



the Tarpaper

The Tarflower Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society



Volume: XVII December 2005 ISSUE

DECEMBER PROGRAM:

The Secret Life of Dragonflies

Martha Stuart, a member of the Conradina chapter of the FNPS, will give a slide presentation on Florida dragonflies and damselflies: Pondhawks to Jewelboxes, Comets, Skimmers, Pennants, and Bannerwings.



Purple skimmer, *Libellula jesseana*

Did you know dragonflies are among the most ancient of living terrestrial creatures? Fossil records, clearly recognizable as the forefathers of our present day odonates go back to the Carboniferous. They were flying more than 300 million years ago, pre-dating dinosaurs by over 100 million years. Dragonflies form an important part of wetland wildlife, and they also play a significant roll in general ecology. The odonates are fierce predators in our gardens, devouring mosquitoes, gnats, and other pests by the thousands. And let's take a moment to dispel an urban legend: dragonflies cannot sting, and don't bite or harm humans in any way.

See "Dragonflies" page 2.

Events and Opportunities Daniela DeBiase

Sunday, December 18th – Workday at Cady Way Bike Trail. For a third year Tarflower chapter will be doing maintenance on a native garden that was originally planted in 1997. Besides the usual pruning and weeding, we will be replenishing plants around some permanent ID markers. The bike trail runs past Baldwin Park, between Fashion Square Mall and Winter Park. So now there are even more homeowners who might be interested in planting natives in their landscape. Our garden should serve as a good example. Bring water, work gloves, and clippers. Meet time will be at 9am at Cady Way Park. Before leaving, call Daniela DeBiase at 407 340 8316 to confirm the time. See "Events" page 2.

4th Annual Holiday Party at the Ehle's

Rick and Pam Ehle invite Tarflower Chapter to their place for the ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY! Come any time after noon on December 10. At 2:30pm Rick will do a seed collecting demonstration. The buffet opens at 3:30pm. Tarflower will provide a ham and some non-alcoholic drinks. Pam will prepare cornbread, and cook beans over an open fire to go with the ham. We can bring pictures for show and tell, seeds for swapping, some baggies, lawn chairs, and a side dish. Here are some suggestions for side dishes: salads, veggie casseroles, veggie relish dishes, assorted breads, hors d'oeuvres and desserts. If you're not sure call Pam at 407 349 0502. And if you wish, bring your spirits to our winter frolic.



Darkwood Holiday

DIRECTIONS: Get to SR426. It's one of the main roads going through Oviedo. **Go toward Geneva on SR 426.** Cross over SR46. There's a traffic light. On the other side of SR46 the road is called 1st Street. Continue a short distance on 1st Street (SR 426). You'll pass Geneva elementary on your right. You'll also pass some churches. **Make a left at Ave C.** After just a short distance **make a Right on Old Geneva Rd.** Old Geneve Rd makes some curves. It ends at Osceola Road. **Make a Right on Osceola Rd.** Osceola makes a sharp turn to the left. Stay with Osceola. You'll pass Liberty Ln and Guy Ct on the right and Racoon Trail on the Left. The next Left after Racoon Trail is Shawnee Trail. **Make a Left on Shawnee Tr; Right on Burnt Tree Way; Left on Scooter Point.** The party is at **785 Scooter Point.**

December Bazaar Daniela DeBiase

Before and after the December meeting we will have a bazaar. Native holiday gifts will be available for purchase. For more information see "Bazaar" page 3.

Dragonflies *continued from page 1.*

Like other wetland creatures, dragonflies are at risk as their habitat continues to be destroyed or degraded.

Martha will share with us what we can do in our own backyard and elsewhere to help out these brilliant, valuable, and most ancient creatures.



Say's spiketail,
Cordulegaster sayi



Duckweed firetail,
Telebasis byersi

Martha is a native Floridian, born and raised north of Tampa on a 300+ acre cattle ranch. As an only child with no neighbors, she grew up spending a lot of time out in the

woods. She became interested in Florida's native plants about 14 years ago and joined the Conradina Chapter of the FNPS, where she has been secretary, treasurer,

newsletter editor and president; and currently, secretary again. She is also a Brevard County Master Gardener, a member of the Space Coast



Sparkling jewelwing,
Calopteryx dimidiata

Audubon Society, an avid photographer, and has been a member of several other local environmental and gardening organizations. She has been employed by the City of Palm Bay for over 20 years, and is currently the City's Planning and Environmental Specialist.

Photo Credit: University of Puget Sound photo collection.

<http://www2.ups.edu/biology/museum/Odphotos.html>

Scrub Jay Training *Mike Martin*

Contact Mike Martin, martinm@doacs.state.fl.us, to find out more about attending the Scrub Jay Training Class. The class will be offered on 12/12/05. Additional January classes may be added if interest exists.

January Field Trip *Paul Eisenbrown*

We're going to visit the **Florida Aquarium** in Tampa on January 7, 2006. At the aquarium, we will follow the path of water as it passes through 8 different habitats. Plan to carpool. Entry fees are \$17.95 for adults, \$14.95 for seniors 60+ and \$12.95 for children ages 3-12. We will eat lunch as a group. More details will be in the January *Tarpaper*. Check out the website: <http://www.flaquarium.org/> Contact Paul Eisenbrown at 407-876-5191 if you have any questions.

