



the Tarpaper

The Tarflower Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society



Volume: XXVII August 2010 ISSUE

AUGUST 3 PROGRAM

Ginny Stibolt:

*Sustainable Gardening and
Some Old Gardeners' Tales*



Ginny Stibolt knows that sustainable gardening in Florida can encompass a wide range of activities and techniques. She believes that, as gardeners, we've been misled for too long. At her August talk,

she'll provide scientifically proven methods to make our landscape more sustainable. These methods will help us all be better, more efficient gardeners — and better-informed gardeners have more fun!

Ginny is a columnist, author and life-long gardener with an MS degree in botany from the University of Maryland. Her latest book is *Sustainable Gardening for Florida*. For more information or to follow her "Adventures of a Transplanted Gardener," visit her website at www.sustainablegardening4florida.com.

FUTURE PROGRAMS

September 7: Annual Members Potluck

October 5: Tracy McCommon of Nature Wise TV presents her latest program, *Gardening for Native Pollinators (Part I) Butterflies and Moths*

AUGUST FIELD TRIP *by John Cento*

Adventure on the Water!

Saturday, August 14th



As terrestrial creatures usually trodding on hot sand or shaded muck, an eco-boat ride with a certified naturalist would be a change of pace.

On Saturday, August 14th, Tarflower members and guests will meet at the Marine Discovery Center (MDC) in New Smyrna Beach no later than 1:30 pm to embark by 2:00 pm for a two-hour eco-tour. The group rate per person is \$20. If you have not been on the water in a long time, this trip is perfect and in camaraderie with your chapter members!

Travel the Indian River Lagoon in the comfort of the Discovery, a 36-seat, all-weather pontoon boat. Your tour guide will be one of MDC's knowledgeable narrators — certified Florida Master Naturalists — who enjoy sharing their extensive knowledge of the abundant marine life that lives in and on the Indian River Lagoon. Mangroves line the shore and provide habitat for many species of birds and invertebrates.

We can bring small coolers on board for water or soft drinks. A restroom is also on board, but we will have to rely on the ocean breezes for cooling: no air conditioning.

MDC is located near downtown New Smyrna Beach at 162 North Causeway, New Smyrna Beach, Florida 32169 (on the river). Note: This is NOT SR44, which is the South Causeway.

MDC was formed over 10 years ago with the protection of the Indian River Lagoon as the primary
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TARFLOWER FOUNDING MEMBER, SAM HOPKINS, PASSES AWAY

by Pete Dunkelberg

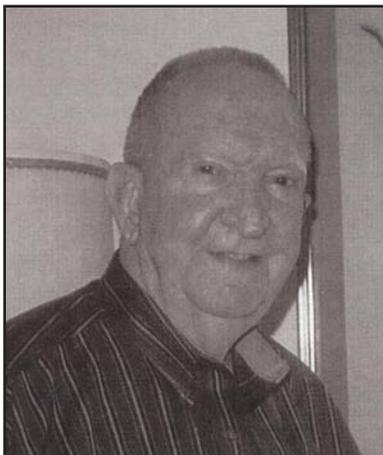
Sam Hopkins RIP. Sam Hopkins was a founding member of Tarflower and one of the great ones, back when not just our chapter but the whole Florida Native Plant Society was just getting started. The people who joined the new Society were just learning about native plants and figuring out what a native plant society should be all about. Sam became a great learner and a great teacher. The handy books we now depend on didn't exist yet, so he built a large library of botanical books and papers. To really understand the books, he was often out in the field with Dick Deuerling, Walter Taylor, Chuck Roux and others, taking pictures and arguing about plant identifications. Of course, he went on Tarflower's monthly field trips.

Not everyone goes on field trips, but Sam was known to all for the What's Blooming show given at the start of each meeting. Every month, Sam had new photos of native plants in bloom, including some taken by other members, and prepared slides and commentary for the meeting. I wasn't there, so I'll let Kariena Veaudry tell it:

"Twenty-six years ago, when I was 20 years old, I was changing majors in college and decided to learn more about native plants. I found out about the FNPS and attended my first meeting. Sam was the first person I encountered. The meetings were held then in a small cottage on the grounds of Leu Gardens. There were 50-60 people crammed in a very small space. I was late and the meeting had already started. Sam was in the center aisle with a slide projector describing "What's Blooming This Month," a series that all anticipated for many years. His lively descriptions and many details hooked me from the first couple of seconds. After several minutes, Sam interrupted his talk and put all the attention on me standing by the door, captivated, and said, 'We'll don't just stand there, come on in and be a part of this.'"

