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[Conferences](#)[Programs](#)[Index to Authors](#)

Welcome to the Walt Dineen Society

A forum for communicating about South Florida Ecosystems

Who is Walt Dineen?

J. "Walt" Dineen (1937-1990) was, for close to three decades, a highly respected biologist/ecologist in South Florida. He was Everglades Project Leader for the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, and Director of Environmental Sciences at the South Florida Water Management District. Walt was one of the first to develop a broad regional perspective for the Everglades ecosystem, and to use that understanding to influence and improve management practices. Perhaps his most valuable contribution to the Everglades was his strong, personal demonstration of the importance of having well-informed scientists participate in the management and policy debates. For his early role in this process, we honor his name.

Mission

The Walt Dineen Society is an informal, non-affiliated forum, dedicated to the task of substantially improving the communication of technical information on the ecosystems of South Florida, among the natural, physical, and social scientists and the management and policy leaders who work in this region. The Society considers that frequent exchanges of research results, and multi-disciplinary discussions designed to integrate new information with the old, are essential steps leading to improved understandings of the natural components and ecological processes of the South Florida systems. It is these intellectual processes that will assure that our understanding of both the natural and managed systems continue to mature (i.e., "the whole [of our understanding] is greater than the sum of its parts"). By supporting a communications process that is organized from the perspective of systems, in contrast to an issues or project-driven perspective, we believe that science will be in the strongest position to make substantial contributions to the important management and policy questions raised by the restoration programs.

Walt Dineen Society Conferences

To achieve these goals, the Society sponsors conferences pertaining to the ecosystems of South Florida. The main priority of these conference is to encourage everyone who is conducting studies in the natural and physical sciences in South Florida to report on their on-going and completed work. These conferences differ from other technical conferences in the region in that:

- 1 they are systems-focused;
- 2 we encourage participation by all researchers and students of the natural systems of South Florida; and
- 3 the conference is organized to maximize the opportunities for the integration of new information from a broad array of disciplines.

For more information about upcoming or current conferences, please refer to our [Conference Page](#). Program information and abstracts from the first Walt Dineen Conference are available at the [Conference Archive](#).

For further information

To learn more about the Walt Dineen Society or Conference, contact:

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 South Florida Water Management District
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 West Palm Beach, FL 33416
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FIRST CONFERENCE

May 22-24, 1997

[1997 Conference Program](#)

[Index to authors from the 1997 Conference](#)

For More Information

Please direct any questions concerning the Walt Dineen Society or Conference to: Dan Childers [Phone: 305/ 348-3101 FAX: 305/ 348-4096]

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[Conferences](#)

[Programs](#)

[Index to Authors](#)

[Walt Dineen Home](#)





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Walt Dineen Society Annual Conference '97

Guide to Sessions

Thursday, May 22, 1997

- 13:00 - 14:30 [Session I: Upland Plants](#)
- 15:00 - 16:15 [Session II: Environmental Management](#)
- 17:00 - 19:30 [Session III: Posters](#)

Friday, May 23, 1997

- 9:00 - 10:15 [Session IV: Wetlands](#)
- 10:45 - 11:45 [Session IV: Wetlands - cont.](#)
- 12:45 - 14:15 [Session V: Bird Studies](#)
- 15:00 - 16:30 [Session VI: Bird & Other Animal Studies](#)

Saturday, May 24, 1997

- 9:00 - 10:15 [Session VII: Marine Ecology](#)
- 10:45 - 12:00 [Session VII: Marine Ecology - cont.](#)

[Complete Conference Program](#)
[Adobe PDF; 550K]

[Walt Dineen Society](#)

[Conferences](#)

[Programs](#)

[Index to Authors](#)

[Walt Dineen Home](#)



Walt Dineen Society Annual Conference '97

Daily Schedule of Sessions - Thursday, May 22


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[Conferences](#)
[Programs](#)
[Index to Authors](#)
[Walt Dineen Home](#)
SESSION I: UPLAND PLANTS

