



the Tarpaper

The Tarflower Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society

Volume XXVIII • October 2011



OCTOBER 4 PROGRAM:

Native Landscaping for Dry Shade

presented by Catherine Bowman
and Marc Godts

Do you have a shady area in your landscape where you have trouble keeping plants growing? Tarflower chapter president Catherine Bowman and Marc Godts, co-owner of Green Isle Gardens in Groveland, will share some ideas for enhancing the appearance of these sometimes-troublesome spots. Catherine and Marc will provide some examples of Florida native plants that are adapted to a variety of shady, somewhat dry conditions including sub-canopy trees and shrubs, as well as grasses and wildflowers that can be used as groundcovers. They will also look at what occurs naturally in shady areas of native plant communities and discuss how natural examples can suggest attractive non-plant elements for landscapes. In addition to the drought and shade tolerance of the featured plants, special features such as wildlife value, flower color and fragrance will be highlighted.

Marc, a horticulturalist who has been involved with the Florida Native Plant Society for 23 years, runs the Groveland nursery and is the landscape designer for the business that was founded by his wife Terry in 1998. During the past 27 years, Marc has worked on large themed resort projects, education facilities, state and municipal projects, restoration plantings, hotels, streetscapes and specialty home projects.



Catherine works as an ecologist and field botanist for a private ecological consulting firm in Winter Park. Her work often includes the assessment of sites that will be developed or preserved in which her identification of Florida endemic, native, naturalized and invasive exotic plants plays a role in the development of construction, restoration, maintenance and management plans.



UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

OCT 8 Orlando Wetlands Park

On this trip, we will be assisting the Orlando Wetlands Park in rewriting their self-guided tour brochures as well as do our usual plant ID. Visit http://www.cityoforlando.net/public_works/wetlands/Maps_Brochures.htm to download and print the current brochure, South Woods Trail Self Guided Tour. We will meet at 9am. Bring a lunch to eat afterwards.

NOV 12 Savage/Christmas Creek Preserve

This is one of Orange County's Green PLACE properties composed of mixed forested swamp, pine flatwoods and xeric oak hammocks. For more information, visit the Green PLACE website at <http://www.orangecountyfl.net/YourLocalGovernment/CountyDepartments/CommunityandEnvironmentalServices/EnvironmentalProtectionDivision/GreenPLACE.aspx>. We will meet at 9am.

Please contact Paul Eisenbrown at peisenbrown@earthlink.net if you have any questions.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

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"

FEB 7 Shirley Denton: "Exploring the Best of the Best of Florida's Uplands"

UPCOMING EVENTS

OCT 1 – PLANT RESCUE AT PINE RIDGE

We'll be going back out to our regular salvage site, Pine Ridge, on Saturday, Oct 1. This is a sandhill ecosystem, so the plants we encounter will be dry upland species. Meet at the Walgreens at the intersection of Tilden Road and SR 535 in Winter Garden by 8:30am and we will caravan to the site. Please bring shovels, pots (if you have any), plenty of water, sunscreen, snacks and a hat for yourself. If you are planning to come along, please let Jackie Rolly know via email at j.y.rolly@att.net in case there is a change in plans and so we don't leave anyone behind.

OCT 5 – BOOK SIGNING/RECEPTION *Blue Revolution: Unmaking America's Water Crisis*

The Center for Earth Jurisprudence and Sierra Club of Central Florida are hosting a reception for renowned environmental author, Cynthia Barnett and her new book, *Blue Revolution: Unmaking America's Water Crisis*. (See <http://www.cynthiabarnett.net/book.html>).

A leading contributor to the movement to create a water ethic, Cynthia will speak about a water ethic for Florida and reading excerpts from her new book. The Sierra Club of Central Florida will be awarding her their distinguished "Indigo Award" for her environmental advocacy and leadership.

The event will take place from 6–8pm at the Barry Law School located at 6441 E. Colonial Dr. in Orlando.

OCT 6 – GARDEN TOUR

Members of the Tarflower Chapter are invited to tour Jackie Sward's garden located at 292 Sylvan Blvd in Winter Park on Thursday, Oct 6, 2011 at 1pm.

OCT 15 – FLORIDA WILDFLOWER FOUNDATION FALL WILDFLOWER SYMPOSIUM

Florida Wildflower Foundation is holding its Fall Wildflower Symposium on Saturday, October 15, at Wekiwa Springs State Park Youth Camp in Apopka. The Symposium features many of our favorite speakers, native wildflower plant and seed sales, a wildflower walk, an afternoon social and other fun activities. For more information, including a full schedule of workshops and presentations, visit www.flawildflowers.org.

