



the Tarpaper

The Tarflower Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society



Volume: XVIII December 2006 ISSUE

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5TH, LEARN HOW TO TAKE THE BEST DIGITAL NATURE PICTURES...AND ALSO DO SOME HOLIDAY SHOPPING

- **WHAT:** Tarflower Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society invites you to a special monthly meeting
- **WHERE:** Harry P. Leu Garden
- **WHEN:** December 5th from 6pm to 9pm. Shop at our mini bazaar from 6pm to 7pm, and after the talk.
- **FOR DETAILS:** Call Dani at 407 423 3554



Have a digital camera and want to take nature pictures like the pros? Then **JOIN US Tuesday, December 5th** from 6pm to 9pm at Harry P. Leu Garden, Orlando for our Meeting and Annual Holiday Bazaar. Robert Bowden, Executive Director of Leu Gardens will speak at 7pm. Besides sharing his best tips, Robert Bowden will discuss selecting the right digital camera. This should help us make the correct selection to put on our Christmas lists!

easy home editing, but it also presents unique challenges for photographers of plants in the field. Is there a way to override my auto-focus to get the image I want? If you have questions like this for Mr. Robert Bowden about improving your digital photographs or digital photographing techniques, please forward them in advance of his December 5th presentation to Phyllis Gray at PSGRAY@mactec.com.

Colt Creek State Park Field Trip 11-11-06

Paul Eisenbrown

Colt Creek is a tributary of the Withlacoochee River, located in the Green Swamp. This former cattle ranch was first purchased in 1941 by Charlie Mack Overstreet, who was only 16 yrs. old at the time. He had to have someone go with him to vouch for the \$7,000.00 sale price. He and his son

Mail Your Digital Photography Questions in Advance of the December Meeting.

Bea Stein

Have you ever tried to photograph a flower with your digital camera and ended up with an unfocused or overexposed white blur? Or, have you ever unintentionally created a series of background shots of leaf litter, minus the beautiful bloom you were trying to capture? Digital photography often provides beautiful images with the convenience of instant processing and

Mark, who both still reside on adjacent homesteads, recently sold the bulk of the property to the state for \$54 million. So now the state of Florida and its residents have 5100 acres which will "provide resource-based recreation, cultural resource preservation and safeguard Florida's water supply," as stated by DEP Secretary Colleen M Castille during the public announcement. There are natural areas, pasture with bahia and St. Augustine grass, and some deep water lakes from limerock mines. It will be interesting to See "Colt Creek" page 2

Colt Creek continued from page 1.

observe how this develops into a place for restoration, camping, hiking, horseback riding, bicycling, fishing and other outdoor endeavors. A limited opening with public access is now due to take place sometime in January of 2007. Work has already begun on a parking area, information kiosk, restrooms and road improvements. There are deer, turkeys, some nesting eagles, Sherman fox squirrels and coyotes, just to name a little of the known wildlife. Scott Spaulding, the manager and longtime friend of the Tarflower Chapter from Tosohatchee, spent time with us talking about the plans that are being proposed.

We then piled into Scott's pick-up truck for a lively ride to a pine flatwoods area, where we stopped



Pine Flatwoods
Photo by Bea Stein

at various places to check out the fauna. It's getting late in the year, but we still saw some blooms. The Deer-tongue (*Carphephorus paniculata*) were really spectacular. Some of the other blooms seen were *Helianthus angustifolius*, *Chrysopsis mariana*, *Lobelia glandulosa*, *Hypericum cistifolium*, *Rudbeckia hirta* and *Ipomoea cordatotriloba*.



Carphephorus paniculatus
Photo by Bea Stein

After thanking Scott for our visit we headed down the road to Gator Creek Reserve, which is part of Polk County's Environmental Lands Program. We ate lunch under a shaded picnic shelter and then took a walk on one of its trails before heading home. Often it's not just the place we go to see, but it is the camaraderie that develops among Tarflower members who participate that is the highlight of our field trips. Thanks to those who helped put the trip together and to those who showed up to make it happen.



