



the Tarpaper

The Tarflower Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society

Volume XX • January 2013



JANUARY 12 FIELD TRIP: Pine Island Conservation Area

January is the perfect time of year to be outside, exploring the salt marshes of coastal Florida. Join the Tarflower chapter as we explore Pine Island Conservation Area in Brevard County. This 950-acre conservation



area provides two trails for us to explore. These moderate walks lead through pine flatwoods and hydric hammock habitats. We'll also see cabbage palm hammocks and hardwood hammocks, with mangrove forests and marshes fringing the Indian River Lagoon.

As the focal point of Brevard County's Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Program, Pine Island is a work in progress. Land Manager Scott Taylor will show us a "Before and After" scenario in Pine Island's salt marshes. Some were restored seven years ago and others are currently undergoing restoration. It should be very interesting and will make us happy to see environmental progress going on right now. Bring a picnic lunch, walking shoes and whatever you need to have a comfortable day in Florida's winter sun.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

JAN 1 – NO MEETING THIS MONTH!

FEB 5 – Living with a Florida Yard, Maintenance of Self Sustaining Landscapes by Troy Springer of Springer Environmental, Plant City

MAR 5 – Landscaping program TBD (planning in progress)

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

JAN 12 – Pine Island

FEB 9 – Secret Springs of Seminole State Forest

MAR 10 – Turtle Mound (Note: this is a Sunday field trip)

Lake Wales Ridge State Forest: Continuing the Prairie Plant Inventory, Part II *article and photos by Amanda Martin*

As a new member to FNPS, I quickly bookmarked the state website and corresponding blog. I read the blog regularly, relating to the descriptions of exploration and wonder. The Thanksgiving blog struck a deep cord with me and I found myself wanting to express the same gratitude:

"I reached out and touched the sensitive brier, watched its leaves slowly fold up, and realized what I needed to write about. It wasn't a plant profile or a political statement. It was about being thankful for this state's extraordinary natural areas, for the mild winters that invite outdoor exploration, for the sense of wonder that wells up inside of me when I find a plant whose identity eludes me, and for the members of this organization who've familiarized the unfamiliar and helped me chip away at the unknown."
— Laurie Sheldon

Part of my love of Florida ecosystems is their foreign quality. Growing up in Winter Park, I was exposed to surrounding area activities like boating on the St. Johns River, swimming in Ocala-area springs, going to New Smyrna Beach, citrus picking in Clermont, and catching Kissimmee catfish. I had to travel far and wide, exploring the natural areas of other countries, before returning home and realizing I had never put so much intent into exploring my own state. With a fresh set of eyes, I started looking at what was around. Beginning with Blue Springs State Park, I began to catalogue the plants that made up this cool freshwater area. As my awareness grew, I took another hard look at the Everglades, various coastal regions, and the forests that span from North to Central Florida. It would take FNPS to take me deep into the scrub environment, giving me pause to walk into this new old world that exists nowhere else on Earth.

Being a part of a community that is eager to explore an ecosystem is exciting. People who get a thrill out of finding a plant in bloom, identifying species, and heading out to simply observe growth are my kind of people. And this is exactly what we did on Oct 28. FNPS was enlisted

to help inventory native plant species in a scrub prairie on South Lake Wales Ridge. I brought my wide angle and 50mm lenses and another volunteer brought her macro. Teaming up with FNPS gave me a limited access pass to visit an area very few get to see.

Florida native plants are incredible indicators. The presence of certain plants can allude to the underlying soil type, seasonal temperatures, frequency of fire, wet season highs, and dry season lows. Birds, animals and insects feed and breed on specific species. This can signal the potential for population occurrence and with observation, density numbers can be obtained. Finding plants and animals that are well adapted to specific area conditions and then accounting for nutrient cycles and energy flows, an ecosystem can be defined. By providing an accurate representation of the ecosystem, its importance can be understood. These actions can lead to conservation of natural systems. Connecting large tracts of natural ecosystems allows for increased biological diversity and ecosystem function far more than disjointed pockets of conserved or restored land.

As I learn, there are about 13 major classifications of ecosystems in Florida. Our trip to Lake Wales Ridge brought us into a sand pine scrub with a dry prairie.

