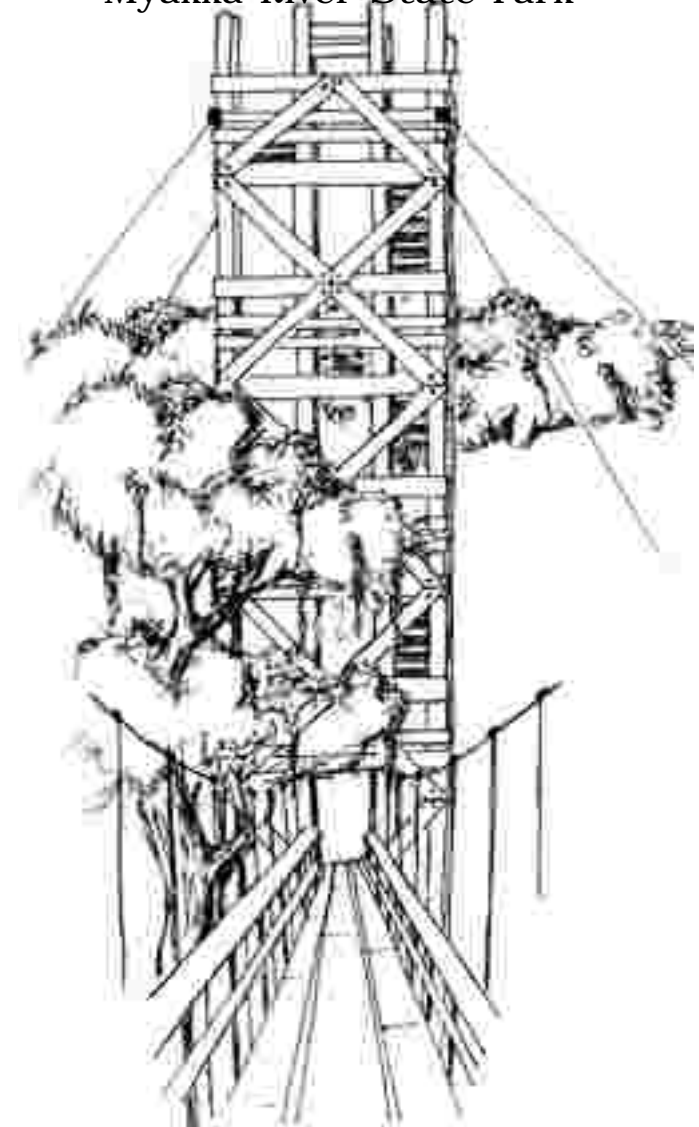


# Canopy Walkway at Myakka River State Park



“There awaits a rich harvest for the naturalist who overcomes the obstacles--gravitation, ants, thorns, rotten trunks--and mounts to the summits of jungle trees.”

William Beebe, 1917, *Tropical Wild Life*

Through research we gain the knowledge to conserve our natural places.



Myakka River State Park  
13208 State Road 72  
Sarasota, FL 34241  
(941) 361-6511

[www.MyakkaRiver.org](http://www.MyakkaRiver.org)

[www.FloridaStateParks.org/MyakkaRiver](http://www.FloridaStateParks.org/MyakkaRiver)

## TREE FOUNDATION

TREE RESEARCH  
EXPLORATION  
EDUCATION

Tree Foundation  
P.O. Box 48839  
Sarasota, FL 34230

[www.TreeFoundation.org](http://www.TreeFoundation.org)

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Illustrations by Barbara Harrison  
& Timothy W. Oliver  
Printed 1/2008 on recycled paper



Cardinal Airplant  
*Tillandsia  
fasciculata*

\* Become a Canopy Guide; call (941) 373-7839 for more information.

\* Become a member of Friends of Myakka River; call (941) 361-6512 or visit <http://www.MyakkaRiver.org>

\* Sponsor research and education efforts at the walkway site; contact TREE Foundation, P.O. Box 48839, Sarasota, FL 34230 or [www.treefoundation.org](http://www.treefoundation.org)

\* Check out these websites:  
[www.MyakkaRiver.org](http://www.MyakkaRiver.org)  
[www.TreeFoundation.org](http://www.TreeFoundation.org)  
[www.CanopyMeg.com](http://www.CanopyMeg.com)  
[www.globalcanopy.org](http://www.globalcanopy.org)  
[www.outonalimb-forestcanopies.com](http://www.outonalimb-forestcanopies.com)

\* Visit your local library or bookstore and read more about canopy ecology:

*Forest Canopies*, Margaret E. Lowman & H. Bruce Rinker, 2004, Elsevier

*Life in the Treetops*, Margaret D. Lowman, 1999, Yale University Press

*The Most Beautiful Roof in the World*  
Kathryn Lasky, 1997

*It's a Jungle Up There*, Margaret D. Lowman, Edward & James Burgess, 2006  
Yale University Press

## Myakka Canopy Walkway

Own some real estate in the sky!  
Buy a plank of Myakka canopy walkway inscribed with a name or personal message to fund research and education projects at the Myakka Canopy Walkway!

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Name a plank \$100 - \$999  
Name a column \$1000+

Inscription on plank \_\_\_\_\_

(Limited to two lines  
with 20 characters  
maximum per line.)

## TREE FOUNDATION

TREE RESEARCH  
EXPLORATION  
EDUCATION

Mail checks payable to: \_\_\_\_\_

Tree Foundation  
P.O. Box 48839, Sarasota, FL 34230

## The Forest Canopy--A Frontier for Discovery

Forests are like gigantic stands of lollipops. Since plant sugars are manufactured high overhead, organisms that depend on those sugars, such as insects and birds, are also far from the ground.

