



the Tarflower

The Tarflower Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society



Volume: XXV May 2008 ISSUE

MAY PROGRAM: Digging for Tomorrow

The May Program will feature Jackie Rolly and Marge Holt, two Tarflower members who have a passion for preserving Florida's unique and endangered plants. With no professional training but through long membership in the Native Plant Society, they have acquired the knowledge and techniques for digging, transplanting and caring for plants and trees salvaged from soon to be construction sites. The presentation will cover the history, regulatory process, challenges, and tips on salvaging some of Florida's disappearing ecosystems. Come learn how you can help preserve Florida's unique plants so your children can enjoy them. At the same time you can be increasing the biodiversity in the urban neighborhood and helping scientists conduct research on our endangered plant life.



Jackie Rolly and Marge Holt

PLANT RESCUE – Jackie Rolly

Some of the Rescue Team, Sharon Lynch, Jackie Rolly and Marge Holt had a great way to celebrate Earth day on April 22nd. They got to transplant some of the salvaged plants from the Osceola Sandhill and Alafaya Blvd sites at the Oakland Nature Preserve. This Preserve, currently owned by the town of Oakland, had previously served various purposes, developers, private owners, etc., but the upland portion had been an orange grove, which was frozen, and then replanted with slash pine. Restoration started soon after purchase in the 1990's. The slash pines, bananas, and other invasives were cleared, pioneer species were allowed to come up, See "Rescue" page 2.

HISTORIC BOK SANCTUARY - MAY

10th FIELD TRIP John Cento

When Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. transformed Iron Mountain near Lake Wales into a wonderland of exotic plant gardens centered around a fantastic bell tower, he gave Edward Bok, his patron, and 1920's America, something very new. Flash forward to the 21st century, Historic Bok Sanctuary (formerly Bok Tower Gardens) is providing something old, but refreshingly novel to contemporary Floridians: native plant gardens, restoration, and research on the Sunshine State's most ancient plant communities. Join the Tarflower chapter on May 10th at 9:00 am to discover the Sanctuary's endangered plant garden, the behind-the-scenes greenhouses where rare plant propagation is taking place, and the Pine

Ridge restoration site. After your taste for natural science has been sated, enjoy the singing bell tower and the panoramic views offered at peninsular Florida's highest elevation. Bring \$10 per adult admission (and extra cash for the fabulous gift shop) and meet just past the admission gatehouse. Email John Cento at jcentocpa@hotmail.com for more information.

June 14th Field Trip: Christmas Creek: Encounter the flora that stymied Maj. General Abraham Eustis in the Seminole War, but beautifies Central Florida today.



April Plant Rescue

Rescue continued from page 1.

including *prunus serotina* which shaded out the other exotics. Soon many of those pioneer species will be removed so it was a good time to plant our upland salvaged plant species. We planted a large *Ceanothus microphyllus*, *Liatris spp.*, *Commelina erecta*, *Elephantopus elatus*, *Berlandiera pumila/subacaulis*, *Sorghastrum secundum*, *Carphephorus corymbosus*, *Phoebanthus grandiflorus*, *Cuthbertia ornata*, *Pityopsis graminifolia*, *Dyschoriste oblongifolia*, *Galactia elliotti*, *Pterocaulon virgatum*, *Andropogon glomeratus*, *Penstemon multiflorus*, *Berlandiera subacaulis*. All in all we planted about 25 different upland plants. The photo shows us looking over the pots trying to figure out what we had. We'll be planting again as more property is cleared and made available.



Plants rescued from the Lake Buena Vista site. They transplanted easily. I'm not sure what they are. *Jean Vasicek*

Letter from Pat Burkett

Hi, All,

You may have read that the schools have a greatly reduced budget for 2008-2009 due to reduced funding from the state and a downturn in tax revenues. The Environmental Studies Center is "on the block" as one of the programs to be cut.

The link below is to a petition that shows support for the Environmental Studies Center and its programs. We have come so far, educated so many, and have so much more to do. Our Hands-On, Brains-On programs are of more importance every year, as today's children become more isolated from the natural world.