(And she did. Kariena went on to become the Executive Director of FNPS.)

Sam's native plant activities were by no means limited to the Tarflower chapter. I'll quote what Teri Godts wrote in 2003, when Sam must have already been a legend:



"An interest in biology and botany led Sam to the University of Central Florida, where he took postgraduate courses in those subjects. As he studied, Sam developed a particular love of the native plants of Central Florida. He worked tirelessly at the UCF Herbarium, collecting literally thousands of plant specimens which he identified, classified and mounted.

"As Sam's interest and knowledge of native plants grew, he gave talks on that subject to local civic and natural groups. He worked as a field botanist for one of the first ecological consulting firms in the area. He worked with several local engineering firms and with planners and engineers as a consultant on native flora to the Central Florida Zoo in Sanford and the City of Orlando Parks Department.

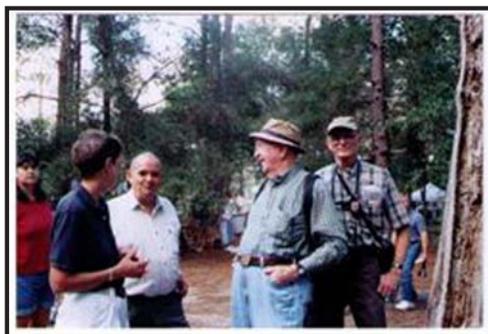
"Sam joined several organization related to the natural world, including the Audubon Society, the American Fern Society, and the Florida Native Plant Society. Sam was very involved in the establishment of the Tarflower Chapter of FNPS. He served as the initial vice-president and later as field trip committee chair, and he gave many talks, especially

concerning the identification of native plants. An early precursor of "What's Blooming" was "What You Always Wanted to Know About Natives, but Were Afraid to Ask," in which Sam discussed a single plant with specimens, slides and cultural notes. In addition, along with fellow FNPS members Dick Deuerling [interviewed in Spring Issue, Vol. 20, No. 1] and Dr. Elaine Norman, Sam was part of a segment called "Name That Plant,"

in which members brought plants to the meeting for identification. Later in the development of FNPS meeting topics, both Sam and Dick Deuerling began a monthly series relating to the cultural and botanical history of certain native plants and plant families. Throughout the years, Sam has given lectures on many topics, including native ferns, trees of Central Florida, plant identification, and landscaping with native plants."

For all that, Teri still ended her article with "We'll always know "What's Blooming" in Central Florida as long as Sam Hopkins is at the slide projector."

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Mrs. & Dr. Taylor, Sam Hopkins and Chuck Roux in 2005

BOK TOWER SCRUB LUPINE CONSERVATION PROJECT

The Rare Plant Conservation Program at Bok Tower Gardens, in cooperation with the Ridge Rangers, is hosting a free class about their Scrub Lupine conservation project on Saturday, August 21st from 9:00 am until Noon. Free admission to the Gardens is also included. The class will be held in the lecture hall located inside the Visitors Center at Bok Tower Gardens. The purpose of the class will be to introduce this important conservation project to potential volunteers, teachers and concerned citizens.

The pink-flowered Scrub Lupine, *Lupinus westianus* var. *aridorum*, is endemic to the Winter Haven and Mt. Dora Ridges in Central Florida. From 45 documented populations prior to 2002, only 10 remained by 2003. In 2010, only 7 of those documented populations still exist. Commercial and residential development has replaced Scrub Lupine populations, their scrub habitat, and the community of species with which they coexist.

In 2008, the Rare Plant Conservation Program at Bok Tower Gardens (Program) received a grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to help fund a project designed to save the Scrub Lupine from extinction. The project is focusing on 1) the conservation of all remaining germplasm of this species, 2) the development of successful propagation methods, and 3) the establishment of genetically diverse populations at protected sites. To date, the Program and its partners have established 3 populations at protected sites.

Anyone interested in signing up for this free class can register online at http://www.myfwc.com/GETINVOLVED/Volunteer_Ridge_Rangers_Lupine.asp, or call Bill Parken, the Ridge Rangers Coordinator at 863-699-3742.

