## WETLANDS IN A COMPLEX WORLD 9th INTECOL JUNE 3-8, 2012 INTERNATIONAL ORLANDO FLORIDA, USA WETLANDS CONFERENCE Field Trip Opportunities – Sunday, June 3, 2012

# Cape Canaveral Wetlands (Tour is Limited to 20 people)

### **Itinerary:** 8:00am Vans depart Caribe Royale Hotel Travel to Merritt Island National Wildlife 8:00am-9:00am Refuge visitor center 9:00am-10:00am Tour visitor center, boardwalk and get orientation 10:00am-11:30am Black Point Wildlife Drive Travel to Cape Canaveral National Seashore 11:30am-12:00pm for Lunch Lunch and explore beach/dune system 12:00pm-1:00pm 1:00pm-2:00pm Tour dike restoration 2:00pm-2:30pm Look for Scrub Jay 2:30pm-3:30pm Vans return to hotel

### **Description:**

The tour will start at the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center where you will get an over view of the natural history of this expansive refuge that surrounds much of the Kennedy Space Center. While at the visitor center we will explore the board walk and get oriented to some of the wetlands of the refute and the restoration efforts being conducted. We will then proceed to the Black Point Wildlife Drive where we will drive along impounded dikes to view a gradient of freshwater marshes, salt marshes and mangrove wetlands many of



which are within impoundments first constructed for mosquito control and now managed for waterfowl habitat and many are in various phases of restoration. Along the way there will be ample opportunities to observer many species of local birds as well as reptiles that are common to the area. After we exit the Black Point Wildlife Drive we will travel to Cape Canaveral National seashore to look over a relatively recent impoundment restoration and dike leveling and see the coastal barrier island and beach along the Atlantic Ocean. If time permits we will also see if we can catch a glimpse of the threatened and endangered, and charismatic Scrub Jay.



What to wear and bring: During the field trip we will be in and out of the air conditioned bus and engaging in brief walks of less than an hour in the hot Florida sun that can change into a downpour in a matter of minutes. Sunscreen, a hat and possibly a long-sleeve shirt to protect from the sun is a good idea, bring a rain coat just in case we end up in a downpour, and you might want a light jacket if the air conditioning gets uncomfortable. As for our walks, bring comfortable shoes and if you want to stay dry our main path will not require you to get wet, however for those of you who can't get your feet wet around water there will be several opportunities to wade into the wetlands or the ocean. You may also want to bring bug spray as although we will be out during the day and there is usually a breeze along the coast, we may encounter some saltmarsh mosquitoes or biting flies. Make sure to also bring your binoculars and camera.

Food Offered: Water and lunch will be provided.

Driving Distance: Is approximately 83 miles each way. Map: g.co/maps/vypit

# Cost of Tour: \$75.00 per person

(Fees include lunch and transportation)

### For Questions about the Tour Site, Contact: Mark Clark, TOUR LEADER, UF/IFAS Soil & Water Science Dept.

Phone: (352) 392-1804, x319 | Email: clarkmw@ufl.edu

For Questions about Tour Logistics, Contact: Sharon Borneman, UF/IFAS Office of Conferences & Institutes Phone: (352) 392-5930 | Email: spb@ufl.edu

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# Emeralda Marsh Restoration (Tour is Limited to 20 people)

Itinerary:	
9:00am	Vans depart Caribe Royale Hotel
9:00am-10:00am	Travel to Emeralda Marsh Conservation Are (36652 Emeralda Island Road, Lisbon, FL 34788)
10:00am-12:45pm	Tour of wetland restoration area
12:45pm-1:15pm	Travel to Sunnyhill Recreation Area Blue House (19561 SE Hwy 42, Umatilla, FL 32784)
1:15pm-2:00pm	Lunch at Sunnyhill Blue House
2:00pm-3:30pm	Vans return to hotel

### **Description:**

This tour will traverse portions of the Emeralda Marsh Conservation Area, a former agricultural area now in restoration to a variety of wetland and upland habitats and a former source of excessive nutrient loading to Lake Griffin. Lake Griffin, a 3600 ha water body, suffered substantial water quality degradation in the 1970s and 1980s. Initial diagnostic studies by the St. Johns River Water Management District (District) documented the primary controllable



nutrient source to the lake to be discharges from agricultural areas on the east shore. Conversion of historical floodplain wetlands to row-crop farms and cattle pastures began as early as the 1950s and peaked in the 1970s. Beginning in the early 1990s, the District acquired about 2600 ha of these farms. Initial restoration efforts began in 1995 with the establishment of a 430 ha wetland treatment system to remove nutrients and suspended solids from circulated Lake Griffin water. Other farm fields were flooded and water levels controlled to encourage development of wetland and aquatic habitat. Through these restoration activities, nutrient discharges from the former farmed areas were substantially reduced. The wetland treatment system ceased operation in 2001 following a substantial reduction of phosphorus concentrations in Lake Griffin.

