



the Tarpaper

The Tarflower Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society

Volume XXVIII • August 2011



AUGUST 2 PROGRAM: **Sustainable Organic Gardening** by Tia Meer

Join Tia Meer of Simple Living Institute for a program on Sustainable Gardening. Learn how to catch water, produce energy, grow food and preserve biodiversity in your yard and within your local community. Tia will share photos of her home and garden and give tips on how to work towards a more sustainable lifestyle.



Tia Meer has had a lifelong passion for botany, organic gardening and sustainable living. She is the president of Simple Living Institute, Inc. and owner of Homegrown Delights, LLC. She is a community garden coordinator for UCF, grows vegetables and starter plants, and teaches sustainability classes on her Econ Farm in East Orlando.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

SEP 6 Don Spence: "Native Trees Under Attack"

OCT 4 Catherine Bowman/Marc Godts: "Native Landscaping for Dry Shade"

NOV 1 Jean Vasicek: "The Honeybee"

DEC 6 Dr. Jack Stout: "Why Do Our Plants Become Rare?"

JAN 3 Eleonor Foerste: "How to Distinguish Between Oaks and Pines"

AUGUST FIELD TRIP:

Fallflowering ixia at Tosohatchee WMA

Saturday, August 13, 3:30pm

by Paul Eisenbrown

Yes, it's back to Tosohatchee to look for the fallflowering ixia or *Nemastylus floridana*. This plant only blooms in the late afternoon, so we'll be starting our trip at 3:30pm. This date in August is about the earliest that they will start blooming, so we may or may not be successful in locating them. However, there are still plenty of other blooms to check out along the way. Afterwards, we'll eat dinner as a group on the way back home.

It will most likely be a hot August day, so be prepared for the sun and bring a lot of water. We will drive the roads in Tosohatchee and get out at various places of interest, so the walking distances are not far. Don't forget your plant ID books.

The address for directions to Tosohatchee is 3365 Taylor Creek Rd. in Christmas, Florida. Fees are \$3 per car; seniors are free. Contact Paul Eisenbrown at 407-394-3519 or peisenbrown@earthlink.net for any questions.



TARFLOWER POLO SHIRT ORDERS...

The Tarflower chapter will deliver previously ordered polo shirts at the Aug 2 and Sep 6 meetings. To avoid carrying a large inventory, we will take orders again in October and November for delivery at the Dec 6 meeting. We ask that anyone interested in ordering stop by the sales desk at a meeting and let us know. All sizes and colors will sell for \$25 each. Any questions can be answered by contacting Frank Winzig via email at fwinzig@gmail.com. Thank You!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

Aug 1-14 — Bok Tower Gardens is restoring 27 acres of fallow citrus land back to the longleaf pine/turkey oak (aka sandhill) habitat that it was historically. Volunteers are needed to help hand-plant and water-in 34,000 plants on 12 acres. Families and groups are welcome! (Children must be accompanied by an adult.) For more information, visit <http://3196101.poll daddy.com/s/volunteers-needed-for-bok-tower-gardens-sandhill-restoration-planting-event-8-1-to-8-14-2011>. Each volunteer will receive one free pass to return to Bok Tower Gardens for a visit!

RESTORATION & CLEAN-UP PROJECTS:

Orange County Environmental Protection Division (EPD) is continuing a series of restoration and clean up projects for 2011.

Aug 13 — Orange EPD is looking for a group to help restore a marsh area on the Savage Creek Preserve. The project will involve planting native wire grass in an impacted area of the Green PLACE Preserve. If you are interested in this project, please let Jackie Rolly know via email (j.y.rolly@att.net) no later than July 31st. This will be instead of a rescue — we can plant something!

Sep 24 – NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY Green PLACE and EPD will celebrate National Public Lands Day with a project on Savage Creek Preserve, Christmas, Florida. EPD volunteers will work together from 9am until noon on invasive plant removal, trail maintenance and debris removal. If you are interested in helping, please contact Carrie Mohanna via email, Carrie.Mohanna@ocfl.net, or phone, 407-836-1430.

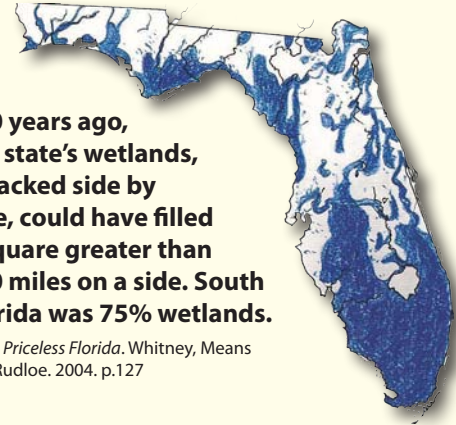
Do you have a story you'd like to share with other Tarflower members? Is there an upcoming event you'd like to promote? Or maybe there's something you'd like us to cover in a future issue. Send your articles, events, ideas, photos and suggestions to Stacey Matrazzo, *The Tarpaper Editor*, at stacey@impactpress.com. (Please do not reduce or compress photos before sending; a size of 3x4 at 300dpi is preferred.) The deadline to submit an article, event or announcement for the September issue is August 22.

SWALES, WATER TABLES & WILDFLOWERS or How to Add a Streak of Beauty to Your Life While Conserving Florida's Water by Pete Dunkelberg

A swale is just a slight dip in the land with higher ground along either side. It may hold rainwater for a while after a heavy rain, and some deeper ones hold water all the time. Swales can be as large as the Everglades or small enough for you to have one of your own.

200 years ago, the state's wetlands, if packed side by side, could have filled a square greater than 180 miles on a side. South Florida was 75% wetlands.

