



the Tarpaper

The Tarflower Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society



Volume: XXVI August 2009 ISSUE

AUGUST 4 PROGRAM: Family Matters

By Dr. Carolina Lane

Our own member, Dr. Carolina Lane will discuss Plant families. Carolina H. Lane is a long time armchair naturalist. She is an ABD in Botany and Ecology at University of Georgia. She has a PhD in history from Emory University. Her dissertation topic was the introduction of economic plants into England and their impact on the English economy. Dr Lane was also an adjunct faculty in the Emory School of Public Health. She moved to the Orlando area over a year ago.

FUTURE PROGRAMS

September 1: Annual Potluck

November 3: Grasses by Dr Walter Taylor

PLANT RESCUE Jackie Rolly

Due to the heat and therefore stress on both the plants and the humans, there will be no plant salvages for July, August, or September.

RAIN BARREL WORKSHOP

Construction and Painting

Saturday, August 1, 2009

2:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.

\$80.00 fee plus tax.

for workshop, barrel and materials, and painting supplies.

Location:

Rolling Hills Moravian Church

1525 State Road 434 W

Longwood, FL 32750

Please call or email to register: Deadline July 30, 2009

Church phone- 407-332-8380, leave a message or contact

Gabrielle Milch at 407-682-7811,

gabbiemilch@aol.com

AUGUST FIELD TRIP: Taxonomy, Practice What You Learn

Tarflower's August program will introduce taxonomy courtesy of chapter member Carolina Lane. For our August field trip, you will be able to reinforce and enhance these skills with additional instruction and field application. We will meet on Saturday, August 8th at 9:00 am at the Seminole Environmental Center, courtesy of our Seminole School District friends. The site is located on the northeast side of our metro area, between Longwood and Winter Springs. This center is a cozy facility nestled in a preserved hammock, Spring Hammock to be exact- a stone's throw from Soldiers Creek- to help you get your bearings. The program will end by lunch time. Interested participants may gather afterwards for a short picnic lunch to nourish to an exercised brain.

For directions, use the following address to Google or Mapquest a map: 2985 Osprey Trail Longwood, FL 32750. Speaking of Soldiers Creek, for those interested in independent exploration after the field trip ends, Soldier's Creek Park has trails through five natural habitats. The park is open daily to the public from sunrise to sunset. Endangered gopher tortoises are present in the park, difficult to see, and are slow moving. Please **drive with care** in the parking area. For more information, please call John Cento at (407) 913-2417 or email at jcentocpa@hotmail.com.

2011 CONFERENCE Catherine Read

As many of you have heard by now, Tarflower is going to be hosting the 2011 conference. We hosted the very successful 2004 conference, so clearly we have lots of talent in our membership! For the 2011 conference we will be co-hosting with the Lake Beautyberry and the Pine Lily (Osceola Co) chapters. Planning meetings are beginning and there is much to do already! Please let Phyllis Gray or anyone on the board what committees you prefer to work on. I am excited about the opportunity and know you are too!!

FLORIDA FRIENDLY LANDSCAPE BILL PASSES IN LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Jackie Rolly

Governor Charlie Crist signed Senate Bill 2080 into law on June 30, 2009. It contains a provision that residents can plant Florida Friendly and native landscape plants without penalty from homeowner's associations.

It was with tremendous disappointment, however, that the Florida Native Plant Society recommended that Governor Crist veto Senate Bill 2080 at the last minute. FNPS was extremely excited by the provisions of the bill that will now advance the use of Florida Friendly Landscaping; however, the addition of last-minute amendment corrupted the bill and FNPS had to reverse its support and ask that the Governor to veto a bill that we were working towards for many years.

By asking for the veto, we wanted to make a strong statement about the legislature's last-minute amendment which put bad policy into law by hiding it among the good. The amendment to the new law gives the executive directors of Florida's five water-management districts the sole power to approve water-use permits for large projects and developments. Until now, water-management districts had governing boards with a public input process. The bill contains some good water conservation policy language through promotion of "Florida Friendly" landscaping. However such good provisions do not come close to outweighing the destructive loss of public access to agency decision-making. FNPS does not agree that the Executive Directors of the water management districts should have sole power to approve the issuance of water use permits.

The water management district's governing boards provide a mechanism that helps minimize the influence of politics on important decisions related to the protection and proper management of Florida's water resources. Their authority to approve or deny the issuance of water use and wetland permits, exercised in the context of a public meeting, is an important element of representative democracy and "government in the sunshine". Although they are not elected, they are appointed by the Governor to represent the entire breadth of the public interest. They play a critical role that should not have to be compromised in order to implement a more sustainable approach to landscaping and water conservation.

Now that the bill is in place, we appreciate the support this bill exhibits for implementation of a more sustainable approach to landscaping. Huge quantities of water could potentially be conserved,

to the benefit of the natural systems that are as dependent on water for their health and survival as are our human communities. Conservation is the least expensive and most environmentally friendly new source of water, and changing the way we landscape is simply the best way to conserve.

