



# the Tarpaper

The Tarflower Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society



Volume: XVIII March 2006 ISSUE

## **MARCH PROGRAM: Harmony - Development Wave of the Future?**

Our March speaker, Greg Golgowski, AICP, is the Conservation Director of Harmony, Florida. Harmony is an 11,000 acre new community under development in Osceola County. It has demonstrated a number of development techniques intended to protect natural systems and integrate habitat into the developed portions so that residents can have regular contact with animals and nature.

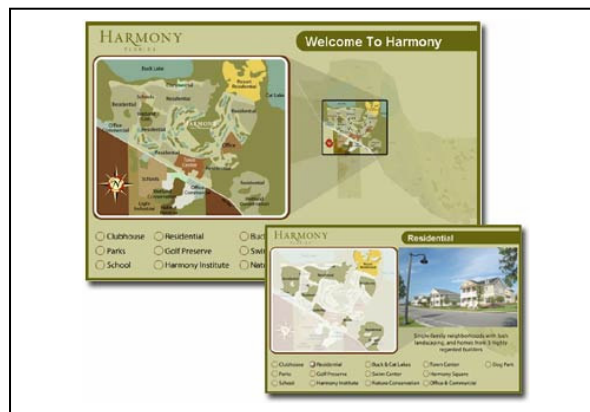
Since 2002, Greg has been responsible for the wildlife habitat management, best development practices and resident conservation education programs for the development. It is the goal of these programs to see that the property's natural systems are kept in a healthy condition, that the community grows using practices that conserve natural resources and that opportunities exist for the community's residents to fully appreciate and enjoy the benefits of living with a connection to animals and nature.

Before coming to Harmony, he served 19 years with the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council in Maitland, Florida, most recently in the position of Deputy Executive Director. His service there included directing the Development of Regional Impact program for the six county region of the greater Orlando area and included the review of more than 140 such large land development proposals. Previous positions included Senior Environmental Analyst for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and Planner for the Columbia County (New York) Planning Department. He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners, has a degree in biology from Hartwick College in New York and is a fellow of the Florida Natural Resources Leadership Institute of the University of Florida.

## **March Field Trip Paul Eisenbrown March 11, 2006 Field Trip to Valencia Community College, West Campus.**

We will explore the natural lands on campus with Larry Rosen as our host. Also we'll learn a little about how the college has taken steps to minimize the ecological impacts on these areas through its Outdoor Environment Committee. This mostly sand scrub uplands is adjacent to Lake Pamela, which also offers some wetland species. So bring your ID books and notepads to see what is in bloom. Wear appropriate outdoor clothing for the weather and walking. Also, bring water and snacks if needed. Time to meet is **9:00 a.m.** Directions are from Kirkman Road. There are two entrances off Kirkman Road. Take either one that is closest to you and follow the circular road about half way around to the west side. You turn into the Alpha Parking lot which is toward the inside of the circle.

Look for a sign on the west side of the road partially hidden by a new wooden fence. Go into the lot go as far in as possible and park close to Building 1. We will meet there. The website for directions is: <http://www.valenciacc.edu/> On the site go to Campuses under Quick Links, then West Campus. Contact Paul Eisenbrown at 407-876-5191 if you have any questions.



## **April Field Trip to Catfish Creek.**

The date for this right now is **April 1**, which is the week before our normal Saturday for field trips. Once called Tub Hills, this rolling scrub habitat with pristine lakes in the low points will provide us with a look at some of the harder to find species. It is located in Polk County just south of the Poinciana area. Go to the Florida State Park website for information. Also, for driving directions use the following address for a map search: 5000 Firetower Road, Haines City, FL 33844. More details in the April Tarpaper.

## ***It's a Lot More Fun When You Get***

### ***Involved! Liz Block***

Our group members, in total, have so much knowledge, enthusiasm, and passion about native plants, gardening, and the environment! We really have something to give to our community, and I always feel excited when I think about that. But I've been on the Board as the Vice President for Programs (aka speaker picker) for almost a year now, and what I see is our chapter efforts and events carried off by the same small group of people over and over again.

In our May meeting and field trip, you have a chance to take a small step to get involved with our chapter. The May meeting stars YOU! We originally suggested a short presentation about your native plant garden, but there are so many other options. Tell us about a native plant/gardening/nature book that you found inspiring and would like to share. Clue us in on how you tell the difference between the three species of \_\_\_\_\_. Have you found the secret to growing coonies faster? What happened in your yard when the hurricanes blew down all your shade trees and blew in all those weed seeds? Five minutes is hardly any time at all, and we will help as much as you need with the graphics/PowerPoint part of the presentation.

