



the Tarpaper

The Tarflower Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society



Volume: XXV December 2008 ISSUE

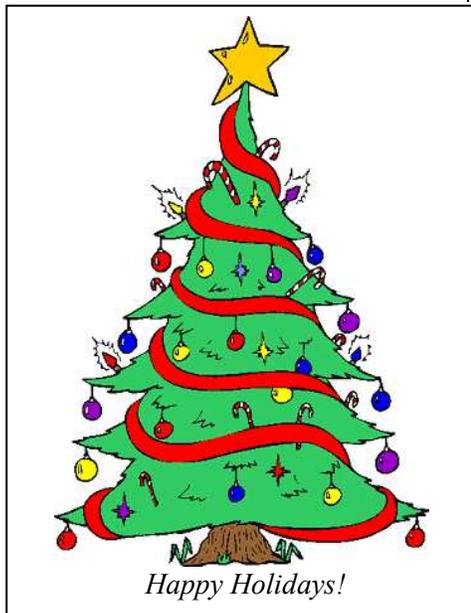
DECEMBER PROGRAM Get in the Holiday Spirit at our December 2 meeting!

We're going to have lots of fun this month! Please join us at 7pm on Tuesday December 2. We'll have a natural of recyclable craft demo, sing a long "What's that weird grass(???) growing in my yard?", and Cookie sale. Also, please come support our mini bazaar and pick up some special holiday gifts. Local, raw honey from Winter Park Honey will be for sale.

UCF 'Artist of the Month', Karen Harrod will be selling her cards and prints. Richard Poole will have his birdhouses. There will be butterfly containers, books, calendars, plants, Organic Worm Casting fertilizer products and Caricatures by Giancarlo.

Bring that weird grassy looking thing and figure out what it is. Bring cookies in packages of about a dozen. All proceeds from the cookie sale will be donated to the Tarflower Treasury

Sing songs! Have Fun!!



What's Blooming? Pete Dunkelberg

What's blooming now? Asters, you may say. If you drive along roads with ditches or ditch ends alongside, you will



Elliott's aster

have noticed lots of pale blue flowers on plants from 80 cm to two meters high. These may be climbing aster, Elliott's aster or rice button aster or other related species. They may be more common this year than last, thanks to the rains earlier in the season.

Note that the main stem leaves of Elliott's aster become narrow at the base, then wrap around the stem. The leaves of climbing aster may also clasp the stem a bit but they have slight "earlobes" at the base instead

of being narrow. The leaves of *dumosus* or rice button aster are much shorter and thinner, and the flowers are smaller as well.

The botanical names of these plants are *Symphotrichum carolinianum*,

Symphotrichum elliottii, and *Symphotrichum dumosus*.

What's up with that? Why isn't it *Aster elliottii* and so on? The genus *Aster* started as a genus of European plants. Later, quite a lot of similar new world plants were lumped into the genus. But on closer examination, especially DNA comparison, it was concluded that the New World "asters" were not so closely related to the Old World ones after all, and not too close to each other either. See *Blooming* page 4.



Leaf of Elliott's aster

Future Programs

January 6: Wildflowers by Terry Zinn

February 3: Tracking Climate Change with Native Plants by George Kish

March 3: KICCO by Paul Eisenbrown

November Field Trip Pete Dunkelberg



Viola lanceolata

November's field trip to Lake Louisa State Park proved a fine opportunity to see a great variety of our native plants from Gopher apple to cypress and Dahoon holly in their natural habitats. If you weren't there you missed another good one. The weather was pleasant and we hiked through both dry and fairly wet areas along a



Polygonella fimbriata

long looping trail. Many plants were blooming and others like Gopher apple, *Licania michauxii* and the Ti-Ti tree, *Cyrilla racemiflora* had fruit or seeds.

Here are a few of the plants in bloom: *Balduina angustifolia*, two species of *Liatris*, dog fennel, *Pityopsis graminifolia*, rustweed *Polypermum procumbens*, two species of jointweed *Polygonella gracilis* and *Polygonella fimbriata* *Carphephorus paniculatus*, *Hypericum tetrapetalum*, hawkweed (*Hieracium gronovii*).

