



the Tarpaper

The Tarflower Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society



Volume: XVIII May 2006 ISSUE

MAY PROGRAM: Tarflower Members and Their Native Landscapes? Liz Block

Every single native plant we put into our landscapes, at home, at work, or through a gift to a friend provides a little bit of something needed by a bird, butterfly, or bug. In my job with local government in Osceola County, I daily face the habitat devastation wrought by development, and the replacement landscaping that requires way too much water, fertilizer, pesticide, maintenance, etc. just to stay alive. The FNPS is my oasis of sanity, and creating native plant landscapes to provide wildlife habitat is my passion.

The basic knowledge to maintain a lawn and some hearty shrubs is readily available. The availability of knowledge to create and maintain a native plant landscape is sorely limited. As a group, the Tarflower members (and FNPS at large) hold an incredible depth and diversity of native plant knowledge and lore. In a recent survey, long-time Tarflower members overwhelmingly identified education as the most important goal of our chapter.

My reason for creating the May program was to put some of that knowledge on display. While it is important to share the knowledge among ourselves, it is more important to spread the knowledge throughout the community. I hope to encourage our native plant membership to reach out and help neighbors and/or give talks at garden clubs. Perhaps you, as an individual, don't have all the answers, but we, as an organization, do. Even if you are the newest member and think you know next to nothing, you still know more than your next door neighbor who is watering their St Augustine lawn every day!

I have another ulterior motive as well. I'll be stepping down as VP of Programs and taking on the Education Committee chairmanship. So this is all part of my plan to help you get ready to do some education outreach!!

I am excited to invite you all to our May meeting to hear six society members talk about their native plant gardening experiences. At least I think that's what they're going to talk about. They haven't told me yet, so it will be a surprise for us all!

May 13 Home Tour Paul Eisenbrown

Welcome to our Home Tour of members native plant gardens. This is an excellent opportunity to learn and share knowledge about native plants, which by the way is what we are all about. Maybe you haven't been able to figure out how to start, or have questions about particular species. You might even be interested to see how your own garden compares. After all we each live in a different type of habitat and may have only a few potted plants or acres and acres of land. Come on out to mingle and talk plants. You might even get goose bumps as we proceed through the day.

Six of our fellow members have graciously allowed us to visit their homes and see their native plant gardens and surroundings. The schedule below allows for both visiting the homes and travel time. Yes, we have to monitor the time in order to see everything, even though more time could easily be spent at each home, so please bear with us. The basic concept of the schedule is to be at a particular home on the hour as the day progresses. The start time is when we arrive at a specific home, so the actual visit time will be based on the travel time to the next home. Fortunately the travel time between homes is not too significant as they are all in a corridor stretching from Casselberry to Apopka, going east to west. We also are allowing time for lunch somewhere to be determined later. We ask everyone to bring their own water or snacks during the visits. The homeowners may choose to offer something if they wish, but it is not part of the plan. It is also important to carpool as much as possible to save both gas and have enough parking at each home. In one case the parking is not at the home, but at a shopping center close by, where we must carpool. This is also an excellent place to meet to carpool for the entire day. At the May 2 Tarflower Chapter meeting we will have some maps, sign-up sheets and additional information. Your main contacts for information are **Paul Eisenbrown 407-876-5191 and Liz Block at 407-963-6344.**

See "May Field Trip" page 2.

2006 OFFICER ELECTIONS Jackie Rolly

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 nominees for each of the positions. – request each member vote for the indicated nominee or provide for a write in. If providing for a write in, please ensure that the individual is willing to serve. These forms can be submitted to a member of the Nominating Committee (Jackie Rolly, Gregg Walker or Phyllis Gray), at the May meeting or by submitting the nomination in the mail to: J. Rolly, 622 W. Palm Valley Drive, Oviedo, FL 32765 or via email to: J.Y.Rolly@att.net

Voting should be received at the May meeting or no later than 15 May 2006 so that the elected officers can be sworn in at the June 2006 meeting.

President.

NOMINEE:

Catherine Read Yes [] No []

Write-In:

1st Vice-President.

NOMINEE:

Brent McAllister Yes [] No []

Write-In:

2nd Vice-President.

NOMINEE

Daniela DeBiase Yes [] No []

Write-In:

Secretary.

NOMINEE :

Bea Stein Yes [] No []

Write-In:

Treasurer.

NOMINEE :

Jackie Sward Yes [] No []

Write-In:

FNPS State Chapter Director – Rick Ehle

May Field Trip *continued from page 1.*

The hours for the visits will be from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., allowing for lunch at 11:30 a.m.

8:00 a.m. Liz Block
684 Grackle Dr.
Casselberry
Ph. 407-963-6344

9:00 a.m. Brent McCallister
503 E. Altamonte Dr. (This is an
Albertsons at 436 and Palm Srings
Blvd. for parking, not a home address)
Ph. 407-834-7574
Altamonte Springs

10:00 a.m. Ora Borrieci
435 Wilford Ave.
Longwood
Ph. 407-830-5313

11:30 a.m. Lunch

1:00 p.m. Jim Helmers
104 Elderberry Ln.
Longwood
Ph. 407-869-4857

2:00 p.m. Richard Poole
150 Essex Dr.
Longwood
Ph. 407-774-9501

3:00 p.m. Cheryl Corbett
912 Oakpoint Cr.
Apopka
Ph. 407-884-4354

Important notes:

- If not traveling with the group, please allow time to locate the homes so that we can stay on schedule.
- This is for members of the Tarflower Chapter and their invited guests only. We are not advertising in any local newspapers, etc.
- Make sure your car has plenty of gas ahead of time so we don't have to stop.
- We must know in advance how many are coming, so please sign up at the meeting or call Paul Eisenbrown or Liz Block at the numbers above.
- Please ask questions if you have them.
- If you find any mistakes or points that need to be addressed please contact Paul Eisenbrown at 407-876-5191 so that they can be addressed at the next meeting on May 2 at Leu Gardens

Enjoy the tour!

