situations we know well from our home turf.

However, we are naturally not as well versed in the details of exotics problems in distant locations as we are in our work areas. Experts that work in these different places are filled with information about exotic plant situations the way we are at home. In both cases, we are consumed with minutia of our occupations, and tasks that range from reflexive and quick, to complex and calendar-page-consuming. We fret about difficulties in completing objectives, and we (well, I, anyway) become impatient with others who are not as familiar with our obsession to help restore native habitats by minimizing influences of non-native organisms.

In other areas land managers certainly have concerns similar to ours, but we may not recognize these things simply because we don't know the details and constraints of the situation, the methods that are accepted, or extent of the problem. This is similar to our local situations, regarding our exotic plant land management programs and the way these programs are perceived or understood by those unfamiliar with our activities. Exotics control is our priority and daily travail, and it is generally recognized and appreciated by the community at large. However, as with any occupation, most of the community does not have information about the details we carry with us forty hours each week – nor should they.

Mostly, people are interested and curious about our work, and we are almost always ready to share this information. It's important to talk about what we do, but it is perhaps more important to realize we need to talk about it in ways different from the way we communicate with each other. It's easy to lose a crowd's attention with too much shop talk and technical detail; staying with the basics will hold the audience more effectively. We've seen recently a beginning for this kind of communication with the community, with brief statements on billboards, newspaper inserts, amnesty days, and pamphlets that have been produced by some exotics management agencies in our area. This, in my opinion, is a very valuable method for connecting with the large number of people unfamiliar with our work. The idea is not to dumb-down the information, but to express things differently, so that it is available and recognizable to more of the community. This is a very valuable part of managing non-native populations. An advertising message we often see regarding a minimalist approach to things in general is: "Simplify"... Makes sense.

Jim Burch
Big Cypress National Preserve

Upcoming FLEPPC Events

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

Nomination for Chair Elect

Dennis Giardina has been nominated for and has accepted the 2012-2013 Chair position. The membership will need to vote on the Chair Elect nominee at the April 16-19, 2012 Annual Conference, before Dennis becomes Chair. Please see Dennis' biography below.

For 22 years Dennis has focused on endangered species recovery and invasive species control. He has worked for the US Forest Service at the Caribbean and Apalachicola National Forests from 1989 to 1991, The US Fish and Wildlife Service at St. Marks and Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuges from 1992 to 2005. He was the Park Manager of Fakahatchee Strand Preserve from 2005 to 2008 and since January 2008, He has held the position of Everglades Region Biologist with the Invasive Plant Management Section of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. He has also been the co-chair of Everglades Cisma (Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area) since January 2008. He served on the FLEPPC board of directors from 2000 to 2002 and he was the Bylaws Chair from 2000 to 2005.

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Letter from Jim Burney

Good morning all,

We all know that in easy times we stay relatively quiet, but as times get leaner we tend to speak out. Well, for those of us whose livelihood depends on publicly funded vegetation management projects; that time is now. As financial battles get tougher in Florida's Capital, more and more it seems that public agency vegetation management budgets are shrinking and conservation/management trust funds are being raided. Although there has been very effective lobbying activity in Florida for supporting the public funding of aquatic plant control efforts for the last several years, there has not been a concerted effort by the invasive plant management (upland and aquatic) community in general. There remains the dire need to educate our legislators on the necessity of (public benefits of) invasive plant control in Florida which requires a solid public/private infrastructure dependant on secure, steady public funding. Basically, the need has arisen for a community-wide effort to put an economic face on what most politicians see as only an environmental problem. Due to the inability of public employees and trade groups comprised heavily of agency personnel to lobby for funding, the responsibility to carry this message must fall on those of us in the private sector.

In response to the financial crisis in Tallahassee and its direct influence on our livelihood, we have been working on garnering industry support for the development of an alliance of applicators, distributors, and manufacturers for the purpose of carrying this banner. Once an alliance is formally organized, the intent is to contract a lobbying group to help direct us and present our message regarding the benefits of invasive plant control and the need for secure funding of public management agencies and their control operations. The lobbying group intended for use is the same group that has been coordinating with Gerald Adrian and UPI to lobby on behalf of lake management funding. Therefore, our efforts would be in conjunction with a currently effective effort, augmenting their message...not working against it.

Please take the time to seriously consider joining other members of our industry in ensuring the collective future of us all (and the citizens of Florida). The list of potential members is lacking in comparison to the number of firms dependent in part on publicly funded operations. If you feel that your company should join other members of our community in the development of this much needed industry voice, please contact to me at jburney@avcaquatic.com for details.

