

# **Floristic Inventory of Selected Natural Areas on the University of Florida Campus: Final Report**

12 September 2005

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## NATL-east (Surge Wetland) Natural Area

NATL-east Natural Area is located in the southwest corner of the UF main campus, east of the Natural Area Teaching Lab, bordered on the west by Surge Road, on the east by private property, and to the south by Archer Road. The twelve acre property occupies a depression basin which receives storm water from surrounding areas on campus and from neighboring Archer Road. The central swamp area is surrounded by and grades into a shrub wetland/ hydric hammock, and further upland, a mesic mixed hardwood hammock. The boundaries of these plant communities are not clearly defined and fluctuate depending on rainfall patterns. Surge Wetland is relatively intact and for the most part undisturbed by invasive exotic plants. A variety of native species are found here, with the highest diversity occurring in the mesic hammock.

We documented 129 species of vascular plants in this area. Of those identified to species, 82% are native to Florida. Twelve non-native species found in this natural area appear on Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council's 1999 List of Florida's Most Invasive Species. *Matelea floridana* (Florida Milkvine), endangered in Florida, was recorded here.

The canopy of the mesic hammock is dominated by *Carya glabra* (Pignut Hickory), *Liquidambar styraciflua* (Sweetgum), *Ostrya virginiana* (Eastern Hophornbeam), *Pinus taeda* (Loblolly Pine), *Quercus hemisphaerica* (Upland Laurel Oak), *Quercus nigra* (Water Oak), *Tilia americana* var. *caroliniana* (Carolina Basswood) and *Ulmus alata* (Winged Elm). Also present are *Acer negundo* (Boxelder), *Acer rubrum* (Red Maple), *Celtis laevigata* (Hackberry), *Chionanthus virginicus* (White Fringetree), *Diospyros virginiana* (Common Persimmon), *Fraxinus americana* (White Ash), *Juniperus virginiana* (Red Cedar), *Magnolia grandiflora* (Southern Magnolia), *Morus rubra* (Red Mulberry), *Prunus caroliniana* (Carolina Laurelcherry), *Prunus serotina* (Black Cherry), *Quercus geminata* (Sand Live Oak), *Quercus michauxii* (Basket Oak) and *Quercus virginiana* (Live Oak).

The understory associated with the mesic hammock is quite diverse and dominated by a variety of native species. Low shrubs, herbaceous plants and vines documented in this area include *Asimina parviflora* (Smallflower Pawpaw), *Asplenium platyneuron* (Ebony Spleenwort), *Bignonia capreolata* (Crossvine), *Callicarpa americana* (American Beautyberry), *Campsis radicans* (Trumpet Creeper), *Crataegus uniflora* (Dwarf Hawthorne), *Dioscorea floridana* (Florida Yam), *Erythrina herbacea* (Coralbean), *Euonymus americanus* (American Strawberrybush), *Eupatorium capillifolium* (Dogfennel), *Gelsemium sempervirens* (Yellow Jessamine), *Lonicera sempervirens* (Coral Honeysuckle), *Mitchella repens* (Partridgeberry), *Myrica cerifera* (Wax Myrtle), *Parthenocissus quinquefolius* (Virginia Creeper), *Phytolacca americana* var. *rigida* (American Pokeweed), *Rubus trivialis* (Southern Dewberry), a variety of *Smilax* species (Greenbriar), *Toxicodendron radicans* (Eastern Poison Ivy), *Vaccinium arboreum* (Sparkleberry), *Vernonia gigantea* (Giant Ironweed), *Vitis aestivalis* (Summer Grape) and *Yucca filamentosa* (Adam's Needle).

Dominant trees and shrubs observed in the wetland areas include *Acer rubrum*, (Red Maple), *Celtis laevigata* (Hackberry), *Cephalanthus occidentalis* (Common Buttonbush), *Liquidambar styraciflua* (Sweetgum), *Myrica cerifera* (Wax Myrtle), *Nyssa sylvatica* var. *biflora* (Swamp Tupelo) and *Salix caroliniana* (Carolina willow). Also present are *Diospyros virginiana* (Common Persimmon), *Quercus laurifolia* (Diamond Leaf Oak), *Quercus nigra* (Water Oak), *Rhus copallinum* (Winged Sumac) and *Sambucus nigra* subsp. *canadensis* (Elderberry). Herbaceous plants, vines, and ferns common in the wetter areas include *Apios americana* (Groundnut), *Decumaria barbara* (Climbing Hydrangea), *Hydrocotyle umbellata* (Manyflower Marshpennywort), *Osmunda cinnamomea* (Cinnamon fern), *Osmunda regalis* var. *spectabilis* (Royal Fern), *Pontederia cordata* (Pickerelweed), *Thelypteris kunthii* (Southern Shield Fern), *Thelypteris palustris* var. *pubescens* (Marsh Fern), *Woodwardia areolata* (Netted Chain Fern) and *Woodwardia virginica* (Virginia Chain Fern).