OCT 29 – OAKLAND HERITAGE FESTIVAL

The 14th Annual Oakland Heritage Festival will be held on Saturday, October 29 from 10am to 4pm at Speer Park in Oakland. The festival is an important fundraiser for the Oakland Nature Preserve and offers a day of 'good old' family fun including guided eco-tours on Lake Apopka and historic tours through Oakland, hayrides, children's activities, live music, a silent auction, and vendors selling food, arts, crafts and plants. For more information, visit www.oaklandnaturepreserve.org or www.oaktownusa.com.

NEW PALM PRUNING VIDEO

Dr. Doug Caldwell, Collier County University of Florida Extension Horticultural Agent, has created a new video on palm pruning that contains some excellent information about palm science as well as sound, practical advice on palm pruning. The video also includes hands-on demonstrations and illustrates the right way to prune palms in order to maintain the beauty and health of the plant. Check out the video at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tt76hXRHB0A>.

FOR FNPS MEMBERS WHO MOVE IN STATE...

When FNPS members move within Florida, their chapter affiliation changes. For example, if you move from Miami (Dade Chapter) to Gainesville (Paynes Prairie Chapter), FNPS will automatically transfer your chapter affiliation as soon as we're informed of your move (by you or the US Postal Service). When we do this, both your old and new chapters are informed via their end-of-month "Members Moving OUT of Your Chapter" and "Members Moving INTO Your Chapter" reports. If you move, please be sure to notify FNPS.

FNPS' ONLINE SHOPPE HAS A NEW URL!

theFNPSshop.com

Stimulate the economy – shop today!

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 November issue is October 17.

MY SUNDAY VISITOR *by Adele Simons*

It is common to see gopher tortoises roaming my property. Deer, fox, wild turkey, rabbit, raccoon, armadillo, hawks, snakes, lizards and even a Sherman's fox squirrel have all appeared at one time or another. The fact that *Ursus americanus floridanus* could reside within the adjoining wilderness, however, was never in my thoughts. That was until Labor Day. It was early afternoon when I glanced outside and there he was, not ten feet from my back door. I couldn't believe my eyes! I ran for the camera and began to shoot. He rummaged through two empty trash cans (I never keep garbage outside) and then headed back into the woods. Two hours later, he reappeared and went straight to the bird feeder. I shouted and made a big ruckus, but he was not deterred.



The feeder pole is buried deep in sand. He leaned it toward him but couldn't pull it down, so up on his hind legs he went. Using his front paws for balance and an extended pink tongue, he proceeded to empty the feeder of every last sunflower seed. Occasionally, he would pause for a berry amidst the brush. With shaking hands, I managed to shoot two videos from the back porch. The screen was all that separated us.

Biologists estimate that only 2,500 to 3,000 Florida black bear, a subspecies of the American black bear, remain in the wild, where once the population exceeded 12,000. Loss of habitat and food supply are to blame. Usually shy and secretive, and living amidst dense vegetation, they are rarely seen in the wild. The female will weigh between 125 and 300 pounds, while the male ranges from 250 up to 450 pounds. *Ursus* is the largest land mammal in Florida, is an omnivore and will grow to a height of 5 to 6 feet. They have long, black, shiny fur and long, sharp claws that they use to dig and climb trees.



They are on the Florida State List of Threatened Species with 89.5% of deaths since 1994 being attributed to motor vehicle accidents. Hunting of the Florida black bear is prohibited and killing one is a third degree felony.

According to a Lieutenant with the Department of Wildlife Conservation Commission, this is the time of year when the bears are loading up on calories in preparation for their winter dormancy. They are attracted to garbage, bird feeders and areas where pets are fed outside. An officer came out to make an assessment and alert area homeowners. The bear has not been back and that's a good thing. If he becomes dependent on man for his food source or reappears more frequently, he will be trapped and killed rather than relocated.

I have since learned that this particular bear is a loner known to inhabit the area around the Little Econ River. That section of forest, although quite a distance away, is contiguous with the north side of my forest.

For more information about Florida's Black Bear, visit www.myfwc.com/bear. Adele's videos can be viewed at <http://youtu.be/vriP6osld7c> and <http://youtu.be/iaBIbd3dtSk>.

EUGENIA SEEDS NEEDED FOR RESEARCH

We are testing the enemy release hypothesis for nonnative *Eugenia uniflora* by comparing its response to soil microbial communities from natural areas to native *Eugenia* species. It is expected that nonnative species will have fewer co-evolved soil parasites and that this will allow more beneficial soil microorganisms to colonize the roots of nonnative species. This may be a reason for why nonnative species flourish, relative to native species and we will investigate that with this experiment (and add information to the body of knowledge for eradicating invasive species).