From *Priceless Florida*. Whitney, Means and Rudloe. 2004. p.127



So why might you want a swale, say, across your yard by the street? The obvious reason is to make much better use of rainwater. But there is another reason, often missed by people with mowers. Many of Florida's wildflowers are adapted to a fluctuating water table that sometimes rises above the surface. This is hardly surprising when you realize how much of Florida was originally wetlands.



If you can walk on water, or at least in it some of the time, you will find that many of our native plants from live oaks to lovely flowers thrive when their base is occasionally under water, or where the ground may be under water at the wettest times. These include species such as buttonbush and *Hibiscus coccineus*, climbing aster and little *Justicia*, *Rhexia spp.* and *Sabatia grandiflora* and even pine lilies. The book *Florida Wetland Plants* lists a few hundred that might grow in or along side of a swale.

SEPTEMBER FIELD TRIP: **Overnight trip to Fakahatchee Strand, Sep 17-18**

It's time to get serious if you are planning to go on the overnight trip to the Fakahatchee Strand. Carpooling needs to be set up and hotel/motel rooms need to be reserved. We will drive down Saturday morning and meet our biologist guide at 1pm to search for orchids and other south Florida plants. Sunday, on the way home, we will stop in Lake Placid to tour the City of Murals.

For more detailed information on this trip including our meetup address, visit the [Tarflower web page](#) on the FNPS website. For lodging options, visit www.florida-everglades.com/stay.htm. And for information on Lake Placid's murals, check out www.htn.net/lplacid/murals/murals.htm.

If you are planning to join us on this field trip, please RSVP to peisenbrown@earthlink.net.

FNPS Plant Expedition to Nicaragua – **2nd Trip Added!!**

Following the success of our sold out trip in November, Aventuras Naturales, a Florida-based eco-travel company, has added a second exciting and educational plant expedition to Nicaragua for FNPS members. Nicaragua's flora and fauna is only recently emerging as being very distinct from her neighbors Costa Rica and Panama. Her dramatic geography, marked by volcanoes, lakes and forests, creates a striking landscape and biodiversity second to none. This is the perfect trip for the nature lover and plant enthusiast!

Trip Date: January 14th, 2012

Trip Length: 12 days

Price: \$3300 (includes airfare from Miami Int'l Airport)

Activities: Hiking, Plant Exploration, City Walks

For more information or to reserve your space, call 954-603-2907 or email tours@aventurasnaturales.org today!

JULY FIELD TRIP: **Deep Creek and Volusia Forever**

by Pete Dunkelberg

We arrived at 9am at Deep Creek, the most recently acquired property of Volusia County's Volusia Forever program. Back in 2000, the citizens of the county voted for a tax of 0.2 mills in order to restore and conserve the county's diverse natural ecosystems and provide access, education and enjoyment for the public. Around 38,000 acres have been acquired. Biologist and naturalist Bonnie Cary arranges programs and guided tours for the public, and our field trip was one such tour.

After Bonnie gave us an introduction to the property, we all got in the Volusia Buggy to begin touring. We stopped often to take a closer look at the plants. Catherine made a list of 157 species, of which I'll just mention a few. Several species of *Rhexia* were blooming, including *R. mariana* and *R. alifanus*, which looks great from a distance and fantastic close up.

Several species of *Hypericum* were also blooming. I especially like the look of *H. cistifolium* when it is just starting to flower or just about to start. We also saw the sedge *Scirpus cyperinus*, which is called wool-grass because of the extraordinary feel of the seed heads.

After a few more stops, we headed back to the pavilion near the pond with the snake to have lunch. We had our usual good time and bade goodbye to Bonnie Cary. Then most went home, but some of us who like to extend our field trips a bit — Chuck, his family and I — went to nearby Lake Ashby Park. It is one of the few places nearby to see the American lotus blooming, and there was more wool-grass, too. All in all, it was another fine day.



Our guide, Bonnie Cary



Fieldtrippers in the buggy



Hypericum cistifolium



Scirpus cyperinus



Rhexia alifanus

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 2 at 7pm**. See you there!
(For directions, call 407-246-2620 option 1).

Executive Committee — The next board meeting will be **Thursday, August 11, 2011 at 6pm**. For more information, contact Catherine Bowman. Members are welcome to attend.

The Tarpaper Online! — Current and past issues of *The Tarpaper* can be viewed online by accessing the chapter website at www.fnps.org. Click on Chapters -> Tarflower and follow the instructions to *The Tarpaper!*

BECOME A MEMBER

Make checks payable to:

Florida Native Plant Society
P.O. Box 278
Melbourne, FL 32902-0278

To join online or for more information, visit www.fnps.org or call 321-271-6702.

\$35	Individual
\$50	Family/Household
\$15	Full-time Student
\$15	Library
\$50	Non-Profit
\$75	Contributing
\$100	Supporting
\$125	Business/Corporate
\$250	Donor
\$1000	Life

Florida Native Plant Professionals & Nurseries

AlterNatives

(Landscape Design and Installation)
Rich Beggs, oviedonatives@msn.com
(407) 538-1940

Biosphere Native Plant Nursery

Jim Thomas, biosphere@biospherenursery.com

Evolving Landscapes

(Landscape Design and Installation)
David Schroeder, evolvinglandscapes@yahoo.com
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Full Moon Native Plant Nursery

Kevin Bagwell, kevin@fullmoonnatives.com
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David Drylie, greenimage@aol.com
(407) 579-6887

Green Isle Gardens Native Plant Nursery

Marc Godts, mgodts123@gmail.com
(321) 436-4932



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