Since 2001, most of the former farm fields have been managed to maintain native emergent, submerged and floating- leaved vegetation as well as provide for public use of the site for hiking, wildlife viewing, and hunting and fishing. Several of the former farms have been reconnected to Lake Griffin to help restore historical floodplain wetlands to the larger ecosystem.



Participants will see the results of long-term restoration following farming on historical floodplain wetlands. Challenges encountered

during this project followed from the earlier conversion of floodplain wetlands to organic soil f arm fields that were diked and alternately flooded and drained for agricultural production and from former wet meadows and uplands that were invaded by agricultural weeds and



invasive shrubs. Problems included restoration of desirable wetland and aquatic habitat on highly disturbed soils having elevated levels of nutrients and pesticides, excessive soil oxidation, and significant physical soil disaggregation. Sites visited will show varying stages of restoration through long-term hydrological management, vegetation plantings, and fire management. One site will show results of a restoration from transitional shrub to wetland habitat by creation of a serpentine flow-path and hydrologic reconnection to Lake Griffin. In addition, participants will observe nutrient treatment facilities that utilize aluminum sulfate injections to reduce phosphorus concentrations of storm water discharges from the restored wetlands.

We will have good opportunities to view the abundant wildlife.

<u>What to wear and bring:</u> Dress for air temperature about 30-32 C. We encourage you to bring binoculars and cameras and wear closetoed, comfortable walking shoes. We will walk only short distances (~100 m) on the tour. Bring rain jackets and sun protection as needed. The tour will proceed in mild rain weather but will be cancelled in extreme weather conditions.

### Food Offered:

Water and box lunches will be provided. We will eat lunch at the Sunnyhill Recreation Area, another District site where former agricultural lands have been restored to wetlands.

Driving Distance: Approximately 60 miles (96 km) to the site. Map: <u>g.co/maps/q72yd</u>

### Cost of Tour: \$75.00 per person

(Fees include lunch and transportation)

For Questions about the Tour Site, Contact: John Stenberg, TOUR LEADER, St. Johns River Water Management District,

Phone: (386)937-1291 | Email: jstenberg@sjrwmd.com

For Questions about Tour Logistics, Contact: Sharon Borneman, UF/IFAS Office of Conferences & Institutes

Phone: (352) 392-5930 | Email: spb@ufl.edu



# Florida Springs Tour – Juniper Springs and Silver Glen Springs (Tour is Limited to 30 people)

### Itinerary:

8:30am	Bus departs Caribe Royale Hotel
10:00am	Arrive at Juniper Springs
10:00am-12:00pm	Tour Juniper
12:00pm-1:00pm	Eat Box Lunch
1:00pm	Load Bus & Depart to Silver Glen Springs
1:30pm	Arrive at Silver Glen Springs
1:30pm-3:30pm	Tour Silver Glen
3:30pm-5:30pm	Board Bus and return to hotel

### Description:

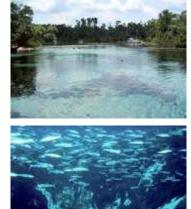
Tour participants will walk to the springs and hike through a network of trails within the recreation area of each spring.

Juniper Springs is a secondmagnitude spring with an ovalshaped pool that measures about 120 feet from north to south and 90 feet from east to west. Several limestone vents and sand boils are present on the pool bottom, with sand and aquatic grasses in other areas of the pool. The clear, bluish water has a low dissolved solids concentration compared with most Florida springs. A limestone and concrete wall with steps and other access points surrounds the pool. An old millhouse and spillway are on the east side of the pool. Numerous sand boils are located down the run from the



main pool, with the largest by the bridge over the run. The springs are the headwaters of Juniper Creek, which meanders toward the northeast through the Juniper Prairie Wilderness for about 10 miles to Lake George.

