



the Tarpaper

The Tarflower Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society



Volume: XXVI March 2009 ISSUE

MARCH 3 PROGRAM: HABITAT RESTORATION by Nancy Bissett

Nancy J. Bissett is a restoration ecologist, botanist and horticulturist. Nancy has developed techniques for restoring many upland communities that include site preparation, planting, direct-seeding native ground covers and weed control. She has worked on many restoration projects for state agencies, water management district, developers and others. She has helped to evaluate rare plant communities. She is a partner in *The Natives*, a native plant nursery in Davenport, Florida. The Natives will be open to the public, Saturday, April 25

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 2 - 8: 2009 Wekiva Invitational Plein Air Paint Out. The Paint Out actually begins with public viewing on Monday, March 2nd and peaks on Saturday, March 8th with our 4th Annual Friends of the Wekiva River, Inc. RiverFest, but it will kick off on March 1st with a Grand Opening Party at Wekiva Island (formerly Wekiva Marina). More details on that will follow soon, check the Wekiva web site. If you have any questions, please e-mail Leslie@WekivaPaintOut.com. Leslie Long, Event Director Wekiva Invitational Plein Air Paint Out www.wekivapaintout.com.

March 7: Wekiva Riverfest 10 am - 4 pm

March 7, 2009, 9:00-12:00: *Nature Photography* by Naturally Digital, Longleaf Pine Preserve, East Entrance, Pioneer Trail, New Smyrna. This workshop will offer tips on how to take better photographs of landscapes, animals, and plants in their natural setting. If you are shooting digital photographs with any level camera, you can improve your chances of getting that "perfect" shot with some practical shooting techniques and "technical" adjustments to your camera. This workshop is suitable for amateur photographers from novice to advanced. Please bring along your cameras and favorite shots to share with the class. Call Bonnie Cary for more details, 386-804-0437.
See "Events" page 2.

MARCH FIELD TRIP TO LAKE BALDWIN

John Cento

To complement our March program on plant community restoration, restoration ecologist Nancy Bissett has graciously agreed to take us on a tour of her firm's work on Lake Baldwin in the redevelopment project of Baldwin Park in central east Orlando. The field trip is on March 14th. We will meet at 9:00 am in the parking lot of Blue Jacket Park at 2501 General Rees Avenue which is off of Corrine Drive between Bumby Avenue and Bennett Road. From there, we will consolidate vehicles and ride a short distance to the lake. Upon arrival at the lake, we will caravan from spot to spot, learning about the seeding and weeding challenges faced by Nancy's team. The walking should be light.

There is a possibility that Nancy Bissett will be able to take us afterwards that morning to a site in extreme southeast Orlando (near Lake Nona) to visit an additional restoration effort. Details will be provided later.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact John Cento at (407) 913-2417 or jcentocpa@hotmail.com.

PLANT RESCUE Jackie Rally

The next Plant Rescue is scheduled for **Saturday, 14 March 2009**, at the Pine Ridge Site. We'll meet at the Walgreens at the corner of Tilden Road and SR 535 at 0830 AM. Please bring shovels, pots, water for the plants, water for yourselves, bug repellent and sunscreen. Our upland, Sandhill plants should be just coming up. We need wire and the other small grasses, as well as flowering plants for Oakland Nature Preserve. The volunteers at the Preserve have been clearing new ground for the rescues. Many flowering plants should be coming up, Day Flower, Roseling, Greeneyes, Rock Rose, to name a few. Maybe the Scrub Plum will still be in bloom for your viewing pleasure. Please let Jackie Rolly know if you plan on attending. j.y.rolly@att.net.

