



the *Tarpaper*

The Tarflower Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society

Volume XXVIII • November 2011



NOVEMBER 1 PROGRAM: **Honeybees and Native Bees** presented by Jean Vasicek

About 10 years ago, Jean Vasicek's brother gave her a bee hive. It sat for years until curiosity got the best of her. That one hive started a hobby and today Jean enjoys a thriving business of providing local honey in the Orlando area. Jean now has over 120 hives located throughout Orange County. Her husband Scott soon joined her as the Winter Park Honey business continued to expand. Jean and Scott spend their summers in Winter Park, Colorado and take some of their hives with them.

On Nov 1, Jean will talk to Tarflower members and guests about the honey business and how honeybees can affect crop yield. She will address native wild bee pollination versus European honeybee pollination and the problems associated with each. She will also discuss honey's many health benefits. Honey will be available for purchase before and after the presentation.

Jean Vasicek has been a long time member of the Tarflower Chapter and was the *Tarpaper* editor for several years. She has a BA in physics from North Carolina State University.

TARFLOWER CHAPTER NEEDS YOU!

The Tarflower chapter is seeking the following volunteers:

Field Trip Coordinator

Responsibilities include:

- selecting locations for chapter field trips and coordinating with land managers to arrange for a leader, or lead trips him or herself if no land manager is available on the planned date;
- coordinating with land managers, property owners, board members or other knowledgeable individuals regarding best times to go to each location;
- collecting any required fees from participants when applicable;
- making necessary arrangements (or enlisting help of other chapter members) for all aspects of field trips including site access, background information, transportation to and/or around the site as applicable;
- providing and making sure liability waivers are signed by field trip participants;
- attending chapter meetings to announce field trips and provide write-ups on upcoming trips to the *Tarpaper* editor;
- attending chapter board meetings to discuss planned and upcoming field trips

Vice President In Charge of Events

This individual would coordinate events where Tarflower would have a booth/table/display and may sell items such as plants, books, shirts or provide educational information to the public or a particular group. Some such events are the annual Leu Gardens plant show and sale in March, the Orlando Wetlands Park Festival in February, Wekiva River Fest and Oakland Heritage Festival.

Responsibilities include:

- arranging for volunteers and/or attend the event him/her self;
- coordinating with Frank Winzig and/or others to obtain the necessary display and educational material for the event and assisting with (or arranging for) on-site set-up;
- coordinating with venues regarding fees and protocol for event participation;
- responding to requests for the chapter to participate in various events and gathering/providing information for consideration to the chapter board;
- attending chapter meetings to announce events and board meetings to discuss events;
- writing notices or summary articles about events (or arranging for other volunteers to do this) for the *Tarpaper*

If you are interested in volunteering for either position, or if you have questions about either position, please contact Catherine Bowman at garberia08@gmail.com or see her at a meeting.

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

NOV 12 **Savage Christmas Creek Preserve**

Savage Christmas Creek Preserve is one of Orange County's Green PLACE properties. It is 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 on site at 9am. Dress for the outdoors and bring a lunch. We will eat at Fort Christmas Park afterwards. Directions and a plant list for the site are available on the Tarflower chapter [website](#). Please contact Paul Eisenbrown at peisenbrown@earthlink.net if you have any questions.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

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

JAN 3 Eleonor Foerste: "Tips for Identifying Central Florida's Oaks and Pines"

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

Last Chance to Order Tarflower Polo shirts!

We will take FINAL orders for Tarflower polo shirts at the Nov 1 meeting for delivery at the Dec 6 meeting — just in time for the holidays!

The shirts may be pre-ordered in a variety of colors: Apple, Baby Blue, Black, Cardinal, Chocolate, Cornflower, Forest Green, French Blue, Gold, Graphite, Heather Grey, Indigo, Leaf, Navy, Putty, Red, Royal, Stone, White, Wine and Yellow. Stop by the sales desk at the meeting to see color choices.

Anyone interested in ordering a Tarflower polo shirt should stop by the sales desk at the 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.



