

Site Visit to Ag Ventures Saddle Brook Property.
March 24, 2006

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This site is located east of I-95 south of County Road 5A in northern Brevard County (Scottsmeer) and consists of about 129 acres. Several native plant communities are represented on the site. Much of the site is mesic to hydric pine flatwoods where pond pine (*Pinus serotina*) is the canopy species; the shrub layer includes saw palmetto (*Serenoa repens*), fetterbush (*Lyonia lucida*), wiregrass (*Aristida stricta* var. *beyrichiana*), gallberry holly (*Ilex glabra*), and other shrubs and herbs. The flatwoods occurs on Myakka and Immokalee soils (Huckle et al. 1974); these soils typically support flatwoods.

The site illustrates the ridge-swale topography with flatwoods on the old ridges and freshwater marshes in the swales. The one swale examined had maidencane (*Panicum hemitomon*) as the most abundant species with sand cordgrass (*Spartina bakeri*) and Virginia chain fern (*Woodwardia virginica*) common. Pond cypress (*Taxodium ascendens*) occurred in another swale. These wetlands occur on poorly drained soils such as Myakka sand, ponded; St. Johns sand, ponded; and Tomaka muck (Huckle et al. 1974).

Other species noted are listed in Table 1. Notable is the occurrence of yellow-flowered butterwort (*Pinguicula lutea*), listed as Threatened by the State of Florida. In northern Brevard County, this plant is previously documented only from Buck Lake Conservation Area; it also occurs in several sites in the southern mainland of the county (Schmalzer and Foster 2005).

The site appears to have burned in the 1998 wildfires. Pine density is low consistent with native flatwoods. The hydrology of the site appears to be intact and the flora is primarily native (Table 1). Melaleuca (*Melaleuca quinquenervia*) does occur in the area and has the potential to invade the wetlands. There is some off-road vehicle use, but it does not seem excessive.

References

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

Schmalzer, P.A. and T.E. Foster. 2005. Multi-species scrub plant survey in Brevard County, Florida, for occurrence of Federally listed endangered or threatened scrub plant species. Final report to Brevard County Natural Resources Management Office. Dynamac Corporation, Kennedy Space Center, Florida. 79 p.

Table 1. Plants observed on the Ag Ventures Saddle Brook Property. March 24, 2006.

Taxa	Native (N) or Exotic (E)
<i>Andropogon</i> spp.	N
<i>Aristida spiciformis</i>	N
<i>Aristida stricta</i> var. <i>beyrichiana</i>	N
<i>Befaria racemosa</i>	N
<i>Carphephorus corymbosus</i>	N
<i>Carphephorus odoratissimus</i>	N
<i>Drosera</i> sp.	N
<i>Erigeron quercifolius</i>	N
<i>Galactia elliotii</i>	N
<i>Gaylussacia dumosa</i>	N
<i>Hydrocotyle umbellata</i>	N
<i>Hypericum brachyphyllum</i>	N
<i>Hypericum reductum</i>	N
<i>Hypericum tetrapetalum</i>	N
<i>Hypoxis juncea</i>	N
<i>Ilex cassine</i>	N
<i>Ilex glabra</i>	N
<i>Lachnanthes caroliniana</i>	N
<i>Ludwigia</i> sp.	N
<i>Lyonia lucida</i>	N
<i>Mimosa quadrivalis</i>	N
<i>Myrica cerifera</i>	N
<i>Panicum hemitomom</i>	N
<i>Persea palustris</i>	N
<i>Pinguicula lutea</i>	N Florida Threatened
<i>Pinguicula pumila</i>	N
<i>Pinus serotina</i>	N
<i>Polygala rugelii</i>	N
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	N
<i>Rhexia</i> sp.	N
<i>Rhus copallinum</i>	N
<i>Rhynchospora colorata</i>	N
<i>Serenoa repens</i>	N
<i>Sisyrinchium angustifolium</i>	N
<i>Spartina bakeri</i>	N
<i>Solidago</i> sp.	N
<i>Stenanthium densum</i>	N
<i>Syngonanthus flavidulus</i>	N
<i>Taxodium ascendens</i>	N
<i>Utricularia subulata</i>	N

Table 1. (cont.)

Taxa	Native (N) or Exotic (E)
<i>Vaccinium myrsinites</i>	N
<i>Woodwardia virginica</i>	N
<i>Xyris</i> sp.	N