

**Feb. 28, 2017 Field Trip to Oak Park North Trailhead off of CR 480  
Suncoast Pkwy Extension & Etna Turpentine Site**

- Silkgrass, *Pityopsis graminifolia*
- Golden Aster, *Chrysopsis floridana*
- Wire Grass
- Smilax
- Saw Palmetto
- Greeneyes
- Dog Fennel
- Wild Buckwheat
- Adam's Needle
- Turkey Oak
- Blue Curls
- Sand Pine
- Long Leaf Pine
- Florida Paintbrush
- Balduina
- Prickly Pear Cactus
- Sand Pine
- Turkey Oak
- Lupine
- Bracken Fern
- Baby Balduina
- Lichen (4)
  - Dixie Deer Lichen– Coarse
  - Powder Puff Deer Lichen– Fine
  - British Soldier
  - Spanish Moss
- Gopher Apple
- Prickly Pear Cactus
- Pocket Gopher Mound
- Cabbage Palm
- Saw Palmetto
- Innocense (Fairy's footprint)
- Flatwoods Plum
- Lichen On Trees
  - White Christmas
  - Red Christmas
- Magnolia
- Resurrection Fern
- Partridge Pea
- Coastalplain Palafox, *Palafoxia integrifolia*
- *Beardtongue, Penstemon*
- Wild Blackberry
- Winged Sumac
- Haw Tree
- Paw Paw
- Yaupon Holly
- Sparkleberry
- St. Andrew's Cross (or St. John's)
- Dewberry
- Yellow Buttons, *Balduina augustifolia*
- Gopher Hole
- Old Barrel stays
- Other remnants
- Elephant's Foot
- Michaux's *Hawthorne*
- *Spice Bush (with red berries)?*
- Lyre Leaf Sage
- Day Flower, *Commelina erecta*
- Elliott's Love Grass (on path)
- Wiregrass
- Bracken Fern
- Long Leaf Fern
- American Holly
- Shiny Blueberry
- Silver Croton, *Croton argyranthemus*
- Push Ups
- Lupine In Bloom
- Showy Dawnflower (Rescue plantings)

## Etna Turpentine Camp History

Markell et al. (2004) compiled extensive census records research on Citrus County and found that in 1900, Etna appeared to be the only turpentine camp in the region. Research indicates that the Etna community was organized along racial lines, with management and laborers residing in different areas of the town (Brown et al. 1994; Markell et al. 2004). African American workers and their families, as well as convicts, comprised the majority of the Etna residents, while camp managers, wood riders, skilled laborers, and their families constituted the white residents of the town (Markell et al. 2004:141). Eskridge was listed as ‘stiller’ and John B. Martin was recorded as a “Naval Store Mfg.” Etna was located in Precinct 6 of Citrus County; persons living in this precinct involved in the turpentine industry included 81 men and one woman. Sixty-eight of these people were African-American men employed as day laborers, four African-American men were teamsters, and the wife of one of the laborers’ was employed as the camp cook. The three woods riders were white males as was the Etna bookkeeper, while black men worked as the cooper and fireman (Markell et al. 2004:105). Historical records show that Etna functioned briefly as a prison camp later in its existence, with convicts leased from the state to harvest the remaining timber; by the stock market crash of 1929 Etna was fading from the Citrus County landscape (Markell et al. 2004: 141). Further research may yield additional data about the individuals who lived and worked at Etna.

Based on descriptions of other Florida turpentine camps at the time, Etna seemed to be typical in terms of size and division of labor. The 1900 census disclosed that Etna consisted of 32 separate residences. Laborers lived in on-site housing and as many as 11 workers lived in one house. Thirty-nine laborers had children under the age of 18 residing with them and a few workers lived in housing with their spouses. On the whole, the majority of men lived in residences with 3-4 family members. Eskridge and Hamilton had separate dwellings that they shared with their families; two woods (overseers) riders lived in Martin’s house and the third lived in a residence with his wife (Markell et al. 2004:105-106).

Archival research, reconnaissance survey, and archaeological data recovery by Goodwin & Associates in the 1990s and 2003 provide insights into both the industrial and residential

## Etna Turpentine Camp History

complexes at Etna. Between circa 1898 and 1906, when the camp was most active, Etna had grown to contain 50 worker houses, five houses for woods riders or supervisors, and several non-residential structures. The industrial components included the still, sawmill, barns, a cooper's shop, and other facilities. There was also a Shay locomotive engine and tramline, though it is likely that the tramline was destroyed during the construction of the Florida Power Company power line right-of-ways. This tramline was a narrow gauge eight-mile line intended to transport goods to a nearby railway station (Markell et al. 2004: 247-248).

Records do not describe the quality of life in the Etna camp, but living conditions in other turpentine camps have been documented as very harsh. Laborers lived in shacks constructed of rough lumber with a dirt floor. These quarters were clustered together or in rows in order to prevent feelings of isolation inherent in living in remote settings. It also allowed the woods riders tighter control of worker activities. "These rough lumber shanties, occupied by both workers and the woods rider, were located at side camps and at the distillery" (Forney 1985: 276; Janus Research 2004:7). Due to their geographical isolation, turpentiners developed a distinct society that was hierarchical and stratified, with the top level occupied by the factor followed by the owner/operator who was indebted to the factor. Next came the woods rider, and at the bottom rung of the ladder was the laborer and his family (Bond 1987: 197). The typical workday spanned from "kin to kand" (dawn to dusk) with the laborer arising early, eating a quick meal and heading out to the woods by dawn. After eating another light meal around midday, they worked until almost sundown, returning home for supper and chores around the home. This ritual was repeated 5-6 days a week.

The woods rider oversaw the laborers and traveled the woods on horseback, exerting fear and discipline with a whip and pistol (Forney 1985: 275). The laborers were paid by the number of trees they worked per week, usually receiving company script as wages. The script could be redeemed only at the company commissary. The male workers received around \$10.00 per month, while female employees were paid two dollars less. The woods riders, however, received approximately \$30.00 per month and were usually paid in real currency (Forney 1985: 275-276).

# Etna Turpentine Camp History



