



the **Tarpaper**

The Tarflower Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society



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JUNE PROGRAM: Prescribed Fire

Zachary A. Prusak is the Florida Fire Manager for The Nature Conservancy (TNC). The Florida Chapter of TNC owns and manages approximately 49,000 acres of conservation land in Florida, most of which requires some level of fire management. As the Florida Fire Manager, Zach supports members of the Florida Fire Team, which represent the on-site fire leaders and crew at places such as the Apalachicola Bluffs and Ravines Preserve, the Disney Wilderness Preserve and the Tiger Creek Preserve by making sure they have the training necessary to safely implement prescribed fires. He also leads prescribed fires on areas that have no on-site fire staff. He also works with state, federal, local and private conservation groups in order to promote fire-training opportunities and facilitate fire-on-the-ground partnerships, while serving as the Florida TNC liaison on national fire issues.

Prior to joining The Nature Conservancy, Zach was the South Region Land Manager for the Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands Program, conducted fires and studied mosquito populations with the Reedy Creek Improvement District, and worked as a Biologist for the Florida Park Service. Zach has over 17 years' experience working with prescribed fire, and is qualified as a Prescribed Fire Burn Boss Type 2 (RXB2). Zach holds both an M.S. and B.S. in Biology from the University of Central Florida.

He has served as the Chair of the Central Florida Prescribed Fire Council, and is an active member of the International Association of Wildland Fire and the National Center for Science Education.



Zachary A. Prusak

JUNE FIELD TRIP: Alexander Springs ***Mike Dinardo***

On June 9th, we will be traveling over to Ocala National Forest to Alexander Springs Recreation Area. Besides boasting a beautiful, first magnitude spring, This recreation area has a several hiking opportunities that include cabbage palm swamp forest, mesic bottomland, scrubby flatwoods, and sand pine habitats. A majority of the trails include large distances of canopy; however, be sure to bring sunscreen as the sand pine areas offer little to no protection. Also, bring mosquito repellent, portable liquids, lunch (large coolers are fine as the parking lots is centrally located) and the \$4 entrance fee. Trails and plants will be explored in the morning. In the afternoon we can swim and enjoy the spring. Canoeing is also available for an additional hourly fee.

A carpool will be meeting at 2711 West Fairbanks Avenue, Winter Park, FL 32789 (the Lotspeich and Associates Inc. office building) at 8:00 a.m. Others can meet at the park at 9:30 a.m.

Alexander Springs is located in Astor Florida off of SR 40. From the intersection of State Roads 19 and 40 in the Ocala National Forest, drive south on SR 19 about 9 miles and turn left (NE) on SR 445 and go about five miles to the well-signposted entrance to the Alexander Springs Recreation Area. Detailed maps can be found at <http://www.thiswaytothe.net/springs/> (Maybe we will see a bear!)

Plant Rescue Jackie Rolly

A Plant Rescue is scheduled for the Orlando International Airport (OIA), June 16, 2007. Please meet at the Park and Ride at SR 15 (Narcosee Road) and SR 528 (the Beachline) at 0830 AM. Bring pots, shovels, trowels, and water for the plants rescued, and be sure and bring a hat, insect repellent, sunscreen, and water for yourself. The area will probably be the same as the last times, but we may try and find a new site. There are still plenty of pitcher plants, wire grass, and other wet plants to be rescued. If you plan on attending, please contact Marge Holt at 407-679-6759 if you plan on coming.

In Memory of Claud Letanosky

Jackie Sward

Claud Letanosky of Windermere, a long time member of the Tarflower Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society, died March 28, 2007. His wife, Marion, and his family have asked that memorials to Claud be given to the Tarflower Chapter of FNPS, PO BOX 536021, Orlando, FL 32853-6021. A gathering in honor of CLaud was held Sunday, April 1, 2007, at his home.



Claud Letanosky

FNPS 27th Annual Conference *Dani DeBiase*

The Florida Native Plant Society 27th Annual Conference was great! Its location was particularly appealing. The conference hotel was right across the street from the Harn Museum of Art (where we went for the Saturday night gala) and the Florida Museum of Natural History (where we had our Friday night social). Both are cultural landmarks on the University of Florida campus. The following are a few highlights from my notes:

Throughout the four days, there was an emphasis on managing invasive exotics on public lands. Erick Smith of the University of Florida described some pest plant management techniques. A successful management plan begins by evaluating three questions: Where are we? Where are we going? How do we get there? This would be a good time to set up some goals. Is the site to be completely free of invasive exotics or just to some degree? Dr Smith gave us a good outline on how to develop a site plan for managing invasive exotics.

