



the Tarpaper

The Tarflower Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society



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NOVEMBER PROGRAM: *Protecting Florida's Future Water Supply Through Wise Landscaping*

On Tuesday, November 6, 2007 a special panel discussion entitled **Protecting Florida's Future Water Supply Through Wise Landscaping** will be presented from 6:45 until 9:00 PM at Leu Gardens, 1920 N. Forest Avenue, Orlando (www.leugardens.org).

Do you know over 50% of our drinking water goes on our lawns? Come hear from regulatory and landscaping experts on how we can conserve water and create a new landscaping vision for Central Florida. Questions will be taken from the floor.

The introduction will be given by Jim Thomas, Biosphere Consulting, Inc. Speakers will include Catherine Johnson, Orange County EPD, Tom MacCubbin, Extension Agent Emeritus, Jay Stainer, Oviedo Water Conservation Office William Bissett, Landscape Architect, Chris Byrd, Everglades Law Center, David Drylie, Landscape Architect, Robert Fewster, Water Use Regulation Division, SJRWMD, Jack Stout, Professor of Ecology, University of Central Florida.

The plant raffle and regular business items will be postponed until our next regular meeting on December 4. The meeting is open to the Public. Information handouts will be available.

PLANT RESCUE Jackie Rolly

LAST CHANCE - plant rescue at the Warea Site. There's still plenty of plants left, liatris, paintbrush, lopsided indian grass, greeneyes, etc. It's amazing to see the transformation of the seasons on this rescue area. So, lets meet at the Publix parking lot, at 08:00 AM, 17 November, SR 192 and East Orange Lake Blvd. Bring shovels, trowels, water for the plants and yourself. I have plenty of pots, just need people. Let me know if you are attending: Jackie Rolly, j.y.roll@att.net, or 407-620.6963.

SEPTEMBER TRIP Rick Ehle

For our September field trip, we picked a nice cool location, and visited the Herbarium at the University of Central Florida. Dr. Elizabeth Harris and her most capable grad assistant, Courtney Knickerbocker were gracious enough to take time from their schedules to show us the facility. Courtney has done a wonderful job of getting the specimens in order, remounting some of the older specimens and in general getting the collection shipshape. This herbarium was not used to compile data for Wunderlin & Hanson's project of listing the vascular flora of Florida, hence a portion of Central Florida has no representation in their book. I believe Dr. Harris told us that there were approximately 15,000 specimens in their collection. The only type plants were bryophytes, and this was to be expected due to the University having both Dr. Henry Whittier and Dr. Al Miller on their faculty.

For those members of Tarflower who would really like to learn native plants and botany, they are looking for volunteers to help them at the Herbarium. They have a need to compile a database of specimens as well as normal work with the specimens. If anyone is interested, contact Jackie Rolly and she will see that you get to the right person.

After our visit at the Herbarium, we went on a short tour of the Arboretum. Plants are being re-arranged according to geography, and exotic invasives in the natural areas are being eliminated. If you have any free time, please contact Jackie and she will put you to work.

NOVEMBER FIELD TRIP Jackie Rolly

The November 10th Field Trip will be at the Central Florida Zoo in Sanford from 9:00AM to 12:00PM. Park in the Main parking lot and meet at the front entrance to the Zoo at 8:45AM. We will be assisting the Zoo nursery in propagating the Okeechobee Gourd, also known as the Indian pumpkin (*Cucurbita okeechobeensis*). In the past, this very rare gourd was found mainly along the southern shores of Lake Okeechobee in alligator nests among the pond apple orchards. However, by the 1930's, this habitat had
See 'Field Trip' page 2.

FIELD TRIP *continued from page 2.*

been 95% decimated by the growing spread of agriculture. In 1994, the gourd was discovered along the St. John's River in Volusia County, near willows and elderberries, and, again, in alligator nests. The Okeechobee gourd remains an elusive, but beautiful reminder of the very fragile Florida ecosystem. The plant is listed as Federally Endangered. A cutting was donated to the Zoo by Pam and Rick Ehle and it has since grown extensively over the greenhouse, into a natural area, and all around the ground. Our task is to take clippings and pot them up. If there is time and enough people, we can also help clip and pot up the Florida cucumber too. So, bring gloves, trowels, clippers, insect repellent, and proper clothes for working in the natural, wet areas. The Zoo will provide the soil, pots and expertise. Afterwards Zoo personnel will provide the volunteers with a back-stage tour of the Zoo where they have been restoring the habitat with native plants (check out the crocodile enclosure). They will also tell us the backgrounds of various animals in the Zoo. The Zoo has a small cafeteria where you can eat or you can bring your own lunch. The more people who attend, the faster and more work can be accomplished to help preserve this rare and beautiful gourd.

FALL BLOOMS *Paul Eisenbrown*

October has been an excellent month for flowers, as this is when the really "showy" ones can be seen. The *Carphephorus*, *Liatris*, Yellow Buttons and October-flower species of the sandhills offer a variety of color. A friend of mine from Polk County sent me an e-mail about just getting back from Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park, where the group saw fields of blooming *Carphephorus*. In Wekiwa some of us encountered the unusual white version of a *Liatris tenuifolia*, which can be seen in the attached picture. Shadow Bay Park in Orange County also had a couple of the white ones. Keep getting out when you have the chance. You will be well rewarded.



