



the Tarpaper

The Tarflower Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society



Volume: XVIII June 2006 ISSUE

JUNE PROGRAM: Spreading the Word About Native Plants Liz Block

Education is an important mission of the FNPS. Our June speaker, Tracy McCommon, has been instrumental in educating the public. Tracy founded Nature Wise, a non-profit organization designed to “improve the environment through educational television and video”. Tracy works in the TV industry as a producer and host. She has partnered with the FNPS Tarflower Chapter in the past to produce the documentary “Restoring Florida’s Lakeshores with Aquascaping”. Her current TV series, “Wildlife Matters”, features the native plant yards of several 11 Tarflower Chapter members as well as speakers from the 2004 FNPS Annual Conference. Current programs in her “Wildlife Matters” TV series include, “Creating a Backyard Habitat”, “Balancing Conservation and Development”, “Florida Ecosystems and their Endangered Animals”, “Unique Yards using Florida Native Plants”, “Audubon Center for Birds of Prey”, “Successful Gardens Inspired by Nature”, and “Preserving Large Tracts of Land”. Six of the finished programs in the “Wildlife Matters” series are currently airing in Central Florida on government access channels including Orange TV, Seminole TV, and Polk Government TV. Tracy is raising money to distribute the “Wildlife Matters” series and the conservation messages they contain to over 50 other government access and educational channels throughout Florida.

Tracy will talk to us about her background in radio and television, and about how she is helping combat the environmental problems we face in Florida with conservation education. She will also show us a video of her recent programs.

A few months ago, soon-to-be-ex President Rick Ehle proposed that the chapter donate \$1000 to help fund distribution of the “Wildlife Matters” program to additional government access and education channels. From the discussion that followed, I got the impression that members did not know enough about the program, and I asked Tracy to speak so that the chapter could make an informed decision about a contribution. Nature Wise has received \$1,500 from the state chapter of the FNPS and has been approved by the AFNN for \$500, but additional funding is needed. Be prepared for a discussion on a Chapter donation.

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS Paul Eisenbrown June 10 Field Trip to Tiger Bay State Forest

Tiger Bay is a 27,315 acre state forest in Volusia County. Its name is derived from a swamp that was formed from an ancient marine terrace located between the DeLand Ridge and the Daytona Ridge dunes. More than half the forest is wetlands with about 40 percent consisting of pine islands. We should have plenty to see. Rick Ehle will be our host for this one and has indicated that we will check out some recently burned areas. Since the drive is about an hour from Orlando, plan on bringing lunch, plenty of water and outdoor attire. For those wishing to carpool we’ll take a survey at the June meeting and put people together. Our meeting place will be the rest area on I-4 East going towards Daytona, just before the turn-off to Highway 92. **We are meeting there at 8:00 a.m.** From this point we will all go to Tiger Bay as a group. This is the rest area with no facilities indicated on the sign. Once you pass the New Smyrna, Highway 44 exit, you are less than 10 miles from the rest area. For any questions contact Rick Ehle at 407-349-0502 or Paul Eisenbrown at 407-876-5191.

July 8 Field Trip to Oakland Nature Preserve

We’re going to check out some plants and walk the boardwalk to the edge of Lake Apopka. It’s a chance to see this community preserve and our Tarflower Chapter plot. We will meet at 9:00 a.m. Further information will be in next months Tarpaper. Bring a lunch for afterwards. Contact Paul Eisenbrown at 407-876-5191 for questions.

May 13 Native Garden Home Tour Paul Eisenbrown

Wow! That’s how I would describe this day of visiting with our fellow members and seeing their native green thumb homes. Each had a distinct way of using their properties, and all showed how involved they are, not only with their homes, but in the community as well. A lot of “how to” and “how not to” knowledge was passed on. Just because your habitat is supposed to support a certain type of plant doesn’t mean it will. Conversely, you can grow something that is not supposed to be in that habitat as evidenced by the many out of zone species we saw. See “Native Garden Tour” page 2.

Native Garden Tour *continued from page 1.*

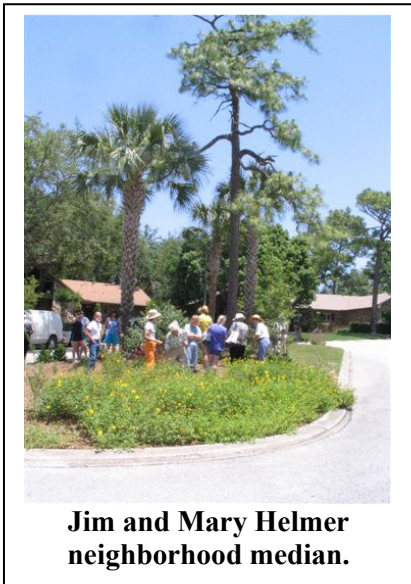
There is a big learning curve in the beginning of a garden, but soon comes experience and the testing of the limits of particular plants using the unique features of ones yard. Ora Borrecci had a Florida Yew doing well in her yard. She also commented on how much the birds like the fruit of the Florida Privet. Cheryl Corbett had a Wild-Lime planted next to an AC/Heat pump compressor that kept the freezes away in the winter. She also has better results with plants raised from seeds. Liz Block had a nice ground cover area of Mimosa. Brent McCallister gave us a few lessons in water conversation stressing the use of mist sprinklers and having a display of his swimming pool times seven. Watering an average yard two days a week uses seven full swimming pools of water a year. Jim and Mary Helmers showed their yard and also a non-irrigated



Brent McCallister with pool chart.



