



the Tarpaper

The Tarflower Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society



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OCTOBER PROGRAM: Bioscaping- A Concept Whose Time Has Come!

By Jim Thomas

For a number of years, Jim Thomas has been promoting the concept of Bioscaping: landscaping that will enhance habitat for native wildlife, conserve water and decrease use of pesticides.

Fourth generation Florida native Thomas received his B.S., 1956, Florida State University; M. Ed. Biology, 1962, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. He also attended Yale University, University of Florida, North Carolina State University, University of Puerto Rico, and Rutgers University.

Jim Thomas is owner and President of Biosphere Consulting, Inc. of Winter Garden. Biosphere is an environmental consulting firm engaged in environmental assessment, permitting and restoration programs for development projects throughout Florida. The firm also runs a native plant nursery and has become heavily involved in environmental management.

Jim Thomas will please us with his slide presentation and show us how Bioscaping is a concept whose time has come.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

November Program: National Audubon Society Field Guide to Florida *by Gil Nelson*

Writer, naturalist and educator Gil Nelson will be our guest speaker at the November meeting and will be honored with a reception and book signing starting at 6:00 PM followed at 7:00 PM with his presentation on the *National Audubon Society – Field Guide to Florida*, adapted for our Central Florida locale.

December Program: Digital Photography *by Robert Bowden*

Just in time for the holidays, Robert Bowden, Executive Director of the Harry P. Leu Gardens, will discuss various techniques for using your digital camera for capturing the best photos in your back yard or in the wild.

THE ENCHANTED FOREST

September 10, 2006 *by Paul Eisenbrown*

Rick Ehle had identified a fern, *Thelypteris palustris*. He kept one of the pinnae, which is a part of the frond. On the undersurface were brown growths, which many of you probably notice on ferns in various patterns. These are sori, which are actually small clumps of sporangia, the spore producing part of the fern. A thick walled, spring loaded group of cells called the annulus actually encloses the spores. Under the right conditions, usually after a rain and then a drying out period, the annulus splits, causing the spores to shoot out. We actually saw this happen! The Enchanted Forest has an education center with a couple of microscopes attached to some video monitors. While Rick was inspecting the sori, using one of microscopes, the heat of the lamp caused the sporangia to dry out and burst open. You could see the annulus uncurl and split, shooting out the spores. There was also some kind of small insect hidden under the sori that would come out and grab the spores. Pretty cool!

Emanuela Cento, John Cento's oldest daughter,



Plant ID in Progress

Photo by Pete Dunkelberg

had been paying close attention to our plant descriptions. We had pointed out some Wild Coffee, *Psychotria nervosa*. Later on Emanuela noticed another plant indicating it looked like Wild Coffee, but it was not as glossy. It turned out to be a different species, *Psychotria sulzneri*. Way to go Emanuela!
See "Enchanted Forest" page 2.

Enchanted Forest continued from page 1.

Bea Stein had talked of petting bumble bees while in Wisconsin with her family. So we put her to the test, as there were quite a few among the many flowers of the vast butterfly garden surrounding the education center. Her first comment was that these



Leaf-footed Bug
Photo by Pete Dunkelberg

were not bumblebees, but some other kind that looked like them. She did her thing anyway and we were impressed! Later in the reference library we looked up bees in one of the insect books and found that Bea was right-on in her observation. These were Carpenter bees. They had a shiny abdomen, rather than the dense black fur of the bumble bee. Please understand the author is not advocating going out and petting bees. It is interesting though how approaching insects like this in a non-threatening manner allows this to occur. And we did learn to differentiate between two species.

