



Everglades Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area

2018 EVERGLADES INVASIVE SPECIES SUMMIT

Outreach: Making ECISMA Partners' Work Visible

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Why does it matter?

“The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago.

The second best time is now.”



Public Events

- Over 6,720 people reached
- Miami-Dade and Broward Counties
- Engaged public (all ages) in priority invasive species
 - Argentine black and white tegu
 - Burmese python
 - Nile monitors
 - Spectacled caiman
- Handouts/take-homes
 - IveGot1 reporting info
 - Invasive species fact sheets (UF)
 - FL Invaders Newsletter (FWC & NPS)





Public Events (cont.)

DID YOU KNOW?

- » Florida has more nonnative reptile and amphibian species than anywhere else in the world.
- » More than 80% of the nonnative reptiles and amphibians in Florida arrived here through the pet trade.
- » There are more species of nonnative lizards breeding in Florida than native lizards.
- » Invasive plants and animals cost Floridians more than \$500 million each year.
- » Invasive species are the second-leading cause of species endangerment and extinction, after habitat loss.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- » Do your research before buying exotic pets, and remember, Don't Let it Loose!
- » Learn to identify invasive nonnative species and report sightings at www.IveGot1.org or 1-888-IVE-GOT1
- » If you have an exotic pet you can no longer care for, contact the Pet Amnesty hotline at 1-888-IVE-GOT1
- » Inspect boating and fishing equipment and remove any plants and animals before going home.
- » Become an exotic pet adopter. Learn more and apply at www.myfwc.com/nonnatives.



For more information about invasive species in south Florida and tips on how you can help, visit www.evergladescisma.org



**Seen something exotic?
Report your sighting!**

1. Take a picture
2. Note the location
3. Report your sighting

By phone: 888-Ive-Got1 (888-483-4681)
 Online: IveGot1.org or download the IveGot1 reporting app
 For more information: please visit our website at MyFWC.com/Nonnatives



Public Events (cont.)





Public Events (cont.)

Date	Event/Estimated # Reached	Location
November 18 th , 2017	Redland Seafood Fest (300)	Fruit & Spice Park, Homestead
January 13-14 th , 2018	Redland Heritage Fest (350)	Fruit & Spice Park, Homestead
February 3 rd , 2018	Exotic Pet Awareness Day (80)	Coconut Creek Pet Supermarket
February 24 th , 2018	Homestead Eco Fair (300)	Losner Park, Homestead
March 24 th , 2018	Native Plant Day (600)	AD Barnes Park, Miami
April 19 th , 2018	Broward College Earth Day (100)	Broward College North Campus, Coconut Creek
April 21 st , 2018	Broward Ag/STEM Fair (250)	Marando Farms, Davie
April 22 nd , 2018	Earth Day Party for the Planet (3,800)	Zoo Miami
May 12 th , 2018	Military Appreciation Day (600)	Losner Park, Homestead
May 29 th , 2018	Zoo School Talk (90)	Zoo Miami
June 23-24 th , 2018	Summer Fruit Fest (250)	Fruit & Spice Park, Homestead



Presentations

- Priority Invasive Species Trainings (2018)
 - February 22nd at Broward County Road Surveyor Meeting
 - June 14th at SFWMD Palm Beach County Field Station
 - August 28th at SFWMD Davie Field Station (scheduled)
- Python Contractor Programs – Research Goals
 - February 21st at FLREC, Davie (FWC)
 - March 3rd at SFWMD Homestead office
 - July 13th at Krome Center (NPS, FWC, SFWMD, USGS)





