



the **Tarpaper**

The Tarflower Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society



Volume: XVII August, 2005 ISSUE

AUGUST PROGRAM: How to get FREE Plants! Plant Propagation from Seeds and Cuttings by Tom MacCubbin

Tom MacCubbin is known to gardeners in Florida through his radio, television, and newspaper contributions. An extension environmental horticulturist with the University of Florida in Orange County, MacCubbin has degrees in Horticulture from the University of Maryland. Readers are familiar with his question-and-answer gardening columns and feature articles for *The Orlando Sentinel*, while others may recognize him as a co-host of *Orange County Gardening* on cable television and weekly horticulture reports on *Central Florida News 13*. His radio program *Better Lawns & Gardens* is broadcast over twenty-three Florida stations. He has been the recipient of numerous awards for his prolific media contributions.



Tom MacCubbin

MacCubbin is the author of three books, *Florida Home Grown: Landscaping*, *Florida Home Grown 2: The Edible Landscape*, and *Month by Month Gardening in Florida*. He is co-author of the *Florida Gardener's Guide* published by Cool Springs Press. Active in their community, MacCubbin and his wife Joan live near Apopka.

Tom teaches a 3-session class on plant propagation methods through the Orange County Extension Office. At the August 2 meeting, we will be getting the condensed version. Learn to successfully grow plants from seeds and cuttings so that you can share your natives with friends and neighbors (and, of course, your fellow FNPS members!). Who knows, that plant you give away may get someone hooked on native plant landscaping!

Upcoming Field Trips Paul Eisenbrown August 6 Spring Hammock Plant ID and Herbarium Class.

Learn how to properly identify plants, how to collect them and how to mount and save them for later study. Dr. Hank Whittier, Barbara Whittier, Dr. Martin Quigley and Dr. Elizabeth Harris will be our instructors. Pat Burkett of the Spring Hammock Preserve is allowing us to use their facility and will be working with us. It's also a chance to see what environmental centers such as this provide for their communities. We will meet at 9:00 a.m. . Bring your Lunch. You must call Paul Eisenbrown at 407-876-5191 in advance. There will be a \$3.00 cost which will go to the center for materials

<http://www.visitseminole.com/pd/commres/natland/hammock.asp>

September 10 Tosohatchee Plant ID. We were in Tosohatchee this past April for the *Chionanthus virginica* and other spring blooms. This time we will see another season of blooms in the same areas. Come out and sharpen up your plant ID skills. If you are new to this then it is a good chance to learn. <http://www.floridastateparks.org/tosohatchee/default.cfm>
See "Field Trips" Page 2.

September Meeting – Don't Miss It!

Jackie Sward

Our September meeting will start at 6 p.m. with a covered dish dinner. The chapter will provide sliced ham, sliced turkey, rolls and drinks. Please bring your favorite covered dish - a vegetable, salad, entre' or dessert. Some good choices are potato salad, macaroni salad, fruit salad, green bean casserole, baked beans, lasagne, chicken divan, etc. Members should bring their own table service - plate and silverware. There will be plates available for guests. Dinner will be followed with the introduction of Tarflower's founders and a history of our chapter compiled by President Rick Ehle. Topped off with a raffle of some of founder's favorite native plants.

Don't miss this informative, fun-filled evening.

Field Trips Continued from Page 1.

October 8 Lake Wales Ridge Warea Archipelago.

We will join the Beautyberry Chapter to see the endangered *Warea amplexifolia* and other fall blooms in south Lake County. Mike Martin, Forester for Seminole State Forest, will be our guide. <http://www.fws.gov/southeast/vbpdfs/species/plants/waam.pdf>

November 5 Chinsegut Hill Pioneer Days and Campout, Hernando County.

