



the Tarpaper

The Tarflower Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society

Volume XXIV • May 2012



MAY 1 PROGRAM: Seminole State Forest with Mike Martin



Join Mike Martin with the Florida Division of Forestry as he talks about the nuts and bolts of a successful prescribed burn. He will also present the distinctive characteristics of the approximately 1725 acre Seminole State Forest and its ecological diversity which includes almost all of the naturally occurring vegetative communities found in Central Florida. There are more than 13 different natural countries, each with unique plants, animals and physical characteristics.

Mike Martin received a BS in Forestry from Purdue University. After college, he worked three years as a forestry consultant in Indiana. He came to Florida and began working with the Florida Forest Service in 1979 where he worked as the Seminole County Forester for many years, eventually transferring to Little Big Eon State Forest and then to his current location at Seminole State Forest.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

JUN 5 Miquel Garces: "Natives in the Urban Landscape"

JUL 3 Pat Ashton: "What Do Gopher Tortoises Eat?" (tentative)

AUG 7 Ann Cox, FNPS Chair of Conservation, Public Land Management Partners

SEP 4 Todd Mecklenborg, FWC Biologist: "Status of Florida's Conservation of Plants and Plant Communities"

MAY 12 FIELD TRIP: Rare Plant Search on the Lake Wales Ridge State Forest Prairie Tract

On May 12, we have a rare opportunity to conduct a search for listed plants in an area of the Lake Wales Ridge State Forest where it appears that there has been no previous extensive sampling. As you may know, the Lake Wales Ridge is well known for its rare, often endemic, scrub and sandhill plants; however, other habitats for listed species occur in the forest.

We will be looking at the prairies in the Prairie Tract at the southwest end of Lake Kissimmee. The areas on which we will focus are dry prairie, wet prairie and depression marshes. Our group will look for plants on the list that the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) compiled for the Florida Forestry Service (FFS) of potentially occurring listed prairie species for this area. These are: many-flowered grass pink (*Calopogon multiflorus*), pine lily or Catesby's lily (*Lilium catesbaei*), blue-flowered butterwort (*Pinguicula caerulea*), yellow-flowered butterwort (*Pinguicula lutea*), giant orchid (*Pteroglossaspis ecristata*), hooded pitcher plant (*Sarracenia minor*), and long-lipped ladies tresses (*Spiranthes longilabris*). Other species that have been documented in surrounding counties may also occur, such as white-fringed orchid (*Platanthera blephariglottis* var. *conspicua*). Some of these will not be identifiable this time of year and some will.

Concurrent with searching for rare plants, we will compile an overall plant list by vegetative community type—not a complete list, of course, but hopefully a good beginning for future sampling.

There is no tree canopy in this area, so please wear a wide brimmed hat and bring plenty of water, possibly a light snack, and a field lunch. We expect to have lunch on-site and depart by 2pm or 3pm but will see how we are all feeling.

We will meet at the FFS headquarters at 851 CR 630 East. **Do not follow the Google Maps directions, or you will end up (as I did for the Land Management Review) in the wrong place.** Take US27 heading south from I-4 to a little south of Lake Wales and SR60. You will be making a left (east) turn off of US27 at the first CR630A sign that you see. Continue east on this, crossing US17 and passing a lot of citrus groves. Once you pass N. Lake Reedy Blvd. (there is a sign for Lake Wales Ridge State Forest) on your right, begin looking left for the sign on 630 that indicates the FFS headquarters. Follow the short, paved, curving road to the first building/parking lot on your right.

We plan to meet at 9am and look forward to folks from the Pine Lily and Heartland Chapters joining us. Please contact Catherine Bowman at 407-761-7109 or garberia08@gmail.com if you have questions or want to carpool from Winter Park. We will meet at her office (2711 W. Fairbanks, Winter Park, 32789) at 7am and depart promptly at 7:30am—hopefully a little before if everyone is accounted for. If you are driving separately, we will meet you at the Florida Forestry Service headquarters building at 9am.

Visit our chapter website (select "Tarflower" in the Chapters menu at www.fnps.org) for a list of potentially occurring listed plants as well as an aerial and map of and to the site.

April Field Trip to Green Isle Gardens Native Nursery *article and photos by Pete Dunkelberg*

On our March field trip, we saw the greatest concentration of sandhill species that I think exists anywhere. This came about from the dedication of Terry and Marc Godts, owners of Green Isle Gardens native plant nursery. Marc and Terry first met at Tarflower meetings back when they both lived closer to Orlando. Soon they were married, and about 11 or so years ago, they decided to move to a lakeside property out in Groveland. They have a very long lot that slopes upward quite a bit from the lake. When they were building their house, they discovered that under their front yard was well-drained yellow sand. They also knew that sandhill and scrub habitat is rapidly succumbing to development—and as the ecosystem goes, so do the species. Terry had the idea of gradually collecting sandhill and scrub species and growing as many as possible—right there!

