



SELF GUIDED TOUR of OHOOPEE DUNES

TATTNALL COUNTY

KENNEDY FARM



ROSEMARY

July, 2005

SELF GUIDED TOUR INFORMATION

of

OHOOPEE DUNES

Prepared

By

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Ohoopsee Dunes

Location and Description

This rare and unique site is located on the Kennedy Farm in Southeast Georgia near Cobbtown. The site was found on a small farm by plant material personnel while providing plant material assistance and planning for a regional Small Farm Expo. This beach-like landscape occurs on deep coarse sands. The habitat supports unique *evergreens, such as rosemary and woody mints with colorful blooms and aromatic fragrance*. They provide wildlife habitat and erosion control in this sandy droughty environment that is often referred to as the "Ohoopsee Dunes". These spectacular dunes lie on the east side of the Ohoopsee river. The uniqueness of these dunes was first noted from Earth Resources Technology Satellite (ERTS) high altitude imagery. The dunes are in parabolic shape with their long axis east to west and measure about 4.5 by 1.5 miles (Wharton 1978). Sam Pickering indicates they are of aeolian (wind) origin, formed by riverine alluvial sand, and probably date from the late Pleistocene Age. The unique habitat has been preserved on this small farm because land use changes have not occurred as they have on surrounding large farms. Native vegetation and wildlife unique to the site have been protected during several generations of small farm operation.

The famous dunes and surrounding areas support several plant communities, including longleaf pine-turkey oak, dwarf oak, oak hammock as well as cypress ponds, bay swamps, and shrub bogs.

Natural and Cultural Values

The Ohoopsee dunes are among the best and largest of the riverine dune systems in Georgia. Rosemary, an unusual shrub in the state is found on the dunes as is the beautiful red flowering mint (*Calamintha coccinea*). Another woody mint (*Calamintha ashei*) listed as Threatened in Georgia is also found on the dunes.

The dunes, which support the rosemary and woody mints are considered one of Georgia's finest sandhill plant communities! The area is both exceptional and unique. The area has marked educational, scenic and scientific values. With this in mind the Kennedy family is providing good stewardship to ensure the stability of the dunes on their property.

Typical Flora of the Dunes

Trees: turkey oak (*Quercus laevis*) and longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris*)

Shrubs: Rosemary (*Ceratiola ericoides*), red basil a woody mint (*Calamintha coccinea*), purple flowering woody mint (*Calamintha ashei*), bush goldenrod (*Chrysoma pauciflosculosa*), jointweed (*Polygonella polygama*).

Herbs: sand spikemoss (*Selaginella arenicola*), nailwort (*Paronychia sp.*), sand chickweed (*Arenaria caroliniana*), *Balduina angustifolia*, and a lichen (commonly called British soldier).

Fire is frequent to infrequent. Hot fire appears to destroy some of the shrubs, especially rosemary (Wharton 1978)

Ohoope Dunes

Self- Guided Nature Walk

Kennedy Farm- Tattnall Co Ga.

Walk begins behind bermuda pasture

Station 1 Longleaf Pine *Pinus palustris* (Overstory Tree)
Turkey Oak *Quercus laevis* (Overstory Tree)
Bush Goldenrod *Chrysoma pauciflosculosa*
(Showy yellow blooms)

Station 2 Rosemary *Ceratiola ericoides* (Evergreen Shrub)

Station 3 Saw Palmetto *Serenoa repens* (leaf petioles saw-tooth)

Station 4 Sand Live Oak *Quercus geminata* (Overstory tree)

Station 5 Red Basil *Calamintha coccinea* (Red
blooms,aromatic)

Station 6 Sparkleberry *Vaccinium arboreum* (shiny black fruit)

Station 7 Red Basil *Calamintha coccinea* & Gopher tortoise
burrow

Station 8 Rosemary *Ceratiola ericoides* & lichens on bare
ground

Station 9 Gopher Apple *Chrysobalanus oblongifolius* (waxy leaves , ground cover)

Station 10 Sand Post Oak *Quercus margaretta* (Overstory Tree)

