



# the Tarpaper

The Tarflower Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society



Volume: XVII April, 2005 ISSUE

## **APRIL 5<sup>th</sup> PROGRAM: UCF Arboretum**

Before talking about landscaping with native plants, Dr. Martin Quigley will give a summary of what's happening in the Arboretum. Dr. Quigley will talk about the issue of conscientious gardening, which is choosing plants based on their being "native" to a region, or to a general zone of climate such as "Central Florida" or "Southern Appalachians." We sometimes forget to consider the plant's more local adaptations, for example to specific regimes of soil moisture and chemistry, sun or shade requirements, and particularly to their associations with other plants. Plants are sold as species or cultivars independent of the other species with which they originally cohabited. So we often see plantings in which perennials of woodland understory, open grasslands, and riparian wetlands are installed right together as a "native garden." We must learn to use native plants not only in situations appropriate to their individual needs, but also in combinations that reflect their original habitats. Good design is also good ecology.

See "UCF Arboretum" page 2.

## **APRIL FIELD TRIPS: UCF Arboretum & Tosohatchee State Preserve Paul Eisenbrown**

We have two field trips this month. On **April 9**, we will go to UCF and check out the plants in some of the natural areas at UCF. We will also see the progress on the existing Arboretum area. Dave Hanon will lead a trip **April 16** to Tosohatchee. Trip descriptions are below.

See "Field Trips" page 2.



### **LEU GARDEN PLANT SALE**



## **MARCH PLANT SALE**

The March Plant Sale at Leu Gardens was once again a big success. Many thanks to everyone that came out to help with our booth. It was a great weekend!

## **EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES**

**Saturday, Sunday, April 9 and 10** – Payne's Prairie Native Plant Sale will take place in East Gainesville, at Morningside Nature Center. For details, contact Claudia Larsen at 352-846-1070 or [clarsen@ifas.ufl.edu](mailto:clarsen@ifas.ufl.edu). What a great day trip!

**Saturday, April 16** – 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. Meet at 9'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.

**FOR A COMPLETE LIST** of what other chapters of FNPS are doing, visit our State web page and see "What's Happening". That's at

<http://www.fnps.org/pages/fnps/calendar.php>

See "Events" page 5.

**UCF Arboretum** continued from page 1

*Biography of Speaker:*

Martin F. Quigley is Director of the University of Central Florida Arboretum and Associate Professor in the Department of Biology. He was educated at Deep Springs College, Cornell University (BA, Comparative Literature), Utah State University (Master of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning), Harvard University (Graduate School of Design) and Louisiana State University (Ph.D., Plant Ecology).

Dr Quigley's teaching has included Restoration Ecology, Landscape Graphics and Design, Plant Selection, Basic Biology, Environmental Biology, Ecological Field Methods, and Ethnobotany. He also initiated a field course in Tropical Conservation Biology, under the auspices of the Organization for Tropical Studies in Costa Rica.

Dr. Quigley is a licensed landscape architect and an environmental and planning consultant. He has worked on historic landscape renovations, rails-to-trails conversions, vegetation surveys and other environmental analyses, and botanic garden enhancements. His current research focus is stewardship and restoration of fragmented second-growth forests, the creation of vegetated swales for filtration of urban runoff, and concomitant suppression of woody exotic invasives.

**Field Trips** continued from page 1.

For UCF we will meet at **9:00 a.m.** in outdoor parking lot E3, south and adjacent to the East Parking Garage. I will hand out maps at the meeting or you can also go online at <http://www.ucf.edu/contact>. This has vicinity maps as well as campus maps. Here are some basic guidelines from the campus intersection of Gemni Blvd. and Libra Dr. Look for the water tower on the right. If on Gemini continue straight. If on Libra turn right onto Gemni. The next light is for entrance to the East Parking garage. Don't turn here. Continue on Gemni just past the end of the garage and turn left. This is Price. After turning don't go into the garage. Go straight and it takes you to a large parking area. Just cut through it back to the other end of the parking garage. You are looking for a small outdoor parking area to south of the garage. This is where we will meet. It will cost \$3.00 to park, so it is good to carpool. Allow yourself plenty of time to find your way if you are not familiar with this area. Call me at 407-876-5191 for questions. Dress for outdoors and bring water and lunch.