<i>TIME</i>	<i>AUTHOR(S)</i>	<i>ABSTRACT</i>	<i>TITLE</i>
13:00-13:15	Doren et al.	97101	Effects of Hurricane Andrew and fire season on mortality of South Florida slash pines in Miami Rock Ridge savannas: Implications for long-term viability and management of natural reserves
13:15-13:30	Whelan et al.	97102	Short term response of two cypress communities (<i>Taxodium Distichum</i> var. <i>Imbricarium</i> (Nuttall) Croom) in Everglades National Park to the effects of Hurricane Andrew
13:30 -13:45	Surdick and Frederick	97103	Environmental variables affecting wading bird foraging success in the Everglades
13:45 - 14:00	Carrington and Mullahey	97104	Effects of time since burning on saw palmetto (<i>Serenoa repens</i>) flowering and fruiting
14:00 - 14:15	Lee	97105	Red coloration in leaves of Everglades plants
14:15 - 14:30	Cox and Roberts	97106	Flowering and fruiting response of <i>Asimina tetramera</i> Small following resource management of mature sand pine scrub in southeast Florida

[Home](#) | [About Us](#) | [Browse](#) | [Ask an Everglades Librarian](#) | [FIU Libraries](#)

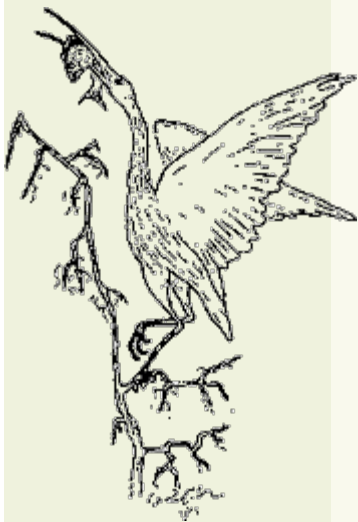

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Walt Dineen Society Annual Conference '97

Session I: Upland Plants

Abstract #: 97101



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EFFECTS OF HURRICANE ANDREW AND FIRE SEASON ON MORTALITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA SLASH PINES IN MIAMI ROCK RIDGE SAVANNAS: IMPLICATIONS FOR LONG-TERM VIABILITY AND MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESERVES
Robert F. Doren¹, William J. Platt², and Harold H. Slater³¹ South Florida Natural Resources Center, Everglades National Park, 40001 SR 9336, Walt Dineen Homestead, FL 33034² Louisiana State University, Department of Plant Biology, Baton Rouge, LA 70803-1705³ Caribe Research Institute, 1034 Gibraltar Road, Key Largo, FL 33037**ABSTRACT**

While natural disturbances have influenced the biota of the Everglades for centuries, anthropogenic disturbances are much more recent phenomena. This de novo combination of natural and anthropogenic disturbances constitutes a new environmental stress affecting ecosystems. In this study, we explore these interactions as they apply to reserve management using savannas dominated by south Florida slash pine (*Pinus elliotti* var. *densa*) as our model system. We also explore the interactions and relationships between Hurricane Andrew (the natural disturbance) and pre-hurricane fire regimes (potential anthropogenic disturbance) and their interactive effects on south Florida slash pine stands. We evaluated the effects of distance from the coast, size of the pine area, hydrology (as average depth to water by wet- and dry-season), time since last fire, size-class, and season of fire, on the mortality of pine. We sampled 15 sites within Everglades National Park (ENP) and southern Metropolitan Dade County (MDC) within the eyewall path of Hurricane Andrew, which crossed the tip of southern Florida on August 24, 1992. We assessed two types of mortality in each plot. Direct mortality included trees killed during the hurricane. Extended mortality resulted from deaths over the subsequent 24-30 months of trees still alive immediately after the hurricane (i.e., those not included as direct mortality). Results of our study indicate strong interactive effects on the pinelands, resulting from the combination of anthropogenic fire regimes and natural large-scale disturbances such as hurricanes. Both direct and extended mortality of pines were significantly higher in sites burned during the dry season than in sites burned during the wet season or unburned. Our analyses support the hypothesis that fire season (of the major environmental variables that could be accounted for) explains over 80% of the variability. These results indicate that anthropogenic alterations of fire regimes resulted in trees damaged by the hurricane becoming more susceptible to death from post hurricane stressors, possibly indicating that fire manipulation far outside normal regimes shifts environmental conditions away from those that occurred during the evolution of the species. The consequence of management of fire outside the natural season may mean the loss of significant portions of south Florida's slash pine savannas and has serious implications for management of natural reserves elsewhere.

