



the Tarpaper

The Tarflower Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society



Volume: XVXI February 2009 ISSUE

FEBRUARY 3 PROGRAM: TRACKING CLIMATE CHANGE WITH PLANTS BY GEORGE KISH

George Kish is a Hydrologist with the US Geological Survey in Tampa. He coordinates the Southeastern Phenology Network for the USA National Phenology Network- a network designed to observe the life cycle events in plants and animals and relate the timing of these events to global climate change. George will present a talk about the importance of phenology with respect to predictions for future global warming.

George is the past president of the Suncoast (Hillsborough County) chapter of the FNPS and a past state Board member. He has a bachelors degree in Biology from Drexel University, a masters degree in Environmental Science from Rutgers, and is currently pursuing his PhD in Geography, Environmental Science and Policy at the University of South Florida.

UPCOMING EVENTS *Pete Dunkelberg*

We will participate as usual in several fun spring events. We set up our tent and information table, tell people about native plants and this group, and sometimes sell plants, books and T shirts. First up, and coming this very next Saturday, is the Orlando Wetlands Park 10th Annual Festival **Saturday, February 7, 2009** from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. For more information check the website

<http://www.nbbd.com/festivals/OrlandoWetlands/>

The events will originate at the Fort Christmas Historical Park. Event co-sponsor, the Orange Audubon Society, will lead guided birdwatching excursions and expert-guided nature photo shoots. The Florida Native Plant Society will lead native plant identification hikes and wilderness hikes will also be available by the Florida Trail Association. Expert wildlife photographers Vinny Colucci of North Carolina and Milton Heiberg of Orlando will be leading photo
See "Events" page 2.

PLANT LOVERS WANTED FOR VALENTINE'S DAY FIELD TRIP

John Cento

Spring lovers too as the Tarflower Chapter will be visiting Seminole State Forest on February 14th for a spring walk courtesy of biologist Ralph Risch, who informed and entertained us about his scrub jay studies not too many programs ago. We will meet at 9:00 am by the pond a short distance in from the forest's south entrance off SR 46. We will caravan in vehicles along the forest roads from spring to spring until about 1:00 pm with short walks to the spring locations. The estimated cumulative walking distance is about two miles. The walks are not expected to be difficult, but be warned, they may be muddy at times.

Springs we hope to visit include Shark Tooth Spring, Moccasin Spring, and Helen Spring. Being the Renaissance Man that he is, Risch was quick to mention flora we can study during our walk. One spring has notable liverworts nearby; Moccasin Springs may have common pennyroyal *Piloblephis rigida* in bloom, in another spot, tulip poplars *Liriodendron tulipifera* stand guard. I note that the Audubon Society's Field Guide to Eastern Trees has color plates to identify deciduous species by bark. In addition, there may be an opportunity to analyze how plant communities have recovered from prolonged inundation from tropical storm Faye. And as a bonus, Mr. Risch will take us on a short visit with the resident scrub jays. In return for this outstanding field trip, Mr. Risch would like our chapter's help in identifying a mysterious giant fern.

At the end of the walk, members so inclined will have a picnic by the entrance pond sharing memories of the day's botanizing.

For further information, please email John Cento at jcentocpa@hotmail.com or call (407) 913-2417.

FUTURE PROGRAMS

March 3 *Habitat Restoration* by Nancy Bissett

April 7 *Healthy? Wetlands* by Catherine Read

May 5 *Florida Geology* by Professor Jack Rogers

EVENTS *continued from page 1.*

expeditions. For those who like to sit and ride, guided bus tours will travel along the wetland berms, giving riders a chance to experience first hand, Florida's wild wetlands."

Directions:

From Orlando, take highway east 50 to Christmas, Florida. Turn north (left) onto 420, Ft. Christmas Rd and travel 2 miles to the Fort Christmas Historical Park. The address is 1300 Fort Christmas Road, Christmas, Florida 32709. There will be a big sign.

We need volunteers to be at our table and to lead plant walks. In past years the Festival has given volunteers a free lunch.

