



the Tarpaper

The Tarflower Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society



Volume: **XVIX** August 2007 ISSUE

August 7 Program: Birds and their use of Native Plants by David Hartgrove

David began birding 30 years ago when he bought his first field guide. It was a little over 20 years ago that it became an obsession. In 1985 he and his wife of 31 years became involved with a project called the Florida Breeding Bird Atlas. This was a 5-year project to map the territories of all of the bird species breeding in Florida. That's every bit as daunting a task as it sounds. They worked primarily in Volusia County and by the time the project ended he was really hooked on birding. Having spent time in the field with some very experienced people, he learned as much as he could from them. He also read everything he could get his hands on and learned that way also.

He has lead birding trips for the Nature Conservancy, the Museum of Arts and Sciences in Daytona Beach, Audubon of Florida, and the Space Coast Birding and Wildlife Festival. He has been the compiler of the Daytona Beach Christmas Bird Count and the Volusia County Spring and Fall Migration Counts for 10+ years and he has been the Conservation Chair for Halifax River Audubon for 17 years.

David grew up in Miami and August will be 42 years that he has worked for Florida Power & Light. The use of their bucket truck has come in handy many times putting baby owls and hawks back in their nests and doing surveys of rooftop colonies of Least Terns.

David Hartgrove's topic will be **birds and their use of native plants**. His presentation is a series of pictures of both subjects set to music. He will let it run and then take questions from the audience

Environmental Consciousness Jackie Rolly

Saturday, August 18, 2007, 10:00 AM - Noon

Palm Room, Leu Gardens, Orlando

Instructor: Gabrielle Milch

Fee: \$14 (Members \$8)

Do we really have an environmental consciousness? Is a person born with an environmental consciousness? What is natural law? Is pollution out of control? Does life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness mean that there will be no natural ecosystems for future generations? Bring a friend and come over to participate in this interesting discussion for open minds and explore learning more about developing an environmental consciousness. Reference materials will be available for your collection.

Upcoming Fieldtrips

August 11, 2007 - We are going to the new Seminole County Black Hammock Wilderness Park! We will meet at 7:30 a.m. in the Popeye's Chicken parking lot which is just north of S. R. 426 (Aloma Ave) on S. R. 434 (Alafaya Trail) in downtown Oviedo. Some of us previewed the trail this past Sunday and were very excited about the variety of vegetative community types (very nice open scrubby areas to shady hydric hardwood hammocks) and the variety of plants there. For example, this is one of the few places - and farthest south in the U. S. - where basswood grows. These lovely trees were fruiting and they have very unusual bracts at the base of the flower stalks. We also saw one of our native milkweed vines, *Matelea gonocarpus*, (a state threatened species) which was flowering along the boardwalk. Come join Rick Ehle, Mike Dinardo, and special guest host, Jim Duby from the Seminole County Natural Lands Division for an interesting hike along the wilderness trails. Jim will introduce us to the park and its history; and, with his background in herpetology (reptiles and amphibians), will help us to look for some critters! Rick has spent many hours in this part of the county and can help you learn about the interesting plants along the trails - ask him to point out the big pawpaws (*Asimina parviflora*) that we found loaded with fruit. Mike will talk to you about the function and interactions of the different vegetative communities

through which you will pass. Bring water and an easily portable lunch (it's about a 4+ mile loop trail, if you choose to walk the whole way). Long sleeves, pants, a hat, and comfortable shoes are a good idea; but, you probably don't have to worry much about wet feet - although it looks like parts of the trail will be squishy later in the rainy season. Of course, we always recommend insect repellent, but this time you should be aware that there were a fair number of mosquitoes when we were out on Sunday. Here is a map of the meeting location. We can caravan or carpool from the Popeye's; the park is about a 15 minute drive northeast from there. The parking at the trailhead is a bit limited.

Early Notice about October Field Trip!!!! We are going to the panhandle of Florida!!!! This will be the weekend of the **October 12-13**. We will plan to leave on Friday afternoon and drive to the Tallahassee or Marianna area (details to be sorted out later with whoever is going) to spend the night. We will tour some fabulous natural areas around Apalachicola National Forest that include vast pitcher plant bogs as well as steepheads and ravines that support hardwoods that are more typical of the southern Appalachians. On Sunday, there will be more natural areas to visit or the Marianna Caverns State Park. Former Tarflower member Cindi Stewart has graciously coordinated with other Tarflower friends from the panhandle - you never know who might turn up - to provide or assist with our accommodations and our site-seeing. It should be a great trip. We need to know as early as possible who will be going, in order to begin to arrange accommodations and transportation. A sign-up sheet for this trip will be passed around beginning at the August meeting. Tarflower's last trip to the panhandle was in the spring; so, we are looking forward to wonderful fall displays of wildflowers and grasses on this adventure! **Start planning now to join us.**

Upcomg Plant Rescue Jackie Rolly

A plant rescue is scheduled at a sandhill/scrub site in Osceola County. Meet on Saturday 18 August, at 7:30 AM, at the Publix at the Town Center on SR 192 and E. Orange Lake Blvd. The Publix is located approximately 4.5 miles from the intersection of SR 192 and I-4, heading West on SR 192 (beyond entrance to Disney).

Bring shovels, trowels, pots, and plenty of water for the plants. Be sure and wear a hat, sunscreen, insect repellent and bring plenty of drinking water for yourselves. We will meet at the Publix and caravan to the site. Parking at the site is very limited, recommend carpooling where possible.

There are a variety of federally endangered plants at the site that we will be providing to Biosphere and Bok Tower Conservation for their restoration of

similar sites. There are plenty of plants such as Liatris, paintbrush, and others that are not endangered or threatened also which need rescuing.