Silver Glen Springs is a firstmagnitude spring with a large, semicircular pool that measures 200 feet from north to south and 175 feet from east to west. Most of the strong flow emerges from two cavern openings in the rock at the bottom of the pool, with large boils at the water's surface over the vents. The vertical cave opening called the Natural Well in the southwestern edge of the pool is about 12 to 15 feet in diameter and 40 feet deep. The vent in the east part of the pool is a conical depression about 18 feet deep. Most of the spring pool has sand and



limestone on the pool bottom, with areas of aquatic grasses. Large fresh and saltwater fish are common in the pool and around the vents. Additional flow is from sand boils in the bottom of the spring run downstream from the head of the springs. Water from the springs flows eastward down a run about 200 feet wide for 0.75 mile to Lake George.

What to wear and bring: Participants should dress comfortably for warm weather (shorts and breathable shirts), good walking shoes, hat and sunglasses. A light rain jacket is optional.

Food Offered: Water and lunch will be provided.

Driving Distance: Is approximately 80 miles to Juniper Springs and 20 miles from Juniper to Silver Glen Springs. Map: g.co/maps/ygcx6

# Cost of Tour: \$75.00 per person

(Fees include lunch and transportation)

For Questions about the Tour Site, Contact: Sonny Hall, TOUR LEADER, SJRWMD Phone: (386) 329-4368 | Email: shall@sirwmd.com

Ima Bujak, TOUR LEADER, SJRWMD Phone: (386) 972-3528 | Email: ibujak@sjrwmd.com

For Questions about Tour Logistics, Contact: Sharon Borneman, UF/IFAS Office of Conferences & Institutes

Phone: (352) 392-5930 | Email: spb@ufl.edu



History and Habitat Tour – Fort Christmas Historical Park and the Orlando Easterly Wetlands (*Tour is limited to 25 people*)

Itinerary:	
8:00am	Bus departs Caribe Royale Hotel
9:00am	Arrive at FCHP and tour
11:30am	Leave for OEW
11:40am	Arrive at OEW and eat lunch
12:30pm	Tour OEW
2:00pm	Leave OEW
3:00pm	Bus arrives at Hotel

### **Description:**

The tour will mix some of the human history of central Florida with examples of its plants and animals. The trip will start at Fort Christmas Historical Park, first built in 1837 during the Seminole Indian Wars. Participants will then travel to the Orlando Wetlands Park for lunch and a tour of the large treatment wetland that has some of the best birding and wildlife viewing opportunities in the area.

Fort Christmas Park has a full size replica Fort. Seven restored historical homes preserve the 'Cracker' architecture of East Orange County. The houses are interpreted to show pioneer life from the 1870s through the 1930s. Key themes are homesteading, cattle, citrus, hunting, fishing and trapping. Many interpretive displays are available.



Orlando Easterly Wetlands visitors will tour the 1,650 acre wetland treatment system. Visitors will learn how the constructed wetlands are used to remove excess nitrogen and phosphorus from 15million gallons per day of wastewater effluent. At the same time the facility provides a home to numerous species of indigenous, threatened and endangered wildlife.



<u>What to wear and bring:</u> Where comfortable clothes, bring a camera for great scenery and bug repellant if so desired.

Food Offered: Water and lunch will be provided.

Driving Distance: Is approximately 45 miles from hotel to Fort Christmas Historical Park. Map: g.co/maps/jc5m4

### Cost of Tour: \$75.00 per person

(Fees include lunch and transportation)

For Questions about the Tour Sites, Contact: Mark Sees, TOUR LEADER, City of Orlando Phone: (407) 568-1706) | Email: <u>mark.sees@cityoforlando.net</u>

For Questions about Tour Logistics, Contact: Sharon Borneman, UF/IFAS Office of Conferences & Institutes Phone: (325) 392-5930 | Email: spb@ufl.edu



Orlando Treatment Wetlands – Orange Co. Eastern Water Reclamation Facility, Greenwood Urban Wetlands and Orlando Easterly Wetlands (*Tour is limited to 35 people*)

### Itinerary:

8:00am	Bus departs Caribe Royale Hotel
8:40am -10:15am	Arrive at Orange County Eastern Water Reclamation Facility and Tour
10:15am-10:45am	Depart and arrive at Orlando Easterly Wetlands
10:45am-1:00pm	Eat lunch
1:00pm-1:45pm	Depart OEW and arrive at Greenwood
1:45pm-3:00pm	Tour Greenwood
3:00pm-3:45pm	Bus returns to Hotel

### Description:

This tour will highlight two constructed wetlands in Central Florida. The Greenwood Urban Wetland receives and treats urban stormwater runoff from downtown Orlando, and the Orlando Easterly Wetlands (aka Orlando Wetlands Park) receives tertiary treated wastewater from the Iron Bridge Wastewater Reclamation Facility before discharging to the St. Johns River. Both systems are excellent examples of integrated treatment wetland design and have been operational for almost two decades and provide insight into long-term management and performance of these systems.

