

Update on Previous FISC CISMA Grants

2024 – Bay County Conservancy Air Potato Education and Outreach (\$1500)

The aim of this project is public outreach. We hope to educate the public about air-potatoes and the importance of removing invasive species to foster healthy, native ecosystems. It is our hope that our volunteers will learn to recognize and remove this invasive plant on a larger scale than we can do now. We plan to conduct in-person outreach to educate and increase awareness about invasive species as well as recruit volunteers to help us in our removal efforts. We will continue our efforts to remove air-potatoes from our local ecosystems helping to manage the spread of the invasive species through our air-potato roundup workdays with the help of community volunteers we hope to reach through the supplies funded by this grant. We are collaborating with a professor of Entomology at UF Gainesville who is interested in the air potato bulbils we collect for their research project. In addition to recruiting volunteers to help our cleanup efforts, we will educate them on identifying and removing invasive species so that they can continue the work in their areas, hopefully with their neighbors. We have plans to collaborate with volunteers from Publix and Rutherford High School as part of our community outreach.

2023 – Pinellas County Invasive Tree Education Campaign (\$1500)

Pinellas County UF/IFAS Extension Office and Pinellas County Public Works Department are developing an invasive tree education campaign. The educational campaign will emphasize preventative practices, encourage the use of Florida-friendly or native trees and provide management strategies for invasive trees. Both Pinellas County UF/IFAS Extension and Pinellas County Public Works Department are dedicated to improving Florida's lands, waters, and wildlife as well as the quality of life for our residents. Our team has implemented education campaigns before including an Adopt-A-Pond Program, Adopt-A-Storm Drain Program and provide educational resources for Florida-friendly landscaping, mosquito control, water quality and stormwater education. Our group is excited to develop an invasive tree education campaign that will provide citizens with the knowledge and resources needed to implement change on their own property. Pinellas County is ranked the 7th most populous in the state with close to one million residents and had approximately 20 million visitors to Pinellas County parks and preserves in 2021. Along with our local county residents we hope to influence our visitors to expand education efforts across the state. Our team is currently developing education materials to assist with this campaign and we intend to hand out printed materials during our annual Arbor Day event, Lakes & Ponds Day, educational workshops, and class series, as well as keep the materials onsite at our local UF/IFAS extension office. Additionally, we would provide materials when requested by citizens, businesses, and homeowner associations. Lastly, we plan to showcase the material routinely on our social media platforms and house all electronic versions on our county webpage. This funding would be for the development and printing of educational materials created for the campaign including informational rack cards, brochure and identification key.

2022 – Central Florida CISMA Brochures (\$425)

This project will generate 2,500 folded brochures that will deliver fresh, updated information for invasive plant species identification and replace the decade old brochures that were previously delivered out to the public at large in central Florida counties: Seminole and Orange. The brochure will discuss topics of invasive plant species that will educate the public on need for removal and resources they can use to participate in. The species covered in the brochure will mainly focus on invasive species citizens would likely encounter in Central Florida, such as, Brazilian pepper, Chinese tallow, bottlebrush, coral ardisia, tuberous sword fern, bowstring hemp and Surinam cherry. The Central Florida CISMA members have many opportunities to educate the public one on one through various events and this method of outreach gives the citizens of Orange and Seminole county tangible resources.

2021 – Two Grants were Awarded

East Central Florida CISMA (\$1279.70): An identification and management guide titled *East Central Florida Invasive Plants for Early Detection and Rapid Response* will be created, printed in limited quantities and distributed among the vegetation management industry in East Central Florida (Putnam, Flagler, Volusia and Brevard Counties). The guide will be comprehensive and include photographs, identification characteristics, and management recommendations for all the current ECF CISMA Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) target plant species as well as the ones listed on the “To be watched” list for our region. Content will be created by ECF CISMA leaders and designed by the University of Florida/IFAS Communications graphic design team. In addition to the printed copies of the reference guide, a link to the PDF file will be available online.

