



The TARPAPER



CENTRAL FLORIDA CHAPTER
NEWSLETTER
FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

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SEPTEMBER PROGRAM: PIONEER DAY

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, entrée' or dessert. Some good choices are potato salad, macaroni salad, fruit salad, green bean casserole, baked beans, lasagna, 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 the founder's favorite native plants. *Don't miss this informative, fun-filled evening.*

SEPTEMBER FIELD TRIP

Paul Eisenbrown

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. Bring a lunch and plenty of water. Dress for the outdoors. We will meet at the entrance to Tosohatchee at 9:00 a.m. It costs \$3.00 per vehicle for up to 8 people to enter Tosohatchee. Website: <http://www.floridastateparks.org/tosohatchee/default.cfm>

For those interested in purchasing native plants, the September field trip to Tosohatchee will be followed by a stop at Green Images.

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The Nehrling Society Has Till September 15 to Make a Difference - Daniela DeBiase

Ride through West Orange County lately at 4pm? On a weekday? You might pass by Ocoee or Winter Garden. They like to describe themselves as "The Center of Good Living" and "a Slice of Small-Town Life". What you'll experience is congestion and never - ending construction with all its noise, detours, dust and ruts! Almost as noticeable as the "great sucking sound of development" devouring every parcel of land in West Orange County is the lack of green areas set aside for the residents of these small towns to enjoy.

Gotha is another small town in West Orange County surrounded by cement block and shimmering white roofs. A six acre tug of war is going on close to the center of town. The Nehrling Society has been trying to assume ownership of what's left of Dr. Henry Nehrling's historic home and gardens. If the Society is unsuccessful in its bid for ownership, which would require a commitment from Orange County, the small town of Gotha will grow by a few more households

The Nehrling Society has sent out an appeal for help. It needs a collective voice as it petitions Orange County for commitment. It needs monetary support to match grants. It also needs a pledge of time in developing the Gotha homestead into a horticulture learning center and museum, and a German-American history museum. Future plans also include constructing an observation deck on Lake Nally where local residents and visitors to the center can relax and view the birds and wild life.

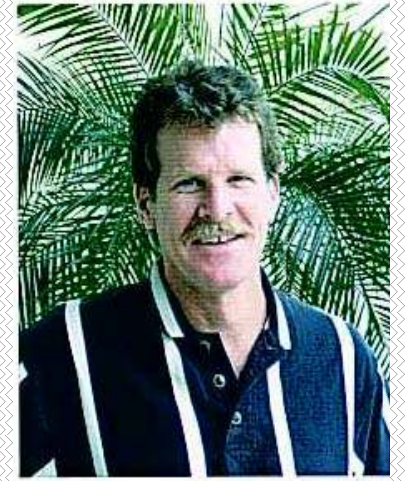
If the Nehrling Society successfully assumes ownership of this property (they're looking at a September 15th closing date), Tarflower chapter of FNPS might consider doing a permanent display on invasive exotics and their detrimental effect on Florida's ecosystems for the horticultural museum. This would be a way of interacting with other societies and garden clubs. Otherwise we're just an island preaching to ourselves.

If you would like to save a tiny corner of West Orange County's past. Or if you would like more information about the Nehrling society and the Palm Cottage Gardens contact Angela Withers, President, at angelwithers@hotmail.com. For more information on the Nehrling Society go to their web page at www.nehrlinggardens.org and check out the photo album! Also go to <http://www.kearneypublishing.com/directorytext.asp?id=148> for a summary of what's been done so far.

IN MEMORY OF JOHN WHITE

John White, a tarflower chapter member, died on Sunday, July 31, 2005 while participating in the Tour des Trees in Jackson, Mississippi. A memorial service celebrating John's life was held Friday, August 26th at 6 PM at Leu Gardens. If an individual would like to make a donation honoring John, checks can be made out to – John P. White Endowment – and mailed to TREE FUND, PO Box 3188 Champaign, IL 61826. For more information on John check out the following website:

<http://karlshappyplace.smugmug.com/gallery/709667>



SPRING HAMMOCK HERBARIUM CLASS FIELD TRIP

Paul Eisenbrown



Talking it over in the Field

When it comes to getting out and identifying plants, each of us has a different level of appreciation. Some are satisfied with just knowing that a tree is an oak or a flower is a lily, using common names. Others like to be more specific getting down to Genus and Specie, as well as understanding Family characteristics. This takes a little more scrutiny and investigation using field guides, learning the language of botany, getting out the hand lens, and being on one's knees. A flower on our field trip was first identified as a *Rhexia nuttallii*. Upon close investigation there were no glandular hairs on the hypanthium. Whoops! It turned out to be *Rhexia petiolata*. Later on while looking at a Smilax vine someone made the comment that the one in their yard never has any berries. Once you understand that a Smilax is dioecious, meaning that it has completely separate male and female vines, you begin to understand why. You have to have both vines and the cooperation of a pollinator. The Fahkahatchee Grass (*Tripsacum dactyloides*) we looked at, like corn, is

monoecious, having separate male and female flower parts on the same plant. Then there was the Ironweed, *Veronica gigantea*, the size of the plant and the leaves clearly indicated it was not the *V. angustifolia* or the *V. blodgettii*. Proper identification also involves looking at the species at particular times of the year so that the size of the seeds or the different flower parts can be properly identified. What is the habitat? There may also have to be some dissection involved. Why is all this important?



