

# Pine Rockland Conference 2006

***“Bridging the Gaps between Florida and the Bahamas”***

**February 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> 2006**  
**Miami, Florida • Abaco, Bahamas**



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**Conference Sponsors: The Nature Conservancy, Florida International University, Miami-Dade County and Everglades National Park.**

**Introduction:** The mission of the Pine Rockland Working Group (PRWG) is to maintain and restore the pine rockland natural community, its associated species and the natural processes, most notably fire, upon which they all depend. Through this collaborative, interdisciplinary, international effort, the PRWG seeks to increase basic understanding of the ecosystem and appropriate management practices by identifying, obtaining support for, and communicating the results of new research and coordinated monitoring efforts.

**Conference Purpose:** The purpose of this conference is to bring together the members of the PRWG and other individuals or groups that have an interest in the pine rockland habitat. This Conference is a continuation of the collaborative efforts started in February 2004 with the “William B. Robertson, Jr., Memorial Pineland Fire Ecology and Management Workshop.”

**Who Should Attend:** The conference encourages participation from scientists, educators, managers, planners, policy makers, naturalists, students and members of the general public who are involved in planning, conservation, restoration, tourism, and interpretation of the pine rockland ecosystem in South Florida and the Bahamas.

## Conference Structure

<b>Wednesday, February 8<sup>th</sup></b>	All day field trip to Miami-Dade and Everglades pine rockland sites.
<b>Thursday, February 9<sup>th</sup></b>	All day conference presentations at Florida International University followed by a catered evening social and poster session.
<b>Friday, February 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>Reserved for travel to Abaco (Marsh Harbour) for the Bahamas Workshop portion of the Conference.</i>
<b>Saturday, February 11<sup>th</sup></b>	Field trip to Abaco National Park (ANP) and other pine rockland sites in Central and South Abaco.
<b>Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup></b>	Abaco National Park Fire Management Planning Workshop all morning and early afternoon. Late afternoon field trip to Little Abaco and other pine rockland sites on Central and North Abaco.

**Field trip Wednesday, February 8th, 2006:** All attendees should meet by 8:00 AM in the Deering Estate at Cutler parking lot. Miami Dade will provide vans for the day, but some carpooling may be needed. The field trip will progress from the Deering Estate to a privately-owned pine rockland site in Miami managed in cooperation with the Institute for Regional Conservation and then to Everglades National Park, returning to the Deering Estate by 6 p.m.

Lunch will **not** be provided. Please bring a bag lunch.

Water will be provided, but participants should bring a water bottle for refills.

Field attire including; sturdy shoes, long sleeve shirt, long pants, hat, sunscreen and insect repellent are highly recommended.

### **The Deering Estate at Cutler**

16701 S. W. 72nd Avenue

Miami, FL 33157

Telephone: (305) 235-1668

<http://www.deeringestate.com/park/>

### **Miami Conference Thursday February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2006:**

#### **Florida International University**

Graham Center, Room 243 West (2<sup>nd</sup> floor)

11200 SW 8th St., Miami, FL

Telephone: (305) 348-2297

<http://www.fiu.edu/>

- All Conference activities on February 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> will begin by 8:00 AM
- Coffee breaks on both days and lunch on Thursday are included.
- The Thursday evening social and poster session will include heavy hors d'oeuvres at no charge and a cash bar.

**Suggested Miami Hotel:**

**Comfort Suites**

3901 S.W. 117th Avenue

Miami, FL 33175

(305) 220-3901, 1-800-517-4000

[www.choicehotels.com/hotel/fl086](http://www.choicehotels.com/hotel/fl086)

**Please use Group Name: "Pine Rockland Conference"**

Rooms may be booked at a reduced rate of \$108 + taxes and fees.