Please check out the link, and add your comments. Then pass it on. Time is short.

Further, call your state legislators and emphasize your displeasure at the decrease in funding for education. I think they will finalize the budget at the end of this week. Each legislator has a "home office" so it doesn't have to be a long-distance call.

<http://www.thepetitionsite.com/petition/757799160>

Trip to Belize

The travel company Explorations Inc., has once again designed a natural history tour for the members and friends of the Florida Native Plant Society. This October 25 - November 2, 2008, you are invited to explore in the Central American country of Belize. The 9-day itinerary features accommodations in 3 great jungle lodges, explorations of multiple ecosystems, and a wide variety of activities. In addition to rainforest/wildlife nature walks and visiting Mayan ruins, boating and floating on rivers will open up even more beautiful natural scenery. Highlights include:

3 Nights at Cohune Palms Riverside Cabanas in the Cayo District, located on the Mopan River for: Masewal Forest Garden Trail & Mopan River Tubing Excursion, Macal River Canoe Trip & Xunantunich Archaeological Site, El Pilar Reserve and Ruins, and Ix Chel Medicine Trail.

3 Nights at Pook's Hill Lodge & Nature Reserve in the Belmopan area for: Barton Creek & Cave Canoeing Excursion, Green Hills Butterfly Ranch, Cave's Branch Cave Tubing, Guanacaste National Park, Belize Zoo, and hiking, birding, tubing, swimming in Pook's grounds & Roaring Creek Area.

2 Nights at Lamanai Outpost Lodge in northern Belize, directly on New River Lagoon for: Lamanai Archaeological Reserve & Visitor Center, Night spotlight safari on the New River & Lagoon, and local village interaction at Indian Church Village. See "Belize" page 4.



Liriodendron tulipifera blooms in early April 2008. This tree, as a seedling, was rescued from a wet area road rut north of General Hutchenson Pkwy about 20 years ago. It is 30 feet tall and growing. Orange and Lake Counties are the southernmost distribution of this widely dispersed deciduous tree. I don't know why it is not more used as a landscape tree. *Chuck Roux*

Archbold Biological Station Field Trip,

April 12-13 Paul Eisenbrow

With the state of Florida rapidly under the guns of development, it is very refreshing to step back a little in time and enjoy much of the rustic lifestyle that is presented at this research facility. There is the sharing of rooms with bunk beds, eating meals in a family style environment and spending some time learning about each other. The town of Lake Placid and Sebring have all the modern conveniences, but you have to travel a few miles to avail yourself of them. The researchers are walking, using ATVs, and driving four-wheel drive trucks, to negotiate the sugar sand to reach their designated spot. Right now the Scrub Jays have laid their eggs, hatched, been banded, and are starting to fledge. University professors, students and other research assistants are coming in at the end of their college semesters to follow their individual studies. But make no bones about it, there is serious work going on here, which is in the forefront of helping us to better understand this scrub community.

Saturday afternoon we all piled into two of those four-wheel drive trucks for a look at some of the things happening in the scrub. Our guide, Carl Weekly, gave us a sampling.



Carl Weekly talks Scrub.

The first stop was a Rosemary bald, which occurs in some of the most open scrub. As these plants grow they use their allelopathic properties to stem the growth of other species around them. The larger they are, the less other plants, including new Rosemary, have in establishing a foothold. Therefore it's important that fire occasionally burns them down, so that newer plants can come in. It takes 10 years for a Rosemary to reach sexual maturity and only the female plant can begin the regeneration process. This is a dioecious plant, requiring both males and females to complete the cycle. It is speculated at this time that Rosemary can reach the age of about 100 years old.

Another interesting point that Carl made was regarding the moisture level in the soil. You have both gap and covered areas. Logically one might think that the open area is less moist than immediately around the plants. But this isn't the case. It shows that transpiration by the plants draws moisture from the soil at a greater rate than in the open areas.



