



**JANUARY PROGRAM:  
TREE SELECTION, MAINTANANCE  
AND INSTALLATION**

Brent McCallister will talk about the benefits of trees, tree selection, installation and maintenance and explain the process of adopting trees within your Orange County community at no charge to the homeowner. Orange County will provide the trees, mulch and tools; the community provides the labor.

Brent McCallister, the Streetscape Coordinator for Orange County/University of Florida Horticulture Extension Office is a professional landscape architect practicing in Central Florida for 33 years. Brent provides expertise in site evaluation, master planning, and landscape design with Florida's natural plant communities.

Come to the meeting early for refreshments, view native plants in bloom and talk to the landscape designers. Please call 321.388.4781 for more details.

**CONSERVATION CORNER:  
Our National Forests in Peril  
Karina Veaudry**

The Bush Administration is continuing a precedent set in the first four years in office of releasing more areas of our 155 national forests to logging and commercial special interests. A recent new initiative drastically changes the 1976 National Forest Management Act which set guidelines for managing our 191 million acres of national forests and protecting wildlife within.

See "Conservation" Page 2.

**GOOD-BYE BEN!**

Many thanks to Ben Gugliotti for providing us with great field trips for the past several years. Ben will be leaving our chapter to take a new job in Lake County. We will miss you Ben! Paul Eisenbrown will be our new field trip coordinator. Thank you Paul.

**RALLY FOR THE OCKLAWAHA  
RIVER: Come for Field Trips, Parties,  
and Tree Planting!**

**Karen Ahlers**

The *Rally for the Ocklawaha River*, sponsored by the Putnam County Environmental Council, Inc. (PCEC) is a weekend full of great field trips, a big party and the beginning of "The People's Restoration." In short, it's an opportunity for you, your friends and family to have fun and make a difference in the ongoing struggle to restore the Ocklawaha River.

See "Rally" Page 5.

**DECEMBER CHRISTMAS PARTY**

**Paul Eisenbrown**

Geneva is a small town out in east Seminole County. And somewhere on the outskirts down several unpaved roads is the home of Rick and Pam Ehle.



Rick and Pam have five acres, a big part of it still natural. This was an apt setting for a group of plant people to get together. Everyone brought food for potluck to go along with a baked ham and a deep-fried turkey. Beans were baked in a pot over an open fire. Of course we had more than enough food. It was delicious! I don't know how many were there, but we had a pretty good crowd.

See "Party" page 2.

*“Conservation” Continued from Page 1.*

Among other things, the overhaul of the management act removes the environmental review process and speeds up the decision making to allow more logging, more paper industry uses and more commercial development.

The claim is that the changes “will enable Forest Managers to respond more quickly to changing conditions such as wildfires and emerging threats such as invasive species.” However, environmental groups including the Defenders of Wildlife say that the changes just weaken standards for protecting endangered or threatened species.

President of Defenders of Wildlife, Rodger Schlickeisen, who reviewed the changes in depth, states “The president’s forest regulations are an early Christmas gift to the timber industry masquerading as a government streamlining measure”.

The new changes do give regional forest managers more discretion to approve logging, drilling and mining operations without having to conduct formal scientific investigations or environmental impact reviews.

Mike Anderson of The Wilderness Society states that the changes “eliminate analyses required under the National Environmental Policy Act and scraps established wildlife protections.”

Also removed from the management plan is the public input process. A scary trend that the state of Florida is no stranger to.

Another trend in Florida and national government policy is the sudden declassification of threatened or endangered species. If they are not on the list, they do not hold up the development process. The Florida Black Bear was down-graded from its endangered status in Florida thus making it easier to develop Bear habitat even though the federal listing of Black Bear status has not changed. The Bush Administration also down-graded the status of the wolves that were re-introduced in the western part of the U.S. without scientific proof that their numbers have stabilized.

The safeguards of protection for our national forests are being eroded at an alarming rate. It makes one rethink the original intent of our national forests and question decisions made about developing land that is supposed to be preserved for future generations of Americans.

*“Party” Continued from Page 1.*

Yes, it was a little cool, but a nice campfire outside or the warm inside of their home seemed to accommodate everyone.

One of the activities was a plant quiz. In reality it was a botany “exam” that most college students couldn’t complete. So hats are off to anyone that was able to answer a good number of the questions. I don’t know

who won, or what they won, but they certainly deserved it. The good thing about the quiz was that you could get out and explore the property looking for the tagged plants, and learn something along the way. Quail and a gopher tortoise were seen as well as a couple of soaring eagles way in the distance. One of the questions was to guess the name of a gopher tortoise that lived in a burrow over the drain field of the septic tank. I could only imagine the choices such as, Septic Sue, Smelly Nelly, Smellitzer, Odorous, or Reeking Sam. Someone actually wrote Tirdle (Can I print this?) on their sheet. Its real name is **Stinky**. Needless to say the kids of neighboring turtles are not allowed to play with Stinky’s kids. Ha!