Additional information can be found for these three wetlands at:

Orlando Wetlands Park



Greenwood Urban Wetlands



Eastern Water Reclamation Facility



<u>What to wear and bring:</u> Where comfortable clothes, bring a camera for great scenery and bug repellant if so desired.

Food Offered: Water and lunch will be provided.

**Driving Distance:** Is approximately 30 miles from the hotel, 18 miles from OCEWRF, 26 miles to OEW and 19 miles on the return trip from Greenwood to the hotel. Map: <u>g.co/maps/axjth</u>

### Cost of Tour: \$75.00 per person (Fees include lunch and transportation)

For Questions about the Tour Sites, Contact: John White, TOUR LEADER, Dept. of Oceanography & Coastal Sciences – LSU Phone: (225) 578-8792 Email: jrwhite@lsu.edu

For Questions about Tour Logistics, Contact: Sharon Borneman, UF/IFAS Office of Conferences & Institutes Phone: (325) 392-5930 | Email: <a href="mailto:spb@ufl.edu">spb@ufl.edu</a>

### WETLANDS IN A COMPLEX WORLD th INTECOL JUNE 3-8, 2012 INTERNATIONAL ORLANDO FLORIDA, USA WETLANDS CONFERENCE

Field Trip Opportunities – Sunday, June 3, 2012

# SJRWMD Lake Apopka North Shore Restoration (Tour is Limited to 20 people)

Itinerary:	
9:00am	Vans depart Caribe Royale Hotel
9:45am-12:15pm	Tour 80 km <sup>2</sup> Lake Apopka North Shore Restoration Area. Presentations on the Lake Apopka restoration program, recreation of wetlands on former farmlands, nutrient control, and remediation of organochlorine pesticides
12.15pm-1:00pm	Lunch at the Lake Apopka Field Station
1:00pm-3:00pm	Tour Lake Apopka Marsh Flow-Way, a 275-ha treatment wetland for nutrient removal. Presentations on design and application of a constructed wetland to remove nutrients from lake water
3:00pm-4:00pm	Vans return to Hotel

### **Description**

Lake Apopka, northwest of Orlando, has been a focus of restoration efforts by the St. Johns River Water Management District since 1985. Prior to the 1940s, Lake Apopka had clear water and abundant gamefish. Agricultural development of the floodplain resulted in increased phosphorus loading to the lake that caused chronic algal blooms starting



in 1947. The once abundant submersed macrophytes were eliminated by shading, and sportfish populations declined. Key to restoration of the lake is the reduction in nutrient loading through purchase of the farms and restoration of wetlands.

The tour will visit portions of 80-km<sup>2</sup> former farmlands on the north shore of Lake Apopka in various stages of wetland restoration. During the first portion of the tour we will travel through areas where the goals of wetland restoration are reduction in water and nutrient runoff and re-creation of habitat. There will be many opportunities to



see abundant birds and wildlife. We will present information on the overall restoration program for 125-km<sup>2</sup> Lake Apopka and its watershed and on contaminant studies and soil pesticide remediation on the former farms. Restoration of hydrologic conditions was complicated by the fact that decades of agriculture

resulted in up to 2m subsidence of the organic "muck" soils. The soils contain organochlorine pesticide residues and have high phosphorus content.

Lunch will be at the St. Johns River Water Management District's Lake Apopka Field Station where we will sit in the shade



outdoors. In the second portion of the tour we will see a constructed wetland that is used to help improve Lake Apopka water quality. The "Marsh Flow-Way" is a large-scale (275-ha) constructed wetland used by the District to remove nutrients and suspended material from Lake Apopka. It is located on the western side of the North Shore Restoration Area. The system has been operated since 2003 and is composed of four treatment cells, which are mosaics of herbaceous marsh and open water. We will describe the historical context of lake water quality and the applicability of using a wetland approach. In addition to describing the project, we will discuss system performance, maintenance experiences and economic costs of the system.

What to wear and bring: Dress for air temperature about 30-32 C. We encourage you to bring binoculars and cameras and wear closetoed, comfortable walking shoes. We will walk only short distances (~100 m) on the tour. Bring rain jackets and sun protection as needed. The tour will proceed in mild rain weather but will be cancelled in extreme weather conditions.

Food Offered: Water and lunch will be provided.