**Bahamas Workshop Information**

**A \$300.00 package deal, including three nights of accommodation, 2+ days of meals and 2 days of ground transportation, has been arranged for Bahamas Workshop participants by the Abaco-based NGO, Friends of the Environment. Please bring a check for \$300.00 made out to Friends of the Environment or \$300.00 U.S.**

**Accommodations: Regattas of Abaco** in Marsh Harbor. 3 nights, Friday – Sunday. Regattas is a time-share condominium with 2-bedroom 2-bathroom units with full kitchen and beach and pool access. Each unit sleeps four people comfortably on one king bed, two double beds and a pullout sleeper sofa. The workshop package price is based on each unit sleeping four people. Reservations for these accommodations are made only through the attached Conference Registration form.

**Meals:** You are on your own for Friday and Saturday dinners. Several restaurants are within a short walking distance from Regattas. Breakfast and lunch will be provided Saturday and Sunday, dinner will be provided Sunday and breakfast will be provided on Monday.

**Transportation:** Airfare to and from Marsh Harbor and ground transportation to and from the Marsh Harbor airport to Regattas are the responsibility of the attendee. At this writing these round trip flights average \$300.00. One-way taxi from the airport to Regattas is approximately \$15.00. U.S. dollars are accepted for all transactions at the convenient rate of 1:1.

Please make your flight arrangements as soon as possible. At this writing these are the only flights that would work with our schedule. In order to take part in the entire Saturday field trip, participants must fly over on Friday, February 10. Participants who choose to fly over on Saturday will be able to link up with the group if they are willing to drive a rental van (on the left side of the road) but we prefer to avoid this complication if possible. Please make arrangements as soon as possible.

February 10	United	departs Ft. Laud 2:55 am	arrives Marsh Harbor 4:00 pm
	Continental	departs Ft. Laud 5:55 pm	arrives Marsh Harbor 7:00 pm
February 11	United	departs Miami 2:00 pm	arrives Marsh Harbor 3:05pm
	United	departs Ft. Laud 11:55 am	arrives Marsh Harbor 1:00 pm
	Continental	departs Ft. Laud 11:55 am	arrives Marsh Harbor 1:00 pm
	Bahamas Air	departs Miami 8:10 am	arrives Marsh Harbor 10:50 am
	American	departs Miami 11:25 am	arrives Marsh Harbor 12:40 pm

Other flights, from Florida to Treasure Cay, Abaco could work as well but the ground transportation cost from the Treasure Cay Airport to Regattas will be very steep.

**PASSPORT or BIRTH CERTIFICATE + PHOTO ID ARE REQUIRED!**

If you have any questions on the logistics of the Workshops, please contact Anna Symington at [asymington@tnc.org](mailto:asymington@tnc.org) or by calling (305)745-8402.

## **Call for Abstracts / Posters:**

The PRWG would like to invite participants to submit abstracts for oral presentations or a poster for the evening social and poster session. Abstract submissions will be used to select the oral presentations to be heard during the Thursday and Friday sessions, February 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. Those not wishing to give an oral presentation are encouraged to prepare a poster. Please specify if you would like to give a presentation or poster, or if you are willing to do either.

Brief abstract submissions should be sent electronically to Anna Symington of The Nature Conservancy at [asymington@tnc.org](mailto:asymington@tnc.org), by December 31, 2005.

**Registration Information:** Please confirm your attendance by January 18, 2006 to all or part of the Conference by completing the attached form and faxing it to Anna Symington of The Nature Conservancy at 305-745-8399.

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Registration Form

First Name *(as you wish it to appear on name badge)*

\_\_\_\_\_

Last Name

\_\_\_\_\_

Title

\_\_\_\_\_

Organization

\_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone

\_\_\_\_\_

FAX

\_\_\_\_\_

Email

\_\_\_\_\_

Mailing  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_

Please select any of the following options that apply:

- Entire Conference Program
- South Florida Field Trips (Feb 8<sup>th</sup>)
- Conference Presentations - Thursday (Feb 9<sup>th</sup>)
- Bahamas Workshop (Feb 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>)
- Vegetarian meal requested

Please fax this registration to Anna Symington, The Nature Conservancy 305-745-8399

If you have questions please contact her at [asymington@tnc.org](mailto:asymington@tnc.org) or by calling 305-745-78