



# the Tarpaper

The Tarflower Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society

Volume XX • February 2013



## FEBRUARY 5 PROGRAM:

### Living with a Florida Yard — The Maintenance of Self-Sustaining Landscapes presented by Troy Springer

What's to be done with muhly grass when the purple fluff has become brown wisps? What's the right time of year to start seeds that will bloom in time to benefit the butterflies of spring? Will a frost-damaged firebush recover or should it be put in the composter? (Don't do it!) And when is the right time to deadhead the likes of a motley snowy square stem?

We want to be good hosts to the native plants in our yards, but wouldn't it be nice to have an expert around to help guide us? Well, just in time to help us with our preparation for the upcoming growing season, Troy Springer of Springer Environmental in Plant City, is coming to our aid!

Troy started his career in the landscape business when he founded Springer Lawn Care in 1992 while in college at USF. Springer Lawn Care was predominately a mowing and traditional landscape operation. However, being a devoted wildlife enthusiast, Troy realized that his business practices were harming what was most important to him. He started to learn about natives and began experimenting with them even before he joined FNPS. He dreamed of having an eco-friendly landscape and maintenance operation, and began to sell off most of the mowing operation.

Troy closed Springer Lawn Care and Opened Springer Environmental Services in 2005 with a whole new brand of landscape style. Today, 98% of all plant materials used in his designs and installations are native. In addition to installing landscapes, over the years Troy has developed maintenance strategies specifically for eco-friendly landscapes.

Troy will talk about what he has learned over his years of experience with designing, building and maintaining eco-friendly landscapes. Come learn how you can approach building and maintaining your own native landscape to be aesthetically pleasing and functioning properly ecologically.

## FEBRUARY 9 FIELD TRIP:

### The Secret Hidden Springs of the Seminole State Forest



Every year, thousands of nature lovers enjoy exploring the trails and waterways available at the Seminole State Forest, and the vast majority of those visitors will miss some sweet gems nestled into the woods. Three beautiful little springs bubble up from the forest floor and flow into Blackwater Creek before joining the Wekiva River, which forms the eastern boundary of the forest. These are magnitude four springs, truly delightful and made available to a lucky few of us.

Forester and Tarflower friend, Michael Martin, has invited us to join him for a morning of exploration and discovery as he takes us to see Palm Springs, Helena Springs and Shark's Tooth. It'll be interesting to see what we can see from a botany perspective. One thing is certain, we'll be glad to be living in Florida in February

as we get outside and enjoy the beauty of our wild places. Also, we are Tarflower and we eat! Bring a picnic lunch to sustain you after we're done tromping around in the woods.

This field trip is limited to 25 people. Carpoolers can meet up at the Hess Station on Fairbanks Ave. and I-4 at 8am. Our group will meet up at Bear Pond in Seminole State Forest off Hwy 46 at 9am. We need some trucks or SUVs to haul us out into the woods. If you can help with that, please contact Kay Hudson at 407-432-2364. And please contact her for other questions, too.

## Restoration at Oakland Nature Preserve

As part of the Oakland Nature Preserve's push to restore the old citrus grove and slash pine farm back to sandhill, volunteers were very busy during the week of January 7, planting many varieties of upland grasses and flowering plants. A major part of the work was accomplished by Tarflower members Marge Holt, Ken Ricklick, Jim Helmers, Jackie Rolly, Marc Godts, Sergio Medina and his brother, who both work for Marc. All the plants were purchased from Green Isles Gardens nursery thanks to a wonderful grant from Orange County Environmental Protection Department. Special thanks to Lori Cuniff for her support, and to Mayor Teresa Jacobs and Commissioner Scott Boyd, without whose help we couldn't have restored such a large area.



volunteers Ken Ricklick, Marge Holt, Jackie Rolly, Jim Helmers, Marc Godts and Sergio Medina

Marc Godts and the Medina brothers worked hard prepping the area, herbiciding guinea grass and other invasives, and installing temporary irrigation over the holidays so we could plant in early January. In case you think we didn't work hard planting, here's the list of plants that went in: 4,100 wire grass (*Aristida stricta*); 60 broomsedge (*Andropogon virginicus*); 150 lopsided Indiangrass (*Sorghastrum secundum*); 20 gopher apple (*Licania michauxii*); 10 *Garberia heterophylla*; 10 bear grass (*Nolina brittoniana*); six palmettos (*Serenoa repens*); five *Conradina grandiflora*; 5 *Conradina canesens*; and one pawpaw (*Asimina obovata*).

