



the Tarpaper

The Tarflower Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society



Volume: XVII June, 2005 ISSUE

JUNE PROGRAM: LANDSCAPING FOR FLORIDA'S FUTURE

The Tarflower chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society presents *Landscaping for Florida's Future, a panel discussion*, on June 7, 2005 at 7:00pm at Harry P. Leu Gardens. The panel will include Tom MacCubbin, Orange County Urban Horticulturist; Lee Mackin, Arborist for the City of Winter Park; Brent McCallister, Streetscape coordinator for Orange County/University of Florida cooperative extension; Mike Mingea, FNPS member and Arborist for the City of Winter Springs; Mandy Rhead, Homeowner and FNPS member; and Karina Veadry, Landscape Architect and FNPS member.

Bring your questions and also learn how to landscape your home or business with ecologically friendly native plants. The event will also include light snacks, some made with ingredients from Florida native plants, iced tea and coffee. If you can, please bring a favorite snack, desert or beverage. Call Dani at 407 423 3554 for ideas.

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

Paul Eisenbrown

June 11 – Butterflies and Bats. We are going to Gainesville to see the new Butterfly Rainforest at the University of Florida Natural History Museum. Then we will visit the Lube Bat Contact Paul Eisenbrown at 407-876-5191 for details.

July 9 - Canoeing and Kayaking. Ben Gugliotti is making arrangements for us to canoe/kayak Blackwater Creek and Lake Norris, which is part of the Lake Norris Conservation Area, one of the many public properties of the Lake County Water Authority. You can check out their website at: <http://www.lcwa.org> More details will be in the July *Tarpaper*. Please contact Paul Eisenbrown if you have any questions at 407-876-5191.

OAKLAND NATURE PRESERVE UPDATE Daniela DeBiase

About three years ago Tarflower adopted a quarter acre plot at Oakland Nature Preserve in an effort to help restore an old orange grove/pine plantation back to a sandhill. Three years ago our plot was covered with

Johnson grass, natal grass and some grape vines. Initially, several of us sprayed the whole area with See "Oakland" page 2.

2005 FNPS CONFERENCE

Jean Vasicek

The 2005 FNPS Conference was a great success. The lectures were informative. The field trips were great. The Tosohatchee field trip with Dr. Taylor was



Dr. Taylor and Shirley Denton

entertaining. Dr. Taylor asked us to fan out and search for the *Rhexia alifanis*.

We found a Milkweed first. And, shortly thereafter, we were rewarded by finding one *Rhexia*. We also

found a Needleroot Airplant Orchid, and if you wanted to wade through the swamp, the hand fern was quite prevalent. For more photos, stop by the information table and see the slide show during the June Meeting.



Milkweed

Asclepias lanceolata



Rhexia alifanis



Needleroot Airplant Orchid

Harrisella porrecta



Hand Fern

Ophioglossum palmatum

Oakland Continued from page 1.

Rodeo and then replanted the area with sandhill plants. Over the first summer, not much else was done on the



Our Plot, No Johnson Grass Here

plot. When a few brave hearts returned for the first time after a long absence, it was clear that our task would be

weeding Johnson grass. It had returned with a vengeance, all but choking out the sandhill plants. For the past year, Chuck Roux and I have been the caretakers of our plot. Here are a few observations.



Poinsettia cyathophora

Where the Johnson grass has been cleared out, southern river sage (*Salvia misella*) is now the dominant species. Unlike Johnson grass and other aggressive exotics, this native

ground cover did not become a monoculture. Throughout our cleared area, look for *Poinsettia cyathophora*, or common painted-leaf, rouge plant

(*Rivina humilis*) and its larger cousin poke (*Phytolacca americana*), horse mint (*Monarda punctata*), Vervain (I think *Verbena scabra*), purple passionflower,



Rouge Plant (*Rivina humilis*)

hercules'-club (*Zanthoxylum clava-herculis*), and from the grape family, peppervine (*Ampelopsis arborea*),



Hercules-club with fruit

summer grape (*Vitis aestivalis*) and muscadine (*V. rotundifolia*).

Then there are the weedy natives like ragweed, dog fennel and bidens. Even these are to be preferred to the invasive



No Johnson Grass in the shade of this Cherry Laurel

exotics. There are several trees considered weedy in nature growing in our plot. Chuck and I have had more than one animated discussion about their worth. But it cannot be disputed.