Of the many trails, we followed the Biodiversity Loop, which took us through scrub, mesic hammock and hydric hammock habitats, giving us a good variety of flora to check out. Along the way a black racer, a young armadillo and a gopher tortoise were seen. Argiope, Golden Silk and Gasteracantha spiders in their orb webs kept an eye on us as we passed by. Some of the trees observed were: Scrub Live Oak, American Elm, Basswood, Scrub Hickory, Hercules Club, Wild Olive, and Hackberry. We saw Giant Leather Fern. There was one area with *Tillandsia utriculata* all over the place. This Giant Airplant is the largest of our epiphytes. A few had the flower scapes extending up to three or more feet high.

We had a good time and learned a lot from each other as the day progressed. Lunch was at picnic tables under a spreading oak. This is an excellent place for families of all age groups with its indoor and outdoor learning opportunities. Yes, we saw a lot more plants that are not listed above. Thanks to those that helped put the trip together and to those that came to make it happen.

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS Paul Eisenbrown
Saturday, October 7 Field Trip

One doesn't expect to see "preservation of natural land" and "wastewater treatment plant" used in the same sentence. The Northwest Regional Wastewater Reclamation Facility site enables the preservation of a 3000 acre pristine wildlife area along the St. Johns River. Wastewater plant management includes environmentally oriented uses such as periodic discharge of highly treated wastewater into hydric hammock wetlands, scrub vegetation management to enhance habitat for scrub jays, and use agreements with the Seminole County Natural Lands program for hiking trails and other recreation opportunities. We will tour a variety of plant communities, and may see some of the scrub jay families as well as other wildlife. Binoculars are recommended. Then we will travel to the Seminole County Environmental Center for lunch in the shade, and see Rick's butterfly garden and [formerly Liz's] Water Conservation Demonstration Garden.

We will meet at 9:00 a.m. Directions to the Northwest Regional Wastewater Reclamation Facility are: From the intersection of I-4 and SR 46 in Sanford, head west on SR 46 for about 4 miles. After you pass the intersection of Lake Markham Rd on the left, watch for the entrance to the facility on the right. There is a large granite sign with the Seminole County sailboat logo on it. Turn right into the facility. We will park just inside the gate and carpool from there.

Sunday, November 11 Colt Creek State Park

The State of Florida and Polk County have a new park, named Colt Creek State Park. A parking area, entrance sign and basic amenities will open to the public in late November. It will probably be another year of planning after that before a full-fledged opening. We are going to help them out by taking their existing plant list and adding to it, which in turn gives us a glimpse of what is to come. It is located about 11 miles north of Lakeland. More information will be in the November Tarpaper.

Saturday, December 9 Year End Happening

Rick and Pam Ehle are hosting our year end get-together in the rural outskirts of Geneva. This will be pot-luck, a chance to check out the plants on their property, and an opportunity to reminisce around an outdoor fire. As we get closer more information will become available.

Contact Paul Eisenbrown for any questions regarding field trips at 407-876-5191.

Refreshment Volunteers Needed to provide refreshments for Gil Nelson's reception for the November meeting. Please sign up!

EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Daniela DeBiase

- **Friday, October 13, 20, 27 – Butterfly Field Course.** Orange Audubon Society is sponsoring a field course on Central Florida Butterflies. The 7.5-hour course (3 sessions of 2 1/2 hours each) is being offered on Fridays, October 13, 20, 27, from 12:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. This course will involve observation and identification of butterflies at Hal Scott Regional Preserve and Park in east Orange County. Instructors will Orange Audubon members Randy Snyder and Mary Keim. Early registration fee is \$25.00 (postmarked on or before October 6, 2006). Make check payable to Orange Audubon Society. Note on check "Butterfly Field Course" and mail to: Randy Snyder, 1584 Outlook Street, Orlando, Fl. 32806-7806. The regular registration fee of \$35.00 is due at the beginning of class on October 13th. For more information call 407-851-5416.
- **Saturday, October 14 –Workday at Langford Park.** For the past few years the Tarflower Executive Committee has been meeting monthly at Langford Park, on east Central St, which is close to the Thornton Park area in Orlando. These meetings are free of charge, in exchange for a few workdays per year. So far we've helped them control their exotic pest plant population, and plant native wetland species in a wet area close to the road and visible to their neighbors. Meet with the executive committee on Saturday morning to help remove more exotics. Contact Catherine Read at 407 896 5931 for details.
- **Saturday, October 21 – Eco-Saturday Plant ID Walk at Tibet-Butler** Tarflower Chapter of FNPS will lead this hike which will wind through diminishing examples of pine flatwood west of Orlando. Tibet-Butler has an ambitious prescribe burn schedule. So we can expect a dazzling display of fall wildflowers. If you would like to participate, call Dani De Biase at 407 340 8316 or e-mail evybaby@juno.com for meeting time and location.
- **Friday, October 27 & Saturday, Oct 28 - Winter Garden Music Fest 2006** This family - friendly event will be held on Plant Street in historic Downtown Winter Garden during the evening hours (5pm - 10 pm on Friday and 4pm - 11pm on Saturday). For the first time we will participate in this event. Keeping in mind that this part of the metropolitan area is jammed with new subdivision, our mission will be to encourage landscaping with native plants and discouraging the use of invasive exotics. I will be setting up for this

