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Josh Green

January & February 2025 Volume 4

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The new year - 2025

Hi Team! I hope you all have had a great Holiday Season! We've got a lot to do in the New Year, and the first order of business is to sign your 2025 Annual Volunteer Agreement. You can do that by going onto MyBetterImpact and going to the Home Page and scroll down to the bottom right-hand side of the page and look for the 2025 Annual Agreement. You can click on it, fill it out and email it back to me at Stephen.deegan@ufl.edu

We will have a new Class starting in February and the organizing of that class is underway and we will be ready for starting on the 12th of February. Also, the Speaker's Bureau is starting up with 10 in-person lectures/workshops scheduled for 2025. The first is already on Eventbrite and is scheduled for Jan 31st on Herb Gardening 101 in the Extension Auditorium. We look forward to seeing you there.
Stephen F. Deegan, MGV Coordinator

2025 MGV PROGRAM

Wed Feb 12, 6.30-9.00pm

Presenting!! A new calibre of trainees for the MGV program. Conducted by Lorna Bravo, Director and Urban Horticulture Extension Agent. It'll be held at UF-IFAS Broward County Extension Auditorium 3245 College Ave. Davie, FL 33314

Featuring

MGV BIRTHDAYS

Sherman Gould	Jan 5
Nina Robinson Russell	Jan 5
Christyna Salmon	Jan 12
Mario Rios	Jan 15
Beverly Williams	Jan 16
Lauren A Farrar	Jan 16
Jasmine Tennie	Feb 25

ANNIVERSARIES

Susan Berry	Jan 1 96
Elizabeth Seeberger	Jan 1 99
Keith London	Jan 1 00
Ann-Britt Bennett	Jan 1 03
Ramona Johnston	Jan 1 03
Barbara DeWitt	Jan 1 03
Janine Griffiths	Jan 1 04
Inger Jones	Jan 1 04

ANNIVERSARIES

Taryn Palo	Jan 1 04
Eugene Cain	Jan 1 06
Patricia Rossi	Jan 1 06
Terri Bitler Ward	Jan 1 07
Donna Castro	Jan 1 07
Judy Paul	Jan 1 07
Mariana Yi	Jan 1 08
Mark Kaplan	Jan 1 08
Monique Theodore	Jan 1 08
Sandra Block Brezner	Jan 1 09
Shauna Boughton	Jan 1 09
Yvonne Culbreth	Jan 1 09

ANNIVERSARIES

Stephanie Montalvo	Jan 1 09
Kathleen Della Fera	Jan 1 11
Pamela Roberts	Jan 1 11
Suzanne Smith	Jan 1 12
Satya Rudin	Jan 1 13
Enol Simmons	Jan 1 13
Michael Thomas	Jan 1 13
Marsha Eiensberg	Jan 1 14
Cindy North	Jan 1 14
Linda Shneyer	Jan 1 14

Susan Kooiman	Jan 1 15
Jarrett Alman	Jan 1 16
Janet Arculeo	Jan 1 16
Maria Channell	Jan 1 16
Emma Simmons	Jan 1 16
Karen Wheeler	Jan 1 16
Fred Ackerman	Jan 1 17
Gail Gauthier	Jan 1 17
Margot Hummer	Jan 1 17
Lucy Matos Lodato	Jan 1 17

Helene Sinclair	Jan 1 17
Peggy Lackner	Jan 1 18
Amy Reilly	Jan 1 18
Jeannie Schmidle	Jan 1 18
Rich Ackerman	Jan 1 19
Debbie Baker Robinson	Jan 1 19
Deborah Garashi	Jan 1 19
Arthur (Mark) Rogers	Jan 1 19
Caroline Steffen	Jan 1 19
Gaitrie (Lee) White	Jan 1 19

Cont'd p.9

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Source: Roger Hammer

Pineland Allamanda, native, *Rhabdadenia corallicola*. Mostly less than 3ft tall. Nectar source for: insects & Sphinx moth. Flowers contain poisonous glycosides. Host to Uncle Sam moth or Faithful beauty; consumes leaves. Source: 'Pine Rockland' Dr. Daniel F. Austin

Needed: from MGVS
Your ongoing projects, email:
lbravo1@ufl.edu
Next issue: Beetles

Master Gardener Volunteer, MGV 2025 Training Program



We are in the process of putting together the new MGV Class of 2025. It's slated to start on Wednesday February 12, 2025, 6.30-9pm and run for 16 weeks through until May 31st. Lorna and I have been working on the course curriculum, arranging for the various professors to conduct the lectures based on their subject matter specialties. This year will be the first class in two years as there was no class in 2024 due to Extension building issues and various other changes. We have 21 applicants who are prepped and are getting their Level one Screening done prior to start of the Interview process in the first two weeks of January.