Targeted Outreach

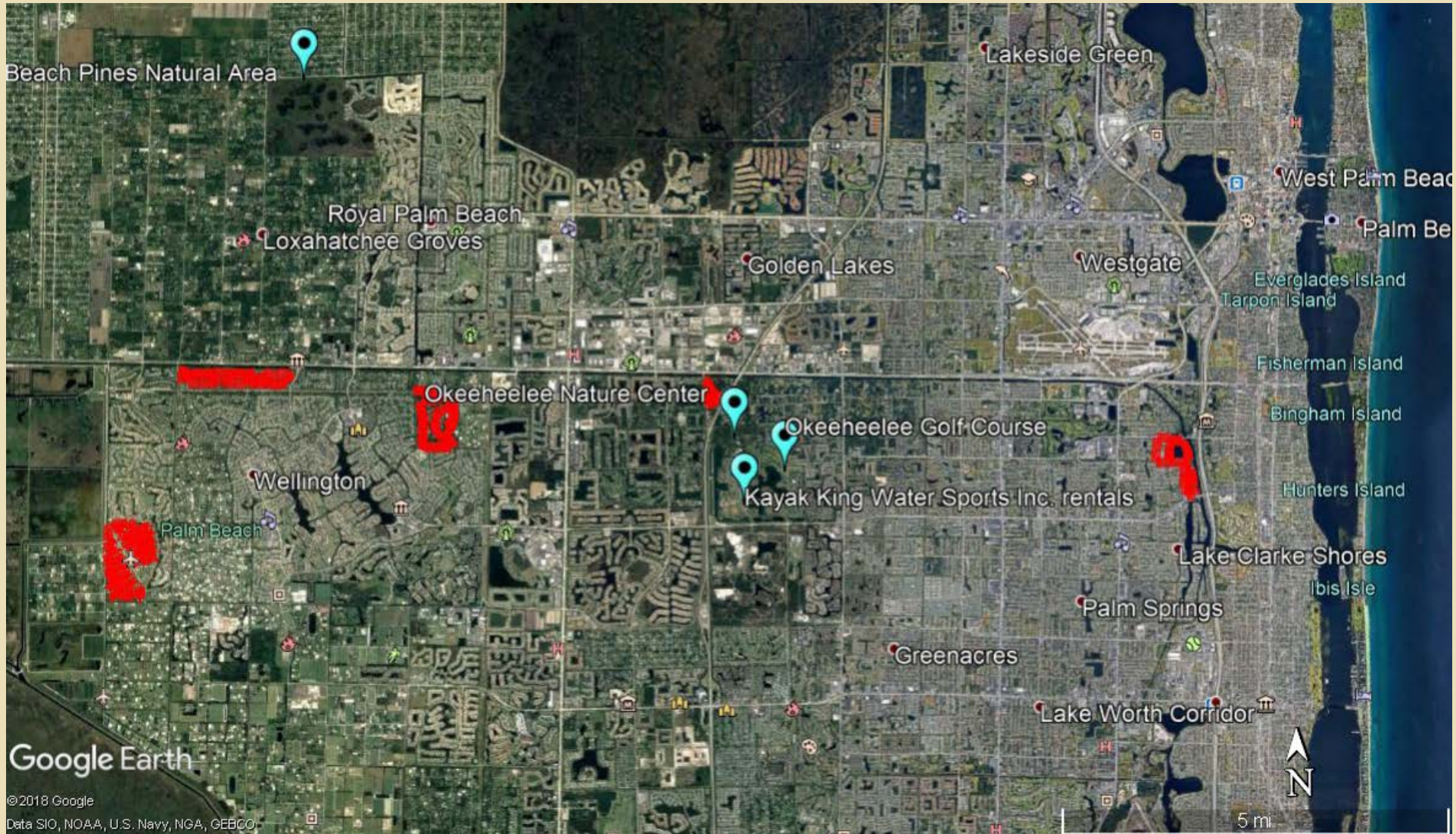
- Nile monitors
 - Door hangers – distributed 730 since April 2018
 - Various developments in Wellington, West Palm Beach (see maps)
 - Flyers – distributed 53 since April 2018
 - Opportunistically handed out “Wanted” flyers to landowners, walkers/bikers along canals, workers
 - Deliberately to Okeeheelee Park, Wellington AeroClub (for website), and Royal Palm Beach Pines for distribution to public visitors



Total Effort (media distributed) = 795



Targeted Outreach (cont.)





Targeted Outreach (cont.)

- Successes/effectiveness
 - 2 hotline reports (1 with photo) in response to door hangers
 - 1 homeowner removed Nile monitor from his yard (at C-51 and E-2)
 - 1 homeowner reported 2 Nile monitor sightings
 - Informed those who frequent potential habitat
- Future directions for Nile monitor outreach
 - Birders in STAs
 - Equestrian groups
 - Areas beyond regular survey routes



Targeted Outreach (cont.)

- Tegus
 - Door hangers
 - Distributed 128 off of Mowry Drive in May 2018
 - Successes
 - 5 hotline calls in response to door hangers
 - 1 with photo voucher
 - Future directions –
 - Plan to investigate FPL property in Homestead with
 - Trail cameras/traps
 - Awaiting approval to access
 - Potential dispersal corridor?





2018 ECISMA Newsletter



Everglades Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area

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Newsletter

VOLUME 8 2018



South Dade Wetlands (SDW) wildfire (Photo by Miami-Dade County).

South Dade Wetlands: Not So Boring After All!

by Robin Gray-Urgelles and Gwen Burzycki, Miami-Dade County

Have you ever driven the 18-Mile Stretch on US-1 from Florida City to the Keys and thought, "When am I going to get through this?! There's nothing to see!" You are passing through the 54,000-acre South Dade Wetlands (SDW, aka Model Lands), a large wetland preserve that is being jointly acquired and managed by the Miami-Dade County Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Program and the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD). SDW and the adjacent Southern Glades Wildlife and Environmental Area (SGWEA) encompass the largest chunk of freshwater marl prairie outside Everglades National Park and have almost all the ecological values of their more famous next-door neighbor.

Within one of the fastest growing urban areas, the EEL Program along with SFWMD has brought 20,600 acres under public ownership since 1994. Most of that is critically-important habitat for wading birds, waterfowl, raptors, migratory songbirds, as well as threatened and endangered species such as the wood stork, Eastern indigo snake, and the occasional Florida panther.