event on Friday at 2:30pm. If you'd like to help out at any time during these two evenings, call me at 407 423 3554 or e-mail me at evybaby@juno.com.

- **Saturday, October 28 – Oakland Heritage Festival.** Speer Park is just down the street from Winter Garden, in the Town of Oakland. What's happening there? Good food, a chili & desert cook-off, Model A Ford rides, hay rides, Arts & Crafts for the kids, guided Lake Apopka boat tours, all happening between 10am and 4pm. Again this year we will have a booth at the event where we'll be helping homeowners learn about the benefits of landscaping with native plants and how to adapt them to their particular situation. The logistics will be tight but vendor coordinators for both events are very accommodating. If you are interested in helping out, or in just having a good time call Dani at 407 340 8316 or e-mail evybaby@juno.com.

LOOKING AHEAD

- **Saturday, November 11 – The 4th Annual Dark Sky Festival at Harmony** For the first time we've been invited to participate in this festival of darkness. So what is a Dark Sky Festival? It's a fun way to educate attendees about the many values that a dark night sky offers and the need to protect this resource. What a unique and fitting end to Great Outdoor Days, a two month long celebration of the many outdoor activities available throughout Osceola County. The event begins at 3:30pm and continues into the evening. Are there any star gazers out there? This might be the perfect volunteering opportunity. You know where to call and e-mail for more details
- **Friday, November 17 thru Sunday, November 19 – Plant Sale at the UCF Arboretum.** We've been invited to participate in this UCF Arboretum event for a second time. Details are sketchy at this time but mark your calendar. If we're the venue for selling native plants, this could become a great fund raiser. Look for more details in the November Tarpaper.
- **Tuesday, December 5 – A Mini Bazaar at the December Tarflower Chapter Meeting.** Our goal is to make this your one stop shopping event for the holidays while you support your local chapter of FNPS. When we did this for the first time last year we had 2 vendors. Already we've increased participation by 50%. If you know someone who makes or sells items that are either environmentally friendly or direct attention to nature, please call me.

Tarpaper Online

Sign up to receive your Tarpaper online and save our chapter dollars. Contact Dani DeBiase.

Tee shirts that look good and are good for Tarflower Chapter too!

For three years we've been enjoying Susan Trammell's artwork in Gil Nelson's book *Florida's Best Native Landscape Plants*. Now we can enjoy some of those same illustrations on a t-shirt made of the best non shrink cotton. The tees are available in two necklines: Crew neck and scoop neck T's with these two neckline styles are pictured below with the sizes available in each style. If you would like to place an order call Dani at 407 340 8316 or e-mail evybaby@juno.com. Your order can then either be mailed out or we can arrange an exchange.



Scoop Neck T-shirt
Also available with crew neck.

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, October 3** 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 Catherine Read. Members are welcome to attend.

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