Florida’s Prohibited Plant List Sabotaged by the State Legislature.

A commentary by Don C. Schmitz, former Chairman, Florida EPPC (‘90-’92)

The future of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection’s ability to prevent new plant invasions in Florida became dark as the Governor allowed House Bills 605 and 1799 to become law. These monumental legislative setbacks allow the culture and sale of waterhyacinth (Eichhornia crassipes) and the cultivation and planting of Australian pine (Casuarina equisetfolia). “The new laws make a mockery of our state’s prohibited plant list -it is doubtful that any plant can truly be banned in the interest of Florida’s natural areas.”

“Complete joy.”
Town of Gulf Stream Commissioner James E. Cross

“My position hasn’t changed. Australian pines are bad for Florida.”
Rich Walesky, Palm Beach County’s Director of Environmental Resource Management

“Allowing a town to cultivate the trees will set a dangerous precedent for future similar proposals, will be in direct conflict with existing restoration efforts, and would result in future expenditure of additional public dollars which could be better spent otherwise.”
Greg Jubinsky, Chairman, Florida EPPC

What’s Bad is Bad
On Friday, June 7, Governor Lawton Chiles allowed HB 1799 to become law without his signature. This bill, sponsored by Rep. Bill Andrews, R - Delray Beach, allows the Town of Gulf Stream to cultivate and plant Australian pine (Casuarina equisetfolia) trees along a 1.7 mile oceanside stretch of A1A (an exemption to Section 369.251 (1), FS.). Both the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the Florida Department of Transportation had urged the Governor to veto the bill. The upscale southern Palm Beach County town claims they need the trees to maintain the road’s “scenic and historic” character.

A tree planting ceremony is planned for the fall (ugh...). The following are some notable quotes:

“It’s a done deal - go plant your trees.”
State Rep. Bill Andrews, R - Delray Beach

“This is one example of old Florida that should be preserved.”
William Koch, Town of Gulf Stream Mayor

“We’re glad we prevailed with our logic over our illogical opponents.”
William F. Koch, Town of Gulf Stream Mayor

The Town of Gulf Stream deserves designation as “Florida’s Most Environmentally Irresponsible City.” For four years, the oceanfront town has lobbied the legislature for permission to cultivate and plant Australian pines. The justification was that the trees are considered part of the town’s “historic character.” Could the “historic character” of this town be to promote and plant a tree that has a proven track record as an invasive pest plant that destroys our coastal habitats? In extremely bad taste, the town is planning an official Australian pine tree planting ceremony sometime this fall.

The Legislation added insult to injury by passing another bill that allows the culture and sale of waterhyacinth. House Bill 605 contains language that allows an aquaculture producer to obtain a permit to export waterhyacinth to Canada. Waterhyacinth is a serious aquatic weed in the southeastern United States and throughout the world’s tropic and subtropic regions. This bill states, “in accordance with any appropriate federal law or United States Treaty, no Florida aquaculture producer shall ship waterhyacinth back into the United States, nor shall drop shipments be made to any...”
other destination within the United States.” The question is who is going to enforce this provision of a Florida permit? Certainly not Florida.

Although U.S. Public Law 874 prohibits the interstate commerce of waterhyacinth, federal laws do not prohibit the importation of waterhyacinth into the U.S. because waterhyacinth is not listed as a Federal Noxious Weed. Once in Canada, Florida waterhyacinth can easily be sold to a broker. Consequently, waterhyacinth that has been certified pest-free by Canadian authorities can be shipped back into the U.S. without notification. The bill also fails to note that Canada may ship waterhyacinth world-wide.

Additionally, the new law allows the culture and sale of the rooted waterhyacinth (Eichhornia azuerei) that is presently not found in Florida. This commercialization of waterhyacinth may also lead to “Mom and Pop” operations deliberately stocking Florida’s waterways to cut nursery overhead - leaving the taxpayers with the hefty tab of increased weed control costs. The aquatic plant nursery industry has a long sordid history of conducting business that way.

We now ask, “Why did these bills become law?” The problem, of course, is public education. Most people in Florida don’t understand the threat that invasive exotic plants pose to the state’s waterways, wetlands and upland forests. Many of our residents are new to Florida and don’t have historical ties to the landscape. They don’t recognize the changes that plants like Australian pine, melaleuca, and Brazilian pepper cause to Florida’s environment. They simply accept them as part of Florida. Without an educated (and outraged) public, bills like these will continue to become law, undermining our ability to prevent these plants from causing harm to Florida’s environment.

