



# the Tarpaper

The Tarflower Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society



Volume: XVII March, 2005 ISSUE

## MARCH PROGRAM:

### Florida Carnivorous Plants

At the March meeting of the Florida Native Plant Society, Steve DeCresie will host a natural history presentation which highlights Florida's 4 groups of carnivorous plants. This presentation will take you on a photo-safari in search of these unusual plants. Live plants will also be shown. Steve is a Florida Naturalist and consults on the flora and fauna at the Central Florida Zoo and has been involved as a Florida Environmental educator for many years. He is part of the League of Environmental Educators and a participant in herpetological conferences. One of Mr. DeCresie's specialty areas is Gopher tortoises. He has also worked toward the conservation of Florida's sea turtles. Steve's company, 'The Nature Nerd Company', was started in 2002. Programs and services are provided primarily by Steve. He has been giving Natural History presentations since 1991 around the state of Florida. He is also involved in research projects and habitat restoration programs in the field. The Nature Nerd Company is dedicated to providing ecological and educational services that will encourage public participation in the exploration and protection of our natural resources.



Field of *S. flava* by Cindy Stewart

## EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

**Saturday and Sunday, March 5 and 6** –Harry P. Leu Garden's Annual Plant Sale. This is our big fundraiser for the year, so mark the weekend down in your day planner! Volunteers are needed for Friday afternoon, March 4 to help setting up, and any time between 8am and 4pm Saturday and Sunday. In particular, we need help in the mornings and Sunday afternoon. What would you be doing as a volunteer? Talking plants and See "Events" page 5.

## THREE CREEK DAY 02/05/05

Paul Eisenbrown

En route to our field trip we got into a discussion about which creek was which, where they started and where they ended. So here is the short version. It's always good to be aware of where you are going and how the surrounding area may influence it. First we passed over Shingle Creek, which has its origin in Orange County somewhere in the vicinity of Kirkman and McLeod Road. It empties into Lake Tohopekaliga. We then drove over Reedy Creek just outside Poinciana. Reedy Creek originates from Reedy Lake just off Disney property. It goes into Lake Russell and then ultimately into the Kissimmee River chain of lakes.

See "Three Creek" page 5.

## An Ocklawaha Weekend

Daniela DeBiase

This weekend (February 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>) the Ocklawaha River was front and center, as attention was directed to the efforts to restore the river's ecosystem and undo some of the environmental damage done by construction on the Cross Florida Barge Canal. The idea for a cross Florida canal is not new. It dates back to Andrew Jackson, John Quincy Adams and even Philip II of Spain. Almost as soon as the idea had been proposed, it was shot down because of cost and questionable economic benefits. But finally a "barge canal project was authorized by the U.S. Congress (by a one-vote margin) during World War II. In 1964, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers began construction of the Cross Florida Barge Canal. Four years later, the Rodman Dam and Reservoir were completed, impacting 9,000 acres of productive river and floodplain forest along 16 miles of the upper Ocklawaha River". (Today the reservoir is a shallow, stagnant body of water that needs draw downs every See "Ocklawaha" page 2.



Nini and Kate by Rodman Dam

**“Ocklawaha” continued from page 1.**

three years to manage for invasive exotics.)

“Temporarily, construction on the barge canal was halted in 1971 because of environmental and economic concerns. And as a result of the public's desire to protect one of Florida's great river systems, a legal challenge by the Environmental Defense Fund and Florida Defenders of the Environment stopped construction. It took another 19 years, a \$2.5 million restudy by the Corps, and an outcry of citizen voices to finally deauthorize the Cross Florida Barge Canal. With the deauthorization in 1990 (by George W.'s father), the barge canal was officially dead, and the battle to restore the damaged river began in earnest.”