EVENTS *continued from page 1.*

March 10 -13, 2009: Immerse your senses and mind for four days and three nights on the beautiful St. Johns River, Florida's only federally designated American Heritage River. Experience its gentleness and learn of its delicate secrets of sustainability and vulnerability in a congenial and most enjoyable setting. On March 10 -13, 2009, the St. Johns River Alliance, a non-profit organization, will host its 2nd Annual St. Johns River Classroom at Blue Spring State Park, Orange City, FL. Your hosts include Florida nature photographer, John Moran, who will teach hands-on field nature photography seminars. Author ("River of Lakes: A Journey on Florida's St. Johns River") and documentary filmmaker Bill Belleville, will show his PBS documentary, "In Marjorie's Wake: Rediscovering Rawlings, a River, and Time," and lead a field trip devoted to nature journaling.

Other presenters include educator and filmmaker, Michelle Thatcher, who will give a colorful presentation that chronicles her recent solo paddle down the entire river system---a journey of well over 500 miles when added to the 310 mile long main stem. Other presenters include noted singer-songwriter Magda Hiller who specializes in music of the river.

On the science side, notable professors and scientists from the University of North Florida, Jacksonville University, Stetson University, the St. Johns Riverkeeper and the St. Johns River Water Management District will talk about the dynamics of our River.

Participants will engage in lively discussions that cover the potential water withdrawals for public supply, to funding for removal of the Rodman Dam to the general health of our beloved river and what we can do to create positive effects regarding its health. River experts will guide attendees in field trips on land and water that showcase the ecological and historic values of the river, the spring, and the state park. For the full schedule and registration forms, please visit our website at: www.stjohnsriveralliance.com – River Classroom. You can also see a video clip of last year's River Classroom at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m_soQB00xxU
Email or call with questions: hiller@funport.net, 386-467-8223.

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

March 21: The Tibet Butler Beyond Your Back Yard event, including plant walks led by our members.

March 21: Music in the Park, Wekiva Springs State Park. For more information visit

www.floridastateparks.org/wekiwasprings.

March 21, 2009, 9:00 am -12:00 pm (Beginning Birding, Beresford Park, Fatio Rd., DeLand.): David Baker, retired Environmental Educator, will conduct this class in the field, so please dress accordingly. Suggested techniques will be put into practice as we discuss them, so make sure you have plenty of memory (in the camera, that is) and an extra battery. Please register, space is limited. Call Bonnie Cary for more details, 386-804-0437.

March 28, 2009, 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm, (Plant Communities-Neighborhoods of Plants, Hickory Bluff Preserve, End of Guise Rd. off Maytown Rd., Osteen): Learn from the experts as West Volusia Audubon birders explain and demonstrate birding techniques and equipment. They'll also teach tips for bird identification. Then we'll hike the trails at Beresford Park and practice our budding birding skills. Bring binoculars and bird identification books if you have them. Wear hiking or walking shoes, bring water to drink. Call Bonnie Cary for more details, 386-804-0437.

April 18 8:00-? (Turkey Hike, Wiregrass Prairie Preserve Off Pell Rd., off Maytown Rd., Osteen): Does the natural landscape of Volusia County look all the same to you? Natural areas are made up of many plant communities—neighborhoods of plants that depend on different habitat conditions. Take a hands-on learning hike lead by Randall Sleister, Volusia County Land Management Manager, David Griffis, University of Florida IFAS Extension Agent, and Dr. Cindy Bennington, Stetson University Plant Ecology Professor and learn about these communities and their resident plants and trees. These soil, plant and ecology experts will help us examine and discover the reasons why plants live in specific communities. Call Bonnie Cary for more details, 386-804-0437.

April 25, 2009, 9:00 am -12:00 pm (Longleaf Pine Preserve-East Entrance Pioneer Trail, west of SR 415): Insects—Good or Bad? ---More details to come--- Call Bonnie Cary for more details, 386-804-0437.

Dates and Times TBD: What are the true bad bugs? Explore the world of insects on a hike led by Ray Jarrett, Florida Department of Agriculture DPI and native plant expert. This insect adventure will include inspecting insect traps and netting specimens to learn about the diverse insects in the habitats around us. We'll also learn about the exotic insects that are invading Florida. Call Bonnie Cary for more details, 386-804-0437.