Dayflower, *Commelina erecta*

Our tour ended at Lake Annie which is over 70 feet deep. Much study has been done with the pollen grains retrieved from its depth and dated at 50,000 years old. The pollen also shows a historical domination by pines, oaks and ragweed. There was also time to walk the nature trail

on Saturday evening and Sunday morning.

Some of us got to see Scrub Jays as well as other blooms.

Cuthbertia ornata,
Commelina erecta,
Eryngium cuneifolium,
Stipulicida setacea,
Pinus ellottii var. *densa*,
Chapman's, Myrtle, Sand Live,

and Scrub oak were just a few of the many plants we saw. The *Asimina obovata* (Pawpaws) were blooming all over. See "Archbold" page 4.



Early morning fog.

Archbold continued from page 3.

Scrub Beargrass was also beginning to bloom.

On the way down or back there is much to do if you take the time. Spook Hill in Lake Wales is always fun to show an unsuspecting newcomer. The murals of Lake Placid are a must to see. Some of us even stopped at the Arbuckle State Forest to take a short hike and see if we could use our new found knowledge to identify the plants. Get outdoors and take a walk.

Florida Friendly Landscaping Demonstration Garden

On Tuesday, November 27, 2007, Lake Eola Charter School Students, Orange County Master Gardeners, and Florida Native Plant Society Members assisted Orange County Environmental Protection Division to install an Environmentally Friendly Demonstration Garden at 201 South Rosalind Avenue, Orlando (OC Administration Building).



The garden features many native plant species suitable for home and business landscapes. Native plants are a Florida Friendly choice, since they require little to no fertilization or pest control and provide wildlife habitat.

Water use will be reduced by the elimination of unnecessary irrigation. This is accomplished in part due to the drought tolerant plant material selected. The plants, predominately Florida natives as well as some non-native, noninvasive species, will be able to survive on regular rainfall once established.

Low impact drip irrigation will be used to establish the plantings and supplement water needs in extreme drought conditions, ensuring plant survival and aesthetics of the garden.

The garden features an environmentally friendly pervious pathway using a new product called Flexi-PAVE, consisting of recycled tires. The innovative pavement reduces stormwater runoff and provides recharge percolation for groundwater resources.

This Florida Friendly Garden was made possible, in part, by Florida Wildflower Foundation through funds provided by Florida Wildflower Tag sales, Masuen Consulting, LLC, Dobson's Woods and Water, Inc, Flexi-PAVE of Central Florida, LLC, and Rain Bird Corporation.

For information about the garden, contact Nancy Rodlun, Community Outreach Coordinator, at nancy.rodhun@ocfl.net or (407) 836-1400. For more information about Florida Friendly Landscaping, contact the Orange County Cooperative Extension, 6021 South Conway Road, Orlando, (407) 254-9200.



Belize continued from page 2.

The cost is \$3300 per person, including the airfare from Miami. Add-on air connections are available from various cities. A single supplement is \$500.

For a detailed trip brochure you may call Explorations Inc., of Bonita Springs, FL. Phone 800-446-9660, or 239-992-9660, or visit their website for more photos. (www.ExplorationsInc.com). Talk to any FNPS member who went on previous Amazon or Costa Rican trips with them and they'll tell you it was fantastic!

In addition to local guides, a FNPS member will be hosting during the trip. If interested, please reserve early to guarantee a place on this tour as space is limited and most previous offerings have sold out.



Brown Recluse



Brown Recluse Bite after 10 days. Can be fatal.

Slate of Nominees Jackie Rolly

In accordance with Article IV, Officer, of the Tarflower Bylaws, Officers of this corporation shall consist of a President, a 1st Vice-President, a Secretary, Treasurer, and such other officers including a 2nd Vice-President and will be duly nominated and elected by the membership and the annual meeting in May by a majority vote of the members present at such meeting. Officers may be elected for a period of one (1) year. Only members in good standing may be officers of this corporation. Officers shall automatically be members of the Executive Committee. Officers shall serve without compensation except reimbursement for actual expenses incurred or to be incurred.