Ditto with the May field trip to YOUR native plant garden. When I look at my yard, I think, "no way is this nice enough for FNPS people to tour." But maybe someone who is just starting needs the encouragement of seeing a halfway finished yard because the fully landscaped yard looks overwhelming and unachievable. This is about sharing information, not having the perfect yard. Think how much you might learn from the people who tour your yard.

In his inaugural speech, Nelson Mandela said:

"We ask ourselves, "Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, and fabulous"? Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God, your playing small doesn't serve the world. There is nothing enlightening about shrinking."

Jump on in!

## ***FIRST ANNUAL WEKIVA RIVERFEST***

**March 4 - 12, 2006:** *Friends of the Wekiva River*, Inc. is helping organize events to introduce people to the values of the Wekiva basin. The four days of RiverFest events kicks off on **Saturday, March 4th with a 5 K run-walk at the Wekiwa Springs State Park** sponsored by the Wekiva Wilderness Trust. Limited to 300 entries, the **event begins at 8:30 a.m. (park will open at 7:00 a.m.)** For more info, call: 407-884-2006 or register online at [home.earthlink.net/~w.w.t](http://home.earthlink.net/~w.w.t).

The following Thursday evening, March 9th, 7:00 p.m., with a presentation will be given by Bobby Harrison on the rediscovery of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker at the Youth Camp Auditorium at the Wekiwa Springs State Park. It's **free** and open to the public. Simply drive up to the gate at the park and ask the attendant for directions. Mr. Harrison was active in helping to track the previously-believed extinct woodpecker in the American southeast. He will also speak to the woodpecker's relevance and history to Florida.

On **Saturday, March 11th** from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., the RiverFest Celebration will be held at the Wekiwa Springs State Park. Directions to the park - from Interstate 4 take S.R. 434 west to Wekiwa Springs Rd. Turn right on Wekiwa Springs Rd. and the park entrance will be 4 miles down on the right. The festivities will feature live music, food, conservation and natural history exhibits, a nature-themed art show, a nature writers corner, children's activities (such as making bird feeders), canoeing and interpretive pontoon boat rides. Admission is waived that day, and the event is open to the public.

On **Sunday, March 12th**, the RiverFest will wrap up with **canoe races** for both novice and experienced canoeists at the Wekiwa Marina, off of Miami Springs Drive. **The races start at 9 a.m.** For more info on participating, call Race Director Rod Price, 407-227-5606. Entry fee is \$20 per paddler prior to the races. The roundtrip race route up and downstream is about five miles long.

The *Friends of the Wekiva River* is a grassroots organization dedicated to the preservation and sustainable use of the Wekiva River Basin. It is one of the most successful grassroots environmental organizations in Florida. Since its inception, almost 110 square miles of watershed around the Wekiva River system have been acquired as public land, state laws passed to manage development and roads in its basin, and much attention has been focused on the continuing challenges of protecting the Wekiva River.

The Wekiva, the only river in Florida designated as a federal Wild and Scenic River for its entire length, is fed by over 27 springs. It flows north through Orange, Seminole and Lake Counties before confluing with the St. Johns River. The biological diversity of the river basin is very high, and many listed species are found here, including the Florida black bear, the bald eagle, indigo snake, American alligator, and several species of endemics, including some snails and fish found nowhere else on earth. Over two dozen pre-Columbian midden mounds are scattered along its shores as a testament to its early use by Native Americans. The Wekiva system---which consists of the Little Wekiva See "*Wekiva*" page 4.

**Request For Tarflower Officer Nominations**

The Tarflower Chapter is required by the Bylaws to nominate officers, hold elections, and vote on the officer position by the Annual Meeting in May of each year. Below are the descriptions of each of the offices – request each member provide one or more nominations for each of the positions. These forms can be submitted to a member of the Nominating Committee (Jackie Rolly, Gregg Walker or Phyllis Gray), at the March meeting or by submitting the nomination in the mail to:

Ms. J. Rolly  
622 West Palm Valley Drive  
Oviedo, FL 32765

Nominations can be submitted via email as well to: [J.Y.Rolly@att.net](mailto:J.Y.Rolly@att.net)

Nominations should be received no later than 15 March 2996 so that a slate can be included in the April newsletter and presented at the April Meeting. Voting will take place at the May meeting. Nominations will be accepted from the floor at any time.