DEP LAUNCHES WEB SITE TO PROMOTE GREEN LANDSCAPING

Site helps citizens, professionals with Florida-friendly plants and landscaping

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) this week launched an interactive website to provide information about Florida-friendly plants and landscaping. A partnership between DEP, the University of Florida, Florida Yards & Neighborhoods and the Southwest Florida Water Management District, the site helps visitors plan environmentally-friendly yards that reduce the need for fertilizers and pesticides and promote water conservation.

“Florida-friendly landscaping safeguard the environment and protect the State’s natural resources,” said DEP Secretary Colleen M. Castille. “The Florida Yards website allows both citizens and professionals to access information on native plants, plan their own landscaping and explore additional resources to design a Florida-friendly yard.”

The site provides basic information of Florida-friendly landscaping, including environmental benefits and guiding principles, and includes a database of native Florida plants. An interactive feature allows visitors to design a Florida-friendly yard using indigenous plants that are best suited for Florida’s environment. Also included is a professionals’ corner, complete with stories and resources for professional landscaping organizations.

Irrigation of lawns and landscaping in Florida represents the single largest use of water from municipal water supplies. This water use has impacted the state’s aquifer, which is the source of drinking water and water that supports Florida’s springs and other ecosystems. In addition, fertilizers and pesticides used on lawns can impact water quality in lakes, rivers and bays. By using native plants during landscaping, citizens can reduce the amount of fertilizers and pesticides used, conserve water, provide habitat for native wildlife and preserve water quality in Florida water bodies.

For more information, visit the Florida-Friendly Landscaping website at www.FloridaYards.org.

Laptop Computer and Projector Needed

Paul Eisenbrown
Our chapter needs a laptop computer and projector for giving presentations. The laptop and projector will be useful for our presentations at Leu Gardens and essential for presentations given by our newly formed Speaker Bureau. The Speaker Bureau will give native plant presentations to community groups. In the past, laptops have been supplied by

members and the projector has been supplied by Leu Gardens. Owning the equipment will remove any future uncertainty in their availability.

Does anyone have equipment they would like to donate? Perhaps you have an old laptop you just replaced? Or a laptop that needs repair? Or maybe your employer would like to make a non-profit donation? The laptop should come equipped with Windows XP (Professional if possible) and Microsoft Office. Please contact Paul Eisenbrown for more details at 407-876-5191.

Volunteers Needed: Warea Survey

Mike Martin

DOF manages this 120 acres garden of Eden south of Clermont. It is loaded with lots of threatened and endangered plants. Miss Cox has been hired thru a grant to help forestry inventory the property. We are looking for a few extra folks who could help us with this task. As an incentive I will provide a free smokey bear magnet to everyone who joins use. It is sort of like the fence that needs whitewash! Some view it as work but we view it as fun!!!!!!!!!!!!!! We will be walking the property to find endangered plants. Please do not worry if you are not a native plant person, Anne will help us with identification. Let me know if anyone wants to join us. We are working the site April 20, 21 and May 4, 5. Call Daniela DeBiase, 407-423-3554, for more details.

Amending our By Laws

Jackie Sward

Over the past two years, the state organization of the Florida Native Plant Society has been working toward providing an umbrella to include all chapters in their 501-c-3 designation. In order for our chapter to be included in this program, we must be on the same accounting period as the FNPS, which is the calendar year. According to our By Laws, Article X, Fiscal Year: The fiscal year of the corporation (Tarflower Chapter) shall be July 1 through June 31. Therefore, in order to comply with the state’s requirements, we must amend our By Laws to read: The fiscal year of the corporation (Tarflower Chapter) shall be January 1 through December 31. At our annual meeting in May, all members will be asked to vote on the above proposed change in our By Laws as well as the slate of proposed officers. Be sure to attend this important meeting and make your vote count.



Marge Holt's Native Landscape
(Not on this month's tour.)



One of Marge Holt's Ponds

FUN BEE FACTS

After making the honeycomb with bees wax, bees fill the comb with honey. At first the honey has a high water content. The bees flutter their wings to evaporate the water to reduce the moisture in the honey. When the moisture content meets their requirements, the comb is capped. The capped honey can be stored indefinitely. Honey never spoils. Honey has an infinite shelf life. For Local Honey, call Jean at 407-363-9061.

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, May 2** 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; evybabv@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
Director - Gregg Walker 407-359-0506
Plant Rescue - Marge Holt 407-679-6759
Editor - Jean Vasicek 407-363-9061; jean.fnps@yahoo.com
WebMaster - Daniela DeBise 407-423-3554; evybabv@juno.com
Mailing - Chuck Roux 407-851-8889; crox@bellsouth.net
WEBSITE - <http://fnps.org/chapters/tarflower/main.html>

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Orlando, Florida 32853-6021
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