Seeds from the FLEPPC-listed *Eugenia uniflora* (Surinam cherry) as well as the natives *Eugenia axillaris* (White stopper) and *Eugenia foetida* (Spanish stopper) are needed for this project and should be mailed along with location coordinates or a description of where they were harvested to:

Betsy Von Holle
UCF / Department of Biology
4000 Central Florida Blvd.
Orlando, FL 32816

Questions can be directed to Betsy Von Holle at 407.823.0916 or vonholle@ucf.edu. We can compensate you for postage and acknowledge your efforts in our paper.

HELP THE FLORIDA WILDLIFE CORRIDOR EXPEDITION

On January 17, 2012, a small team of conservationists will embark on a 100 day, 1000 mile trek from the Everglades to Okefenokee in southern Georgia. Their mission is to raise awareness for the important opportunity to protect and connect a corridor of natural lands, water bodies and working ranches and farms throughout interior Florida.

They need your help raising awareness and support. Please share the Florida Wildlife Corridor cause with friends and please make a donation to support their campaign. Each \$25 donated will sponsor a mile of the expedition. To learn more, visit [Facebook.com/FloridaWildlifeCorridor](https://www.facebook.com/FloridaWildlifeCorridor) and FloridaWildlifeCorridor.org.

OVERNIGHT TRIP TO THE FAKAHATCHEE STRAND by Pete Dunkelberg with help from Cynthia "Sid" Taylor

We arrived at the ranger station at about 1pm and found tropical plants right away. Strangler figs grew on some cabbage palms, and royal palms were planted beside the retention pond. Soon we met our excellent guide for the day, park biologist Mike Owen, who has been at Fakahatchee since 1993. In fact, we had two fine guides: Mike was assisted by Fakahatchee naturalist Donna Glann Smyth.

Cynthia "Sid" Taylor took good notes as well as good pictures and I am depending on her notes for the details of Mike's introduction: The Fakahatchee Strand is a forested swamp about 20 miles long and five miles wide. Mike calls it the Grand Canyon of Strands. It is the largest unit in the Florida State Park Service with 80,000 acres and the largest freshwater strand in the world. "Fakahatchee" has a few translations: River of the Hunters, Crooked River, Forked River or Muddy Waters. The slough is the deeper area of water (about 18–30" deep and flowing) while the strand contains water up to about 18."

The strand was once thickly populated by large cypress trees, but they have largely been logged out, and many canals and railroad trams to haul the logs blocked the water flow. Janes Scenic Drive, an 11-mile road that bisects the strand, was built in 1943–44 as a narrow-gauge railroad tram but now has 87 culverts to allow water to flow past it. Fakahatchee has been in recovery for decades now, and although there is still more to do, the ecology is back to being quite nice.

We carpooled down Janes Scenic Drive to our point of entry. Mike gave us a few final words and then we stepped off the hot dusty road into the cool clear waters of the Fakahatchee. At first, the water was less than two feet deep, but it got deeper as we moved farther from the road. There were trees every few feet, and on these trees were subtropical epiphytes such as strap ferns and bromeliads and orchids.

Fakahatchee is famous for its orchids and we found plenty. The first one we found is the very small *Harrisella porrecta*, sometimes called the jingle bell orchid. Then we started finding larger orchids of the genus *Epidendrum*. These orchids can stand a meter high including the flower scape, but



pond apple – pop ash slough



leaves of the "roller coaster orchid" (*Epidendrum amphistomum*)

they were not currently in bloom. We found quite a few *E. amphistomum*. These may not be the most beautiful orchids — their common name is dingy-flowered star orchid; and because they have such a miserable common name, Mike recommended a new one: he calls the species the roller coaster orchid in recognition of the graceful curves of their leaves.

We also found a number of *E. nocturnum*. I've read that these have beautiful flowers with a fine fragrance, but alas, they only flower at night.

Soon we found some vanilla orchids, *Vanilla phaeantha*. This plant climbs up tree trunks in a zigzag pattern, and is not likely to bloom until it is perhaps 20 feet high. The plants we saw were only six or seven feet high. Mike thinks their higher growth was killed by the cold last winter. Next, we came upon the attractive Florida clamshell orchid, *Prosthechea cochleata*. This plant has

pseudobulbs, which make it look similar to our familiar butterfly orchid (*Encyclia tampensis*), which we also found. Later we found several wild coco (*Eulophia alta*). These and the butterfly orchids are the only orchids we saw that I have seen in Orange County.



