The Rise of the CISMAs

Not long ago, the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council was pretty much the only game in town in terms of a state-wide organization focused on cooperative invasive plant control, research and education. I’m not sure if Florida EPPC was the first EPPC but when I first joined in 1997, it was one of only two in existence (the other was California EPPC) where scientists, land managers, product vendors and others came together, especially once a year at the annual FLEPPC Symposium. Like the Symposium, the FLEPPC Board of Directors meetings also moved around the state and were often held in or near interesting natural areas. Most included an overnight stay and a field trip or an exotic plant control workday on the day after the meeting. As time went on, a lot of FLEPPC members, people who came to FLEPPC Symposia and others started to form into regional groups to address invasive species more locally and more directly. By about 2010, it seemed that every region in Florida had some kind of Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area or CISMA either in place or in development. The Florida Invasive Species Partnership, FISP formed in 2005 and was instrumental in the rise of the Florida CISMAs. There has been a CISMA focused workshop or breakout session organized by FISP during the FLEPPC Symposium every year for the past seven years.

About a year ago, FISP approached the FLEPPC Board with a proposal to create a committee to explore the possibility of FLEPPC providing a small amount of money as an annual grant to help the CISMAs. The Board gave it the green light and a call for proposals was advertised and the FLEPPC/FISP CISMA Grant Committee reported that for the first grant cycle, there were five applications. The committee members ranked all the proposals and decided that the Central Florida CISMA submitted the most compelling proposal and awarded them a one thousand dollar grant to host the Oakland Nature Preserve/Central Florida CISMA Invasive Plant Treatment and Mapping Workday. The second place proposal was submitted by Suncoast CISMA and they were awarded five hundred dollars to develop a mobile educational sign to rotate among events within the counties of their CISMA. I have been advocating for a tighter union between FLEPPC, FISP and the Florida CISMAs for many reasons, but one of the main reasons is this: I would like the annual FLEPPC Symposium to continue to be the event that we all rally around. We share many of the same concerns, goals and objectives and my vision is that of an invigorated FLEPPC, supported and directed by motivated and experienced people recruited from the CISMAs. My opinion is that the state-wide exotic species networking loop established by FLEPPC and realized at the annual symposium, facilitated the creation of FISP and rise of the Florida CISMAs. I would like to see it feed back into FLEPPC and I think it’s in the best interest of the natural areas of the State of Florida that it does so.

Dennis Giardina,
FLEPPC Chair
Note from the Secretary:

This Newsletter contains the minutes from the January 16, 2013 and May 20, 2013 Board of Directors meetings.

Upcoming FLEPPC Events

October 30, 2013

Quarterly Board of Directors Meeting
Safety Harbor Resort and Spa
105 N Bayshore Dr, Safety Harbor, FL 34695 site of the 2014 FLEPPC/TWS Joint Symposium

Information and updates can be found at http://fleppc.org/
Join Us in Welcoming Our New BOD Members

Please join us in welcoming our new FLEPPC Board of Director members who were voted in at the annual FLEPPC business meeting during the FLEPPC/SE-EPPC Joint Symposium held in May 21-23, 2013 in Panama City Beach, Florida. Welcome aboard!

Gayle Edwards- Gayle Edwards is a 15 year Florida resident and a Lee County Florida Master Gardener. She is a member of the Coccoloba Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society and a presenter on exotic invasive plants. Gayle also co-chairs the yearly Butterfly Conference. She has tended the Lee County Extension Office butterfly demonstration garden for 14 years. She is President of the Longwings Chapter of the North American Butterfly Association and Coordinator of the Florida Monarch Tagging Program. She lives in Fort Myers, Florida.

Geof Lane- Geof Lane has a Bachelor of Science in Biology/Chemistry/ Marine Science from the University of Miami. He studied fish behavior in graduate school before leaving to pursue a career in fisheries management. This took him nearly around the world to work in places like St Thomas/St John, USVI; Hawaii; and the Galapagos Islands National Park, Ecuador. Ultimately that lead him to a position with the Clearwater Marine Aquarium in Clearwater, Florida where he began to work on improving juvenile fish recruitment through improving shoreline vegetation. Specifically targeting removal of Brazilian pepper, air potato, and Australian pine in mangrove areas, he gave his first talk on finding creative funding for environmental projects at the 2001 SE-EPPC conference in Athens, GA and joined the FLEPPC the following year. Currently he has been working as an independent Environmental Consultant on projects throughout Florida since 2000.

Cheryl Millet- Cheryl Millett is a Biologist at The Nature Conservancy, leading Python Patrol, the Central Florida Lygodium Strategy, and the Heartland CISMA. She graduated from Humboldt State University with a Master in Science in Natural Resources in 2006. Python Patrol is a program to provide containment and early detection and rapid response of invasive exotic Burmese pythons, and other invasive species in south and central Florida, by training detectors to accurately identify and report them, training responders to safely capture them, and providing a hotline to link the two. The Central Florida Lygodium Strategy is a partnership to apply a regional approach to stopping the northern spread of Old World climbing fern on public and private lands. The Heartland CISMA is a partnership to regionally focus efforts to deal with invasive species. She also coordinated and now advises Jay Watch, a citizen science program monitoring the federally threatened Florida scrub-jay, which is now a project of Florida Audubon.

Would you like to become more involved with FLEPPC? This could be you! We are currently looking to fill one last Board of Directors position due to an unanticipated vacancy. Please visit http://www.fleppc.org/committees.htm to review the committees and the Standard Operating Procedures for the position. To meet the other FLEPPC Officers and Board of Directors visit http://fleppc.org/board.htm.
CISMA Grant Awardees

The first annual Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council/Florida Invasive Species Partnership (FLEPPC/FISP) Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas (CISMA) grant has been decided! We had 5 great proposals totaling $5,848 in requests and $1,500 budgeted to award.