This area acts as a keystone, connecting a 3.5 million-acre contiguous wetland preserve representing most of the remaining Everglades watershed (including Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, Everglades & Francis S. Taylor Wildlife Management Area, Big Cypress National Preserve, Everglades National Park, the SGWEA) with Biscayne National Park (Figure 1).

Like the rest of the Everglades, SDW has sweeping vistas of sawgrass prairie dotted with tree islands. The cool stuff, however, is in the details. On the 18-Mile Stretch, kingfishers, kestrels, and red-shouldered hawks perch on power lines; bald eagles soar on thermals; and wading birds feed in borrow pits which are remnants of Flagler's railway to the Keys. And why is there all that fencing? Special wildlife underpasses keep panthers, crocodiles, and alligators off the road and cars on.

Get off the main roads to appreciate pockets of woodstorks, snowy egrets, little blue herons, tricolored herons, and roseate spoonbills as the wetlands dry down and prey become concentrated.

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National Invasive Species Awareness Week (NISAW) 2018



Young catclaw vine with tuber. Notice the limestone rock characteristic of the rockland hammock habitat (Photo by: Gloria Antia).



Licaria triandra sapling with characteristic coloration of new growth (Photo by: Gloria Antia).



Licaria saplings in the foreground with catclaw vine climbing a false mastic in the background (Photo by: Gloria Antia).

De"claw"ing Rare Plant Habitat in Miami

by James Lange, Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden

A team of volunteers brought their work gloves and enthusiasm to Simpson Park in Miami on March 1st, 2018, during National Invasive Species Awareness Week as another local-scale invasive species removal effort. The Park is one of the last remnants of the historic Brickell Hammock in urban Miami-Dade.

This green jewel within a concrete metropolis hosts a rockland hammock home to several rare species of trees, including some of the largest mainland specimens of Redberry stopper (*Eugenia confusa*) and Bahama Strongbark (*Bourreria succulenta*), as well as Florida's only wild population of Gulf Licaria (*Licaria*

triandra). Additionally, the state-listed liana and pokeweed relative, Hoopvine (*Trichostigma octandrum*) is in abundance.

This natural remnant also harbors a flourishing community of invasive plants. One of the targets of the workday was hand removal of catclaw vine (*Dolichandra unguis-cati*) in an area containing hundreds of young Gulf Licaria trees. Named for the unique appearance of its tendrils, the catclaw vine roots into the soil and smothers native saplings in a dense, suffocating mat until it finds a tree to climb from which it can produce copious amounts of wind-dispersed seeds.

In this sensitive Licaria habitat, particular attention had to be paid to removing the catclaw tubers without damaging nearby plants. This of course is complicated by the jagged limestone bedrock characteristic of the habitat that prevents easy access to the spuds.

Volunteers tackled the challenge of hand removal as best they could to help restore this natural preserve. By the end of the day, several garbage bags were filled with catclaw vine. This will be an ongoing effort, but for now the only wild population of Gulf Licaria in the U.S. lives to fight another day. Special thanks to National Park staff who assisted with this effort.



Social Media

- Platform for sharing latest on invasive species with the public
- Need more regular content!

Email: justindalaba@ufl.edu



@evergladescisma



@ECISMA

Everglades CISMA Published [?] · August 2, 2017 ·

What's smaller than a python but just as bad for South Florida? Invasive fish
<http://www.miamiherald.com/.../environm.../article140670663.html>

MIAMIHERALD.COM
 What's smaller than a python but just as bad for South Florida? Invasive fish

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Everglades CISMA Published [?] · April 24 ·

The exotic pet amnesty program has successfully re-homed many exotic pets that may have otherwise been released or abandoned. If you'd like to become an adopter or surrender your pet, be sure to sign up for the upcoming exotic pet amnesty day on Saturday, May 19th!

Follow this link for details and updates:
<http://myfwc.com/wildlifehabi.../nonnatives/amnesty-program/.../>

Don't Let It Loose

Be a responsible pet owner

- Learn about exotic pets before bringing one home
- Never release unwanted exotic pets

Have an exotic pet you can no longer keep? Bring it to an FWC Exotic Pet Amnesty Day

- All exotic pets are accepted (domestic pets are not accepted)
- Can't attend an event? Call the FWC's Exotic Species Hotline year-round at **888-Ive-Got1**
- There are no penalties for unlicensed or illegally held exotic pets surrendered at these events

Adopters needed!

- The FWC needs experienced pet owners who are willing to adopt surrendered exotic pets
- Applying to be an Exotic Pet Amnesty adopter is free
- Animals can be adopted at Exotic Pet Amnesty Day events or year-round through the FWC's Exotic Species Hotline

For more information about Exotic Pet Amnesty Day events and to download adoption forms visit MyFWC.com/Nonnatives (click on "Exotic Pet Amnesty Program") or call 1-888-IVEGOT1 (483-4681).

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THANK YOU!

