2022 Florida Rare Plant Task Force
Agenda

Thursday, April 28, 2022 (Day 1 of 2)

9:00-9:05  Welcome and conference overview with Cheryl Peterson and Jennifer Possley

Keynote Address


Session I - Assessments and state-wide collaborations
(25 minute presentations with 5 minutes for questions)

9:50-10:20  Sara Johnson, David Zaya, and Brenda Molano-Flores, Illinois Natural History Survey; and Janice Coons, Eastern Illinois University. “Reassessing the Conservation Status of Rare Species: A Case-study with *Macbridea alba*, a Florida Endemic Mint.”


10:50-11:00  Break

11:00-11:30  Group Discussion: annual discussion and information gathering for the Florida Plant Conservation Alliance. Led by Houston Sneed, Jacksonville Zoo and Botanical Gardens.


Noon-12:30  Lunch break (rare plant photo slide show)

Session II – Species research

12:30-1:00  Gina R. Hanko, Miami University; Vivian Negron-Ortiz, United States Fish and Wildlife Service; and Richard C. Moore, Miami University. “Using Genomic Analysis to Assess Diversity and Clonal Propagation of the Florida Skullcap (*Scutellaria floridana*).”

1:00-1:30  Sterling A. Herron, Haley Dole, Stephanie M. Koontz, Scott G. Ward, Aaron S. David, and Eric S. Menges, Archbold Biological Station. “Long-term persistence and fire effects on the rare scrub lichen *Cladonia perforata*.”

1:30-2:00  Jay Horn, Florida Gulf Coast University. “Title TBD.”
2:00-2:30 **Shawn C. McCourt** and **Sally M. Chambers**, Marie Selby Botanical Gardens. “Assessment and Conservation of the Aboriginal Prickly-Apple Cactus *Harrisia aboriginum*.”

2:30-2:40 **Break**


5:10-5:15 **Wrap-up and overview of tomorrow.**

**Friday, April 29, 2022 (Day 2 of 2)**

**Morning Field Trips**

9:00-Noon *In-person field trips throughout the state (see registration form).*

Noon-12:45 **Lunch break**

**Afternoon Poster Session**

(10 minute presentations with 5 minutes for questions)

12:45-12:50 **Introduction with Whitney Costner and Jennifer Possley**
12:50-1:05 **Haley E. Dole, Eric S. Menges and Aaron S. David**, Archbold Biological Station. “Rapid reestablishment of insect herbivory following fire on *Lyonia fruticosa*, an ericaceous shrub of the Florida scrub.”

1:05-1:20 **Jennifer Possley**, Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden; **Colleen Werner**, Florida Forest Service, Withlacoochee State Forest; and **Lindsey Riibe**, University of Florida. “Overview of recent rare fern collaborations.”

1:20-1:35 **Ella Segal** and **Aaron S. David**, Archbold Biological Station. “Characterizing the vertical structure of *Paronychia chartacea* and *Hypericum cumulicola* seed banks across habitats and disturbance histories in the Florida scrub.”

1:35-1:50 **Hyland Alfonso**, Ouachita Baptist University, **Cheryl Peterson**, Bok Tower Gardens, **Christin L. Pruett**, Ouachita Baptist University. “Genetic diversity and population structure of an endangered Florida endemic, *Warea amplexifolia*.”


2:05 – 2:15 **Break**


2:45-3:00 **Amber G. Gardner**, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, and **Héctor E. Pérez**, University of Florida. “*Harperocallis flava* seeds may exhibit interpopulation differences in storage physiology, showing signs of orthodox and intermediate storage behavior.”

3:00-3:15 **Danny Young**, Young Bear Environmental. “Microhabitat requirements of Rugel’s pawpaw, *Deeringothamnus rugelli*.”

3:15-3:30 **Sonali Saha**, Miami Dade College; **Erika Bonnema**, Miami Beach Botanical Garden; **Caroline Castro**, Phillip and Patricia Frost Museum of Science; and **Vanessa Diaz**. “Developing outreach to underscore the monumental role of coastal dunes of Miami Beach to the integrity of inland areas and ecosystems.”

