



the Tarpaper

The Tarflower Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society



Volume: XVIII April 2006 ISSUE

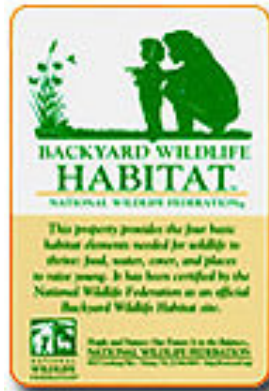
APRIL PROGRAM: Creating Habitat in Your Own Yard.

At the April meeting, learn more about the National Wildlife Federation, Backyard Wildlife Habitat Program. Who knows, you might be inspired to certify your yard and help NWF reach their goal of 70,000 habitats in 2006!

For over 30 years, the Backyard Wildlife Habitat™ program has helped to make a place for wildlife in the modern world, while at the same time helping people to connect with the nature around them. The program provides educational materials, practical advice and official certification to homeowners, schools, businesses, community groups and in some cases entire communities! To date, NWF has certified over 60,000 habitat sites that provide the essentials for attracting songbirds, butterflies and other wildlife.

Bruce and Cathy Brown of BB Brown's Gardens will share their enthusiasm and knowledge about this great program. And they should know! The Browns host the Backyard Wildlife Habitat Stewardship program several times a year. Following this wonderful 3-day course held at the Garden in Clermont, participants are certified as Stewards, and assist others in the creation and restoration of wildlife habitat. Stewards might coordinate other volunteers to take on a Schoolyard Habitat project at a local elementary school or speak to a local garden club about the importance of native plants and habitat suitable for wildlife.

The Browns have also been walking the walk, with the creation of the Florida Scrub Jay Trail, a 5-acre native habitat on their property. So far, 200 volunteers, dubbed the Florida Scrub Jay Trailblazers, have helped clear the trail of invasives, planted native species such as beargrass, fringetree and Florida bonamia, and built a large wooden kiosk that stands at the trailhead filled with informative posters.



April Field Trip Paul Eisenbrown

April 1 Field Trip to Catfish Creek. Please note:

This field trip is on a different Saturday than our normal field trips. This is real scrub with rolling hills and clear water ponds. Mints, lupines, and pawpaws should be blooming. If we are lucky we might see some Pigmy Fringe trees. Meet at **7:00 a.m.** in front of the Gooding's at Lake Buena Vista to carpool. Yes, it's early, but this will help us beat the heat in this open scrub habitat. Bring a lunch, plenty of water and appropriate outdoor wear for the sun. If you are going to meet us at Catfish Creek in the designated parking area, then be there at 8:00 a.m. Also, for driving directions use the following address for a map search: 5000 Firetower Road, Haines City, FL 33844. If you pass the firetower you've gone too far. Turn around and look for a fenced parking area on the east side. Contact Paul Eisenbrown at 407-876-5191 with questions. See "Field Trips" page 2.

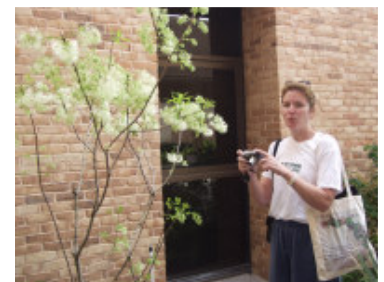
Valencia Field Trip 3/10/06 Paul Eisenbrown



Azalea

Our trip to the Valencia West Campus was very enjoyable. Larry Rosen seems to know every plant on the property, so I think we can say we saw it all. Our first stop was a native plant

garden planted by Green Images for the college. Much was in bloom including: Walter's Virburnum, Firebush, Dog Hobble, Fringe Tree, Wild Azalea and Red Buckeye.



Fringe Tree, Bea Stein

See "Valencia" page 2.

visit their campus. Photo credits: Bea Stein, Jean Vasicek.

Valencia continued from page 1.

There were also some *Sable minor* not in bloom. Only the stems, leaves, blooms and fruit appear above the ground with just a few inches of the trunk.

The highlight of the trip was the Sky blue Lupines, *Lupinus diffusus*. With its prostrate branches it almost seemed like a different plant than the normally erect ones seen at other locations. They



Lupine



Chuck Roux, Sam Hopkins, Larry Rosen

are currently being Studied by Michele Yeargain, a graduate student at UCF. Close by was a tiny little *Polygala polygama* (We think). You had to get down on



Valencia Community College

your hands and knees with a lens to see this beautiful flower. We also encountered Bluejack Oak with new foliage coming out. Of course we saw a lot more.

Sam passed out a plant list that was completed on a field trip in 1983 led by Dick Deuerling. It was very extensive and detailed based on different parts of the property. Valencia couldn't have had more than one or two buildings at the time with much more natural area.

Today's field trips, at least the ones I lead, are not documented as well as this one was.



Pawpaw

Usually I write down plants of interest. Maybe this is something to consider in future trips, as the 1983 list is a record of plants in areas that don't exist anymore.

Thanks to those that helped put the trip together and to those that showed up to make it happen. Special thanks go to Valencia Community college for allowing us to

Field Trips continued from page 1.