Step back into time and see how early Floridians survived without the aid of modern conveniences. Lots of displays, food and entertainment. Practice your iron skillet tossing before you go. We also have some campsites reserved close by for those that want to stay overnight. We'll do some short field trips for plant ID. Website for Chinsegut Hill: <http://myfwc.com/chinsegut>

Help Collect Data Dr. Eliane Norman

A student at UCF, Dr. Pedro Quinta-Ascencio of UCF, and I are working on an ecological study of the hand fern, *Cheiroglossa palmata*, at the Tosohatchee State Reserve in Christmas. In 1996 - '97, Keith Fisher, the biologist at the park at that time, marked several hundred trees with a number on a metal tag and recorded the number of hand fern on each of these trees. It would be very valuable for our study if we could retrieve a large number of these marked trees and evaluate the changes that have taken place over the last 8-9 years. We have a rough idea of where they are located.

It would be great if we could get some volunteers to help us find these trees in the coming months. Right now the water level is quite high but should be going down as the Fall approaches. If you would be interested in helping us, please call me at 407 539 0803 or e-mail me at ElianeN@aol.com.

"DO NOT SELL" Is Not Working!

FNPS Administrative Services

For the past several years, the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council (FLEPPC) and Florida Nurseryman, Growers, and Landscapers Association (FNGLA) have worked to produce a mutually agreed upon list of plants that nurseries around the state should cease selling due to their invasion and subsequent destruction of natural areas. This work resulted in a "do not sell" promoted to the industry some four years ago: http://www.fleppc.org/FNGA/FNGA_Pressrelease.htm

This information was widely publicized. Unfortunately, a recent report by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), reveals that this publicity has had NO MEASURABLE IMPACT on reducing availability of these pest plants in the marketplace. What next?

Letter From Mark Deyrup

Dear Members of the Tarflower Chapter of the Native Plant Society,

Thanks for inviting me to enjoy your meeting. You are a most dynamic and enthusiastic bunch! The acorn bread was great, and I wish I had been able to stay for the plant raffle and to meet all of you, and to renew friendship with the members I had met earlier. I will think of you as the tarflower begins to bloom in the next couple of weeks. There will be some interesting insects visiting the flowers, and there is a little inchworm here that braves the glue to feed on the flowers themselves.

We have finally decided what to do with your most generous donation. Some years ago we published a coloring book on Florida Scrub that we provided to children who live near scrub habitats. We passed out thousands of these, and they were still being requested when we ran out of copies about a year ago. We have used your donation to help republish and distribute this book; we actually ran out of money while the second edition was in production. It was too late to get the chapter name on the printed acknowledgements, but we have made stickers to put on the outside back cover in a conspicuous place. I have a carton of 100 to send to the Chapter, so you can see them and pass them out to young relatives and to interested teachers.

Happy summer, and enjoy the scrub. Long may the sands drain, the fires burn, and the seeds germinate.

Mark Deyrup

**Lake Norris Conservation Area
Canoe/Kayak Trip 7/9/05 Paul Eisenbrown**

While hurricane Dennis was churning up the waters of the Gulf, we had 18 adventuresome paddlers churning the waters of Blackwater Creek and Lake Norris. This was a combined outing with the Beautyberry and Tarflower



chapters. Kayaks and canoes were supplied by the Lake County Water Authority with the help of our own Ben Gugliotti. Some brought their own boats
See "Lake Norris" Page 4.

The Land of MILK weed and HONEY dew by Rick Ehle

Developing the habit of close observation is quite often very difficult, but also very rewarding. This past May I paid a visit to the butterfly garden at the Seminole County Environmental Studies Center. The garden is an ongoing, joint project of the Environmental Studies Center and the Tarflower Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society.

When we did the original plantings last fall just before Hurricane

Charlie, we placed four swamp milkweeds

(*Asclepias incarnata*) in the garden because we wished to provide a good nectar plant as well as a good

larval host plant for the Monarch, Queen and Soldier butterflies. In a short period of time, the milkweeds were soon attacked by aphids. I was very concerned



Asclepias incarnate

about this but was assured by Peggy Gotter, a math teacher at Jackson Heights Middle School and amateur butterfly expert, that it at least was proof that the plants were not subjected to chemicals.

