

## **CISMA of Lake County Meeting Notes for March 17, 2009 at Trout Lake Nature Center**

**Attendees:** Bruce Jagers (FWC), Nathalie Visscher (FWC/Invasive Plant Sect.), Nadine Foley (LS&WCD), Lavon Silvernell (TLNC), Ben Gugliotti (LCWA), Chris Matson (TNC), Mike Martin (DOF), Kim Higgins (DEP/Lake Griffin S.P.), Amy Copeland (DEP/FPS), Alice Bard (DEP/FPS), Lauren Brothers (Lake County), Rosalind Rowe (TNC)

1. The results of the emailed survey were discussed. The most important goal according to the survey results was “Public Education” followed by “Monitoring/Identification Training” and “Grants for Treatment”.
2. The process by which the group will make decisions was discussed. It was decided that decision by consensus seemed to be working and that it would be revisited should the group become larger and the need arise.
3. The subject of geographic boundaries was revisited. The general boundary is to be Lake County. The group will undertake projects that overlap the county boundary and where they make logical sense such as areas in the Green Swamp or the Lake George area. It was also pointed out that there will be members of the group that can keep everyone informed of the goings on with the Green Swamp Lygodium Prevention group as well as the Central Florida Invasive Species Working Group. The Green Swamp Lygodium Prevention group has current plans to distribute flyers and information to the cooperative extension offices.
4. The group was asked whether or not they would like to focus on a particular species. Several suggestions were made including cogongrass, natal grass, Lygodium, Brazilian pepper, Chinese tallow, tropical soda apple, and Mexican petunia. It was decided that a survey would be sent out to poll the committee on how many focal species and which ones there should be if any.
5. Conducting a pilot project/work day was discussed.
  - Nadine Foley mentioned that a potential project could be the removal of exotic invasives for the Wedgewood Homeowners Association if they do not receive the grant they applied for to rid the community of invasives and replant.
  - Mike Martin suggested asking environmentally/agriculturally focused groups for 5 minutes after their meetings to discuss invasives and the CISMA of Lake County.
  - Lavon Silvernell suggested informing organizations that we have presentations that we could conduct for them.

- Chris Matson recommended starting a green thumb certification for local nurseries that meet particular criteria.
6. Nathalie Visscher brought in several stacks of educational materials on identification and treatments. Everyone agreed that it would be best to use existing printed materials for the time being. Ben Gugliotti suggested eventually using more specialized Lake County information, the cost of producing such materials could possibly be covered by sponsors.
  7. The current goals of the group were recapped.
    - Public Education
    - Work days & pilot projects
    - ID Training

Chris Matson suggested having someone write more specific verbiage that focused on the group's goals. Rosalind Rowe stated that she could gather some of the other CISMA's goal and mission statements to use as examples.

8. It was decided that a large Invasive Exotic Identification workshop be held in May. The workshop would consist of having a keynote speaker discuss CISMAs in the beginning followed by a "field trip" around Trout Lake Nature Center to identify various invasive species. Lavon Silvernell suggested finding a way to provide food for everyone as well, even if it meant doing a potluck. Chris Matson suggested giving a little quiz at the end of the identification training for which people could win prizes. Rosalind Rowe said that she could donate some prizes for the event. Rosalind Rowe was asked to invite either Kristina Serbesoff-King or Erin Myers from the Nature Conservancy as the keynote speaker.

The ID workshop is tentatively scheduled for either May 6<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup>. This workshop will serve as a way to bring more people to the table. Target potential partners include: garden clubs, wholesale and private nurseries, FDACS – plant industry, horse farms/equestrian clubs, Cattlemen's association, representatives from the cities, Department of Transportation, UF extension personnel (Martha Thomas, Charles Feduniak, and Juanita Popenoe), Florida Nursery Growers & Landscape Association, and private landowners.

9. Website development was discussed. Nathalie Visscher expressed her interest in undertaking the two hour training for developing a CISMA of Lake County website through the Florida Invasive Species Partnership.

The next steering committee meeting will be held on April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2 pm at Trout Lake Nature Center.