

## **FLEPPC Hosts 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Symposium in Jacksonville, Florida**

Jacksonville, FL: The Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council will hold its 23rd annual symposium this spring in Jacksonville, Florida. The symposium will take place from Monday, April 21<sup>st</sup> through Thursday, April 24<sup>th</sup> 2008 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel along the St. Johns River at the Jacksonville-Riverfront. A limited block of rooms has been reserved for the conference, so be sure to register early for the best rates!

The conference promises to be another blockbuster with the latest information on a variety of topics related to invasive species in Florida. This year's theme is *Flora non grata*, a spoof of the diplomatic term "*Persona non grata*" (an unwelcome person) and highlights FLEPPC's desire to send unwelcome invasive plant species packing.

The FLEPPC Board of Directors is pleased to present this year's keynote speaker, **Dr. Bernd Blossey**, Associate Professor of Biology at Cornell University and Director of Cornell University's Invasive Plants Program. Dr. Blossey is a leading researcher in invasion biology who has focused much of his recent attention on quantifying impacts of invasive plants on native flora and fauna as well as biological control of non-indigenous plant species in natural areas.

Here's a preview of what you can look forward to at the Symposium:

- An array of presentations on the latest technology in invasive species control
- Updates on biological control research for Florida invasive plant species
- Exploring the intersections between invasive flora and fauna
- Information on new worrisome weeds to watch out for
- The latest on Cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMAs) throughout Florida
- Workshops on plant ID, technology, and natural areas weed management certification
- Local field trips to evaluate invasive plant management programs at Julington-Durbin Preserve and Kingsley Plantation as well as a tour of the Jacksonville Arboretum.
- Pesticide applicator CEUs will be offered
- ...and much more.

This year's banquet will be held at the Crowne Plaza. Entertainment will be provided by FLEPPC's favorite rock and roll band, The Weeds!

For the most up-to-date information on symposium schedules, field trips, workshops, and registration, please visit the Florida EPPC website at: <http://www.fleppc.org> or contact LeRoy Rodgers at [lrodgers@sfwmd.gov](mailto:lrodgers@sfwmd.gov).

### **Hotel Information:**

Crowne Plaza Hotel  
Jacksonville-Riverfront  
1201 Riverplace Blvd.  
Jacksonville, Fl 32207

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