



# the Tarpaper

The Tarflower Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society



Volume: XXV March 2008 ISSUE

## **MARCH PROGRAM – “Have a Wild Time!”** By Peggy Lantz

Peggy Lantz is co-author with Dick Deuerling of Florida's Incredible Wild Edibles and was editor of The Palmetto and other FNPS publications for 15 years. She leads wild edibles walks around her Lake Lucy property and has given talks to other FNPS chapters and garden clubs. She and husband Don have been members of FNPS since its beginnings in 1980.

Peggy will bring edible plants to show and tell and will have some samples to share, including Beautyberry Jelly.

## **Plant Rescue** Jackie Rolly

We will be going to a new upland site for the rescue on 15 March. The site is at the expansion of the Pine Ridge Landfill at the intersection of Phil C. Peters Road (off Avalon Road) and Spyglass Hill Road. If you cross over the Lake County line, you've gone too far. However, plan on meeting at the Walgreens parking lot at the intersection of Winter Garden/Vineland Road and Tilden Road (Biosphere Consulting is just down on Tilden.) Meet at 0830 AM, it's getting hot and this is a scrub site. This is a new site, so we may spend some time just exploring. Bring a hat, shovel, trowel, pots and water for both yourself and the plants. We may be joined by members of the Beautyberry Chapter and members of DEP at Lake Louisa State Park. Rescues will be for restoration at Lake Louisa State Park, Oakland Nature Preserve and perhaps some Beautyberry sites. Please let Jackie Rolly know if you will be participating - j.y.rolly@att.net

## **FLORIDA YARDS AND NEIGHBORHOODS WORKSHOP**

Neta Villalobos-Bell

Getting Ready for Spring the Florida Friendly Landscape Way." The Florida Yards and Neighborhoods Program Workshop will be held on Thursday, March 13, 2008 from 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm at the Board of County Commissioners Chambers located at 1101 East 1st Street in Sanford. Attendees

will receive valuable information and materials from the University of Florida/IFAS on selecting right plants, watering efficiently, maintaining the landscape, and attracting wildlife. FREE. To register, call 407-665-5551

## **APRIL FIELD TRIP** Jackie Rolly

The April 12 Field Trip will be to the Archbold Biological Station at the southern end of the Lake Wales Ridge, near Lake Placid. Archbold is an independent, non-profit research facility, devoted to long-term ecological research and conservation. The Station owns and manages a 5,193-acre, globally significant natural preserve. This is one of the most distinctive natural regions in the United States. The Ridge is a north-south oriented sandy uplands at the center of the Florida peninsula. It is a series of relict dunes, reflecting its origins 2 million years ago as a shoreline feature during pre-Pleistocene sea level rises, and at times it was an archipelago. This isolation contributed to the evolution of the numerous endemic plants and animals of the Ridge; [many of these species are now on state or federal endangered species lists.](#) Native xeric uplands are dominated by pines, shrubby oaks, and hickory. The Ridge contains many sinkhole lakes caused by collapse of limestone deep beneath the overlying sands and clays. Archbold has been instrumental in developing a major plan for a network of biological preserves to protect the endangered habitats of the Lake Wales Ridge ecosystem. This plan includes the first National Wildlife Refuge in the United States to be designed around protection of endangered plants.

Since Archbold is quite some distance from Orlando and remote, this is being offered as an overnight field trip only. The Station has field trip lodging and meals available. There are 17 beds available on 12 April (with one queen bed available for a couple). Twin beds and twin bunk beds in cottages cost \$25 per person per night. In addition, there is a \$7 per person Station Facility Fee for all visitors. Meals can be served for groups of 10 or more, when reserved in advance, and are served in the Station dining room. Costs for meals are \$3 continental breakfast, \$6 lunch, and \$8 dinner.

Vegetarian options are available, when arrangements are made in advance. Check out time is 10:00 AM. Please plan on arriving at the Research Station in the morning. Lunch is served at 12:00PM. Our 2-3 hour escorted tour of the facilities and the scrub will be from 1:00 – 4:00 PM Saturday. This tour is also limited to 17-18 people. There are plenty of short hikes and other activities you can do Saturday morning or Sunday morning on your own.

Since the size of our group is limited, reservations will be handled on a **first pay** basis. Please complete the attached form for each person. Deadline is 1 April. If you have any questions, please call Jackie Rolly, at 407-620-6963 (cell), or email: j.y.rolly@att.net.

Please complete the form below per person attending the Archbold Field Trip. Total is \$49 if you will be joining us for the three meals. Please indicate if you wish vegetarian meals.

There is one queen size bed which can sleep two. If you wish this accommodation, please so indicate, however, the cost is still \$25/person. First pay will receive a reservation. Deadline for reservation and payment to the below is April 1, 2008.

**Archbold Biological Station  
Field Trip Reservation Form**

Name:	
Lodging	\$25.00
Facility Fee	\$ 7.00
Saturday Lunch (Vegetarian: Yes or No)	\$ 6.00
Saturday Dinner (Vegetarian: Yes or No)	\$ 8.00
Sunday Breakfast (Vegetarian: Yes or No)	\$ 3.00
Make check payable to: Jackie Rolly Mail to: 622 W. Palm Valley Drive Oviedo, FL 32765	

**FEBRUARY FIELD TRIP** John Cento

The needle palms were found! On Tarflower Chapter's February field trip, a goal was to find the needle palms *rhapidophyllum hystrix* listed on site as they are relatively rare this far south down the peninsula. Water Authority staff made the initial siting

easy, having incorporated the palms in the plantings at the trail head area. Later we found thickets upon thickets of the species along the moister edges of the island. A good turnout of eighteen, not including a guest hiker who joined us, encountered much else as well. Unexpected winter mosquitoes greeted us as we traversed the causeway from the trail head to the island. More excitement followed we came across roving ATV's of trappers removing feral hogs under contract with the Authority. Feral hogs are destructive through their rooting up of large patches of wetland habitat, so feral hog control is an integral part of environmental land management.