We also had some help from several Winter Garden Rotary Club members who provided a very welcome barbecue lunch for us all. Many thanks to the Tarflower volunteers and others who came out three days that week to help in the FNPS mission.

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

- MAR 5 – Landscaping for Wildlife presented by Mary Keim
- APR 2 – Jaret Daniels, UF entomologist presents Enhancing Habitat for Native Insect Pollinators
- MAY 7 – Catherine Bowman and Marc Godts discuss Landscaping your Dry, Sunny Yard with Native Plants
- JUN 4 – Sister Pat Siemens, Center for Earth Jurisprudence

## UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

- MAR 10 – Turtle Mound (Note: this is a Sunday field trip)
- APR 14 – Mormon Branch (tentative)

## Native Plant Owner's Manuals Available at FNPS.org

The newly revised "Native Plant Owner's Manuals" created by FNPS Education Committee member Mark Hutchinson are available for download and use at <http://fnps.org/resources/pubs> under "Plant Presentations." These presentations are quite thorough and cover most aspects of the plants — from name origin, life cycle and pollination to propagation and ethnobiology. The presentations are PDFs; they can be viewed as a simple start to finish slide show, or can be used in open discussion using the "Navigation" page, which provides internal links to different parts of the presentation, making a free wheeling discussion of the plant easy and convenient.

Mark prepared these "Owner's Manuals" for use by FNPS chapters and members so check them out, download them, and use them!

## January Field Trip to Pine Island *by Tina Richards*

Upon arriving to the meeting place for my first field trip with the Tarflower chapter, I was happily received and among good company! As we waited for all to arrive, we watched a red-shouldered hawk nibble on its breakfast that it caught by the Burger King dumpster. When everyone was ready and accounted for, we piled into the cars and headed east towards Pine Island Conservation Area in Brevard County. I had the pleasure of riding with Bobby, Charlie, and Amanda Martin, all new members of the Tarflower — just like me! As we moved closer to our destination, our conversation wandered loosely with Florida as its centerpiece. After a couple u-turns (!) we reached our destination and were so fortunate to have Dr. Scott Taylor, the Central Region Land Manager, as our guide. As the sunscreen and bug spray were flowing, Scott quickly opened his map and began telling us the history of Pine Island. I see Pine Island as a great success story of both civic engagement and environmental responsibility. In the 1990s, the citizens of Brevard County petitioned to have an amendment on the ballot that gave the voters the option to “tax themselves up to \$55 million dollars for the acquisition and maintenance of Brevard’s natural areas. Residents reaffirmed the Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Program in 2004 under a second referendum to protect the natural habitats within Brevard County by the acquisition of environmentally sensitive lands through a willing seller program for the purpose of conservation, passive recreation, and environmental education.”

Not only was this a citizen initiative to get it on the ballot, it was positively voted on by the taxpayers, reaffirmed, and best of all, is the work on the ground! With this perspective, we got back in our cars and drove to the first hiking spot. As we unloaded, all the experts began to go into “ID mode,” which gave me a sense of belonging and comfort to know I was among others that shared a natural propensity and curiosity of the natural world — and specifically plants! We walked a few meters on what could be called a trail, but shortly began to veer into knee-high *Paspalum vaginatum*, which hid the muck underneath. The first few plants we came across included saltwort (*Batis maritima*), slender (annual) glasswort (*Salicornia maritima*, *Salicornia bigelovii*), and perennial glasswort (*Salicornia virginica*, now *Sarcocornia ambigua*). Scott informed us that the early Florida pioneers used to pickle the saltwort, so we all quickly grabbed a leaf and put it into our mouths. It was salty with an earthy taste that definitely makes you think pickles!