Now that the invasive exotics are under control Hector Perez, Assistant Professor in the Environmental Horticulture Dept at UF gave us some Techniques, Tips, and Tricks for Propagating Native Plants. Here are a few of his tips: When doing vegetative propagation get cuttings early in the morning or late in the afternoon. Water the plant a few days prior. Take root cuttings in late winter or early spring. Division is easy. Just dig up the rhizomes, cut off a section, wash off enough soil to see the roots and chop in sections. Then Paul Schmalzer and Tammy Foster described the role of disturbance in maintaining rare scrub plants. Many of the scrub plants need bare sand. Often fire is used to achieve this. Where a burn is not practical



Sacoilas

Photo by Chuck Roux

mechanical or chemical techniques can achieve the same end. If the canopy is not opened, a hardwood invasion occurs. Though it was not part of the program, some of us went to the bat house on the UF campus to watch the bats go out for a night of catching mosquitoes

Jackie Rolly went to the McGuire Center Butterfly Garden and Vivarium for one of her field trips. Let her tell you a little about it: "We toured the Butterfly rainforest with Jaret Daniels. The forest has 6,400 square feet of living tropical rainforest supporting 2000 free flying butterflies from around the world. We then toured the Florida Wildflower and Butterfly Garden at the Florida Museum of Natural History. The newly installed outdoor exhibit showcased a variety of native Florida plants that help attract over 186 species of Florida butterflies. Host and nectar plants were included."

Now something on our local celebrities: Eugene and Catherine Stoccardo won the First Place 2007 Landscape Award in the Homeowner Design category for the beautiful job they did landscaping their Orlando home. Catherine also won first place for the plant ID contest on Friday night.

Gregg Walker endorsed a project by Melanie Brodhead that won a Grant Award. She will restore threatened hooded pitcherplant (*Sarracenia minor*) habitat within the Wekiva River Basin State Parks. Melanie's project is sponsored by us (Tarflower Chapter)! Way to go Gregg!

Board Meetings *Catherine Read*

The June, July and August board meetings will be held at the home of Catherine Read on the third Friday of each month from 6 to 8 p.m. We will be back at Langford Park in September. Call Catherine for details.

APRIL FIELD TRIP Pete Dunkelberg

April's field trip was at The Wiregrass Preserve in Volusia county. We especially wanted to find a rare species of pawpaw, *Deeringothamnus rugelii* or Rugel's pawpaw, found only in Volusia. Trip leader Mike Dinardo led us to a promising area. There were lots of pawpaws there, but they all seemed to be ordinary *Asimina reticulata*. Rugel's pawpaw was not in bloom;



it blooms rarely except after fire and the blooms are distinctive. So the many blooming pawpaws could be ruled out. Rugel's pawpaw only grows to at most 22 cm high, so large specimens could be ruled out. But that still left a lot of small pawpaws to check. Luckily Dr. Eliane Norman, who has published research on pawpaws, was along to help identify the species. As she explained, Rugel's pawpaw unlike *A. reticulata* has few if any hairs (visible with a hand lens) on the lower surface of leaves, and if present they are on midrib. In addition the leaves are a little thinner and are not curled under at their edges.

At last we found not just one but a small colony of *D. rugelii*, not in bloom. A GPS location was taken so that we can keep watch in case there ever is reason to expect blooms. We also found a couple *A. pygmaea* and other flatwoods plants.

Then we proceeded down a very slight slope toward an area with lots of second growth pond pines, some cypress, and other trees. As we went downslope

we saw the little Ladies'-tresses orchids in the grass. Within the slight and very dry depression we found pitcher plants and sundews, blue berries and Lyonia, magnolia and tupelo trees, bromeliads and lichens and fledgling red shouldered hawks. Soon it was time to hike back to our cars for lunch and conversation.



What's Blooming in Wekiwa

Take a journey to different areas within the park to explore, identify, and discuss what's in bloom. Led by a volunteer, this program is fun for all ages, regardless of your knowledge of plants! Participants should be capable of walking two miles unassisted. Please be sure to wear appropriate footwear and clothing. Sunblock, insect repellent, and refreshments are also suggested. Pets are prohibited. Pre-registration is required and participation is limited to 15 people. To register please call Jessica at (407) 884-2006.

WHEN: 3rd Saturday of the month from 9am to 11am

COST: Included in park \$5 fee

WHERE: Wekiwa Spring State Park, 1800 Wekiwa Circle, Apopka, FL 32712

Receive Tarpaper on Line! If you wish to receive the *Tarpaper* on line please send your email address to fnps@WinterParkHoney.com. All future changes/corrections to email addresses should be sent to this address also.

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/Gift
\$30 Renewing Individual
\$40 Family/Household
\$50 Contributing/ 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 5** at 7:00 P.M. Refreshments 6:30. 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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