Besides being one of the principal rivers of Florida; (it is the largest tributary of the St. Johns River) its headwaters originate in Central Florida's Green Swamp and several large lakes including Lake Apopka. A few of us from the Tarflower Chapter of FNPS participated in an effort to demonstrate the economic potential of ecotourism. Regardless of where one stands on the issue at hand, it was a fun time for all! Here's what we had to say (I apologize if I've misspelled anyone's name.):



Patricia at “tent city”.

- Lavon from the Beautyberry Chapter, “I liked the comradery at the rally and at the camp site (remember the eagle flying over?). It's nice doing things with people of common interest and common goals”.
- Patricia from the Beautyberry Chapter, “Everything Lavon said. Also it was a good opportunity to see different natural areas of Florida. The camp grounds are great. Do you want the negatives now? There were too many activities scheduled, especially if you came from out of town.”
- Ben Gugliotti, formerly of the Tarflower chapter, “The field trips were good, just needed more time. Of course I always like Paul Martin Brown. He's always fun.”



Paul Martin Brown

- Lee Deschaine, a unique individual we met at the campsite, “The area is beautiful, nice. It's always good to protect the environment”
- Kate, a friend, “I just loved Bob Paterson, loved hearing about old Florida. Dale Crider sang the tribute to Gamble Rogers. There used to be Gamble Rogers, Jim Belleau and Paul Champion. They were the folk singers and early environmentalists of Florida. They're all gone now but we used to know them. Gamble Rogers died saving a swimmer at Flagler Beach. There's a park named for him off of A1A. Dale Crider sang the song written about him as a tribute.”
- Nini from Tarflower Chapter, “I think it was nice to see all types come together for an environmental cause. The lobbyist who said “spend your money at the local level” left an impression.”
- Paul from the Pawpaw chapter, “Very nice; would have liked to see more people. Favorite thing? I guess the field trip to Deep Creek. The field trip had really good leaders. They knew what was growing there. Having Paul Martin Brown was a treat. Though the plants weren't in bloom, he could point them out. It was good seeing Susan Trammell. She's doing mussels now. The weather was great. I didn't mind that it was brisk”
- Jean from Tarflower chapter, “I liked sitting around the camp fire best. It was cold but sort of warm talking to everybody - Ben, Lavon, Patricia. But you know what I liked best? It was that first field trip. I liked meeting Paul Martin Brown. I loved sharing knowledge about plants.”

So now you know from people who were there! For more information about the efforts to restore the Ocklawaha, visit <http://www.fladefenders.org/> the web site for Florida Defenders of the Environment.

## **OLD SUGAR MILL AT NEW SMYRNA BEACH** by Sam Hopkins and Carol Palmer

Moss and ferns cover most of the foundations of the Old Sugar Mill Ruins, 600 Mission Drive, New Smyrna Beach, Florida. Beautiful arched doorways separate the rooms of the mill and lots of the equipment that was used can still be seen, including three of the cooking kettles which were used in the concentration of the sugar-water before it became sugar. The juice from the crushed cane was piped into the cooking kettles, starting with the largest one, which was furthest from the fire and was hand dipped from one kettle to the next until it ended up as syrup in the last one. This was one of the sixteen sugar plantations built between New Smyrna and Saint Augustine in the 1830s. This Sugar Mill supplied molasses needed to make rum and refined sugar.



This is the entrance to the Sugar Mill and, of course, the seats on either side of the entrance are not part of the historical display. (C)

This is the entrance of the Mill that we can see in the



picture above, and to the right. The beautiful arched doorways and large windows were everywhere and



although the roof was gone, they showed the type of building that was once here. (S)

These were three of the five cooking kettles which were used in the preparation of the molasses and sugar. The juice from the crushed cane was piped into the cooking



kettles, starting with the largest one, which was furthest from the fire, and was hand dipped from one kettle to the next until it ended up in syrup in the last one. (S)

The picture above shows another view of the cooking kettles and shows some of the old buildings in the background. There were lots of trees that have grown up in the area in the last century and have changed the looks of the place. (C)