Overall the woods appear to be in good shape and not overly dominated by exotic species. *Colocasia esculenta* (Wild Taro), *Eichhornia crassipes* (Common Water

Hyacinth), *Myriophyllum aquaticum* (Parrotfeather Water Milfoil), and *Ludwigia peruviana* (Peruvian Primrosewillow) are common in the wet areas. *Broussonetia papyrifera* (Paper Mulberry) and *Salvinia minima* (Water Spangles) were encountered occasionally. The most problematic exotic species found in the mesic hammock is *Ardisia crenata* (Scratchthroat). Seen occasionally in the majority of the woods, this species is abundant in the extreme northwestern corner of the mesic hammock north and west of the wetlands, particularly along the northern fence. Other non-native species observed in the mesic hammock include *Dioscorea bulbifera* (Air Potato, present on the eastern edge of the property), *Eriobotrya japonica* (Loquat, occasional throughout), *Lantana camara* (Lantana, at property edges), *Ligustrum lucidum* (Glossy Privet, occasional throughout), *Ligustrum sinense* (Chinese Privet, throughout), *Ruellia tweediana* (Britton's Wild Petunia, at western edge) and *Syngonium podophyllum* (American Evergreen, at eastern edge).

Uncommon and rare species growing in NATL-east include *Arisaema dracontium* (Greendragon, an uncommon species, occasional), *Dioscorea floridana* (Florida Yam, an uncommon species) and *Matelea floridana* (Florida Milkvine, endangered-FL).

#### **Trees Recorded at NATL-east Natural Area:**

*Acer negundo* - Boxelder  
*Acer rubrum* - Red Maple  
*Broussonetia papyrifera* - Paper Mulberry \* **EPPC(II)**  
*Carya glabra* - Pignut Hickory  
*Celtis laevigata* - Sugarberry  
*Cephalanthus occidentalis* - Common Buttonbush  
*Chionanthus virginicus* - White Fringetree  
*Cinnamomum camphora* - Camphortree \* **EPPC(I)**  
*Citrus x aurantium* - Sour Orange  
*Diospyros virginiana* - Common Persimmon  
*Eriobotrya japonica* - Loquat  
*Fraxinus americana* - White Ash  
*Ilex vomitoria* - Yaupon  
*Juniperus virginiana* - Red Cedar  
*Ligustrum lucidum* - Glossy Privet \* **EPPC(I)**  
*Ligustrum sinense* - Chinese Privet \* **EPPC(I)**  
*Liquidambar styraciflua* - Sweetgum  
*Magnolia grandiflora* - Southern Magnolia

*Morus rubra* - Red Mulberry  
*Myrica cerifera* - Wax Myrtle  
*Nyssa sylvatica* var. *biflora* - Swamp Tupelo  
*Osmanthus americanus* - Wild Olive  
*Ostrya virginiana* - Eastern Hophornbeam  
*Pinus elliotii* - Slash Pine  
*Pinus taeda* - Loblolly Pine  
*Podocarpus macrophyllus* - Yew Plumpvine  
*Prunus caroliniana* - Carolina Laurelcherry  
*Prunus serotina* - Black Cherry  
*Prunus umbellata* - Flatwoods Plum  
*Quercus hemisphaerica* - Upland Laurel Oak  
*Quercus laurifolia* - Diamond Leaf Oak  
*Quercus falcata* - Spanish Oak  
*Quercus geminata* - Sand Live Oak  
*Quercus michauxii* - Basket Oak  
*Quercus nigra* - Water Oak  
*Quercus virginiana* - Live Oak  
*Rhus copallinum* - Winged Sumac  
*Sabal palmetto* - Cabbage Palm  
*Salix caroliniana* - Carolina Willow  
*Tilia americana* var. *caroliniana* - Carolina Basswood  
*Ulmus alata* - Winged Elm

#### **Shrubs, vines and herbs:**

*Ampelopsis arborea* - Peppervine  
*Apios americana* - Groundnut  
*Ardisia crenata* - Scratchthroat \* **EPPC(I)**  
*Arisaema dracontium* - Greendragon  
*Asimina parviflora* - Smallflower Pawpaw  
*Asplenium platyneuron* - Ebony Spleenwort  
*Bidens alba* var. *radiata* - Beggarticks  
*Bidens laevis* - Burrmarigold  
*Bignonia capreolata* - Crossvine  
*Callicarpa americana* - American Beautyberry  
*Campsis radicans* - Trumpet Creeper  
*Carex comosa* - Longhair Sedge  
*Carex fissa* var. *aristata* - Hammock Sedge  
*Carex intumescens* - Greater Bladder Sedge  
*Cnidioscolus stimulosus* - Tread Softly  
*Colocasia esculenta* - Wild Taro \* **EPPC(I)**  
*Crataegus uniflora* - Dwarf Hawthorne  
*Cyperus surinamensis* - Tropical Flatsedge  
*Decumaria barbara* - Cowitch Vine  
*Desmodium incanum* - Zarzabacoa comun