Florida clamshell orchid (*Prosthechea cochleata*)

The Fakahatchee Strand is kept cool by the rainwater that fills it and flows through it. Rain starts out cool, and beneath the tree canopy, it stays cool. Cypress trees are coming back and may dominate in another hundred years, but the pond apple – pop ash slough we experienced is a fine orchid habitat. As we were about to leave the strand, someone found a blooming orchid growing on the roadside, but it turned out to be an invasive species. This made the overall environment only almost perfect.

The Fakahatchee is the Bromeliad Capital of the US with 14 species. We spotted six. All were in the genus *Tillandsia* and four of them also occur in our area. The other two were *T. balbisiana* and *T. variabilis*. *T. balbisiana*, with its very long curved leaves, has been recorded in Orange



vanilla orchid (*Vanilla phaeantha*)



T. variabilis blooming in front of strap ferns

County but I have never found it.

Although we didn't see any of the Fakahatchee's charismatic megafauna, the preserve is home to the Everglades mink, Florida panther, American alligator and Florida black bear. Mike has had 8 panther sightings in his 18 years in the Strand and thinks it was 6 different cats.

After our hike, most of us, including our guides, met for dinner at the Seafood Depot in Everglades City, a small community on some land that sticks out into Florida Bay at the very bottom of the state. Everglades City has a checkered past, but now all is nice and quiet.



On Sunday, we went in separate directions. There are lots of natural areas and activities like kayaking right in the area, and the west coast beach beckoned some of us. The variety of options on your own time after the main event is a great advantage of overnight trips.

Eugene Stoccardo commented, "All three (myself, Rena and Spencer) had a great time. Spencer [who is 7 years old] did really well considering water was at times deeper than him. This was a good introduction for him into the natural world. That night, we spent at Ft Myers Beach... I really like overnight trips and I hope we can plan more."

Stacey Matrazzo said of her experience, "Craig and I had a really good time (in spite of the mosquitoes that attacked him – somehow I didn't get a single bite!) The best part was hiking into an environment that we normally wouldn't tread on our own. I really enjoyed Mike's enthusiasm, as well."



ocean blue morning glory
(*Ipomoea indica*)

I teamed up with Eric "Franky" Jorczak as we both wanted to explore the area as much as possible. We found the beautiful ocean blue morning glory (*Ipomoea indica*) using white mangroves as its trellis and the rarely seen Florida thatch palm planted at a ranger station; we hiked some drier trails; and last and best, we went with permission where

Franky especially wanted to go: Deep Lake on the east side of Hwy 29. We hurried along a mosquito trail to the lake, then tried to go around to the right. We didn't get far in the thick growth. Then we went around to the left. The trail quickly went into water, just inches, then deeper and deeper. We found another paradise of orchids, *Tillandsias* and strap ferns under pond apple, pop ash, cypress and royal palms. Unfortunately, that swamp now harbors the invasive Island apple snail, and the lake is full of Mayan cichlids. Oh, and a few alligators, too.



baby alligators sunning themselves
at Big Cypress Bend

Photos by Pete Dunkelberg,
Sid Taylor and Craig Mazer.

TARFLOWER POLO SHIRT FUTURE ORDERS

The Tarflower chapter will have a few shirts available for sale at the Oct 4 meeting.



To avoid carrying a large inventory, we will take orders again at the Oct 4 and Nov 1 meetings for delivery at the Dec 6 meeting.

The shirts may be pre-ordered in a variety of colors. Visit our chapter page or stop by the sales desk at our monthly meeting to see color choices.

Anyone interested in ordering a Tarflower polo shirt should 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!

FNPS SEEKS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

FNPS is seeking a qualified applicant for the position of Executive Director effective the first of the year (or possibly earlier). The position description and application instructions are posted at http://www.fnps.org/pages/fnps/page_announcement.php?id=3644. Applications must be received by October 5, 2011 to be considered.



FNPS PLANT EXPEDITION TO NICARAGUA — Only 3 spots left on 2nd Trip!!

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!

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, October 4 at 7pm**. See you there!
(For directions, call 407-246-2620 option 1).

Executive Committee — The next board meeting will be **Thursday, October 20, 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:

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P.O. Box 278
Melbourne, FL 32902-0278

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

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(407) 538-1940

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Kevin Bagwell, kevin@fullmoonnatives.com
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(407) 579-6887

Green Isle Gardens Native Plant Nursery

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