THE WINNERS:

First Place: Central Florida CISMA was awarded $1,000 for their project titled “Oakland Nature Preserve/CF CISMA Invasive Plant Treatment and Mapping Workday”

Second Place: Suncoast CISMA was awarded $500 for their project titled “Instruments for the Battle against Invasive Butchers of Biodiversity!”

Thank you to everyone who applied – it is obvious how much energy and commitment our Florida CISMAs are putting into working across boundaries to address the threat of invasive species. Keep up the great work!

I would like to give a huge thank you to FLEPPC for putting their proverbial “money where their mouth is” and providing 100% of the funding to make this award happen. If you are not already a member – think about it – go to www.fleppc.org and find out more.

For more information about the CISMA grant, go to http://www.fleppc.org/cismagrants.html. This is a planned annual award, so look for the next request for proposals in late winter 2013. We will be falling in cycle with the FLEPPC Education grant with due dates in mid-February 2014.

Kristina Serbesoff-King
FISP Co-chair www.FloridaInvasives.org
FLEPPC CISMA grant committee chair
http://www.fleppc.org/cismagrants.html
Thanks to everyone who helped make the 2013 FLEPPC/SE-EPPC Joint Symposium a success! Here are some highlights from the symposium.

Sherry Williams received the FLEPPC Member of the Year Award.

Greg Jubinsky received the FLEPPC Lifetime Achievement Award.

Keynote Speaker Damon Waitt speaks about invasives species in Texas.

Bidding wars begin at the Silent Auction during the Poster Session.

Attendees paying close attention during a session.

Ken Langeland gives us a closer look at OWCF.

Enjoying a beautiful Gulf sunset during the banquet dinner.

Attendees enjoying a well-deserved evening of fun.
2013 FLEPPC/SE-EPPC Joint Symposium Winners

Student Poster Competition

A total of eight students were entered in this year’s Student Poster Competition. Representatives from each SE-EPPC chapter were tasked with judging the student poster competition. Consideration was given to scientific merit, poster design, and poster discussion with the judges.

- First place ($150) was awarded to Alexis Maldonado (pictured), University of Central Florida
- Second place ($100) was awarded to Jonathan Ali (pictured), Wright State University
- Third place ($50) was awarded to Sarah Farmer (not pictured), University of North Carolina

Chance Drawing

For the past several years FLEPPC has held a chance drawing where all proceeds go towards the Kathy Cruddock Burks Scholarship fund and one lucky person will go home with a kayak. This year’s kayak was donated in part by Aquatic Vegetation Control, Inc. Tony Pernas (pictured left), was the proud winner of this year’s chance drawing. Congratulations Tony and thanks to all who participated!

Fishing Tournament

As part of the program activities for the 2013 Joint Annual Symposium, a fishing tournament was held at the M.B. Miller Fishing Pier on Tuesday evening, 21 May from 7-10 pm. Fifteen attendees participated in the event. Prizes were awarded in two categories: largest game fish and largest non-game fish. The winning game fish was a 36” redfish caught by Ben Powell (bottom left, center), Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service. The winner of the non-game fish category was Wade Waltimeyer (bottom right, center), Earthbalance Inc., who caught a 13” stingray. Winners were announced at the banquet held on Wednesday evening, 22 May. Special thanks go to FLEPPC members Jim Cuda and Karen Brown for organizing the event and Dennis Giardina for securing the rods/reels for the two winners.
Minutes from FLEPPC Board of Directors Meeting and Conference Call
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Office, Vero Beach, FL

January 16, 2013 (10:00AM)

Minutes taken by Hillary Cooley, past FLEPPC Secretary

Administrative

Call to Order/Roll Call — 10:05 AM

Attending: Jim Burch, Billy Snyder, Aimee Cooper, Hillary Cooley, Dennis Giardina, Matt King, Christen Mason

Called in: Karen Brown, Mike Renda, Alicia Campanella, Michael Meisenburg, Dianne Owen, Salvador Medina, Jim Burney, Sherry Williams-called in to the meeting around 2:15PM.

Approval of minutes: Hillary Cooley motioned to accept the minutes from October 26, 2012. Billy Snyder seconded the motion. The FLEPPC Board of Directors unanimously approved the minutes from the October 26, 2012 meeting.

Editor’s Report — Karen Brown submitted the following report:

EDITOR’S REPORT-Submitted by Karen Brown, Jan. 16, 2013

The Summer/Fall 2012 issue of WILDLAND WEEDS was delivered to the Post Office the week of January 7th 2013, and should be received by members shortly, completing the two issues per year planned for FY 2011/2012 which ended October 2012.

SE-EPPC chapters have been billed for FY 2011/2012 for which they received two issues, Winter 2011/Spring 2012 and Summer/Fall 2012. This issue had the call for papers and an ad for the 2013 meeting

The amount billed to SE-EPPC chapters was $4,508 at $7/member. $4,508.
FLEPPC’s portion of the Wildland Weeds billing is $1,414.00. 1,414.
The Pacific Northwest IPC was billed separately for one issue in order to bring them in line with our FY. That total was $375. 375.
The Mid-Atlantic Chapter board was billed for two issues $126.
Total income for the 2011/2012 fiscal year $6,423.
Total expenses for the 2011/2012 fiscal year -$6,990.
For a loss of $567.00 $ 567.

