

## Chad Washburn



Chad Washburn is the Natural Lands Manager at The Naples Botanical Gardens and current President of the Naples Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society. He earned a Bachelor's Degree in Biology from Hanover College in Indiana, and a Masters Degree in Applied Ecology from Indiana University. While in Indiana he worked to restore prairie, wetland, and stream ecosystems. He also started a native nursery, growing over seventy prairie species collected across northern Indiana. Chad's tropical plant experience comes from his work with the Belize Botanic Gardens in Belize, Central America. He most recently spoke there at the Caribbean Botanic Gardens for Conservation Conference, addressing the importance of Botanical Gardens' role in plant conservation and restoration. Currently Chad is working to restore native Florida ecosystems and conserve local flora.