



# the Tarpaper

The Tarflower Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society

Volume XXIV • February 2012



## FEBRUARY 7 PROGRAM

### Shirley Denton presents: Exploring the Best of the Best of Florida's Uplands

If you've traveled throughout the Florida peninsula, have you ever wondered what it must have looked like before the landscape included houses, strip malls and fractured natural areas, and before our natural areas were inundated with exotics? As an ecologist with a passion for exploring the state and its natural areas, Shirley Denton has seen most of the best of Florida's existing natural communities. From her work, she has had the opportunity to witness how management, a lack of management, and mismanagement have affected our ecology. She will use this diverse background to show us some of the best of the best of Florida's upland habitats. The really good news is that we, the citizens of Florida, own most of them!

Dr. Shirley Denton is a past president of the Florida Native Plant Society and is currently an FNPS board member and president of the Suncoast Chapter. She is also the FNPS Website Committee Chair. Her professional career has focused on plant ecology, environmental and analytical work as a Senior Environmental Scientist, now with Cardno ENTRIX. She frequently works on issues involving wetland condition and water management. Shirley has a long history of designing environmental assessments, habitat management and mapping and surveys of threatened and endangered species. Her training is in forest ecology, biometrics, computer science, landscape ecology, plant ecology, endangered and threatened species, and land management. She is also a fabulous photographer of Florida's natural heritage. You can view her work at <http://www.shirleydenton.com/>.



## UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

### FEB 11 Pine Island Conservation Center

On Saturday, February 11, we will visit Pine Island on Merritt Island in the morning and have a picnic lunch followed by an afternoon guided tour at the Enchanted Forest in Titusville.

Pine Island Conservation Center is a 1000-acre site along the Indian River Lagoon with hiking trails through pine flatwoods, hydric hammocks, cabbage palm hammocks, hardwood hammocks, mangrove forests and marshes. The interior marsh ponds and borrow lakes make great spots for canoeing, kayaking and fishing.

The Enchanted Forest Sanctuary is a 470-acre forest located in the southern limits of Titusville. It offers hiking trails through a diversity of natural habitats including oak scrub, mesic and hydric hammock, wet prairie and pine flatwoods. A wonderful wealth of plant life also abounds as both temperate and subtropical species grow here.

We will meet at the Burger King near the corner of Alafaya Trail and East Hwy 50 to caravan and carpool. We'll arrive at Pine Island Conservation Center in Merritt Island at 10am where Scott Taylor will lead us on a 6/10 mile guided walk through pine flatwoods that will take about 90 minutes. We'll then have a picnic lunch and head over to The Enchanted Forest in Titusville for a 2pm walk.

**If you are planning to attend or if you have questions, please contact Kay Hudson at 407-432-2364 or [Kay@americanbuilders.com](mailto:Kay@americanbuilders.com).**

### MAR 10 Colbert-Cameron Mitigation Bank

Additional information about this trip and the site will be posted on the Tarflower FNPS web page as it becomes available.



## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

### MAR 6 Claudia Larson: "Wildflower Propagation for Home Gardeners"

## Field Trip and Event Volunteers Needed

The Tarflower chapter is still seeking volunteers to assist with field trips and events. While we are interested in filling the positions of Field Trip Coordinator and Vice President In Charge of Events, we welcome those who might only wish to help out occasionally.

If there is a specific field trip you'd like to plan or certain months in which you would like to help put together a field trip; or if there are specific events such as the Orlando Wetlands Festival or Leu Gardens Plant Sale, for example, that you would like to volunteer for, please contact Catherine Bowman at [garberia08@gmail.com](mailto:garberia08@gmail.com) or see her at a monthly meeting.

**For a detailed description of each position, please visit the Announcements section of the Tarflower FNPS web page.**

## UPCOMING EVENTS & WORKSHOPS

### FEB 4 Tarflower Chapter Plant Rescue

We will be taking mostly wetland plants — wire grass, St. Andrew's Cross, pitcher plants, sundews, and various others. Please bring boots (although it is probably not wet this time of year), water for yourself, pots, shovels, etc.

**When:** Saturday, Feb 4, 8:30am

**Where:** Meet in the Tijuana Flats parking lot on Dowden Rd and Narcoossee Rd (SR 15). We will caravan to the site, located near the Orlando International Airport.

If you plan on coming, please let Jackie know at [j.y.rolly@att.net](mailto:j.y.rolly@att.net) or 407-620-6963 so we don't leave anyone behind or if there is a change in plans.