We kept moving towards what used to be acre upon acre of nothing more than Brazilian pepper. The success of Pine Island that I previously referred to is visible in this very area that has been transformed from invasive, all-dominating Brazilian pepper into a saltmarsh with moderate-to-high-biodiversity. As we walked, we didn’t see any pepper, but to my excitement many natives including black and white mangroves (*Avicennia germinans* and *Laguncularia racemosa*, respectively), sea oxeye daisy (*Borrchia frutescens*), sand cordgrass (*Spartina bakeri*), and needle rush (*Juncus roemerianus*), among others. Scott reminded us that the key to all of his restoration efforts was elevation and the flow of water, or hydrology. We arrived at the end of the marsh where the elevation inclined and the pepper began to appear, however we were still pleasantly surprised as Scott informed us that the area under the bridge in which we were standing was formerly dominated by cattails. With just a few adjustments to the hydrology, they were able to transform the site into an actual marsh-pond with visible water. The domination of cattails is generally indicative of high-nutrient fresh water. As Scott and his team allowed the entry of saltwater, the cattails subsided and the appropriate species began to move in.



perennial glasswort (Photo by Amanda Martin)



slender or annual glasswort (Photo by Amanda Martin)



wild pine

to accommodate our hungry members. As Catherine Bowman and other members were focused on identifying the few plants collected along the way that were unknown, I realized how appropriate it is for me to complete the internship for my Master’s degree with the Florida Native Plant Society Tarflower chapter! I am happy to be a part of such a knowledgeable group and look forward to coordinating the future field trips!

## Help Determine October Field Trip Location

The field-trip planners would like your input for our October 2013 field trip! Because fall is a good time to see blooms, we are considering two pine flatwoods ecosystems: Disney Wilderness Preserve and Longleaf Pine Forest at Lake Kerr.

The Disney Wilderness Preserve serves as mitigation property for Disney and is co-managed by the Nature Conservancy. “The preserve features cypress swamp, freshwater marsh, scrub, flatwoods and oak hammock. A rejuvenated longleaf pine forest — with its lush understory of native grasses and forbs, saw palmetto and other shrubs — is one result of the return of prescribed fire to the land. Key flowers include the fall flowering ixia, Catesby’s lily and terrestrial orchids.”

The Longleaf Pine Forest at Lake Kerr in Ocala will showcase a portion of the Florida Trail. “For most backpackers, the Florida Trail in the Ocala National Forest is a must-do hike. It’s a spectacular immersion in the world’s largest sand pine scrub forest on a well-worn footpath first laid down in the 1960s.”

Please email [ktina.richards@gmail.com](mailto:ktina.richards@gmail.com) with a subject line “Pine Flatwoods October” to let us know your preference!

## 2013 Endowment Grant Research 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](http://www.fnps.org)); click on “Participate/Grants and Awards.” Questions regarding the grant programs should be sent to [info@fnps.org](mailto: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

The Florida Native Plant Society annual conference will be held at the 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](mailto: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, WORKSHOPS & VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

### FEB 1 4<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL FUTURE GENERATIONS CONFERENCE: RIGHTS OF SPRINGS

**When:** Friday, Feb 1, 8am–3:30pm

**Where:** Barry University School of Law, Orlando, FL

Sponsored by the Center for Earth Jurisprudence. For more info and to register, contact [CEJ-info@mail.barry.edu](mailto:CEJ-info@mail.barry.edu) or (321) 206-5691 or visit <http://earthjuris.org/events/>.