[Conferences](#)[Programs](#)[Index to Authors](#)[Walt Dineen Home](#)

Walt Dineen Society Annual Conference '97

Session I: Upland Plants

Abstract #: 97102



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[Conferences](#)[Programs](#)[Index to Authors](#)[Walt Dineen Home](#)
SHORT TERM RESPONSE OF TWO CYPRESS COMMUNITIES (TAXODIUM DISTICHUM VAR. IMBRICARIUM (NUTTALL) CROOM) IN EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK TO THE EFFECTS OF HURRICANE ANDREW

Whelan, K.R.T., Oberbauer, S.F., and Koptur, S.
 Department of Biological Sciences
 Florida International University, College of Arts and Sciences, University Park

ABSTRACT

Hurricane Andrew passed over Southern Florida on August 24, 1992, with sustained winds of 230 kph causing massive damage to the natural areas. We investigated the damage sustained as well as the short term recovery response of Taxodium distichum var. imbricarium (Nuttall) Croom within two cypress communities in Everglades National Park to the effects of Hurricane Andrew. In the cypress dome communities damage as well as recovery were size dependent. Basal area increment was significantly different depending on recovery response and site. Mortality was size dependent. Mortality findings were greater than previously reported with 3.1% mortality in the initial survey and 7.4% mortality after a three year period. Within the dwarf cypress forest communities findings were similar except basal area increment was not dependent on recovery response. Mortality was not size dependent. For both communities it was found that the damage sustained interacted with recovery response. The ability to predict mortality using diameter at breast height using logistic regression produced a significant model. However, the practical application of the model has some short comings. This work found that the forest structure of cypress domes and dwarf cypress forest communities differs in response to hurricane damage.

[Home](#) | [About Us](#) | [Browse](#) | [Ask an Everglades Librarian](#) | [FIU Libraries](#)


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Walt Dineen Society Annual Conference '97

Session I: Upland Plants

Abstract #: 97103



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[Conferences](#)[Programs](#)[Index to Authors](#)[Walt Dineen Home](#)**ENVIRONMENTAL VARIABLES AFFECTING WADING BIRD FORAGING SUCCESS IN THE EVERGLADES**

James Surdick Jr. and Dr. Peter Frederick
University of Florida, Homestead, FL 33031

ABSTRACT

Large populations of breeding wading birds have been suggested as key indicators of Everglades restoration, and breeding success has been linked directly with availability of food. However, factors driving food availability are poorly understood, and knowledge of these factors may have direct implications for water and vegetation management strategies. Through direct observation of foraging success and foraging conditions, we are attempting to identify the combinations of environmental conditions (primarily water depth, vegetation density and prey density) which influence foraging success of wading birds in freshwater Everglades marshes. We are measuring foraging success of birds feeding at 17 sites throughout the Water Conservation Areas and Everglades National Park, where bimonthly prey density measurements are already underway by collaborators Joel Trexler and Frank Jordan. Measurements of vegetation, water depth, temperature and clarity, weather, substrate and social context are also made at the time of observation. During winter and spring of 1996 and 1997, we conducted over 1,500 observations of Wood Storks, White Ibis, Great Egrets and Snowy Egrets at a variety of sites throughout the Everglades. Several significant univariate correlations were found between capture rate and various environmental variables: Snowy Egrets (periphyton coverage, emergent vegetation, water depth and wind speed); Great Egrets (flock size, periphyton coverage, emergent vegetation, water depth and water temperature); and Wood Storks (time of day, water depth, water temperature and wind speed). Along with daily foraging observations, monthly aerial surveys are conducted at each site to measure their relative attractiveness to wading birds. If the impacts of various environmental variables on wading bird foraging success can be identified, this study may help us become better stewards of the Everglades and increase our knowledge of wading bird ecology.

