



Florida Dry Prairie Conference
October 5-7, 2004
Château Élan
Sebring, Florida

Conference Program

*Special thanks to our
conference sponsors*

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
South Florida Ecological Services Office

The Nature Conservancy

EarthBalance

Phoenix Ecosystems, Inc

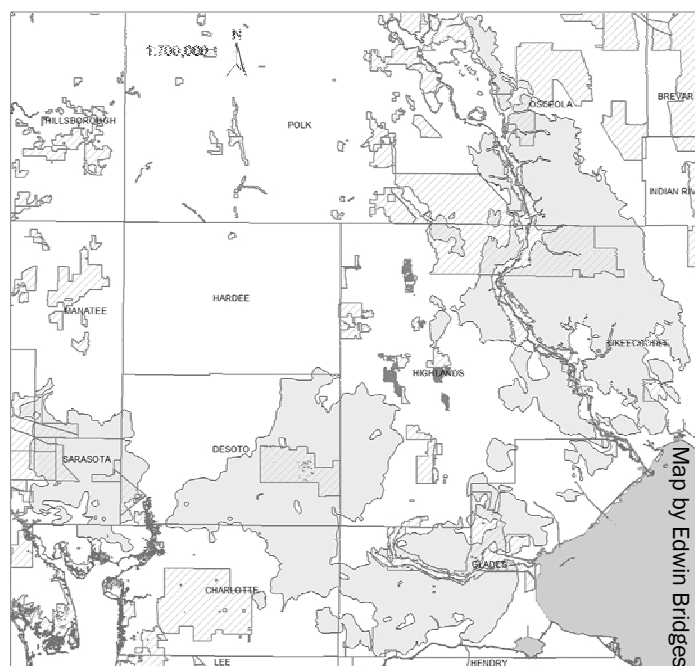
Southeastern Chemtreat, Inc.

SUPERTRAK, Inc



Truax Company, Inc

Turnbull Environmental, Inc

Prepared from original land surveys conducted mostly between 1820 and 1870, this map shows the estimated presettlement extent (not what remains today) of the dry prairie landscape. Florida dry prairie landscape includes several plant communities: dry prairie, prairie hammocks, depression ponds/marshes, saw-grass marshes, wet wiregrass prairies, and other plant community types.



Legend

-  Florida Dry Prairie Landscape
-  Conservation Managed Areas

Agenda

Tuesday October 5, 2004

7:00 am — 8:00 am	Light breakfast — Hairpin Lounge
8:15 am — 12:00 pm	Welcome and Introduction Paul Ebersbach, Chief, Environmental Flight, Avon Park Air Force Range (APAFR) Overview of the Florida dry prairie landscape Edwin L. Bridges, Botanical and Ecological Consultant; Steve Orzell, APAFR Historical perspective of the Kissimmee River dry prairie region Johnna L. Thackston, Moody Air Force Base The study of historical records provides a unique perspective of Florida's prairie John F. McCarthy, Sarasota County Parks and Recreation
10:00 am — 10:30 am	Refreshment Break — Hairpin Lounge Overview of dry prairie hydrology Douglas T. Shaw, The Nature Conservancy Fire regimes in prairie landscapes: predicted natural fire regimes and interactive effects with seasonal hydrology and soils Bill Platt and Jean Huffman, Department of Biological Sciences, Louisiana State University Presenter: Bill Platt Faunal attributes of dry prairie Tylan Dean, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Status of conservation and protection of the dry prairie landscape Richard Hilsenbeck, The Nature Conservancy
12:30 pm — 1:45 pm	Lunch (included) — Grand Prix Pavillion
1:45 pm — 5:00 pm	Prairie bird suite Randy Kautz, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Butterflies of Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park Byrum W. Cooper and Linda F. Cooper Presenter: Parks Small, Florida Park Service Conservation of the Arogos Skipper (<i>Atrytone arogos arogos</i>) in Florida Marc C. Minno, St. Johns River Water Management District Biology of the Florida grasshopper sparrow (<i>Ammodramus savannarum floridanus</i>) Paul Miller, Kissimmee Prairie State Park; Bill Pranty, Archbold Biological Station Presenter: Paul Miller
3:05 pm — 3:30 pm	Refreshment Break — Hairpin Lounge Habitat characteristics of Florida grasshopper sparrows at Avon Park Air Force Range James W. Tucker, Jr. and Reed Bowman, Archbold Biological Station; Michael Delany, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Presenter: James W. Tucker, Jr. Distribution and ecology of round-tailed muskrats (<i>Neofiber alleni</i>) in a dry prairie landscape Robert L. Schooley and Lyn C. Branch, University of Florida Presenter: Robert L. Schooley The importance of prairies and ranchlands to Florida's crested caracara (<i>Caracara cheriway</i>) Joan L. Morrison, Department of Biology, Trinity College