Thanks for considering our futures,

Jim Burney

President, AVC, Inc.

Minutes from Florida EPPC Board of Directors Meetings

-August 16, 2011

Minutes taken by Hillary Cooley, FLEPPC Secretary

Attendees: Jim Burch, Salvador Medina, Keith Morin, Mike Yustin, Mike Renda, Dan Bergeson, Jessica Spencer, Dianne Owen, Jim Burney, Erin Myers, Karen Brown, Hillary Cooley, and Bill Kline

-Call to Order at 10:03

Approval of Last Minutes-(May 17 and 20, 2011)-vote by e-mail due to last minute edits. Hillary will send by e-mail later today for BOD approval. Later approved by e-mail vote.

Chair Activities-Jim Burch- Preliminary meeting for next symposium (2012) with Jessica Spencer and Erin Myers.

Jim received several public inquires, and sent out several hundred copies of the FLEPPC plant list.

Treasurer’s Report – Dianne Owen- Dianne submitted report. (Report looks like last year’s budget, except that there is only \$4,000 for each grant committee and less for credit cards.) Symposium had a net profit of \$6,000, but we spent \$9,000 on grants, so there is a net loss of \$3,000. FLEPPC BOD should decide how much to fund the grants for FY2012 based on net losses. Mike Yustin suggested that we think about increasing revenue and try to maintain the grants. Dianne suggested lowering the grants amounts to \$4,000. A decision needs to be made prior to the next symposium but RFP’s can still go out. There is no way to anticipate what the next symposium will bring in. Mike Renda suggested fiscal conservatism. Jim Burney said that no one wants to cut grant spending but we may need to. Depending on the outcome of the 2012 symposium, we may be able to fund more. We will need a budget approved via e-mail as the next fiscal year (October 1, 2011) begins before our next meeting. Ellen (FINANCE) needs time to review. For time being Dianne will reduce the Grants committees to \$4,000 each. Dianne also said that she would work with Chuck and try and reduce the bank charges. Review by the Finance Committee. Dianne plans to send out information about the budget. Karen suggested a deadline to the process of moving forward. (September 2, 2011 to reply to Dianne, September 16, 2011 to send to the Finance Committee, so that the FY2012 budget can be approved by October 1, 2011. Dianne is to have proposed budget out by August 19, 2011.

See report below

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Treasurer’s Report to FLEPPC Board of Directors

August 16, 2011

The FLEPPC Income/Expense Report as of August 15, 2011 is attached. The following points are of note:

- While expenses were kept nearly \$11,000 below budget, income was almost \$14,000 less than anticipated, for a net loss to date of \$3,083.86.

Continued next page

Treasurer's Report - continued

- The 2011 Symposium made a net profit of \$6,406. The payment to FNPS for facilities and catering was \$11,688.47. Symposium income/expense details are not shown in the attached report; because this was a joint meeting, many budget categories used in previous years were not directly applicable, and I ran out of time to rearrange everything. I will put together a detailed report of Symposium expenses within the next few weeks. The Chair's Discretionary expenses are included in the Symposium expenses.
- The Scholarship Fund had a net profit of \$825.66, bringing the total to \$3,234.76.
- Merchandise had a net loss of \$115.
- Wildlands Weeds has essentially been breaking even, with the SE-EPPC subscription payment for FY1011 still outstanding.
- The current balance in checking, savings and CD's is \$41,476.64, and there are no outstanding liabilities.

The Bank of America merchant services system, originally set up by Ellen Donlan, is now reactivated and working well. I have a phone meeting scheduled with Chuck Barger for this week to get the membership and symposium registration set up through Bank of America. This will reduce our credit card transaction fees by more than 50%.

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Editor's Report – Karen Brown- Karen is about to start the next issue. She has several articles, the next issue may or may not contain the 2011 plant list. Has not billed for the previous issue yet.

Secretary's Report – Hillary Cooley- Will approve minutes for symposium by e-mail. Last FLEPPC newsletter contained minutes from October 14, 2010 and January 13, 2011- Newsletter is caught up compared to previous newsletters. Next newsletter will have 2011 Symposium minutes.

Committee Reports

-Bylaws --Mike Renda – All the changes for the Education Grant Committee have been up dated on website. LeRoy proposed changes, but has not heard comments. LeRoy Rodgers is working on changes to the Control and Evaluation SOPs.

-Checklists – No one is managing the master list since Donna Watkins left. Jim Burch will send Erin Myers the checklists. Jim Burney asked about posting the checklists on the website, but Jim Burch thought that the checklists were more of an internal document and that people should request them from the Chair or Secretary if they need a copy.