So, it will be an exciting year for the MGV Program as we return to a full program of core competencies. You will hear more about this new class in the New Year. And I am personally inviting any of you to sit-in on the classes as a refresher. I will be publishing the curriculum overview under a separate email in early January, so please be on the lookout for it.

The one requirement for the virtual classes on Wednesdays, if you're interested in attending, *please send an email to me or Lorna and we will forward to you the Zoom link.*

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Blogs: <https://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/browardco/author/lbravo1/>

Website: <http://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/broward/>

Facebook: [@facebook.com/urbanhortbroward](https://facebook.com/urbanhortbroward)

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/HortUrban>

Instagram: [@urbanhortbroward](https://instagram.com/urbanhortbroward)



Results of Water Ambassador Program

Ambassador Short-Course Oct 4 through Nov 8, 2024



Working with water connects us all!

To make a difference concerning the issues surrounding water quality and quantity in our urban communities, we must understand how we interact and connect with water in urban environments. During this 7-week course, participants traveled to various locations across Broward County. The class met with local water conservation experts in Broward County. We visited the United States Geological Survey (USGS) in Davie, Florida, to learn about our local water trends. SFWMD took us on tour to learn about our stormwater treatment areas, labs, structures, and pump stations to learn the science behind Everglade's restoration and resiliency efforts. And finally, we explored the Everglades tree islands with the Miccosukee tribe to discover the natural beauty, learn about emerging water issues, and discuss ways that we can play our part in protecting our precious natural resources. All of this was done in a 7-week course. Conceived and lead by Lorna Bravo, this was the third Water Ambassador Class. Previous classes were in 2020 and 2022. Links:

1: [Connecting Communities to Water: A Journey of Discovery and Conservation - UF/IFAS Extension Broward County](#)

2: [Voces de los Everglades - UF/IFAS Extension Broward County](#)

2

2025 Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Series: Cultivating Sustainability in Your Garden

February 14th	Topic: The Houseplant Renaissance – Live Presentation 3:30 to 4:30 Speaker: Extension Botanist-Marc Frank
March 11th	Topic: Foodscaping – Zoom 6:30 to 7:30 Speaker: Florida Friendly Landscaping Agent-Amanda Marek
April 8th	Topic: Contributing to Science 101-the benefits of using iNaturalist Speaker: Dr. Corey Callaghan – Zoom 6:30 to 7:30pm
May 13th	Topic: Managing Adversity: Preparing Urban Trees for Future Climates and Natural Disasters – Zoom 6:30 to 7:30 pm Speaker: Dr. Ryan Klein
June 10th	Topic: Capture the Rain: Enhance Your Landscape with Rain Gardens Speaker: Urban Horticulture Agent Lorna Bravo – Zoom 6:30 to 7:30pm
July	NO MEETING
August 12th	Topic: Understanding Mosquito Control : Best Practices for South Florida Residents Speaker: Dr. Eva Buckner –Zoom 6:30 to 7:30pm
September 9th	Topic: Creating a Food Forest Speaker: Sustainable Food Systems and Natural Resource Agent David Outerbridge – Live Presentation 6:30 to 7:30 pm
October 14th	Topic: Heritage Vegetables Speaker: Dr. Dina Liebowitz – Zoom 6:30 to 7:30 pm
November 4th	Topic: Worm Wonders: Composting in Small Spaces with Vermiculture Speaker: Urban Horticulture Agent Lorna Bravo- Zoom 6:30 to 7:30pm
December 9th	Topic: Bat Monitoring-Citizen Science for Broward County Speaker: Dr. Shelly Johnson – Zoom 6:30 to 7:30pm

Live Presentation Location: UF/IFAS Extension Broward County
3245 College Avenue
Davie, Florida 33314

