

Site Visit to Scottsmoor Partners Property.
May 2, 2007

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This site is in northern Brevard County (Scottsmoor/Aurantia) and is east and south of the Ag Ventures Saddle Brook property and east of the Ag Ventures McIntosh property. It is bounded by US 1 on the east, and by 5A on the north. It includes about 854 acres.

The northeastern corner of the site is an improved pasture of about 126 acres. The remaining ca. 728 acres are natural plant communities, primarily scrubby flatwoods, mesic flatwoods, and freshwater depression marshes.

This is a diverse site reflecting ridge-swale topography and alternating upland and wetland communities. Soils also reflect this pattern (Huckle et al. 1974). Flatwoods are associated with Myakka, Immokalee, and Tavares soils. Scrubby flatwoods are associated with Pomello and Astatula soils, and depression marshes are associated with Myakka ponded, St. Johns ponded, and Anclote soils.

The structure of the scrub and mesic flatwoods suggest that much of it burned in the 1998 wildfires. At least one area of mesic flatwoods has burned more recently as indicated by the recent regrowth of saw palmetto (*Serenoa repens*) and pond pine (*Pinus serotina*).

Scrubby flatwoods have an open canopy of longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris*) with some slash pine (*Pinus elliotii* var. *densa*) and scattered sand pine (*Pinus clausa*). Saw palmetto, myrtle oak (*Quercus myrtifolia*), sand live oak (*Quercus geminata*), Chapman oak (*Quercus chapmanii*), and ericaceous shrubs are common in the shrub layer.

Longleaf and slash pines occur in the mesic flatwoods, but pond pine is often the most abundant pine there. Wiregrass (*Aristida stricta* var. *beyrichiana*) is common. Shiny lyonia (*Lyonia lucida*), gallberry holly (*Ilex glabra*), saw palmetto, tarflower (*Bejaria racemosa*), and shiny blueberry (*Vaccinium myrsinites*) are common shrubs.

The depression marshes are diverse with many grasses, sedges, rushes, and forbs. Coastalplain St. Johns wort (*Hypericum brachyphyllum*) is common in some.

The flora of the site is predominately native (Table 1) with few exotic plants. There has been off-road vehicle use and some dumping of trash along the sand roads on the site. Rooting by feral hogs (*Sus scrofa*) was evident in some of the wetlands.

Gopher tortoises (*Gopherus polyphemus*) (Florida-Threatened) were observed on the site. A population of Florida Scrub-Jays (*Aphelocoma coerulescens*) (USFWS-Threatened) occurs on the site.

Overall the site is in very good condition with intact and diverse natural communities. It is immediately adjacent to Ag Ventures properties approved for acquisition by the Selection and Management Committee. Lands owned by the Miami Corporation occur to the northwest of this site. This is potentially part of a larger and highly significant conservation area in northern Brevard County.

References

Huckle, H.F., H.D. Dollar, and R.F. Pendleton. 1974. Soil survey of Brevard County, Florida. USDA Soil Conservation Service, Washington, DC. 123p. and maps.

Table 1. Plants observed on the Scottsmoor Partners Property. May 2, 2007.

Taxa	Native (N) or Exotic (E)
<i>Ampelopsis arborea</i>	N
<i>Andropogon</i> spp.	N
<i>Aristida spiciformis</i>	N
<i>Aristida stricta</i> var. <i>beyrichiana</i>	N
<i>Asimina</i> sp.	N
<i>Baccharis halimifolia</i>	N
<i>Befaria racemosa</i>	N
<i>Buchnera americana</i>	N
<i>Carphephorus</i> sp.	N
<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	N
<i>Dichantherium</i> spp.	N
<i>Diospyros virginiana</i>	N
<i>Emilia fosbergii</i>	E
<i>Erechtites hieracifolius</i>	N
<i>Euthamia caroliniana</i>	N
<i>Galactia elliottii</i>	N
<i>Hypericum brachyphyllum</i>	N
<i>Hypericum cistifolium</i>	N
<i>Hypericum mutilum</i>	N
<i>Hypericum reductum</i>	N
<i>Hypericum tetrapetalum</i>	N
<i>Ilex cassine</i>	N
<i>Ilex glabra</i>	N
<i>Lachnanthes caroliniana</i>	N
<i>Lantana camara</i>	E
<i>Lechea</i> sp.	N
<i>Licania michauxii</i>	N
<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	N
<i>Lygodesmia aphylla</i>	N
<i>Lyonia fruticosa</i>	N
<i>Lyonia lucida</i>	N
<i>Magnolia virginica</i>	N
<i>Mimosa quadrivalis</i>	N
<i>Myrica cerifera</i>	N
<i>Opuntia humifusa</i>	N
<i>Osmanthus americanus</i>	N
<i>Paspalum urvillei</i>	E
<i>Passiflora incarnata</i>	N
<i>Persea borbonia</i>	N
<i>Piloblephis rigida</i>	N
<i>Pinus clausa</i>	N
<i>Pinus elliottii</i> var. <i>densa</i>	N

<i>Pinus palustris</i>	N
<i>Pinus serotina</i>	N
<i>Pityopsis graminifolia</i>	N
<i>Polygala cymosa</i>	N
<i>Polygala rugelii</i>	N
<i>Polypremum procumbens</i>	N
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	N
<i>Pterocaulon pycnostachyum</i>	N
<i>Quercus chapmanii</i>	N
<i>Quercus geminata</i>	N
<i>Quercus laurifolia</i>	N
<i>Quercus minima</i>	N
<i>Quercus myrtifolia</i>	N
<i>Quercus nigra</i>	N
<i>Quercus virginiana</i>	N
<i>Rhexia</i> spp.	N
<i>Rhus copallinum</i>	N
<i>Rubus</i> sp.	N
<i>Sabal palmetto</i>	N
<i>Sabatia grandiflora</i>	N
<i>Salix caroliniana</i>	N
<i>Schinus terebinthifolius</i>	E
<i>Schoenocaulon dubium</i>	N
<i>Scleria georgiana</i>	N
<i>Serenoa repens</i>	N
<i>Sesbania punicea</i>	E
<i>Smilax auriculata</i>	N
<i>Smilax glauca</i>	N
<i>Spartina bakeri</i>	N
<i>Syngonanthus flavidulus</i>	N
<i>Vaccinium myrsinites</i>	N
<i>Vitis rotundifolia</i>	N
<i>Woodwardia virginica</i>	N
<i>Xyris</i> spp.	N
<i>Zanthoxylum clava-herculis</i>	N