### FEB 15–16 HEALING OUR WORLD AND OURSELVES CONFERENCE

**When:** Friday, Feb 15, 2pm–8pm  
and Saturday, Feb 16, 9am–5pm

**Where:** First Unitarian Church of Orlando, 1901 E. Robinson St, Orlando, FL

Co-sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Church of Brevard, Florida and the Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Florida. For more info and to register, visit <http://healingourworldandourselves.org/>.

### FEB 16 SPEAK UP WEKIVA RALLY

**When:** Saturday, Feb 16, 10am–4pm

**Where:** Wekiwa Springs State Park

Sponsored by Friends of Wekiva, Florida Conservation Coalition, and Seminole and Orange County League of Women Voters. Keynote speaker, former Governor and U.S. Senator Bob Graham. More information is available at <http://SpeakUpWekiva.com/>.

### 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, Christmas, FL

This event is sponsored by the City of Orlando, the Orange Audubon Society and Orange County Parks and Recreation. For more info, call 407-568-1706, email [orlandowetlandspark@cityoforlando.net](mailto:orlandowetlandspark@cityoforlando.net) 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 Jim Erwin ([jim.erwin@wellsfargo.com](mailto:jim.erwin@wellsfargo.com)), Catherine Bowman ([garberia08@gmail.com](mailto:garberia08@gmail.com)), or Jackie Rolly ([j.y.rolly@att.net](mailto:j.y.rolly@att.net)).**

### FEB 23 SOUTH SEMINOLE FARM AND NURSERY SOCIETY DAY

Join the Cuplet Fern FNPS chapter at this annual gathering of conservation societies and help collect signatures for the Florida Land and Legacy ("Florida Forever") constitutional amendment to restore state funding for purchase of environmentally significant lands. This 2014 ballot initiative seeks to restore to the Florida Forever fund 33% of state revenue from real estate doc stamps. Recent cuts have left the Florida Forever unfunded.

**When:** Saturday, Feb 23, 9am–4pm

**Where:** 2010 Lake Drive, Casselberry, FL

For more info, call 407-695-3247 or email [Info@sseminolefarmandnursery.com](mailto:Info@sseminolefarmandnursery.com). More than 100 Florida conservation groups have endorsed the campaign. **The Tarflower Chapter will also be gathering signatures at upcoming events.**



### FEB 26–APR 9 FLORIDA MASTER NATURALIST PROGRAM, WETLANDS MODULE

The Florida Master Naturalist Program (FMNP) is an adult education UF/IFAS Extension program developed by the University of Florida. FMNP training will benefit persons interested in learning more about Florida's environment 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 is 40 contact hours of classroom learning, field trips, and practical experience. Each module is \$225 and includes detailed course manuals and, upon completion, FMNP certificates, patches, and pins. Peg Lantz and Jackie Rolly will lead the FMNP Freshwater Wetlands Module.

**When:** Tuesdays, Feb 26–April 9, 9am–4pm

**Where:** Orlando Wetlands Park, 25155 Wheeler Road, Christmas, FL

For more info and to register, visit <http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/fmnp/fw13-08.htm>.

### MAR 9 LAKE APOPKA WILDLIFE AND BIRDAPALOOZA

Birdapalooza celebrates the rich diversity of birds and other wildlife that make their home on the northwest shore of Lake Apopka. There will be live entertainment, tours, food trucks and other refreshments, as well as vendors and exhibitors specializing in native plants, outdoor recreation, birding gear and old Florida crafts and products. Orange County will host Adopt-A-Tree with free trees (one per person, first come first served). Sign up NOW at [www.birdapalooza.com/birdapalooza/tours/](http://www.birdapalooza.com/birdapalooza/tours/) for a 90-minute professional tour of the North Shore Restoration Area. Space on tours may be limited.

**When:** Saturday, Mar 9, 9am–4pm

**Where:** Lakeside Park, adjacent to Magnolia Park, 2929 S Binion Rd, Apopka, FL

For more info and directions, visit [www.birdapalooza.com](http://www.birdapalooza.com).