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Walt Dineen Society Annual Conference '97

Session I: Upland Plants

Abstract #: 97104



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EFFECTS OF TIME SINCE BURNING ON SAW PALMETTO (SERENOA REPENS) FLOWERING AND FRUITING

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 Immokalee, FL 34143

ABSTRACT

Previously virtually ignored, saw palmetto (*Serenoa repens*) now enjoys a "spot in the limelight," thanks to recent market demand for its berries. In response to continued interest in harvesting saw palmetto berries, research on saw palmetto began at the University of Florida in 1996. One of the research objectives is to quantify effects of burning on saw palmetto flowering and fruiting. In September 1996 we began a study on the effects of time since burning on saw palmetto flowering and fruiting. We quantified fruiting in 18 flatwoods and dry prairie sites that burned during the growing season either in 1996, 1995, 1994, 1993, 1992, or before 1991. Saw palmettos in sites burned in 1996 generally were not fruiting by September to October. In sites burned in all other previous years, fruit yield per site ranged from 19 kg/ha to 2700 kg/ha. Although we expected that sites burned one year previously and over three years previously would have higher fruit yields, we saw no consistent pattern in fruit yields with time since burning. Our results suggested, however, that past burning frequency may influence saw palmetto fruiting. Lowest fruit yields occurred in sites that historically burned every two to three years, while the highest yields occurred at sites that have burned every eight to ten years. We plan to quantify flowering and fruiting in the study sites for two more years. In the next two years, we will determine both if patterns of fruiting are consistent with the pattern (or lack of pattern) seen in the first year, and if fruiting levels are consistent with flowering levels within years.

[Conferences](#)[Programs](#)[Index to Authors](#)[Walt Dineen Home](#)
[Home](#) | [About Us](#) | [Browse](#) | [Ask an Everglades Librarian](#) | [FIU Libraries](#)


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Walt Dineen Society Annual Conference '97

Session I: Upland Plants

Abstract #: 97105



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[Conferences](#)[Programs](#)[Index to Authors](#)[Walt Dineen Home](#)

RED COLORATION IN LEAVES OF EVERGLADES PLANTS

David W. Lee
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 University Park, Miami, Florida 33199

ABSTRACT

Leaves frequently develop red coloration during development, at maturity, and during senescence. Most plants produce anthocyanins (usually cyanidin glucosides) as the basis of this color, but members of the Caryophyllales (as *Pisonia*, in the Nyctaginaceae) produce nitrogenous pigments, betacyanins. Hypotheses about the function of this coloration have been hampered by the lack of experimental data as well as poor knowledge of the taxonomic and tissue distribution of these pigments in leaves. I have initiated a broad comparative survey and here report on results from 98 species native to the Everglades. 44 species (41.8 % of the total) produced anthocyanins, and one species, *Pisonia aculeata*, produced betacyanin. 24 taxa produced anthocyanins early in development, 5 taxa during senescence, and 9 taxa produced anthocyanins at both stages. Three taxa, all aquatic, produced anthocyanins in the lower epidermis of mature leaves. Most taxa produced pigmentation in the mesophyll tissue (usually in the palisade), inconsistent with the traditional hypothesis of protection against UV-B. Of those taxa producing anthocyanins in development and senescence, most retain a single tissue location (usually the palisade), but some taxa are developmentally plastic. A broader survey will facilitate a phylogenetically weighted analysis, and more direct studies will benefit from species that are polymorphic for such coloration, as *Chrysobalanus icaco*.