May 13, 2006 Field Trip to Members Homes. If you want to see some examples of native plant gardens to get some ideas, then this is your chance! No one is better qualified than our own Tarflower gardeners. We may also visit some public examples of native plant gardens. This tour is in conjunction with our May program where members will talk about their native landscapes. The plan is to go from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. There will be an allotted time for each home visit and travel time to the next one, so both the visitor and home owner can see all the other gardens. Also, plan on bringing your own water and snacks. We will probably stop somewhere for lunch. Details will be in the May issue of the *Tarpaper*. Contact Paul Eisenbrown at 407-876-5191 with questions.

What's Blooming in Tosohatchee

Every third Saturday of the month a park volunteer, Paul Eisenbrown, leads visitors to different areas to see what is in bloom. We go from 9:00-11:00 a.m. Our next adventure is April 15. You must call ahead and make a reservation at (407) 568-5893.

***The Florida Scrub Lizard* Rachael Stein**

On a recent trip to the Allen David Broussard Catfish Creek preserve, I was fortunate to catch a glimpse of one of the scrub's most interesting animals. The Florida Scrub Lizard, *Sceloporus woodi*, is a small grayish-brown lizard with spiny scales that cover the entirety of its body. Males have a bright turquoise stripe down each side

of their body, and females, although lacking the stripes, sometimes have faded patches on their bellies. At first my family and I thought



Scrub Lizard

our find was a fence lizard (*Sceloporus undulatus undulates*), but upon closer examination in the photo that I took (pictured) we figured out that it was a scrub lizard. The difference? The fence lizard lacks the stripe down its side.

Although the Scrub Lizard might not look like much, it is perfectly adapted to its habitat which consists of upland habitats such as scrub and sand hill. The area in which we found the lizard contained Sand Live Oaks (*Quercus geminate*), Saw Palmetto (*Serenoa repens*), Shiny Lyonia (*Lyonia lucida*), and Silk Bay (*Persea humilis*). The scrub lizard lives only in areas with open patches of sand, which are used for hunting and breeding. This dependence on open areas coincides perfectly with the patterns of natural fires in these habitats. If burns are suppressed, plant material begins to fill in the open patches in the scrub habitat, and the lizards cannot live there. Juvenile Scrub Lizards migrate for reasons that are not understood, and growing levels of construction and burn suppression seem to inhibit their migration. Evidence of recent controlled burns was apparent at Catfish Creek preserve.

The Scrub Lizard's diet consists of the small insects and spiders that are found throughout the scrub. The lizard's speed and agility is evident in its skill in stalking and consuming its diminutive prey.

The Florida Scrub Lizard is not legally listed as either a threatened or endangered species on the state or federal level, although the Florida Committee on Rare and Endangered Plants and Animals lists it as threatened. Although this species is not as yet considered to be

in real danger, we should make an effort to preserve this lizard through the management and preservation of the amazing and diverse habitat called the scrub. So, next time you are walking through a scrubby and open area, keep your eyes on the ground and maybe you'll see the elusive scrub lizard.

Volunteers Needed

Mike Martin is tentatively planning to conduct a spring survey of listed plant (and other) species ("T&E" species - threatened and endangered) at the Seminole State Forest Warea Tract. The date is tentatively set for April 20. Please call Mike if you would like to participate, 352-360-6677.

***Buyer Bee Ware* Jean Vasicek**

It's that time of year again, swarm season. Swarms occur when overcrowded hive conditions cause bees to start looking for new places to live. Bees prepare to swarm by making several cone shaped cells, packing them with royal jelly and growing new queens. The queens emerge to fight for the reign of the hive while the old queen prepares to leave taking half the colony with her. The scout bees search out a new hive location within a 10 mile radius. Bees are fond of tiny holes in housing soffits that lead to the wide open spaces within the studs of wall board. Once bees build a hive inside the walls of a home, removal of the nest can be quite costly.

Extermination of bees is not always effective. Pesticides cause bees to surround the queen, allowing the outer ring of bees to die saving the queen in the center. I've recently received calls from several new homeowners that claim there were no signs of bees during the home inspection prior to purchase. Several weeks after closing, bees were seen entering and exiting home through tiny holes in the soffits. I suspect the bees were there all along. Pesticides sprayed into a hive just prior to an inspection can temporarily eliminate all evidence of the presence of a hive.



Hive Inside a Residential Home

Ethnobotany Reading List

Healing Plants--Medicine of the Florida Seminole People by Susan Enns Stans and Alice Micco Snow, University of Fl. Press

Growing Native by Dick Workman

Florida's First People by Robin C. Brown, Pineapple Press

Indian Mounds You Can Visit by I. Mac Perry, Great Outdoors Publishing

Caribbean Wild Plants and their Uses by Penelope N. Honychurch, MacMillan Press Caribbean

Rain Forest Remedies and Sastun by Rosita Arvigo

World Guide to Tropical Drift Seeds and Fruits by Gunn, Dennis, and Paradine

Medical Botany by Lewis, 1977

Atlas Of Medicinal Plants of Middle America by Morton

Wild Plants for Survival in South Florida by Julia F. Morton

Free Canna Lily's Anyone?

Louise Campbell of Kissimmee has some native Canna lily plants that she would like to share -- you dig. Louise is elderly, legally blind, and not able to care for her yard anymore. The service helping her is threatening to mow down the cannas. Please call her at 407-846-6554 if you can come get her cannas.

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, April 4** 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; evybabvy@juno.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
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Editor - Jean Vasicek 407-363-9061; jean.fnps@yahoo.com
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WEBSITE - <http://fnps.org/chapters/tarflower/main.html>

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