

# Land Management Activity Summary

June 2006



Colorado potato beetle: *Leptinotarsa decemlineata*

## Land Management Activity Summary June 2006

### Prescribed Fire

- Dry conditions prevented any prescribed burning in June; however a small wildfire occurred at DuPuis



Frequent prescribed burns at DuPuis keep fuel density low, so wildfires such as this one are less intense and much more beneficial than damaging. Two weeks after the fire the area was greening and even blooming with rain lilies.

### Vegetation Management

- DuPuis (550 acres): 250 acres understory shredding, 200 acres of timber thinning, 100 acres of palm thinning
- Kissimmee River (105 acres): 40 acres shredded at KICCO restoration site, 65 acres of overgrown understory was roller chopped or mowed by FWC to improve wildlife habitat
- Loxahatchee Mitigation Bank: 200 acres of dead Brazilian pepper were cleared and windrowed
- CREW: 50 acres of overgrown understory was mowed



Shredding overgrown understory at DuPuis

**Exotic treatment**

- 3,147 acres treated
  - o Lake Marion Creek
  - o Shingle Creek
  - o Cell 17 &18, ECB
  - o Kissimmee Chain of Lake
  - o Kissimmee River
  - o Model Lands
  - o Reedy Creek
  - o DuPuis
  - o CREW
- Tropical Soda Apple beetles: A biocontrol agent for tropical soda apple, a south American beetle. Has been released in the Kissimmee River and the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes. During the same time, the native Colorado Potato beetle arrived in the area and started eating the soda apples. Together they have helped improve the invasive Soda Apple infestations.



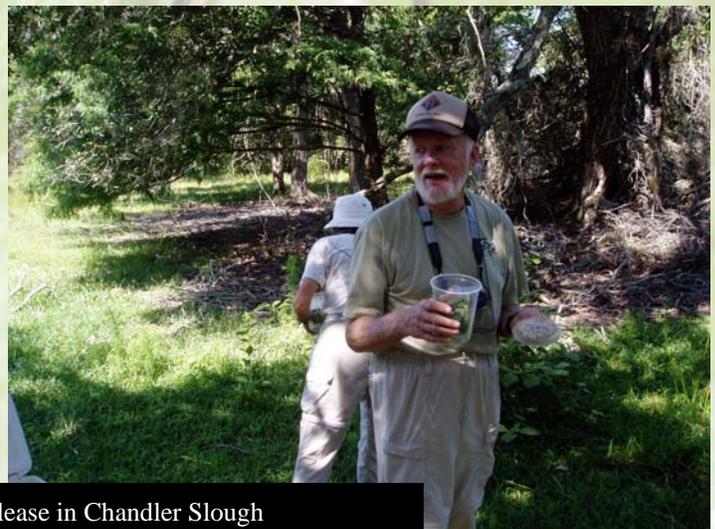
Beetle damaged Tropical Soda Apple



Colorado Potato Beetle and Larvae



South American Beetle



Beetle release in Chandler Slough



**Wildlife Management**

- Upper Lakes
  - Scrub Jay monitoring at Lake Marion Creek
- Kissimmee River
  - FWC biologist monitoring of 2 burrowing owl colonies
  - 05-06 hunting harvest report compiled
  - Spring Turkey report completed
  - Annual Work Plan created for KICCO Wildlife Management Area
- North Fork St. Lucie River
  - 13 feral hogs trapped and removed
- Allapattah
  - FWC biologist completed Quail survey
  - Caracara monitoring continued



A young feral hog



Florida Scrub Jay at Lake Marion Creek



Audubon's Crested Caracaras at Allapattah



## Recreation Program

- Small Game Hunting Areas approved by the Governing Board for STAs 1, 3, 4, &5; the C-23/24 South Reservoir (1100 acres), and at Rocky Glades (200 acres)
- Presentation given to the Oaks outdoors club in Broward County
- Everglades Recreation Program Manager moved to the Land Stewardship Division
- Design of the CREW: Bird Rookery Swamp parking area completed



Presentation given to the South Florida OAKs



Future Bird Rookery Swamp Public Access Area

## Planning

- Meeting in the field with Polk county on a proposed boat ramp on Lake Kissimmee
- A trip was taken to Lake Kissimmee to identify potential small game hunting areas
- The Land Stewardship Division was awarded a \$50,000 grant from Palm Beach County for removing Australian Pines from a portion of the C-18 Canal right-of-way
- Reconnaissance of potential Florida Trail Association trail through Chandler Slough



Identifying potential small game areas near Lake Kissimmee

