

# 18th Annual FLEPPC Symposium a Success!

The 18th Annual Symposium of the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council took place June 5-6 at the beautiful and historic Renaissance Vinoy Resort in St. Petersburg. “Success, What Does It Take?” was the theme and, by all accounts, we found out. Interesting and informative presentations told stories of success including forest restoration in Miami ten years following the Hurricane Andrew disaster, coordination among all stakeholders as a key tool to success in a control program, successful battles against Old World Climbing Fern at the Avon Park Air Force Range and Cogon grass control in the Withlacoochee State Forest. These were followed by a full session of positive presentations on biological control options. Also described was a non-native plant student outreach program culminating in a successful Air Potato Raid. Kathy Burks and Ken Langeland presented an extremely popular invasive plant identification session, followed by a useful session on vegetation control equipment

and how to maintain it. Phil Waller followed up with a presentation on planning a control program with herbicides. The final event of the meeting was a morning of Restricted Use Pesticide (RUP) Core training, followed by the RUP licensing tests. The conference was attended by 154 people, with participation from 15 vendors.

The annual business meeting saw the departure of board members JB Miller, Tom Fucigna, Kathy Burks, and Jim Burney, and the installation of new board members Robert Egan, Chris Lockhart, Amy Ferriter, and Matthew King. Dr. Patrick Gleason (see below) of the South Florida Water Management District was awarded “*FLEPPC Advocate of the Year*,” and Karen Brown was awarded “*FLEPPC Member of the Year*” for her work as editor of *WILDLAND WEEDS*. Mr. Jim Burney was elected Chair for the upcoming year. A new public relations committee was formed with Tom Fucigna and Katy Roberts volunteering their time and energy for this important task.

## Special thanks to our vendors:

- ▶ BASF
- ▶ DOW AGROSCIENCES
- ▶ DUPONT IVM
- ▶ PROSOURCE ONE
- ▶ CEREXAGRI
- ▶ HELENA CHEMICAL
- ▶ SEPRO
- ▶ UAP TIMBERLAND LLC
- ▶ AQUATIC VEGETATION CONTROL
- ▶ BREWER INTERNATIONAL
- ▶ CHEMICAL CONTAINERS
- ▶ NATURCHEM
- ▶ PANDION SYSTEMS
- ▶ SYNGENTA
- ▶ NATURAL RESOURCE PLANNING SERVICES

## Thank You, Dr. Gleason



Dr. Patrick Gleason was named the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council’s “Advocate of the Year,” by chair Mike Bodle at the 2003 annual meeting in St. Petersburg. Dr. Gleason has a long history of environmental action in Florida. During the past four years, while serving as a governing board member of the South Florida Water Management District, he fought to

keep invasive plant management issues a priority for that agency, as well as other environmental organizations in which he is active. In 2003, Dr. Gleason supported torpedograss management in Lake Okeechobee and he lobbied tirelessly for Old World climbing fern control both in Florida and at the national level. He made numerous presentations on exotic plant issues, with special emphasis on Old World climbing fern, to many groups, including the Everglades Coalition, National Invasive Weeds Awareness Week attendees, and the Greater Everglades

Ecosystem Restoration science conference. Dr. Gleason has continually lent his voice to many other forums seeking consistent funding for all aspects of invasive weed problems in South Florida. He spends many hours lobbying in Washington, Tallahassee and behind the scenes, seeking to keep invasive plant management in the spotlight for Florida’s environmental planners and policymakers. He is a regular guest on a popular Palm Beach County talk radio station where he articulates the often complex issues and repeats a mantra that environmental restoration cannot happen in Florida without finding solutions to invasive plant infestations.

Dr. Gleason is a Florida native whose undergraduate studies at the University of Notre Dame in Indiana’s frozen north convinced him to make his career back in his home state. He was employed at the SFWMD for many years as a senior environmental engineer and is currently a lead environmental engineer at Camp Dresser and McKee, Inc.

Thank you, Dr. Gleason, from the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council!