

FNPS 2008 Conference Field Trip

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Univ. South Fla Ecological Research Area – Sunday, May 18, 2008

Start Time: 8:00am at Convention Center. Meet in Convention Center parking lot #2. Carpool caravan will leave at 8:00am SHARP

– or arrive on your own – Start time **at field trip location: 9:15am.** Meet at USF Riverfront Park on west side of Hillsborough River. Once at Lettuce lake Park, stay on Fletcher Ave. heading west and take your first right just after you cross the river. This is the entrance into the USF Riverfront Park.

End Time: 1:00pm

Degree of Difficulty: Difficult. Closed-toed, old shoes and clothes you don't mind getting wet and muddy (or hip boots/waders) are highly recommended. Also bring something to pack your conference-provided lunch into the USF Eco Area. We will go through rough, muddy terrain and scramble over fallen trees and cypress knees. NO groomed trails. NO AMENITIES.

Guide: Annie Schmidt, Senior Environmental Specialist, Pinellas County Dept. Env. Mgmt., Ecological Services Program. Member of the Pinellas County Wildland Fire Team. Florida Division of Forestry Certified Prescribed Burn Manager. M.S. Conservation Biology, USF. Her thesis produced an inventory of the vascular flora and associated ecological communities found here. Contact info: 813 334-7379 (cell) or monotropa@aol.com

Description: The USF Ecological Research Area, located in west central Hillsborough County, is an approximately 756-acre natural area composed of 12 plant communities on the Hillsborough River. Over half of the area is floodplain wetlands associated with Cypress Creek and the Hillsborough River. Despite encroaching intensive development to the north, south, and west, the area has remained natural and is the westernmost section of an extended natural corridor running along the Hillsborough River approx. 55 miles to the east and north. We will go through floodplain swamp to a small, approx. 12-acre island. The island is primarily senescent sand pine scrub community that is now xeric hammock. Island highlights: abundant blooming sparkleberries and a population of blooming white fringe trees. Swamp highlights: abundant blooming ephemeral spring wetland herbaceous plants, bromeliads, budding wetland trees and shrubs, and possibly a blooming *Encyclia tampensis*, the Florida butterfly orchid.

Notes: Sunshine Skyway bridge is a toll road (\$1.00)

DON'T FORGET: Lots of water, snacks, sunscreen, bug repellent, hat, binoculars & camera

Nearest Restrooms: USF Riverfront Park meeting area.

Nearest gas station if remote: There are also two gas stations across the street from the USF Eco Area

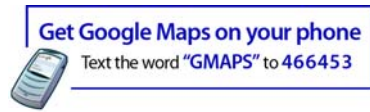
Cell phone reception: yes

Contact number for the day of the event: 813-334-7379



Start **1 Haben Blvd
Palmetto, FL 34221**
End **Lettuce Lake Park
6920 E Fletcher Ave
Tampa, FL 33637**

Travel **47.1 mi – about 45 mins**



A **1 Haben Blvd
Palmetto, FL 34221**

Drive: 47.1 mi – about 45 mins

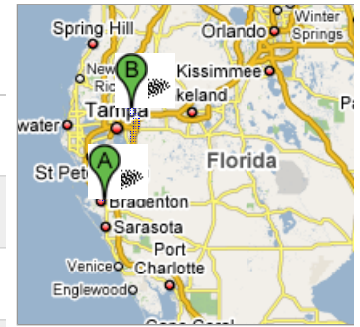
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|--|--------------------|
| 1. Head north on US-301 N/US-41 N toward 7th St W
Continue to follow US-41 N | 5.3 mi
7 mins |
| 2. Merge onto I-275 S via the ramp to I-75 | 0.9 mi
1 min |
| 3. Take the exit onto I-75 N toward Tampa | 38.7 mi
33 mins |
| 4. Take exit 266 to merge onto E Fletcher Ave | 2.1 mi
4 mins |

B **Lettuce Lake Park
6920 E Fletcher Ave
Tampa, FL 33637**

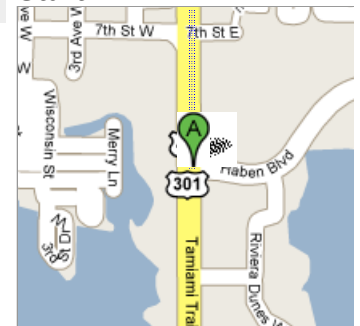
These directions are for planning purposes only. You may find that construction projects, traffic, or other events may cause road conditions to differ from the map results.

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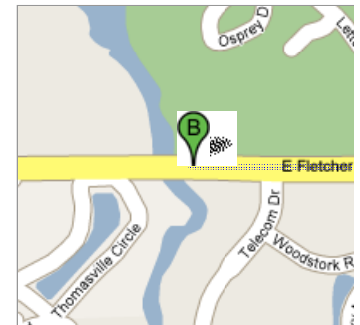
Overview



Start



End



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