Osceola CISMA (\$1059.00): Four organizations are cooperating on this project: Osceola CISMA, UF/IFAS Osceola Extension, the Florida Forest Service, and Osceola County Community Development. The project is focused on educating owners of residential properties in Osceola county about the importance of removing invasive plants from the landscape. A one-hour class will be offered which will cover identification of non-native invasive plants, primarily *Schinus terebinthifolia* (Brazilian Pepper), and discuss different methods of control/eradication. After completing the class attendees will receive herbicide in a spray bottle; the Herbicide label with information about its proper use; a list of required PPE and safety practices; and care and operation of the sprayer. After the homeowners have treated the Brazilian Pepper growing in their yard they are asked to return any unused herbicide to UF/IFAS Osceola Extension.

2020 – COVID cancelled everything!!!

2019 – Everglades CISMA EDRR Brochure (\$850)

This project will produce 400 copies of a 16-page double sided color booklet with identification tips and look-a-like species for ECISMA’s EDRR plants species, as submitted to FISP, and other plant species that were designated additional EDRR species in a breakout session during the 2017 ECISMA summit. The 28 plants in the booklet are either known to be invasive in areas with similar habitats to that of the ECISMA footprint, are found just outside of the ECISMA region, or occur in only a few isolated populations within the ECISMA footprint. This booklet will be designed to be useful for all ECISMA members, not just botanists. Photos will be clear and plants will be described using plain English, with limited botanical terms. Each species description will include the plant growth habit, key features, preferred habitat and plants that it could be confused with. The booklet will be distributed to ECISMA members and others who spend time in the field. ECISMA has many members that are regularly in the field working on fauna-related projects. Most of these folks would not necessarily notice a new or unusual plant. This guide will help members to be on the lookout for these plants of concern. Because it will be small it can easily fit in a backpack or glove compartment and will increase the likelihood that a novel plant population will be discovered before it has a chance to become established.

2018 – Six Rivers CISMA Beach Vitex Project

2017 – Central Florida CISMA Oakland Nature Preserve (ONP) Education and Invasive Plant Treatments

Due to late summer rains in Orange County, monthly herbicide treatments were not completed as planned, only three have been conducted to date. A treatment of Garlon 4, glyphosate and glyphosate mix with Garlon 3A was targeted towards Brazilian pepper, camphor tree, Chinese tallow tree, paper mulberry, and Guinea grass in the Sinkhole and Bird Blind areas of the Preserve. A follow-up treatment of glyphosate was

used on primrose willow, jasmine and balsam pear in the Jasmine Cove area, and a third treatment targeting Guinea- and Natal grass was done in early September, just before Hurricane Irma moved towards Florida. Much-needed treatments will continue throughout the restored upland habitats, and along the edges of the forested wetlands.

In addition to the generous funding provided by FLEPPC, various other partnerships, along with a strong volunteer assistance, continue to make this project a success. ONP anticipates a large attendance for the upcoming Invasive Plant Educational Seminar, which is being drafted and will be presented to the public in early 2018. The educational event will help to teach members of the public how to identify key invasive, native and listed species present on the property, discuss the impacts of invasive species, and highlight the existence of FLEPPC and FISP and their initiatives.

2016 – Two Grants were Awarded

Osceola CISMA (\$800.00): Promoting Membership and Engaging Partners in Osceola County. The Osceola CISMA designed and printed assorted outreach materials. These materials included; an “alternatives” brochure to complement our display, an “about the CISMA” brochure to educate the public about what we do, and business cards so home and landowners know how to contact us with invasive species questions. The funding also supported four education short courses designed to educate city and county workers about EDRR and priority invasive species as well as providing an opportunity to gain CEUs.

Suncoast CISMA (\$533): Community Comes Together to Remove Invasive Trees: An Example of Cooperation, Volunteerism and Multiplication.) Imagine several diverse groups coming together to fight for a common cause. It took seed money, scratching backs and appealing to pride to jointly eliminate the scourge of the Brazilian pepper (*Schinus terebinthifolia*) at the Shores of Long Bayou Condominiums. Within their 77-acre nature reserve, the wetlands committee turned an area overgrown with peppers threatening the mangroves into a charming picnic setting on the banks of Snowy Egret Lake. They networked eight groups consisting of the Tampa Bay Estuary Program, other condo communities, individual donors, volunteer workers, Keep Pinellas Beautiful Adopt-A-Shoreline, excess mulch from tree-trimmers, and the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council and Florida Invasive Species Partnership (FLEPPC/FISP) to win the war in a seriously neglected area of their nature reserve.