Johnson Grass doesn't thrive in their shade. As the

long-leaf pines and sandhill oaks (turkey, sand live and bluejack oaks) mature, it will be interesting to see if the black and laurel cherries decline. How will the succession of species play out in this case? Though weedy, the ONP uplands are home to several critters. In one of the sandy, bare areas of our plot there is a gopher tortoise burrow. Because of its smaller size (though still wider than high) I'm assuming it is frequented by a juvenile. In fact, throughout the Preserve there are many active burrows. Notice the picture of a gopher tortoise retreating into one! Besides gopher tortoises, there are black snakes (racers?) scrub



Retreating Gopher Tortoise

lizards, lots of birds, and tons of gulf fritillary butterflies. I caught a picture of a juvenile munching on the host passion vine



Gulf fritillary juvenile

Each time we're out there working on our plot we have an opportunity to explain about Florida's more rare natural communities to some curious neighbors. I'll be out there again on June 18th. Hope some of you can join Chuck and me, or maybe you'll join us when the temperature cools down a bit.

THREE LAKES WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA by Sam Hopkins and Carol Palmer

In this section we will try to act just a little bit more orthodox and try to stick more to the flowers we saw rather than the unusual sights. We covered practically the same territory with both stories, but in the last we covered the animals as opposed to the plants. Anyway, here we go!

The Butterfly Orchid (*Encyclia tampensis*) grows on



Butterfly Orchid (*Encyclia tampensis*)

palms and other trees. It is yellowish-green tinged with brown, or maroon and blooms from June through August. Its habitat is the swamps and hammocks of north-central Florida and to the south in Florida.



Ballmoss (*Tillandsia recurvata*)

effect of moist temperature on the moss.

Tarflower (*Befaria racemosa*), a large plant growing by



Tarflower (*Befaria racemosa*)

the side of the road, inhabits the scrub and the pine Flatwoods. It flowers from spring to fall all over the state. Its flowers and the leaves are sticky.

Prostrate False Buttonweed (*Spermacoce prostrate*) is a rather small flower and an unusual one for this area (in my opinion). The flowers are small and in dense, head-like clusters in the leaf axils. The



Prostrate False Buttonweed (*Spermacoce prostrate*)

leaves are opposite and have prominent veins. It inhabits pinelands throughout the state all year.

Marsh Fleabane (*Pluchea rosea*) is covered with dense, soft hairs that give the entire plant a fuzzy appearance. The plant blooms



Marsh Fleabane (*Pluchea rosea*)



Loblolly Bay (*Gordonia lasianthus*)

all year in the freshwater wetlands of the Southeastern United States. The name of the butterfly is unknown to me. The Loblolly Bay (*Gordonia lasianthus*) is a small or medium sized evergreen tree. The flowers are white, with five petals encircling numerous, showy yellow stamens appearing in May and June. It is found in swamps, bogs, and edges of Flatwoods in all of northern Florida.

Mohr's Thoroughwort (*Eupatorium mohrii*) is found in the pinelands and sandy soils throughout the state. It



Mohr's Thoroughwort (*Eupatorium mohrii*)

flowers during the summer and fall. It is also known as *Eupatorium recurvans*. Yellow Colicroot (*Aletris lutea*) is a herbaceous perennial with leaves arranged in a basal rosette, resembling a miniature agave; it is found in the Flatwoods, prairies and open cypress depressions of the southeastern United States. The common name relates to its use by the Indians and settlers as a bitter tea to treat colic and other disorders.



Yellow Colicroot
(*Aletris lutea*)

Osceola's Plume
(*Zigadenus densus*)

Crow poison or Osceola's Plume (*Zigadenus densus*) which is also a member of the Lily Family. It was found in wet Flatwoods, bogs and savannas, and was common in the northern counties, south to the central peninsula in the spring. In this part of the country, Smilax or Greenbrier Family is composed of about eleven members.



Smilax laurifolia

Smilax laurifolia is known as Greenbrier or Catbrier (sometimes as Greenbrier or Catbrier). *Smilax laurifolia* inhabits swamps and damp woods throughout the state during the spring, summer and

fall. Yellow Butterwort (*Pinguicula lutea*) is a member of the Bladderwort Family. It inhabits moist, acid pinelands throughout the state during the winter and the



Yellow Butterwort
(*Pinguicula lutea*)

spring. The plant is carnivorous with sticky leaves to trap and digest small insects.



Sky-blue Lupine
(*Lupinus diffuses*)

The Sky-blue Lupine (*Lupinus diffuses*) is a beautiful example

of how one plant can make a show. It inhabits the sand hills and sand pine scrub throughout the state and flowers in the mid-winter and spring. They are woody-branched herbs with hairy, erect or reclining stems.



What is this?

Can you help me identify this plant?



What is this?

Can you help me identify this plant?

THE FLORIDAN AQUIFER

Jean Vasicek

The article should have been on the front page, but at least the Orlando Sentinel is starting to give press to the crisis all Floridians face as the Floridan Aquifer is being drained recklessly by the incoming masses. Section H of the Sentinel ran an article April 14, 2005 titled "Demand draining aquifer" by Steven D. Barnes. This article quotes Liz Block, a Seminole County water conservation coordinator and a member of our Tarflower Chapter. In the article Liz says "watering lawns with ... more than three-quarters of an inch of water twice a week when it hasn't rained... leads to shallower root systems that weakens grass by See "Aquifer" page 5.