The current slate of Officer is as follows:

President:

Nominee Catherine Read Stoccardo

Nominee _____

Nominee _____

1st Vice-President (Programs)

Nominee: Julie Becker

Nominee _____

Nominee _____

2nd Vice-President (Events)

Nominee: Pete Dunkelberg

Nominee _____

Nominee _____

Secretary

Nominee: Jacqueline Rolly

Nominee _____

Nominee _____

Treasurer

Nominee: Irene Lauricella

Nominee _____

Nominee _____

State Chapter Director – former Chapter President –
Rick Ehle

The above provides the required notice to the membership to provide any additional nominees for the above positions and to provide their vote, either by proxy, mail in, or individual vote at the May meeting, which is the Annual Meeting of the membership.

The Plight of the Honey Bee Jean Vasicek

Never has the honey industry seen such publicity. As a local beekeeper, I am constantly asked “Is it true? Are bees really dying?” The answer is “Yes!” One of the largest beekeepers in Central Florida recently lost a staggering 7000 bee hives! Beekeepers across the country are experiencing 50-90% losses. The livelihoods of beekeepers are currently threatened by Colony Collapse Disorder, CCD.

Accounts of CCD aren’t specific to the U.S. Reports of CCD can be found throughout the world. Bees leave the hive and don’t return making diagnosis difficult. Without dead bees to analyze, how do we study the problem? Do bees forget where they live after having been exposed to pesticides developed specifically for that purpose? Termite colonies can be destroyed if they are treated with a chemical that makes them forget the directions home.

Whether Einstein really said it or not, do we really want to find out if it’s true that “if the honeybees become extinct, man will follow within 3 years.” An estimated 1/3 of the human diet relies on pollinated food. The honeybee is responsible for 80% of this pollination. Without honeybees, almonds and apples might only be found bronzed at the Smithsonian. Imagine, never biting into a nice, crisp apple ever again! Imagine carnivals with no candy apples!

If you are interested in learning more about bees and how you can help with the current crisis, please plan to attend our newly formed chapter of the Florida Beekeeper’s Association, the **Orange Blossom Beekeeper’s Association**. Our next meeting will take place on Thursday, May 15, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Azalea Room of the Orange County Extension Offices located at 6021 S. Conway Road, Orlando, FL. Vice-President David Webb will be demonstrating honey extraction. David will bring in a small hand extractor, decapping knives, scratchers and frames of honeycomb to show how the hobbyist beekeeper harvests, extracts and stores honey.

The Florida State Beekeeping Association mid-year symposium will be held at the Orange County Extension Office on Saturday, June 14, 2008. All interested beginning beekeepers should attend. This event will cost \$25 per person, \$35 for a 2-person household and \$10 for each additional person. Your lunch will be provided and there will be a raffle, vendors and goody bags for all.

Some plants that bees particularly like for nectar are the aster, milkweed, goldenrod, blackberry, sumac, mint, sunflower, daisies, primrose, raspberry, red maple, dogwood, forget-me-not, bee-balm, and willow. Honeybees will travel up to 10 miles for nectar; however, trips less than 4 miles are optimum for honey storage. Honeybees travel much farther for nectar than native bees that travel only about 200 yards.

Looking Ahead.... Jackie Sward

Our June 3rd meeting will feature Steve Isham, author of "Anoles: Those Florida Yard Lizards". Steve will discuss anoles - where they live, what they eat, why they change color and much more, plus how we can help save our native green anoles while encouraging beneficial native plant growth.

On July 1st, Dr. Bruce Stephenson, professor of Ecology at Rollins College, will present a program showing restoration of the Genius Preserve in Winter Park. Don't miss these interesting upcoming programs.

Local Native Nurseries

Biosphere Consulting Inc

(407) 656-8277
14908 Tilden Rd 11490
Winter Garden, FL 34787

B B Brown's Gardens

(352) 429-5566
Montevista Rd 1333
Clermont, FL 34711

Green Images

(407) 568-1333
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 May 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.

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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