Contact: Lorna Bravo Email: lbravo1@ufl.edu
Steve Deegan Email: Stephen.Deegan@ufl.edu

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<https://tinyurl.com/yx3u7i9k>



* Announcements*

Upcoming Webinars Local & State

Reminder don't forget to do your Education Hours; log those into the Better Impact system

MGV 2025 Broward Urban Horticulture Webinar Series Location: Virtual

- ❑ **2025 - See separate page**
- *Zoom links coming***

MGV 2025 Webinar Series by Wendy Wilber, Gainesville Location: Virtual. Time 12 noon-1pm

- ❑ **Jan 23** - Alternatives to Peat with Dr. Mica McMillan
- ❑ **Feb 27** - Preserving Snags & Stumps for Your Yard's Ecology with Dr. Jiri Hulcr
- ❑ **Mar 27** - Invasive species in the landscape with Dr. Seokmin Kim
- ❑ **Apr 24** - Toxic weeds, Invasives in the Florida landscape with Dr. Chris Marble

Zoom links coming

MGV 2025 Webinar Series by Wendy Wilber, Gainesville Location: Virtual, 12 noon-1pm continued

- ❑ **May 22** - Turf grass updates with Dr. A.J. Lindsey
- ❑ **June 26** - Growing Clumping Bamboo with Tia Silvasy.
- ❑ **July 24** - Prevention of Mosquito-borne diseases in FL with Eva Buckner
- ❑ **Aug 28** - People. Plant interaction with Dr. Leah Diehl
- ❑ **Sept 25** - Urban Pests & landscape Consideration with Dr. Faith Oi
- ❑ **Oct 23** - Benefits of Bats and Conserving Bat Habitat with Dr. Shelly Johnson
- ❑ **Nov 20** - Mushrooms in FL with Dr. Matt Smith
- ❑ **Dec 18** - Artificial Intelligence for MGVs with Wendy Wilber and Wayne Hobbs

Zoom links coming

Past Webinars. June 2024: Great Southeast Pollinator Census; May 2024: Milkweed, Monarchs and OE in Florida; April 2024: Climate Change in Real Life with Larry Figart and Savanna Barry; March 2024: Turf and Soil Testing with Brian Unruh; March 2024: Special Pest Alert: Thrips Parvispinus with Dr. Lance Osborne and Nicole Brenda. Et al

LINK - PAST WEBINARS

[Webinars - Florida Master Gardener Volunteer Program - University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences \(ufl.edu\)](#)



The University of Florida is committed to providing universal access to all of our events. For disability accommodations such as sign language interpreters and listening devices, please contact Lorna Bravo at lbravo1@ufl.edu at least one week in advance. Advance notice is necessary to arrange for some accessibility needs.

Join Us: The Houseplant Renaissance

Houseplants are back in style, and houseplant sales are booming! We'll look at what's driving this renewed interest in houseplants, as well as the factors that contribute to success in growing them. Marc will also highlight some of the coolest and toughest plants that share his home.



Marc S. Frank, Extension Botanist,
University of Florida Herbarium, Florida
Museum of Natural History.



Marc manages the Herbarium's Plant Identification and Information Service, which serves UF/IFAS research and extension personnel, UF faculty, and other clients throughout the state of Florida. He has a particular interest in horticultural taxonomy, the identification and classification of cultivated plants.