Next is a portion of the old brick wall of the Mill with some of the ferns growing from it. These were the Chinese Brake Ferns (*Pteris vitatta*) which would grow on the bricks. (S)



Shown above (top right) is another section of the wall, with another fern, the Wild Boston Fern (*Nephrolepis exaltata*), which tends to sprawl over open moist, rocky woods in various soils. It was not found in Florida until 1859, so it does not belong in this picture. (S)

The central piece in this next picture is one in which the liquid was run through during the process. Its name I do not know, but it certainly had a central part in the process. (S)



This next photo shows a clump of the Chinese Brake Fern (*Pteris vittata*) which was growing near the entrance to one of the ovens used to heat the material and cause it to get smaller and smaller and so to be more easily



handled. (S)

These next photos show views throughout. The first is of the tree which has grown through the side of the mill (C). It shows how long the



mill has been out of action. The second is of a like window that shows

the surrounding woods (C).

This last picture is not related to the others, but was happened upon while opening some old books in a rather off-hand manner.

I cannot find where this picture came from, but I think it was somewhere on the coast, possibly the Lyonia Preserve on one of the trips over there.



Crosswort (*Crucianella stylosa*) is a member of the Rubiaceae family. It is probably from northern South America where the family is especially abundant. "Crucianel-la" means in Latin "a little cross", from the arrangement of the leaves. (S)

**“Events” continued from page 1.**

planting techniques with other plant lovers, encouraging novices to use native plants in their landscapes, as well as helping with sales, stocking, and cashing out. Call Daniela DeBiase at 407 423 3554 if you wish to be a part of this event. If you can help Mark Godts, of green Isle Gardens (and a Tarflower member), with plant delivery and set up on Friday, call him at 321 436 4932.

**March 5, 6, 7** - National Wildlife Federation Habitat Stewards Training. Contact Bruce and Cathy Brown for more information at B.B.Brown's Gardens [bbbrowns@earthlink.net](mailto:bbbrowns@earthlink.net).

**Saturday, March 12** – ONP Workday Join Tarflower chapter at the Oakland Nature Preserve as we continue working on our plot and pruning the area around the Jack Amons Trail Shelter. This month our work day coincides with the Oakland Nature Preserve Member's workday. So we have the opportunity to associate with others of like mind. Some potential new members, maybe? Meet at 8'ish at the Amon Trail Shelter on the West Orange trail. Bring a shovel, work gloves, bug spray and water. Before you head out, call 407 340 8316 to coordinate the exact time.

**Sunday, March 13** –Meet us at the fair, the Central Florida Fair that is. We'll have a display there on the final day in the horticulture building from 11am to 5pm. Anyone wishing to help out can call Daniela DeBiase at 407 423 3554. More details will be given at the meeting.

**April Field Trip** – UCF Arboretum. For more details call Paul Eisenbrown.

**May 12 thru 15** - Conference information will be available on the FNPS website and in members' mailboxes later this month (February). The conference will be held May 12-15 at the Melbourne Hilton Rialto, Brevard County.

**“Three Creek” continued from page 1.**

Our first stop was the Sherwood L. Stokes Preserve which is bordered by Lake Marion Creek. It originates in Lake Marion of Polk County and ends in Lake Hatchineha. On the way home we stopped at the Osceola District Schools Environmental Study Center, which has a boardwalk that overlooks Reedy Creek. So there you have it. A creek is not merely a creek. All three contribute to the Kissimmee River chain. We also traversed three counties, Orange, Osceola and Polk.