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[Conferences](#)
[Programs](#)
[Index to Authors](#)
[Walt Dineen Home](#)

Walt Dineen Society Annual Conference '97

Session I: Upland Plants
Abstract #: 97106

FLOWERING AND FRUITING RESPONSE OF ASIMINA TETRAMERA SMALL FOLLOWING RESOURCE MANAGEMENT OF MATURE SAND PINE SCRUB IN SOUTHEAST FLORIDA

Anne C. Cox ¹, and Richard E. Roberts ²

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² Department of Environmental Protection, District 5 Administration, 13798 SE Federal Highway, Hobe Sound, FL 33475

ABSTRACT

Fire management techniques and mechanical manipulations were applied to a mature sand pine scrub community in Jonathan Dickinson State Park in southeast Florida. The research was conducted in 4.05 hectares of scrub on the Atlantic Coastal Ridge for the management of listed species in scrub habitat. The primary focus was *Asimina tetramera* Small (four-petal pawpaw), a federally endangered species that showed reduced flowering and fruiting under the closed canopy of *Pinus clausa* (sand pine). Following management applications in May 1996, more *Asimina tetramera* plants flowered in the burn treatments (>53%) compared to plants in the non-burn treatments (<34%). The chi-square value of 16.55 was significant at the .05 level. In addition, more flowers per plant were produced following treatments than were produced in 1995 or 1996 (ANOVA, $p < .0001$). Monitoring will continue to determine whether flowering response changes over time. Land managers with small parcels of scrub habitat with listed species will benefit from the results of this study.

Home | [About Us](#) | [Browse](#) | [Ask an Everglades Librarian](#) | [FIU Libraries](#)



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[Conferences](#)

[Programs](#)

[Index to Authors](#)

[Walt Dineen Home](#)

FIRST ANNUAL CONFERENCE

May 22-24, 1997

INDEX TO AUTHORS

AUTHOR	SESSION	ABSTRACT#(s)
Abbott, G.	Env. Mgmt.	97203
Anderson, G.	Posters	97306
Bass, O.	B&A Studies	97602
Bean, D.	B&A Studies	97605
Bennett, K.J.	Env. Mgmt.	97202
Bennetts, R.E.	B&A Studies	97601
Bern, A.	Wetlands	97408
Bigger, C.H.	Marine Ecology	97701
Bossart, G.	Bird Studies	97501
Bouton, S.N.	Bird Studies	97504
Brandt, L.A.	Wetlands	97405
Brashear, C.B.	Posters	97302
Browder, J.	B&A Studies	97602
Byrne, M.	Marine Ecology	97702

Campbell, M.	Posters	<u>97302</u>
Carrington, M.E.	Upland Plants	<u>97104</u>
Cherkiss, M.	Posters	<u>97302</u>
Childers, D.L.	Posters Wetlands Marine Ecology	<u>97309</u> <u>97404</u> <u>97704</u> , <u>97707</u>
Cleaves, S.	Posters	<u>97306</u>
Comiskey, E.J.	B&A Studies	<u>97606</u>
Coronado- Molina, C.	Posters	<u>97308</u> , <u>97309</u>
Cox, A.C.	Upland Plants	<u>97106</u>
Daoust, R.J.	Wetlands	<u>97404</u>
Davis, S.E.	Marine Ecology	<u>97704</u> , <u>97707</u>
Day, J.	Posters Marine Ecology	<u>97307</u> , <u>97308</u> <u>97704</u>
Dehring, F.	Posters	<u>97302</u>
Dong, Q.	Wetlands	<u>97407</u>
Doren, R.	Upland Plants	<u>97101</u>
Dreitz, V.J.	B&A Studies	<u>97601</u>
Durako, M.D.	Marine Ecology	<u>97708</u>
Ecklund, A.	B&A Studies	<u>97603</u>
Fitz, H.C.	Wetlands	<u>97403</u>
Fontaine, T.	Wetlands	<u>97401</u>