The Officers of this corporation shall consist of a President, a 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President for Programs, a 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President. Officer for Events, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. Officers may be elected for a period of one (1) year. Only members in good standing may be officers of this corporation. Officers shall automatically be members of the Executive Committee. Officers shall serve without compensation except reimbursement for actual expenses incurred or to be incurred.

The immediate past President of this corporation, Rick Ehle, shall be the FNPS State Chapter Director and as such shall also be an automatic member of the Executive Committee of this corporation. In the event of failure, refusal, or inability of the immediate past President to serve, the president shall appoint a substitute director, with Executive Committee experience, from the membership of the corporation.

**President**

- A. Preside at all general membership meetings
- B. Appoint committees for special tasks as required
- C. Be an ex-officio member of all committees except the nominating committee.
- D. Sign all documents, contracts, etc.
- E. Conduct monthly Board Meetings.
- F. Attend annual State Conference, or if unable, appoint a representative from the Executive Committee.

NOMINATIONS:

---

---

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President**

- A. Exercise the functions of the President during the absence or disability of the President.
- B. Chair the Program Committee.
- C. Act as an aide to the President.

NOMINATIONS:

---

---

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President**

- A. Exercise the functions of the President during the absence or disability of the President and 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President.
- B. Chair the Events Committee.
- C. Act as an aide to the President

NOMINATIONS:

---

---

**Secretary**

- A. Record, maintain and report minutes of the Executive Committee, Board and General meetings to the Executive Committee on a monthly basis.
- B. Provide a summary of all of the meetings monthly to the editor of The Tarpaper.
- C. Be custodian of all corporate records except financial. The Treasurer’s report is to be included in the minutes
- D. Prepare correspondence.

NOMINATIONS:

---

---

**Treasurer**

- A. Keep, maintain, and report correct accounts of financial transactions monthly with copies to the secretary for inclusion in the minutes.
- B. Chair the Budget Committee.
- C. Be the custodian of all monies of the corporation.
- D. Sign all checks as directed by the Executive Committee with bills initialed by the President.

NOMINATIONS:

---

---

**FNPS State Chapter Director – Rick Ehle**

- A. Attend quarterly State Board meetings representing and voting for Tarflower Chapter’s Interest.
- B. Report quarterly meetings and annual conference to Executive Committee.
- C. Act as an advisor to the Executive Committee.



***Events and Opportunities - Daniela DeBiase***

**Saturday, March 4<sup>th</sup> –Tibet-Butler’s Backyard Habitat Fest** takes place from 9am-4pm. The event will focus on educating home owners on how to create a backyard habitat that is inviting to wildlife and celebrates the values and beauty of Florida’s natural communities. Mark your calendar for this one because Tarflower Chapter will have a table at this event with a display on how to use native plants in the urban landscape. This county park is on the west side of Orange County on SR 535. It will be a family friendly festival with lots of hands-on demonstrations for the kids! For more volunteering information, call Daniela De Biase at 407 423 3554. And you know how to contact me by e-mail.

**Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup> – First Annual Wekiva RiverFest Celebration** will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Wekiva Springs State Park. The festivities will feature live music (by Gregg and Asli), food, conservation and natural history exhibits, a nature-themed art show, a nature writers corner, children’s activities (such as making bird feeders), canoeing and interpretive pontoon boat rides. Admission is waived that day, and the event is open to the public. We will have a display at this event. If this sounds like something you’d like to be involved with, call me at 407 423 3554. **Friends of the Wekiva River, Inc.** is helping to organize the event to introduce more people to the values of the Wekiva basin.

***Directions to the park*** - from Interstate 4 take S.R. 434 west to Wekiva Springs Rd. Turn right on Wekiva Springs Rd. and the park entrance will be 4 miles down on the right.

**Friday, March 24<sup>th</sup> – Set up for Harry P. Leu Gardens’ Annual Spring Plant Sale.** Set up runs from 7am to 7pm. If you are available to help out on Friday, let us know by calling 407 423 3554.

**Friday, March 24<sup>th</sup> – Join the Executive Committee** from 6pm - 8pm at Langford Park on east Central St. for a meeting that directs the focus of our local chapter of FNPS for the next few months. For more details call Rick Ehle at 407 349 0502. New faces and ideas are welcome!