**The Tarflower Chapter will exhibit at this event. Volunteer to help man our tent!**

### MAR 16–17 LEU GARDENS ANNUAL PLANT SALE

The ONE, the ONLY Leu Gardens Annual Plant Sale! If you've never been, this is a must. Over 50 plant growers will sell a variety of plants and garden accessories. Talk to experts and purchase the best quality of plants in Central Florida. Check out Leu Gardens while you're there — entrance is free both days.

**When:** Saturday, Mar 16, and Sunday, Mar 17, 9am–5pm

**Where:** Harry P. Leu Gardens, 1920 N. Forest Avenue, Orlando

For directions or more info, call 407-246-2620 option 1 or visit [www.leugardens.org/events.htm#plant](http://www.leugardens.org/events.htm#plant).

**Volunteers are needed! If you've never volunteered at the Tarflower tent, selling native plants, do so this year. We need cashiers, plant movers, explainers, presenters, sales persons, go-fers. If you want to learn more about natives, this is a chance to shadow one of our professionals as they educate customers and visitors. We need five people per two-hour shift both days.**

### APR 4–5 NATIVE PLANT SHOW

This is Florida's first all native plant industry tradeshow. Hosted by the Florida Association of Native Nurseries (FANN), the show features native plant growers from across the state and showcases the diversity of Florida's native flora in cultivation. CEU courses will be available for landscape architects, designers, installers, maintenance professionals and arborists both days. Award-winning demonstration landscapes will be installed.

**When:** Thursday, Apr 4, and Friday, Apr 5

**Where:** Osceola Heritage Park, 1901 Chief Osceola Trail, Kissimmee FL

For more info, visit [www.nativeplantshow.com](http://www.nativeplantshow.com).

### Orange County Celebrates Arbor Day!

On Tuesday, January 15, Orange County Mayor Teresa Jacobs and the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) observed Florida Arbor Day by planting a native tree in the Florida Friendly Native Landscaping Demonstration Garden located outside the County Administration Center in downtown Orlando. After the ceremony, the BCC proclaimed January 18, 2013 as Florida Arbor Day. Celebrating Arbor Day helps educate the public about the value of trees. Orange County has been awarded the "Tree City USA" designation every year since 2006.

## 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, February 12, 2013 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](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 2013 issue is February 17.**

### 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.**

\$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](http://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.



*Tarflower Chapter*  
*Florida Native Plant Society*  
*P.O. Box 536021*  
*Orlando, FL 32853-6021*

President — Catherine Bowman: 407-761-7109; [garberia08@gmail.com](mailto:garberia08@gmail.com)  
Vice President (Programs) — Kay Hudson: 407-432-2364; [Kay@americanbuilders.com](mailto:Kay@americanbuilders.com)  
Vice President (Events) — Jim Erwin: 407-454-3882; [jim.erwin@wellsfargo.com](mailto:jim.erwin@wellsfargo.com)  
Secretary — Jackie Rolly: 407-359-4963; [j.y.rolly@att.net](mailto:j.y.rolly@att.net)  
Treasurer — Jackie Sward: 407-647-5233; [jackrabbit31@hotmail.com](mailto:jackrabbit31@hotmail.com)  
Field Trips — VACANT  
Memberships — Phyllis Gray: 407-253-5462 (W); [phyllis.gray@amec.com](mailto:phyllis.gray@amec.com)  
Chapter Representative — Julie Becker: [jlbecker@cfl.rr.com](mailto:jlbecker@cfl.rr.com)  
Plant Rescue — Marge Holt: 407-679-6759  
*Tarpaper* Editor — Stacey Matrazzo: [stacey@impactpress.com](mailto:stacey@impactpress.com)  
*Tarpaper* Mailing — Chuck Roux: 407-851-8889; [clroux@bellsouth.net](mailto:clroux@bellsouth.net)  
CHAPTER WEBSITE — <http://tarflower.fnpschapters.org/>