Fourqurean, J.W.	Marine Ecology	97708 , 97710
Frederick, P.	Upland Plants Bird Studies	97103 97503 , 97504 , 97505
Fry, B.	Wetlands B&A Studies	97408 97601
Gawlik, D.E.	Bird Studies	97502
Gebelein, J.	B&A Studies	97602
Gongora, A.	Posters	97304
Gross, L.J.	B&A Studies	97606
Halley, R.B.	Marine Ecology	97703
Hicklin, J.	Posters	97301
Hernandez, M.	Posters	97305
Hodgens, M.	Env. Mgmt.	97204
Holmes, C.W.	Marine Ecology	97703
Huang, Haolon	B&A Studies	97602
Huston, M.A.	B&A Studies	97606
Jaffe, R.	Posters	97304 , 97305
Kelley, M.H.	Env. Mgmt.	97202
Kieckbusch, D.K.	Posters	97311
Kitchens, W.	Wetlands B&A Studies	97405 97601

Koptur, S.	Upland Plants	97102
Laha, S.	Env. Mgmt.	97204
Lee, D.W.	Upland Plants	97105
Loftus, W.	B&A Studies	97603
Lynch, H.	Bird Studies	97504
Makemson, J.	Env. Mgmt.	97201
Maloney, B.A.	Marine Ecology	97701
Mazzotti, F.J.	Env. Mgmt. Posters	97201 , 97202 , 97302
McCormick, P.	Wetlands	97407
McVoy, C.	Wetlands	97406
Mealey, B.K.	Bird Studies	97501
Meeder, J.	Env. Mgmt. Marine Ecology	97205 , 97702 , 97705 , 97709
Merickel, J.A.	Marine Ecology	97706
Miller, J.	Posters	97302
Morgenstern, C.	Env. Mgmt.	97201
Morrison, D.	B&A Studies	97605
Mullahey, J.J.	Upland Plants	97104
Mumford, P.L.	B&A Studies	97604
Nath, A.	Env. Mgmt.	97203

Newman, S.	Wetlands	97402
Oberbauer, S.F.	Upland Plants Marine Ecology	97102 97709
Oehm, N.J.	Marine Ecology	97704
Owen, D.	Env. Mgmt.	97201
Pages, C.	Bird Studies	97501
Park, W.	Posters	97310
Parks, G.M.	Bird Studies	97501
Perez, B.C.	Posters Marine Ecology	97309 97704
Platt, W. J.	Upland Plants	97101
Prager, E.J.	Marine Ecology	97703
Prieto, L.	Env. Mgmt.	97204
Reyes, E.	Posters Marine Ecology	97307 , 97308 97704
Richards, J.	Wetlands	97408
Roberts, R.E.	Upland Plants	97106
Rodriguez, D.L.	Wetlands	97404
Rose, C.D.	Marine Ecology	97710
Ross, M.	Env. Mgmt. Marine Ecology	97205 97705 , 97709
Rudnick, D.	Marine Ecology	97704

Ruiz, P.	Env. Mgmt. Marine Ecology	97205 97705 , 97709
Rutchev, K.	Wetlands	97401
Sah, J.P.	Marine Ecology	97705
Salatas, J.	Bird Studies	97505
Shinn, E.A.	Marine Ecology	97703
Sklar, F.	Wetlands Marine Ecology	97401 , 97402 , 97403 , 97407 97704
Slater, H.H.	Upland Plants	97101
Smith, T.J. III	Posters Marine Ecology	97306 97706
Sorrentino, D.	B&A Studies	97605
Spalding, M.	Bird Studies	97504
Stoddard, P.K.	Posters	97302
Surdick, J., Jr.	Upland Plants	97103
Sutula, M.	Posters Marine Ecology	97307 , 97309 97704
Tansel, B.	Env. Mgmt.	97204
Telesnicki, G.	Env. Mgmt. Marine Ecology	97205 97705 , 97709
Vilches, M.T.	Env. Mgmt.	97204
Whelan, K.R.T.	Upland Plants	97102
Wiebe, W.J.	Marine Ecology	97706

Willsie, A.A.	Marine Ecology	97708
Wise, M.	B&A Studies	97605
Wu, Y.	Wetlands	97401 , 97403
Zieman, J.C.	Marine Ecology	97708