Remember, a precedent has now been set by the Florida Legislature. Public education about invasive exotic pest-plants and the damage they cause must become a priority within the environmental community, or the war against these invaders will be lost - not on the battlegrounds, but in the halls of our state Capitol.

“There is nothing more frightful than ignorance in action.”
- Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

The National Register of Big Trees (a compilation of the Nation’s Champion Trees), includes a handful of trees that are, well...maybe less than “Champion” material. That is, if a Champion Tree is one we should treasure. After all, bigger is not always better, especially when you’re talking about an exotic pest-plant. The following trees were listed (and described as “distinctive and irreplaceable”) in the 1994 National Register:

Albizia lebbeck    Woman's Tongue
Melaleuca quinquenervia    Cajeput tree
Cinnamomum camphora    Camphor tree
Casuarina equisetfolia    Australian Pine
Melia azedarach    Chinaberry
Eucalyptus camaldulensis    Murray Red Gum
Schinus terebinthifolius    Brazilian pepper
Ligustrum sinense    Hedge Privet
Ligustrum japonicum    Japanese Privet
Sapium sebiferum    Chinese tallow
Lahaina, HI    LaBelle, FL
Hardee County, FL and Pasco County, FL    Maui, HI
South Kona, HI    Boyce Thompson SW Arboretum, AZ
Boyce Thompson SW Arboretum, AZ    Broward County, FL
Sacramento, CA    Richland City, SC
Polk County, TX

It seems like what we really need is “The National Register of Wayward Trees”. Assassination might be required for inclusion. After all, the bigger they are, the harder they fall....

For more information on the Champion Tree program, contact the National Register of Big Trees, P.O. Box 2000, Washington D.C. 20013.
Current Estimates of Cultivated, Native, Naturalized, and Weedy Plant Species in Florida

While reviewing the literature on Florida’s invasive plant species, I noticed that several estimates of numbers of species were old enough to justify an update. By contacting the plant taxonomists considered experts in Florida’s flora, I compiled the following information on non-indigenous plant species in Florida. The graph illustrates relative numbers of species.

Cultivated Non-indigenous
Several years ago, Dr. David Hall and a small group of IFAS personnel (chaired by Tom Sheehan, now retired) estimated that there were conservatively at least 25,000 species, including some cultivars, of non-indigenous plants being cultivated somewhere in Florida (Hall, 1996).

Native plus Naturalized Non-indigenous
The Atlas of Florida Vascular Plants states that there are 4,020 native plus naturalized vascular plant species in Florida (Wunderlin et al., 1995).

Naturalized Non-indigenous
Dr. Dan Austin and Dr. Dan Ward estimate that there are about 1,000 non-indigenous plant species naturalized (growing on their own without cultivation) in Florida (Austin and Ward, 1996).

Weeds
Dr. David Hall estimates that there are at least 750 non-indigenous plant species that are economically important weeds in Florida. He does not think that there is usually a clear distinction between weeds in agricultural/urban areas and in natural areas (Hall, 1996).

Therefore, 75% of the naturalized non-indigenous plant species in Florida are economically important weeds.

Weeds in Natural Areas
The Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council’s 1995 List of Florida’s Most Invasive Plants contains 93 non-indigenous species (Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council, 1995). Dr. David Hall states that many more species could legitimately be added to this list (Hall, 1996).

Compiled by: Carol Lippincott, Department of Botany, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL.

References
Hall, D.W. 1996. Personal communication with Carol Lippincott.

Question: How long can melaleuca seeds stay viable after they are released from their capsule?

Answer:
Which do you want first, the good news, or the bad news? More than five years ago, I collected hundreds of melaleuca seed capsules, dried them, and stuck the seeds in an air tight test tube. I keep this test tube in my air conditioned office (hardly field conditions, I’ll grant you). Every year (around the beginning of summer) I see how many of these babies I can get to germinate. In the five years I’ve been conducting this “research”, seed viability has remained at about 25%. There has been no decrease in viability. That’s the bad news.