Coming in March:

March 7 Wekiva Riverfest 10 am - 4 pm

March 21-22 Leu Gardens Plant Sale (20th evening set up)

PLANT RESCUE *Jackie Rolly*

Saturday, 21 February 2009, at the Orlando International Airport (OIA). Plan to meet at the 7/11 at the corner of SR 528 and Narcoossee Road (SR 15) (SW corner), at 08:30 AM and we'll caravan to the site. These will be predominantly wetland or pine flatwoods plants and trees. Last year we were up to our calves slogging through the water, so come prepared. The site could be dry though and then we will be able to drive our cars closer to the salvage areas. Please bring shovels, trowels, sunscreen, hats, insect repellent, and water for your selves. We have a request for plants for the downtown demonstration garden at Rosalind Street, and plants for the Central Florida Zoo restorations. If you have any questions, please email me at j.y.rolly@att.net, or call my cell phone: Jackie Rolly 407-620-6963.

MUSIC IN THE PARK *Jackie Sward*

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Wekiwa Springs State Park will host two more concerts in the park, **Saturday, February 28th and Saturday, March 21st**. The concerts will be staged in front of the crystal clear waters of Wekiwa Springs. Bring your blankets or lawn chairs to sit on the grassy slope and enjoy the show.

Proceeds from the concerts go to provide educational outreach and recreational opportunities at Wekiwa Springs State Park. The concerts begin at 6 p.m. and tickets are \$5.00 per person, children under 12 are free. For more information visit www.floridastateparks.org/wekiwasprings.

PARTICIPANTS WANTED TO DESCRIBE NATIVE PLANT "Messses" *Lars P. Linden*

Advocates of Florida native plants who strive to protect and preserve Florida's native plants often confront complex and ill-structured problems that have biological, social, and economic causes and ramifications. The problem of non-native invasives is an example of a "messy" problem.

As part of a dissertation research project at UCF an information system is being developed to help people describe and understand the many cause and effect relationships of these messy problems. Participants are needed to use this Web site to describe the complex and ill-structured problems that members of FNPS confront. The aim is to create comprehensive problem descriptions which are understandable by all.

If you are interested in being a paid participant in the research study, please contact UCF graduate student Lars Paul Linden (email: llinden@bus.ucf.edu).

FLORIDA MASTER NATURALIST PROGRAM *Peggy Lantz*

The first offering of the Florida Master Naturalist Program in Orange County will held on Mondays and Thursdays, 9am to 4pm, for three weeks, beginning February 23. The meeting place will be at the Orange County Agricultural Extension Center on Conway Road. The program has three modules covering upland, wetland, and coastal habitats. This module will be on upland habitats. Field trips to natural lands in the county will be part of the program.

If you are serving as a volunteer or professional in any nature center or park, or are just interested in what you can learn about Florida's outdoors, you should consider signing up. The cost is \$225, which will include two manuals on the upland habitat, videos and learning sessions, and field trips. Jennifer Ramos and Peggy Lantz are the instructors.

Deadline for registration is February 15, 2009. Visit the Florida Master Naturalist Program website for more information and to register:

www.masternaturalist.ifas.ufl.edu.

JOB OPENINGS WITH ST JOHN'S RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Jackie Rolly

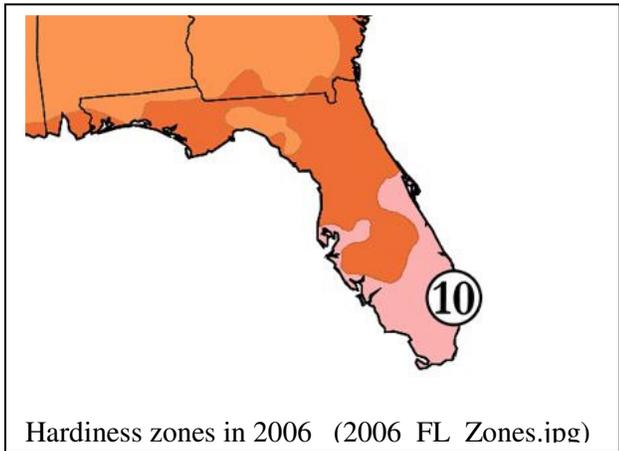
The St Johns River Water Mangement District will have some openings on their Board shortly. Please spread this information around and find someone conservation oriented to serve in this capacity. The following link gives the cite of the SJRWMD board, along with bios and dates of expiration for each.

