

## **FLTWS-FLEPPC**

**2012 Spring Conference**

**April 16-19, Ocala Florida**

**Workshops and Field Trips**

### **WORKSHOPS**

#### **National Wildlife Research Center Field Station and Python Identification**

Limit 20 attendees (first come, first serve)

No cost

The Gainesville facility was built in 1963 and has served as a bird and mammal research field station ever since. In June 1993, the Florida Wildlife Services State Director's Office moved from Tallahassee to the Gainesville office. The 26-acre site is located three miles east of the University of Florida. There is a main building holding offices and laboratories, and three roofed outdoor aviaries for maintaining and testing wild birds. In addition, there are eight 10 x 30 foot enclosures and two ½ acre flight pens where various trials can be conducted throughout the year under natural environmental conditions.

Primary research emphasis is on identifying, evaluating, and developing methods to manage depredation, nuisance, and property damage problems associated with native birds such as vultures and crows, and non-native species such as feral pigs, Burmese pythons, black spiny-tailed iguanas, monk parakeets, and other invasive species. To do this, scientists conduct behavioral and physiological studies with captive wild animals at the Florida field station and carry out field trials in Florida, Virginia, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, and elsewhere. Research is conducted with the cooperation and support of Wildlife Services Operations, community organizations, private companies, and state and federal agencies.

During the tour, constrictor identification and handling demonstrations will be conducted.

#### **CISMA Workshop**

No attendee limit

No cost

This workshop will focus on CISMA organizational structure. There will be a presentation and group discussion about many CISMA needs, including strategic planning, CISMA roles and workday development.

## **FIELD TRIPS**

### **Silver River State Park Canoe Trip**

Limited to 20 attendees (first come, first serve)

Cost: \$11.00

Silver River State Park is significant due to Silver Springs, one of Florida's largest first magnitude springs and one of the largest limestone springs in the world. Silver Springs has also served as the center of one of Florida's most popular privately operated tourist attractions for over one hundred years.

The uplands surrounding the Silver River contain a striking diversity of highly significant archaeological sites that represent periods of Florida's history from the Paleo-Indian to the Seminole War era. Park lands support a significant population of Florida pinkroot (*Spigelia loganioides*), an endangered plant species and provide important habitat for a variety of other imperiled plants and animals including Florida gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*), Florida black bear (*Ursus americanus floridanus*), silver buckthorn (*Sideroxylon alachuense*) and Godfrey's swamp privet (*Forestieragodfreyi*).

The canoe trip will start downstream in the park and make its way to the head springs (and Silver River attraction). Along the way you will see plenty of wildlife, many other springs that flow into the river and you will discuss some of the invasive species issues in this area, both plant and animal invaders.

### **Silver River State Park FLEPPC Demonstration Site**

Limited to 20 attendees (first come, first serve) – **on site registration only**

No cost

Silver River State Park is home to 14 unique plant communities, more than 20 archeological sites, numerous imperiled plant and animal species, and, unfortunately, at least 12 FLEPPC Category 1 invasive plant species. Park managers continue an active exotic plant management program aimed at reaching their goal of long-term maintenance control of priority invasive plants in the park. During this field trip, park staff will provide a tour of the park including visits to current treatment areas focused on cogongrass and camphor tree. In addition, attendees will view a FLEPPC Control and

Evaluation Committee demonstration plot, which compares cogongrass control using different adjuvants with glyphosate.

### **Juniper Springs Field Trip**

Limited to 20 attendees (first come, first serve)

No cost

This field trip will visit the Ocala National Forest's creeping fig invasive control project. The project has important repercussions regarding timing of treatments with recreational activity slumps, coordinating with multiple entities, use of interpretation and outreach, use of partners, and developing novel strategies.

### **Cross Florida Greenway Field Trip**

Limited to 20 attendees (first come, first serve) – **on site registration only**

No cost

The Cross Florida Greenway is approximately 94,000 acres which extend from the Gulf of Mexico near Inglis to the St. Johns River just south of Palatka. The Crown Jewel of the Greenway is the remaining, intact portion of the Ocklawaha River that was spared from construction and channelization during the building of the Cross Florida Barge Canal in the '60's. This field trip will begin with an overview of the Cross Florida Barge Canal and how it became the cross Florida Greenway along with an overview of the invasive plant management program that has been taking place on the Greenway since 1999.

The Greenway is home to 36 Category I and II invasive plants found in multiple infestations. Following the brief presentation, participants will board several jon-boats and navigate approximately 4 miles downstream to Butterbutt Landing. This 4 mile stretch is lined with floodplain swamp. Attendees will visit former coral ardisia and camphor infestations. These infestations have been treated with funding from FWC's Invasive Plant Management section. Attendees will also discuss the operational/contractual challenges of treating sites along the river with little to no upland access.