The good policy language in the new law is the promotion of "Florida Friendly" landscaping and in particular the Bill overrides Homeowner Association (HOA) rules. This makes it easier for home owners to use Florida-friendly landscaping, and in particular HOA's can no longer require home owners to use St. Augustine or other sod in their landscapes. This is a big step forward – too many times we have heard during outreach efforts that the home owner would like to change their landscape but were restricted by their HOA covenants. Specific language in the Bill is as follows:

A deed restriction or covenant may not prohibit or be enforced so as to prohibit any property owner from implementing Florida-friendly landscaping on his or her land or create any requirement or limitation in conflict with any provision of part II of this chapter or a water shortage order, other order, consumptive use permit, or rule adopted or issued pursuant to part II of this chapter.

In addition: The Legislature finds that the use of Florida-friendly landscaping and other water use and pollution prevention measures to conserve or protect the state's water resources serves a compelling public interest and that the participation of homeowners' associations and local governments is essential to state's efforts in water conservation and water quality. A local government ordinance may not prohibit or be enforced so as to prohibit any property owner from implementing Florida-friendly landscaping on his or her land.

Also, the new law requires water management districts to provide model Florida Friendly landscape ordinances to local governments.

We recommend that each member, living within the confines of an HOA, alert their Board and the Architectural Review Committee (ARC) of the above. It is doubtful that the majority of home owners and board members are aware of the passage of this Bill. This does not mean that we immediately remove all turf and replace it with mulch and two plants. It is important that continue to strive to show that native and "Florida friendly" landscaping can look just as pleasing as the wide expanses of lawns. It is our time to excel.

MY PERSONAL INVASIVE PLANT

PROBLEM: *Cat claw vine*, *Macfadyena unguis-cati*

Chuck Roux

I was weeding on July 25 when I discovered new tender sprouts three feet long under my azaleas that were coming from roots only two to four inches under the ground. I traced the roots back to the fence and discovered that the vines were on an oak tree about twenty feet away. On my side the roots extended at least thirty feet. This new growth was very fast and resulted from my discussion with that neighbor about that awful vine and he cut it, but didn't do anything else. The awful vine is known as the cat claw vine in the bignonia family which includes Trumpet Tree, *Tabebuia* spp and skunk vine, *Paederia foetida*.

These vines are normally inconspicuous when growing from seed in hedges or other cover and may take several years to be noticed, but when cut, the extensive root system has the energy to provide for fast recovery as do many vines. Even the seedlings have a small nodule in the root and quickly become survivors. Twenty year old vines can put out millions of seeds that have wings to catch the wind. The blossoms are yellow and "trumpet" shaped almost identical to the yellow *tabebuia* or "trumpet tree". If you see yellow flowers fifty feet up in a large oak or in an arbor vitae shrub that shouldn't have them, then Cat claw is likely the culprit. The mature vine leaves (one inch by one-half inch) are opposite with three tiny claws between the twin leaves that allow it to climb. The mature vine has a nasty habit of fast growing horizontal runners (as skunk vine does) that establish new colonies faster than by seed. The trunk can grow to at least two inches in diameter (Unlike any skunk vine that I have seen.).

The Conway area of Orlando has been plagued with this nuisance vine for 30 years or more. Cyprus Grove Park on

Holden Ave had it before it opened. Lake Margaret Dr had a tree on the right-of-way that was recently killed by it. My

other neighbor has let the vine become his back yard mowed cover and it runs rampant horizontally so I have to fight it on two fronts. Even Leu Gardens has a small one near the front door. I am ready for some laws about nuisance plants.

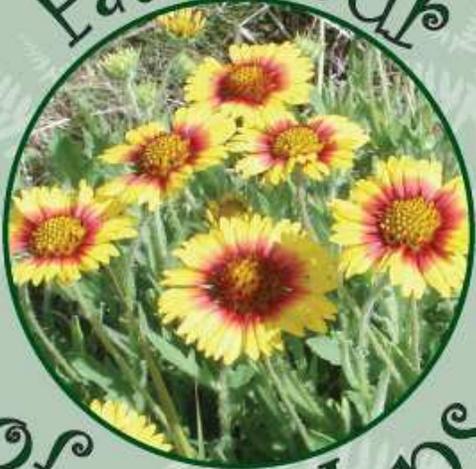


Cat Claw Vine

Central Florida Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society Presents



Fall Tour Of Gardens



Learn How To: Enhance the Natural Beauty of Your Neighborhood;
Express Your Own Landscaping Style;
Save Water; Reduce Fertilizers and Pesticides; Attract Wildlife

Displays and information about gardening with native plants
will be available at each garden.

Bring your questions. Get planting ideas. Take photos of a wide variety of gardens,
design elements, and native trees, shrubs, wildflowers and grasses.

25 October 2009 * 10:00 am – 4:00 pm
TICKETS are \$5.00 per person

and may be purchased beginning September 2 at Green Images Native Landscape Plants,
Biosphere Consulting, Inc., South Seminole Farm and Nursery, and Blodgett Gardens.

Your ticket includes a brochure with garden descriptions, highlights and locations.
For more information, visit <http://www.fnps.org/pages/chapters/chapterpg.php?keyword=fallflower>.

FNPS 2009 Conference Tidbit: With the exception of the hosting chapter, the Tarflower Chapter had the most attendees from a chapter (by far) with 28 individuals attending the conference.

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
\$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 August 4** 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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