



the Tarpaper



The Tarflower Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society

February 2014

FEBRUARY 4 PROGRAM Cool Stories of Pollination Ecology presented by Mark Deyrup, PhD



We are excited to have Mark Deyrup speaking to us this month. Mark is Senior Research Program Director and Biologist in the Entomology Department at Archbold Biological Station. He's coming to share some fascinating insights into the interactions between insects and the native plants they have lived with and come to depend upon. With over 4,500 species inhabiting Archbold Biological Station, we are quite sure Mark will leave us wanting to know more.

Mark Deyrup, PhD, received his education at Cornell and the University of Washington. He has written many interesting books about Florida's insects and arachnids. He is an entomologist extraordinaire and has headed up important scientific research, with an emphasis on Florida's endemic ants, which is quite happy to share with us.

Members are invited to send photos of unknown insects on native flowers to be included and discussed in this program. Please send these pictures to Kay Hudson at kay@americanbuilders.com.

FEBRUARY 7-8 FIELD TRIP Field Trip to Archbold Biological Station

On Friday, February 7, Mark Deyrup will meet with Tarflower members who elect to make this field trip an over-night event. We are invited to stay in the dorm-like facilities at Archbold Biological Station, enjoy good company, a nice dinner and informal wandering and exploring the grounds. (The cost to stay overnight is \$25/per person for a triple occupancy room and \$30/per person for a double occupancy room. Dinner will be provided, at an additional cost, by the staff at the Station.) On Saturday morning at 9a.m., we'll begin our formal field trip with Mark guiding us through the slash pine/wiregrass Southern Ridge Sandhill endemic to the Lake Wales Ridge and providing special emphasis on the interactions between insects and their native plant neighbors.

Archbold Biological Station is an independent research facility, devoted to long-term ecological research, education and conservation. The Station, founded in 1941, protects a 5,193-acre globally significant natural preserve located on the southern end of the Lake Wales Ridge, an ancient sandy ridge in south central Florida. Virtually all of the Archbold Biological Station's land is in pristine natural condition. For those interested in Florida's wild lands, the conservation and appreciation of those lands, there really is no better opportunity to learn and enjoy than this particular field trip. Contact Amanda Martin at 352-219-5381 to reserve your spot for Friday night. Those who would like to explore and learn on Saturday without spending the night on Friday may certainly do so. Meet us Archbold Biological Station at 9:00a.m. on Saturday morning. Good directions are available online at <http://www.archbold-station.org/station/html/vinfo/directions.html>.

What's been happening at the Mead Garden Work Days? by Catherine Bowman

First, you should know that the February work day has been changed from Saturday, February 1 to Sunday, February 2 (due to some of us attending the celebratory gathering of Dr. Walter Taylor's students on that Saturday out at UCF or the plant salvage by the airport).

On Sunday, February 2, we will meet inside the main entrance to Mead Garden (Denning Drive and Garden Street) at 9a.m. in the dirt parking lot by the bathrooms. From there, we may do a little more weeding on the sandhill garden and/or tidy up the Denning Drive planting area, depending on how many people come out to help. Bunker Hill and Pete Dunkelberg have been working in the Denning Drive planted area between work days—and, Bunker has been adding to the plantings!

Thanks to those who participated in January and apologies to those who would have participated if I hadn't switched dates from the 5th to the 4th at the last minute. I would also like to thank Cathy Swerdlow and her volunteers from a local synagogue for coming out on the originally scheduled Sunday (because we did not have contact information for each other). Amanda was able to provide some direction on where their help would be most useful. Cathy reported that they enjoyed the gardens and did some needed weeding in the native planted area beside the Discovery Barn. Those of us who were there on Saturday spent a couple of hours weeding in the sandhill planted area south of the picnic shelter. The primary species that we targeted were tropical Mexican clover (*Richardia brasiliensis*), chamber bitter (*Phyllanthus urinaria*, a non-native), a small crabgrass (*Digitaria* sp., not to be confused with the small native witch grasses, *Dichanthelium*, that provide a source of native seeds), non-native lilac tasselflower (*Emilia sonchifolia*), and some small plants of skunk vine and cat claw vine that were just starting to creep across the pine needles in a few spots. The turkey oaks, saw palmetto, Chickasaw plum, gopher apple, green eyes, blazing stars, and grasses that we planted this past September all appear to be doing well and not in need of watering unless there is an extended drought period. Ralph Hudson and Ron Blair have been taking turns checking these plantings, just in case they (most likely the turkey oaks and plums) need a little watering from time to time while they are becoming fully established.

In addition to simply staying alive, a few of the blazing stars, green eyes, and split beard bluestems dispersed the first seeds of their species in maybe 100 years back into the Garden! I am sure we will all be anxiously awaiting the 2014 growing season to see all the plantings beginning to grow. The native plum trees should have some blooms in March. We will be planting an assortment of small trees and shrubs, including those we salvaged last summer, as a buffer and wildlife habitat along the south fence, in the near future. Please call Catherine Bowman (407-761-7109 or 407-637-5883) or contact Stacey Matrazzo (stacey@impactpress.com) if you would like more information on the work days.