This was close and it is hard to budget the exact amount since we never know what the exact membership will be, but it was still a loss. Karen may be able to get SE-EPPC to contribute to the amount of the loss. Fiscal year 2011-2012 is done and she has all her bookkeeping caught-up and the chapters are billed.
Secretary Report
In December 2012 the FLEPPC Newsletter was sent out with minutes from the April 16, 2012 Board meeting, the April 19, 2012 members meeting, the July 18, 2013 Board Meeting, the April 19, 2012 members meeting, and also the July 18, 2013 Board meeting. In 2012 only three FLEPPC newsletters were sent out, with the minutes from two meetings combined into one newsletter.

The next FLEPPC newsletter will contain the minutes from the October 26, 2012 FLEPPC Board meeting and hopefully will be in March of 2013. Hillary Cooley will step down as the FLEPPC Secretary at the May 2013 SE/FL-EPPC Symposium.

FLEPPC Officer and Committee Reports that are sent are included in the minutes, and the minutes are posted online in the FLEPPC Newsletter. So, the repository of the reports sent to the FLEPPC Board are posted online and can be found in the FLEPPC Newsletters.

Chair Activities
Dennis has been working with Chuck Bargeron on our online membership and symposium registration.

Dennis also met with Dianne and the bank and he is now an additional official manager of the FLEPPC bank account and can pass this on to the next FLEPPC Chair.

We are closing the Sun Trust account and everything is going to go through Pay Pal and the Bank of America account and the Symposium registration is going to go through Eventbrite. Chuck should be able to make the changes within the next few weeks.

Chuck wants the FLEPPC Board to look at the fields on the symposium registration and also the FLEPPC membership form and let Chuck know if we want to make any changes. There was some talk at an earlier FLEPPC Board meeting that it would be helpful to know what organization the member is affiliated with. We should also get the registration form up soon, so that when we do a big e-mail blast to announce the Symposium people will be able to register right away. It would be good to also include field trip options. We agreed not to charge separately for the field trips and that field trips would be included in the general registration, but the field trips should still be listed so that people can choose when they register.

Dennis has a copy of last year’s registration, but we may need to change this slightly since last year was a co-hosted event. We think that FLEPPC included its membership fees with symposium registration, but that The Wildlife Society did not.

We will need to make sure that the people registering can choose which chapter they are joining or renewing with. There should also be registration options for non-members, students, one day, vendors and late registration. The 2011 Maitland FLEPPC registration form is one that we could adapt for this year. The Florida membership rate is $10 higher than the other chapters. Karen, Sherry, Chuck and Dennis will communicate and get the registration form together, hopefully within a week or two. Mike and Aimee may also want to comment on the vendor registration.

We may also want to start having monthly conference calls about the symposium planning; we can talk to Sherry more about this when she calls in.
Chair Correspondence — Dennis Giardina

Dennis has been talking with Sherry Williams and Kristina Serbesoff-King about the letter that FISP (Florida Invasive Species Partnership) sent us to review. The letter is a more detailed outline of how the CISMAs (Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas) and WMAs (Weed Management Areas) in Florida can interact with FLEPPC to enhance both organizations. There is also a request for an annual $500- $1,500 grant for CISMAs.

Treasurer’s Report — Dianne Owen (See report below).

TREASURER’S REPORT-Submitted by Dianne Owen, Jan. 16, 2013

The FLEPPC Income/Expense Budget Report for FY11-12 is attached. Overall, FLEPPC realized a net gain of $2,324.51 for FY11-12.

FLEPPC profit from the 2012 Symposium, net of expenses we incurred directly, was $3,424.34. The FLTWS detailed breakdown of expense/income from the symposium is attached.

The current cash balance in checking, savings and CD’s is 45,101.31. There is an outstanding liability for $2,479 (a research award check not yet cashed), leaving current net assets of $42,622.31.

Dennis has taken on the problem of the duplicate merchant accounts and will work with Chuck regarding the website; I don’t know how that is going.

Dennis mentioned wanting to convert the CDs that we have back into the FLEPPC back account, since the CDs are not earning a lot of interest. Dennis will look at when the CDs are up for renewal and let the FLEPPC board know when we are thinking about doing something with the CDs.

Karen thinks that we have three CDs for $5,000 each and she thinks the rest is in our checking account.

Dennis mentioned the possibility of investing the CD money in another way. If anyone knows about banking investment opportunities please let the Board know.

Dianne thinks that the first CD matures in February and the next one is in June. Dianne will keep an eye on the CDs and let us know. There is a two week window to convert them and the bank sends notification when they are going to roll over.

Dennis also mentioned that he is close to getting Chuck all the information that he needs to resolve our bank account issues on the website.

Dennis is not going to worry that some agencies do not like using PayPal; since PayPal is an accepted online payment method there is not a reason that we should not use it. There may be ways for someone to use their own money and then get reimbursed by their agency if they go through PayPal.

The scholarship fund is not in a separate account, but the amount given to the scholarship fund is added in each year and is kept track of. We could keep the scholarship money in a separate CD and then add to it? The scholarship amount is between $2,000-$3,000 of the ~$42,000 total budget.
Approval of the Officer’s Reports: Billy Snyder motioned to approve the Officer’s Reports; Christen Mason seconded the motion. The FLEPPC Board of Directors unanimously approved the above Officer’s Reports.

Committee Reports

Strategic Planning — Mike Yustin/LeRoy Rodgers (not on call)
LeRoy sent out the results of the FLEPPC membership survey again in order to help with the planning of the upcoming symposium.

Bylaws — Mike Renda
Sent updated Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for changes to Committees.

Committee Chairs should review the SOPs for their Committee and let him know if there are any changes. Please see the FLEPPC website at http://www.fleppc.org/committees.htm for the SOPs.

The FLEPPC webpage containing the names of the Committees Chairs, and the duties of the Committee Chairpersons was also updated with the help of Mike Renda and Karen Brown.

Checklists — Sherry Williams
Check lists seem to be up-to-date.

Membership — Sherry Williams (See report below).