Driving Distance: Is approximately 30 mi (48 km) there, 15 mi (24 km) during the tour, and 51 mi (82 km) return. Map to the start of the tour g.co/maps/s9w6t Map from the end point to the hotel g.co/maps/c39z8

### Cost of Tour: \$75.00 per person

(Fees include lunch and transportation)

For Questions about the Tour Site, Contact: Mike Coveney, TOUR LEADER, SJRWMD Phone: (386)329-4366 | Email: mcoveney@sjrwmd.com

Ed Dunne, TOUR LEADER, SJRWMD Phone: (386) 329-4227 | Email: edunne@sjrwmd.com

For Questions about Tour Logistics, Contact: Sharon Borneman, UF/IFAS Office of Conferences & Institutes

Phone: (352) 392-5930 | Email: spb@ufl.edu

# 9th INTECOL<br/>INTERNATIONAL<br/>WETLANDS CONFERENCEWETLANDS CONFERENCEWETLANDS CONFERENCEField Trip Opportunities – Sunday, June 3, 2012

# Upper St. Johns River Basin – Bull Creek (Tour is Limited to 20 people)

Itinerary:	
8:00am	Leave Caribe Royale Hotel
9:00am	Stop at local business for restroom break (Sunoco, St. Cloud)
9:30am	Arrive Bull Creek WMA at the L-73 levee
11:45am	Arrive at Bull Creek WMA check-in station (restroom facilities)
12:00pm	Lunch at shaded picnic tables
12:30pm	Tour of Bull Creek along Loop Road
3:45pm	Back to Bull Creek WMA check-in station (restroom facilities)
4:00pm	Leave Bull Creek WMA for return travel
4:30pm	Stop at local business for restroom break (Sunoco, St. Cloud)
5:30pm	Arrive at Caribe Royale Hotel

### **Description:**

Participants will experience the "real" Florida and will be able to see a wide variety of habitats. These vast wildlife management areas (Bull Creek = 23,470 ac; Triple N = 15,391 ac) will provide the opportunity to see many of Florida's inland habitats ranging from sandy, scrubby areas to wet, peaty swamps and marshes. In Bull Creek WMA, trip leaders will present the hydrologic management challenges of managing an area of this size and then allow participants to foray into the swamp (wear shoes that can get wet!). Then we will head for higher ground and hear about the fire management and invasive plant management techniques that are used to manage this diverse resource.



Hardwood swamp - Bull Creek WMA

Trip participants will get to visit some of the finest examples of several Florida habitats including Scrub, Palmetto prairies, Hardwood Hammocks, Pine Flatwoods, Marshes, and Hardwood Swamps. All along the tour, our Guides will point out rare and interesting plant species that occur in those areas (including hooded pitcher plant, bromeliads, butterfly orchids, sundews).



Conradina grandiflora in scrub habitat

<u>What to wear and bring</u>: Dress for walking – loose fitting clothing that can keep you cool but safe from sun exposure and bug bites. Bring your binoculars, hats, sunscreen, bug repellant and sturdy walking shoes.

Food Offered: Water and lunch will be provided.

Driving Distance: Is approximately 50 miles to the sites and 20 miles total within the WMA's. Map: mapg.st/w8XAaO

<u>Cost of Tour</u>: **\$75.00 per person** (Fees include lunch and transportation)

For Questions about Tour Site, Contact: Kimberli Ponzio, SJRWMD, Phone: (386) 329-4331 Email: <u>kponzio@sjrwmd.com</u>,

### Tour Leaders:

Steven J. Miller, SJRWMD, Phone: (386)329-4387 Email: <u>sjmiller@sjrwmd.com</u>

*Brett Walker*, FFWCC, Phone: (407)498-0991 Email: <u>brett.walker@MyFWC.com</u>

For Questions about Tour Logistics, Contact: Sharon Borneman, UF/IFAS Office of Conferences & Institutes Phone: (352) 392-5930 | Email: <a href="mailto:spb@ufl.edu">spb@ufl.edu</a>

### Websites with more info:

www.sjrwmd.com/recreationguide/herkyhuffman-bullcreek/



## Wekiwa Springs and River Tour (Tour is Limited to 20 people)

Itinerary:	
8:00am	Bus departs Caribe Royale Hotel
9:00am	Arrive at Wekiwa Springs State Park
9:30am-12:00pm	Canoe trip on Wekiwa Spring Run (See Liability Waiver on website and registration form)
12:00 pm-1:00pm	Eat Boxed lunches
1:00pm-2:30pm	On your own to explore head spring and nature trails
3:00pm-4:00pm	Bus returns to Hotel