**Saturday and Sunday, March 25<sup>th</sup> and March 26<sup>th</sup> – Harry P. Leu Gardens’ Annual Spring Plant Sale.** Mark your calendar! This is our big fund raiser for the year! Saturday the sale runs from 8am to 5pm. On Sunday it begins at 9am and ends at 5pm. We need 2 cashiers and several people available to answer questions. Don’t feel like you know enough to help others? Not true! You certainly know more about native plants than the average homeowner! And people are so eager to hear what we have to say! A sign up

sheet will be available at the March meeting, or call Daniela De Biase at 407 423 3554. We can also use plastic grocery bags.

***What Else is Happening***

**Tuesday and Wednesday, March 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>** - plan to attend the Trees, People, & the Law Symposium presented March 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, 2006, at the Holiday Inn Columbia, in Columbia, Maryland. A complete agenda and online registration is available at [arborday.org/TPLsymposium](http://arborday.org/TPLsymposium). This two day symposium will host six of the nation’s experts in tree law, neighbor law, and public policies that encourage green communities and tree risk management. If you have ever had questions about liability or enhancing the safety and beauty of your community, this symposium is for you! If you have any questions, please call the National Arbor Day Foundation at 888-448-7337.

**Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup> – Coming soon, Trout Lake Day 2006.** Trout Lake Day will run from 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM. Many agencies, groups, and individuals from the community will work together to make this day fun and informative. Watch crafters create objects from wood and pine needles or create your own nature craft. Displays of photography will help focus on nature’s beauty from a different prospective. Exhibitors will be happy to chat and answer questions about butterfly gardening, clean lakes, natural recreation areas, or what rat snakes like to eat. There will be games for children, and a puppet show. This would be a good way to learn about Lake County’s natural assets.

Anyone interested in participating either as a presenter or with a display, please contact Lavon at TLNC, 352-357-7536. A number of volunteers will also be needed for the day. And last, but not least they need guests to make the day busy, fun, and educational.

Either way please put April 1 on your calendar.

***Looking Ahead***

**Thursday - Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup> - May 21<sup>st</sup> - Plan on attending the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual FNPS State Conference, *Growing Partnerships: Preserving Florida’s Environment from Backyards to Backwoods.* The Conference brochure and application are available on line at [www.fnps.org](http://www.fnps.org) and click on “conference”. Make your plans early because it looks like a good one!**

***Wekiva continued from page 2.***

River, Blackwater Creek and Rock Springs Run as well as the big Wekiva--- is an oasis of natural Florida in the midst of increasing urban and suburban development. For more information on the **Wekiva RiverFest**, please call 407-862-5432 or visit [www.FriendsofWekiva.org](http://www.FriendsofWekiva.org).

*Some Photos from Recent Events.*



Pulling  
Out  
Exotic  
Invasives  
at  
Langford  
Park



Our Booth at  
Orlando Wetland  
Festival;  
Rachael with Karon  
Michel at the 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Annual Growth  
Management &  
Environmental  
Permitting Short  
Course.





**FUN BEE FACTS**  
 A bee hive usually has only 1 queen. The queen is the only bee in the hive that can sting repeatedly. All of the other bees in a hive lose their stingers after one sting and die shortly afterward. The queen must keep her stinger because she will have to fight for her survival to obtain her reign of the hive. The battles for the reign usually include 7-10 queens. Typically, only 1 queen will survive the war.

**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, March 7** 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 DeBise 407-423-3554; [evybaby@junco.com](mailto:evybaby@junco.com)  
 Secretary - Beatrice "Bea" Stein 407-876-8122  
 Treasurer - Jackie Sward 407-647-5233  
 Field Trips - Paul Eisenbrown 407-876-5191  
 Memberships - Phyllis Gray 407-253-5462  
 Director - Gregg Walker 407-359-0506  
 Plant Rescue - Marge Holt 407-679-6759  
 Editor - Jean Vasicek 407-363-9061; [jean.fnps@yahoo.com](mailto:jean.fnps@yahoo.com)  
 WebMaster - Daniela DeBise 407-423-3554; [evybaby@junco.com](mailto:evybaby@junco.com)  
 Mailing - Chuck Roux 407-851-8889; [crox@bellsouth.net](mailto:crox@bellsouth.net)  
 WEBSITE - <http://fnps.org/chapters/tarflower/main.html>

Tarflower Chapter  
 Florida Native Plant Society  
 P.O. Box 536021  
 Orlando, Florida 32853-6021  
 RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

