

FLEPPC Symposium a Smash Hit!

Invasion of the Habitat Snatchers — the seed is planted was a smash hit at its spring screening in early May on the Cocoa Beach space coast. More than 180 attendees were present. The star-studded crowd included David Lodge (University of Notre Dame), who provided the keynote address on the assessment of invasion risks. In addition to interesting papers and posters, there was a risk assessment panel session and several workshops. These included a workshop on Cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMAs — an important new development in Florida) led by guest speaker Jim Olivarez (USDA Forest Service) and Kathy O'Reilly Doyle (US Fish & Wildlife Service), and a “Techie’s Workshop” with Alison Higgins (The Nature Conservancy Florida Keys) that demonstrated useful gadgets in monitoring, assessment, and data management.

A Natural Area Weed Management training session helped prepare participants for their certification exam for restricted use pesticide applicators on the final day.

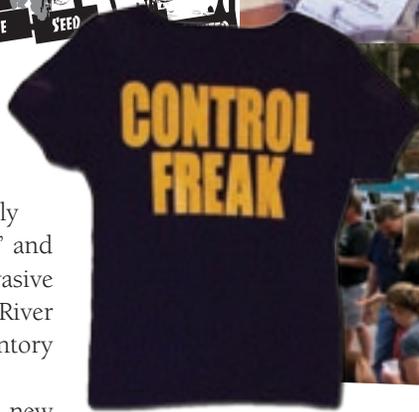
Reports from the half-day field trips were highly favorable, whether it was Brazilian pepper-bustin’ and rocket history at Cape Canaveral Air Force Base, invasive plant management at Sebastian Inlet and Indian River Lagoon Preserve State Parks, or vegetation inventory techniques in Lori Wilson County Park.

This Symposium also saw the roll-out of the new online FLEPPC database format at: <http://www.fleppc.org/EDDMapS/> which is based on the SE-EPPC Early Detection and Distribution Mapping System. Chuck Barger and Sarah Braun introduced the new system, which includes maps, a much improved

reporting page, and many more useful features. This is a very important resource, particularly for tracking “newer” species that are increasing in abundance, but it needs everyone’s site record contributions to keep the system up-to-date. Chuck Barger will write about EDDMapS in detail in the Fall issue of *Wildland Weeds*.

Plaques of appreciation were given to outgoing Past-Chair Jim Burney and Directors Scott

Ditmarsen, Jon Lane, Paul Pratt, and Tony Pernas. Chair-Elect Dan Clark was welcomed to the FLEPPC Board, as well as Directors Alyssa Jacobs (Seminole Tribe of Florida), Jennifer Possley (Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden), Jonathan Taylor (National Park Service), and Sandra Vardaman (Alachua County Environmental Protection Department). LeRoy Rodgers received the Member of the Year Award for his tireless work as Symposium Program Chair. Plaques



also were presented to Kris Serbesoff-King (former Treasurer), Jackie Smith (former mailing list coordinator), and Jim Duquesnel (former Training Coordinator) in recognition of exceptional service to FLEPPC.

Recipients of the FLEPPC Advocate of the Year (non-member) Award were Jim Krakowski (retired) and Layne Hamilton (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) who were nominated by Dennis Giardina in recognition of their roles in creating and expanding the annual Exotic Species Workshop for Southwest Florida.

Proceeds from a silent auction and a raffle, for which the donated prizes were a digital range-finder and a GPS unit, will go towards FLEPPC Education activities. The outdoor social and banquet (rocking with *The Weeds*) made the most of the fine location and perfect weather. If you missed us this year, please think about joining us in 2008. The tentative meeting site is Jacksonville, Florida.

A cause for pause...
“Since I was getting queries about the room rate, I called the hotel directly. The person that answered was very helpful... once I clarified that the conference was not for the ‘Exotic Breast Implant Council.’”