The good news is that in actual field conditions, viability may be significantly lower. Although there has not been any formal research conducted to answer this important question, I can tell you about an encouraging find on Lake Okeechobee. While surveying the South Florida Water Management District’s melaleuca control program on the Lake, I collected several seed capsules from a treated tree that had fallen into the water at the time of treatment. The capsules had not dried out, and therefore, still held seeds. This branch had been in the water for more than a year. I carefully collected the unopened capsules, dried them, and then tried to germinate them. No germinants!

I made another interesting observation recently. In the fall of 1991, the sole melaleuca tree in the vacant lot next door to my house in western Jupiter fell victim to the rare and mysterious lethal yellowing disease commonly known as “velparlis”. The next year’s progeny was nothing short of astonishing. Over the years, I have pulled all of the germinants at the same time each year - carefully monitoring the seed bank decline. By year four, I discovered that all of the “seedlings” I was pulling were actually re-sprouts from root crowns that were left from previous incomplete pulls. This leads me to believe that melaleuca seeds might not survive for more than a year or two under harsh field conditions.

I have heard through the grapevine that the good Dr. Randall Stocker at the University of Florida Center for Aquatic Plants will be trying to shed some scientific light on this important (and nagging) question. For more information on his proposed research, contact him at: (352) 392-6841 or email: aaplants@gnv.ifas.ufl.edu.

-Dr. W. Eed
Lather Up!

David Jones and Tom Armentano are gearing up for a lather leaf (Colubrina asiatica), control program in Everglades National Park. It will be funded through Dade County DERM’s Freshwater Wetlands Mitigation Trust Fund.

Lather leaf was only casually noted in the park until the early 1970s when staff reported large monotypic stands covering 130 hectares along the coast of Florida Bay east of Flamingo (from Christian Point to Santini Bight). By the late 1980s, the plant covered nearly 230 hectares in the same stretch of coastline (Rose, 1988). Today, lather leaf is increasingly widespread in coastal wetland areas throughout the park, especially around Florida Bay.

Lather leaf can colonize both disturbed and undisturbed sites. In South Florida, flowering occurs in July and fruits reach maturity as early as mid-September. Plants have been observed flowering and fruiting within the first year of growth (Linda Dye, unpubl. memo). Little is known about seed germination requirements; seeds are believed to retain their viability in the soil for “at least several years” (Russell et al., 1982). Seedlings have only been observed under larger (reproductively mature) plants. This suggests that long-distance dispersal is uncommon and probably effected by storm tides (Russell et al., 1982). Plants appear to require considerable light for growth and can spread vegetatively by rooting from branches close to the ground. Russell et al. (1982) suggest that the plant is able to invade openings in forest canopies caused by wind damage, eventually covering the damaged vegetation and resulting in a “strangled forest.”

Identification and Taxonomy: C. asiatica is a small scandent shrub with sprawling, twining branches. It is readily recognized by its shiny green foliage. The small, greenish flowers are borne in clusters in the axils of the leaves. The fruits are small, round, brown capsules that split open when mature and forcefully eject the seeds. The leaves are reported to be edible and the fruits are used as a fish poison and are medicinal. The bark, roots and leaves are used as a soap substitute.

Lather leaf is a member of the RHAMNACEAE, a cosmopolitan family of about 1,000 species. The genus comprises about 24 species centered mainly in the neotropics. C. asiatica is native from eastern Africa to India, China (?), Southeast Asia, Australia, and the Pacific Islands including Hawaii. It typically inhabits coastal areas, occurring as “scattered” plants on sandy and rocky shores, including beaches, dunes, and adjacent upland areas. Three native Colubrina species occur in southern Florida and inhabit hammocks and/or pine rocklands in the park: C. arborescens (common snakebark), C. cubensis (Cuban snakebark) and C. elliptica (nakedwood).

The park’s “assault team” plans to use manual removal in areas where lather leaf is mixed in with, and shading out other plants. Additional control measures will be needed to kill rooted portions. Young, shallow rooted plants will be hand pulled, while older plants will require either a basal bark, cut stump, or foliar application of either Garlon 4 or Garlon 3A.

For more information on this project, contact David Jones, Everglades National Park (305) 242-7800 or e-mail: david_jones@nps.gov.