AQUIFER continued from page 4.

reducing its ability to draw water and nutrients from the ground.” As part of an effort to encourage homeowners to cut back water usage, the water management district has made a television commercial. The commercial is funny and informative. The district estimates that **MORE THAN HALF** of the water used by homeowners is for irrigation. Also, more than 60 percent of water used for irrigation during midday, between 10 a.m. and 4 a.m., **EVAPORATES**. So, as members of the Native Plant Society let’s set an example and get our rain barrels out there!

New PowerPoint Presentation Available

The FNPS Pinellas Chapter and the Petersburg Audubon Society have partnered to create "**Landscaping and Gardening with Florida Native Plants: in Harmony with Nature**".

The presentation CD is being distributed to all FNPS Chapters by the Education Committee as part of the FNPS strategic education plan to promote dissemination of information among FNPS Chapters. Additional copies of the CD may be available for purchase from the FNPS Pinellas Chapter.

New Handouts Available

The Association of Florida Native Nurseries (AFNN) has recently published their new 2005 Guide for Real Florida Gardeners. It is available from your local retail native nursery and select FNPS chapters. The guide promotes environmentally friendly landscaping using native plants, includes some tips on evaluating your existing landscape, and provides lists of resources for more information and, native plants. AFNN also plans to launch a new REAL FLORIDA NATIVE plant tag for easy consumer identification of native plants grown by our native nursery industry.

Next Year’s Conference

Mark your calendars for May 17-21, 2006, at the Shores Resort & Spa, Daytona Beach Shores In Volusia County, courtesy of our Lyonia and Pawpaw Chapters.

Reprinted from a note from Camie Donaldson

TOUR DES TREES

Article reprinted from the “Florida Arborist” Spring 2005 issue by John P. White.

This year’s Tour des Trees takes place along the Natchez Trace National Historic Scenic Byway. The Tour will be a six day 500 mile ride starting in Jackson, Mississippi and ending in Nashville, Tennessee- site of the 81st Annual ISA Conference and

Trade Show, August 6-10 at the Gaylord Opryland Report and Convention Center.

This year’s Tour des Trees features some new developments – first is the hiring of a new Tour director, Mr. Paul Wood. This will be Paul’s first Tour. The second new development is that this year’s Tour will occur primarily on a scenic road that does not allow any commercial vehicles – The Natchez Trace.

The goals for this year’s Tour include signing up at least 60 riders (fund-raisers) and raising at least \$250,000 for the Tree Fund. Along the route, riders will participate in tree research – there will be Radio, TV and Print opportunities, Tim Wormick’s Trail of Trees events and many local tree planting events.

In addition to the riders, corporate sponsorship will underwrite the Tour and add to the colorful pageant throughout the entire six days. Riders will wear matching jerseys displaying Tour sponsors and the Tour Mission statement. Florida will be represented by at least three riders. Any takers? Note that each Tour des Trees rider is responsible for raising a minimum of \$3500 to participate.



More Conference Photos from the Tosohatchee Field Trip

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

In the future, the tarpaper will be emailed in PDF format only. Word documents will no longer be available. If you have trouble reading the PDF format and would like to continue to receive the tarpaper by email, please let me know. Please send any comments, concerns or criticisms via email, jean_fnps@yahoo.com or phone, 407-363-9061. I look forward to hearing from you.

LOOKING FOR NATIVE PLANTS

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Phone: 407.568.1333

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SPRING 2006 FNPS FUND RAISING TRIP

In order to plan our fund raising trip for next spring we need some information from you. This trip will take us up the Amazon River from Iquitos, Peru into a large preserve that is abundant with birds and wildlife. We will visit some villages, and take jungle walks and small boat excursions. We will learn about the uses of medicinal plants, and visit a marketplace and small zoo containing native animals of Peru. And do some fishing, etc. Please e-mail JoAnne Trebatoski at plantnative@msn.com with the answers to these questions to aid us in planning this trip:

* If the boat we took had bunk beds in most cabins would this prevent you from going on the trip?

* Would a spring trip interest you?

* Would a summer trip better suit you?

* I plan to go on this trip.

* What are your suggestions for other places to visit on these trips?

Taking the time to send answers to these questions -- whether you plan to go on the trip or not -- will help a lot. If at least 20 people would like to go on the trip, we will take a bigger boat with no bunk beds. The smaller boat is the Arca and is a beautiful mahogany boat, but it holds fewer folks and has bunk beds. The Rio Amazonia is the ship we took last year down the Amazon, and is larger and holds more folks with twin beds in most rooms.

Many thanks.

Jo Anne Trebatoski, Fund Raising Chair

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

Make Checks Payable to:
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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, June 7** 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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