When we first arrived, the volunteers were scouring the sides of the road, identifying various species of *Liatris*. I was still not aware of the difference between a *Liatris* and a *Carphephorus* and could instantly tell I was in for a treat. We split into 3 groups of volunteers

and I ended up with Catherine Bowman, who was taxonomically proficient in the land of Florida scrub. We wanted to focus on the grasses which were now in bloom and easiest to identify. As I first entered the wilderness of dry prairie, I was struck by the expanse of low growing saw palmettos. Clusters of oaks could be seen gathered in the distance, indicating a hammock.

A few leafless trees and ring of saw palmettos indicated a low-lying marsh far off in the distance. We began to cover the ground in between for our identification scavenger hunt.

It was complete chaos within the rough of the saw palmettos. I attempted to snap
(continued on page 2)



Carphephorus bloom



Liatris bloom



saw palmetto with pine flatwoods in background

(Lake Wales continued from page 1)

photos of individual native plants using my 50mm lens, isolating the deceptively resilient plant from the chaotic background to show the character of these perceived weeds. In a world where I share few friends and slightly more acquaintances, I am rich in the company of flora. I began to wander into the thicket snapping photos. Taking only a few minutes to look around, I realized that I had no idea what these plants were named, and quickly rejoined the group identifying the plants.

As we walked across the land, I continued to be struck by the entire scene. There was amazing coverage across the prairie, yet when I looked through the camera to capture the scene, it was bleak. I could take a wide-angle shot to relay the expansiveness of the prairie. And I could take a 50mm close range shot to profile a part of a plant, but a candid matrix shot made the scene look too true to form, like a harsh environment. We diligently sorted through yards of plants, unveiling the scatter pattern of the prairie.

One plant I came to know was the runner oak. An avid fan of arboriculture, I had never before seen or even heard of a runner oak (*Quercus minima*). This oak has the potential to spread 15-20 ft below ground with sucker-like shoots as its branches. If someone were to try and plant this in a residential landscape, it would be completely misunderstood.

Walking from high and dry sandy soils into lower lying areas showed us more water loving plants like hat pins (*Eriocaulon compressum*) and bog buttons (*Lachnocaulon anceps*). We were searching for butterworts (*Pinguicula* spp.), but to no avail.

After searching that particularly low-lying area, Jennifer took us to another part of the property where cattle wandered around spots of standing water. Here, it was very easy to see plant indicators of where water was sitting. Large clumping grasses created a mass planted effect indicating the marsh areas. Subtle changes in land lowering saturation levels allowed *Helianthus* to grow strong. Discussions of prescribed burns came up as casually as one would talk about mowing the lawn.

As we wandered through a few more wet corridors, the sun began to hang in the sky, signaling the end of our trip. Before we left, we signed a petition supporting Water and Land Conservation by dedicating funds to acquire and restore Florida conservation and recreational lands. Then we began our trip back to Orlando.

Many discussions were had on the drive to and from this field trip. Talking to people with similar views allows us to begin discussing the nuances of our perceptions instead of the broad, more common approach of concept and justification. Why plant native at all? What is an invasive? Will these plants merely stay alive or thrive in a residential landscape? Joining up with the native plant society gave me the feeling of community; similar to when I was in school. In school, we used botanical names because there was a quiz next period. We understood photoperiod and seasonal life cycles by watching trial gardens and running greenhouse experiments. I don't have access to these types of greenhouses anymore. I spend my observation time wandering my own yard and through my neighborhood gardens. Walking out into a dry prairie with this group re-kindled an excitement I was happy to share with others. It was exciting to have others share their interest in native plants and habitat with me.

In my excitement, I agreed to write an article — my first article — articulating my gratitude for the FNPS and this particular field trip. Through this article, and hopefully many more, I aim to explore my familiar surroundings with new eyes and connect with what it is to be a Florida native.



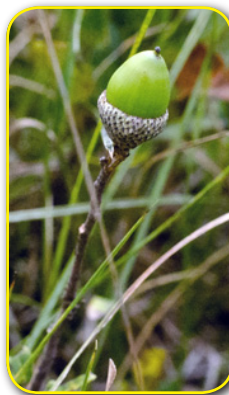
prairie marsh



Euthamia minor



surveying in pine flatwoods



Quercus minima



Xyris fimbriata



Rhexia mariana



Elephantopus elatus bud

FNPS 2013 Endowment Grant Research Awards and 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 small grants (\$1500 or less) awarded for a 1-year period, and are intended to support research that forwards the mission of the Florida Native Plant Society which is “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 small grants (\$1500 or less) awarded for a 1-year period. These projects promote the preservation, conservation, or restoration of rare or imperiled native plant taxa and rare or imperiled native plant communities. To qualify for a Conservation Grant, the proposed project must be sponsored by an FNPS Chapter.

