



the Tarpaper

The Tarflower Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society



Volume: XVII November, 2005 ISSUE

NOVEMBER PROGRAM:

Restoring Lakes in the City of Maitland

Ms Gabrielle Milch

The City of Maitland, with its 22 lakes has a very active lake management program that includes invasive plant control and shoreline restoration with native plants. Ms Gabrielle Milch, Lakes Management Coordinator for the city, will tell us about invasive species in the urban environment, the benefits of restoration with natives, and the lake program's goals and progress.

Some of you are likely to either know Gabby or will recognize her. She has been very active in the environmental community for many years and is an avid networker. Prior to joining the City of Maitland, she has worked for the St Johns River Management District as a regulatory wetland scientist doing enforcement, compliance, and wetland permitting. She was also the Watershed Action Volunteer Coordinator for Seminole County. Growing up in Deland, she was an avid water skier and windsurfer. The then pristine local lakes became special places to her and inspire her work today.

Our original speaker scheduled for November, Rufino Osorio, had to cancel at the last minute, but has been rescheduled for March 2006.

November Field Trip Paul Eisenbrown

Chinsegut Hill Pioneer Days and Campout, Hernando County. Step back into time and see how early Floridians survived without the aid of modern conveniences. There will be lots of displays, food and entertainment. Ladies practice your iron skillet tossing before you go. The guys can practice spitting those watermelon seeds. We also have some campsites reserved close by at Tillis Hill for those that want to stay overnight. We'll do some short field trips for plant ID. Contact Paul Eisenbrown at 407-876-5191 for details. I must know in advance if you are camping. Website for Chinsegut Hill: <http://myfwc.com/chinsegut/> and myfwc.com/chinsegut/Kristin%20_NewPioneer2005.pdf

Events and Opportunities - Daniela DeBiase

Saturday, October 29 – Oakland Heritage Festival. Enjoy a day at Speer Park in the Town of Oakland. The Festival is a family oriented event with entertainment and activities for everyone. This year we will have a booth at the event where we'll be helping homeowners learn about the benefits of landscaping with native plants and how to adapt them to their particular circumstances. The event will run from 10:00am to 4:00pm. If you are interested in helping out call Dani at 407 423 3554

Saturday and Sunday, November 5th and 6th – The 11th Annual Plant & Garden Fair will be held in Mt. Dora, beginning at 9:00 a.m each day. This event, sponsored by the Mount Dora Library Association, will draw over 15,000 visitors to the Gilbert Park, Simpson's Cove, and Palm Island area. Besides the usual, the event will feature native plants, and butterfly-attracting perennials. Combining our efforts with the Beautyberry Chapter, we will be vending at this event. If anyone would like to help out, call me at 407 423 3554 or 407 340 8316 (cell). Events like this are See "Events" Page 3.

Plants at Home – Planning Ahead for May 2006 Paul Eisenbrown

Yes, it's a little early to be thinking so far in advance, but we want to remind everyone that on May 13, our field trip will be visiting homes (or other gardens) of those who want to show off their native plant landscapes. Get those seeds in the ground now!

Also, the May 2 meeting program will feature short presentations and pictures by you about your native plant garden. Among our members, we have a wealth of know-how about growing and maintaining native plants, and also what not to do! This meeting will be a chance to share your experiences and stories. A presentation can be short or long (well, not too long), technical, or fun, or uncomplicated. There will be lots of help available to put together a presentation, but you have to start taking the photos now! (and next month, and next spring, and....).

Contact Liz Block for the program and Paul Eisenbrown for the field trip portion.

Thank you to the Tarflower Chapter

The Tarflower Chapter's Old-Timers' Gathering was a blast. I am one of those shameful past presidents who somewhat disappeared from chapter activities after a lengthy run of service to FNPS. Seeing so many well known, warm and friendly faces was like revisiting a past life in a flashback movie sequence. I could not help from noticing, from my officers, friends and dedicated members attending from our mid 80's era group, I was the only one who had aged. Obviously, Dick Duerling's tonics, teas and spreads also preserve the flesh and spirit.