In the Classroom

Borrowing a paragraph from a document put out by the Fairchild Tropical Garden Herbarium: "Herbarium specimens are the vouchers that document identity and occurrences of taxa. They remain in museum collections for hundreds of years and are repeatedly studied so it is important that they be well collected and well documented."¹ I believe that says it all.

See "Class Field Trip" Page 4.

¹ Guala, Ph.D., Keeper of the Herbarium. *Collecting for the Fairchild Tropical Garden Herbarium*, March 29, 1999.

Ravine State Gardens by Sam Hopkins and Carol Palmer

The Ravine Gardens are located in Palatka, Florida, near the St. Johns River. It is representative of the never ending shaping that occurs when the steep



Lush Forest Growth (S)

ravine is created by water flowing from beneath the sandy ridges that flank the west shore of the St. Johns. As time passed, the slopes of the ravine were

filled with grasses, shrubs and trees.

The Gardens have long been famous for their extensive plantings of azaleas and other ornamental



Azaleas (C)



Azaleas(C)

We saw a little six-leaved plant that I think is a member

of the Galium family. It resembles the other members of the family, but is not identical to the ones that I could find. This Bestraw is found in this section of the country as are many of its family.



Galium (S)

The overhead bridge crossed the ravine about halfway



Ravine State Gardens (S)

plants. Recreational uses are generally passive, related to the aesthetic enjoyment of the gardens. The 59 acre gardens were created in a natural steephead ravine by the City of Palatka, its local citizens, the Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA), the Federal Works Project Administration (WPA) and the Civil Works Administration (CWA) in the late 1930s. Described in the 1934 Florida Municipal Record as the "Outstanding C.W.A. Project", the 59 acre ravines were planted with over 95,000 azaleas (including over 64 varieties), 11,000 palm trees and more than 250,000 other ornamental plants.

The Gardens were maintained by the City of Palatka until the park was deeded to the state in 1970. One of nine Florida state parks with New Deal Era structures, this park is the only park with a formal designed landscape. The intensive fieldstone terraces, rock gardens and massive cypress building construction are typical of the era.

Most of the Park had been torn and tattered by the storms of the last year. There were few of the many azaleas left because of the lateness of the season. We only saw a few here and there.



Overhead Bridge (S)



Another View of Ravine (S)



Prunus angustifolia (S)

down. It went across the ravine at a point across from main building of the park.

Another view of the ravine shows some of the trees that grew from the bottom as well as some of the other



Pathway out of Garden (S)

plants that existed within its area.

We found a Chickasaw Plum (*Prunus angustifolia*) growing on the grounds at Ravine State Gardens.

A pathway out of the Gardens was lined with Cabbages, both red and green. They were very pretty.

Class Field Trip *continued from Page 2.*

We started our class by going out into the area for a couple hours identifying and collecting certain specimens. Dr. Quigley and Dr. Harris from the UCF Biology Department were our guides. Dr. Whittier and Barbara Whittier also assisted with their expertise. We learned a lot. I'd like to note here that **you must have permission or the proper permits** before going out and pulling up plants on someone else's property. We learned how to collect certain types of plants, taking roots and all. Then if it is too large it is folded a certain

way. We also just checked out some of the more interesting plants such as the Cuplet Fern (*Dennstaedtia bipinnata*). And we saw some exotics like the Air Potato (*Dioscorea bulbifera*) with its ##!! bulbils that function as vegetative propagules. There were some Japanese Climbing Fern and some Small-leaf Spiderwort (*Tradescantia fluminensis*).

After the field trip we came inside, ate lunch, and then started our afternoon session, *How to Take What We Collected, Get it Pressed, Labeled and Mounted*. Dr. Harris, the director of the UCF Herbarium gave us a demonstration from start to finish. We asked a lot of questions. Of course we can't do it all in one sitting, but we certainly understand better what is involved and how important each of the steps are. Who knows, one day in the future one of us might be the one to have a Type specimen, which is the first of a new species.

We would like to thank all of those that came out to make it happen. Special thanks go to our very knowledgeable instructors Dr. Quigley, Dr. Harris, Dr. Whittier and Barbara Whittier, who took time from their schedules to be with us on a Saturday. Also, a big thank you goes to Pat Burkett for her help and allowing us to use the Environmental Center at Spring Hammock. This seemed to be a well received program so maybe we should try and do more like this. Let me know what you think.

Volunteer Opportunity

Mike Martin.

