

Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area of Lake County Meeting Notes

July 7, 2009

9:30 a.m.

Trout Lake Nature Center

Steering Committee Members Present:

Lauren Brothers (Lake Co. Public Lands), Patricia Burgos (Lake Co. Water Authority), Nadine Foley (Florida Native Plant Society and Lake Co. Soil & Water Conservation District), Ben Gugliotti (Lake Co. Water Authority), Bruce Jagers (FWC), Chris Matson (TNC), Chris Otremba (DOF), Wendy Poag (Lake Co. Parks & Trails), Rosalind Rowe (TNC), Lavon Silvernell (Trout Lake Nature Center), Nathalie Visscher (FWC).

- Website Update: The Lake County CISMA webpage being built by Florida Invasive Species Partnership is still under construction, but looking good.
<http://www.floridainvasives.org/demo/> Some of the links on the page for which we do not have information include “Distribution Maps”, “Species Information”, and “Educational Resources”. The species information page will be using the FLEPPC list for now, but it was determined that the page is meant to highlight specific focal species. There is a calendar on the site that can be used to post meeting and event dates. Nathalie Visscher will be taking over management of the website and will have her contact information posted on the page. Patricia also requested that the Lake County Water Authority logo be replaced with the updated one for the “Partners” link.
- Workdays: Potential workdays were discussed.
 - a. City of Eustis – Bruce has been the contact person for setting up a work day with the City of Eustis. It was reported that the City may not recognize the importance of eradicating invasives from their properties. Chris Otremba volunteered to try and arrange an invasives presentation at the Ag Center specifically for City personnel. Lake County’s Green Team would also benefit from this presentation.
 - b. Wedgewood – Nadine gave an update regarding the Wedgewood development in unincorporated Lake County. Aaron Levine had applied for a grant to aid in the removal of invasives in the community, but did not receive the grant. Lavon volunteered to contact Aaron to find out how the CISMA may be able to offer assistance.
 - c. Lauren mentioned that Linda Bystrak had met a caretaker of a historic cemetery that was looking for help with invasives in the cemetery. There have also been scrub-jays seen at the cemetery. The caretakers name and number had been forwarded to USFWS which may be able to provide assistance. Everyone agreed that this may be a good work day project. Lauren will contact the caretaker.
- Native Alternatives list: Wendy suggested developing a Lake County specific “Alternatives” list. This would provide a resource for people looking for similar looking native plants to replace invasives in their landscape. A plant list for birds that was developed by the Florida Native Plant Society and a plant substitution

guide for south Florida were passed around as examples of how the alternatives list could be formatted. It was also mentioned that the information collected for this list would also be useful in a separate publication dealing with invasive identification and what plants they may be confused with. It was decided to schedule another meeting in 3-4 weeks for a subcommittee to work on the plant list. It was also suggested to contact Teresa Watkins with SJRWMD to see if she already had an alternatives list and where to she directs people to get them.

- Green Thumb Certification: The development of a Green Thumb Certification program for retail nurseries was discussed. A few pages from the Keys CISMA Green Thumb website were passed out (introduction, and certification checklist). Nadine mentioned that there are not many nurseries that stock much of a selection of native plants, but to check with someone from AFNN (possibly Terry Godts) about their new tag program. Patricia noted that it would be hard for anyone to find the time to inspect the nurseries for their certification. It was suggested to contact Charles Fedunak of the IFAS extension office to see if they have some type of similar program. Chris Matson mentioned that more nurseries may be willing to participate in something like this if the certification is structured in such a way that it gives different levels of certification and leaves room for improvement, instead of having to meet an entire list of criteria at once. More data will need to be gathered and discussed at the next quarterly CISMA meeting. It was also mentioned that it would be helpful to get the insight and participation of Charles Fedunak and Terry Godts at the next meeting.
- Wendy asked the group if they think the CISMA should have a booth at the next Lake County Green Fair and Mount Dora Plant Sale in November. Everyone agreed and added that at least there could be someone there that could represent the CISMA and hand out information at other booths.
- “Weed Warriors” volunteer group: The formation of a volunteer group that could be trained and certified to pull invasive weeds on their own schedules was discussed. A group could be formed that would be given permission to pull invasives on public and possibly private lands. Lauren suggested that it might be possible for the group to be filtered through Volunteer Lake. Someone suggested asking FISP about the liability issues associated with going onto private property. The group decided that this is something that may be pursued in the future.
- An Aquatic Invasive Exotics workshop was discussed. Patricia and Nathalie said that they would be able to help plan a workshop for October that would discuss rules & regulations and identification of aquatic invasives. Patricia said she would look into scheduling it at the Ag center. We would also like to offer CEUs for this program.
- Rosalind Rowe gave a brief update on the Green Swamp CISMA and the Central Florida Lygodium Strategy.

Action Items:

Who	What
Lauren	Switch website contact to Nathalie
Patricia	Email new LCWA logo to replace on website
Chris Otremba	Get speaker for presentation, set up at Ag Center and possibly for Lake County Green Team
Chris Otremba	Contact City of Eustis about Camphor Tree being on approved list.
Lavon	Call Aaron Levine for more info. regarding Wedgewood work day.
Lauren	Send Chris Otremba Lake County landscaping plant list to review.
Lauren	Call caretaker at historic cemetery to see if he is interested in help from CISMA and USFWS.
Wendy	Contact Teresa Watkins of SJRWMD about plant lists (what she recommends and where to get them).
Lauren	Schedule subcommittee meeting to develop Alternatives List for Lake County and email "Native Plants for Birds" list.
Lauren	Contact AFNN for info. about where native plants are offered and about tag program. (Terry Godts) Also, ask to come to next meeting to discuss "greenthumb" nursery certification.
Lauren	Contact Charles Fedunak about a "greenthumb" nursery certification (are there similar programs?).
Lauren	Contact FISP about liability issues when going onto public properties, (CISMA members or volunteers).
Patricia	Call Ag Center about scheduling an Aquatic Invasives Workshop in October.