<http://www.plantatlas.usf.edu/main.asp?plantID=3455>, and a lone long leaf violet, *Viola lanceolata* hidden among the pines.

The genus *Polygonella* is characterized by stems with frequent distinct angles. *P. gracilis* has single



Hieracium gronovii

stems to two meters high with numerous small white flowers. *P. fimbriata* is shorter with attractive pink and white flowers. Hawkweed grows waist high or higher with double layered yellow flowers. If you see a plant that

might be hawkweed, feel the leaves. They have a small number of sturdy hairs that give the leaf an unusual feel.



Hieracium megacephalon
Photo by Phyllis Gray



The Group

Request for Seeds and Sandhill or Scrub Plants for Oakland Nature Preserve (ONP). Jackie Rolly

As you may know, the Salvage Committee has been taking numerous plants and seeds to the ONP for planting in a restoration site. ONP has 4 distinct ecosystems, one of them being uplands. Almost the entire uplands portion was cleared many years ago and managed for citrus production.

Following abandonment of the groves 10 to 15 years ago, the property was densely planted with slash pines for pulpwood production. A major step to restoration involved determining the type of community that existed before the land was cleared and then using this plant community as a target for restoration. Using soils as the basis, it has been determined that the plant community to be developed here as a longleaf pine - turkey oak forest. The plants salvaged in 2007 and 2008 came from a sandhill/scrub area, and the salvaged plants have not only survived, but thrived during the past year. (See photo 1.) The Salvage Committee will continue to provide various plants for this site, but Phase II is now under way. That is, the area around the Environmental Center. The Environmental Center, a log cabin in Florida pioneer style, is nearing completion

and in desperate need of some landscaping. In keeping with the old Florida, there will be only sand for 30' out from the building. However, beyond the 30' is where the seeds and plants are now needed. ONP plans to purchase seeds from the Bissett's at The Natives, but any help with extra seeds of Love Grasses (*Ergostis spp*), *Liatris*, Blue



Oakland Nature Preserve.

Curls, *Balduina*, *Chryopsis*, *Pittypopsis*, and any other wildflower from Sandhill habitat, will help a great deal to cover this large area. It is contiguous to the restoration site where all our salvages have been planted. Please provide the seeds to Jackie Rolly at the monthly meeting.

Plant Salvage Jackie Rolly

There will no planned plant salvage for December, we're all too busy with holidays. Watch announcements for January though, we're planning a "planting" day of the salvaged plants plus other donations at Oakland Nature Preserve. This is a good opportunity for those who love to salvage to see how the plants survived their transplant ordeal and to see their new home.



Oakland Nature Preserve

Local Native Nurseries

Biosphere Consulting Inc

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

B B Brown's Gardens

(352) 429-5566
11490 Montevista Rd
Clermont, FL 34711

Green Images

(407) 568-1333
1333 Taylor Creek Rd
Christmas, FL

Blooming continued from page 1.

So the New World "Asters" were broken up into several genera and given names applied earlier to some of them before they were lumped into the genus *aster*. The original *Asters* get to keep their original name.

Oops! Last month's article about the October field trip talks about the Spring Hill Nature Center. It's actually the Seminole County Environmental Studies Center.

Woods Walks at Lake Lizzie Preserve

The Woods Walks at Lake Lizzie Preserve is a great opportunity to take a guided walk and learn more about our natural systems. Each walk is approximately 2 miles in length. Registration is required. Meeting points are provided at registration. Please call 321-697-3000. The walks will be 8:30 am until noon on December 17, 2008 (Marsh Loop).

\$25	Individual/Gift
\$35	Renewing Individual
\$40	Family/Household
\$50	Contributing/ Non-Profit
\$125	Business/Corporate
\$100	Supporter
\$250	Donor
\$1000	Life
\$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 December 2** at 7:00 P.M. 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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