As some of you already know our Scrub jay biologist Chris Hall is working his last week with us. His position was eliminated as part of a state-wide cost cutting effort. The loss of that position will be a set back to our scrub jay restoration efforts. Our efforts now will be focused on trying to maintain current activity. I hope some of you could assist use with various tasks including baiting and monitoring scrub jay stations currently in place on Seminole State Forest. This effort will in no way be able to replace the biologist position. If you can help, even for a couple of hours periodically, please let me know. Also if you know anyone who may have an interest in this type of activity give me their name and # and I will contact them. I will be collecting names & times people can help over the next several weeks. Thanks for all your support.

CHECK OUT the Orlando Sentinel, August 14, 2005, Homes section 3, page J17. David Drylie of Green Images comments on the TV series, *Backyard Habitats*.

Airport Rescue: Memories of a Plant Rescue Six Years Ago

Jean Vasicek

The roar of the land movers could be heard in the distance. We had to work quickly because soon they would be upon us. Frustration rose inside me as I realized the fields around me were dead, would soon be dead. The only plants spared would be those I took home with me.

The airport needs a new runway. It's good high and dry ground, prime land for building. Been there for 3000 years and the airport's decided to clear it all away. Some plants don't even have a name. Don't grow anywhere else in the world. But no one will ever know. It'll all be gone tomorrow....everything except what we take today.

Beautiful bromeliads hang from the trees. Most people never get to see *Tillandsias* blooming. They hang, right now, above me, in full bloom. The trees won't be here tomorrow. Tomorrow, they will have been thrown away. Today is the last day of 3000 years.

I can't think about that now though. I've got to dig and dig quickly. The land movers are almost to the *Tillandsia* trees. We've got to find a way to get the *Tillandsias* down. We pull the branches from the old live oaks as if the trees didn't matter. The trees have been there for hundreds of years and today they will die. But not before I take their garlands of *Tillandsias*. I can't save the trees, but the *Tillandsias* will come home with me.

Many of the plants can't be purchased in a store. They grow only here today...tomorrow, maybe they'll grow in my yard. Don't know if they'll live, but I've got to at least try. When everything's gone, my yard will remember. In my yard, people will see what they came



I don't know what this plant is, but, if I remember correctly, it is an endangered, listed plant. The 2 plants that survived the move to my yard have reseeded and now, almost 6 years later, many of them populate my shoreline.

to see, but destroyed before they arrived.

My shoes fell apart as I struggled to grab as many plants as I could lug with me. Barefoot I walked through paradise, grabbing delicate treasures with brutal force. There was no time to be careful. The strongest might survive. The tender would be lost forever.

Ideas for Mead Gardens?

The **Friends of Mead Gardens** are holding a workshop to explore the garden and discuss ideas for revitalizing this community asset. The workshop will be held on Wednesday, September 7, 2005 from 4 p m to 8 pm at the Winter Park Garden Club, Mead Garden, 1300 S. Denning Drive, Winter Park. Wear comfortable clothing and walking shoes. Dinner will be provided. Call 407-599-3334 to register by September 1, 2005. This would be a great opportunity to promote the use of native plants in a public park.

IBM Grant Program

The Florida Native Plant Society has qualified for IBM's Matching Grants Program. IBM will match memberships and donations with cash or IBM equipment/software, our choice. If one of your members is an IBM employee or retired IBM employee, please ask them to let us know this when they are renewing their membership or making contributions to the society. Have them write "IBM employee" or "IBM employee retired" and their identifying IBM employee number on their renewal/donation form.



This *Tillandsia utriculata* (Federally Listed Endangered Species) is the largest air plant with a spread up to 4 feet. This plant was rescued from the airport. Several *utriculata* and the *fasciculata* grow in my oak trees.

Local Native Plant Nurseries

Biosphere Consulting Inc

(407) 656-8277
14908 Tilden Rd
Winter Garden, FL 34787

B B Brown's Gardens

(352) 429-5566
11490 Montevista Rd
Clermont, FL 34711
Winter Garden, FL 34787

Green Images

(407) 568-1333
1333 Taylor Creek
Christmas, FL

Native Landscape Photos Needed

Dan Walton and Laurel Schiller are completing a book on naturalistic homescaping (home landscaping) and would appreciate using photographs you might have on the subject. Below is their working definition: By naturalistic we mean two things: (1) planting vegetation that is native to your area and (2) planting it in such a way that your yard does not end up looking like it was designed, but as though it had grown naturally. This means rather than trying to attain a conventional "pretty" landscape with its symmetries and carefully located plant beds, you plant your yard in a more random and intensive way. Throughout this book we suggest methods of creating a more naturalistic homescape. We discuss topics such as reducing or eliminating your lawn, increasing the size of planted areas and properly placing plants so that you can avoid pruning to unnatural shapes. We also discuss plantings for wildlife and ponds as well as for dry, wet and saline areas.

We will credit and plug your work in our book. We're almost done with the draft and hope to get it to potential publishers by the end of the summer.

REPLY TO: scrubisme@comcast.net or dwalton9@comcast.net

\$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, September 6** promptly at 6:40 P.M. Refreshments 6:00-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.

ABOUT THE COVER

The design for this month's Tarpaper was taken from one of the first Tarpaper's printed. Next month, the Tarpaper will resume back to "modern" times.

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