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE-Submitted by Sherry Williams, Jan. 16, 2013

1. 94 members – increased by two members since 10/12.
2. Continuing to send out renewal reminders.
3. We could try membership drive during symposium/outreach events. Offer free water bottle or bag or t-shirt (whatever merchandise we have) with membership. Have person sign-up on site – we can have copies of membership form. Can we accept checks during events/symposium (cash handling procedures?).

Education Grant — Jennifer Possley (Sent report, not on call).
RFP and application posted online; the closing date is Feb 15, 2012.

EDUCATION GRANT COMMITTEE REPORT-Submitted by Jennifer Possley, Jan. 16, 2013

The RFP and application were posted online in November 2012. Closing date is 2/15/13. We have had several inquiries already.

Our budget for the upcoming grant cycle is $4000. Requests typically total about $6000-$7000. We will review new applications during April and early May, using a revised scoring matrix. Winners will be announced during the symposium business meeting in Panama City in late May. The committee is currently reviewing two 1-minute videos from one of last year’s grant winners. They address air potato and Australian pine.
The Education Grants funding in the past has been $5,000, last year we only funded it for $4,000; do we want to return it to $5,000 or even increase the funding?

It was also mentioned that there was a request to fund a CISMA grant and if we fund the CISMA grant we may not want to fund the Education Grant for $5,000 or more? However in the past CISMAs have applied for funding through the Education Grant Committee. The CISMA grant could be for things like work days and not just outreach and education.

We need to see what our budget looks like after the symposium and decide. Dennis sees the CISMAs as where the actions is and FLEPPC needs to focus on this relationship as a priority, because the CISMAs are really carrying our mission on to the ground. The letter that Kristina Serbesoff-King sent did suggest that FLEPPC may be able to seek funding donations specifically for the CISMA grant. It may not have to be an either/or in order to fund both the current Education and Research Grants and the proposed CISMA grant. Dennis feels that the more CISMAs are involved with FLEPPC the better the FLEPPC membership and attendance at FLEPPC symposiums will be. Dennis sees a positive wave coming with this CISMA relationship and with that the money will come. Dennis would like to see FLEPPC money invested wisely in projects that are productive. It may be a good idea for the FLEPPC board to decide what do we want to keep in the bank as a cushion and how much can we spend to do more projects that carry out the FLEPPC mission. In the past we have wanted at least one year’s operating budget in the bank.

Research Grant — Betsy Von Holle (Not on call, no report).
Betsy and Jennifer both sent announcements for Requests for Proposals for the 2013 fiscal year and both were announced in the last FLEPPC newsletter.

We should make sure to post both grant RFPs on the FLEPPC list serve and website.

Finance — Ellen Donlan (No report, not on call).

Discussion: Our budget process needs to be looked at. Finance Committee not providing input because our budget process is not functioning like it was planned to function. The Finance Committee was put in place to help us with pre-planning, but we have not really been doing this.

Dianne has been updating the budget from the previous year and if people send her requests then she will change the budget.

Dennis has as his second priority to nag everyone to come to the FLEPPC business meeting at the symposium prepared with budget requests. Dennis wants to have requests in earlier so that we can have a budget to vote on by October 1st 2013.

Dennis also wants to get our Board meeting dates on the calendar for the upcoming year at the symposium business meeting so that we can plan around them. He would like to meet in person for those meetings if possible.

Dianne mentioned that we could set-up a Google spreadsheet document that everyone on the FLEPPC Board could access and that way anyone that needs to put in a request could see what last year’s planned and actual budget was and then people could fill in what they were requesting for the upcoming year.
It was also mentioned that Chuck has an account document online for all of the CISMAs and that he could probably do that for us also. Dennis will put this on his Check with Chuck list and will work with Dianne and Chuck on making this happen. Once we vote on this then we should lock it down so that it is no longer editable. Dianne thinks that this is something the FLEPPC Chair or Finance Committee Chair should do.

Dianne will send updated excel file for FY2013 budget.

Dennis said he would review the SOPs for the Treasurer, the Finance Committee and the Chair and he would try to do a better job of getting our budget together and reviewed sooner.

**Legislative — Matt King**  
Not much new to report. March starts new Florida legislative section. Federal legislative has nothing new on the horizon.

Last year we were going to comment on the Invasive Fish and Wildlife Prevention Act of 2012 and that seems to be dying in Congress.

The other issue is more of a local level and the town of Palm Beach may ask the Florida Department of Agriculture for an exemption to the planting of Australian pine in that the pines are historic to the Breakers Hotel. Matt is trying to see if there is someone he can talk to more about this. If this happened we may not be able to stop it, but we may be able to put in language that limits the species of *Casuarina*. This may be similar language to what we proposed a few years ago for the testing of *Casuarina* for windrows.

**Nominations — Jim Burney** (See report below).  
Jim Burch and Jim Burney spoke last week about the question if the Past Chair assumes the Nominations Chair. Jim Burney checked the description of the duties of the Past Chair in the FLEPPC by-laws and it did not specifically say that the Past Chair was responsible for nominations. Jim Burney also checked the by-laws description for Nominations and it said that it was at the discretion of the current Chair. Jim Burney is still willing to take on the duties of the Nomination Chair. Jim Burch is comfortable with Jim Burney taking on this role. Dennis has no objections to letting Jim Burney continue in the role of Nominations Chair.

We have two potential nominees; we need a few more nominations. We should talk to people that we think are good. The only pre-requisite is that the person is a FLEPPC member. We will also need a chair elect. There is a job description attached. We are getting close to the time that we need to finalize the slate so that we can announce the slate before the FLEPPC business meeting.