### FEB 10 3rd Annual Future Generations Conference: True Wealth in a Green World

The Center for Earth Jurisprudence will bring together speakers from green business, microlending, law and other fields to examine what makes a society rich and explores methods of creating true wealth for all members of the Earth community.



**When:** Friday, Feb 10

**Where:** Center for Earth Jurisprudence  
Barry University School of Law  
6441 E. Colonial Drive, Orlando, FL

For more information, visit [www.earthjuris.org](http://www.earthjuris.org) or call 321-206-5788.

### FEB 18 Orlando Wetlands Festival

Come celebrate the Orlando Wetlands Park, an oasis of flora, fauna and feathered friends! There will be games, exhibits, vendors, door prizes, face painting, a rock climbing wall, food, a Backyard Tree giveaway, a bounce house, hayrides, animal catch and release demo, Out-on-a-Limb kids tree climbing, live wild animals, live entertainment and much more! There will also be many guided hikes, including wilderness, photography, birding and native plant, and a guided bus tour of the wetlands.

**When:** Saturday, Feb 18 from 9am to 3pm

**Where:** at Ft. Christmas Historical Park (1300 North Fort Christmas Road)

This event is sponsored by the City of Orlando, the Orange Audubon Society and Orange County Parks and Recreation. For more information, call 407-568-1706 or visit [www.cityoforlando.net/wetlands](http://www.cityoforlando.net/wetlands).

Volunteers are needed to man the Tarflower Chapter booth. If you are interested, please contact Catherine Bowman at [garberia08@gmail.com](mailto:garberia08@gmail.com), or Jackie Rolly at [j.y.rolly@att.net](mailto:j.y.rolly@att.net).

### FEB 23–MAR 29 Florida Master Naturalist Program Uplands Module



The Florida Master Naturalist Program (FMNP) is an adult education program developed by the University of Florida. FMNP training will benefit persons interested in learning more about Florida's environment, seeking educational contact hours, or wishing to increase their knowledge for use in education programs as volunteers, employees, ecotourism guides, and others.

FMNP consists of three Core Modules: Freshwater Wetlands, Coastal Systems and Upland Habitats. Each module provides 40 educational contact hours and includes classroom learning, field trips, and practical experience in providing interpretive information about Florida's environment.

**What:** Uplands Habitats Module

**When:** Thursdays, Feb 23–Mar 29, 9am–4pm

**Where:** UF/IFAS Orange County Extension Office  
6021 South Conway Road, Orlando, FL 32812

**Cost:** \$225.00 per person

For more information about FMNP, visit <http://www.masternaturalist.ifas.ufl.edu/>. For questions about the upcoming Uplands course, contact Jennifer Ramos, instructor, at 407-254-9224 or [jennifer.ramos@ocfl.net](mailto:jennifer.ramos@ocfl.net).

### MAR 8–9 Urban Forestry Institute

Hosted by the Florida Urban Forestry Council, the Urban Forestry Institute is a hands-on training workshop for individuals involved in community or municipal urban forestry management—especially beneficial for tree advocates, tree board members, Tree City USA applicants, urban forestry managers, community volunteers, landscape architects, planners, consultants, citizens and governmental employees in all sizes of communities throughout the state.

Training will focus on the quantifiable indicators of successful urban forestry programs:

- Professional staff
- Ordinances or policies that focus on planting, protecting and maintaining the urban forest canopy
- Tree boards or advisory groups that advocate for the management of the urban forest
- Urban forestry management plans

**When:** Thursday, Mar 8 and Friday, Mar 9, 8:30am

**Where:** University of Central Florida in Orlando

**Cost:** \$125.00 per person

CEUs are available from ISA, SAF, FNGLA, and LIAF.

More information about the Urban Forestry Institute, sponsorship opportunities and online registration is available at <http://www.fufc.org/>.

## Report Fox Squirrel Sightings



The University of Florida IFAS Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission have launched a new research project to examine the distribution of fox squirrels in Florida.

The fox squirrel, aptly named for its fox-like tail, is approximately twice the size of the common gray squirrel. Fox squirrel coloration is highly variable, ranging from creamy tan to all black, and many gradations in between. In Florida, the fox squirrel can be found in almost every county, however, their distribution patterns are not well understood.

Members of the public across the state are asked to report fox squirrel sightings. Reports can be made at <https://public.myfwc.com/hsc/foxsquirrel/GetLatLong.aspx>. If you have questions about the project, please contact Courtney Hooker at [foxsquirrel@ifas.ufl.edu](mailto:foxsquirrel@ifas.ufl.edu).