-Control and Evaluation - LeRoy Rodgers- LeRoy not on call, but sent in SOP for Control and Evaluation. See below for report sent by LeRoy Rodgers.

See report below

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The Control and Evaluation Committee develops field demonstration sites to educate FLEPPC members and the public about the most effective methods for controlling invasive plants.

- Coordinates development of field demonstration sites
 - Identifies priority species for evaluation
 - Plans demonstration design and completes initial treatments early enough to evaluate results during annual symposia
 - Locates demonstration plots near planned symposia
 - Works with Field Trip Chair to incorporate demonstration sites into symposium field trips
- Summarizes and disseminates latest control information to membership
- Forwards summaries and photographs of demonstration sites to Webmaster
- Prepares annual committee budget with appropriate line-item requests

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Karen Brown motioned to accept the SOP. Erin Myers seconded the motion. The BOD passed unanimously.

-Education Grants - Jennifer Possley – Jennifer sent in report that she has nothing to report for this meeting, but will have updates for next meeting. Education Grants committee is working well.

-Finance - Ellen Donlan- Ellen was not on the call and did not send report but requests that folks send her proposed budgets for FY2012. * Hillary will remind the Education Grants and Research Grants Committees of the request to send Ellen FY2012 budget proposals.

-Legislative - Matt King was not on call but submitted the report below.
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**FLORIDA EXOTIC PEST PLANT COUNCIL
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**
Board of Directors Meeting – August 16, 2011
Respectfully Submitted by: Matthew King
NEW LEGISLATIVE ISSUES
Nothing New

Continued next page

*Legislative Report - continued***ONGOING/PREVIOUS LEGISLATIVE ISSUES**

1. USDA Q37 Protocol. APHIS has finalized it's Not Authorized for Import Pending Pest Risk Assessment (NAPPRA) category. According to Faith Campbell with The Nature Conservancy, this category allows APHIS to act more quickly to prevent introductions, rather than having to wait while APHIS completes the risk assessment and rule/comment process.

APHIS published two lists of plants, one list is for plants that could carry pest and the other is a list of plants that are likely to be invasive themselves.

The lists can be viewed at:

<http://www.regulations.gov#!docketDetail;dct=FR+PR+N+O+SR;rpp=10;po=0;D=APHIS-2011-0072>

APHIS is accepting comments on these list until September 26, 2011.

2. National Pollutant discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Pesticide General Permit: On January 7, 2009, the U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals vacated the EPA's 2006 rule that said NPDES permits were not required for applications of pesticides to U.S. waters. As a result of the Court's decision, discharges to waters of the U.S. from the application of pesticides will require NPDES permits when the court's mandate takes effect, on April 9, 2011. As a result, the EPA drafted a Pesticides General Permit (PGP). Any use patterns not covered by the proposed draft permit would need to obtain coverall under an individual permit or alternative general permit if they involve pesticide application that results in point sources discharges to waters of the United States.

The EPA PGP only provides coverage for discharges where the EPA is the NPDES permitting authority. In Florida, The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) is responsible for drafting a PGP that will follow the EPA NPDES template but will address Florida's specific needs.

On 7/13/2011 the House of Representatives passed HR 2018 which would basically overturn the courts decision that NPDES permits are required for application of pesticides to US waters. There is a strong mixed opinion on this legislation. While the legislation would definitely make it easier for land managers to apply herbicides to invasive plant species, at the same time it would greatly limit the EPA's oversight ability of the Clean Water Act. According to the EPA, "'H.R. 2018 could limit efforts to safeguard communities by removing the Federal Government's authority to take action when State water quality standards are not protective of public health". Several environmental organizations, including the Natural Resources Defense Council, National Wildlife Federation, Sierra Club and Trout Unlimited. A letter from these groups opposing the legislation can be read at

http://www.trcp.org/assets/pdf/National_Sportsmens_and_Conservation_Organizations_Oppose_HR_2018.pdf

LEGISLATIVE STATE/FEDERAL TRACKING LIST

None

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-Merchandise – William Snyder- Billy will take over the Merchandise Committee for Tony Pernas.

-Nominations - Jim Burney- The Chair elect position was offered to and accepted by Dennis Giardina. Jim Burney read the bio for Dennis (see below).

For 22 years Dennis Giardina's career has focused on endangered species recovery and invasive species control. He worked for the US Forest Service at the Caribbean and Apalachicola National Forests from 1989 to 1991, The US Fish and Wildlife Service at St. Marks and Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuges from 1992 to 2005. He was the Park Manager of Fakahatchee Strand Preserve from 2005 to 2008 and since January 2008, He has held the position of Everglades Region Biologist with the Invasive Plant Management Section of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. He has also been the co-chair of Everglades CISMA since 1/08. He served on the FLEPPC board of directors from 2000 to 2002 and was the Bylaws Chair from 2000 to 2005.