During this May visit I was looking for butterfly larva. When I checked the milkweeds, I noticed several

small (about 5 mm) unknown larva intermixed with the aphids. I went into the Center and asked longtime FNPS member and Environmental Specialist Pat Burket to take a look at them. She soon had her digital camera out taking pictures and sent the photos to Dr. David Wagner at the University of Connecticut.

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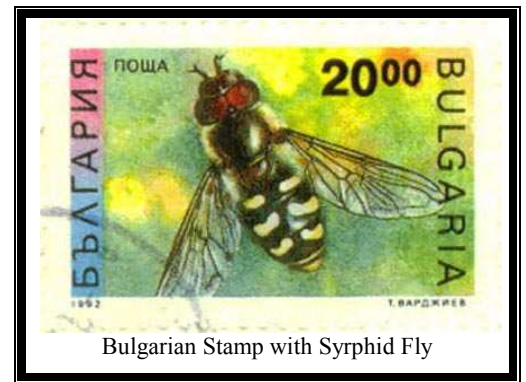
Larva intermixed with Aphids. (pic. 2)

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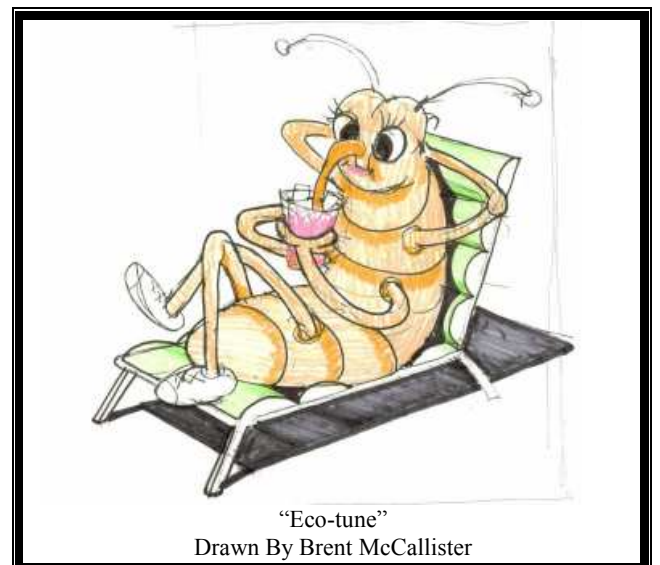
Dr. Wagner identified the larva as the maggots of a member of the Syrphid fly family. As you can see on picture 2, the maggots were eating the aphids. The Syrphid flies are brightly colored, typically yellow or orange with black and look superficially like bees or yellow jackets. This example of Batesian mimicry is purely defensive for they are harmless to humans. The adult Syrphid fly can be seen feeding at flowers so it is considered a pollinator. The larval stage, however, is an insect predator. The tapered maggots can consume dozens of aphids daily.

I found it extremely interesting that Bulgaria would honor the Syrphid fly by placing its image on a postage stamp. I now feel better about the aphid problem with milkweeds.

The maggots have completely cleaned the milkweeds of aphids. And perhaps the adults are pollinating the plants within the butterfly garden. This is another example of natural control. All I had to do to control the aphid infestation was to do nothing but watch.



Bulgarian Stamp with Syrphid Fly



My thanks go to Pat for her unquenchable thirst for understanding our environment, and to Brent McCallister for the artistic talents in drawing the leisurely aphid. Could we call this Brent's "Eco-tune"?

Lake Norris *Continued from Page 2.*

Things looked good as canoes were loaded, but just as the paddling started the rain came. It wasn't enough to dampen the spirits and the cover of Blackwater Creek made it a minimal intrusion. In fact on the return it cleared up and provided a storybook ending.