Most of all we had an opportunity to talk and learn a little about our fellow members and their families. Several new members came out to see what we are all about. We thank them for joining us and helping us grow as a chapter. We would like to thank Rick and Pam for opening their home to us and organizing everything. They equally enjoyed having us. Thanks also go to

everyone else who came out to make it happen.

The answers to the 14 plants on the last page are:

(1) Coastal Doghobble, (2) Coral Honeysuckle, (3) Spotted Beebalm, (4) Wild Olive, (5) Hercules Club, (6) Northern Needleleaf Wild Pine (*Tillandsia balbisiana*), (7) Cardinal Airplant (*Tillandsia fasciculata*), (8) Greenfly Orchid, (9) Climbing Aster, (10) Toothpetal False Reinorchid, (11) Winged Sumac, (12) St. Andrew’s Cross, (13) Coastal Plains Staggerbush, (14) Fetterbush.

#### ***VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY:***

##### ***University of Central Florida Arboretum***

The Friends of the UCF Arboretum non-profit organization is seeking to fill the role of President. If you have an interest in the environment, fund raising and making great connections please call Karina Veaudry at 321.388.4781. No prior knowledge of plant material is required. Please pass this message along to anyone that might be interested.



## ***FLORIDA FRONTIER AND REDNECK TOUR by Sam Hopkins and Carol Palmer***

Of course there was a barn! We saw the windmill and the tin-covered old barn, which was a necessary part of the homestead at that time. So were the chickens. They were an integral part of the old time family. We missed the horse, but found the buggy in its nook, along with a Coca Cola sign that seemed a little bit out of place. (C)

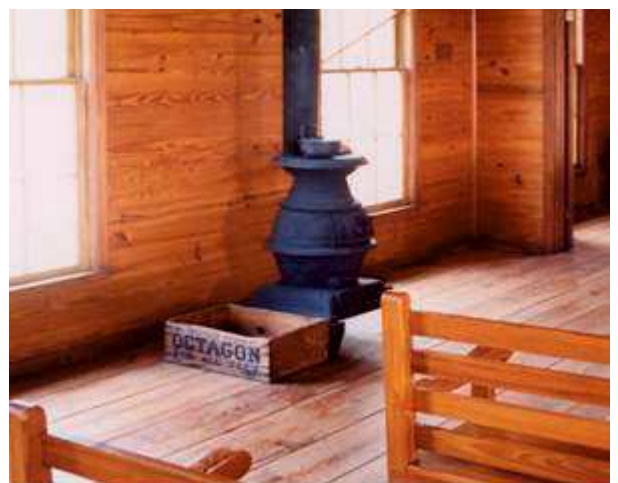


Next was the school house which was an integral part of the old-time life.



This was the Court House of the village. The Judge sat in the chair at one end of the big room which was lighted by kerosene lamps. These lamps had to be cleaned and filled frequently. (C)

Heating was furnished by the stove as shown in the next picture. "Lightard-knots" (the spelling is my own) were kept in a box similar to the "OCTAGON" soap box shown in the picture. The seats that were used by



the participants were chairs and there were a few tables up at the front of the room. (C)

I just couldn't resist this shot of the expert showing the teacher. Of course the man is our exalted guide, Clyde Stephens, being shown something by our own Pam Ehle, assisted by Sharon Lynch who's looking it up for sure. (S)



This church housed the first Christian congregation south of Tampa on the Florida mainland. It served as a place of worship for 85 years. Construction was started in 1887. Donated by the Manatee United Methodist Church it was moved only two blocks to this location in 1975. The church remains a consecrated house of worship and is frequently used for baptisms, weddings, memorial services and other religious events. (C)



This picture shows the inside of the church as it has been restored to its original size and configuration. The circular stained glass window is original to the church.



(C)

This is the burial ground where many of the congregation were buried. It is across the street from the present church. (C)



After the tour of the Manatee Village Historical Park we made a stop on the north side of the river and saw one of the largest Coral Beans (*Erythrina herbacea*) that I have ever seen. This had to be shown with some measure of size so, believe me, I judiciously used this picture. (S)



This is some of the Coral Bean that was in the picture but with a little more size to it. (S) While taking pictures of the Coral Bean, we found this plant which we seldom see in the Orlando area. It was



Sparkleberry, Farkleberry, or Tree Huckleberry (Vaccinium arboretum}. (S)



**“Rally” Continued form Page 1.**

Here in Putnam County, almost daily we deal with the controversy in our backyard - the dammed Ocklawaha River and the resulting Rodman Reservoir. While we understand the apprehension of local officials and the business community that fear a negative economic impact if the river is restored, PCEC has planned a fun-filled weekend event to demonstrate the positive impacts of nature-based tourism that will result from a restored river.