Application guidelines and details are on the FNPS Web site (www.fnps.org); click on “Participate/Grants and Awards.” Questions regarding the grant programs should be sent to info@fnps.org.

Application deadline for the 2013 Awards is March 1, 2013. Awards will be announced at the May 2013 Annual Conference in Jacksonville. Awardees do not have to be present at the Conference to receive award.

Call for Research Track Papers and Poster Presentations for the FNPS 2013 Conference

The Florida Native Plant Society annual conference will be held at University of North Florida, Jacksonville, Florida, May 16-19, 2013. The Research Track of the Conference will include presented papers on Friday, May 17 and Saturday, May 18. The poster session will be on Saturday, May 18.

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

Abstracts of not more than 200 words should be submitted as an MS Word file by email to Paul A. Schmalzer (paul.a.schmalzer@nasa.gov) by February 1, 2013. Include title, affiliation, and address. Indicate whether you will be presenting a paper or poster.

UPCOMING EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

JAN 7, 11 & 12 OAKLAND NATURE PRESERVE RESTORATION PLANTINGS



Temporary irrigation is already in place.
(Photo by Shane Overstreet)

A large restoration push is scheduled for several days at Oakland Nature Preserve (ONP). The area is to the right of the front gate as you come into the Preserve. We will be planting about 5,000 wire grass (*Aristida stricta*) (quart sized), chalky blue stem (*Andropogon* spp.), and lopsided Indiangrass (*Sorghastrum secundum*) in about a one acre area.

If you are interested in assisting, we will be planting on Monday, January 7, 8:30am–12pm; preparing for a large volunteer group on Friday, January 11 at 9am; and planting again on Saturday, January 12 at 9am. There may be a barbeque lunch served by the Rotary (volunteer group) after the planting. Yes, this conflicts with the Tarflower field trip scheduled for January 12, but if anyone wants to come out on any of the above days, we could use all the hands we can get. Call Jackie Rolly at 407-620-6963 or email her at j.y.rolly@att.net if you think you can make it.

JAN 10–13 EVERGLADES COALITION 28TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The 28th Annual Conference on Everglades Restoration will take place January 10-13, 2013 at the Biltmore Hotel in Coral Gables. The conference is organized by the Everglades Coalition, an alliance of 57 local, state, and national conservation and environmental organizations dedicated to the full restoration of the greater Everglades ecosystem. It is the largest annual forum for Everglades conservation and restoration, which brings together allied organizations with local, state, and federal partners. This year's conference theme is "America's Everglades: Our Legacy, Our Future."

FNPS members are encouraged to take part. Visit <http://www.evergladescoalition.org/Conference.htm> for details. For additional information, contact the FNPS rep, Joan Bausch, at 772-219-8285 or jlbl@gate.net.

JAN 19 MEAD GARDEN AIR POTATO RAID

Orange County Environmental Protection Division will host its annual Air Potato Raid at Mead Garden, January 19 beginning at 8am. To RSVP and for more details, contact Beth Jackson at 407-836-1481 or beth.jackson@ocfl.net.

JAN 26 FLORIDA FOREVER PLANTING

Help plant bald cypress trees at Forever Florida on Saturday, January 26 at 10am. This is a great community service project for youth involved in the forestry and wildlife project areas. Youth and adult volunteers are welcome. Anyone interested, contact Karen Miliffe at khen@osceola.org by Friday, December 21.

FEB 16 ORLANDO WETLANDS FESTIVAL

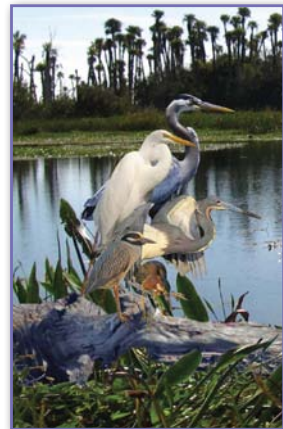
Come out and celebrate the Orlando Wetlands Park: an oasis of flora, fauna and feathered friends! There will be games, exhibits, vendors, door prizes, face painting, a rock climbing wall, refreshments, merchandise booths, a Backyard Tree giveaway, a bounce house, hayrides, animal catch and release demo, 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 as well as a guided bus tour of the wetlands.