Reality dawns on me. I, too, am now an Old-Timer. Old-timers have lived long enough to have and share memories now twenty years old. Twenty years is a generation and Old-timers typically have two or more generations behind them. I never thought the day would come.

It was extraordinarily apparent Rick Ehle went the extra mile preparing for and contributing significantly to a warm and memorable evening. His exhaustive research and personal phone calls to so many members who helped shape and mold both the Chapter and the Society was most evident. His touching and poignant personalized poems describing an Old-Timer's favorite plant was a highlight of the evening. Of course, Rick had a lot of support and our hats are off to all our current Tarflower members whose time, efforts and dedication keep the torch burning every month.

This place, central Florida, with its unique and distinctive flora, tells a story, a story about this place, a crazy place, where the 'War of the Worlds' plays out every day. A beautiful and unique place, if only one would stop and smell (I.D.) the flowers. I remain as committed as in the early 80's to respect this place.

Unfortunately, there are still too many people, developers included, who do not understand the intrinsic beauty of our natural heritage. They have not heard the story. As we have learned to respect the place through both conservation and in replanting our native flora, we still have many more to whom the story is untold.

'It takes a village' to preserve our heritage for both past and future generations. We have a generation of faithful and loyal storytellers who have shared so much with so many, yet we still have work to do. I would like to challenge the Old-Timers: a challenge to give just a little bit more by agreeing to bring at least one new or prospective member to a chapter meeting sometime over the next six months. Let us reflect and recall our enthusiasm of earlier days and share this with a friend, a neighbor or a cohort. Let's share the love for this place, our place, and continue growing the 2005-2006 Tarflower Chapter and its legion of faithful.

David Drylie

Warea Field Trip October 10, 2005

Paul Eisenbrown

An archipelago is a group of islands, and the Flat Lake location we visited certainly was one. Our site was 120 acres completely surrounded by orange groves and houses. A bunch of us squeezed into three vehicles with 4-wheel drive to negotiate the long, slow, bumpy and limb slapping ride to get to this little oasis of sandhill/scrub habitat. Many of us older kids were reliving those carefree days of hanging on in the back of a pickup. Putting the adventure aside, the remoteness of this property is but one example of how hard it is to maintain and access environmentally sensitive properties. When you look around the area of adjacent

rolling hills you can only imagine what the area was like in its original state. Our hosts for the day were Mike Martin



Warea amplexifolia

of Seminole State Forest and Anne Cox, PhD from Jupiter, Fla. Both are responsible for the land management and the monitoring going on. After a



little introduction to the area we were given plant lists and areas to count those *Warea amplexifolia*. Over 850 at 29 locations were sighted. Last year there were none. This is a beautiful flower! We also encountered several other listed plants including the *Bonamia grandiflora*, *Paronchia chartacea* ssp. *chartaceae*, *Polygala lewtonii*, and *Prunus geniculata* (not in bloom).

One interesting plant that Teri Godts pointed out was an *Aristolochia serpentaria*. Most of us didn't even know such a plant existed as it is not typically carried in the more popular flower guides. This low growing, almost hidden plant, would go unnoticed by the casual observer. It also has a unique flower which was not in See "Warea Field Trip" Page 3.

Farm Bill Forum by Rachael Stein

On September 27, 2005, I had an opportunity to attend a session of the USDA organized Farm Bill forums led by Mike Johannes, the secretary of the USDA. The purpose of these forums, which were open to the public, was to solicit ideas and opinions concerning the upcoming farm bill. Commentators were to address one of six issues concerning farming practices and financial situations.

