



the Tarpaper

The Tarflower Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society



Volume: XVIII July 2006 ISSUE

JULY PROGRAM: NO PROGRAM

Since our July meeting falls on July 4th, there will be no program this month. See you in August!

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

Paul Eisenbrown

Oakland Nature Preserve, July 8

Opening in 1999, this now 128 acre preserve is dedicated to serving the public and promoting environmental education. There are both uplands and a lakefront boardwalk to explore. Some of our members help maintain a plot as part of the restoration process. We are going to meet at the trailer/office parking area at **9:00 a.m.** Directions from Highway 50 going west past Winter Garden are: As you approach Oakland look for a blinking light and a Chevron station. Turn right at the light onto Tubb Street. At the stop sign turn left onto Oakland Ave. Then turn right on Machette Trail. You will see a church on the left after turning. Make another left in front of the church and it will take you to the parking area. Dress for the outdoors in Florida and bring a lunch if you like. Information about the preserve can be found at:

<http://oaklandnaturepreserve.org/>

Wekiwa Springs State Park, August 5

We'll check out some of the blooms in this varied habitat. Our meeting time is 9:00 a.m. in the parking lot just to the left after you pass the entrance kiosk. Check out the state park website:

<http://www.floridastateparks.org/wekiwasprings/default.cfm>

Enchanted Forest, Titusville, Sunday, September 10

Note the day change to a Sunday from our normal field trips day. Check out the websites:

<http://www.eelbrevard.com/eel/enchforest/>

<http://www.nbbd.com/godo/ef/>

For more information on all field trips call Paul Eisenbrown at 407-876-5191.

Tiger Bay and Lake Ashby Field Trip, June 10, 2006 Paul Eisenbrown

We had a good day. Tiger Bay afforded us an opportunity to see some of those plants that normally

would be in or behind some water had it not been for the drought conditions. This allowed us to get up close and personal. We first walked around a small lake and then drove Woods Road loop on the south side of

Highway 92. Afterwards we went to Lake Ashby, a Volusia County Park and walked the trail and boardwalk.

At Tiger Bay we saw the beautiful Snowy Orchid (*Habenaria nivea*), *Sabatia bartramii*, and one of the Ladiestress orchids, *Spiranthes torta*. Out among all the *Hypericum fasciculatum* were numerous *Polygala cymosa*. Three other *Polygalas* seen were the *P. cruciata*, *P. lutea*, and *P. rugelii*. Some pitcher plants (*Saracenia*



Snowy Orchid

minor), were still in flower. Our chapter flower, the Tarflower (*Befaria racemosa*) was an appropriate find. Scarlet Milkweed (*Asclepias lanceolata*) and *Physotegia purpurea*, or Obedient Flower as it sometimes called, were seen. Another *Hypericum* was the *H. mutilum*.

After being in the sun most of the day our walk along the shaded Lake Ashby trail was refreshing. One of the more interesting plants is the *Bromelia pinquin*. See "Tiger Bay" page 2.



Polygala Cymosa

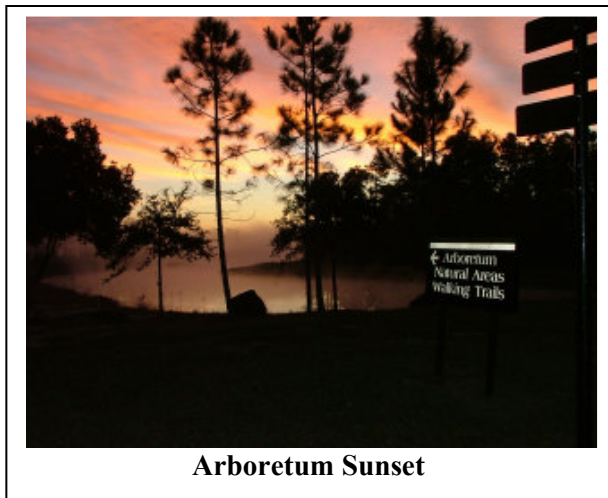
UCF Update Jackie Rolly

Quick update on the Rebirth of the UCF Arboretum. The various gardens (featuring plants that are already in the Florida landscape) are coming along. The Arboretum staff has been busy moving bamboo to its rightful country gardens, as well as the azaleas, aphidistra, hollies, and various other plants that managed to survive the hurricanes and loss of canopy. Bridges are being built along the path through the gardens, and removal of alien exotics from the natural area around the boardwalk continues. The staff has removed Brazilian Pepper from along Gemini and Orion Boulevards and has planted numerous young native trees such as magnolia and oaks in their place. So progress is being made, slow but steady. As a small



Tarflower Blooming at UCF

thank you to the Tarflower Chapter members please enjoy pictures of the tarflowers in bloom this month in the natural area and a lovely sunset. The natural areas are always open for hikes or leisurely strolls. Check out the controlled burns and the resurgence of our natives doing what they are supposed to do.



Arboretum Sunset

Volunteer Opportunity Karina Vaudry

Needed: Conservation Committee Members; If you have an interest in reporting on regional issues concerning the preservation and conservation of native plant communities, please contact Karina Veaudry at 321.388.4781 NativeFloridaConsulting@earthlink.net There will be others on this committee so that not so many hours are needed per month.

Tiger Bay continued from page 1.

This is a terrestrial exotic, but it is very colorful with leaves that appear to be sprayed by orange paint, as if warning someone away from the sharp spines.

Get out and use your plant knowledge. We had 10 plant seekers, added 47 species to our list, had a nice



Sabatia bartramii

lunch, and got to know each other a little better. Thanks to those who put the trip together and to those who showed up to make it happen.