## Invasive plants at Dog Island *by Pete Dunkelberg*

Our January field trip to Dog Island in Lake Maitland had a different purpose than most of our trips. Dog Island was given to the state, perhaps back in the fifties, and then used by the University of Florida in the 1970s for ecological studies. Then UF let the state take charge. Later, the City of Maitland acquired a lease to the island so that they could oversee activities there. The City of Winter Park also helps with maintenance, and there has been some invasive plant removal over the years.

But invasive exotic plants have had a free hand recently. The interior of the island is overrun with air potato vine, Caesarweed, skunk vine (fortunately this had not reached into the tree canopy) and other non-natives, while the edges are the domain of Brazilian pepper. We came not to praise these plants but to bury them.

Fifteen of us including three Cub Scouts gathered at Dinky Dock on Winter Park's Lake Virginia on a cool January morning and were soon on board a boat provided by Winter Park Scenic Tours for a chilly ride across lakes and through canals to Dog Island in Lake Maitland. On arrival, we found a nice fire on the beach, apparently started by the previous night's visitors. But there was little time to tarry. Instead we got right to work on our unusual purpose. A couple of us worked on the beach area while most of us went into the overgrown interior. In addition to a layer of invasive vines, the interior held thickets of Caesarweed, which had to be attacked. Caesarweed fights back by sticking its burr-like seed pods to your clothing.

Where there are air potato vines there are also air potatoes, both high in the trees and scattered over the ground. The hundreds on the ground (often already covered by other plant debris) must be found and picked up. The three cub scouts helped a lot with this effort, although they couldn't help just enjoying the island at times. Indeed all of us had a great time, whatever we were doing. The air potatoes and much other debris were put into many large black plastic garbage bags, which a



*Air potato vine smothers native plants (Photo by Catherine Bowman)*



*Caesarweed flower and the burr it becomes (Photo by Pete Dunkelberg)*



*Caesarweed burrs covered much of our clothing (Photo by Pete Dunkelberg)*



*Our volunteer crew posing in front of the giant heap of invasive plants*

barge from the City of Winter Park carried away later on. Most of the invasive plant debris from the interior was piled in a large heap, and then carried to the fire on the beach, leaving the interior in a more open, park-like condition. (Later, I heard that fires are not supposed to be built on the island although it is a regular occurrence.)

A little before 3pm, the big boat came to take us back to Dinky Dock. We are all grateful for the assistance of Winter Park Scenic Tours, and they have even offered to help us again. When the weather warms, though, they are very busy giving tours.

Much remains to be done, including follow up by Tarflower Chapter and more. The invasive plants we took out will soon re-sprout and we didn't even start on the Brazilian pepper. This will require professional herbicide treatment. The cities of Maitland and Winter Park are supportive and may well do this part of the job. The Jaycees have removed some invasive exotic plants in the past and may help again, too. Then we can all select native plants to

replace the invasives and enhance the island ecosystem. Finally, an ongoing community, Invasive Plant Watch, should be started. Then Dog Island will once again be a place of natural Florida beauty.

## Society News

**Chapter Meetings** — Chapter meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month at **HARRY P. LEU GARDENS** (1920 N. Forest Ave., Orlando. For directions, call 407-246-2620, option 1). The next meeting is **Tuesday, February 7 at 7pm**. See you there!

**Executive Committee** — The next board meeting will be **Thursday, February 9, 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](http://www.fnps.org). Click on Chapters -> Tarflower and follow the instructions to *The Tarpaper!*

**Contribute to The Tarpaper!** — Send your articles, event listings, photos and suggestions to Stacey Matrazzo, Editor, at [stacey@impactpress.com](mailto:stacey@impactpress.com). (Please do not reduce or compress photos before sending; a size of 3x4 at 300dpi is preferred.) **The submission deadline for the March 2012 issue is February 20.**

## 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](mailto: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.

## FNPS 2012 Endowment Research Grant Awards & Conservation Grant Awards

The Florida Native Plant Society provides up to three Conservation Grants and three Endowment Research Grants annually with up to \$1500 available for each grant.

**The application deadline for both is March 2, 2012.** Guidelines and details can be found on the FNPS website ([www.fnps.org](http://www.fnps.org)) under 'Awards and Grants.' Awards will be announced at the May 2012 Annual Conference in Plant City. Questions regarding grant programs should be sent to [info@fnps.org](mailto:info@fnps.org).

### 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](http://www.fnps.org) or call 321-271-6702.**

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