NOTICE: Long-time *Tarpaper* editor, Jean Vasicek, is stepping down. Her honey business is now taking all of her time! Getting out the *Tarpaper* is not easy and Jean has done a great job for us for quite a few years, but it is now time to pass the baton. Starting with this (August) edition, the new editor of the *Tarpaper* is Stacey Matrazzo. Until Stacey has time to research a new email list service, we will continue to use Yahoo Groups. Please be patient as we make these changes. If you have any announcements, articles, photos, please send them to Stacey at stacey@impactpress.com.

SAVAGE CHRISTMAS CREEK PRESERVE GRAND OPENING

On July 16, 2010, Mayor Rich Crotty and Commissioner Bill Segal presided at the grand opening of Orange County's new preserve, Savage Christmas Creek Preserve, located off West Christmas Road. The preserve is now open to the public.

Savage Christmas Creek Preserve reflects the long standing history of the site as well as its unique environmental character. The Savage family pioneered this area and has deep roots in the Christmas area. This parcel represents this family's contributions and their long standing heritage. Both Savage and Christmas Creeks traverse the preserve, which is home to over a dozen natural communities.

Since the preserve was once also the site of turpentine production, you can still find pieces of herty cups. Tarflower members have been to this preserve before it was open to the public, but now we can visit any time.



Mayor Crotty, Commissioner Segal and Lori Cunniff at the ribbon-cutting. Photo by Jackie Rolly.

FLORIDA WILDFLOWER FOUNDATION SEEDS FOR SCHOOLS PROGRAM

Can you help a teacher plan, plant or maintain a wildflower garden at a school near you? We are looking for Florida Wildflower Foundation, Master Gardeners, FNPS and Garden Club members to volunteer in the Foundation's Seeds for Schools program in the following counties: Alachua, Bradford, Brevard, Broward, Citrus, Clay, Collier, Duval, Escambia, Flagler, Hillsborough, Indian River, Jefferson, Lake, Lee, Leon, Levy, Manatee, Martin, Orange, Osceola, Palm Beach, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, Santa Rosa, Seminole, St. Johns and Volusia.

To volunteer, email Seeds for Schools at SFS@flwildflowers.org. Wildflower garden projects will begin in September, so please consider volunteering now. Your time will enrich the lives of Florida's future generations!

FIELD TRIP TO THE ENCHANTED FOREST

by Pete Dunkelberg

Our July field trip was to The Enchanted Forest near Titusville. It was an unusual trip in that we joined the Sea Rocket chapter for their annual picnic, which called for bringing a covered dish to share. Sea Rocket members were excellent hosts. Suzanne Meyer and Shari Blissett Clark were especially helpful. The staff and volunteers of The Enchanted Forest made sure we had plenty of picnic tables, and plentiful food just appeared to cover them.

Several of us arrived early and had a nice plant walk on a few of the trails there. One of the standout plants is *Zanthoxylum clava-herculis*, also known as Hercules Club because of its very knobby trunk, or toothache tree because of the sensation, or rather lack of it, that you get from chewing the leaves. I'd be very careful chewing those spiny leaves.

I was pleased to see that they are growing our native yellow-flowered lantana, *Lantana depressa*. I thought it only lived farther south. Along the trail there was a lot of beautyberry with the new berries looking very nice in green. We also saw partridge pea, hickory, tough bully (*Sideroxylon tenax*), tropical sage, ironweed and more, but soon we had to hurry back for our feast.



Hercules Club



Hercules Club leaves



Sheryl Paige

Our meal was delicious in far more ways than we deserved, and we had the pleasure of meeting new friends with common interests. After a fine leisurely lunch, there was even free entertainment! Singer and songwriter Sheryl Paige played and sang song after song for us. She is quite good and deserves wider recognition.



native Lantana



Making oyster mats

After Sheryl finished singing I joined another activity that was already underway: making oyster mats. This is part of a large project to give oysters some habitat in return for what we take from them. Oyster larvae like to settle and grow on older oyster shells. We were supplied with the shells to attach to mats, also supplied. Each shell had a small hole drilled in it. We simply used plastic slip-ties to attach thirty six shells to each mat. Later the mats will be placed in a good spot in the sea, probably around Mosquito Bay.



green Beautyberries

Finally it was time to thank our hosts and say goodbye to new friends and make the drive back to Orlando.