Photos for this article were taken by Paul Eisenbrown and Bea Stein.

Recap of the 26th Annual FNPS Conference Daniela DeBiase

The Annual FNPS Conference is always a highlight of the year. This year the conference was hosted by the Lyonia and Paw Paw Chapters and ran from May 18 to the 21st. Programs focused attention on developing partnerships so as to preserve Florida's environment, from back yards to backwoods.

Jean Vasicek and I chose Lyonia Preserve for our Thursday field trip. A few years back Tarflower went to this Volusia County preserve for a field. We were entertained by a population of scrub jays that had developed an appetite for peanuts. They would land on us so we could hand feed them. Well, the jays may still like peanuts, but they didn't get any from our group! No more feeding the jays exotic foods. It See "Conference" page 3.

Conference continued from page 2.

seems this practice disturbed their natural cycles and introduced nutrients into their diet that they weren't accustomed to. As a result, for example, they were having their babies at times when foods that they ordinarily feed their young were not available. As a result the population was becoming dependent on human intervention. Who knew! Though the hand feedings were discontinued, they still would land on our heads and pose. One perched on my



Scrub Jays Landed on our heads.

Photo by Jean Vasicek

baseball cap, jumped down to my arm and started pecking my thumb. Scrub jays can live to be 25 years old. Did this one remember being fed by me a few years back. Perhaps a thumb does resemble a peanut. As we ate our lunch under a picnic pavilion, it was amazing to watch how one group of jays defended the area from all other birds and swooped down like gulls to pick up a scrap that didn't make it to our mouth.

Though this population of scrub jays, the largest in the state at around 170, was the main attraction, it was pointed out that the site in Deltona was part of the relic sand dune named the Lake Wales Ridge that extended from Ocala to Lake Wales.

We spent Friday and Saturday dashing from room to room, trying to be in three places at once. The following are a few points that stuck with me.

From *Scale Insects: Pests of Ornamental and Native Plants*; there are at least 12,500 insects species in Florida. 8 % are invasive and when they invaded Florida they came hungry. (There are 90,000 species in the US and 2% are invasive.) An oil concoction of 2 tablespoons of vegetable oil to 1 gal water works well on scale insects when applied 2 times within 2 ½ weeks and then washed off with water.

We learned the difference between conservation easement and "pay as you go". Ask me if you would also like to know.

Ernie Cox, a lawyer with his heart in the woods, helped develop an incentive-based system that encourages the voluntary preservation of natural areas. Credits are given to land owners who have listed species on property zoned for agriculture. So instead of punishing offenders, this system rewards conservation, and the one with the most listed species on his land wins! The result? Planned growth in

rural areas and family heritage is remembered. (Good for FNPS members also.)

Dr. Ann Cox, Ernie's mother, gave an update on the Warea Tract, a small parcel of land in Lake County managed by the Division of Forestry. Remember the field trip Tarflower took last summer to see the *Warea amplexifolia*? Hundreds of them were blooming in clumps between patches of *paronychia rugelii*. This year there were none! So Ann has more questions than answers.

Dr Terrence Fullerton spoke about *General Ideas on Plant Nutrition and Fertilizer Use*. He stressed the judicious use of fertilizers and manures in agriculture to improve production and minimize pollution. He then warned that it is necessary to feed the 3rd world before attempting land conservation there. Otherwise a starving population will ravage the land in an attempt to feed themselves! Something to think about!

Richard Louv, a newspaper columnist for the San Diego Union Tribune and author of *Last Child in the Woods*, made us remember a time when children played and rode bikes in the woods. There's something almost primordial about woods. Even those who've never experienced them know what "the woods" are. Then he warned those of us who could remember such a time not to discourage the generation coming up by our pessimisms. They are the generation that will inherit the job of fixing things here. They don't need to consider the task hopeless beyond repair. Something else to think about.

A Panel Discussion on Plant Genetics and Biodiversity concluded that there will probably be more discussions before any conclusions are reached. David Drylie, AFNN Board Member, owner of Green Images Native Landscape Plants, and an original member of Tarflower Chapter, stressed a need to balance the needs of landscapers and home owners with the concerns of genetic scientists. I'm not sure but I think a consensus was reached that there is less concern when rare or endemic native plants out of their range occur in urban yards that don't interface with natural areas.

Dr Gil Nelson's talk was a kaleidoscope of color and colorful anecdotes. What a pleasure to sit back and enjoy the scenery! Gil is now selling some of his prints.

Dr Walter Taylor, a long time Tarflower member was recipient of The 2006 Mentor Award. This is the highest award a member can receive from FNPS. Sid Taylor of the Hernando Chapter received a 2006 Green Palmetto Award for education. We know Sid by the numerous articles she has contributed to the Tarpaper. When asked she confirmed that this was her first FNPS award. Congratulations Sid and Dr Taylor!

There was an interesting variation on the plant ID contest. Only contestants who handed in their papers would be considered for a prize. Dr Taylor won second prize. A personable young guy with FNAI won first place. So the keepers of the list really do know what's on the list. Thanks Paw Paw and Lyonia for a great conference and a fantastic time. Too bad it ended so soon!



Scrub Jays at Lyonia State Preserve
Photo by Jean Vasicek

Local Native Nurseries

- Biosphere Consulting Inc** 14908 Tilden Rd
Winter Garden, FL
407-656-8277
- B B Brown's Gardens** 11490 Montevista Rd
Clermont, FL
352-429-5566
- Green Images** 1333 Taylor Creek Rd
Christmas, FL
407-568-1333

\$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, August 1** at 7:00 P.M. THERE WILL BE NO JULY PROGRAM.

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@junco.com
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