5:30 pm — 7:30 pm	Reception/Buffer — Poolside and Grand Prix Pavillion
Wednesday October 6, 2004	
7:00 am — 8:00 am	Light breakfast — Hairpin Lounge
8:00 am — 10:00 am	Vegetation of Kissimmee River region dry prairies Steve Orzell, APAFR; Edwin L. Bridges, Botanical and Ecological Consultant; Catherine Airey, APAFR Presenter: Steve Orzell Landscape ecology of the Kissimmee River dry prairie region Edwin L. Bridges, Botanical and Ecological Consultant; Steve Orzell, APAFR Presenter: Edwin L. Bridges Trees in the prairie: what the changing distribution of hardwood hammocks, forested wetlands and pine islands reveal about dry prairie fire regimes Jean Huffman, Louisiana State University Temporal vegetation dynamics in the dry prairie/pine savanna-flatwoods landscape of south-central Florida Edwin L. Bridges, Botanical and Ecological Consultant; Steve Orzell, APAFR; Catherine Airey, APAFR Presenter: Edwin L. Bridges

Agenda (cont...)

Wednesday October 6, 2004

8:00 am — 10:00 am

Landscape Ecology

Moderator: Paul Gray
Audubon of Florida

Limnology of ponds in the Kissimmee Prairie

Tim Kozusko, United Space Alliance

Florida's public dry prairies

Parks Small, Florida Park Service

10:00 am — 10:30 am

Refreshment Break — Hairpin Lounge

10:30 am — 12:15 pm

Flora and Vegetation

Moderator: Robert Dye
Phoenix Ecosystems, Inc.

Floristic composition of dry prairies in south-central Florida

Steve Orzell, APAFR; Edwin L. Bridges, Botanical and Ecological Consultant

Presenter: Steve Orzell

Vegetation and species diversity of calcareous prairies in the Kissimmee River dry prairie region

Edwin L. Bridges, Botanical and Ecological Consultant; Steve Orzell, APAFR

Presenter: Steve Orzell

Groundcover differences along the prairie/pine savanna-flatwoods landscape gradient

Edwin L. Bridges, Botanical and Ecological Consultant; Steve Orzell, APAFR; Catherine Airey, APAFR

Presenter: Edwin L. Bridges

Research on Indiangrass (*Sorghastrum secundum*)

Scott Penfield, APAFR

Pteroglossaspis ecristata (Orchidaceae), some aspects of its ecology and effects of fire from south-central Florida

Al Schotz, Alabama Natural Heritage Program; Steve Orzell, APAFR; Catherine Airey, APAFR

Presenter: Al Schotz

12:15 pm — 1:30 pm

Lunch (included) — Grand Prix Pavillion

1:30 pm — 5:00 pm

Management and Restoration

Moderator: George Tanner
University of Florida

Management of the Bright Hour Ranch

Rowdy Bateman, Bright Hour Ranch

Native seed harvesting at Triple Diamond Ranch

Dave W. DeLargy, Triple Diamond Ranch

Short-term effects of native seed harvesting on species composition of open pine flatwoods and wet prairies at Avon Park Air Force Range, Polk and Highlands counties, Florida

Steve Orzell, APAFR; Edwin L. Bridges, Botanical and Ecological Consultant; Catherine Airey, APAFR

Presenter: Catherine Airey

Restoration of prairie by direct seeding

Nancy Bissett, The Natives, Inc.

2:50 pm — 3:20 pm

Refreshment Break — Hairpin Lounge

Vegetation responses to removal of livestock grazing in Florida dry prairie at Avon Park Air Force Range, Highlands County, Florida

Edwin L. Bridges, Botanical and Ecological Consultant; Steve Orzell, APAFR; Catherine Airey, APAFR

Presenter: Catherine Airey

Is roller chopping an alternative management practice to fire in restoring dry prairie?