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**NOMINATION’S REPORT**  
Submitted by Jim Burney, Jan. 16, 2013

So far we only have two nominations for Director. Dennis Giardina nominated Alicia Campanella and Karen Brown suggested Gayle Edwards. In addition to these two nominees, there are two folks from last year’s list that the committee will be contacting. Nominations will be open for a few more weeks, so please help secure more nominees. The announcement and a brief Director job description are attached. Thanks for your help, Jim.

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Chair Elect Job Description

The Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council (FLEPPC) is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization in the State of Florida. The Mission of FLEPPC is to support the management of invasive exotic plants in Florida’s natural areas by providing a forum for the exchange of scientific, educational, and technical information.

In order to conduct the ordinary business of FLEPPC, a Board of Directors is elected by general membership for two year terms. The Board is comprised of five Officers and eight Directors. In order to provide continuity to the Board chairmanship, a Chair Elect is elected every other year. The Chair Elect shall serve one full year immediately prior to assuming the duties of the Chair. The Chair Elect shall perform the duties of the Chair when the latter is absent and other duties as may be assigned by the Chair or Board of Directors. These duties include voting on decisions necessary to conduct ordinary business and to carry out the mission of FLEPPC, chairing meetings or providing representation in the absence of the Chair, and coordinating activities assigned by the Board.

This requires the ability to research issues and to guide discussions in order to assist the Board in making informed decisions. To accommodate this, there are four quarterly Board of Directors meetings each year with one of the meetings being held in conjunction with an Annual Symposium. In addition to attending each of the Board Meetings (either in person or via conference call), the Chair Elect will be required to discuss topics and vote via e-mail discussions. The time requirements are four days per year to attend Board Meetings and 4-8 hours per month engaged in internet discussions and researching topics.

The Chair Elect is encouraged to serve on committees to further contribute to the success of FLEPPC and share the workload of the board. The Chair Elect is required to become familiar with the bylaws and Standard Operating Procedures in order to understand the workings of the board and to prepare for future leadership of the organization. This information can be found at http://www.fleppc.org/aboutus.htm.

Outreach — Christen Mason (See report below).
Not a lot has changed since our last Board Meeting. We do have some events up coming. Christen asked for funding for a new travel display.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT - Submitted by Christen Mason, Jan. 16, 2013

The FLEPPC display was manned on 9/29/2012 by Sherry Williams at the Wings and Wildflowers Festival in Tavares where it is estimated that, of 400 attendees, 40 were spoken with at the exhibit.

On 10/14/2012 Christen Mason brought the exhibit to the Florida Sportsman Expo at the South Florida Fair Grounds in West Palm Beach, in conjunction with ECISMA. Of approximately 250 people in attendance, 35 were spoken with.

The exhibit was set up on 10/20/2012 at Fire Fest at Jonathan Dickinson State Park in Hobe Sound by Ann Cox. Ann estimates that 400 people stopped by the exhibit.
Plant Industry Liaison — Vacant (No report)

Plant List — Pat Howell (Did not send a report).
At the last Board meeting we talked about encouraging Plant List Committee members to join FLEPPC. Dennis would like to make sure that the Plant List Committee knows that we appreciate the members’ service, but would also like them to know that we also need their help, so please consider becoming a member of FLEPPC.

Dennis will e-mail or call Pat and make sure she knows that we appreciate the FLEPPC plant list. Dennis thinks that the FLEPPC plant list is one of the most important things that we do. Dennis will ask Pat about her plans to hold Plant List Committee meetings in 2013. The next Plant List is due in 2013.

Scholarship — Tony Pernas (Did not send report).

Website — Chuck Bargeron (Did not send report).
Dennis has spoken with Chuck and everything that needs to be done in order to register online will hopefully be completed within the next week or two.

Control and Evaluation — LeRoy Rodgers (See report below).
The Control and Evaluation Committee was not able to set-up test plots this year due to the travel distance of the meeting location, but we hope to offer a training session instead during one of the field trips unless there are other suggestions from the Board.


The Control and Evaluation Committee has had difficulty developing a demonstration site in the Panama City area for the 2013 symposium. This is primarily due to travel restrictions and the inability to locate infestations large enough for control comparisons. As such, the committee is suggesting a different approach for this year’s symposium. Instead of the traditional herbicide trials, we propose a demonstration of control methodologies. The leading idea is to demonstrate calibration techniques and equipment during one of the established field trips. The advantages of this approach include minimal site visits prior to the symposium and more flexibility in site selection (we do not need an existing large infestation for the demonstration).
The committee will begin contacting field trip leaders to determine which of the field trips are best suited to the demonstration. Comments/suggestions from the Board are requested.

Vendor — Aimee Cooper/Michael Meisenburg
Aimee is working on letter to send to vendors.

Aimee mentioned that in the past there have been different vendor levels. Karen thought that the different levels were when the meetings were combined with different organizations and she is not sure that FLEPPC has done different levels in the past. This year since we are combined with SE-EPPC we should think about doing different levels since they already have it set-up.

Aimee has been building a list for different vendors. She said it would be helpful if they had a list of last year’s vendors. She has the vendor names from last year’s program, but not the contact information for each of the past vendors.
Michael also has the 2009 vendor list from the Crystal River symposium and a list of vendors from last year’s Alabama conference. There may also be other government or public agencies that could be sponsors.

Karen is going to follow-up with the U.S. Forest Service which has sponsored the SE-EPPC conferences in the past.

Matt King is also going to mention our meeting to the Florida Native Plant Society and see if they would like to have a booth at our symposium. It did not seem like we should ask them to be a sponsor since there would really be no net again if we sponsored them and they sponsored us.

**Symposium Planning/Program** — Sherry Williams/Jessica Spencer/Karen Brown (See report below). Registration form needs to be updated and up online before we announce the symposium. We are looking at past registration forms.