Register today

Date: February 14, 2025

Time: 3:30 -4:30 PM

Location: 3245 College Avenue
Davie, Florida 33314

Contact: Lorna Bravo @lbravo1@ufl.edu or
Steve Deegan @stephen.Deegan@ufl.edu

SCAN ME



<https://tinyurl.com/36v2pr9b>

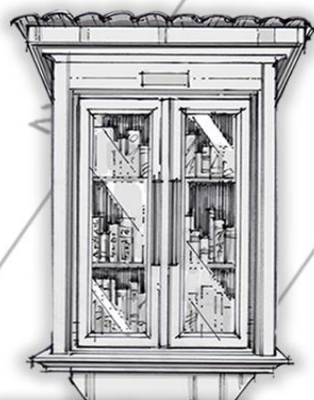
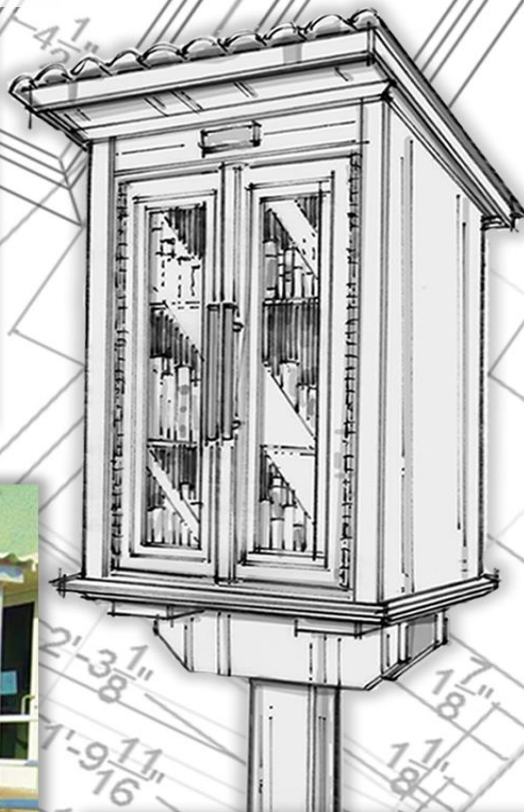
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STORY BEHIND A PROJECT FOR THE FUTURE



UF IFAS Extension
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA



The Library is a center of learning conveying through books important topics of horticulture, within the urban development framework such as learning info for seasoned and new master garden volunteers-MGVs, a resource for community gardening. It'll be a center for all ages, eg the 4H club, or reinforcing Park endeavors regarding the environment. Thank you Josh! For making this library center happen. *Lorna*



THE STORY CONTINUES

The Little "BIG" Library was conceived as an innovative addition to the Broward County Extension, aiming to expand its community outreach. This small but impactful structure was envisioned as a hub for educational engagement, offering resources that educate the public about plant cultivation, the science behind it, and its benefits to human health, quality of life, and the environment. The project was spearheaded by an advisory team led by extension agent Lorna Bravo, in collaboration with Broward County Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs) from the butterfly garden team, including Patricia Rossi, Mariana Yi, Josh Green, and Lillian Ortiz. Together, the team envisioned the library as a learning tool integrated into the butterfly garden, promoting shared values of collaboration and environmental education.

MGV Josh Green played a pivotal role in designing and building the library. Without program funding, Josh personally financed the project and dedicated the library to his mother, a devoted school teacher who spent over 40 years shaping young minds in New York City and Broward County.

The team meticulously planned the library's size, contents, and functionality, resulting in a robust and whimsical design. Measuring approximately 3.5 feet tall, 1 foot 8 inches deep, and 1 foot 10 inches wide, the Little "BIG" Library is built to endure Florida's weather using high-quality materials like PVC board, aluminum, plexiglass, stainless steel, vinyl, and brass. It features such as built-in ventilation to prevent heat buildup, large French doors that evoke a charming, yet professional aesthetic, and weather stripping to keep out the critters and rain.

The original estimated project cost of \$1,000 was slightly exceeded due to rising material prices, but the investment guarantees the library's longevity and impact. This library stands as a testament to the power of collaboration and community engagement, reflecting the UF/IFAS Extension's mission to improve lives through education and knowledge-sharing. In April 2024, the library was unveiled in the butterfly garden, in the presence of the Broward Extension team, the Town of Davie elected officials, and local community members.

During the event, Josh Green shared a heartfelt speech:

My journey as a steward of nature began in childhood, guided by the love of my parents. From fishing trips with my father to library adventures with my mother, I was immersed in the wonders of the natural world. Their support, along with Adrien's nurturing of plants and Judy and Ed's camping trips, deepened my connection.

In 2022, I had the privilege of meeting Lorna and the UF team, whose dedication to conservation opened my eyes to the beauty and fragility of our local ecosystems. Each experience along this journey has shaped me, reminding me of the importance of stewardship and gratitude for the earth that sustains us. You may be wondering, why share this personal story? How does it connect to the library project?

In 2023, when Pat Rossi, the Butterfly and Pollinator Team Ambassador, approached me to build the Little-BIG! Library, I didn't hesitate for a moment. I saw this project as reflection of my own journey, both as a child immersed in the wonders of nature and as an adult passionate about sharing knowledge. The idea of creating a space where our community could come together, learn, and discover, resonated deeply with me. It's about more than just books; it's about fostering connections, sparking curiosity, and enriching lives. This project is driven by the pure motivation to make a positive impact on our community by sharing the gift of knowledge.