SEMINOLE STATE FOREST FIELD TRIP *Ann Lemis*

Well, we have to hand it to biologist and park ranger Ralph Risch! He knows Seminole State Forest like most of us know the neighborhoods we live in. We wound throughout the forest over sandy roads, across bridges that crossed dark brown tributaries and hiked deep into the woods without the benefit of a trail.

The Valentine Day hike began with an introduction into the mating, hunting and territorial habits of the only endemic bird species in Florida, the scrub jay. The scrub jay lives in the scrub, sand-pine scrub and scrubby – flatwood habitats. Their habitat has declined significantly and the population has dropped from 100,000 in 1920 to 6000 today. Fire suppression,

habitat destruction, cats- feral and owned, and traffic have contributed to their demise.

The sand pine, *Pinus clausa*, is considered invasive to the scrub habitat of oaks the jays depend on. The *Pinus clausa* has

pine cones that can remain dormant for 30 years until a fire comes and the seeds germinate. Without frequent burns the *Pinus clausa* eventually crowds out the scrub oaks that are a main source of food for the scrub jays.

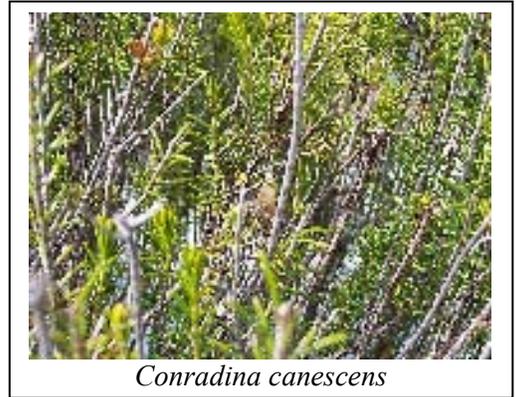


Scrub Jay

The jays scour the land to find thousands of acorns to tide them over in the winter. They collect the acorns from late August through November and bury them in the sand. In order to find

their buried treasure later they mark the location with a twig or leaf. Imagine trying to remember the spot where you buried acorns by the carload... several months later! I can't even remember where I park my car at times.

Three types of oaks are prevalent in the scrub lands in Seminole Forest- *Quercus chapmanii*, *Q. myrtiflora*, and *Q. geminata*. We saw all 3



Conradina canescens

varieties of oak on the hike. Common pennyroyal *Piloblephis rigida* was in bloom and wild rosemary *Conradina canescens*, shiny



Piloblephis rigida

blueberry *Vaccinium myrsinites*, rusty lyonina *Lyonia ferruginea* were growing nearby.

From the scrub jay neighborhood, Ralph took us to a very interesting watering hole called Sharktooth Spring. We followed Ralph by car over bone – dry, dusty roads until we came to a solitary picnic area.



Shark Teeth

We parked and began to enter a dense forest. A short hike along a narrow leaf scattered path led to a small spring that emerged from underneath an overhanging rock. Lush moss clung to the rim of the birthplace of Sharktooth Spring. I imagined the name came from the shape of the brook but I discovered the real reason. If you plunge your hands into the sandy bottom of the spring and spend a little time sifting you will discover ancient shark teeth and stingray teeth as well. Panning for gold would be more lucrative but this was very exciting nonetheless. Elusive and dormant liverwort did not evade the eagle eyes of one hiker, Pete. He found one small little liverwort hovering beside Sharktooth



Liriodendron tulipifera

Spring. Perhaps a few more weeks and one will see more liverworts rebounding after winter.

I believe Ralph would make a super tour guide or train conductor if he tires of being a park ranger. He kept us right on schedule and only allowed the group to linger and

sift shark teeth for fifteen minutes. Ralph consulted with the intrepid hikers of the Native Plant Society to see if we were up for a bit longer hike, could we make a 25 minute hike to view a spring he found in the woods and named for his wife, Helen. And, just to make the effort worthwhile he enticed us with the opportunity to see a tulip poplar *Liriodendron tulipifera* growing in the woods likely a lonely sentinel. Off we went and filled our car air filters with several more cubits of dust in search of Helen Spring.