References:


From the Fern Front:

Dr. Bob Pemberton (USDA, Ft Lauderdale) is developing a biological control program for the two introduced climbing ferns (*Lygodium microphyllum* and *L. japonicum*) and boy, do we need it... Old World climbing fern (*L. microphyllum*), considered rare in Florida twenty years ago, has developed explosive populations in Martin and Palm Beach Counties - plants are also popping up in some west coast counties (Lee, Sarasota and Collier). The Japanese climbing fern (*L. japonicum*) is found mainly north of Highlands county, but is moving south. It now occurs as far west as eastern Texas and as far east as South Carolina.

The Old World climbing fern is native to Okinawa, south through Asia to northern Australia, west to India, and in wet tropical and subtropical Africa. Japanese climbing fern is native to central Japan, south through Asia to northern Australia, and west to India. Since these ferns are closely related and have similar native distributions, it makes sense to work on them together. This should be more efficient, and the natural enemies of one may work on the other.

Before a biocontrol project can officially begin, Bob needs to submit a proposal to a federal advisory group for approval. This group will evaluate the proposal for conflicts of interests - particularly potential problems with agricultural crops, other economic plants and native plants. They'll also look at the feasibility of the program. To prepare this petition, Bob will be busy researching the literature, consulting with specialists, and conducting museum research. Since Lygodium ferns constitute their own family, they are not closely related to other plants, so a biological control program should have few conflicts. There is a native climbing fern in the United States (*L. palmatum*), which is rare. The project would have to take care to avoid damage to this species and other ferns, particularly the rare species.

Meanwhile, Bob is also planning some related studies. Since we don't know how the plants spread, he'll be looking at dispersal, particularly of the spores. He's also planning some field surveys in Florida and the southern United States to see what insects and diseases might already be attacking Lygodium. We don't know where our plants came from originally, so Bob will also be doing some DNA work to try to get an idea of their geographic origin. If successful, this information will help identify where (in the vast native ranges of these plants) to plan survey work. For more information on this project, or to provide moral support, contact Dr. Bob Pemberton at (954) 475-0541 or email: bobpem@netrunner.net.

---

**Keys Notes**

About two years ago I showed botanist Carol Lippincott an ornamental bunch grass in a canvas shop's landscaping at mile marker 103.7 on the Overseas Highway in Key Largo. I was concerned because I had begun to notice smaller specimens growing nearby. Carol identified the six-foot tall plant as fountain grass (*Pennisetum setaceum*), a perennial from Africa. Though less well known here, *Pennisetum* is among the most problematic invasive exotic species in Hawaii. The shop's owner was reluctant to remove it, saying it had been there about ten years without spreading. That year, I killed several clumps in the nearby highway median, each about six inches tall. In May 1996 I counted new and larger bunches in the highway median, many with seed heads. The population is currently located three miles south of Key Largo Hammocks Botanical Site and a mile north of land managed by John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park. Through the newly-formed Florida Keys Exotic Vegetation Working Group, additional efforts will be taken to convince the owner of the plant's potential to harm native ecosystems.

For more information on this working group, contact Jim Duquesnel, DEP Biologist, Key Largo Hammock State Botanical Site.

**AND ...**

John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park has begun herbicidal control (basally applied 20% Garlon 4 in JLB Oil Plus Improved) of a population of *Jacquina arbores* near the park campground. Though the source of the introduction is not known, it is believed the small trees have been increasing in this ruderal site for at least ten years. Unidentified, the plants were consequently left alone until visiting botanist Keith Bradley identified them and confirmed their exotic origin (Greater and Lesser Antilles, Mexico, Central America).

On May 6, I was shown an expanding population of exotic *Ficus* (perhaps *F. alissima*) at a residence in a rural area of western Palm City, Florida. Two mature trees with fruit were observed growing on the trunks of nearby sabal palms. Exotic *Ficus* species are now known to be reproducing in south Florida (since the arrival of their pollinating wasps). However, this Palm City site is notable because it is perhaps the northern-most report of exotic *Ficus* seedlings in Florida.