George Tanner, University of Florida; Robert Dye, Phoenix Ecosystems, Inc.; Adam Watt, University of Florida

Presenter: George Tanner

Hydrologic restoration activities at Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park

Paul Gray, Audubon of Florida; Barry Burch, Florida Park Service; Rosi Mullholland, Florida Park Service; Parks Small, Florida Park Service; Gary Ritter, South Florida Water Management District;

Paul Warner, South Florida Water Management District

Presenter: Paul Gray

Distribution and management of invasive species in Florida dry prairie

Paula Benshoff, Myakka River State Park; Jean Huffman, Department of Environmental Protection

Presenter: Paula Benshoff

Putting Florida prairies in the limelight

Paula Benshoff, Myakka River State Park

5:00 pm — 6:30 pm

Round-table discussion on fire and other management issues related to dry prairie

Field Trip

Thursday October 7, 2004

8:15 pm — 1:55 pm

Field Trip Itinerary on Avon Park Air Force Range

The field trip will highlight long-term monitoring of dry prairie vegetation, differences among dry prairie community types, landscape level characteristics of dry prairie, and the presettlement pineland and prairie boundary. Access to a scoring tower on an active bombing range will provide a bird's eye view of dry prairie and illustrate how the military mission is compatible with ecosystem management. While en-route to the designated stops, ecosystem management and various restoration projects at APAFR will be described.

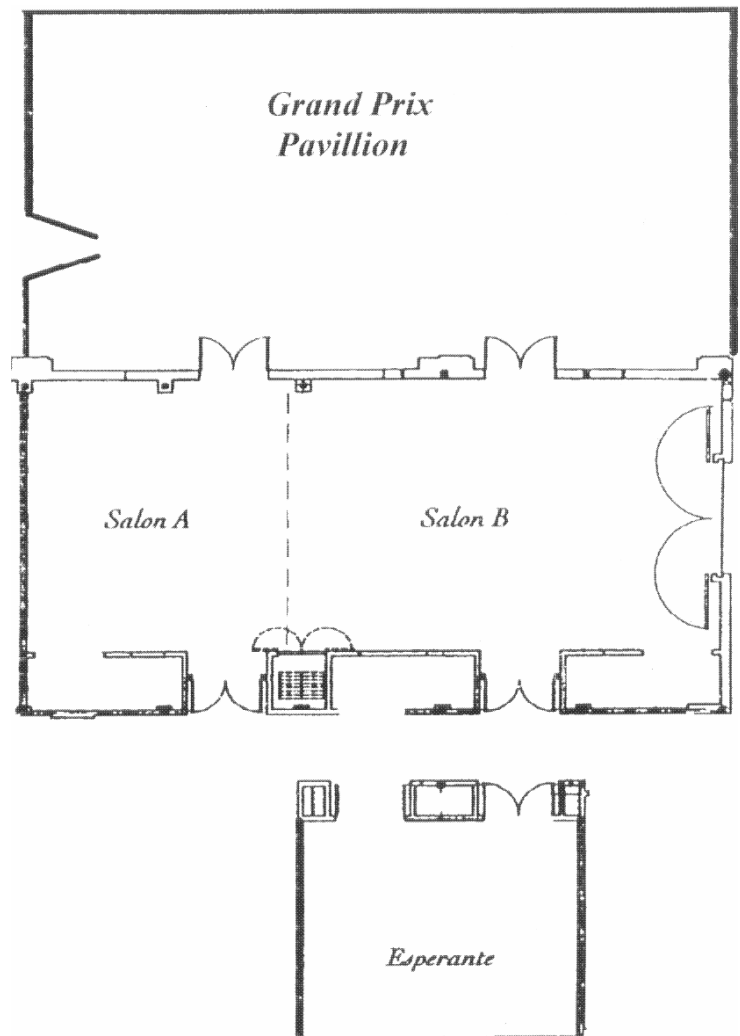
8:00 AM	Board buses at Château Élan Lobby
8:10 AM	Depart Château Élan (you may drive your own vehicle to the Avon Park Air Force Range but must travel by bus during the field trip)
9:00 AM	Rest stop at Administration Building 29
9:30 — 10:00 AM	View and discuss Florida Grasshopper Sparrow habitat. Examine long-term vegetation monitoring plots in grazed and cattle exclosure areas. Discuss various dry prairie community types
10:15 — 10:45 AM	View pineland, pine savanna, and prairie landscape gradient in Charlie Range
11:00 — 11:30 AM	Enter the Charlie/Echo bombing range complex to view prairie and military mission from scoring tower
11:45 AM	Food and refreshments at Morgan Hole Campground
12:40 PM	Rest stop at Administration Building 29
1:05 PM	Depart Avon Park Air Force Range
1:55 PM	Arrive Château Élan

