

St. George Island State Park

(Franklin County)

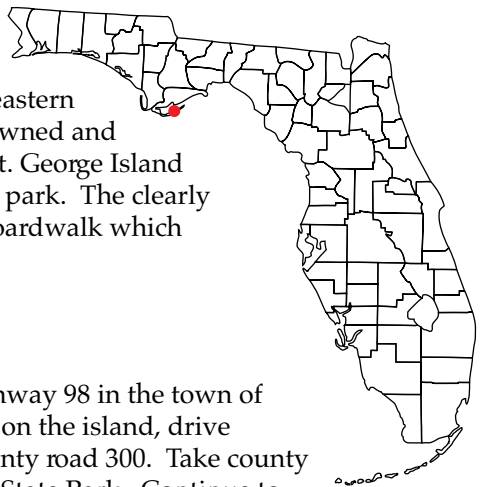
INTERDUNAL SWALE



Looking across the interdunal swale wetland boundary into pine flatwoods

LOCATION

St. George Island is a barrier island located directly south of the towns of Eastpoint and Apalachicola. It is part of a chain of barrier islands associated with Apalachicola River / Apalachicola Bay estuary. The island is accreting on the western end and eroding at the eastern end. The western half of the island is privately owned and heavily developed, while the eastern half is the St. George Island State Park. The reference site is found within the park. The clearly defined wetland boundary is accessible from a boardwalk which crosses the wetland.



ACCESS

St. George Island may be reached from U. S. Highway 98 in the town of Eastpoint via the St. George Island Bridge. Once on the island, drive approximately 1/4 mile to the intersection of county road 300. Take county road 300 east to the entrance of St. George Island State Park. Continue to the parking lot of the first beach facility. The reference site is on the north side of the

road, adjacent to the boardwalk. The boardwalk leads over coastal dunes and through pine flatwoods to an interdunal swale wetland.

COMMUNITY CHARACTERIZATION

The reference site is an interdunal swale located within a pine flatwoods community on the Apalachicola Bay side of the island. The surrounding pine flatwoods are also interspersed with scrub communities. Interdunal swales are depressional wetland features in the pine flatwoods landscape. The topographic boundary, however, is often masked by vegetation, such as *Ilex glabra* (gallberry) and *Baccharis* spp. (saltbush) and is not always obvious. The reference site is dominated by a canopy of *Pinus elliottii* (slash pine) and a ground cover of *Cladium jamaicense* (saw grass). The interdunal swale of the reference site is a freshwater wetland immediately adjacent to tidal waters.

DELINEATION PROCEDURE

A distinct topographic break marks the boundary between the interdunal swale wetland and the pine flatwoods. This break is observable from the boardwalk. The wetland is characterized by a *Pinus elliottii* canopy with a *Cladium jamaicense* groundcover. The vegetative boundary between the wetland and pine flatwoods is also distinct but less obvious in that the pine canopy is contiguous with that of the pine flatwoods.

The interdunal swale is a wetland identified by using the definition in section 62-340.200(19), F.A.C. Moving landward from the central depression, the provisions of subsection 62-340.300(2)(a), F.A.C. are used in establishing the wetland boundary. Hydrologic indicators, in the form of algal mats and aufwuchs, are present. The wetland boundary is established at the point where hydrologic indicators and hydric soil indicators are no longer present (subsection 62-340.300(d), F.A.C). This is coincident with the topographic break that defines the depression and is dominated by a thin band of *Myrica cerifera* (wax myrtle) and *Ilex glabra* (gallberry). Because of the discrete change from wetland to upland conditions the provisions of subsection 62-340.300(1), F.A.C. could also be used to delineate this site.

The following plant lists with corresponding soils descriptions were prepared during the November 15, 1994 visit to the delineation site. The common plant species in the seepage slope community and the sandhill community are listed below. Descriptions and photographs of soil profiles are also provided from each location.

Vegetation Immediately Waterward of the Wetland Boundary

Canopy

<i>Pinus elliottii</i>	UPLAND	slash pine
------------------------	--------	------------

Subcanopy

<i>Baccharis angustifolia</i>	FAC	groundsel tree
<i>Baccharis halimifolia</i>	FAC	salt bush

Ground cover

<i>Andropogon glomeratus</i>	FACW	bushy bluestem
<i>Cladium jamaicense</i>	OBL	sawgrass
<i>Eupatorium mikanioides</i>	FACW	semaphore
<i>Hydrocotyle</i> sp.	FACW	water pennywort
<i>Ipomoea sagittata</i>	VINE	glades morning glory
<i>Juncus roemerianus</i>	OBL	black needlerush
<i>Panicum rigidulum</i>	FACW	red topped panicum
<i>Panicum virgatum</i>	FACW	switch grass
<i>Phyla nodiflora</i>	FAC	frog-fruit
<i>Pinus elliottii</i>	UPLAND	slash pine
<i>Rhynchospora microcarpa</i>	OBL	southern beakrush
<i>Rubus trivialis</i>	VINE	trailing blackberry
<i>Sagittaria lancifolia</i>	OBL	lance-leaf sag
<i>Setaria geniculata</i>	FAC	bristle grass
<i>Spartina bakeri</i>	FACW	sand cordgrass
<i>Toxicodendron radicans</i>	VINE	poison ivy

Vegetation of scrubby flatwoods, landward of the Wetland Boundary Line

Canopy

<i>Pinus elliottii</i>	UPLAND	slash pine
------------------------	--------	------------

Ground cover

<i>Agalinis</i> sp.	UPLAND	false foxglove
<i>Cladonia</i> sp.	UPLAND	deer moss
<i>Conradina</i> sp.	UPLAND	rosemary
<i>Lechea</i> sp.	UPLAND	pinweed
<i>Schizachyrium maritimum</i>	FAC	maritime bluestem
<i>Smilax</i> sp.	VINE	cat-briar
<i>Uniola paniculata</i>	UPLAND	sea oats

SOIL DESCRIPTIONS

USDA-NRCS Franklin County Soil Survey - Sheet 40

Soil Profile Descriptions

Point 1. Six feet waterward of the wetland boundary line (water table - one inch).

Oe	0.5-0	litter layer
Oa	0-1	black (10YR 2/1) muck
A1	1-3	black (10YR 2/1) mucky sand
A2	3-5	very dark gray (10YR 3/1) sand
E or C	5-11+	light brownish gray (10YR 6/2) sand with light gray (10YR 7/1) mottles

Hydric soil: Yes

Hydric soil field indicators: one inch of muck (horizon Oa), two inches of mucky texture (horizon A1).



Point 1

Point 2. Fifteen feet landward of the wetland boundary line (water table - 31 inches).

A 0-4 gray (10YR 6/1) sand
E or C 4-31+ white (10YR 8/1) sand

Hydric soil: No

Hydric soil field indicators: none



Point 2