<http://sjr.state.fl.us/governingboard/boardmembers.html>

CHANGE YOU CAN LIVE WITH

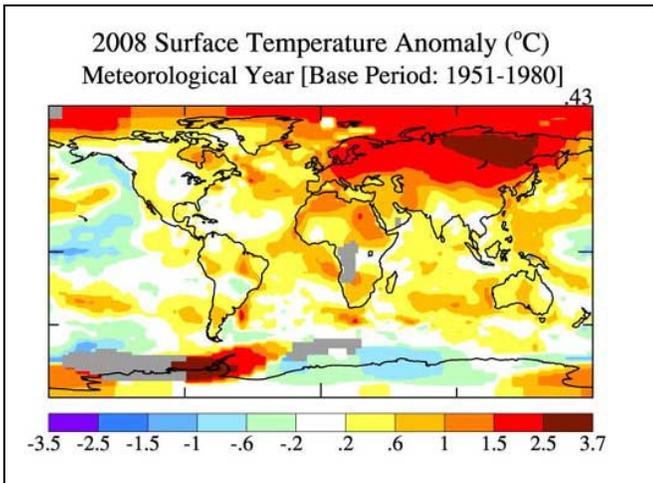
Pete Dunkelberg

Florida (and everywhere else) is divided into plant hardiness zones based on winter temperatures. In

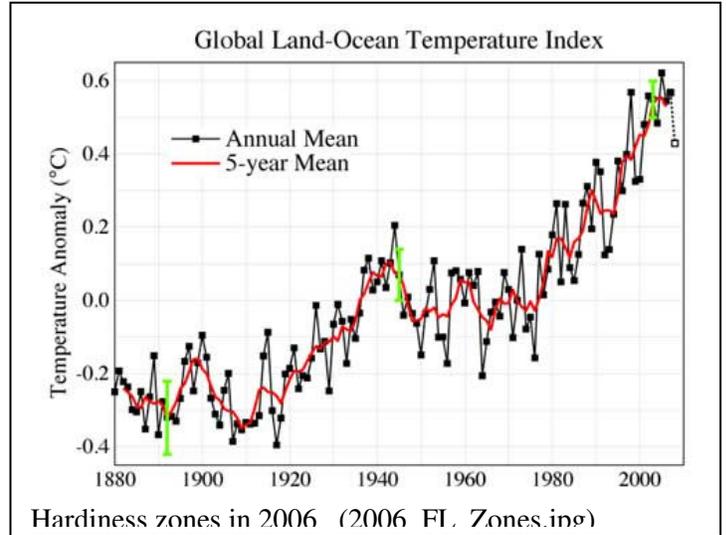


Florida, zone ten is the warmest. Zone ten is expanding.

Florida's government is trying to plan for climate change. The Fish and Wildlife Commission had a big

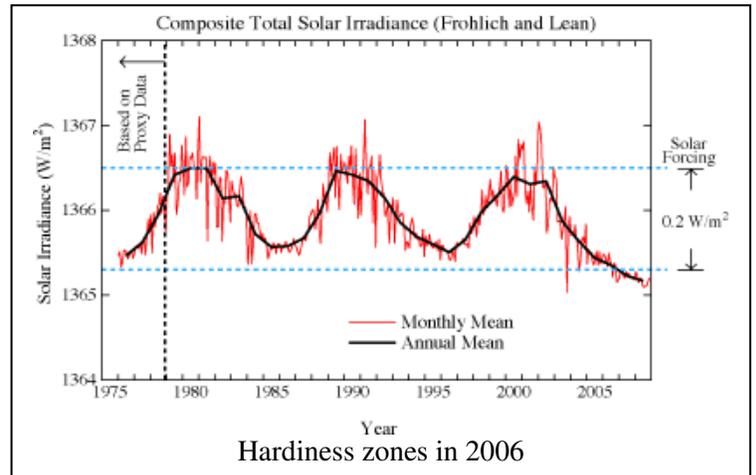


conference on the subject last October. This is part of a global phenomenon. As the graph shows, the average



temperature of the whole earth is increasing. As this temperature map for 2008 shows, there are warmer and cooler regions (redder means hotter, bluer means cooler than the past average).

You may have read (and can see on the graph) that 2008 was slightly cooler than the last few preceding years. The map shows the main reason: there was a mild La Niña, that is, cooling of the surface of the south Pacific ocean – note the bluish region there. Another reason is that the sun has cooled slightly in the last couple years. This is just a normal fluctuation though. In the normal course of events we would expect the sun to warm slightly and there to be a new El Niño in a very few years.



