

Symposium Field Trips - May 28, 2009

All field trips cost \$20 and include boxed lunch and transportation

Lunch: Please choose one sandwich option. Sandwiches will come with water or soft drink, chips and cookies and condiments on the side.

Option 1 Ham and cheese hoagie

Option 2 Turkey and cheese hoagie

Option 3 Chicken salad hoagie

Option 4 Tuna salad hoagie

Option 5 Vegetarian Pita (lettuce tomato, carrots, sprouts, spinach, cucumber)

Field Trips: Please choose one field trip option

Trip 1: Loxahatchee NWR/South Florida WMD

This multi-faceted tour will begin with a luncheon program at the Refuge Visitor Center and conclude with a tour of several WMD demonstration plots. Leaders will provide information regarding multiple types of herbicides applied at varying rates by different treatment techniques. Participants will learn which methods, herbicides and rates are most successful in controlling species such as Melaleuca, Java plum and Brazilian pepper. Documentation of results will be provided for all field trial plots. Water, bathrooms and gift shops available at both ends of the tour. Walking out to the trial plots could be muddy and brushy, but the plots can be viewed from the mowed levee. Bring sunscreen, bug repellent, a hat and your wallet for the gift shops. **Transportation: Bus; limit 49 participants**

Trip 2: Hands-On GPS Workshop/Delray Oaks Natural Area

The Delray Oaks Natural Area is a remnant sandbar on the northern edge of the historic Yamato Marsh. Now composed primarily of an oak hammock plant community, this natural area has ADA and natural trails and supports a few gopher tortoises. This hands-on field trip will focus on GPS operations in natural area management, including invasive plant and rare species mapping. It will begin at the hotel with a brief classroom orientation and wind up back at the hotel for a data download session. Trimble Geo-XT and Garmin GPSmap60 programmable hand-held GPS units will be provided. Participants will learn how to prepare the units for field work, use a data dictionary, and ID some common nuisance/invasive plants. Bring hat, comfortable shoes, sunscreen; watch out for poison ivy. Water provided.

Transportation: Vans provided; limit 15 participants

Trip 3: City of Boca Raton Beachside Parks/Gumbo Limbo Nature Center

Participants will visit four City of Boca Raton parks (Spanish River, Gumbo Limbo, Red Reef and South Beach). Urban recreation areas and preserves are all "edge" and usually heavily disturbed throughout. Many of Florida's worst landscape choices have been planted in the older parks. More recent acquisitions usually had some sort of prior development that included clearing and or landscaping – a legacy now inherited by the preserve managers. Yet, some rare natives and important communities remain, as well as an opportunity to restore and create habitat islands, and to teach in the process. In addition to exotics such as *Casuarina*, *Schinus*, *Scaevola*, *Tradescantia*, *Sanseveria*, *Ochrosia*, *Cupaniopsis*, and *Calophyllum* spp., we will view ongoing restoration and community participation projects. **Transportation: Vans provided by Gumbo Limbo; limit 24 participants**

Trip 4: Pondhawk and Yamato Natural Areas

The Yamato Scrub Natural Area is a 217 acre restored natural scrub environment located in southern Palm Beach County. Although primarily scrub, a restored wetlands basin can be seen by following the accessible part of the trail. Yamato and the 79-acre Pondhawk Natural Areas are dominated by sand pine scrub, scrubby flatwoods, hammock & disturbed marsh communities. Both of the sites are surrounded by large urban areas. Participants will experience the many land management challenges posed in this setting. Most of the large monocultures of exotics have been treated by mechanical & ground control methods, though many small, tough to control, species remain. Highlights include a planned & a completed wetland restoration project; and a planned & completed public use facility. Expect walking for 1 ½ hours at each site with frequent stops. Terrain is a mix of concrete walkways & soft sand trails. Water will be available. **Transportation: Vans provided by PBC; limit 22 participants**