The Stokes Preserve is part of the Polk County Environment Lands. This was the homestead of a Polk County attorney who wanted the property to remain quiet and peaceful as he knew it. Its habitat is mainly riverine floodplain with adjacent scrub habitat. We started in the scrub and then worked our way down to

the old homestead next to Lake Marion Creek. We saw *Ximenia americana* (Hog Plum) with fruit, *Osmanthus spp.* (Wild Olive), *Piloblephis rigida* (Pennyroyal), *Persea borbonia* (Red Bay), *Lyonia ferruginia* (Rusty Lyonia), *L. lucida* (Shiny Lyonia), *Selaginella arenicola* (Sand Spike Moss), *Hypoxis juncea* (Yellow Star Grass), *Quercus geminata* (Sand Live Oak) and *Ilex opaca* var. *opaca* (Scrub Holly). As we entered the wetter habitat along the raised dirt road we saw *Illicium parviflorum* (Yellow Anise), *Bidens mitas* (Beggarticks), *Dicanthelium spp.* (Witchgrass), *Osmunda regalis*, (Royal Fern) and *Pteridium aquilinum*, (Bracken Fern), *Tillandsia setacea* (Southern Needleleaf), *Sisyrinchium rosulatum* (Blue-eyed Grass), *Sabal palmetto* (Cabbage Palms), and *Carya spp.*(Hickory). The old homes were still there and had several non-native plants in bloom, such as azaleas and Chinese Hat.

We then headed to the Environmental Center, ate lunch and walked their boardwalk, which goes through a swamp off Reedy Creek. There were a lot of birds about. We saw *Tillandsia fasciculata* (Cardinal Airplant) in bloom, *Ilex cassine* var. *cassine* (Dahoon Holly), *Ulmus americana* (American Elm), *Fraxinus caroliniana* (Pop Ash), good-sized *Taxodium distichum* (Cypress tree), *Nyssa sylvatica* (Swamp Tupelo). There was also *Styrax americanus* (Snowbell) in bloom. Some *Clematis reticulata* vines were on the trees. It is a really nice way to enjoy a swamp without getting wet. Field trips such as this are really good learning experiences for those that are just beginning as well as the more knowledgeable about plants. You have to continually reinforce what you have learned. Thanks again to all of those that showed up to make it happen. The weather started cool, but ended up perfect.

**Partial Reprint of the FNPS 2005**

**Membership Report**

**Presentations for your Chapter** - Dr. Marty Main, our Education Committee Chair, and Director of the Florida Master Naturalist Program for UF/IFAS, has offered a grant of \$750 to any chapter providing him with a presentation that can be used to educate Master Naturalists about our native plants and native plant communities. Please contact Marty if your chapter can help. Marty will be happy to talk with you about the potential of your chapter presentations.

**Chapter Grants** -It's not too early to be thinking about an extra-special education program that your chapter could develop, with a little funding assistance from the FNPS Chapter Grants Program. June 1 deadline for submissions. See [www.fnps.org](http://www.fnps.org), Programs, Awards & Grants, for more info.

See “Reprint” page 6.

**"Reprint" continued from page 5.**

**Letter from Dade Chapter member** George Childs (305-536-0395) "I recall my great-uncle refer to a little stand of heavily coppiced bushes on his farm in Matanzas province (Cuba) as \*mierda de gallina" (chicken feces). He said the new growth has a fertilizer effect similar enough to the feces to be quite acceptable (and easier to collect; this was before the chicken factories), esp. with his cassava (Mahinot) stand. He had learned this while still in his native Bayamo, in eastern Cuba.

Trying to match memory with later (modest) botanical expertise, I had arrived at the conclusion it all must have referred to \*Lantana involucrata,\* although in view of Dr. Austin's article [Palmetto V23, No.1], I will allow that it might have been \*Cordia globosa.\* Now, cassave is in the EUPHORIACEAE. A good student research project might be to compare various fertilizers including \*Cordia\* among various (I guess fast-growing) Euphorbias such as pineland croton, Poinsettia, cassave, Jatropha, and the same with carefully chosen non-Euphorbias. Although the non-native Mahinot would be the beneficiary, it is not an invasive. A native species would be involved, and after all, cassava is a common (if nutritionally horrific) staple around the world." - --so if you think this is an interesting project, give George a call.



Hawk near Rodman Dam

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**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, March 1** 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 TBD. For more information contact Rich Ehle. Members are welcome to attend.

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