

Southeast FL Regional Scrub Working Group Meeting Minutes

March 18th, 2024

Intergenerational Recreation Center
1590 9th St SW, Vero Beach, FL 32962

Lakela's Mint & Scrub Management, Cheryl Peterson

1. Biological Overview
 - a. Endemic species with extremely small geographic range
 - b. Interesting chemistry found with *Dicceranda*
 - i. Mont that feeds on them and vomits back on the plant to reduce insect predation
 - c. Distributions of 7 peninsular *Dicceranda* spp.
 - i. Lakela's mint historically along with 3 mile stretch of Atlantic coastal ridge
 - d. All populations are diploid (32 chromosomes)
 - i. Very low germination 0-3% fresh
 - ii. Oak and pine leachate and litter greatly reduces germination
 - e. Germination rate marches percent intact
 - i. Most were fungal or empty
 - ii. Issues with empty seeds = high rates of seed predators
 - f. 93% pollinators are non-native honeybees
 - g. 7% native pollinators
2. Microhabitat Requirements
 - a. Study with 20 plants and 20 empty plots
 - i. Collected habitat information in 1-meter plots
 - ii. Likes no canopy (gaps)
 - iii. 40-60% bare sand
 - iv. Doesn't like oaks
3. Climate
 - a. Climate change is a real risk to extirpation
 - b. Overgrowth issue
 - c. Cogon grass and other spp. outcompete
 - d. Love vine quickly kills all mints in an area
4. Introduction & Augmentation
 - a. Hobe Sound (1990s)
 - b. Indrio Savannas
 - c. ...
 - i. Need large enough population for resiliency
 - ii. Quality habitat
 - iii. Control love vine and hardwood spread
 - iv. Tracking habitat changes and response to management

Collecting seeds and cuttings; roots well from cuttings

Liquid smoke worked to germinate

Scrub-Jay Monitoring at Jonathan Dickinson State Park, Rob Rossmann

1. 20 years of burning results in an increase in FLSJ
2. 3,000 acres of scrub and scrubby flatwoods
 - a. ~35 family groups; estimated carrying capacity is 100 family groups
 - b. Believed to be 300 FLSJ in the 1990s
3. JDSP Jay Watch 2007-2018, 12 seasons
4. MSU/Archbold/Cornell 2019-present
5. Showed history of burns (acres/year)
 - a. Jays highly correlated with # acres burned
 - b. Jay population a bit delayed after fire increase
6. Jays spread along primary dune
7. Starting to move into secondary dune
8. One strategy was cabbage palm removal
 - a. Trying to fill in gaps and stepping stones between habitat
9. Sand pines are a problem still, so they continue to chainsaw
 - a. Labor intensive

Update on the Federally Endangered Paw Paw, Anne Cox

1. Savannas Preserve State Park, Ashley Kennedy
 - a. Crosspollinated plants which proved to be very successful
 - b. 100+ years and follow water table
 - c. Will sit at juvenile/medium until fire, then mature
 - d. Fire-dependent and need mosaic
2. Flower Power & Light, Christine Raininger
 - a. ½ population; problem with fire since fire is not feasible
 - b. Would like input on management
 - c. Invasive control
 - d. Love vine is a major problem
3. Juno Dunes Natural Area T.J. Wilkerson, Palm Beach County, ERM
 - a. Juno Ridge = 570 acres mostly scrub
 - b. 24 new plants in 2022-2023
 - c. 50-acre mechanical fuel reduction (typically good response)
 - d. 20-acre prescribed burn
 - e. Do some mechanical and hand removal
 - f. Encroachment from natives is biggest threat
4. SILONA Natural Area, T.J. Wilkerson, Palm Beach County, ERM
 - a. Fuel reduction in March
 - b. 126 acres / 78 of Natural Area
 - c. Have natural population and planted population

- d. Total: 13 natural; 43 planted = 56 total
 - i. 2 planting projects (2008 – plotted 132; 10% survival)
 - ii. 2023 planting = 28% survival
- 5. Karen Marcus Ocean Front Park Preserve, T-J Wilkerson, Palm Beach County, ERM
 - a. 154 acres
 - b. 104 plants as of 2024
 - c. Sand pines and oak encroachment
 - d. Potential hybrid flowers
 - e. Introduction for disturbance in southern site
- 6. Jonathan Dickinson State Park, Anne Cox
 - a. Started in 1988
 - b. Love disturbance
 - c. Plants may live 100 years
 - d. Need mosaic of ages