Blackwater Creek was lined with a dense variety of buttonbush, hickory, swamp dogwood, sweetgum, cypress, maple, ironwood, ash and ferns. Lake Norris is fringed with clusters of unusually shaped Bald Cypress. They had squatty buttressed trunks with large canopies, almost as if their forms resulted from a bonsai creation. One tree was completely rotted with the crown being supported by ribbons of trunk wood.

Growing in the cypress were Butterfly Orchids in bloom and several

species of Tillandsias, including *T. fasciculata*, *T. bartramii*, and *T. floridana*. It was really spectacular. Lots of ospreys and nests were seen above the lake and also Swallow-tailed Kites. At one point the group got close to a paper wasp nest.

The lunch spot was an overnight campsite on the lake. Pignut Hickory trees were an over-story for an adjacent old barn with a dirt floor inhabited by ant lions. A little exploration found a large number of Zebra Longwing and Gulf Fritillary butterflies nectaring on the Passionflowers and Buttermint (*Hyptis mutabilis*). Tiger Swallowtails were seen on the lake while canoeing.



The return was on a very calm, serene lake, weaving among the cypress as the weather had cleared. It was a

good day spent with good people. Thanks to everyone who showed up to make it happen. Special thanks go to the Lake County Water Authority for the canoes and kayaks and all the work getting them to our launch site. Ben Gugliotti and Patricia Burgos also marked the trees on Blackwater Creek the day before to make it easier to find the way. There were several contributors to this article from those that were on the trip.

TREES Orlando Visual Artist League (OVAL)

July 21st, The Orlando Visual Artist League, a non-profit organization, teams up with the City of Orlando's 10,000 TREES Initiative for their juried show "TREES". The strength, mystery, power, and beauty of trees -- metaphorically and literally -- will be on display in the OVAL Gallery for July's Third Thursday event. The TREES show will highlight the subject, as well as give the City's Park Department, Green-up Orlando, and Keep Orlando Beautiful an opportunity to explain their fundraising for the 10,000 TREES initiative, to replace the trees lost to hurricanes. Located at the number one location for art in Orlando, at 29 South Orange Avenue, OVAL is the perfect place to accomplish its mission of bringing the arts and the community together with this month's tree-themed art. "The impact and importance of trees cannot be overstated", says Jim Lussier, OVAL's president. And we want to celebrate and promote this time-honored subject with our show. The opening of "TREES" will exhibit juried work that celebrates and promotes the show's theme. The 10,000 TREES Initiative is a joint project brought to you by City of Orlando's Parks Division, Green-Up Orlando, Keep Orlando Beautiful, and the Community & Youth Trust. Third Thursdays are sponsored by the Downtown Arts District, OVAL, and the Downtown Development Board. The event is free and open to the public. Show closes August 14th. For additional information, contact: P.R. Contact David Ritland, pr@ovalorlando.org (407)592-4238.

Events Daniela DeBiase

Saturday, August 13 – ONP Workday Join Tarflower chapter at the Oakland Nature Preserve as we continue working on our plot and pruning the area around the Jack Amon 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 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.

See "Events" Page 5.

Events Continued from page 4.

FOR A COMPLETE list of what other FNPS chapters are doing, visit our State web page and see “What’s Happening”. That’s at <http://www.fnps.org/pages/fnps/calendar.php>

What I Gleaned from the FNPS 2005

Conference Sid Taylor

Dr. Kathryn Kennedy from the Center for Plant Conservation told us of the estimated 20,000 plant species in the U.S., about 57% are threatened or candidates for listing and another 25% are Species of Special Concern. She calls us to action at our community levels to do what we can for preservation of our Planet’s biodiversity. www.centerforplantconservation.org

Jim Gagan, director of the new Lagoon House of the Marine Resources Council, gave a presentation on damage done by the Tsunami comparing beaches with natural vegetation vs. those that had been “developed”. It is good evidence for leaving the mangroves and other trees intact.