Events *continued from page 1.*

What Else is Happening

Thursday December 1st – Lake County Water Authority is doing a plant rescue on a property near Clermont. Collected plants will go to PEAR Park, Scrub Point Preserve and Crooked River Preserve. This activity should go from 9:00am - noon. For directions or more information contact Patricia Burgos at patriciab@lcwa.org or call 352-343-3777x30

Monday, December 5th – Trout Lake Nature Center in Lake County presents Senior Field Trip Day "Get to know your Florida home". Ethel Shubat will help identify Florida Birds. Bernie Yokel will focus attention on wetland communities. Lavon Silvernell will identify native plants and Wendy Poag will lend her expertise on butterflies and bugs. The field trip will last from 9am to 1pm. Don't forget lunch, sunscreen and walking shoes. To reserve a space, or for directions and more information, call 352 357 7536.

Thursday, December 8th – Lake County Water Authority is doing a plant and animal survey at the Wolf Branch Sink Preserve which will be incorporated into the Land Management Plan. Volunteers will work in small groups thereby covering more area, and everyone does not have to be an expert! Be prepared to stay out in the field from 9:00am – 2:00pm. For more details contact Ben Gugliotti at bugliotti@lcwa.org, or call him at 352-343-3777x37

Looking Ahead

Saturday, February 18th – Orlando Wetland Festival. For the past few years we've had a booth at this event.

Saturday and Sunday, March 25th and March 26th – Harry P. Leu Gardens' Annual Spring Plant Sale. Mark your calendar! This is our big fund raiser for the year.

November Field Trip: Chinsegut Hill Pioneer Day Paul Eisenbrown

We had 17 members show up for a day of pioneer spirit, with 5 camping at Tillis Hill. It was a fun time with lots of food,



P R O G R A M

crafts, games and entertainment. This is the third year our chapter has gone to this event and it never gets old. It's a chance to step back into an era of Florida history when the modern conveniences we take for granted today didn't exist. This is a good family activity. We also got to see Sid Taylor and our other native plant friends. Those that took the time to do a plant hike in the Withlacoochee State Forest were rewarded with some nice fall blooms. On Sunday some of us hiked the Holder Mine blue trail and saw a large area blanketed with *Calamintha coccinea*. Red was everywhere! Also, we saw *Ilex ambigua* var. *ambigua*, *Vaccinium arboreum*, *Gymnopogon ambigua*, *Chrysopsis scabrella*, *Paronychia* sp. *Agalinas setacea*, *Garberia heterophylla*, *Haplopappus divaricatus* and *Polyganella gracilis*. We also had some astute birders who could even differentiate when a Blue Jay was imitating another bird call.

Bea Stein and her family participated in about everything possible. Rumor has it that Bea walks on stilts and tosses a mean iron skillet.



Bea Stein on Stilts!

Sam, Phyllis, Chuck and Carol did a marathon day of going to the festival, shopping, lunch, plant ID, visiting the

campers and having dinner before heading home well after dark.

Dr. Taylor, joined by his wife **Karin**, signed a few books and checked out the native grasses in the area.

Our astute birders, **Liz Block** and **Tom Rodriguez**, had a friendly competition to see who could get the longest list. I don't know who won, but on the way to and from Orlando I had to stop about



Holder Mine Trail

every other mile so Liz could check out the avian species.

Joe Barber and **Janet Thome** just took it all in and enjoyed their visit with **Sid Taylor**. Joe also demonstrated his new turkey call that he got at the festival.

Check out the pictures at the December meeting. Thanks to all of those that came to make it happen.

December Bazaar Daniela DeBiase



It's that time of the year again...when people traditionally buy presents for loved ones to say "I'm thinking of you". How nice if this gift also remembers natural Florida in some way. It's even better if some of the money spent is donated to FNPS. For this reason we're trying something different at Tarflower's Tuesday December 6th meeting. Before and after the

meeting we'll have a mini bazaar, allowing attendees to buy their holiday gifts and do something for natural Florida also. If you sell such products and would like to participate in our mini bazaar, or if you know someone who might be interested, please let me know so we can have a table (or part of a table) available. I can be reached by e-mail at evybaby@juno.com or by calling 407 423 3554. So far we have a honey vendor with local honey for sale and to sample (Yummy!), and Peg and Peg will have some exquisite native plant pictures and cards (Get well, Birthday, Christmas etc) available. For the rest of us, how nice to make a dent in our holiday shopping and at the same time make a statement about peace, joy and good tidings from the REAL Florida! Our mini bazaar will be up and running by 6:15pm.

Redbay Mortality Threatens the Palamedes Swallowtail

An undescribed *Ophiostoma* fungus, very likely vectored by a recently-arrived Asian ambrosia beetle, is killing *Persea borbonia* of all size classes along the coast from Hilton Head, SC to Jacksonville, FL.

See www.fnps.org for more details.

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

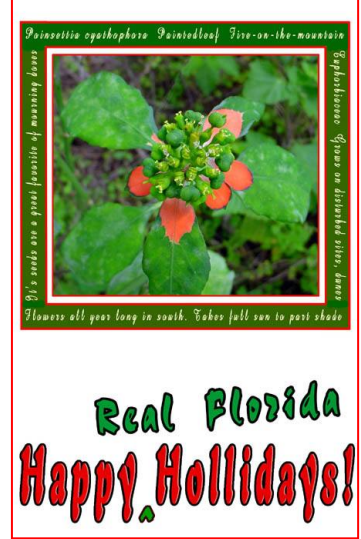
Green Images

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

FNPS Trip to Andes and Amazon Mar 31-Apr 9, 2006

Call Explorations at 800-446-9660 for detailed trip brochure. Also, email JoAnne Trebatoski at plantnative@msn.com. Proceeds benefit FNPS.

Cards For Sale at Bazaar



For Sale at Bazaar
Local Honey For Sale at Bazaar

\$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, December 6** at 7:00 P.M. Refreshments & Bazaar at 6:15. 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
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