---

Jim Duquesnel, Biologist, Key Largo Hammocks State Botanical Site.
Notes on Three Rogue Aussies

Dr. Dan Austin
Department of Biology
Florida Atlantic University
Boca Raton, FL

Ear-leaf Acacia (Acacia auriculiformis) is just one of about 1200 species worldwide. A. auriculiformis is native to Australia where it has become adapted to disclimax habitats that are burned periodically. We have analogous habitats in southern Florida, and this is where ear-leaf Acacia is escaping cultivation. The fruits (legumes) open to reveal chocolate-brown seeds with a contrasting yellow aril. This color combination makes the seeds easy to see - several kinds of birds eat (and spread) the seeds.

A look at what birds have done to spread Brazilian pepper (Schinus terebinthifolius) should make anyone pause before concluding that Ear-leaf acacia is safe and will not follow suit. This, and other species of Acacia are notorious weeds. Parts of southern Africa are being overrun by Acacia. Africa's exotic invasion is leading to the demise of endemic and endangered members of the Proteaceae and many of the other 8500 native species (Eliot, 1995). Ear-leaf acacia is beginning to repeat this scenario in southern Florida.

Editor's note: The African ornamental gum arak (Acacia nilotica) has been documented naturalizing and forming thickets in many islands of the West Indies, including Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands (Richard Maynard). These trees have recently been noted (Ray Miller) escaping cultivation in the South Florida Water Management District parking lot...something to be watched?

The Australian carrotwood (Cupaniopsis anacardioides) is another tree that has been introduced and promoted for landscape use. In the summer, this species produces nickel-sized yellow capsules that bear black seeds with contrasting red arils partially surrounding them. The yellow-black-red combination is striking, and draws the attention of birds. In early summer field classes, my students and I watch Fish crows and Mockingbirds as they feast on the fruits in cultivated trees. We then walk to nearby habitats. In some areas, the carrotwood seedlings dominate the shrub layers of mangrove and hammock forest.

Lake Wyman Park in Boca Raton (Palm Beach County) and the Nature Conservancy Hammock north of Blowing Rocks Preserve (Martin County) are examples of invaded habitats on the east coast. On the west coast, Sarasota and Collier counties have reported more advanced stages of invasion.

Schefflera (Schefflera actinophylla, formerly Brassia actinophylla) is yet another Australian plant still cultivated for ornament. These plants were unknown in the wild in the late 1970s (Austin, 1979). The species first began to spread into the wild in southeastern Florida in the late 1980s. Fish crows, Mockingbirds, Starlings, and probably other birds feed on the fruits. The story promises to be yet another repeat of the Brazilian pepper saga.

When I was in Queensland, Australia in 1989, I talked with Dr. Robert Johnson (Director of the Queensland Herbarium) about this species, sometimes called the Queensland umbrella tree. Johnson informed me that the species is native to northern Queensland, but years before had been introduced into southern Queensland. In southern Queensland, the trees escaped cultivation and became pests in their own homeland! The plants are tolerant of a wide range of habitats and soil conditions, and are distributed in Australia by birds (Brock, 1988).

Here in Florida, schefflera is invading scrub, a habitat that had been relatively immune to exotics. Not only is scrub endangered in southern Florida, it also contains many endemic native plant and animal species. As schefflera spreads, it crowds out native plants and replaces them with exotic, unsual plant tissues, actually poisonous tissues; they contain oxalic acid crystals, among others (Perkins, 1978).

References:
EXOTIC PEST PLANT COUNCIL MINUTES

May 7, 1996 Board of Directors Meeting
Tallahassee, Florida

Chairman Dan Thayer called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. The following officers and board members were present: Dan Thayer, Allen Dray, Brian Nelson, Jackie Smith, Greg Jubinsky, Francois Laroche, Tony Pernas, Richard Moyroud, and Amy Ferriter. Others present included Julie Hoover, David Tarver, and Debra Tarver.

David and Debra Tarver gave a brief presentation to the Board on how other societies are handling the publishing/printing of trade magazines such as “Aquatics” (Florida Aquatic Plant Management Society) and “Wingbeats” (Florida Mosquito Control Association). Following the presentation, the Board approved a motion (Pernas/Smith) to present the idea of creating a similar publication to the Council Membership.

I. Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the December 5, 1995 Board Meeting without corrections was approved (Smith/Dray).

II. Correspondence

Dan sent a memorandum on December 8, 1995, to the Governor’s Office explaining the Council’s concerns with trying to create one prohibited plant list. The main problem is that the involved agencies have different missions and areas of responsibility, and no agency has the authority to regulate plant species affecting natural upland areas. Dan indicated that the Council has no desire to combine its list with any existing list, and the responsibility for upland plant species should be given to the DEP.