Saturday, April 16 2005 Dave Hanon will escort visitors to the **Tosohatchee** State Reserve in search of

the mysterious Fringe Tree (*Chionanthus virginicus*). Dave found this grove of trees to be blooming during all of the weeks in April of 1987 and this is a follow-up to see if the blooming period is remaining true to form. The grove is located in a mixed Riverine/Sabal palm hammock north of Myrtle Point Road. Expect to meet near the gate at about 9:30 AM. There is a vehicle fee of \$3.00 per car at the Reserve Entrance so car pooling is recommended. Car pooling can be accomplished by meeting at the Burger King on the southeast corner of Alafaya Trail and East Colonial Drive (SR50) at about 9:00 AM. Tosohatchee is located off east highway 50 by Christmas. Turn right (south) on Taylor Creek road. You will pass over a one lane bridge. Look for the entrance on the left.

The *Chionanthus* is a medium sized, understory tree or shrub and a member of the olive family. It has opposite, simple leaves that are shiny on the upper surface. The flowers are narrow panicles an inch or a little longer in length and are white, hence the oft used common name of "old man's beard."

**CONTRIBUTED ARTICLE**

This is an excerpt from the March/April edition of *The Birdwatchers Digest*. Permission to reprint was given to David Hannon. The original article was written and edited by Edward Kanze. Mr. Kanze is a naturalist and lives in upstate New York. He collected writings from all over the states for the article that was eventually published. The portion of the article dedicated to the Southeast United States was contributed by Jeanne Lebow of Gautier, Mississippi

**Humid South**

I heartily agree with Ed Kanze when he describes the pleasures of both watching birds and discovering young trees springing up as the result of birds participating in the full cycle of gardening. In a nutshell: Birds feed on fruits, digest the pulp, excrete seeds that fall to the ground, that start new plants to feed more birds. When my husband Steve and I began working on our yard, we had a natural Humid South woods in back but no trees out front. To fill the void, Steve transplanted small native trees and shrubs from our woods, plus saplings given to us. Fourteen years later, the birds enjoy a wooded area in front of our hand-dug pond and a hedgerow of berry producing *Viburnum dentatum* and *V. nudum* behind the pond.

Now that our trees are old enough to bear fruit, Steve and I are finding seedlings popping up under both deciduous and evergreen trees. After birds feed on the spring, summer and fall/winter fruit from various trees, these "grocery store" trees often become perches where the birds sit long enough to excrete sees.

See "Humid" page 6.

## **THREE LAKES WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA** by Sam Hopkins and Carol Palmer

We have been to Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area many times. It is a large area bounded by US Route 441 from Holopaw to Kenansville on the east, to Lake Kissimmee on the west. It includes the Florida Turnpike which runs down the center of the east portion, the St. Cloud-Kissimmee Route 523 (Canoe Creek Road) and then nearly all the way to Route 60 which runs from Lake Wales to Yeehaw Junction to the south. It is a cooperative wildlife and recreational venture of the Department of Environmental Protection, the Division of Forestry and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. The area is composed of 52,976 acres in Osceola County. Our first viewing was at the parking lot which is right



Whooping Cranes (*Grus americana*)

inside the park. Here we were fortunate in seeing the Whooping Cranes (*Grus americana*). Two of the birds were in the low ground just to the west of the parking lot and we managed to get quite a few pictures. The Whooping Crane is extremely rare. The birds were brought down from their usual habitat in the Midwest led by Ultralight Aircraft Guides, which were small planes capable of carrying one person. In all, the total southward trek lasted 64 days, of which only 21 days were spent migrating and the distance traveled was 1201.4 miles. (S)