Lobelia glandulosa
Photo by Bea Stein

Dead Alligator

Jean Vasicek

Many readers were disturbed by last month's photo of the dead alligator. As one of our largest predators, alligators serve an important role in preserving Florida's natural habitat. Their use as a food source for man should be discouraged.

I recently witnessed an alligator hunt. A chicken was attached to a thick metal chain with a huge hook. The chain was tethered to the lakeside with a large stake, and the chicken was thrown into the water. The alligator soon took the bait, enjoying the fresh chicken meat until the metal hook pierced through his intestines, ripping the lining of his stomach. After thrashing about for quite some time, the alligator freed himself and swam away. He lived for several days in agony, awaiting death. See "Alligator" page 3.

HOLIDAY GATHERING

Pam Ehle

Please join us for the Holiday Gathering of the Tarflower Chapter of the FNPS, Saturday, December 9 from noon until ??? We will eat around 3 p.m. at Pam and Rick Ehle's home, 785 Scooter Pt., Geneva, Fl. 32732. I'll be cooking chili on the open fire, greens, cornbread and Honey baked ham. We'll have ice tea, water and soda. Please bring chairs and any beverage that you would like other than tea or soda. Bring a covered dish to share - salads, veggies, dessert or whatever you choose. If you have seeds to swap, bring those also.



Directions to our house below. Any questions call Pam at 407-349-0500.

From SR 436 and Aloma/SR 426 go East.
Right on W. Mitchell Hammock Rd.,
Left on Lockwood Rd.,
Right of CR426/Oviedo Rd.,
Left on Fl - 46,
Right on Avenue C,
Left on Old Geneva Rd,
Right on W, Osceola Rd.,
Left on Shawnee Trail,
Right on Burnt Tree Way,
Left on Scooter Pt.

EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES - Daniela DeBiase

- **Tuesday, December 5 – A Mini Bazaar at the December Tarflower Chapter Meeting.** Because our goal is to make this your one stop shopping event for the holidays while you support your local chapters of FNPS, the meeting will run from 6pm to 9pm. Shop at our mini bazaar from 6pm to 7pm, and after the talk. This year we'll have t-shirts, Origami, Cards By Peg and Peg, Jean's delicious

raw honey by Winter Park Honey and some wonderful pure homemade soap by Herbal Elements Natural Soap. Most of these items are available in convenient gift packages. Cards by Peg and Peg does special orders for the holidays. If you would like to pick up your special order at the December 5th meeting, e-mail them at cardsbypegandpeg@earthlink.net or you may call me at 407 423 3554 and I can forward your contact information to them. 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. See you Tuesday!

WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING

- **Trout Lake Nature Center** has a number of programs open to the public during December. Here are a few examples. On **Monday, December 11** enjoy a Holiday Walk along Timicuan Trail, at Alexander Spring. Meet 9:00 am at TLNC, 9:30 at the Spring. On **Friday December 22**, at 9:30 am TLNC will have a Holiday Walk and Craft. On **Wednesday, December 27** at 9:30 am take advantage of an opportunity to tour Wolf Branch Sink. This property is not yet open to the public, so it should be a unique experience. For information on any of these programs call 352 357 7536.
- **Kissimmee Valley Audubon Society** has organized a **Christmas Bird Count** for Saturday, December 30th. Anyone who wants to participate can call Larry Rosen at 407 729 5168.

Alligator *continued from page 2.*

Alligator hunters make their profit from retrieving and selling the dead carcass. Unfortunately, the necessity of the alligator hunter was created by man. Alligators have a natural fear of man and do not usually pose a threat. The alligator only becomes dangerous when there fear of man is diminished when fed by the hand of man.

Please look for future Tarpaper articles concerning the importance of the alligator for preserving our natural Florida habitat.

Receive Your 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 T's are available in S, M, and L for \$15. The scoop neck T's are available in S, and XL for \$16 each. 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, December 5** 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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