Sherry sent out the call for abstracts.

Keynote speakers: Damon Waitt has been suggested. Bio is in report that Sherry sent. Karen said that SE-EPPC is fine with Damon as the keynote speaker. Chuck suggested Damon. Karen thinks we should get final approval from FLEPPC and then send a formal letter from both SE and FLEPPC to Damon asking him to be the keynote speaker. Sherry read bio for Dr. Damon Waitt that is attached below. The board voted to accept Damon Waitt as the keynote speaker.

Karen will call Chuck and see if we can get the ball rolling and give Damon a heads up that we would like him to be our keynote speaker. Karen will draft a formal letter for Chuck and Dennis to review. Karen will also contact SE-EPPC to let them know that Damon is to be asked to be keynote speaker.

We have sent out a call for abstracts, but we should also send it to the other SE-EPPC chapters. We need abstracts before we can develop the longer program, and apply for CEUs. Sherry said that she has four people already helping to review abstracts, but that at least one more person to help review would be good. Dennis said that he would help with abstract review.

Sherry also mentioned that we will need session moderators and people that can certify CEUs.

Dennis plans to have registration form online by this time next week.

Karen stated that SE-EPPC takes 60% of the net profits from the joint symposium. The hosting chapter keeps 40%. SE-EPPC may help by adding additional sponsors.

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**PROGRAM CHAIR UPDATE-Jan. 16, 2013**

1. Keynote Speaker – Damon Waitt of Texas Invasives and Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center was recommended – need approval, other suggestions? Chuck Bargeron from UGA’s Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health, past president of SE-EPPC, current chair of NAEPPC (and our webmaster) has recommended Dr. Damon Waitt as a keynote speaker. Damon is the past president of the Texas Invasive Plant and Pest Council (TIPPC). He holds a Ph.D. in Botany from the University of Texas in Austin where he studied the evolutionary ecology and population of Phlox. He is Senior Director and Botanist at the Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center and he
serves on the federal Invasive Species Advisory Council (ISAC). Damon was approved as a potential keynote speaker at the recent SE-EPPC board meeting (Dec. 1, 2012). Dr. Waitt has not been contacted as to his willingness to be the keynote speaker as we felt he should be considered by the FLEPPC board first. Chuck felt that Damon would be willing and able to tailor his presentation to issues facing the Southeast and he would also bring a federal perspective as a member of ISAC. We would need to cover his expenses but SE-EPPC would share that cost.

2. Artwork developed for symposium.
3. Web page set up for conference including information on local arrangements.
4. Developed Call for Abstracts and sent out to FLEPPC membership, FNPS membership, Florida CISMA listserv, Karen to send out to SE EPPC, FLEPPC listserv. Advertised on FLEPPC website.
5. Developed outline for symposium schedule.
6. Recruited FLEPPC members for abstract review.

Merchandise — William Snyder

Printed tote bags can be ordered at 150 for $2.50 each. Bags have a flat bottom and are green with yellow logo. We plan on 80-120 people attending. We can get 150 of these bags for $372. Price is based on one logo, if we add more logos then the price may go up. If it comes down to only one logo, it will be the FLEPPC logo.

Water Bottles: The water bottles are 23 OZ. silver with a black label. We can get 100 bottles for $409. We can sell them for $10 each.

We will also sell the left over t-shirts at a reduced rate. Billy will look into Control Freak T-shirts for 2014 conference.

Symposium Local Arrangements — Jessica Spencer/Karen Brown
Karen needs to go back through the hotel contract and get information about the room block code, and when we can start room registration so that we can add that information to the website and the symposium announcement.

The Weeds cannot play at the 2013 Symposium. We may need to think of other bands or a DJ. We could check with the hotel and see if they have suggestions.

Symposium Field Trips/CEUs — Keith Morin/Ben Gugliotti
Four field trips planned are planned. Keith has local contact information for all the field trips. Sal and LeRoy will contact Keith and work out the details about the demonstration/calibration/decontamination field trip.

Online Registration — Dennis Giardina and Chuck Bargeron have talked about this and the plan is to use EventBrite for the registration.

2014 Symposium Planning — Jim Burch
We are thinking about having the 2014 meeting in Naples or Marco Island area. The other location possibilities are Daytona or the Canaveral area. Daytona/Canaveral may be an idea for 2015.

We are thinking of co-hosting 2014 meeting with The Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society again. Dennis is going to follow-up with Erin Myers, who is the current President. Erin needs to
run the idea by the Wildlife Society Board. Dennis is going to suggest the Naples/Marco Island area. Sherry thought that the Wildlife Society may have already committed to having their 2014 conference in Panama City, in which case they would be on their own. We would not want to have two conferences in the Panhandle area two years in a row.

Jim also spoke with people at Florida Gulf Coast University and they may be able to offer CEUs for teachers.

FISP letter
Dennis thinks that we should do everything we can to support CISMAs and FISP because it is a good return on our investment and he is going to push for more recruitment for FLEPPC Board of Directors, Officers and Committee Chairs. Dennis thinks it is a good idea to organize annual conference with CISMAs; if we do not then we run the risk that the CISMAs may organize a conference without FLEPPC and could compete with FLEPPC. FLEPPC offers technical support that the CISMAs cannot offer. Dennis plans to attend the next FISP meeting.

The FLEPPC Board agrees in principle with the request from FISP and at the Symposium Board Meeting we can vote on the specifics of the funding request.

Liasons with other organizations
SE-EPPC Liaison — Karen Brown/Tony Pernas
Karen said that SE-EPPC had approved Damon Waitt as keynote speaker. They also plan to offer four student grants and cash awards for the top three posters as well.