Debra Klein shared her notes from Dan Austin: the sunflower preceded maize in the ceremonial life of the Florida aborigines. It appears in all three major language groups and represents the importance of the sun, as its face follows its rays.

Gene Kelly: There is a biological control (beetle) coming from Japan for Skunk Vine, *Paederia foetida*. Let’s hope it eats *P. cruddasiana* in S. Fl. too.

Steve Dickman: Old World Climbing fern is on the march (with help from 2004 Hurricanes) into the North half of Florida. We have a new exotic *Solanaceae* to watch for: *Solanum citrullisolum*. There is a voucher specimen for Alachua County. It is appropriately named Watermelon Nightshade, as its foliage will make you think it is the erect first leaves of watermelon. Steve found it in Hillsborough County.

Gary Shultz with IFIS: Efforts are ongoing at Cape Canaveral (15,804 acres) since his plant inventory survey to eradicate *Lantana camara* and thus protect the integrity of our native species, *Lantana depressa*, from hybridization with the exotic. Other major plant pests were not found in his 1997 survey at the Cape.

Dr. W. K. Taylor calls *Hibiscus coccineus*, the “Queen of the Swamp”. He showed us Savannah Meadowbeauty, *Rhexia alifanus*, in Tosohatchee State Reserve. It is frequent in the Panhandle (per Guy Anglin), but a rare find in Central Florida. Dr. Taylor advises you all to “get out and experience the Real Florida and learn some history of your distinct State.....And the alligator-that is one thing I respect!” Florida’s highest point is in Lakewood in Walton County at 345 feet.

Randy Mejeur has helped reprint John Kunkel Small’s *From Eden to Sahara*, his travels and observations through Florida from 1900 through the 1930s. Small figured *Coreopsis lanceolata* and *Gallarida drummondii* to be exotic species 100 years ago. His ecological observations and notes on the landscape of his time are priceless background for attempts at restoration today. Refer to the book for his photographs.

Dr. Mary Palmer Dargan on Sustainable Landscape Construction says “favor flexible, living materials” in your building plans and renovations. www.ccald.org

D. Bruce Means, Director of Coastal Plains Institute, has found a new salamander species in the Panhandle (?) that is specific to hillside seepages. He has co-authored *Priceless Florida*. We are fortunate that Florida students are going to be exposed to this text prior to voting in our state.

If you didn’t attend this session, you missed a superb slide show. www.BruceMeans.com

Jennifer Hanselman, Grad.student at Melbourne’s FIT, is doing her dissertation on Global Warming. The last rise in our sea level was 8000 years ago. Our modern barrier islands in Florida are 7000 years old.

Fossil records at Lake Titicaca show slow declines of temperature into ice ages, but rapid warmings into inter-glacial periods (now). The previous inter-glacial was 120,000,000 years ago and the sea rose 5 meters. The last ice age froze up the seas and the drop in the level was 125 meters. Maximum CO2 levels recorded to date are 350 ppm with 550 ppm predicted for the next century. Call her at Florida Institute of Technology (don’t call me!)

Lynka Woodbury came from Fairchild’s Tropical Garden Herbarium to teach us tricks of the specimen mounting trade. Her recommended book is *A Guide to the Practices of Herbarium Taxonomy*, by P. W. Leehouts, 1968.

The virtual collection is at www.virtualherbarium.org Orchid specimen. The FTGH was established in 1967 and on-line alone has 47,000 specimens available.

There is a beach dune plant covering other vegetation in Brevard that I mistakenly thought was Dodder or *Cuscuta* when I saw it. The curious common name, Devil’s Gut, caused me to investigate it. It is in the Laurel family and is also called Love Vine: *Cassytha filiformis*.

For you lovers of Long-leaf Pine I recommend *Looking for Longleaf: The Fall and Rise of an American Forest* by Lawrence S. Earley. University of North Carolina Press, 2004.

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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, August 2** 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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