The birds are named for their “whooping” cries. Their snow-white body feathers are accentuated by the jet-black wingtips and red-and-black heads with long pointed beaks. The bill is a dull pink with dull brown in the middle and yellow on the tip. A crane has a reduced “back toe”, so it won’t get tangled in wetland vegetation, but this also means that that it can’t perch in trees. A crane has a long slender beak so that it can reach into deep water or through dense wetland vegetation to pull out crabs, plants and other food on the bottom of shallow water. A crane’s long legs allow it to see above the tall, dense marsh vegetation. Such long legs also help it walk in rivers and shallow lakes.

After seeing the Whooping Cranes we decided to make the rest of the report on the trip to be one of those that reacted only to the “living” things that we saw on the trip. Carol took a wonderful picture of a Gopher Tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*).



Gopher Tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*) C

The bald eagle nest was disappointing! We had hoped to see an eagle on the nest but we did not stay around



Bald Eagle Nest (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) (S)

long enough. The nest was active, I think. It was certainly large enough to provide shelter for a whole family of Bald Eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*).



Wild Turkey (*Meleagris gallopava*) (S)

We saw a mother turkey taking care of her babies in a very nonchalant manner as we went by on the road. Male turkey's are much larger than the females and more spectacular.

A White-tailed Deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) was



White-tailed Deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) (S)

hidden deep in the brush alongside of a stream in the forest. They inhabit the mixed woods and edges, hammocks, fields, swamps and marshes. They are active day and night all year round.

We stopped by a ranch that had some Buffalos and



Two Buffalo and a Peacock (C)

Peacocks in a pasture next to the road. Inside the same pasture was a young buffalo that was scratching its



Young Buffalo (C)

nose, or something, with its hind foot.

We found a beautiful male Peacock, or Pea Fowl, near the sheds of the Forever Florida, a fenced-in area just



Peacock from the Rear (C)

off the road between Holopaw and Yeehaw Junction. The birds are allowed to roam freely with no restraint.



Peacock, Side View (C)

Forever Florida is only the show part of the Crescent J Ranch which consists of 4700 acres of the Florida that once was. The main attractions of Forever Florida were the main visitor's center with an eating place and lots of things for sale as well as places for the animals and wild plants in the area around the center.



Male Peacock or Pea Fowl (C)



Beautiful scene on the way home from the days wandering, west of the road south of Holapaw. (C)

*Events continued from page 1.*

**WHAT OTHER ORGANIZATIONS ARE DOING**

**Saturday, April 16** – Blanchard Park- Hurricane ReLEAF. If you are an Orange County resident, and your back hurts too much to weed at ONP, come out to Blanchard Park on April 16<sup>th</sup> from 9 am until 12 noon to "adopt" a tree! Learn proper tree planting and maintenance techniques while attending a brief training session, then you can "adopt" up to two 3-gallon native and drought tolerant trees! (Yes, some non native species are also available.) Arrive early because trees are "adopted" out on a first come basis. No fee to participate. Proof of residency is required such as driver's license, photo ID, or utility bill. For more info please call Nancy Rodlun at 407-836-1400 or Carla McClendon at 407-836-0916.

**Thursday, April 21** – Simple Living Institute is having Earth Day events at Albert Park (corner of Edgewater and Princeton) on Thursday April 21, and volunteers are needed to help with children's activities. the activities are to include paper making, mandalas, plantings and leaf rubbings. They need supplies that you may have lying around your home including:

**Seeds, Empty thin cardboard boxes (i.e. cereal boxes, gift boxes, granola boxes), Paper egg cartons, Crayons (leaf rubbings), Printer Paper (for leaf rubbings), Dried Herbs, Small stones, Tape, Twine, Glue (non-toxic), Empty flower pots, Tables (large enough to provide for a craft).**

If you have questions or would like to volunteer your time or supplies please email [simplelivingus@yahoo.com](mailto:simplelivingus@yahoo.com)

**Saturday, April 23** – A butterfly hike is scheduled for 8am at the Econ River Wilderness Area., not far from

UCF. Reservations are required. Call 407-665-7352 for more information.

