



# the Tarpaper

The Tarflower Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society



Volume: XVIII November 2006 ISSUE

## **NOVEMBER PROGRAM: An Evening with Gil Nelson**

Dr. Gil Nelson, writer, naturalist and educator, will be the guest speaker at the November 7th meeting of the Tarflower Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society at Leu Gardens, 1920 North Forest Avenue, Orlando, at 7 p.m. Call 407-246-2620 for directions.

Dr. Nelson's single author books include Atlantic Coastal Plain Wildflowers, East Gulf Coastal Plain Wildflowers, Florida's Best Native Landscape Plants, Ferns of Florida, Shrubs and Woody Vines of Florida, Trees of Florida, Exploring Wild Northwest Florida and Exploring Wild North Florida. He is co-author of the National Audubon Society Field Guide to Florida and the National Audubon Society Field Guide to the Southeast. Dr. Nelson will discuss landscaping with native plants and wildflowers. A book signing reception will begin at 6 p.m. The public is cordially invited to this free program.

Sponsoring organizations include: Tarflower Chapter of the FNPS, The Flowering Tree Society of Central Florida, Orange Audubon Society, Sierra Club, Jim Thomas of Biosphere Consulting, and David Drylie of Green Images.

For additional information, please contact Jackie Sward at 407-647-5233.

## **UPCOMING PROGRAMS**

### **December Program: Digital Photography 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.

### **DON'T BUY CYPRESS MULCH!**

#### **Terry Godts**

Check out the following website to learn why buying cypress mulch is harmful to our environment.

[http://www.democracyinaction.org/GRN/campaign.jsp?campaign\\_KEY=5379&t=](http://www.democracyinaction.org/GRN/campaign.jsp?campaign_KEY=5379&t=)

## **October 7, 2006 Field Trip: Northwest Regional Wastewater Reclamation Facility Paul Eisenbrown**

I've always believed that within a person's lifetime he or she should visit a landfill and a sewage treatment plant. This is the only way that one can appreciate those normally behind the scenes efforts to get rid of all the waste we heap on our planet. Some of us checked off the latter in our visit to the Northwest Regional Reclamation Facility in Seminole County where we literally saw how "stuff flows downhill."



**Praying Mantis**  
Photo by Bea Stein

Ruth Hazard, Assistant Utility Director of the Seminole County Environmental Services Department, our host for the morning, gave us a tour of the plant operations as well as the natural lands that are part of this 3,000 acre property. We saw the automated monitoring systems in the office as well as hiked up the stairs to the several processing tanks that use microorganisms to treat the water before getting a final dose of chlorine prior to it being pumped out as reclaimed water for irrigation. Like most reclaimed water facilities today, the demand is greater than the output. So on the positive side the water does not have to be pumped back into the streams and rivers that are part of our natural landscapes. On the negative side it was interesting to find out that because of this demand, they will be using the St. John's River as a source for  
See "Field Trips" page 2.

**Field Trips** continued from page 1.



***Ipomoea cordatotriloba***  
Photo by Bea Stein

additional reclaimed water. Currently the plant is operating below its processing capacity, but there are plans to expand with the additional growth in the area.

The second part of our tour gave us a chance to see the natural lands which was once a celery farm. We went from the high scrubs to the lower wetlands. We saw a couple of Scrub-Jays that came over to defend their territory, letting us know this was their place. Ruth indicated to us that this is only one of few places where Scrub-Jays exist in Seminole County. The other sites are the adjacent Lower Wekiva Preserve that abuts their property and the Seminole State Forest just down the road on the west side of the Wekiva River.

Following the natural downhill gradient of the property we got into the wetlands where we spent a lot of time looking at the different trees. We saw Tulip Poplar, American Elm, Tupelo or Black Gum, Pop Ash, Swamp Dogwood, Water Hickory, Sweetgum, Maple, Ironwood, Hackberry, Loblolly Bay, Loblolly Pine and Cypress. A nice Southern Haw (*Crataegus flava*) still had some fruit.

On the wildlife side we saw a Pygmy Rattlesnake that got tired of us taking a million pictures. There was a doe with two fawns quietly feeding ahead of us. Several species of birds including hawks were seen. Butterflies were out. Although we didn't see any bears we did find some fresh scat with

palmetto seeds in it. This scat will have to disappear on its own, the natural way.