Dan responded to a request from the Silver River State Park that the Council support their request for Pollution Recovery Trust Funds to control exotics.

A letter thanking the Council for sponsoring a coffee at the recent DOT symposium was received.

The Council received a letter from Sarasota County indicating they had added carrotwood to their prohibited species list. Several Council members had attended a Pre-County Commission Workshop on this issue.

Dan wrote a letter to Virginia Wetherall (DEP) expressing concern that exotic species issues (funding and legislation) were not included on the Department’s legislative priority list. Dan received no response.

The City of Tallahassee passed a proclamation proclaiming March 23rd as Tallow Awareness Day. The proclamation urges residents not to plant, sell, or distribute tallow and encourages a public education program.

As EPPC Chairman, Dan has been asked to be a member of the IFAS Exotic Plant Working Group.

III. Treasurer’s Report - Allen Dray

At the end of 1995, the Council had a total funds available of $22,156.63. The current total is $28,390.00.

The IRS has requested additional information on the Council’s 5013C application. Allen is providing the information required.

Allen also requests that Council members be more prompt in paying their dues. Many members have not paid since 1995. Please check the mail label attached to your Newsletter. The year printed on the label indicates the last year your dues were paid.
A motion to approve the treasurer's report was approved (Pernas/Moyroud).

IV. Editor's Report - Amy Ferriter

As always, Amy needs articles and information for the newsletter. All members should provide information to help keep the Newsletter as informative as possible. Amy was requested to provide information to the Native Plant Society so that they could place it on-line in their pest-plant section of their website. She is also checking into the possibility of getting free homepage space for EPPC. Tony Pernas volunteered to assist Amy.

Amy is maintaining a complimentary mailing list for the Newsletter. If you know anyone who should be on this list, please contact Amy.

With a motion by Allen Dray, the Editor's Report was approved.

V. Committee Reports

Exotic Pest Plant List - Dan Austin

Greg Jubinsky will try to set up a meeting of the Committee to discuss the list.

Publications - Ken Langeland

Ken continues to work on the I.D. Manual.

By-Laws - Francois Laroche

To increase representation on the Board of Directors, a motion (Dray/Laroche) was approved to amend the by-laws to add three new directors. If approved, this would increase the number of directors from 5 to 8. The Board also approved a motion recommending deleting the Vice-Chairman and adding a Past-President position. These changes were approved by the members present at the annual business meeting.

Membership/Publicity

Francois has prepared an EPPC exhibit which will be on display and available for use by all council members. The Board would like to thank Joe Vissaggio (American Cyanamid) again for the display booth.

Symposium/Program - Jackie Smith

Jackie reported that the program was ready for the annual meeting.

Vendor's Committee - Joe Vissaggio

Joe has arranged for twelve vendor displays at the annual meeting.

Brazilian Pepper Task Force - Dan Clark

Dan Clark will be assuming leadership of this committee. If you have suggestions or input for the final report, please contact Dan.

A motion (Laroche/Pernas) to accept the Committee reports was approved.

VI. Old Business

The Council has submitted a $107,000 grant proposal to the Florida Committee on Environmental Education (FACEE) to purchase 600 Exotic Plant I.D. Manuals for distribution to persons involved in land/resource management and to produce a pamphlet listing substitutes for exotic plant species. The Committee will notify us in July if our proposals are accepted and funded.
June 17, 1996

Mr. Greg Jubinsky
Chairman
Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council
Route 1, Box 3405
Havana, Florida 32333

Dear Mr. Jubinsky:

Thank you for your letter regarding House Bill 1799, which allows the Town of Gulf Stream to cultivate Australian Pine. Australian Pine trees have been planted along North Ocean Boulevard between Sea Road and Pelican Lane in the Town of Gulf Stream since 1924. In 1992, this two-mile stretch of A1A was designated as a Scenic and Historic Highway. The canopy provided by the Australian Pine is an integral component of the town's character and the chief reason behind the designation of this road. To enhance this designation, the Town of Gulf Stream has developed a program to improve the health and longevity of the remaining Australian Pines. Over the years, trees have been removed due to development and maintenance activities along the highway. House Bill 1799 authorizes the Town of Gulf Stream to cultivate Australian pines to replant only along this two-mile stretch of highway and does not authorize the purchase or sale of these trees or the planting of these trees in any other location. The Town of Gulf Stream will develop a management/maintenance plan for the Australian Pines and will utilize Australian Pines in conjunction with native vegetation.