We travelled a few minutes and began chugging on foot through loose sand 12 inches deep until we turned onto a dirt path flanked with palmetto. At this point Ranger Ralph halted everyone and commanded our attention with dire warnings to watch for snakes. Not the harmless black racers, no, he meant the mean kind that inflict nasty bites when unwary hikers startle them; like rattle snakes, water moccasins and such. I suddenly developed the urge to slow my walk and let others go first. You know, let the trail blazers scare the vipers away!

The snakes must have had better prey to catch that day because no one was attacked. The next specimen worthy of discussion was a grand, towering tulip poplar *Liriodendron tulipifera*. This tree is really a member of the magnolia family. It is fast growing, pyramidal in shape with slightly ascending branches and one central trunk. The flowers are large and fragrant, shaped like a tulip.



Unknown Plant

One hiker estimated it to be over a 100 feet tall. It was lovely even without any blossoms or leaves to distinguish it, just tilting your head back and looking way

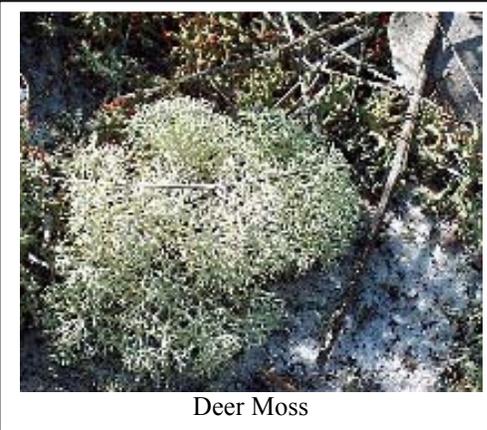
up to see the branches against the sky was enough.

On we went, until a distinct odor of sulphur and blue sparkling water told us Helen Spring was at hand. It was so



British Soldier

peaceful and special because most hikers don't find this idyllic spot. Small armored catfish frequently broke the surface of the quiet pool to catch a breath of air. These fish can tolerate



Deer Moss

the low oxygenated water as it came from underground but a quick gulp of air on the surface seemed to be necessary.

Ah, now the journey gets really interesting. Ralph gave us a choice- go see one more spring or help him identify a plant he had found previously. Ummm, what do native plant lovers love to do? Put a name to the unknown. One more car ride and my car turned a dustier shade of dust. Ralph led the



Helen Spring

way up a slight incline of sand to point out the mystery plant. It was a sprawling clump of a bush, 18 inches tall and 10-12 feet wide, thorns on the stems, oval leaves, and medium shade of green. This plant grew in an area that had scrub oaks on one side and scrub pine on the other with British soldier lichen and deer moss all around on the ground. Several people tried to determine its identity but it had everyone stumped. So we left with a small branch in hope of putting a name to it in the near future. The hike concluded with a few of us having a picnic at the shelter where we met in the morning. Once again, thank you John Cento for arranging the field trip and engaging Ralph to guide us. Remember, the days are only going to get hotter so don't forgo the next opportunity to go on a field trip.

SHARK'S TOOTH SPRING, SEMINOLE STATE SPRING Carolina H. Lane

While many of us were searching for shark's teeth of less than 3 centimeters long. Pete Dunkelberg, camera in hand was searching the creek's bank for bryophytes. We had seen one species of a leafy Liverwort growing among the many Mosses at the source of the spring.

Further along when he found a species of Hornwort.



Liverwort

In the Kingdom *Plantae* are 12 Divisions of which the first three are the bryophytes. The Liverwort (*Hepatophyta*) containing 6,000 species; Hornwort (*Anthoceroophyta*) with 100 species; and the mosses (*Byrophyta*) with over 10,000 species.

