



the Tarpaper

The Tarflower Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society



Volume: XXVI January 2009 ISSUE

JANUARY PROGRAM: Wildflowers with Terry Zinn

Do you love wildflowers? You will want to join us on **January 6**. Terry Zinn is President of Wildflowers of Florida and a member of the Wildflower Seed and Plant Growers Association. He is also president of the Conservation Trust of Florida. Terry operates a wildflower seed farm in Alachua County. He is bringing Wildflower seeds to sell. So, gets you gardens ready!

Future Programs

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

March 3: Presentation by Nancy Bissett of *The Natives*

April 7: Healthy Wetlands?

Travel to the Tropics: January Field Trip to Maritime Hammock & Barrier Island Sanctuaries John Cento

In search of tropical and coastal plant communities, the Tarflower Chapter will travel to South Brevard County on January 17th, 2009. **Please note this is a week later than our normal field trip date.** Brevard County enjoys a cluster of endangered land sanctuaries near Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge. We will visit two of the best. First, we will meet at 9:30 am at Barrier Island Sanctuary's Management and Education Center, a brand new, first-class visitor center. After freshening up after our drive, we will head four miles north to Maritime Hammock, a site recommended by our sister Sea Rocket chapter for its tropical species including Gumbo-Limbo (*Bursera simaruba*) trees. After a two-mile hike, we will head back to the Visitor Center for a beach picnic. Afterwards, Tarflower members will be free to explore the center's exhibit room, library, and surrounding bird life.

These properties are located in extreme South Brevard County on AIA south of Melbourne Beach, about one hour and 45 minutes from downtown

Orlando. The weblink with maps and other information is the following: www.barrierislandcenter.com (click on the "Recreation tab" and scroll down). For those interested in carpooling, please feel free to contact me at (407) 913-2417 or at jcentocpa@hotmail.com, and I will attempt to connect you with other interested carpoolers.

Plant lists for Maritime Hammock are available on our Chapter's website, courtesy of Sea Rocket's Paul A. Schmalzer, Ph. D.

URBAN GREENEYES Pete Dunkelberg



Greeneyes Habitat

Florida greeneyes is one tough little plant. It is also endemic to our area: not just Florida but the middle peninsula up through part of the panhandle. There is a thriving population of greeneyes just off Colonial drive on Ferncreek and Hillside.

Despite being assaulted by mowers and utility vehicles, they bloom all year round. I went back to check on them on 21 December 2008 and thought at first that they had given up flowering for the year. On closer inspection I saw that they had recently been mowed (note that the flower in the See "Greeneyes" page 2.

GREENEYES continued from page 1.



Berlandiera subacaulis

picture had a close shave). Another plant that escaped the mower by being right against a signpost had three flowers and more coming.

Unfortunately it looks like the site is being demolished for an intergalactic bypass. But fortunately you can grow greeneyes in your own yard. Their native habitat is sandhills so they obviously don't need special care to live in your flower bed, even if you are in a subdivision built up on fill dirt. Just don't keep them wet all the time. Once established, the plant grows a deep thick root which keeps it going through tough times. Ask for greeneyes at native plant nurseries. B B Brown's in Clermont had them last year and probably has more this year.

