



# the Tarpaper

The Tarflower Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society



Volume: XVX February 2008 ISSUE

## **FEBRUARY PROGRAM – “The Amazing World of Ants: A Complex World Under Your Feet” by Zachary Prusak**

Zachary A. Prusak is the Florida Fire Manager for The Nature Conservancy (TNC). The Florida Chapter of The Nature Conservancy owns and manages approximately 49,000 acres of conservation land in Florida, most of which requires some level of fire management.

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.

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.

Zach Prusak presented the June program “Prescribed Burns” and followed up in July with a field trip to Wekiwa Springs to give us a tour of a recent burn that he had coordinated. During that field trip, we discovered another one of Zach's passions. Besides fire, Zach's other interests include the study of ant biology and diversity. In August of 2001, Zach participated as an instructor in the international Ant Course held in Arizona, and in April of 2006, he traveled to Dominica with Mark Deyrup of the Archbold Biological Station to perform an ant diversity study of the island.

The February 5, 2008 program will be a slide show entitled “**The Amazing World of Ants: A Complex World Under Your Feet**”. The program will be presented at Leu Gardens, starting at 7:00 pm.



Zachary Prusak

## **PLANT RESCUE** Jackie Rolly

We will be going back to the Orlando International Airport for the February rescue. Kathy Hale has found us some new sites, basically wetlands, cypress domes. We'll meet at the 7/11 gas station on the corner of Narcoossee Road and the Beachline (Beeline) at 8:45 AM, 16 February. Bring a hat, shovel, insect repellent, water for yourself, and pots if you have any. This is going to be a wet rescue, so bring boots for walking through water. How deep? We'll see how much rain, but anticipate at least shin deep. We should find ferns, *spartina*, *juncus*, *tillandsia* (maybe), pickerel weed, etc. Again, the rescued plants are planned for the Central Florida Zoo. Please contact Jackie if you plan on coming.

[j.y.rolly@att.net](mailto:j.y.rolly@att.net)

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

*Pete Dunkelberg*

The Tarflower Chapter participates in many events where we set up a table, sometimes a tent as well, talk to people about native plants and landscaping, and hand out literature. The first event of 2008 was the Green Expo of the very large Northland church in Longwood. At times it was really hectic! We had great teamwork and succeeded with the largest crowds.

We have a lot of events lined up for the coming months:

**January 31:** Focus the Nation (at UCF)

**February 23:** Orlando Wetland Festival

**March 22:** Tibet-Butler festival

**March 29, 30:** Leu Gardens Plant Sale

**April 12:** Orange County Master Gardener Plant Sale

**April 19:** A Taste of Tosohatchee

We need members to help out at all these events. It's fun once you get the hang of it. Meanwhile, several members have put a lot of effort into producing new displays and handouts that will make it easier to answer the public's questions. Contact Pete Dunkelberg at [pdunkelberg@earthlink.net](mailto:pdunkelberg@earthlink.net) to join in the fun.

We also need volunteers for the following:

**Volunteer for the UCF Herbarium.** Dr. Harris needs help in data entry and other duties. Contact Dr. Katherine Harris at 407-716-9141. This is a great way to learn about native plants.

**Volunteer for committees at the Tarflower Chapter.** We need more people on the Membership, Programs, Events, and Field Trip Committees. Contact any board member if you are interested. See back of Tarflower for contact information.

### **UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS** *John Cento*

**Flat Island Preserve, Saturday, February 9** - As part of Lake County Water Authority's Environmental Endangered Lands Program, the Flat Island Preserve provides an upland hardwood forest surrounded by wetlands including a cypress swamp. Check out their website below: <http://www.lcwa.org> (Look under land resources, then preserves.)

Bring plenty of water and lunch, and dress for Florida outdoors. Books on shrubs, vines, fungi, and trees would be most useful. We will try to find the needle palms listed as onsite. Bring a lunch and a cloth to set on because while the trailhead has benches for lunch, no benches for rest breaks are present within the preserve. **Directions:** Take the Turnpike north to the Clermont/Leesburg exit (exit no. 285) and travel north on US 27 about 14 miles. Turn left onto CR 25A and then make an immediate right. Travel north on CR 25A until Owens Road and make a left. Follow Owens Road (a clay road) until it ends at the trailhead. Members and guests may arrange carpooling on their own. Meet at the trailhead at 9:00 a.m. After we finish, those inclined may stay for a picnic followed by a short trip to the famous Yalaha Country Bakery for dessert. Please call John Cento at (407) 913-2417 if you have any questions.

### **Oops!**

The announcement for 'What's Blooming in Wekiva' in last month's Tarpaper was in error. The program is no longer available.

\$25 Individual/Gift  
\$30 Renewing Individual  
\$40 Family/Household  
\$50 Contributing/ Non-Profit  
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\$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 February 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.

**Tarpaper Online!** A current issue of the tarpaper is always available at <http://winterparkhoney.com/images/tarpaper.pdf>. The tarpaper can also be viewed on line by accessing the state web site through FNPS.org. Click on Chapters -> Tarflower and follow the instructions to the tarpaper!



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