NA-EPPC Liaison — Matt King / Tony Pernas/Jim Burch
Jim Burch and Tony Pernas attended the Natural Areas Association/ National EPPC meeting this past year and the NA-EPPC meeting was canceled due to lack of attendance. Dennis plans to attend the NA-EPPC meeting this upcoming year.

Task Force Reports

Brazilian Pepper — Jim Cuda
Australian Pine — Tony Pernas
Carrotwood — Chris Lockhart
Lygodium — (?)
Chinese Tallow — Drew Leslie
Melaleuca — Francois Laroche

Adjourn: Karen Brown motioned to adjourn and Aimee Cooper seconded the motion. The FLEPPC Board unanimously approved the motion to adjourn.

Minutes from Board of Directors Meeting and Conference Call
Panama City Beach, Florida – Edgewater Beach Resort

May 20, 2013

Minutes taken by Karen Brown

Attending: Sherry Williams, Michael Meisenburg, Salvador Medina, Dianne Owen, Christen Mason, Jim Burch, Keith Morin, Pat Howell, Aimee Cooper, Dennis Giardina, Damon Waitt,
Cheryl Millett, Tony Pernas, Erin Myers, Kris Serbesoff-King, Jim Cuda, Shane McKinley.

Call-in: Hillary Cooley, Jessica Spencer

Administrative

Treasurer’s Report — Dianne Owen
Over $14K in registrations. Possibly move scholarship funds to separate account for a better return on investment. Tony Pernas is in charge of buying the chance drawing prize and possibly writing the SOP for the Kathy Craddock Burkes Scholarship Foundation.

Editor’s Report — Karen Brown
Wildland Weeds is not paying for itself but we’re almost breaking even. Chapters each contribute $7 per member. A lot of factors contribute to the cost of the magazine so it’s difficult to make it come out even. The membership contribution from all chapters was increased from $5 to $7 approximately one year ago. Other chapters charge less for membership than FLEPPC; some have way fewer members. There has been no issue since Summer/Fall 2012, which came out in January 2013. Karen needs to find help or another editor.

Chair’s Report — Dennis Giardina
Tomorrow Dennis will talk about history of FLEPPC, creation of FISP and CISMAs. His email telling board members and active committee chairs that they didn’t need to register if their travel wasn’t covered wasn’t delivered but he will resend and anyone who registered but won’t get travel reimbursed can get reimbursed by Dianne. Greg Jubinsky and Drew Leslie (DEP/FWC) will be receiving Lifetime Achievement Awards; Greg will be attending; Drew can not attend. Dennis purchased all the plaques; last year: 4 clock plaques and 2 other plaques cost $681. This year they cost $1,135, and Dennis paid the $135. Dennis suggests no longer purchasing expensive plaques. Keith suggested purchasing something at an office supply store and putting it on blank plaques that are much less expensive. Keith got a Davis Productivity Award and it was much less expensive but still looked nice. Karen mentioned that records of awards, keynote speakers, etc, have been kept on a history spreadsheet initiated by Alison Fox several years ago. Karen has tried to keep it up-to-date but would like to pass it on to someone else. Christen Mason agreed to take over the FLEPPC history spreadsheet.

Symposium Committee — Karen Brown/Sherry Williams
Sherry and Karen reviewed the arrangements and the pre-conference meeting with the hotel staff. Since we neglected to ask people to choose a menu item when they registered, we switched from a plated dinner to a buffet. Karen explained that program printing costs were unexpectedly expensive due to a misunderstanding on her part with the printer.

Vendor Committee — Aimee Cooper/Michael Meisenburg
14 vendors/donors; $4,700 from registered vendors; $1,075 in donations

Committee Reports

Merchandise — Billy Snyder
Bags are being given away with registration materials and bottles will be sold for $10. Existing tee-shirts also will be sold in an effort to reduce this inventory. Jim Burch will handle merchandise sales.

CEUs — Keith Morin
Keith will type up SOPs for next year. He has forms for all states printed out for the sessions. FL got a total of 14 possible CEUs. We also got professional credits from AL, SC, GA, KY, MS. He said we should look into Forestry credits next year. Keith is willing to stay on as CEU coordinator but may not be able to be on
Plant List Committee — Pat Howell
The committee met this year; next meeting will be before our next board meeting where they hope to come to a consensus on the 2013 PLANT LIST. The “To Be Watched” list is still on hold as to whether or not to publish it.

Field Trips/Demo — Salvador Medina
Sal Medina and Greg MacDonald will be doing the demo on the Topsail State Park field trip. Another demo will be the EDDMapS demonstration at Ponce de Leon State Park.

Education & Outreach Committee —
Jennifer Possley sent a list of the grant recipients for this year: Friends of Gamble Rogers State Park for “Plant this, not that! Invasive and native plant family education day”; UF/IFAS Sumter County Extension for “Invasive plants commonly sold in nurseries and garden centers – Learn what to avoid and why”; and Bethune-Cookman University for “Invasive plants and their counterparts in retention ponds: website and workshop.”

Research Grant Committee — Jim Cuda (Betsy Von Holle stepped down as chair of this committee). Jim Cuda has agreed to step into this position.

Dianne noted that there is still one uncashed check to be followed up on for a previous recipient.

Scholarship/Chance Drawing —
Tony and Dennis will buy a kayak to raise money for the Kathy Craddock Burks Scholarship Foundation. They will seek donations from vendors and haggle with the store for a discount and sell chance drawing tickets.

Bylaws — Mike Renda
There have been no requests or changes in the last 6 months. If any Committee needs language updates or changes, or the BOD needs something, please have them contact me at the Symposium or by email.

Legislative — Matt King (sent the following via e-mail):
The USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has released a list of 59 plants for it’s Not Authorized Pending Pest Risk Analysis (NAPPRA). Comments are due July 5, 2013. I haven’t had the chance to look it over yet but if I feel that we need to comment I’ll send out an email with our comments for review by the Board.

