Restoring a Habitat

A Gift to Florida’s Nature
In 2006, the Florida Botanical Gardens was awarded a grant to restore 60 acres of our 120 acre property to its original wild state.

We are stewards of this land, which includes a wonderful diversity of habitat types from uplands to wetlands, pine flatwoods to oak hammocks.

These sensitive ecosystems support a wealth of native Florida plants and animals, but they have been severely disturbed by human activity. This photo shows the site as it was---overgrown and too dense to support much diversity.

February 2007

Following the initial clearing, volunteers helped install thousands of native plants (above) and scattered wildflower seed (below).

May 2007

June 2007

The reintroduced native plants will provide food and habitat for our diverse wildlife.

Listen for northern bobwhite, admire the palmetto and the Florida false sunflower.

One day a young pine tree planted here may host a nesting pair of bald eagles.

The pine flatwoods and oak hammock communities were severely compromised due to human activities around a former home site, including cattle grazing, pine forestry, and ornamental horticulture.

We removed invasive exotic plant species displacing our natives. Melaleuca (punk trees), Brazilian pepper and air potato are a few of the exotic species we removed. This will be a continuous battle.

Through restoration efforts we have mimicked the most important natural element missing from the pine flatwoods. Fire. This was done by reducing the overgrown palmetto and oaks, just as a fire would do.

Giving Back to Nature

Northern Bobwhite

Palmetto Regrowth