

***CONSERVATION OF THE FLORIDA KEY'S PINE ROCKLANDS:  
Learning from our past to sustain for the future***

March 28-29, 2007  
Lord of the Seas Lutheran Church Meeting Hall  
Big Pine Key, FL

**Wednesday, March 28<sup>th</sup>**

- 9:00 *Welcome, Meeting Purpose & Objectives* (**Anne Morkill**, USFWS Florida Keys National Wildlife Refuges)
- 9:15 *Managing pine rockland in the Florida Keys: a conundrum and paradox* (**Tom Wilmers**, USFWS Florida Keys National Wildlife Refuges)
- 9:45 *Fire biogeography of Keys pinelands: an overview of scale considerations* (**Phillip Hughes**, USFWS Ecological Services)
- 10:15 *Historical perspective on the dynamics of key deer and pine rocklands* (**Roel Lopez**, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, Texas A&M University)
- 10:45 BREAK
- 11:00 *Rare pine rockland plants of Big Pine Key* (**Keith Bradley**, Institute for Regional Conservation)
- 11:30 Facilitated Discussion – *Identifying focal species and selecting conservation priorities*
- 12:00 LUNCH – On your own
- 1:30 *Restoring freshwater wetlands and hydrological connections on Big Pine Key* (**Jeanette Hobbs**, Keys Environmental Trust Fund – invited)
- 2:00 *Sea level rise and the decline of pine rockland forests in the lower Florida Keys* (**Mike Ross**, Southeast Environmental Research Center, Florida International University)
- 2:30 *Prescribed Fire, Mechanical Pre-Fire Fuel Treatment and Hurricane Wilma's Storm Surge: Long Term Vegetation Community Monitoring at Terrestris Preserve, Big Pine Key, Florida* (**Chris Bergh**, The Nature Conservancy)
- 3:00 BREAK
- 3:15 Facilitated Discussion/Brainstorming – *Challenges and opportunities for pine rockland conservation*
- 4:00 Adjourn for DINNER (on your own) – Plan to return for the evening session! Snacks provided.

(over)

6:00 Keynote Presentation (**Nova Silvy**, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, Texas A&M University)

6:30 Community Panel: Local knowledge about the Lower Keys pine rocklands  
- *Effects of hurricane storm surges on Lower Keys habitats* - **Robert Ehrig**  
- *Photo-monitoring of past prescribed burns and effects on pine rocklands* - **Paula Cannon**  
- *Migratory birds of the pine rocklands* - **Kathy Wheeler**  
- *Many questions, few answers, and 'Surf's up!'* - **Tina Henize**  
- *Community Wildfire Protection Plan: How You Can Participate* – **Chris Bergh**  
- Gregory Scott

Open Forum: Interests and concerns about the future of our Keys pine rocklands (Public)

9:00 Adjourn

### **Thursday, March 29<sup>th</sup>**

8:00 Field trip to view various pine rockland stands on Big Pine Key (meet at Lutheran Church to car pool)

10:00 *Ecological criteria for implementing prescribed fire in Lower Keys pine rocklands* (**Jim Snyder**, USGS Florida Integrated Science Center)

10:30 *Effects of overstory cover and prescribed fire on understory vegetation in Florida Keys pine forests* (**Jay Sah**, Southeast Environmental Research Center, Florida International University)

11:00 *Tools and strategies for implementing a fire management program on National Key Deer Refuge* (**Jon Wallace**, USFWS Loxahatchee & Key Deer National Wildlife Refuges)

11:30 *Remote sensing tools for assessing Lower Keys pine rockland communities* (**Keqi Zhang**, Department of Environmental Services, Florida International University, and **Chris Bergh**, The Nature Conservancy)

12:00 LUNCH – On your own

1:30 Small Group Breakout Sessions

*For example:*

- *Delineate ecological units for management of pine rocklands*
- *Define best management practices for habitat management of pine rocklands*
- *Identify refugia areas for priority conservation action*
- *Identify information gaps and research needs*

3:30 Small Group Reports & Large Group Discussion

4:30 Wrap-up – Next Steps

5:00 Adjourn