Becky Payne checks out the flying squirrels.



Jim and Mary Helmer neighborhood median.

were there. I guess it sensed who lived there. Almost all indicated that our raffle plants helped them get started. Another comment was that their neighbors noticed how much the wildlife was more abundant at the native plant homes. So, you can see that we had a full, action-packed day experiencing plants, nature, and camaraderie among friends. .

About 30 members and their guests showed up throughout the day, hustling to the next yard, yet trying to spend as much time at each. You just couldn't see it all. We only took one break for lunch. Everyone was good about keeping to a schedule. We would like to

median whose development involved their homeowners association. Richard Poole not only had plants, but birds of course! We checked out a flying squirrel family by climbing a ladder higher than we should have gone. He also had a video feed to a monitor showing baby Red-Bellied Woodpeckers in another bird box. A Swallow-Tailed Kite even flew over the house while we

thank all of those who showed their homes and those that participated to make it happen.

**William Bartram Marker Dedication:
June 7, Mead Garden**

Elizabeth Camm

As a member of the Winter Park Garden Club, I am chair of the Bartram Marker dedication committee for the upcoming celebration on June 7, 5:30 pm, in Mead Garden. The Winter Park Garden Club purchased the marker. The marker has been installed along the brick road to the WPG Clubhouse.

The Florida Federation of Garden Clubs originated the Bartram Marker program more than 25 years ago, and it has expanded to the other seven southern states where Bartram explored and botanized 1773-77. He traveled extensively in East and West Florida in 1774 and later published a book that brought Florida into the limelight in Europe.

William Bartram is a world renowned American born botanist who has been repeatedly honored.

Dedication will be outside at the marker with David Strong, Mayor of Winter Park, cutting the ribbon. Then, moving to the clubhouse, actor JD Sutton will present part of his excellent interpretation of William. Dexter of Dexter's is catering the reception.

Anyone interested in attending should RSVP to the Winter Park Garden Club at 407 644 5770.

Habitat Stewards Jean Vasicek

The presentation at April's meeting was given by Bruce and Kathy Brown on their Habitat Steward Program. I attended one of Bruce and Kathy's first Habitat Programs several years ago. My yard has been the object of my stewardship ever since. I have transformed my 3 acres of St. Augustine grass into a diverse environment supporting a variety of wildlife including otters, fox, gopher tortoise, lizards, hawks, snakes, bats, owls, eagles, etc. The landscape includes many threatened and endangered plant species including the *lupinus westianus* var. *aridorum* and *lechea cernua*. I've transplanted many plants from plant rescues. Two of my greatest successes are the *Ceratiola ericoides* (scrub rosemary) and *Befaria racemosa* (tarflower) which are growing nicely in my front yard.

My objective when I moved to Florida over 15 years ago was to make my home look like Ft. Wayne, Indiana. I planted lots of juniper bushes and laid St.



Before Native Planting 1995 After Native Planting 2006 (House is still there!)

Augustine Grass, the closest thing I could find to Kentucky Blue. After my Habitat Steward class with Bruce and Kathy, I began transforming my entire yard into a wildlife habitat. Nearly every plant in my front yard was transplanted/rescued from a native habitat that no longer exists.



Backyard, 1995 Backyard, 2006 (Bat House, Center.)

This year I have started an experiment to let my backyard grow naturally. Currently, my backyard consists of about 1 acre of bahia grass framed with native plants. From now on, the grass will not be mowed, and herbicides will be used to kill the torpedo grass and other invasives. The growing season has just begun. The first plants to emerge were the fleabane daisies and the spiranthes.

And, already one plant that I've not seen before has popped up. Does anyone know what it is?



First Unknown Plant Growing in UnMowed Lawn

In addition to restoring my lawn to a native



Unmowed Lawn begins to grow.
Fleebane Daisies and Spiranthes

habitat, I have been working on creating a water habitat for birds, etc. along my lakefront. My lakefront had



Lakefront Before Restoration
Ludwigia peruviana (Peruvian primrose willow)
Colocasia esculenta (Wild Tarrow)
Typha (cat tails)

been neglected for years. It had been taken over by taro, wedelia, primrose willow, torpedo grass, and cat tails. The beautiful royal fern, pickerel weed, etc. that had once graced the shoreline was gone. But, the seed bank was there. After removing the exotics, the See "Habitat Stewards" page 4.



Lakefront After Restoration

- Pontederia cordata* (Pickerel Weed)
- Lemna* (Duck Potato)
- Juncus effuses* (Soft rush)
- Panicum hemitomon* (Maidencane)

Habitat Stewards *continued from page 3.*

shoreline came back with little help from me. Now, my lakefront is active with wildlife. The many native species growing on and around the area include titi, needle palm, several species of bay trees, cypress, wax myrtle, red maple, mangrove (oops! I couldn't help myself. I planted a red, black and white mangrove and they're all growing nicely.), pickerel weed, duck potato, many rushes, cardinal flower, mallos, scarlet hibiscus, swamp dogwood, and many more.

Work along the lakefront and in the yard will be an on going project. I'll keep you posted as the progress continues.

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, June 6** 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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