3:30-3:45 **Syed Qadri**, South Florida State College; **Amanda Money**, University of Florida; and **Kate Calvin**, South Florida State College. “GC-MS Analysis of Bioactive Compounds in *Ziziphus celata*.”

3:45-4:00 **James Lange**, National Park Service; **George D. Gann**, The Institute for Regional Conservation; **Lydia Cuni**, Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden; **Hong Liu**, Florida International University; **Kristie Wendelberger**, Rodale Institute Southeast Organic Center; **Erick Revuelta**, St. Johns River Water Management District; **Alexander Antonio Marino Lemus**, Florida International University; and **Cara A. Rockwell** (presenter), Florida International University. “Assessment of post-hurricane shifts in a coastal plant community..."
and the decline of a federally listed threatened species at Northwest Cape Sable, Everglades National Park.”

4:00-4:15 Theresa Chormanski and David Fundora, Miami-Dade College. “Observations of Florida Native Fern Spore Germination and Sporophyte Formation.”

Wrap-up

4:15-4:45 Conference synopsis, review of resources and important dates for 2022, report from field trips, conference feedback, and ideas for next year. Discussion and questions from all attendees will be encouraged.

RPTF Field Trip Options
Meeting Day 2 - Friday, April 29, 2022

It is our recommendation that you wear a hat, sunscreen, long-sleeved shirts, long pants, and closed-toed sturdy shoes for these field trips. Even seasoned field botanists can get stung, poked, and/or poisoned by the local flora and fauna. Good clothes and a good sense of adventure can help make the experience more enjoyable. All field trips will abide by current CDC policies. Please bring a bottle of water. Lunch will not be provided.

Field Trip 1 – Longleaf Flatwoods Reserve Tour – Hawthorne, FL, Alachua County

Led by Grace Howell, Conservation Programs Coordinator at Alachua Conservation Trust (limited to 15 people)

Participants will enjoy a guided hike at Longleaf Flatwoods Reserve. The property was purchased cooperatively by the St. Johns River Water Management District and the Alachua County Forever Program to protect important water resources and wildlife habitat. The trail system meanders through a diversity of natural intact plant communities that include longleaf pine savanna, pitcher plant
wetlands, and arguably the best remaining longleaf flatwoods in Alachua County. In 2021, a small population of American Chaffseed (*Schwalbea americana*) a federally endangered perennial in Orobanchaceae, was introduced at the property as part of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s recovery efforts to increase the number of protected populations in the wild. The timing of the fieldtrip may line up nicely for participants to see these introduced plants reemerge from their winter dormancy. It is highly suggested that people come prepared to traverse through wet habitat and wear rain boots or footwear they don’t mind getting wet. **Meeting location and time:** Longleaf Flatwoods Reserve Parking, Co Rd 325, Hawthorne, FL 32640 (29.565389, -82.189091); 9:00-11AM

**Field Trip 2 – Lake Wales Ridge State Forest Tour – Frostproof, FL, Polk County**  
Led by Austin Ritenour, Forest Biologist (limited to 15 people)

Explore Sandhill and Scrub habitats on the Arbuckle tract of the Lake Wales Ridge State Forest on a guided tour with Florida Forest Service Biologist Austin Ritenour. Participants will be asked to meet at the LWRSF Headquarters at 851 CR 630 E, Frostproof, FL 33843, located 2 miles east of the town of Frostproof on County Road 630 East. From there the group will make a quick 10-minute drive down to the Arbuckle tract and cruise through the heart of the property on School Bus Road towards the walking site. A pitstop along the way will allow participants to encounter an experimental population of the critically endangered *Ziziphus celata* in its Sandhill community. A walk through pristine Scrub habitat where many rare species such as *Hypericum cuminola* and *Polygonella myriophylla* can be observed thriving will follow a 15-minute drive through the verdant flatwoods of Tram Road. Participants should plan for about 30-40 minutes of driving time through the forest and about 60-90 minutes of hiking through sand and light brush. Long pants and sleeves, hat, sunglasses, closed shoes, and water are recommended. **Meeting location and time:** LWRSF Headquarters at 851 CR 630 E, Frostproof, FL 33843; 9:00-11:30AM.

