

Exotic pest plants are a multi-faceted problem and managing them requires a multi-faceted approach. This issue of *Wildland Weeds* features many of those approaches so necessary to the full frontal attack required to subdue exotic pest plants in natural areas of the southeastern U.S. Read the amusing yet serious warning letter from Dan Ward on cat's-claw vine; the applied research article by Jim Miller focusing on Chinese privet; volunteer efforts against air potatoes; the new 2005 FLEPPC Plant List together with a brief introduction to other plant lists and assessment tools being developed and used today; an article on innovative incentives being offered to property owners in Palm Beach County for the removal of exotic pest plants; a note on the dedication of a brand new biological control quarantine facility which will speed up the process of finding effective biocontrol agents; a report on the successful TAME Melaleuca field days (or Melapaleuza); and finally, an article on what one university is doing to prepare graduate students to face the challenges of fighting exotic pest plants on multiple fronts, and in cooperation with other disciplines, in the future.

Please note that the 2005 FLEPPC Plant List is in the centerfold of the magazine so that it can be detached and saved for future reference. Additional copies are available in this format, a pamphlet form is available, and lower resolution copies in various formats can be downloaded and printed from the FLEPPC website. Also hot off the press are pamphlets on the devastating Australian pine trees (*Casuarina equisetifolia*). Visit the FLEPPC website or contact me to obtain copies of any of this literature.

FLEPPC celebrated its 20th anniversary at the annual symposium in Key West last month. Almost 200 people attended the 3-day event which consisted of one day of field trips throughout the lower Keys and two full days of presentations. We also gained our 300th member! We extended our appreciation and bid farewell to second year outgoing board members Rob Egan, Amy Ferriter, Matt King and Chris Lockhart. We welcome the following new members to the FLEPPC Board of Directors:

FLEPPC Board of Directors – New Members



Scott Ditmarsen has a Master's degree in Forestry from the University of Minnesota and an M.B.A. in Finance from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He is a Senior Sales Specialist in Industrial Vegetation Management for Dow AgroSciences. Scott has been an active member of several Weed Science Societies, the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council, and the Florida Vegetation Management Association.



Jon Lane is a biologist with the US Army Corps of Engineers, Invasive Species Management section in Jacksonville. Jon also has worked for the US Fish and Wildlife Service and The Peace Corps. He received his Master's degree in Agriculture and Natural Resource Economics from Colorado State University.



Tony Pernas, National Park Service, Florida and Caribbean Office, Palmetto Bay, Florida. Tony is the coordinator for the Florida/Caribbean Exotic Plant Management Team. He received his Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Studies from Florida International University.



We also welcome **Alison Fox** as our Chair Elect. Alison will take over the helm from Jim Burney in 2006. Alison describes herself as an alien invader of Florida, having arrived from Great Britain in 1987 after earning a Ph.D. in Botany from the University of Glasgow. She started at the University of Florida as a post-doctoral associate working on aquatic plant biology and control and has evolved into an Associate Professor conducting research on invasive plants in aquatic, wetland, and terrestrial habitats in Florida and the US Virgin Islands. Alison is a Past-President of the national Aquatic Plant Management Society and has served on the Board of Directors of the Florida Aquatic Plant Management Society, the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council, and the Weed Science Society of America. She is currently enjoying a six-month sabbatical at the University of Washington in Seattle but looks forward to returning to Florida refreshed and invigorated in August 2005.



Paul Pratt earned a Ph.D. in Entomology from Oregon State University. He is a scientist at the USDA/ARS Invasive Plant Research Lab where he conducts biological control research and serves as Project Director of TAME Melaleuca.