We then went to the Seminole Environmental Center at Spring Hammock where we had a nice lunch. Rick Ehle then talked to us about the butterfly garden and another landscaped water garden that he and other Tarflower members were instrumental in helping create. We were entertained by a Praying Mantis that seemed to like hanging onto several of our group.

Thanks go to Liz Block for setting this one up, Ruth Hazard for being our guide, and to those that showed up to make it all happen.

## ***UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS***

***Paul Eisenbrown***

### **Sunday, November 12, Colt Creek State Park**

This just new state park is in the developing stages. The 5000+ acres were bought from the Overstreet family only a few months ago. A parking area, entrance sign and basic amenities are due to open to public in late November, while the master plan is being developed. We will get an early glimpse by seeing what kind of plants we can add to their existing list. The park lies within the Green Swamp which is an important water source for four of Florida's rivers. Scott Spaulding, who we know from Tosohatchee, is the new park manager. He will give us some insight into how the process of taking a former cattle ranch and creating a park occurs. Bring a lunch, plenty of water and dress for the outdoors in Florida. Check out the Florida State Park website:

<http://www.floridastateparks.org/>

We depart from the Gooding's supermarket parking lot at the Crossroads shopping center in Lake Buena Vista at 8:00 a.m. To get to Gooding's take I-4 west to Exit 68 at Lake Buena Vista. Go right after exiting and you'll see a McDonald's on the right. Turn right. The Gooding's is on the left as you drive back a short distance.

### **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. Details will be in the December Tarpaper.

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

## EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Daniela DeBiase

- **Saturday, November 11 – The 4<sup>th</sup> 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. Call me at 407 423 3554 or e-mail [evybaby@juno.com](mailto:evybaby@juno.com) for more details
- **Friday, November 17 and Saturday, November 18 – Plant Sale at the UCF Arboretum.** We've been invited to participate in this UCF Arboretum event for a second time. Besides selling Florida native plants, we'll be showing people how to use them in their urban landscape. I'll be setting up Thursday afternoon, November 16<sup>th</sup>. Do you enjoy selling or handling cash, or just talking about native plants? Call or e-mail me. If we're the venue for selling native plants, this could become a great fund raiser for us.
- **Monday, November 20 – Florida Biodiversity.** Nowhere else on earth can you find the fascinating assortment of plant and wildlife species we have in Florida. Many can be seen along our roadsides, flying overhead, on shores of beaches and waterways, and a few have adapted to our own yards. We have northern as well a tropical species, plus a few found only here, and the unique mixture changes as we travel statewide. This slide program will provide information on species rarely seen or appreciated and where they can be found. Instructor: Bill Partington Fee: \$7 (Members \$4) Time: 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm Place: Palm Room, Leu Gardens.

### LOOKING AHEAD

- **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 chapters of FNPS! This year we'll have t-shirts, *Cards By Peg and Peg*, Jean's delicious raw honey by *Winter Park Honey* and some wonderful pure home – made soap by *Herbal Elements Natural Soap*. Most of these items are available in convenient gift

packages. *Cards by Peg and Peg* will take special orders for the holidays. If you would like to pick up your special order at the December 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, e-mail them at [cardsbypegandpeg@earthlink.net](mailto:cardsbypegandpeg@earthlink.net) or you may call me at 407 423 3554 and I can forward your contact information to them. If you know someone who makes or sells items that are either environmentally friendly or direct attention to nature, please contact me. As usual, we'll have light snacks available. Perhaps you can help out by bringing your favorite holiday treat! The snacks don't need to be native edibles.

### WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING

- Visit the **Trout Lake Nature Center** in Lake County, FL on Saturday, **Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>** for a Florida Yards and Neighborhood Workshop. Lavon B. Silvernell, the Naturalist/Volunteer Coordinator at TLNC suggests that we Attend the workshop on Saturday and then bring our plant list to the Discovery Gardens Plant Fair at Tavares, FL on Sunday and shop the end-of-event bargains. The Plant Fair at Discovery Gardens is on Saturday and Sunday, Nov 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>.
- **Mt. Dora Plant and Garden Fair Nov 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>** – The Beautyberry chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society will have a display and plants to sell. Need more information on these three Lake County events? E-mail Lavon at [silvernell@lucia.com](mailto:silvernell@lucia.com) or you can call me and I'll forward the information to Lavon.

### Receive Your Tarpaper Online!

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



**Thirteen foot, 500 lb, 80 yr old gator sold for \$4/lb.**

**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](mailto: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, November** at 7:00 P.M. Refreshments 6:00-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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