### **Description:**

Located at the headwaters of the Wekiva River, the beautiful vistas within this park offer a glimpse of what Central Florida looked like when Timucuan Indians fished and hunted these lands. Just one hour from most central Florida attractions, Wekiwa Springs offers visitors the opportunity to relax in a natural setting, enjoy a picnic, or take a swim in the cool spring. Canoeists and kayakers can paddle along the Wekiva River and Rock Springs Run. This will be a day trip to Wekiwa Springs State Park (1800 Wekiwa Circle, Apopka, FL 32712). We will do a short canoe trip down the springs and back and spend time exploring the spring and surrounding river hammocks.



Along the way, the Tour Leader will provide background information on the geology and ecology of Florida springs and related wetland habitats. The canoeing is "flatwater" and suitable for those with minimal or no experience. Safety gear (personal flotation device, whistle) is provided with the canoe rental.



<u>What to wear and bring:</u> You will likely get wet, so dress accordingly (swim suit, field clothes); bring towels, sunscreen, and bug repellent.

Food Offered: Water and lunch will be provided.

Driving Distance: Is approximately 35 miles one-way. Map: g.co/maps/p6wuy

# Cost of Tour: \$75.00 per person

(Fees include lunch, admission/rental fees and transportation.)

For Questions about the Tour Site, Contact: Robert Mattson, TOUR LEADER, SJRWMD Phone: (386) 329-4582 | Email: rmattson@sjrwmd.com

For Questions about Tour Logistics, Contact: Sharon Borneman, UF/IFAS Office of Conferences & Institutes Phone: (352) 392-5930 | Email: spb@ufl.edu

# 9th INTECOL WETLANDS IN A COMPLEX WORLD UNE 3-8, 2012 JUNE 3-8, 2012 ORLANDO FLORIDA, USA ORLANDO FLORIDA, USA Field Trip Opportunities – Sunday, June 3, 2012

## Wetlands Reserve Program Restoration Tour (Tour is Limited to 30 people)

Itinerary:	
9:30am	Bus departs Caribe Royale Hotel
10:30am	Arrive at WRP site and tour
12:30pm	Picnic lunch at tour site
1:30pm	Board bus and depart
2:30pm	Bus returns to Hotel

### **Description:**

Florida's wetlands provide habitat for fish and wildlife, including threatened and endangered species; improve water quality by filtering sediments and chemicals; reduce flooding; recharge groundwater; protect biological diversity; and provide opportunities for educational, scientific, and limited recreational activities. Since 1992, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has administered the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP). WRP is a voluntary program that provides technical and financial assistance to private landowners and Tribes to restore, protect, and enhance wetlands in exchange for retiring eligible land from agriculture. The cumulative benefits of the wetlands restored through WRP reach well beyond their boundaries to improve watershed health, the vitality of agricultural lands, and aesthetics and economies of local communities.



Participants will enjoy a guided tour through a restored wetland site of approximately 1,000 acres in Polk County. This land sits in the area of the headwaters of the largest restoration project in the world, the Florida Everglades. Wildlife such as bears, whooping cranes and bald eagles are a frequent site. The landowners, as good stewards of the land, contracted with NRCS for a WRP easement on portions of their typical Florida ranch. These easements restrict development and conserve the land for future generations. The wetland restoration project was completed in 2006. Participants will become familiar with the wetland ecosystems of this site. In addition, participants will be introduced to the hydrological principles behind the structural restoration work performed. Wetland management topics will also be discussed including the use of prescribed grazing for invasive plant control. Time permitting participants will view a Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) site in the same area.



<u>What to wear and bring:</u> Dress in comfortable clothes and wear boots or athletic shoes. Rain jackets, hats and sunscreen protection are recommended.

Food Offered: Water and lunch will be provided.

Driving Distance: Is approximately 50 miles to the tour site. Map: wetlands-reserve.notlong.com

### <u>Cost of Tour</u>: \$75.00 per person (Fees include lunch and transportation)

For Questions about the Tour Site, Contact: Roney Gutierrez, TOUR LEADER, USDA NRCS Assistant State Conservationist Phone: (352) 338-9502 | Email: roney.gutierrez@fl.usda.gov

For Questions about Tour Logistics, Contact: Sharon Borneman, UF/IFAS Office of Conferences & Institutes Phone: (352) 392-5930 | Email: spb@ufl.edu