HONEYBEES Jean Vasicek

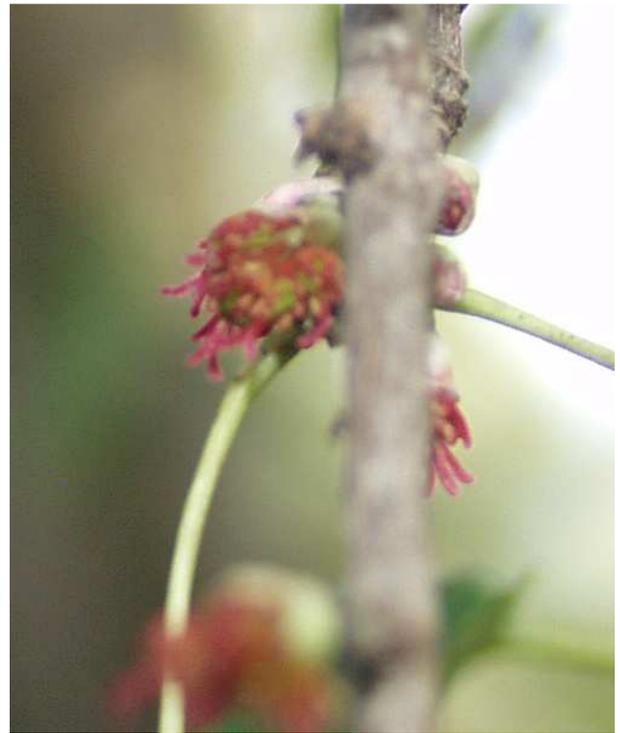
Winter is the most difficult time for honeybees. The food supply is low, the queen lays fewer eggs, and the mites invade the hive. A hive can be healthy one day and completely dead the next. The occasional cold snaps can cause the bees difficulty also. To keep warm, the bees form tight ball surrounding the queen. If the



Maple Tree in Bloom (December 2008)

ball isn't big enough, if the hive has too few bees, the hive can freeze to death. A frozen ball of bees is a sad sight!

Not all flowers produce nectar for bees. In general, bees get nectar from tiny flowers. They don't usually nectar on large showy flowers. To check a blossom for nectar, pull the petals from a bloom and look for the puddle of nectar at the base of the flower stem. If there is no liquid, there is no nectar and the flower is useless to the bees.



Maple Blossom

In Central Florida, maple and oak are 2 of the primary blooms keeping the bees alive through the winter until the orange blossoms turn on in the spring. Orange blossom honey is one of the largest honey crops in Central Florida; however, not all orange blossoms carry nectar for bees. The climate, rain, and soil can influence a plant's nectar flow. Last year, the orange trees bloomed for several months intermittently, but the nectar produced by the blooms was scarce. As a result, many beekeepers in this area had a minimal orange blossom crop last year.

407-363-9061
 info@WinterParkHoney.com
 PO Box 3556
 Winter Park, Florida 32790
 winterparkhoney.com

Hive Removal - Swarm Capture - Raw Honey

WHAT'S BLOOMING IN DECEMBER?

Wild Orchids! *Pete Dunkelberg*

The word "orchid" refers not just to a species, not just to a genus but to an entire large family of flowering plants with perhaps 25,000 species worldwide, mostly in the tropics. Here in Florida we only have a bit over 100 orchid species, and many of them are only found south of Lake Okeechobee. But there are still some species blooming at any time of the year in most parts of the state. Indeed if you consider just the genus *Spiranthes*, which has around seventeen species in the state, there are some blooming every day.

But you have to know where to find them. Over half of the orchid species in Florida are listed as endangered, and more have been proposed to be so listed. They are endangered for the usual reason, which is loss of suitable habitat. But our native orchids are also in trouble for another reason: people won't leave them alone. Although it is very hard to keep orchid plants alive outside of their habitat, people insist on taking them. And so to enjoy them in nature, you have to know where to find them but not too many other people should know.

On 30 November of 2008 I noticed some nice *Spiranthes* blooming in a little boggy spot east of Orlando. I didn't have the right books and couldn't identify the species in the mud and drizzling rain, but I

thought it was a species that would bloom in November and December as some do. I went back on 20 December to check on them and try to ID the species. I couldn't find them. Then after a while I found the reason: someone had cut off the flowering stalks. Don't do that! Of course members of the Native Plant Society wouldn't, but others need reminding. These delicate plants should be given every opportunity to reproduce in the small spaces where they still can.



Spiranthes (up close)



Spiranthes

WEKIVA SPRINGS STATE PARK

CONCERT *Jackie Sward*

Don't miss the first concert of the 2009 series of Music in the Park at Wekiva Springs State Park, January 17, 2009 at 7 p.m. Bring your coolers and chairs and enjoy the outdoor concert. Tickets are \$5.00 and children under 12 are free.

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

\$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
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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 January 6** 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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