In my commentary (which was limited to two minutes), I addressed



Rachael Stein (white shirt)

the issue of conservation in farming practices. The current farm bill provides some financial aid to farmers looking at using environmentally friendly techniques (an example of this is the Environmental Quality Incentives Program), and in my comments, I proposed creating additional programs that reward these practices, such as letting fallow fields “go native” and using environmentally friendly pest control. I also advocated the use of education as a valuable tool that would teach farmers to help conserve the unique and beautiful environment of Florida.

As many of us know, many of Florida’s native plants are slowly being forced into small areas of land, and 40% of Florida’s farmland has been lost. Hopefully the new farm bill will address these issues in the areas of agriculture and native plant conservation as a result of more environmentally friendly practices.

Warea Field Trip continued from page 2.

bloom for our trip. It is a host plant for the Pipevine Swallowtail Butterfly (*Battus philenor*), which is one reason it never gets too big. You’ll have to look it up to get the rest of the scoop as that’s all I can say about it.

Many more plants were identified and added to the official list for the property. Our plant ID skills were challenged to the limit as we encountered such a large number of plants we normally don’t see. Partnering with us were the Beautyberry Chapter and members from the Martin County Chapter. Thanks to those who helped put the trip together and thanks to all of those that came out to make it happen. You’ll have to attend the November meeting to see the pictures. I’d also like to thank our two younger members for coming out. It’s good to see families involved in our activities.

draw over 15,000 visitors to the Gilbert Park, Simpson's Cove, and Palm Island area. Besides the usual, the event will feature native plants, and butterfly-attracting perennials. Combining our efforts with the Beautyberry Chapter, we will be vending at this event. If anyone would like to help out, call me at 407 423 3554 or 407 340 8316 (cell). Events like this are always more than about fundraising. People are more and more interested in integrating native plants into their urban landscape and we can aid them in doing this!



Events continued from page 1.

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Friday, Saturday and Sunday, November 18th - 20th – the UCF Arboretum will have a plant sale. Several area nurseries have donated plants for this event. Though many of the donated plants are exotics or ornamentals, there will also be some native plants available priced to sell, including some bonsai natives! For more information call Dani at 407 423 3554. For directions to the UCF Arboretum go to <http://pegasus.cc.ucf.edu/~arbor/direct.html>

Saturday, November 19th – On this day **Seminole County Natural Lands Program** will sponsor Native Plant Awareness Day. We have been invited to participate as an exhibitor in this event from 9am to 1pm. In the past we’ve had a display of native plants suitable for a landscape and have been available to answer questions. Though the event is low key, it’s an opportunity to meet people who share an interest in learning about Florida’s natural communities. If you’re interested in participating in this event, call me at 407 423 3554. Or if you just want to stop by to say “Hi!” and would like directions or more information about the Seminole Natural Areas, go to <http://www.seminolecountyfl.gov/pd/commres/natland/>
March 31, 2006 – April 9, 2006

Explore the Andes and Amazon of Peru Once again Explorations has designed a custom 10 day Peru tour for the FNPS. This cultural and natural history tour highlights much of the best Peru has to offer, including a diverse range of geography and ecosystems. See the FNPS website for more information (www.fnps.org).

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About the Bee Sactuary of Grace Gardens

The honey bee is disappearing because they don't have safe places to make their homes. All the bees at Grace Garden's Apiary were rescued from places they were unwanted and now live in harmony in this native, natural enviroment with beekeeper and foster parent Jean.

Local Native 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

Green Images

(407) 568-1333
 1333 Taylor Creed Rd
 Christmas, FL

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

Make Checks Payable to:
 FNPS
 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, November 1** 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.

President - Rick Ehle 407-349-0502
 Vice President (Program) - Liz Block 407-963-6344
 Vice President (Events) - Daniela DeBiase 407-423-3554; evybaby@junco.com
 Secretary - Beatrice "Bea" Stein 407-876-8122
 Treasurer - Jackie Sward 407-647-5233
 Field Trips - Paul Eisenbrow 407-876-5191
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