Jim Burney recommends Dennis as Chair. Jim Burch also said that Dennis is a good candidate. Jessica Spencer motioned to nominated Dennis Giardina as Chair elect and Karen Brown seconded. The BOD voted unanimously to accept Dennis Giardina as Chair elect.

There was discussion that the FLEPPC general membership must vote to approve the Chair elect nomination and if it was best to do this by e-mail, newsletter or internet poll since the Symposium date had passed before we had a Chair-elect nomination. Mike Renda said that we need something in the By-laws that addresses this. Jim Burney suggested that if there is not a Chair elect by the membership meeting, then the BOD can elect a Chair elect on the members' behalf. The issue is that the past chair does not have voting rights once there is a Chair elect. But with no Chair elect approved by the membership, does the past chair keep the voting rights?

Jim Burney said that in October or November he would send out new nomination letters to the new candidates selected by the nominations committee.

Follow-up to the topic of FLEPPC membership voting on Chair elect - On August 18, 2011 Karen Brown sent a message saying "I posed the chair-elect voting dilemma to former chair Ken Langeland, who is one of the few people I know who enjoys bylaws discussions. He thinks the way to go is for Jim Burch to just name Dennis as Chair-elect in the upcoming newsletter, including his bio, and then place him on the slate next year as the Chair, and vote in the usual way. This would avoid the cumbersome e-mail to membership, and online voting via Doodle poll (altho' that is doable and can be set to anonymous for voting privacy). If the officers agree with Ken's suggestion, perhaps it could be sent to the board for discussion. I hereby step out on this one and leave it to Mr. Burch. If we decide to go for an online membership vote, I can help on that with Chuck."

Jim Burch and Jim Burney responded that they had no problems with the strategy proposed by Ken Langeland via Karen Brown and that "This sounds like a pretty painless way to do this, so I'm in. Hillary, Dianne- does this look OK to you? If there is no contention, then we'll put it on the next meeting agenda and follow Ken's method."

-Outreach – Bob Farley- Bob not present at meeting. No Report.

-Plant Industry Liaison - Doria Gordon- Doria not present at meeting, but sent report below.

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Plant Industry Liaison Report- (Doria Gordon) I worked with FNGLA to develop a list of species that are not recommended by the IFAS Assessment of Non-native Plants in Florida's Natural Areas that are also of low economic value to their membership (as determined through a survey). They brought that list to their Board in June, suggesting that it be recommend to their membership to not use, propagate, or sell these species. The Board asked UF Dept. of Environmental Horticulture faculty for further input. Sandy Wilson and Gary Knox are reviewing the list and will give recommendations to the FNGLA Board for a vote at the end of August.

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-Plant List - Keith Bradley- not in attendance but sent 2011 FLEPPC Plant List to the FLEPPC Board for review. Plant List will be published and distributed at a later date and is not attached to the minute notes. Please contact the FLEPPC secretary for the draft copy if you wish to review before publication.

Jessica Spencer motioned to accept the 2011 FLEPPC Plant List submitted by the Plant List Committee. Mike Renda seconded. The BOD unanimously approved the 2011 Plant List that was submitted.

Karen Brown commented that traditionally FLEPPC has published the Plant List in Wildland Weeds, and that FLEPPC should make it more obvious that the FLEPPC Plant List is not a regulatory list, but is a recommendation and has no legal authority. Karen said that she had text from the article by Ken Langeland that describes the proper use of the FLEPPC Plant List. FLEPPC will vote on the additional language to be added separately.

-Position Paper - Jim Burch- Jim completed his outline and discussion paper. This topic is old and can be stricken from future agendas.

-Research - Betsy Von Holle- Diane and Karen co-signed the checks for the 2011 Research Grant winners and sent the checks to the winners.

-Scholarship - Tony Pernas- Tony not on call. No report sent.

-Strategic Planning – The strategic planning committee (Jim Burch, LeRoy Rodgers, Mike Yustin, Mike Renda, and Kris Serbesoff-King) met during the FLEPPC 2011 symposium. Mike Yustin volunteered to chair this committee and plans to get a meeting together in the next few weeks.

A survey was developed in 2008/2009. This survey can be updated and sent out to the FLEPPC membership. The survey is the first step. Once we have some feedback, we can move forward.