January Field Trip to Longleaf Territory near Salt Springs *by Pete Dunkelberg*

We trickled in to the Salt Springs Grocery around 10a.m. on an overcast January morning not quite knowing what we were to do except for one thing—and that fell through. We wanted to see the largest surviving longleaf pine in Florida and a majestic 500-year-old live oak. But at the last minute, Kay Hudson found out that the rules had changed and we would have to pay \$5 apiece to see these trees! Most didn't want to do that, but then what?

Quickly Kay and our excellent three guides from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission arrived at a plan. We would go to a nearby sandhill ecosystem that had been replanted with longleaf pines perhaps 40 years ago, walk the trails and learn what we could. We arrived there, got out of our cars and looked around, and then John Kunzel, the plant expert among our guides, started leading. From then on, it was a good day.

John led us along a trail away from the road noise and started pointing out interesting plants, hardly any of them in bloom. I'm sure everyone, even the experts, got some new plant recognition and ID tips. One noteworthy plant that was common there but isn't here is small leaf New Jersey tea (*Ceanothus microphyllus*). I do not recommend consuming it, but it would make a nice looking plant for the north side of the house. It's not highly photogenic without its flowers, but we did manage to find one specimen in flower.

One of the few blooming plants was hawkweed (*Hieracium* sp.). John said he couldn't tell the species without taking measurements. I mentioned a helpful character, but John, with his experience at the USF herbarium as well as in the field, told me "That character does not hold up." The two common species have very recognizable fuzzy leaves.

Another plant I was glad to see was the tiny scrub spikemoss, just producing its spore bodies.

It was a good day to take note of the overall ecosystem and plant community. The area where we were had burned not many months ago and was none the worse for it. This is just as the books tell us for a longleaf, wiregrass and many more small species sandhill. Later this year when the plants are blooming again, it will look very nice indeed.

We went back to the roadside for our lunch, and then thought of visiting a scrub area for comparison. But John had a better idea. He simply led us across the road to another area that was very similar except that it had not burned in a couple years. We saw that there was much more fuel on the ground, chiefly pine needles. It was easy to envision how a modest fire could sweep through without harming the trees, yet if it were blowing our way, we would run. Then we went on to an area of thick scrub that had probably not burned in a few decades. Here, there was very little fuel on



The group listens to John Kunzel (sitting on ground to right)



John talks about the ecosystem



hawkweed



New Jersey tea in bloom



spikemoss with spore bodies

the ground. Indeed, there were patches of bare ground and patches of moss growing peacefully. But there were so many twigs and leaves above ground that if lightning set it on fire some hot summer day, the flames would leap high and burn all to the ground. It is one thing to read about this, and quite another to have it described while you are standing in the middle of the scrub. That drives the lesson home.

After that, it was time to thank our friends of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission for their top notch field support and head back to Orlando, wiser and happier.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

MAR 4 – Florida Wildflowers: A Comprehensive Guide, presented by Dr. Walter Taylor

APR 1 – "Bring Back the Buzz" with Taryn Evans

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

MAR 8 – Spring Landscaping Demo with Amanda Martin

APR 5 – Hal Scott Preserve

Master Gardener Plant Sale

The 2013 Master Gardener Plant Sale in September at the Orange County Extension was very successful. We would like to have a booth again this year, so start thinking about potting up your extra plants. If you need pots, contact Amanda Martin (ajm.fnps@gmail.com) or Jackie Rolly (j.y.rolly@att.net).

UPCOMING EVENTS & VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

FEB 1 PLANT RESCUE AT OIA

We are planning a plant rescue at the Orlando International Airport (OIA) on Saturday, February 1. We will meet at the 7-11 at the intersection of Narcoossee Road (SR 515) and the Beachline (SR 528) on the southeast side at 8:30a.m. and carpool to the site. This is a wet site—how wet, we don't know yet, but bring boots in case. Please bring shovels, pots, water for the plants (if you have rain water), and water and a snack for yourself. In the past we have found white and purple violets, wiregrass, pitcher plants, sundews, and other wetland, pine flatwoods plants. Weather is iffy, so please let Jackie Rolly know if you plan on coming so we can reach you in case we have to cancel. Phone 407-620-6963.

FEB 2 MEAD GARDEN WORKDAY

When: Sunday, Feb 2, 9a.m.–11a.m. or as long as you can stay!

Where: Mead Botanical Garden, 1300 S. Denning Dr., Winter Park, FL 32789

See article on page 1 for details. Call Catherine Bowman (407-761-7109 or 407-637-5883) or contact Stacey Matrazzo (stacey@impactpress.com) for more information.

FEB 7 VALENCIA COLLEGE'S LEARNING DAY

Tarflower volunteers are needed for help install native plants at Valencia College. For more information and to RSVP, please contact Deborah Green, Director of Sustainability, Valencia College at dgreen1@valenciacollege.edu or 407-582-1830.

