

FLEPPC 2015 ANNUAL CONFERENCE
April 8 – 10, 2015
Melbourne, Florida



FIELD TRIPS – APRIL 9TH – 12:10 – 4:00 PM

I. Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge and Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge

Trip leader: Oliver Van Den Ende, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, oliver_vandenende@fws.gov

Pelican Island NWR has two major habitat-related projects. One is the restoration of maritime hammock following removal of citrus groves. Exotic treatments have helped reduce the intensity of mowing required to keep woody invasives under control. Additionally, it has helped reduce non-native grass cover.

The second large project is to continue to provide southeastern beach mouse habitat. Technically, this is not habitat restoration because we rely on exotics treatments and other management techniques to maintain old fields which the mouse colonized. However, the importance of this project can not be understated as Pelican Island Refuge supports the only known mouse population south of Sebastian Inlet.

Both these sites can be viewed from our office off 4055 Wildlife Way, Vero Beach.

At **Archie Carr NWR**, exotics treatments, in addition to other scrub management, has helped support one of the highest known gopher tortoise densities on the refuge. In addition, exotic treatments will help us restore a dune site where a structure was recently removed.

These 2 projects are located just north of Ponce de Leon Park on both sides of A1A (3930 and 3865 Highway A1A, Melbourne Beach).

II. Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge & Canaveral National Seashore

Trip leaders: Mike Legare from Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge and Kristin Kneifl from Canaveral National Seashore, kristen_kneifl@nps.gov

Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge headquarters are located five miles east of U.S. 1 in Titusville, Florida. The Refuge, which is an overlay of the John F. Kennedy Space Center, was established in 1963 to provide a buffer zone for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in the quest for space exploration. Approximately one half the Refuge's 140,000 acres consist of brackish estuaries and marshes. The remaining lands consist of coastal dunes, scrub oaks, pine forests and flatwoods, and palm and oak hammocks. Canaveral National Seashore, a National Park Service property, protects coastal shoreline on the central coast of Florida along with the associated coastal dune systems. Both properties have active invasive species removal programs in a variety of habitats. The field trip will take a look at past and active invasive species removal projects.