Strategic Plan — No update.

Checklists — Sherry Williams
Sherry wants to discontinue the Symposium Checklists. They are too complicated and are not being used consistently. She suggested a Conference Committee assigning some tasks such as printing signs for the symposium, etc. Karen thought we should keep the checklist as it is a useful tool and took a lot of work to put together. It was agreed to send it out once per year but not be a quarterly agenda item.

Membership — Sherry Williams
Sherry reported 91 members but the number does not take into account the annual meeting registration.

Finance — Ellen Allen (No update)

Nominations — Jim Burney
The four nominees for the board are Gayle Edwards, Geof Lane, Cheryl Millet and Alicia Campanella.
Their bios were in the last newsletter. We will vote on accepting the slate during the annual business meeting.

**Outreach** — Christen Mason
The FLEPPC display has gone to 3 different events. Christen will send a report. She will also purchase a new display as the existing one is too heavy and too large and costs a lot to ship.

**Silent Auction** — Christen Mason
Christen has received numerous items and will set them out in the vendor room with the bidding slips. The auction will end after the last session on Tuesday and winners will pick up their items at the social.

**Budget**
The exact status of the budget is unknown. The next board meeting will be a budget meeting.

**Plant Liaison Committee** — Vacant
Sandra Wilson might be a good nominee and Aimee Cooper will approach her. Gary Knox in Quincy might also be good; the SOP is online.

**SE-EPPC**
Dianne wants to know why SE-EPPC files their taxes by calendar year when both FLEPPC and SE-EPPC budget by fiscal year (Oct/Sept).

**Fishing Tournament** — Jim Cuda/Tony Pernas
Two categories will be awarded: trash fish and game fish. Tony will recruit prizes when he recruits sponsors for the scholarship prize (kayak); he will purchase two prizes for the tournament. Jim Cuda said a sign-up sheet would be at the registration desk and the tournament will take place after the social.

**Task Force Reports**

**Brazilian Pepper** — Jim Cuda
A Biocontrol Workshop was organized by Don Schmitz this year due to the genetic diversity issue in Florida and also the difficulty in finding natural enemies that will not attack pistachio. Jim Cuda submitted a written report. Jim is getting industry interest in helping with funding for biocontrol. Also may be getting more FWC funding. They may be on the cusp of getting an insect passed by the TAG group. A full report was submitted separately; contact Jim Cuda at jcuda@ufl.edu for a copy of the report.

**Australian Pine** — Tony Pernas
Tony announced the release of the Australian Pine Management Plan (*Casuarina equisetifolia*). Chuck will post it on the website and Tony will send a note to the FLEPPC list-serv. A vote was taken to approve the management plan and it was unanimously approved. See [http://www.fleppc.org/publications.htm](http://www.fleppc.org/publications.htm).

**Old World Climbing Fern** — LeRoy Rodgers/Kristina Serbesoff-King
Management plan is in place but it should be updated to reflect current information. Kris Serbesoff-King stated that managers just want to know how to control a problem species rather than reading a large document. See [http://www.fleppc.org/publications.htm](http://www.fleppc.org/publications.htm).

**Chinese Tallow** — Vacant
Drew Leslie has retired so Tony will ask Greg Wheeler to take over.

**Melaleuca** — Francois Laroche
Francois Laroche hasn’t reported in a long time; he might wish to update the plan that was completed awhile ago.
Operations

Old Business:
2014 Symposium planning: Location somewhere in Naples – Jhanna (MPG) will look at options. We will again be cohosting with the FL Chapter of The Wildlife Society. Theme will probably be aquatics. UF-IFAS Aquatic Weed Short Course 2014 will be May 5-8. Karen stated that the Short Course is attended by more than 400 plant managers in south Florida and it is important not to conflict with that meeting. It would also be detrimental for vendors if the meetings conflicted. The Short Course is largely devoted to aquatics but only plants, not other taxa.

FISP Grant: Kris Serbesoff-King went over the new FLEPPC/FISP CISMA Grant RFP. She asked for permission to submit the RFP. The concept was embraced at the last meeting. Dennis motioned that we allot $1,500 per year to fund the Grant and RFP. Karen seconded. Kris suggested that a committee be formed with 3 FLEPPC and 3 FISP members. Dennis or Kris will announce it tomorrow at the opening session. The motion was unanimously approved.

New Business:

Aimee Cooper set up a social media suite with Twitter and Facebook and encouraged all to participate.

Adjourned: 4:30 PM.

Minutes from FLEPPC Business Meeting
Panama City Beach, Florida – Edgewater Beach Resort
May 23, 2013

Minutes taken by Sherry Williams

Dennis Giardina made a motion to accept the slate of nominations for new board members Cheryl Millet, Gayle Edwards, Alicia Campanella and Geof Lane, and chair-elect, Sherry Williams. The motion was seconded by Karen Brown and was unanimously accepted.

Debi Stone mentioned a website where FLEPPC could sell our merchandise with very little cost to us. She will get with Tony Pernas to discuss this website. Karen mentioned that FLEPPC used to sell merchandise on our own website but discontinued this because of something to do with our non-profit status.

Sherry suggested purchasing an I-phone credit card swiper or something similar to use at future conferences so that we could take credit or debit cards for merchandise sales. Geof Lane volunteered to research this – either a card swiper or a tablet.

Dennis Giardina announced our next annual conference location as Naples in conjunction with the Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society.

We need to set the next 3 board meeting dates via e-mail as we did not have time to do this during the business meeting.

Dennis Giardina motioned that we adjourn the annual business meeting and Karen Brown seconded. Meeting adjourned at 10:03 AM.