Until recently, we did not know much about life in the treetops of the world's forests because their canopies were difficult to reach. Now scientists can climb safely into the "high frontier" to discover some of its wonders.

The Myakka Canopy Walkway provides easy access to observe life in the treetops of an oak/palm hammock. As an outdoor laboratory for research and education, it is a place for discovery and opportunity for visitors to Myakka to see its canopy inhabitants up close. Completed in 2000, this structure is the first public treetop trail in North America.

The walkway is suspended 25 feet above the ground and extends 100 feet through the hammock canopy. A tower soars 74 feet in the air to present a spectacular view of treetops, wetlands, and the prairie/hammock interface. You can look down on eagles, hawks, vultures, and the tops of live oaks and palm trees.

The walkway proved its practical value with an alarming discovery several months after it opened. An exotic weevil from Central America, accidentally released in Ft. Lauderdale about 1990, had arrived in SW Florida. Wherever the weevil invades, it decimates airplants. Local elementary science students are working with TREE Foundation researchers to monitor both weevils and airplants.

The Myakka walkway was the inspiration of canopy scientist Dr. Margaret D. Lowman, Executive Director of TREE Foundation. It is the result of a unique partnership among the Florida Park Service, Friends of Myakka River, Tree Foundation, and other local sponsors.

## Treetop Access Methods

### Walkways

World's longest walkway (1/4 mile long and 120' high) is located in Amazonian Peru.

Over 20 canopy walkways have been built worldwide.

### Airships

Scientific missions survey the treetops of Africa, Asia, and South America with dirigibles and treetop rafts.

### Towers

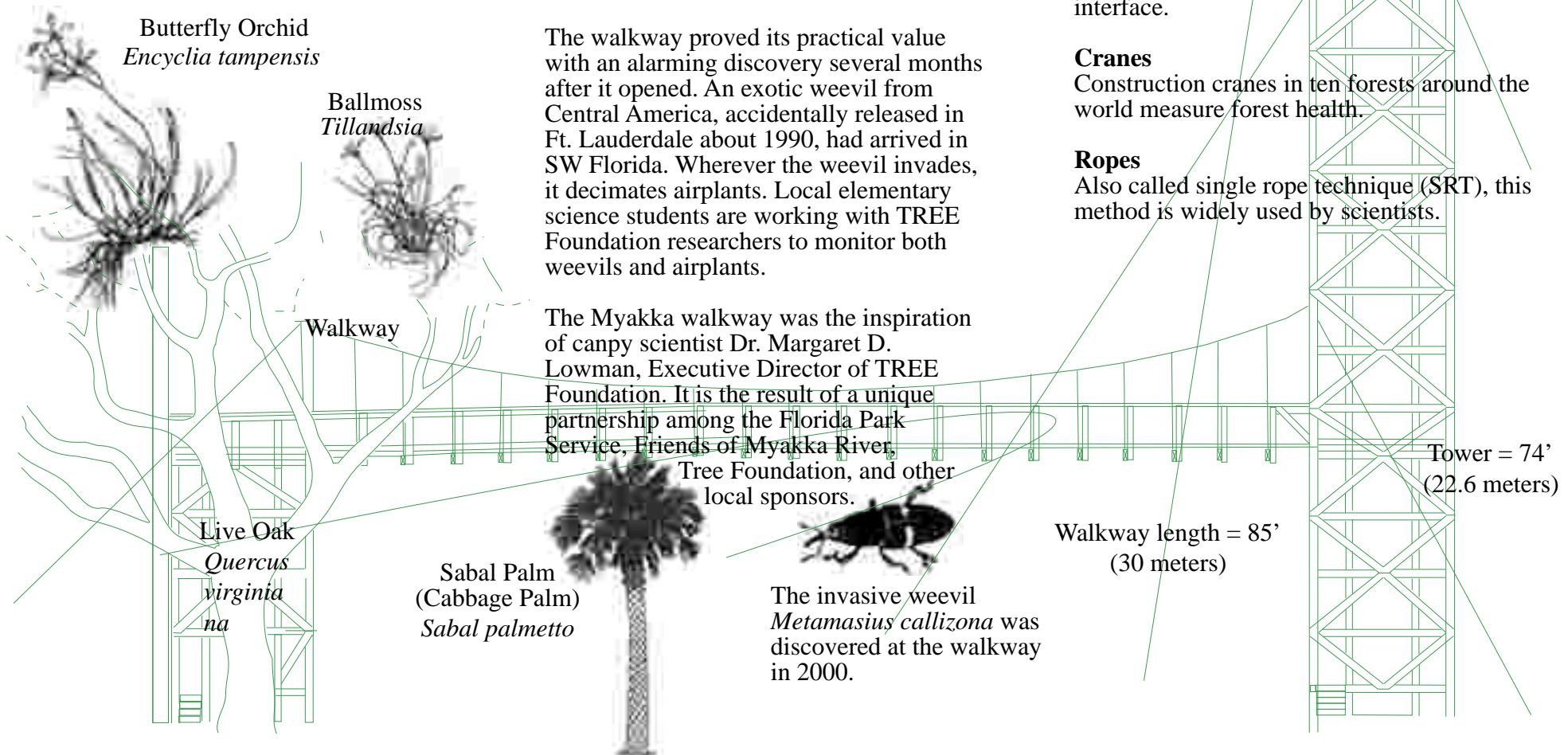
Multi-level platforms in Panama, Peru and Brazil monitor the earth-atmosphere interface.

### Cranes

Construction cranes in ten forests around the world measure forest health.

### Ropes

Also called single rope technique (SRT), this method is widely used by scientists.



Tower = 74'  
(22.6 meters)

Walkway length = 85'  
(30 meters)

The invasive weevil *Metamasius callizona* was discovered at the walkway in 2000.