How does global warming happen? Both physics and a great deal of research indicate greenhouse gases, especially carbon dioxide (CO₂) as the main cause. Much of the radiation that reaches earth from the Sun, including visible wavelengths, warms the surface and then is re-radiated as infrared radiation. A portion of the energy from the Sun See "Climate" page 5.

JANUARY FIELD TRIP TO MARITIME HAMMOCK & BARRIER ISLAND SANCTUARIES *Ann Lemis*

“I know a bank where the wild thyme blows,
Where oxlips and the nodding violet grows,
Quite over-canopied with luscious woodbine,
With sweet musk-roses and eglantine”

--William Shakespeare, “Midsummer Night’s Dream

Last Saturday I think experienced a Midwinter Morning’s Dream in southern Brevard County in the



Group Photo taken by Joyce Bittle

company of fellow FNPS members. It was a chilly 40 degrees when I left my neighborhood in Orlando and set off on a new adventure. I am a brand new member to FNPS and had no idea what a field trip would behold for me. A persistent voice in my head said ignore the cold and go for it! Thankfully I obeyed my urgings and was richly rewarded.

I had no trouble finding the rendezvous point at the Barrier Island Center. Thank you, John Cento, for doing such a superb job of organizing and executing the entire field trip. From what I gathered we had a good turn out for this field trip and everyone made me feel very welcome. It was gratifying to meet so many nice people who did their best to make the day enjoyable.

We set out around 9:30am on a well marked trail into the woods and I didn’t go very far before those around me starting identifying plants by their Latin names! I was so impressed! I will only be able to give the common names at this stage in my development as a FNPS member. But I readily caught on to the amazing variety of plants within the first 20 yards on the trail. I recall seeing tropical sage, wild coffee (one of my new favorites), marl berry in the thicket and wild grape entwined in branches overhead. Another new member, Cindy, got excited when we spied a strangler fig gaining a stronghold within the boots of a sabal palm.

The lovely ivory faces of moon flowers blazed in the sun and the gumbo limbo tree was just waiting for someone to take its picture right beside the trail. Curled brown fronds of the resurrection fern draped over gnarly limbs of ancient oaks, promising a show of green with the next rainfall. *Tillandsias* and orchids vied for space amongst the resurrection ferns. Seriously, there was a struggle for prime real estate along the stately bows of the live oaks as the plants declared their habitat was ideal by the profusion of growth. I had never before seen orchids and shoe string ferns growing in the wild. It was a sight I won’t forget and I am already looking forward to return to this hammock later in the spring to see the orchids put on their blooming performance.

Our hike was scheduled to last 2 hours but the curiosity of 2 novice native plant lovers (Cindy and myself) slowed the group considerably because everything we saw was new and intriguing. Pete and Chuck were the ideal tour guides for Cindy and me. They patiently and eagerly answered our endless inquiries with the correct Latin names and identifying characteristics of dozens of plants. Such knowledge was awe-inspiring; I can only hope to have their company on future field trips to make my education move forward rapidly.



Ficus aurea

As time passed I began to feel a gnawing in my stomach...in my hurry to leave in the morning I hadn’t eaten breakfast. As I said earlier, everyone was so easy to get to know that I felt at ease to express my discomfort of an empty stomach! Pete to the rescue!! He pointed out the vivid purple berries of the beautyberry bush as something I should try. I am not shy when it comes to eating new foods so I popped a few in my mouth. Alas, this crop was a little past its prime, a little dry and with hints of pepper. But I will try again in the future perhaps a little earlier in the season.

We walked deeper into the bush and found a tree that resembles a Norfolk pine but once again the correct name See “*Field Trip*” page 5.

FIELD TRIP *continued from page 4.*

was supplied by Chuck. It was a monkey puzzle tree. The limbs are arranged in juxtaposition up the trunk and the needles were short, green and curved upward to the sky. I love the monkey puzzle tree because it stood tall and angular against the sky, like a beautiful sculptural work of art.

We passed leather ferns that were so tall and broad along the wetter areas in the hammock and papyrus was seen in several spots. Red headed turkey vultures were one of the few animals that were visible to us as they lazily circled above. But once in a while a yellow and black zebra long wing butterfly flitted past; in fact it moved faster than we did. Cabbage palms lent me a few dark berries from their store as Pete suggested giving them a taste, much better, these actually tasted like raisins!