The Hornwort, which are not common, has the leafy thallose of Liverworts and a distinct thin sporangia. A long 'horn' emerges from a foot on the gametophyte. This thin 'horn' is thread like and tall splits down the side to release the spores. The 'leaf' like base is a gametophyte which may be unisexual or bisexual. The

length of the sporangia is control by nutrients from the foot on the gametophyte.

The life cycle for most of the bryophytes involves a gametophyte phases, haploid (half the number of chromosomes). This is the phase which we see. When the sporangia (2n) mature spores are released and spores which are haploid begin to grow. In order for fertilization to occur there has to be water most likely a rain drop. Simply the cells surrounding the embryo become the gametophyte phase that provides nutrients for the saprophyte. This is a much more complicated system than found in humans.

SAVAGE CHRISTMAS CREEK

PRESERVE Ilker Gumus and Phyllis Gray

FNPS had an opportunity to return to Savage/Christmas Creek Preserve, formally know as Parcel 105, and see a different part of the area during the Florida Wetlands Festival on February 7th, 2009. Our first visit to the restoration area was during on of our field trips in June 2008. FNPS members Ilker Gumus and Phyllis Gray were present during the hike. The tour was led by Beth Jackson and Mark Rizzo of Orange County.

The site is being restored by Orange County. It previously contained mostly longleaf pines which had been cleared for hunting. An abundance of pond pine was observed, which is thought to be invading the dominant longleaf pine habitats.

Three tributaries flow into Christmas Creek on the property. The wetlands on the site drain into three basins: Savage Creek, Christmas Creek, and the St. Johns River.

We traveled along the orange, yellow and blue trails on the East side of the land, covering an area that was not visited during the previous trip. Some parts of the area were recovering from a prescribed burn. We were informed that the mechanical treatment for the removal of overgrown areas was also in the schedule.

The abundance of live oaks and palmetto palms were most visible. We were informed that prescribed burns and mechanical treatments were primarily intended for those two species, both of which had primarily taken over. Lack of prescribed burns in the previous years were pointed out by Mark as being the primary reason why the palmetto palms had taken such

See "Savage" page 6.



Ixonia mariana

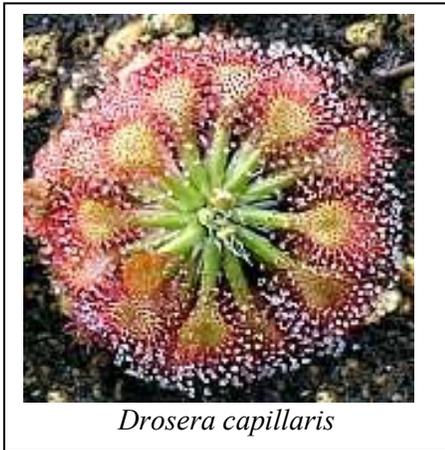
SAVAGE continued from page 5.

hold on the land.

We saw plenty of chalky and bluestem *Andropogon* along all openings. The property also has plenty of four *Lyonia* species: *Lyonia mariana* (big leaf), *L. lucida* (has red bell flowers), *L. ferruginea* and, in wet areas, *Lyonia ligustrina*. For different species of oak trees were observed: *Quercus laurifolia* (laurel oak), *Q. geminata* (sand live oak), *Q. chapmanii* (Chapman's oak), and *Q. myrtifolia* (myrtle oak (rounded tips, cupped leaves)).

As we detoured to freshwater marsh which has water in summer, we saw: hat pins, *Drosera capillaris* (sundews, has pink flowers), *Sarracenia minor* (hooded pitcher plants) and sphagnum moss. British soldiers moss, *Cladina* species, *Hypericum tetrapetalum* and *H. reductum* were also present in some drier areas. Other

species observed included *Piloblephis rigida* (false pennyroyal), *Dichanthelium aciulare* (one of the low panicum grasses), and *Juncus megacephalus* (a common rush).