Trail also contains : Ochoopee wild Basil *Calamintha ashei*
(blooms pink-purple, aromatic) Threatened in Georgia

Three awn grass *Aristida tuberculosa*

Wiregrass *Aristida beyrichiana* (carries fire well)

Yellow Buttons *Balduina angustifolia*

Sandhill Wireweed *Polygonella fimbriata*

Sedge *Bulbostylis warei*

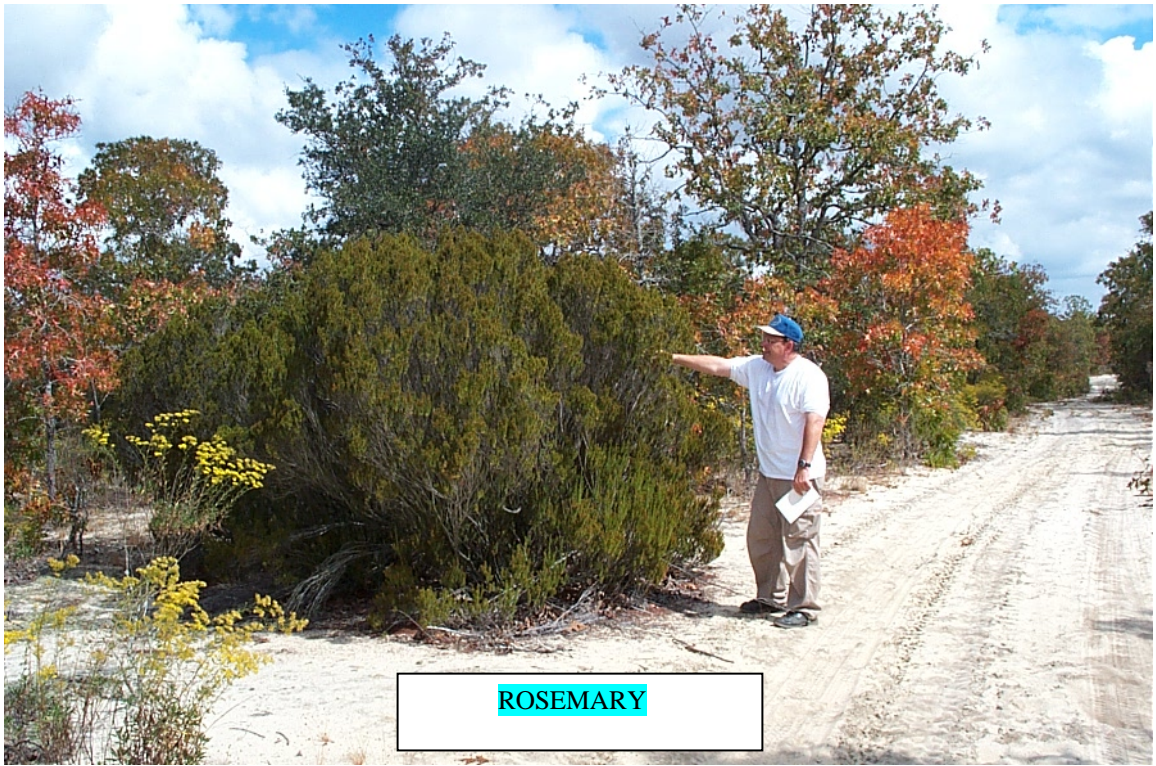
Sedge *Rhynchospora megalocarpa*



BUSH GOLDENROD



SAND LIVE OAK



ROSEMARY



On the Cover

Ohoopce Dunes

Charles M. Owsley, PMC Manager evaluates plants at the Ohoopce Dunes

Availability

For more information about Ohoopce Dunes or to obtain a copy of this publication, contact Donald Surrency, Plant Materials Specialist, Team Leader at the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Athens, GA (706-546-2114), or in Thomson, GA (706-595-1339 ext.3). Visit our homepage at <http://www.ga.nrcs.usda.gov/ga/technical/pmc/pmc.html> or the Plant Materials Program web site at <http://www.Plant-Materials.nrcs.usda.gov>

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