FNPS' ONLINE SHOPPE HAS A NEW URL!

theFNPSshop.com

Stimulate the economy — shop today!

FNPS BOTANIZING CRUISE TO BAHAMAS

FNPS is hosting a botanical exploration cruise to the Exumas Islands in the Bahamas, February 17-27, 2012. The trip will be led by FNPS president and botanist Steve Woodmansee on the research vessel Coral Reef II and will visit several remote islands of the Exumas, exploring different habitats and ancient endemic species.

A detailed flyer can be downloaded from the FNPS [website](http://www.fnps.org). The trip is open to FNPS members only and will be filled on a first come, first serve basis.

The deadline to register is November 20, 2011. If you are interested, contact Steve at president@fnps.org or call 786-488-3101 as soon as possible.

Proceeds from the trip will benefit FNPS.



SAM HOPKINS AWARD

The Sam Hopkins Research Award was presented to Tonya Fotinos of Florida International University for her project, "Conservation genetics of the endangered Key Tree Cactus *Pilosocereus robinii*."

FNPS 2012 ENDOWMENT GRANT RESEARCH AWARDS & CONSERVATION GRANT AWARDS

The Florida Native Plant Society maintains an Endowment Research Grant program for the purpose of funding research on native plants. These are grants of \$1500 or less, awarded for a 1-year period and intended to support research that forwards the FNPS mission "to promote the preservation, conservation, and restoration of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida."

FNPS Conservation Grants support applied native plant conservation projects in Florida. These are grants of \$1500 or less, awarded for a 1-year period. Examples of projects that this grant supports are on-the-ground native plant community restoration, land acquisition and habitat enhancement. To qualify for a Conservation Grant, the proposed project must be sponsored by an FNPS Chapter.

Application guidelines and details are on the FNPS website (www.fnps.org) under 'Awards and Grants.' Application deadline for the 2012 Awards is March 2, 2012. Awards will be announced at the May 2012 Annual Conference in Plant City. Awardees do not have to be present at the Conference to receive award. Questions regarding grant programs should be sent to info@fnps.org.

CALL FOR RESEARCH PAPERS & POSTER PRESENTATIONS FOR 2012 FNPS CONFERENCE

The FNPS annual conference will be held at the John R. Trinkle Center, Hillsborough Community College Plant City Campus, Plant City, Florida on May 17-20, 2012. The Research Track will include presented papers on Friday, May 18 and Saturday, May 19. Posters will be on display on Friday and Saturday and the poster session will be on Saturday afternoon.

Researchers are invited to submit abstracts on research related to native plants and plant communities of Florida including preservation, conservation and restoration. Presentations are 20 minutes in total length (15 min. presentation, 5 min. questions).

Abstracts of not more than 200 words should be submitted as a Word file by email to Paul A. Schmalzer (paul.a.schmalzer@nasa.gov) by February 1, 2011. Include title, affiliation and address and indicate whether you will be presenting a paper or poster.

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 December issue is November 21.

HELP THE FLORIDA WILDLIFE CORRIDOR EXPEDITION

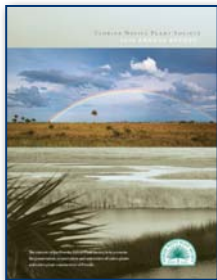
On Jan 17, 2012, a small team of conservationists will embark on a 100 day, 1000 mile trek from the Everglades to Georgia's Okefenokee. Their mission is to raise awareness for the important opportunity to protect and connect a corridor of natural lands, water bodies and working ranches and farms throughout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

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.

FNPS ANNUAL REPORT

A PDF version of the 2010 FNPS Annual Report is available for download on the [FNPS website](http://www.fnps.org).

The report includes comprehensive information about FNPS, including financials. It is also a great tool for fundraising.



TAKE ACTION — LAKE APOPKA

The Florida Fish & Wildlife Commission (FWC) is reviewing the current management plan for hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*) which could include halting all treatment, allowing it to grow. A specific proposal up for consideration will terminate treatment of hydrilla in Lake Apopka in an experiment to see if it will improve habitat and help clean the water, the results of which could be used to affect hydrilla management on other Florida lakes.