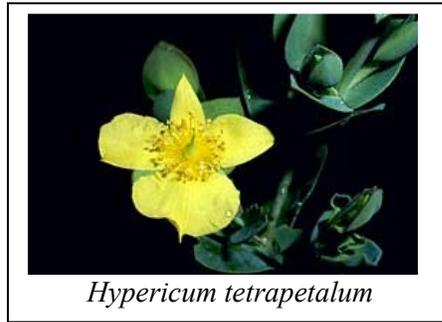
Drosera capillaris

The property also supports an abundance of wildlife as was evidenced by tracks of deer, raccoon, feral hog, and armadillo.



Sarracenia minor

We saw the burrow of a baby gopher tortoise; and it was pointed out that a nearby marsh would provide valuable breeding habitat for gopher frogs, which sometimes inhabit gopher tortoise burrows.



Hypericum tetrapetalum

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Speakers Needed. Tarflower Chapter is still looking for a few people to assist in presenting the Tarflower/Florida Native Plant Society talk to various organizations, such as Garden Clubs. If you are not afraid, or even if you are, to speak in front of a group, please inform Catherine Read, garberia08@gmail.com, or Jackie Rolly, j.y.rolly@att.net, or tell us at a meeting.

Showcase your Garden. We still need volunteers for the Fall Native Garden Tour - volunteer your garden, or your time. Please let any of the Tarflower Board Members know if you are interested.

ANNUAL LEU GARDENS PLANT SALE, March 21 & 22 Pete Dunkelberg

This is the great plant sale of the year!. Admission to the Gardens is free that weekend, and lots of people bring a wagon to carry the plants they buy. It is also the main money making event of the year for us, the Tarflower chapter of FNPS. Don't miss the event. You can get some native plants for your own yard and also help out at our table. You may also help by getting a good picture of our native plant sale in action.

RECENT EVENTS Pete Dunkelberg

The annual Orlando Wetlands Festival was held on February 7. We had an information table and sold some native plants, and also gave two plant walks. Because of the new arrangement not too many people were able to go on the plant walks in the hydric hammock, but those who did were glad for the experience. There was also a good hike on the Christmas Creek property. The Winter Park Garden Club event at Meade Gardens was held on February 21 and the Tarflower Chapter was there selling plants.

FROM THE EDITOR

Tarpaper articles are due the Sunday 1 week prior to the meeting week. When submitting photos, please submit the highest quality photos possible. I will adjust the resolution accordingly. Also, please include the type of plant or name of location in the photo name.

Lake County Has A Problem...

PLEASE JOIN US FEBRUARY 23

At

TROUT LAKE NATURE CENTER

10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

*To learn more about this problem
and the solutions.*

Invasives · Exotics

And Other Bad Plants And Trees

These invaders cost every resident.

They:

- Make land and shorelines unproductive
- Ruin habitat for desirable plants and animals
- Spoil the landscape which enhances tourism
- Reduce bio-diversity on land and water

Private Landowners...

Farmers...

Ranchers...

Public Land Managers...

WE NEED TO WORK TOGETHER

Other counties are organizing CWMA's (Cooperative Weed Management Areas). Collectively, these groups are better able to provide outreach programs and materials to all citizens within a region, apply for grants, share resources, and rank higher for Federal funding.

We will have outstanding speakers presenting different aspects of the problem followed by a discuss of solutions over lunch.

Please phone 357-7536 if you plan to attend. There is no charge for participation. You can join our order of pizza for \$5, or bring your own bag lunch. Trout Lake will provide drinks.

The following groups have already agreed to participate:

- Beautyberry,
- Florida Native Plant Society
- Lake County Parks and Trails
- Lake County Water Authority
- Lake County Public Lands
- The Nature Conservancy

We hope to see YOU there.



Air Potato



Camphor Tree



Lygodium

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 March 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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