FEB 8-13 67TH SOCIETY FOR RANGE MANAGEMENT ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL MEETING, TECHNICAL TRAINING AND TRADE SHOW

This year's theme is "From Dusty Trails to Waning Wetlands" to bring drought and water management, a problem we are all so familiar with, to the forefront of the meeting.

Where: Caribe Royale Hotel, Orlando

For more info and to register, visit <http://rangelands.org/orlando2014/>.

FEB 15 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, refreshments, merchandise booths, a Backyard Tree giveaway, a bounce house, live animals, hayrides, 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 15, 9a.m.–3p.m.

Where: Ft. Christmas Historical Park, 1300 N Fort Christmas Rd, Christmas, FL 32709

This event is sponsored by the City of Orlando, 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) or Jackie Rolly (j.y.rolly@att.net).



FEB 19 MOVIE AND PANEL DISCUSSION: FLORIDA WILDLIFE CORRIDOR EXPEDITION

With generous funding from the Florida Humanities Council, the Legacy Institute for Nature and Culture (LINC) and the University of Central Florida Arboretum invite you to a discussion and screening of the award-winning documentary film,

Florida Wildlife Corridor Expedition: Everglades to Okefenokee.

When: Wednesday, Feb 19, 5:30p.m.–8:30p.m.

Where: UCF Alumni Center, 12676 Gemini Blvd., Orlando FL 32816

In 2012, four explorers traveled 1000 miles in 100 days, from the Everglades to Okefenokee Swamp in southern Georgia. Their goal: to raise awareness of the real potential for creating a viable corridor from the Everglades to Georgia. During their expedition, the team documented the corridor through photography, video streams, radio reports, daily updates on social media and digital networks. The film is a collection of stories and experiences from the expedition.

As the eighth in a series of ten "Corridor Conservation Series" events, the evening of February 19 will facilitate public dialogue on the Florida Wildlife Corridor following the recent release of the film. Join us at the UCF Alumni Center at 5:30 pm for an opening reception, 6:30pm film screening, and 7:30pm panel discussion.

The event is free and open to the public. Donations are welcome. Seating is limited. For more information on the event, contact the UCF Arboretum at arboretum@ucf.edu. For more information on the project and film, visit www.LINC.us and www.floridawildlifecorridor.org.



MAR 1 2014 LAKE APOPKA WILDLIFE FEST & 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 for a free two-hour tour of the north shore at www.birdapalooza.com.

When: Saturday, Mar 1, 9a.m.–4p.m.

Where: Magnolia Park, 2929 S Binion Road, Apopka, FL 32703

Volunteers are needed. Call Jim Erwin at 407-454-3882 to help man the Tarflower tent.

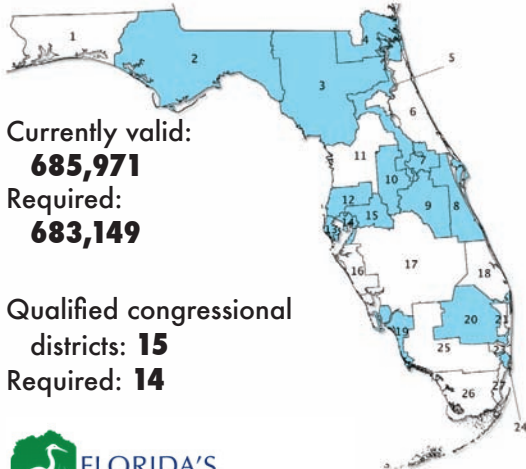
MAY 13-18 2014 FNPS ANNUAL CONFERENCE—GROWING NATIVE

FNPS' 2014 annual conference will be held at the Florida Gulf Coast University in Ft. Myers. With special guest Dr. James C. Cahill, an experimental ecologist featured in the PBS show "What Plants Talk About." Other speakers will include Dr. Bill Hammond, Dr. Marty Main, Dr. James Wohlpart and Roger Hammer. Plus field trips to some of Southwest Florida's amazing natural areas; and much more! Lodging is available right on campus for \$40/night—and that includes breakfast!

So, pump up your bicycle tires and bring it along and help keep our carbon footprint low! Coccoloba, along with Mangrove and Naples Chapters, look forward to "Growing Native" with you this spring!

Watch this spot (as well as the Sabal minor, the FNPS blog, website and Facebook) for more details!

WE DID IT!!!



Currently valid:

685,971

Required:

683,149

Qualified congressional

districts: **15**

Required: **14**



The Water and Land Conservation Amendment will be on the November 2014 ballot thanks to you! Generations of Floridians will thank you for your hard work and enduring support!

Tarflower 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).

Tarflower website <http://tarflower.fnpschapters.org/>

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 March 2014 issue is February 13.**

Tarflower Chapter Executive Committee meetings The next board meeting will be Tuesday, February 11, 2014 at 6pm. For more information, contact Amanda Martin. Members are welcome.

Tarflower Chapter Executive Committee members

President Amanda Martin (ajm.fnps@gmail.com)

Vice President, Programs Kay Hudson (407-432-2364; Kay@americanbuilders.com)

Vice President, Events Jim Erwin (407-454-3882; jimerwin9@gmail.com)

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or call 321-271-6702.	\$1000	Lifetime member