As the trail turned sunnier the variety of plants changed too. Dog fennel, sea oxeye daisy and knicker beans began to appear. Pepper grass was right on the trail and we stopped to grab a few stems to see how true the name is. Take my word for it, it is peppery all right. I can see it mixing perfectly in a salad for just a bite of heat. Sea rocket was in bloom and the Spanish bayonet looked particularly sharp on the tips.

The trail left the sun behind and the trees crowded each other to see who could reach the sun first. The ancient oaks had a better idea, they didn't bother to lift their limbs straight to the sun, and instead they chose to make grand gestures towards the ground with limbs that dipped, touched the dirt and rose magically back up to seek the light. Some limbs created archways across the trail that we walked under.

Once in a while the trail would lead us out to openings created by park personnel who graciously provided benches to take in the quiet beauty of the mangrove swamps. The roots of mangrove trees are gray and dangle in mid air until they reach their destination in the brackish water all around their trunks.

The hike actually took a little closer to 3 hours but it was like time stood still as I covered new ground and opened my eyes to unknown beauty everywhere.

We returned to the Barrier Island Center and sat outdoors to have a picnic lunch by the ocean. By then the day was warm and it was so relaxing to watch the breakers and recall the wonderful experience of my first field trip with my fellow native plant enthusiasts.

If you haven't participated on the field trips please consider joining the group on the next outing. It was a great beginning for someone like me who knew next to nothing about native plants at the onset of the trip but now I hope to search and discover all I can in regards to Florida native plants.

LAND MANAGEMENT PARTNERS

Jackie Rolly

The mission of the Land Management Partners (LMP), a subcommittee of the FNPS Conservation Committee, is to provide government agencies (i.e., state, water management districts, county, local), non-government organizations, and the general public with support in managing public and private lands "to promote the preservation, conservation and restoration of native plants and native plant communities of Florida".

The Land Management Partners (LMP) subcommittee is requesting a liaison/contact person from each FNPS chapter to assist in identifying FNPS volunteers interested in assisting with local LMP support activities.

Examples of LMP support activities include providing FNPS volunteers to participate in Florida Department of Environmental Protection land management reviews of public lands, assist with plant surveys on public lands, and assist with monitoring and reporting the results of land management activities on public lands.

The LMP chapter liaison/contact person would let his/her chapter members know about the LMP, identify chapter members interested in participating in LMP activities, and distribute information about upcoming LMP support activities to the chapter membership.

For more information, please contact the LMP subcommittee chair, Anne Cox (ecologinc@bellsouth.net) or the vice chair, Daphne Lambright (dlambrig@biotechnical-services.com).

CLIMATE *continued from page 3.*

is already infrared, but a greater portion of the energy leaving earth is infrared. Some of this departing infrared radiation has just the right wavelength to be absorbed by a CO2 molecule. The molecule will soon re-radiate this energy, but in a random direction. Energy that is headed up may be sent right back down. Thus, more infrared energy is leaving than is arriving, but CO2 impedes its escape from earth. This results in a warming world until, at some higher temperature yet to be reached, just as much energy departs earth as arrives.

HELP WITH REFRESHMENTS NEEDED!

Jackie Sward

We really need more participation with providing refreshments for the monthly meetings. A special thanks to Kathy Andrews, Adele Simons and Susan Ledbetter for bringing refreshments to our meetings. If you would like to bring some refreshments to one of our future meetings, please do. If you can't bring something to our next meeting, please sign up for a future meeting on the sheet at the end of the refreshment table. Thank you for participating in making our meetings more fun and congenial.

ANNOUNCEMENTS Jackie Rolly

Tarflower Chapter is looking for some brave people to assist in presenting the Tarflower/Florida Native Plant talk to various Garden Clubs and other organizations throughout the year. If you enjoy meeting the public and are not afraid to speak in front of a group, please coordinate with Catherine Read at garberia08@gmail.com, or Jackie Rolly at j.y.rolly@att.net - or talk to us at the monthly meetings.

The Tarflower Chapter is planning on having a Fall Native Plant Garden Tour in October this year. We need volunteers to help us organize the tour, participate the day of the tour, but most importantly, we need gardens. Please let any of the Tarflower Board members know if you are interested in volunteering.

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
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 3** 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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