-Symposium Local Arrangements - Mike Bodle- Mike not on the call. Erin Myers and Stephanie Nagid (The Wildlife Society) had a preliminary meeting with MPD (MPD is a free service that will solicit bids for conferences to vendors and get bids). MPD sent bid requests and they should get the bids back in October, so that the hotel can be selected for November meeting/visit.

FNPS is planning to use a Community Center and avoid meeting at hotels for their next meeting. Karen likes the idea of a Community Center or something less formal. FNPS over estimated their attendance, so they did not meet their contract obligations. That cost a lot extra. It was suggested that we try less expensive venues and avoid large cities. Karen suggested a camp site near the University of Florida. Jim Burch suggested having the symposium at the same place each year, but this could affect the field trips. The next symposium is between FLEPPC and the Florida Wildlife Society and should be more integrated than the FLEPPC/FNPS Symposium. Karen mentioned that the UF Beast Feast was a popular event in the past and Erin/Jessica said that they would bring the idea up to the Florida Wildlife Society. Request for Bids to MPG have already been sent for three date in late April or early May for the Gainesville and Ocala areas. MPG should give us bids; if they are all too expensive, we can go with the Community Center idea.

Dianne said that we should think about conflicting meetings. Jessica said that we are looking at the last few weeks of April or early May.

Jessica suggested that Angie Huebner could help recruit at University of Florida and make the meeting more like a Job Fair.

-Symposium Program - Jessica Spencer- See comments above. Jessica is working with Erin Myers on symposium planning.

-CEUs - Ben Gugliotti- Ben not on the call.

-On-line registration - Dianne Owen- Dianne is talking with Chuck on Thursday and the idea is that the online accounts will be combined so that we will use the Bank of America account and get rid of pay pal and Sun Trust. Erin said that the Florida Wildlife Society already has an online account. There should be joint registration. Dianne commented that automatic membership for the year with the symposium registration could be more complicated if we registered with Wildlife Society. Erin Myers thought that there could be a separate line item for that.

Patrick Delany is Florida Wildlife Society membership person. Erin will send an e-mail to both Chuck and Patrick to set-up a decision.

-Symposium Field Trips – Ben Gugliotti-Ben not at the meeting.

-Vendor - Bill Kline- Bill Kline agreed to Chair the Committee as long as the meeting does not occur the week of May 14, 2012. Bill will work with Todd Olson to coordinate. Bill also plans to buy the door prizes. Bill will talk to Tony Pernas. Tony bought the big raffle prize. Karen suggested that vendors sponsor the door prizes. Bill agreed; door prizes will be an option for vendors during registration.

-Website - Chuck Bargeron – Not on call. Website is up-to-date.

Liaisons with other organizations

SE-EPPC Liaison - Karen Brown/Tony Pernas – Karen mentioned that SE-EPPC got a US Forest Service grant to coordinate the EPPC plant lists and review prohibited state lists. This is a part time position, and some one very good was hired. Still working on coordination and review. -Also, there may be \$1,000 cash grant for a grad student.

NA-EPPC Liaison - Matt King / Tony Pernas- National EPPC meeting is the first week in November and is in conjunction with the Natural Areas Association in Tallahassee, FL. Jim Burch plans to attend.

Task Force Reports

Brazilian Pepper- Jim Cuda- Jim not on call, did not send report.

Australian Pine- Tony Pernas-Tony not on call, did not send report.

Carrotwood- Chris Lockhart- Chris not on call, did sent brief message; not much activity on Carrotwood report.

Lygodium- Hillary will follow-up with Kris to see if new nomination for Lygodium Task force. Not sure if Corrie Pieterston will continue with Japanese climbing fern? Rosalind no longer point of contact for Old World climbing fern.

Operations**New Business**

Steve Woodmansee with the FNPS is looking for a person who would like to serve on the Bio-fuel Control Panel with the Florida Department of Energy. Steve- Request to see if co-member of FLEPPC and FNPS would like to be a representative on Bio-fuel panel. Jim Burch will contact Doria Gordon and Kris Serbesoff-King to see if they are interested.

Mike Renda said yes, we should have a representative, we have no choice. We should do something if we can.

Jim Burch proposed trying to have more meetings in person and not just conference calls. He would like the BOD to consider this for later discussion. Meetings would be at different locations around the state. Symposium site is good for two meetings, one for the symposium and the site visit in November. Still have a call-in option for folks that cannot make it so we would have some sort of hybrid between the face-to-face meeting and the conference call.

The November 15, 2011 FLEPPC meeting/site visit was moved to November 17, 2011. The time will be determined once the location is selected.

Adjourn- Karen Brown motioned to adjourn, Mike Yustin seconded. BOD approved unanimously.

Adjourned at 12:45PM.