When: Saturday, Feb 16, 9am–3pm

Where: Ft. Christmas Historical Park
(1300 North Fort Christmas Rd)

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, email orlandowetlandspark@cityoforlando.net or visit www.cityoforlando.net/wetlands.

Volunteers are needed to man the Tarflower Chapter booth. If you are interested, please contact Jim Erwin (jim.erwin@wellsfargo.com), Catherine Bowman (garberia08@gmail.com), or Jackie Rolly (j.y.rolly@att.net).



FEB 26–APR 9 FLORIDA MASTER NATURALIST, WETLANDS MODULE

Peg Lantz and Jackie Rolly will be leading the Florida Master Naturalist Freshwater Wetlands Module at the Orlando Wetlands Park on Tuesdays, from February 26 to April 9. Please visit the Master Naturalist website for course information (<http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/fmnp/fw13-08.htm>) and registration (<http://www.masternaturalist.ifas.ufl.edu/>).

APR 4–5 NATIVE PLANT SHOW

Florida's first all native plant industry tradeshow will take place Thursday and Friday, April 4-5, 2013. Hosted by the Florida Association of Native Nurseries (FANN), the show will feature native plant growers from across the state and showcase the diversity of Florida's native flora in cultivation.

At the show, FANN will offer professional CEU courses for landscape architects, designers, installers, maintenance professionals and arborists both days. Demonstration landscapes will be installed on, selected from award-winning native landscape designs. The deadline for design submittals is February 1, 2013. More information about the design competition, CEU courses and the Native Plant Show can be found at www.nativeplantshow.com.



Thank you, Tarflower members!

Many thanks go out to all those who contributed to our December meeting. Special thanks to Mark Katelli who made our food table look like a banquet fit for a king. Between the artistically arranged white table clothes, the candles, and sprigs of flowers, we almost thought we were in the wrong room for the meeting. It was fun watching all the jaws drop as people entered the room and saw the table. Mark and many others also brought food items so that no one went hungry. It made the meeting quite festive.

Also, there were several FNPS items for sale to fill that Christmas list. There's plenty left over, so don't forget to check out the Tarflower booth at the Orlando Wetlands Festival on February 16th.

Thanks to Dr. Eliane Norman, too, for a great talk on False Pawpaws. As we are now aware, there really is a difference between *Deeringothamnus* and *Asmina*.

PawPaw Clarification Chart

At the December meeting, Dr. Eliane Norman enlightened us regarding Florida's False Pawpaw, *Deeringothamnus*. Many of you expressed an interest in Dr. Norman's chart that breaks down the similarities and differences between *Deeringothamnus* and *Asimina rugellii*. Dr. Norman has graciously given us her permission to reprint it. You can now download it from the Tarflower home page or at <http://tarflower.fnpschapters.org/data/uploads/resources/pawpaw-characteristics-chart.pdf>.

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 5 at 7pm**. See you there!

Executive Committee — The next board meeting will be **Tuesday, January 8, 2012 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 Newsletters tab of the chapter website at <http://tarflower.fnpschapters.org/>.

Contribute to *The Tarpaper!* — Send your articles, event listings, photos and suggestions to Stacey Matrazzo, Editor, at 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 February 2013 issue is January 14.**

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.

\$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

FNPS 2013 Annual Conference *Celebrating La Florida, the Land of Flowers* **Jacksonville, Florida • May 16–19, 2013**

This year's conference theme commemorates Ponce de Leon's naming of the greater Florida region when he landed here 500 years ago.

Join us for exciting field trips, inspiring keynote speakers, educational sessions, workshops and the best plant sale featuring growers from around the state.

The 2013 conference will be held at the University of North Florida in Jacksonville. Check out www.FNPS.org and click on "Events" for details. Online registration will begin in January 2013.

Don't miss this unique "Real Florida" celebration!



Passiflora incarnata
Large Passion by Jim Draper (Jacksonville, Florida),
oil on canvas, 48 by 60 inches.
Use of this image generously donated
to FNPS for the 2013 Conference by Jim Draper.



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