Our large group quickly elongated into several smaller clusters of botanists, as chapter members found plenty of species of interest. An early quandary was identifying a small tree before we even crossed the causeway: our best guess was *Prunus umbellata* Ell., commonly known as flatwoods plum or hog plum. Other species were, as best put by former CIA Director George Tenet, "a slam dunk." Among these was *Carpinus caroliniana* or Ironwood, with its tell-tale smooth, twisting, muscular-like bark. Ironwood is one of Florida's four members of the birch family *Betulaceae*. The other three: *betula nigra* (river birch), *alnus serrulata* (hazel alder), and *ostrya virginiana* (eastern hophornbeam) are restricted to norther reaches of the state. Speaking of families, we were fortunate to view a member of the Ericaceae in bloom: *lyonia ferruginea* (rusty lyonia). Its white and urn shaped flowers and its rust-colored pubescence were very helpful clues.

An additional small tree in bloom was *asimina parviflora* (Michx.) Dunal, or dwarf pawpaw. This pawpaw produces small maroon-colored flowers with an unusual but rather unpleasant fragrance.

Field trip members eventually made it to the cypress swamp along the sunny side of an old canal where black gum tupelos (*Nyssa biflora*) and the sabal minor were noted. Tupelo honey is very popular in north Florida for the smooth taste bees produce from its nectar.

By about noon, the smooth taste of food was on the minds of Tarflower members as we took a service road shortcut to a campfire circle under the trees, where we enjoyed a sociable picnic. Although admitted by few, the size of the caravan to the promised Yalaha Country Bakery clearly indicated less-than-scholarly motivations to join the field trip. Chapter members enjoyed delectable desserts in the adjoining outdoor cafe, looking foward to future field trips and springtime blooms.

## Orange County Code Enforcement

Jean Vasicek

During an extended 3 month trip this past summer, I received a certified letter concerning my yard from Orange County Code Enforcement. The letter stated that grass must be kept trimmed to 10" or less. The letter also complained of garbage littering my front yard. After reading the complaints, I breathed a sigh of relief and realized that the code enforcement officer had made a mistake. He must have been referring to someone else's yard since I have no grass, and definitely no garbage. When I phoned the code enforcement official to inform him of his mistake, he made it clear to me that *there was no mistake*. He'd been receiving complaints about my yard continuously throughout the summer.

I realized quickly that it wouldn't pay to argue about the fact that I had no grass and no garbage. I simply had to make my yard look better. Jackie Rolly came to

my rescue. She brought over a bunch of rescue plants and we went to work. It's amazing what can happen in just a few days! Thank you Jackie!

We've got a long way to go, but code enforcement was pleased with the intermediate results. Converting a lawn back to the way it should be is a lengthy process. The yard was, a short time ago, St Augustine grass from concrete edge to concrete edge. It's only been 3 years since the lawn was rounded up, removed and replaced with natives. Now, many transplanted, endangered species are thriving and providing habitat for an abundance of Wildlife. My place is the local hangout for every creature looking for refuge from pesticides and sterile landscapes. I wake in the morning to the sounds of numerous birds (mockingbirds, kingfishers, great blue herons, red-tail hawks, and many others). They praise the paradise that gives them refuge and a safe nights lodging on their long journeys to find new habitats.



Before Jackie and I went to work on the weeds.



After 2 days of hard work. The neighbors and OCCE Are both very pleased.



Another View of lawn looking out toward road.



Jackie Rolly after a hard days work. Still smiling! The day before, she would not have been visible.

## *Sabal minor* Description Chuck Roux



The *Sabal minor* has essentially no filaments, has essentially no leaf stem extending into the palmate part and is deeply cleft at the middle of the palmate fan. It does not have an above ground trunk and is usually associated with wet land, however it can do nicely in a yard with irrigation for Saint Augustine grass. The ID is in contrast with *Sabal etonia* which I personally cannot identify without it having an inflorescence and no trunk. The woman in the photo is Dani DeBiase. The man is unidentified.

\$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 March 4** 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!



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

President - Catherine Read 407-896-5931; cread@lotspeichandassociates.com  
Vice President (Programs) - Brent McCallister 407-834-7574; mccallisterfamily@hotmail.com  
Vice President (Events) - Pete Dunkelberg 407-894-8943; pdunkelberg@earthlink.net  
Secretary - Jackie Rolly 407-359-4963; j.y.rolly@att.net  
Treasurer - Irene Lauricella 407-539-1069; irenek921@yahoo.com  
Field Trips - Mike Dinardo 386-235-1378; mdinardo@lotspeichandassociates.com;  
Memberships - Phyllis Gray 407-253-5462 (W); psgray@mactec.com  
Director - Rick Ehle 407-349-0502  
Plant Rescue - Marge Holt 407-679-6759  
Editor - Jean Vasicek 407-363-9061; fnps@WinterParkHoney.com  
WebMaster - Daniela DeBiase 407-423-3554; evybaby@juno.com  
Mailing - Chuck Roux 407-851-8889; clroux@bellsouth.net  
WEBSITE - <http://fnps.org/chapters/tarflower/main.html>