*Dichanthelium* sp. - Witchgrass  
*Dioscorea bulbifera* - Air Potato \* **EPPC(I)**  
*Dioscorea floridana* - Florida Yam  
*Eichhornia crassipes* - Common Water Hyacinth \* **EPPC(I)**  
*Elephantopus carolinianus* - Carolina Elephantsfoot  
*Erythrina herbacea* - Coralbean  
*Euonymus americanus* - American Strawberrybush  
*Eupatorium capillifolium* - Dogfennel  
*Galium hispidulum* - Coastal Bedstraw  
*Gelsemium sempervirens* - Yellow Jessamine  
*Hydrocotyle umbellata* - Manyflower Marshpennywort  
*Hydrocotyle verticillata* - Whorled Marshpennywort  
*Ipomoea pandurata* - Man of the Earth  
*Lantana camara* - Lantana \* **EPPC(I)**  
*Lonicera sempervirens* - Coral Honeysuckle  
*Ludwigia peruviana* - Peruvian Primrosewillow  
*Matelea floridana* - Florida Milkvine (**Endangered – FL**)  
*Medicago lupulina* - Black Medick  
*Medicago polymorpha* - Burr Clover  
*Merremia dissecta* - Noyau Vine  
*Mikania scandens* - Climbing Hempvine  
*Mitchella repens* - Partridgeberry  
*Myriophyllum aquaticum* - Parrotfeather Water Milfoil  
*Oplismenus hirtellus* - Woodsgrass  
*Osmunda cinnamomea* - Cinnamon Fern  
*Osmunda regalis* var. *spectabilis* - Royal Fern  
*Panicum maximum* - Guineagrass \* **EPPC(II)**  
*Parthenocissus quinquefolia* - Virginia Creeper  
*Phytolacca americana* var. *rigida* - American Pokeweed  
*Pleopeltis polypodioides* var. *michauxiana* - Resurrection Fern  
*Pontederia cordata* - Pickerelweed  
*Pteridium aquilinum* var. *pseudocaudatum* - Tailed Bracken Fern  
*Rubus argutus* - Sawtooth Blackberry  
*Rubus trivialis* - Southern Dewberry  
*Ruellia caroliniensis* - Carolina Wild Petunia  
*Ruellia tweediana* - Britton's Wild Petunia \* **EPPC(I)**  
*Sabal minor* - Bluestem Palm  
*Salvia lyrata* - Lyreleaf Sage  
*Salvinia minima* - Water Spangles  
*Sambucus nigra* subsp. *canadensis* - Elderberry  
*Scleria triglomerata* - Tall Nutgrass  
*Sida acuta* - Common Wireweed  
*Smilax auriculata* - Earleaf Greenbriar  
*Smilax bona-nox* - Saw Greenbriar  
*Smilax glauca* - Cat Greenbriar  
*Smilax pumila* - Sarsaparilla Vine

*Smilax smallii* - Jackson Vine  
*Smilax tamnoides* - Bristly Greenbriar  
*Stachys floridana* ex Benth. - Florida Hedgenettle  
*Syngonium podophyllum* - American Evergreen \* **EPPC(I)**  
*Thelypteris kunthii* - Widespread Maiden Fern  
*Tillandsia recurvata* - Ballmoss  
*Tillandsia usneoides* - Spanish Moss  
*Toxicodendron radicans* - Eastern Poison Ivy  
*Typha latifolia* - Broadleaf Cattail  
*Vaccinium arboreum* - Sparkleberry  
*Vernonia gigantea* - Giant Ironweed  
*Viburnum obovatum* - Walter's Viburnum  
*Viburnum rufidulum* - Rusty Blackhaw  
*Vicia sativa* - Common Vetch  
*Viola sororia* - Common Blue Violet  
*Vitis aestivalis* - Summer Grape  
*Vitis rotundifolia* - Muscadine Grape  
*Woodwardia areolata* - Netted Chain Fern  
*Woodwardia virginica* - Virginia Chain Fern  
*Youngia japonica* - Oriental False Hawksbeard  
*Yucca aloifolia* - Spanish Bayonet  
*Yucca filamentosa* - Adam's Needle

\* Species listed as a category I or II invasive by EPPC