**To make this successful, we need you!** We are asking supporters from across the state to come to Putnam County February 19-20, 2005 (President’s Day weekend). We’ve created 50+ outings to satisfy a wide variety of interests and have enlisted the help of some of the best trip leaders in north central Florida including Gian Basili, Joyce King, Marc Minno, Rex Rowan, Bob Simons, and Lars Anderson. Great birders, botanists, naturalists, outfitters, and artists will be on hand to show you what makes this area so special. Come and enjoy the field trips and tours and please, spend a little money! We’re asking participants to buy gas, eat at local restaurants, do a little shopping, or stay a night or two. We’re asking you to be obvious: strap your canoes to the roof, wear your binocs ‘round your neck, in other words, be conspicuous eco-tourists. PCEC will provide you with Ocklawaha restoration calling cards to leave everywhere you go and be sure to ask for and save your receipts.

Both Saturday and Sunday, you’ll have the opportunity to participate in the kick-off of PCEC’s “The People’s

Restoration” by helping us plant trees. Almost one square mile of the Ocala National Forest is flooded by Rodman Reservoir. Those lands will be exposed during this time due to a periodic drawdown for aquatic plant control and we’ve arranged with the US Forest Service to take this opportunity to begin the reforestation process. We’ll provide the native trees and tools.

On Saturday night at 7:00 pm, join us at Ravine Gardens State Park in Palatka for a free, music- and fun-filled pep Rally for the River with live music by Florida’s Troubador Dale Crider and other well known Florida folk musicians. Renowned Florida author Al Burt will be our featured guest and cheerleaders from Florida’s leading conservation groups will be on stage to encourage us all to achieve our goal of removing Rodman Dam and restoring the Ocklawaha River.

Remember those receipts you were asked to save? Bring them to the pep rally so we can tally them up for our report back to local officials. **THIS IS A CRITICAL PART OF OUR STRATEGY!** Concern over the local economy is one of the main reasons proponents of Rodman cite for keeping the Ocklawaha River dammed. We need your help to demonstrate that there is more to nature-based tourism than bass fishing.

**Your participation will support restoration efforts by:**

- demonstrating the economic impact of nature-based tourism on the local economy;
- dispelling the myth that this is a local issue and proving that the Ocklawaha River is an important resource for all Floridians;
- reinvigorating activists and thanking those who have fought this battle for decades;
- giving legislators the evidence of public support needed to fight this battle in Tallahassee and Washington;
- educating and motivating activists state-wide; a
- strengthening local supporters who have no representation in Tallahassee on this issue.

There’s more information on this event at the Florida Native Plant Society website at <http://www.fnps.org/pages/homepage/home.php>.

Reservations for field trips are required. We will gladly send you maps, calling cards, and other pertinent information.

We need a big crowd to made this work and are counting on the support of like-minded folks that are equally frustrated over the decades we’ve spent working on this issue.

Hope to hear from you soon!

For more information go to [www.fladefenders.org/events](http://www.fladefenders.org/events) or contact Karen Ahlers, Putnam County Environmental Council, (352) 546-3560 or [PCECRiverRally@hotmail.com](mailto:PCECRiverRally@hotmail.com)

**T-SHIRT SALES**

We still have t-shirt's left from last year's conference. They will be on sale at the meeting for just \$2.00!

*More Party Photos from Paul Eisenbrown:*



\$25 Individual - \$30 Family  
 \$50 Non-Profit  
 \$100 Business  
 \$100 Supporter  
 \$15 Full-time Student  
 \$15 Library or School

Make Checks Payable to:  
 FNPS  
 Florida Native Plant Society  
 P.O. Box 278  
 Melbourne, FL 32902-0278  
 Phone: 321-271-6702

**SOCIETY NEWS:**

Chapter Meetings

Chapter meetings are held the first Tuesday each month at **HARRY P. LEU GARDENS**, (1920 N. Forest Avenue, Orlando). The next meeting is **Tuesday, January 4** promptly at 7:00 P.M. Refreshments 6:30-ish. See you there!  
 (For directions, call 407-246-2620 option 1)

Executive Committee

The next board meeting will be held on January 28, 2005 at Langford Park. For more information contact Rich Ehle. Members are welcome to attend.

Upcoming Events

01/15/2005 Workday at Oakland Nature Preserve  
 02/26/2005 Participate in the Orlando Wetlands Park Festival

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