Although there are public safety and environmental concerns with this authorization, I feel that the impact will be minimal. From the perspective of public safety, any location in this area where the roots are causing steep slopes would also pose an erosion threat to the highway. In this particular case, these trees (roots) may be protecting the road. Environmentally, there are no pristine public lands nearby which will be in danger of infestation and this stretch of highway is not large enough to be a major seed source. For these reasons, I have allowed this legislation to become law without my signature. I know this is an important issue to the citizens of the Town of Gulf Stream and to groups such as yours and I appreciate your comments.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely,

[Signature]

LAWTON CHILES

LC/mpc
VII. New Business

Jackie Smith proposed compiling a membership directory for the Council. A motion (Laroche/Pernas) to complete the directory was approved.

The next Board of Directors meeting will be during August. The time and date for the meeting will be determined at a later date. A motion (Laroche/Smith) to adjourn was passed.

1996 Annual Meeting a Success

Many thanks to everyone who made the annual meeting a success! Jackie Smith (Program Committee chair) lined up two full days of outstanding talks. Laura Ethridge went above and beyond the call of duty, selecting an excellent site, and planning a great “Shrimp Boil Social” on Lake Jackson. Allen Dray (Treasurer) was organized (as usual) and kept the registration running smoothly. Deborah Fiesler put together a live EPPC plant display that let everyone get up-close and personal with the plants we love to hate -some of 'em actually made it out alive! The following companies were generous meeting sponsors:

American Cyanamid
Monsanto
DuPont
Dow Elanco
SePro
Sandoz
Zeneca

Elf Atochem
Brewer International
Helena Chemicals
Timberland
Terra Asgrow

Thanks!

FLORIDA EPPC WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS:

Individual memberships:
Kristi Cassaday
Eric Cotzenmoyer
Marco Espinar
Timothy Gaines
Eve Hannahs
Charles Klimas
Annette Nielsen
Marguerite Remillard
Martha Stewart

Student memberships:
Jeanne Epstein
Cheryl McCormick

WEB SITES
Visit America's National Parks World Wide Web site at:
http://www.npca.org/npca/

The Aquatic Plant Information Retrieval System (APIRS) -http://aquat1.ifas.ufl.edu/

“Chemically Speaking” (from the University of Florida, IFAS Pesticide Information Office) - http://glov.ifas.ufl.edu/~foodweb/links.htm

The Florida Center for Environmental Studies - http://www.fau.edu/divdept/ces/homegl.htm

Florida Environments - http://www.enviroworld.com

EPA - http://www.epa.gov

Environmental Sites on the Internet - http://www.lib.kth.se/lg.html
New Chairman and Board of Directors

Dan Thayer (Florida EPPC Chairman 1994-96) officially tossed the reigns over to FLEPPC's new Chairman,

Greg Jubinsky
Route 1, Box 3465
Havana, Florida 32333
Telephone: 904/487-2600.

There were four new members voted onto the Board of Directors. They are:

Roger Hammer
Dade County Natural Areas Management
22000 SW 137 Avenue
Miami, Florida 33170
Telephone: 305/257-0933

David Jones
Everglades National Park
Post Office Box 279
Homestead, FL 33030
Telephone: 305/242-7800

Current members that remain on the Board:
Allen Dray, Treasurer
Amy Ferriter, Editor
Francois Laroche
Richard Moyroud

In addition, the position of Vice Chair (formerly a Chairman's appointee) has been done away with, and we now have an Immediate Past Chair Board position (Dan Thayer).