August Field Trip, continued from page 1

objective. The founders included James Vandergriff, then- and current Mayor of New Smyrna Beach, as well as civic leaders, local biologists and others. MDC is a membership-driven, not-for-profit, 501(c)3 Florida Corporation. They focus on Florida coastal ecosystem education, research, restoration and preservation with special attention to the northern Indian River Lagoon and surrounding waters.

After the cruise, if there is interest, we can travel to Canaveral National Seashore and visit Turtle Mound. This part of the coast is known as the northern extent of several tropical species and the southern limit of some temperate ones, making for an interesting mix. Unlike many barrier islands, the barrier island dividing Mosquito Lagoon from the waters of the Atlantic Ocean has only a single dune ridge, averaging 12 feet in height. For the vast majority of its length, the dune is quite stable, backed by a dense growth of saw palmetto and several other species of hardy shrubs and grasses.

I have reserved twenty spaces for the eco-tour, but it would be great to firm up the count. Please contact me to reserve your spot by phone at (407) 913-2417 or email jcentocpa@hotmail.com.

Sam Hopkins, continued from page 2

I believe I am the newest member to have met and come to know Sam. By this time Tarflower met in our present quarters and Sam was no longer doing What's Blooming. The old slide projector lay forgotten in the back of the storage cabinet. I got to know Sam at just a few meetings and field trips.



Later our acquaintance continued at Westminster Towers, where both he and my mother resided. He always had a friendly, slightly joking way and managed to encourage my interest in native plants, and he gave me one of the few copies of his unpublished book *Native Florida*.

Looking back at all Sam did to help both Tarflower members and the whole community learn about and appreciate native plants, lets all try to do a little more.

DWP FIELD TRIP DATE CHANGE

Beautyberry Chapter has changed the date of the DWP field trip to Thursday October 21st 10 a.m. Please contact Peg Lindsey at pegcondor@embarqmail.com if you plan on attending.

BECOME A FLORIDA MASTER NATURALIST

The next Florida Master Naturalist class will be on **freshwater wetland habitats** and will be held on Thursdays, from 9am to 4pm, beginning August 5 and running through September 9. This six-week course includes a mix of classroom presentations and field trips to area wetlands, including a day at Oakland Nature Preserve. (For a full schedule of activities and field trip locations, visit <http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/fmnp/fw10-22.htm>.)

Oakland Nature Preserve participates in the Florida Master Naturalist Program (FMNP), an adult education program developed by the University of Florida to promote awareness, understanding and respect of Florida's natural world among Florida's citizens and visitors. FMNP modules are offered in three subject areas: Freshwater Wetlands, Coastal Systems and Upland Habitats. Each module meets for forty hours, as scheduled by the instructors. Completion of all three modules certifies you as a Florida Master Naturalist.

The program is offered by participating organizations, such as Oakland Nature Preserve and the UF/IFAS Orange County Extension, and modules are offered around the state. In Orange County, classes are held at the UF/IFAS Orange County IFAS Extension located at 6021 South Conway Road, Orlando, FL 32812. Jennifer Ramos, of Florida Yards and Neighborhoods, is the instructor, and Peggy Lantz, ONP board member and volunteer, is assistant instructor.

If you are a volunteer or professional in any nature center or park, or are just interested in what you can learn about Florida's natural areas, you should consider signing up. The cost is \$225 per module, which includes two detailed manuals, classroom instruction and field trips.

Deadline for registration is July 29, 2010, however, if the class is not full, they will accept late registration. For more information and to register, visit the Florida Master Naturalist Program website (<http://www.masternaturalist.ifas.ufl.edu/>) or contact Jennifer Ramos at 407-254-9224 or jennifer.ramos@ocfl.net.

Local Native Nurseries

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

BB Brown's Gardens
(352) 429-5566
Montevista Rd
Clermont, FL 34711

Green Images
(407) 568-1333
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:
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 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 August 12, 2010. For more information, contact Catherine Bowman. Members are welcome to attend.

Tarpaper Online!

Current and past issues of the Tarpaper can be viewed on line by accessing the chapter web site through FNPS.org. Click on Chapters -> Tarflower and follow the instructions to the tarpaper!



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