Liatris tenuifolia
Photo by Paul Eisenbrown

ATTACK OF THE KILLER POTATOES! *Marilu Dempsey*

This is your FLO News Network (FNN) reporting from the front line. Unbelievably, as Florida Disappears beneath a Giant Vine, one lucky family has chopped its way to safety.

We bring you an exclusive interview with the Wislow family, the latest, and possibly last, group to make it out before the state is engulfed in a green, writhing, all encompassing, tangle of vines. We caught up with the Wislows at the Florida border, as they were gassing up their SUV before continuing their flight, desperately trying to out-drive the vine.

FNN: "Tell us, Mr. Wislow, how did it feel?"

"I was never so scared in my life!" said Homer Wislow, as he wiped beads of sweat from his forehead. "The dang weed had me around my ankles but I fought it off with Ma's hack saw."

"We thought we were goners", chimed in Ma, "We've been through hurricanes, tornados, famine, and even the drought of '98, but I never thought I'd live to see anything like this."

"Sorry, we can't stop now, the vines coming this way and it's hungry!" shouted Mr. Wislow as they sped away.

Family and friends are anxiously awaiting news from loved ones trapped by The Vine. Before the Wislows' miraculous escape, the last communication from inside was two days ago. At that time, seasonal afternoon thunderstorms resulted in an unprecedented spurt of growth from the monstrous weed.

By last official record The Vine was growing at the incredible rate of a foot per second. That recorded growth, as you know, was measured before Noxious Weed Investigators were recalled due to safety concerns.

"It's just too dangerous", stated Dr. Donald Weede, Head of NSA, Division of Invasive Plant Control. "We have received first hand reports of The Vine devouring trees, power poles, houses, and even slow moving vehicles in its path," said Dr. Weede. "Sadly, there are reports that Cinderella's castle went in the early hours of the growing frenzy. But don't worry folks, Micky, Cinderella, and all their friends have been air-lifted to a safe location."

We are broadcasting this public service announcement by satellite in hopes of reaching survivors inside. "If you are trapped, keep hunkered down, stay clear of The Vine, and don't stand still near it", warns Dr. Weede. "And never ever stand under one. you risk being consumed or of having a cannon See 'Potatoes' page 4.

OCTOBER FIELD TRIP *Pete Dunkelberg*

Our October field trip to the Panhandle was superb! On arrival Friday afternoon to a location deep in the panhandle and miles from any city we had a tour of the Stewart property, where a succession of two prescribed fires has brought out an abundance of wildflowers.

Liatrix elegans and *Hibiscus aculeatus*, the pineland hibiscus, were

the most striking. After dark we had a fine supper. The Stewarts are former Tarflower members who, together with the MacClendons provided us all

with places to sleep or camp. Their hospitality was the key to the trip.

Saturday morning we drove 20 miles or so to get breakfast (we were out in the country after all) and meet our excellent guides, Guy Anglin and Billy Booth. Then we were off to the Apalachicola national forest. Driving on the back roads in the forest we see from our cars that areas which had been burned were more interesting. We also saw that a safe prescribed burn in the winter did not bring out the wildflowers the way fire in spring or fall did.

We first went into a bog where we saw a couple species of *Sarracenia* (pitcher plants), *Chapman's aster*, a couple species of *Polygala*, pine lilies, sunflowers, club moss and of course much more. Then

we drove farther into the forest, past fields of purple flowers where fire had cleared the way. We stopped in a particularly diverse area. I can't begin

to name all the plants we saw there. I'll mention just one: *Carphephorus pseudoliatrix*.

After a lunch break we went into Tate's Hell <http://www.fl-dof.com/state_forests/tates_hell.html>. Again there were numerous species including lots of pitcher plants. We had a good hike through an area that should have been swamp, but it's been so dry there that



Liatrix elegans
Photo by Pete Dunkelberg

it was hard to find a mosquito, much less water. Deep in Tate's Hell we came upon a large area of *Drosera tracyi* (threadleaf sundews)



On the Trail in Tate's Hell
Photo by Pete Dunkelberg

glistening in the late afternoon light. After hiking back to our cars we went to one of the special bogs where



Threadleaf sundews
Photo by Pete Dunkelberg

Dionaea muscipula, the famous Venus Flytrap, has been introduced from the Carolinas.

Many, many thanks to our hosts Cindy and

David Stewart and Karen and Travis MacClendon whose generosity and hospitality was wonderful, and our guides Guy Anglin, retired forester, and Billy Boothe, president of the local North American Butterfly Association, both with impressive expertise. It was they who really made the trip a success for all.



Chapman's aster
Photo by Pete Dunkelberg



Cindy Stewart
Photo by Pete Dunkelberg

POTATOES continued from page 2.

ball size potato fall on your head.”

The National Guard has been called, and is currently massed at the Florida border, preparing for entry. But there are those that fear it is too little, too late.

The Weed Whackers, a vigilantly group, is seeking volunteers with experience fighting noxious plants. “We are mounting an emergency search and rescue mission. This Vine has crossed over, and we can’t just stand by and let this thing over-grow our families.” stated Forest Braveheart, chief Weed Whacker, “We have to do something now!”

Oops!

The credit for the picture of Walter Taylor in the October 2007 issue of the Tarpaper was incorrect. The photo was taken by Susan Young, not Pete Dunkelberg.

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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 6** 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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