1996 Florida EPPC Awards

Florida EPPC's Award for Environmental Excellence
Chris Murch, Everglades Restoration Movement

Florida EPPC Chairman's Award
Laura Ethridge, Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Exotic Impacts on Listed Plant Species

If you have documented cases where exotic plants are impacting rare native plants in Florida, please contact Kathy Craddock Burks at (904) 487-2600.
Monsanto
The Agricultural Group
A Unit of Monsanto Company
5050 S.W. 142 Place
Miami, FL 33175
Office: (305) 226-2262
Mobile: (305) 332-2687
Jorge A. Cuarezma Ph.D.
Technical & Marketing Manager
South Florida
Industrial, Aquatics &
Habitat Restoration

Michael M. Owen
Technical Sales Representative

ZENECA Professional Products
16708 Rockwell Heights Lane
Germont, FL 34711
Telephone/Fax (904) 242-9733
Mobile (407) 620-2042
A business unit of ZENECA Inc.

The natural choice in spray adjuvants for exotic species control.

“Improved JLB Oil Plus”
Carrier for low volume basal - to control Brazilian Pepper, Chinese tallow tree, Australian pine, Downy rose myrtle, etc.

BREWER International
“The Adjuvant Experts”
P.O. Box 6006, Vero Beach, Florida 32963-6006
(800) 228-1833, (407) 562-0555, FAX (407) 778-2490

Applied Aquatic
Professional Aquatic and Terrestrial Weed Control
to industry, Agriculture and Individuals.

Call or Write:
Applied Aquatic Management, Inc.
dba Weed-Tech
P.O. Box 1437
Eagle Lake, Florida 33839
(813) 533-8682

Specializing in directed, low volume applications of herbicides for control and eradication of Florida exotic plant species. Environmentally conscious forest management specialists.

192 Deer Ridge Trail • Tallahassee, Florida 32312
904/893-3293 • (fax) 904/894-1914
richpoun@freenet.scri.fsu.edu
Meetings

September 22 - 26 The American Water Resources Association 32nd Annual Conference and Symposium on GIS & Water Resources, Ft Lauderdale, FL. For more information, contact Robert Moresi (813) 281-5900.

October 4-6 The California Exotic Pest Plant Council will hold CalEPPC Symposium '96 in San Diego. The symposium deals with the threat to California's natural ecosystems by invasive non-native plant species introduced from other areas of the world. For more information, contact Sally Davis, P.O. Box 15575, Sacramento, CA 95852-0575. (916)921-5911 email: sally-davis@aol.com.

October 8-10 Florida Aquatic Plant Management Society (FAPMS) Annual Meeting, Ft. Myers, FL. For more information contact Don Dogget (941) 694-2174.

The Exotic Plant Press

Blanchard, G.A. and Williamson, R. Vegetation changes at a Sarasota Bay Tidal Creek restoration project. Florida Scientist 58(2):82.


Books


Experience Needed

Over the last several years, I’ve heard the question over and over, “Who’s got experience with controlling plant ‘X’?”, or, “Do you think I’d get control of this plant with this method?” I’m not alone. And as the Council continues to grow, we’ll hear these questions more frequently. That is why I’m asking for your help in putting together a Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council Directory.

This directory will serve as a networking tool. It is important that you be as thorough as possible in the “Plant Experience” section; besides having the directory indexed as you see below, it will also be indexed by plant type, followed by a listing of council members indicating experience (this includes control methods, biology, etc.) with that species.

Please be thorough and please don’t wait!

Fill it out and fax it NOW!!! If YOUR information is not received by August 30, it won’t be included in the first edition. FAX to (904) 488-2216. PLEASE PRINT!!

last name

first name

affiliation (workplace)

mailing address

phone

fax

internet address

highest academic degree/where obtained

biological interests (mangrove ecology, biocontrol, endangered species, etc.)

plant experience (list specific plants)
Board Meeting Scheduled

The next Board of Directors meeting will be held on August 20 in Palm Beach at the Palm Beach Hotel, Roof Garden Ballroom, located at 235 Sunrise Avenue, Palm Beach at 6:00 p.m. The facility has been provided to us by member R. Julian Rogers. For those interested in spending the night, rooms and suites are available on site at the Palm Beach Hotel Condominium. Reservations can be made by calling 800/536-7161.

The following morning, a field trip is planned to the City of Delray Beach, where a *Scaevola taccada* removal project has just begun. Dune restoration efforts are underway, including plantings of the endangered beach Jacquemontia. A drive through the “scenic” Town of Gulfstream is also planned.

Remember: all EPPC members are welcome to attend Board meetings!

For more information, please contact Greg Jubinsky at 904/487-2600.