2015 – Two Grants were Awarded

Central Florida CISMA (\$795): Oakland Nature Preserve Invasive Plant Education and Workday. The Oakland Nature Preserve received a Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council (FLEPPC; now known as FISC) grant to treat exotic / invasive species along an area in the preserve known as the Red Trail. The target species for the exotic /invasive species treatments are cogon grass, natal grass, Guinea grass, balsam apple and praxelis. The treatment area encompasses an 11-acre area and the initial treatment was conducted in August 2014 and with the funding they received they were able to conduct 3 additional treatments on the target invasive species. Removal of these species will allow them to move forward with the restoration of this area into its historic community of Sandhill.

On February 27th, Oakland Nature Preserve and Orange County Environmental Protection Division will be hosting a program to school age child to educate them on the impacts of exotic / invasive species. A Power point presentation will be given followed by a scavenger hunt to see how many caterpillars each team can collect. The caterpillars will mark the exotic invasive species that have been discussed in the PowerPoint.

First Coast CISMA (\$760): Printing of *Invasive Plants You Should Know*. Through well established and attended year-round events with homeowners, as well as nursery and landscaping professionals, we have

been able to engage people further through the brochure, *Invasive Plants You Should Know* for northeast Florida, on the importance of identification and removal of invasive plants. Over the past six months we have disseminated over 500 brochures at St Johns County Agricultural Center programs, regional garden club meetings, library talks, and through Native Gardens Nursery events. As a link on Native Plant Consulting's website (www.nativeplantconsulting.com under Current Newsletter) and monthly electronic newsletter, the brochure is also downloadable for the public. Since first offering the brochure in our newsletter, the brochure has been downloaded 1,092 times! The grant has funded much-needed hard copies of the newsletter, which has been well received in our region.

2014 – Two Grants were Awarded

Southwest Florida CISMA (\$900): Keeping Weeds at Bay through Education and Outreach. With the awarded funds, the Southwest Florida CISMA hosted their first annual Grass ID Workshop in late September at the Immokalee IFAS Facility. It was extremely successful with 42 participants and over 30 on a waiting list! Additionally, they have printed 200 educational handouts, some of which were distributed at two recent outreach events. They are also planning the Annual Invasive Species Workshop and will be purchasing additional outreach supplies to meet this need.

First Coast IWG (\$600): Yards to Parks: Building Community Partnerships to Prevent the Spread of Invasive Plants from Private Yards into Public Parks and Natural Areas. The Yard to Park (Y2P) program is a collaborative effort between local, state, and federal governments and private homeowners to combat the threat of invasive exotic plants spreading from private yards into parks and natural areas and was first began in November 2013 at Fort Clinch State Park. The 2014 CISMA grant (\$600) was received and funded the purchase of native Florida wildflower seeds, live native plants, printed materials including invasive plant ID flash card decks, and refreshments provided to the Y2P participants. It also funded yard signs that each participant receives that state, "Invasive exotic plants know no boundaries. We remove invasive plants from our yard to protect Florida's parks." Since November 2013, five Y2P programs have been provided: three at Fort Clinch State Park, one at Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve, and one at the City of Fernandina Beach Greenway.

2013 – Two Grants were Awarded

Central Florida CISMA (\$1,000): Oakland Nature Preserve/Central Florida CISMA Invasive Plant Treatment and Mapping Workday. The Central Florida CISMA successfully GPS mapped all upland infestations on the Oakland Nature Preserve (ONP). Additionally, the CISMA provided initial and follow-up treatments including an amazing amount of work provided by CISMA member, Clark Modica. The CISMA also provided a backpack sprayer to ONP for ongoing control. The details are expected to be provided in a presentation at the 2015 FLEPPC Conference.

Suncoast CISMA (\$500): CISMAS Sow the Seeds of Change. After receiving input from across the state, two beautiful "floor to ceiling" educational posters were developed and printed as well as brochures. The themes include supporting your local CISMA as well as problem species within the Suncoast CISMA. One poster will be available for conferences and outreach and the second will be rotated amongst the IFAS Extension Offices. These results were presented at the 2014 joint conference with The Wildlife Society and FLEPPC.