**Saturday, April 23** – Florida Trail Association, Central Florida Chapter, invites the public to their Rock Springs Run Hike. It will be about 13 miles. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Toys R Us at the Seminole Town Center to carpool. They will follow loop-to-loop trails to Rock Springs Run. Bring a hat, sunscreen, lunch, water and dry shoes. This hike is strenuous. For more information contact Rodney Posey at 321-436-2349 or [rposey1@cfl.rr.com](mailto:rposey1@cfl.rr.com)

**17<sup>th</sup> annual Chertok Open Nature Photography Contest** sponsored by the Orange Audubon Society is now open! Photos are due by their May 19, 2005 meeting. This year's topic is *Florida Natives - Birds and Beyond*. For more information go to <http://www.orangeaudubonfl.org/photo.html>

**Announcements Daniela DeBiase**

For those who receive *The Tarpaper* by U.S.postal service, it is apparent that something new has been initiated. Drawing attention to the stamp, it is now more cost effective to mail our monthly newsletter as first class mail. So as more members trust their e-mail service to deliver *The Tarpaper*, the savings to our chapter increase. As an alternate way to access our chapter newsletter, download it from [www.fnps.org](http://www.fnps.org), the state web site. Have you been there lately? It's fast, efficient, and there's always something new to read. Anyway, by navigating to chapters and selecting "Tarflower" the current and previous issues of *The Tarpaper* can be downloaded...FAST! So now there's back up for those of us dealing with cranky computers. For more information on how you can get on the "e-mail only" list contact me at [evybaby@juno.com](mailto:evybaby@juno.com).

**Humid** continued from page 2

For example, we have a crop of Red Bay (*Persea borbonia*), beneath a red maple (*Acer rubra*) and bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*). We'll be spreading these seedlings to other spots in the yard because the red bay grows easily and offers good bird food and cover. Although not a member of the magnolia and sweet bay family, the red bay provides summer food for birds in the form of dark blue drupes or berries, In addition, this small tree has evergreen leaves that can be used like store bought European bay leaves to season your spaghetti sauce, (just don't eat the berries!) In our back yard Steve and I enjoy a huge round beautyberry shrub (*Callicarpa americana*) that is a result of a bird sitting on the limb of a pecan tree many years ago. Late summer beautyberries are unique in the landscape. They provide clusters of color not quite purple and not quite maroon, but an iridescent fushia. This beautyberry has been the mother shrub in our yard. We also have a large patch of elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*) that serves as the main source of elderberries in our back yard. Some of our favorite backyard birding moments come from watching the acrobatics of young cardinals, mockingbirds, blue jays, and titmice as they gorge themselves, swinging upside down on the berry branches so loaded with berries that they almost touch the ground. Beneath our black willows (*Salix nigra*), yaupon holly (*Ilex vomitoria*) and mayhaws (*Crataegus sp*), the birds have planted a good crop of beautyberry and elderberry seedlings, which we'll soon transplant to various hedgerows, and pot up for friends. Steve and I originally planted our mayhaws, which have fruits like small crabapples, in order to feed the birds and to make jelly for ourselves. Now that the trees are fruiting, we have abandoned any thoughts of jelly. The birds simply enjoy them too much for us to snatch any for ourselves. We'll probably have mayhaw seedlings sprouting in the next year or so. Our female yaupon hollies are covered with tiny red berries now. The high number of yaupons in our back woods proves how much birds enjoy these berries. We have seen many small flocks of hungry cedar waxwings strip a holly or other berry producing tree in minutes. Think of seedlings both as proof of what your birds like to eat and their way of providing a continuous supply of food for themselves. If you let nature and native plants work for you by transplanting instead of mowing, it becomes easy to use seedlings to create hedgerows that are attractive to your eyes and tempting to your birds--

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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, April 5** 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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