I see this Big Library as a treasure trove of wisdom, filled with books crafted from a lifetime of knowledge. My vision is for it to serve as a beacon of intellectual growth, nurturing curiosity, expanding technical expertise, and fueling imagination for all who engage with it. Moreover, I hope the library's contents will not only enrich minds but also spark a passion for conservation. By equipping the next generation with the insights and tools to pave the way for a brighter tomorrow. **This library is dedicated to my mother, Marion Green, and to all the other mothers who opened our world through reading. Let it stand as a testament to our commitment to education, fostering community engagement, and the pursuit of knowledge.**

The Little "BIG" Library will serve as a beacon of learning and inspiration for years to come, enriching the lives of visitors while celebrating the profound connections between plants, insects, and the environment. Situated prominently in front of the extension, the library stands not only as a community hub but also as a heartfelt memorial, honoring the life and legacy of Josh Green's mother, who passed away in August 2024. Reflecting on her influence, Josh shared:

Mom brought so much good into this world, enlightened countless minds, and left a lasting, positive impression. I'm certain her impact will be felt for generations to come, as this library will continue her work in her place. Josh Green



Pine Rocklands & Pinelands

Pine rocklands or pinelands is a very unique ecosystem; a pineland forest in southern Florida, with 7 species of pines, growing the one specie of pine – found in the southernmost parts of the FL state, is Florida slash pine, *pinus elliottii* var. *densa*, 75-100ft high; still used for lumber. This endangered habitat is a limestone ridge where the area has endemic plants not found anywhere else. It's a canopy of plants, some rare, some known, set on a substrate of very little soil, raised 3-8ft above sea level, that's made of **oolitic** limestone, growing pines and plants adapted to prescribed burns, done on 3-5 year cycles by: Florida's State Division of Forestry



L to R Carolina Wild petunia, *Ruellia caroliniensis*, Tickseed, *Coreopsis leavenworthii*



Formation of oolitic limestone

The Miami-Dade pine rockland structure of exposed rocks in many parts are nearly all Miami Limestone; the rock formation was produced in the interglacial period of the Pleistocene Epoch/Ice Age when sea level was about 25ft above today's level & by shallow marine processes. The interglacial period ended about 100,000 years before present. Back then there were deposits of small-visible egg-shaped calcium carbonate, grains called *ooids*, referred by some as gainstones. These cemented together, with algae and shells of tiny animals called bryozoans[fossils]. *Oolite* is the term for such grainstones/sedimentary rocks. Sources: *ooids* Miami limestone, Wiki; Virtual Field Trip/of the Miami Limestone: www.geosciences.fau.edu

Compared to an open savannah, rather than a typical forest, pine rocklands or pinelands in south Florida has minimal nutrient-poor soils, pockets-depressions of sand, marl, clayey loam[clay, silt, sand], and organic debris. Burns keep fast-growing hardwood plants out- making space for tough slash pines, with trunks that are suited to fire with branches high on their crown. As with slash pines and other south FL pines, male & female cones are on trees, the smaller male cone carrying the pollen is carried by the wind to female cones where it fertilizes the ovules; seeds then develop. Seeds are released to ideal dry conditions after 2-3 years. Animals use these seeds for food. Another pine, e.g. Pond Pine, *Pinus serotina*, release seeds to a forest fire. Pines tower above a rich understory of saw palmettos, silver palms, brittle thatch palms & small trees or large shrubs such as wax myrtle, lignum vitae, myrsine, marlberry, mangrove berry or willow bustic. There are beauty berries, locust berries, broom grasses including FL pineland grass, Everglades crabgrass, bushy broom grass, and small oaks-example Chapman, Turkey & Sand Live oaks in parts of it. Also, a diversity – really hundreds of species of herbaceous plants, of different sizes, endemic to pine forests. Wildflowers like- carolina wild petunia or familiar tickseed and the scarce ant-pollinated deltoid spurge; the purple-flowered milk pea and tiny yellow-green small's milkwort are rare, found nowhere else, break out in bloom after a burn. This includes pineland croton, *Croton linearis*, a dioecious plant, growing in sections of pine rockland, host to Bartram Scrub hairstreak & Florida Leafwing butterflies