Château Élan Meeting Rooms

Hotel check in is 3pm,
check-out by 12pm

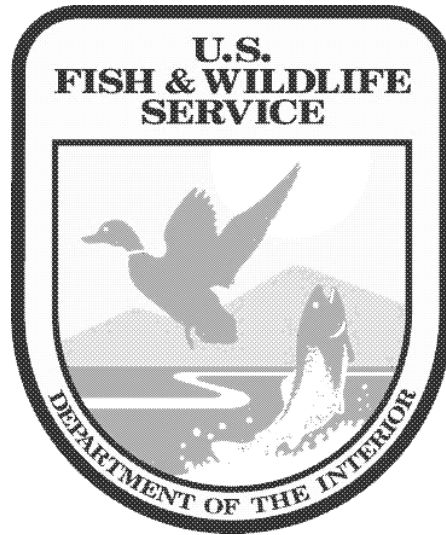


Photos by Gary Reese



South Florida Ecological Services Office

Vero Beach, Fl



The Mission of the South Florida Ecological Services Office is to conserve, protect and enhance fish and wildlife and their habitats through consultation, cooperation and communication for the continuing benefit of the American people.

**The main program areas within Ecological Services are
Endangered Species, Habitat Conservation and Environmental Contaminants.**

For additional information, contact us at:
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Ecological Services Office
1339 20th Street
Vero Beach, Florida 32960
(772) 562-3909
<http://verobeach.fws.gov>



**In this half acre, 120 species
are having a field day.**

Sometimes, it's the things you don't see that matter most. For The Nature Conservancy, the small picture is often the big picture. Using science-based plans and innovative tools, we have protected 117 million acres around the world. With your support, that number will keep growing. Visit nature.org or call 1-888-2 JOIN TNC.

San Joaquin Valley, California © Marc Muench

This message is made possible by the generous support of this publication.



**Working for the good
of the Earth.**

Ecosystem Restoration

Environmental Consulting

Corporate Office:

**2579 N. Toledo Blade Blvd.
North Port, FL 34289
941-426-7878
941-426-8778 fax
www.earthbalance.com**

Branch Locations:

Davenport, Tallahassee, Tampa Bay



SOUTHEASTERN CHEMTREAT, INC.

5750 NW 135 ST., CHIEFLAND, FL 32626

(352) 493-0438

INVASIVE PLANT MANAGEMENT

WILL HARDEE, PRES.

352-494-2890

FAX 352-490-8736

ELLISON HARDEE, VP

352-494-2831

MCHEEH@AOL.COM

904.461.8305

904.669.8777 (cell)

Rich Turnbull, President

Turnbull Environmental, Inc.

Restoration and Mitigation Solutions

— A Christ-Owned Company —

50 Agnes Circle

St. Augustine, FL 32080

E-mail: richturn@bellsouth.net

904.461.0299 (fax)

Certified Contractor: CUC1223978



26855 AIRPORT RD.
PUNTA GORDA, FL 33982
www.supertrak.com

TOLL FREE: 800-446-9858
TELEPHONE: 941-505-7800
FAX: 941-505-2308



"Grass seeding equipment for all types of wildlife habitat"

Truax Company, Inc
4300 Quebec Avenue North
New Hope, MN 55428

phone: 763-537-6639
e-mail: truax@pclink.com
web: www.truaxcomp.com



PHOENIX ECOSYSTEMS INC

NATURAL RESOURCE RESTORATION

941-650-4726

e-mail: MRpyrorat@mindspring.com

ROBERT DYE, President

329 BAYSIDE PKWY

NOKOMIS FL 34275

Conference hosted by
Avon Park Air Force Range
and
Florida Center For
Environmental Studies



www.ces.fau.edu