Please contact either Jackie Rolly at Email: j.y.rolly@att.net, or cell: 407-620-6963, or Marge Holt at marjorieholt@earthlink.net, for further information and let them know if you are coming so we don't leave anyone behind.

Day-flower Paul Eisenbrown

Often we don't take the time to examine all the parts of a flower, even though most of the guide books explain them in the descriptions. The Day-flower, or *Commelina erecta*, is a very pretty bloom with two large blue petals and a small inconspicuous white one, giving it the appearance of mouse ears. The androecium or male flower parts, consists of six stamens. Three of the stamens are fertile, of which there are two types, and three are sterile, called staminodes. It might be interesting to review some of the studies to find out the purposes of each stamen type and also check into the history of the genus origin. The flower genus was named by Linnaeus in honor of two Dutch botanists, Jan Commelijn (1629-1692) and Caspar Commelijn (1667-1731), each represented by one of the large petals.

Take a closer at one or two flowers that hold



Day Flower
Photo by Bea Stein

your interest. There is always something new to learn.

Plant Rescue Jackie Rolly

What a great day at the plant rescue site in Osceola County. Thanks to Maesbury Homes, Inc., who provided us access to their development site, the



- Larry Rosen with *Asclepias humistrata*

Oakland Nature Preserve has an incredible amount and variety of sandhill/scrub plants for their restoration. Over 120 plants were salvaged in just over 2 hours of hot and sweaty effort by 13 people from both the Pinelilly and Tarflower chapters. Larry Rosen of the Tarflower and Pinelilly Chapters was our hero of the day. Check out the photo of his success in getting the entire 5 foot root of the *Asclepias humistrata*. That took patience, skill and fortitude to not lose even the lateral secondary roots. The majority of the plants salvaged included *Liatris*, *Carphephorus corymbosus*, *Polygonella robusta* (not too sure on the species), *Cuthbertia ornata*, *Penstemon multiflorus*, and day flower. Not to worry that there's nothing left, we haven't touched the endangered plants such as the *Eriogonum longifolium* and *Polygonella myriophylla*. We are saving them until they have completed blooming and have put out seeds. Only about one third of the



Marge Holt, Jason Sharman (UCF Arboretum), Larry Rosen and Gary Graham

property was worked on, so we need just as many people to come out in the following months to this wonderful, rare, site.

Our thanks to the many volunteers who came out so early on a Saturday, the weather cooperated (it didn't rain), and there were many hands to dig and lug pots back to the Oakland Preserve van.



Tom Rodrigues of Oakland Nature Preserve and Marge Holt

Developer Initiates Wildflower Plan For Langford Hotel at the Corner of New England and Interlachen Streets in Winter Park Jan Nichols

It is time for all of us to start "thinking green," and drought-resistant Florida native plants can figure prominently in landscaping done by government entities along roadways, and on construction sites or vacant lots. Developer John Anderson of Winter Park, with encouragement from Tarflower member Jan Nichols, has enlisted the help of Glen Acomb of the University of Florida to design a temporary landscape plan for his development site.

As is often the case when construction delays a proposed project, a city requests that a property owner apply turf seed as a measure of erosion control, and as an effort to improve the appearance of a site. However, when turf is planted, the turf requires irrigation, causing a significant expenditure of water to keep the turf alive as well as regular mowing and the resultant gasoline engine emissions. This is costly and not a sustainable solution to the problem, especially in terms of water conservation.

Glenn Acomb, ASLA, a Lecturer in the Department of Landscape Architecture at the University of Florida, has made the following recommendations in his temporary landscape plan for the construction site:

Plant wildflower seed throughout the site. By planting a mix of native plants that are adapted to the Central Florida climate and provide color at various times of the year, there will be a good solution that is also less dependent on watering. This will be achieved by mixing *argentine bahia* seed with the wildflowers in order to achieve “green” cover of the bare areas and to better compete with weeds.

Seeds will be procured from Central Florida source plants, wherever possible, to provide for the greatest measure of success.

Further, this project will investigate and demonstrate to others that a more sustainable solution is possible, with the intent that the wildflowers produce an attractive solution, too. The plantings will attract butterflies and not require regular mowing, thus reducing emissions and noise created by gasoline motors.

Use a local contractor that is experienced with native wildflowers. Green Images, a local and established native plant nursery will be used as coordinator or contractor of the project.

All Tarflower members are encouraged to urge their elected officials to cut irrigation use and mowing by planting less turf and more Florida native plants, especially wildflowers.



Black Hammock Preserve
Photo by Paul Eisenbrown

- \$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 August 7** 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.

President - Catherine Read 407-896-5931; cread@lotspeichandassociates.com
 Vice President (Programs) - Brent McCallister 407-834-7574; mcallisterfamily@hotmail.com
 Vice President (Events) - Daniela DeBiasse 407-423-3554; evybaby@juno.com
 Secretary - Jackie Rolly 407-359-4963; jyroly@att.net
 Treasurer - Jackie Sward 407-647-5233; jackrabbh31@hotmail.com
 Field Trips - Mike Dinardo 386-235-1378; mdinardo@lotspeichandassociates.com
 Memberships - Phyllis Gray 407-253-5462 (W); psgrey@macie.com
 Director - Rick Ehle 407-349-0502
 Plant Rescue - Marge Holt 407-679-6759
 Editor - Jean Vasicek 407-363-9061; fnps@InterParkHoney.com
 WebMaster - Daniela DeBiasse 407-423-3554; evybaby@juno.com
 Mailing - Chuck Roux 407-851-8889; chroux@bellsouth.net
 WEBSITE - <http://fnps.org/chapters/tarflower/main.html>

Tarflower Chapter
Florida Native Plant Society
P.O. Box 536021
Orlando, FL 32853-6021