L- Loblolly pine Male cones. R- Female cones

Pinelands are critical foraging- nesting habitat for a diverse array of wildlife including: the endangered Key deer & Lower Keys marsh rabbit. Borrows of gopher tortoises are used by other animals. Birds such as the white crowned pigeon & scrub jay, as well as various threatened species of snakes, lizards & the beneficial Miami tiger beetle are members of this community

Pine rockland forests now fragmented, occurs in Miami Dade as the [Miami-Dade Pine Rockland structure], to Broward, Monroe & Collier counties. In Miami-Dade County, an essentially continuous pine rockland forest historically occurred on 'Miami's Rock Ridge', a limestone rock outcropping extending south and west from North Miami Beach to Long Pine Key in Everglades National Park. It had spanned 186,000 acres, now there is 2% remaining, Development, logging, agriculture, & invasive plant species, impacted, reduced the size. Organizations are working to help *PatR Cont'd p.9*



Rough velvetseed, *Guettarda scabra*- a pineland shrub



RESULTS OF THE GREAT SOUTHEAST Pollinator Census



Project created by the University of Georgia
Aug 2024

144 Counters (this was the 4th highest in the State of FL after Marion Cty-771);
Alachua Cty(293) and Santa Rosa Cty(260)!!

2=the number of Carpenter Bees seen
10=the number of Bumble Bees seen
1,452=the number of Honey Bees seen
517=the number of small Bees seen
632=the number of wasps seen
90=the number of flies seen
769=the number of butterflies/moths seen
168=the number of other insects seen

I think for our first appearance in the Census, this was a great outcome. You all should be proud of what you have accomplished in this endeavor. To see the results in its entirety, go to gsepc.org and click on Census Data, select 2024 results, then click on county by county results. when the page opens scroll up to FL and to Broward. Let's do it again next year! and it's hoped that we can get more counters enlisted. *Stephen*

ANNIVERSARIES

Sandra Bower	Jan 1 20
Marybeth A. Chugg	Jan 1 20
Laura Koehnlein	Jan 1 20
Katy O'Hara:	Jan 1 20
Lillian Ortiz:	Jan 1 20
Mario Rios	Jan 1 20
Julietta Ross	Jan 1 20
Crystal Townsend	Jan 1 20
Beverly Williams	Jan 1 20
Genevieve Chung	Feb 9 21
Kari Botek	Jan 1 23
Naomi Franklin	Jan 1 23

Jaya Koshy	Jan 1 23
Olivia Creary	Jan 14 23
Michelle Evins	Jan 14 23
Susan Ostheim	Jan 14 23
Myriam Masihi	Jan 15 23
Richard Lamarre	Jan 16 23
Jasmine Tennie	Jan 17 23
Lynn Keenan J	Jan 20 23
Anita Sobaram	Jan 23 23
Geo Tomczyk	Jan 23 23
Elizabeth Ortiz	Jan 24 23
Elizabeth Roberts	Jan 24 23

**Thanks to all who
participated in
OPEN HOUSE Sat
Nov 9, 2024
The 2025 MG
candidates
received instructive
information**

Pine rocklands, Pinelands. Examples of organizations helping to retain pine rocklands: The Fairchild Tropical Botanical Garden has a Connect To Protect Network for Pine Rocklands using education and outreach & free plants to increase awareness of the benefits of planting Pine rockland natives. At Zoo Miami with a large fragment of pine rocklands, grounds staff help keep invasives out. For education and information there is the 'South Florida Rocklands-Florida Land Steward' program by University of Florida, <https://programs.ifas.ufl.edu>. At work is the Pine Rockland Initiative by the Institute of Regional Conservation. The Nature Conservancy addresses land protection.

Sources: Pine Rocklands — Tropical Audubon Society; Miami Limestone, wiki;
https://fairchildgarden.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Pine_Rockland_Final_2010.pdf;
https://www.regionalconservation.org/ircs/pdf/publications/1999_03.pdf;
[https://www.Pine_Rocklands_\(miamidade.gov\)](https://www.Pine_Rocklands_(miamidade.gov))
https://www.Unlocking_the_Secrets_of_the_Pinecone | Scientific American