The Friends of Lake Apopka have taken a stand against this approach as it will greatly compromise the ongoing restoration of Lake Apopka. The damage done by dense hydrilla and the lack of control treatments is well documented. Taxpayers have invested more than \$150 million in the restoration of Lake Apopka. As a result, the lake has seen a decline in phosphorous levels and an increase in water clarity, as well as expanded eel grass populations (which will greatly increase fish habitat). An increase in eco-tourism for birding and fishing and the construction of trails along the north shore are adding to the recreational value of the lake.

Please visit the Friends of Lake Apopka website (www.fola.org) for additional information, and to download a petition opposing the FWC proposal. Please print and copy the petition and get as many signatures as you can — and as soon as possible — so we can send a message to FWC that we must continue the eradication of hydrilla.

OCTOBER FIELD TRIP TO ORLANDO WETLANDS PARK *by Pete Dunkelberg*

Believe it or not, we had quite a good field trip even though it rained and rained all day. This was because we were at Orlando Wetlands Park, and this park has a classroom. There used to be no classroom — and indeed nothing like the wetland that exists today, although there was a wilder wetland out towards the St Johns River. The wetland that exists today is actually a water purification system, a great service to Orlando performed by plants. It is a feat of engineering, a boon to our city (where the water comes from) and to the St Johns River (where the water goes), a fine ecosystem and a city park all rolled into one.

At first it was just for waste water purification. But soon the new artificial wetland's potential as a nature park was recognized and the public was invited to enjoy the area. It was great for hiking but there was no closed shelter. A few years ago, Bob Rope, one of the Park's excellent volunteers and an early Tarflower member, had the idea of getting one of Orange County's old unused temporary classroom buildings and moving it to the park. The empty building was donated; only the moving cost had to be paid.

The combination of the great open expanse of the park and the empty classroom has attracted visitors, donations and dedicated Saturday volunteers who show visitors around in a golf cart while explaining the area and its inhabitants. The classroom now has a full set of tables, chairs and computers and is full of educational exhibits



Vista



One of many classroom exhibits



Vista

of birds, butterflies and other joys of the wetland. The exhibits are nearly all animal-oriented, even though plants are really the heroes of the wetland. We at Tarflower have been slow to create and donate exhibits to the classroom.

Getting started on this project was the purpose of our October field trip, and so our time in the classroom was good and useful. Two excellent park volunteers, Jutta and Reinhard Geisler, explained many things about the wetland park; they showed us exhibits including videos and slides that they run using the many donated computers and large TV that is mounted high in a front corner. Tarflower members and all around naturalists Mary Keim and Randy Snyder showed a beautiful butterfly slide show that they contributed to the park. We discussed photographic and other material that Tarflower might contribute to help people both enjoy the park and become more aware of plants. Some plant photos are already incorporated into the Friends of Orlando Wetlands websites, which the Geislars created:

- www.orlandowetlands.org (includes a notice of our visit at www.orlandowetlands.org/blog/?p=158)
- www.facebook.com/OrlandoWetlands
- www.flickr.com/groups/orlandowetlandspark/

Orlando Wetlands Park closes each year from November 15th until the end of January. When it opens next February, I hope there will be something good from Tarflower.

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

Executive Committee — The next board meeting will be **Tuesday, November 8, 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!*

HOLIDAY SHOPPING THAT HELPS FNPS!

As we approach the holidays, many of us will be shopping online for gifts. **Goodshop.com** is a **free and easy** way to make the same purchases you'd make anyway and also raise funds for the Florida Native Plant Society.

GoodShop.com works with more than 2,500 stores (including Amazon, Target, Gap, Best Buy, eBay, Macy's, Barnes & Noble, Apple, PetSmart etc...). Every time you purchase something using GoodShop.com, a percentage will be donated to FNPS!



Make sure you select or enter "Florida Native Plant Society – Melbourne" in the "Favorite Cause" field. Then simply choose the online store you want and start shopping!

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to find out more

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



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