**Field Trip 3 – Historic Spanish Point Tour led by Bruce Holst & Elizabeth Gandy, Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, with an opening welcome by John McCarthy, VP for Historic Spanish Point** (limited to 15 people)

Field trip participants will enjoy a guided walk along the trails that meander this 30-acre preserve which showcases both coastal natural communities now considered rare, as well as historical artifacts and structures that tell the story of human habitation in the area from as far back as 5,000 years. Preserved shell mound, coastal hammock, and mangrove forests offer habitat for plants like mastic (*Sideroxylon foetidissimum*), Carolina buckthorn (*Frangula caroliniana*), soapberry (*Sapindus saponaria*), gumbo limbo (*Bursera simarouba*), and Jamaican caper (*Quadrella jamaicensis*) that are uncommon elsewhere in Sarasota County. Exhibits like *Window to the Past* provide a view into the heart of a shell midden. Dwellings, such as the Guptill House, tell the story of pioneer settlement on the site. Rare plants such as the aboriginal prickly-apple cactus (*Harrisia aboriginum*) can also be found on site. Historic Spanish Point became part of Marie Selby Botanical Gardens as a second campus in spring 2020. Gravel paths are wide, easily walkable, and mostly shaded, but sturdy shoes and a hat are recommended. After the tour participants will be able to stay on their own to continue exploring. Food is available for purchase. **Meeting location and time:** Marie Selby Botanical Gardens’ Historic Spanish Point campus; 337 North Tamiami Trail, Osprey, FL 34229; 9:00AM-11:00PM.

**Field Trip 4 – Nixon Smiley Pineland Preserve and Additional – Miami, FL, Miami-Dada County**  
Led by Tiffany Melvin, Biologist II, Miami-Dade County Environmentally Endangered Lands Program (limited to 15 people).
This 120-acre preserve on the western edge of Miami’s Rock Ridge represents the ecotone between pine rockland and rocky marl prairie. It is one of the largest pine rocklands left in Miami, and is uniquely characterized by its large patches of sandy soil among the outcrops of limestone. It is one of the most biodiverse sites in the county. Rare South Florida specialties include Brickellia mosieri, Euphorbia pergamena, Lantana depressa var. depressa, and others. Other species locally rare in Dade pinelands include Asclepias verticillata (whorled milkweed), Physostegia purpurea (false dragonhead) and Elionurus tripsacoides. This preserved is managed by Miami-Dade County’s Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Program. **Meeting location and time:** meeting on the north edge. The cross street is SW 124th Street and approximately 128th Court, Miami, Florida; 9:00AM-noon.

**Field Trip 5 – Field Trip - Apalachicola National Forest – Apalachicola, FL, Franklin, Gulf, and Liberty County Led by Amy Jenkins, Senior Botanist, Florida Natural Areas Inventory (limited to 15 people)**

Participants will enjoy a guided hike within the globally outstanding, diverse flora of the Apalachicola National Forest’s Wet Prairie habitat, a.k.a. “pitcherplant bogs”. Specific location will be determined using latest prescribed fire or other land management activity within the Apalachicola National Forest. **Meeting location and time:** Telogia Park and Ride, southeast corner of SR 65 and SR 67, Liberty County, 30.3499124, -84.8193921; 9:00-11AM

**Field Trip 6 – Field Trip – Miramar Pinelands Restoration Tour – Miramar, FL, Broward County Co-led by Emily Guinan, Conservation Team at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden and Michel Therrien, Senior Natural Resources Specialist at Broward County Parks & Recreation (limited to 20 people).**

Once a part of the historical headwaters of Snake Creek on the eastern edge of the Everglades, Miramar Pinelands has transitioned into dry pinelands and prairie due to extensive drainage over the past century. Restoration began in 2007 to return some of the wetland hydrology to the site. Participants will take a guided tour through scrubby slash-pine flatwoods and historically wet prairie, both in the early stages of vegetative succession, as well as a recent wetland that was added. The unique history of this site has created an interesting mix of plant communities, as well as locally rare species emerging in recently restored areas. A portion of the walk will be paved but come prepared to walk through sandy areas and tall brush at times. Long pants, hat, sunglasses, closed shoes, and water are recommended. **Meeting location and time:** Miramar Pinelands parking lot at 3600 S University Dr, Miramar, FL 33025; 9:00-11:30AM.