We arrived Saturday morning after a pleasant drive across and down the Central Florida ridge. As we gathered in their yard, a hummingbird made a quick visit to the coralbean flowering just a few feet from us. Soon we began our tour of this extraordinary spot, dubbed Restoration Garden. Terry had a little fun with us by making it a contest to spot six endangered species on an illustrated list she provided. With 80 or so species, many of them small and just getting started, we couldn't just roam around. We followed Terry on a path while she explained which plants were hard or easy to grow and which had new recruits from seed. In the process, she actually pointed out the six plants of the "contest."

You have most likely heard that fire is a natural part of our ecology. Terry burned this area in February of 2011; this doubtless stimulated the germination of some seeds of plants established before that. One of the hardest plants to grow is Lewton's milkwort (*Polygala lewtonii*). Terry has it coming up from seed at last. It's a very pretty little flower, but I haven't heard of anyone else growing it. Many other species including greeneyes, scrub rosling and *Nolina* are doing very well in the garden.

Not all sandhill and scrub plants are limited to that habitat. One of Terry's plants that interested me is Virginia snakeroot (*Aristolochia serpentaria*). This little plant also grows in mesic hammocks and is not supposed to be rare, but this is the first time I have had a good look at it. Along with its larger relative, pipevine, which is native to several states but only to the panhandle in Florida, it is the food plant for the pipevine swallowtail caterpillar. This diet makes the butterfly poisonous to birds. A single caterpillar of this large butterfly would need to eat a bunch of the little Virginia snakeroot plants, so they must be able to find them much better than I can. The plant has an odd little flower down at ground level and easily hidden by a fallen leaf. You can recognize the plant by the zigzag pattern of the stems.

After going through the greenhouse and taking a last look at the Restoration Garden, it was time for lunch. About half of us went to the popular but busy Red Wing Restaurant. The rest of us (including me) ate our sandwiches at the house and then took a walk down to the lake—its shores were lined all around with natural cypress growth. After lunch, we drove back to the main road and just a short way towards



town to Green Isle Garden native plant nursery, Marc's great project, which he has just lately made his full time job. The first thing we did at the nursery was take advantage of the U Pick 'Em blueberry field. After our berries were sacked and weighed, we turned our attention to their many plants. Since everyone had won the contest earlier by spotting all the plants on Terry's list, we were all granted one free plant—and some intended to buy several plants, as well. As an apartment dweller, I wasn't concerned with that, but I was happy to see yet another array of native species. I especially wanted to get a good look at the lanceleaf tickseed (*Coreopsis lanceolata*). Our state wildflower is the whole genus *Coreopsis*, but each species has its own look. This species is found in the wild north of Orange County and then not too often. With its yellow center, it doesn't have the familiar tickseed look, and as Walter Taylor told us last month, you can often distinguish *Coreopsis* species by looking at the bracts behind the flower. Rosinflower (*Silphium* spp.) and flame azalea (*Rhododendron austrinum*) are two more of the many beautiful plants you can get at Green Isle Gardens. With our plants and our blueberries, we all went home happy.

Visit the Godts' website (www.greenislegardens.com) to learn more about their work and the nursery.



swamp azalea



scrub roseling



Coreopsis lanceolata

Terry's LSSP Restoration Area

When I transplant listed species to my own yard from a doomed 72-acre parcel of pristine sandhill/scrub here in Lake County, those plants are only protected until the next owner, whoever that is, owns my yard. I won't live forever, of course, and the restoration area in my yard requires a great deal of maintenance. Without my attention, the area would be covered by bahiagrass within a few short years!

However, when Rosi Mulholland, an FNPS member and district biologist at Lake Louisa State Park (LLSP), offered a small area at the park where I could start a small restoration area with some of those listed species, the future of those species started to look a lot brighter!

I've been working most urgently on *Polygala lewtonii*, or Lewton's milkwort, because, unlike many other listed species that are easy to cultivate, *Polygala's* reproduction methods are not well understood, certainly not by me. Carl Weekly of Archbold Biological Station has been very generous with his knowledge and advice about *Polygala*.

I've been introducing *Polygala* to the little restoration area at LLSP for the last three or four years, and have about ten surviving individuals. This drought is not helping! I carry in 10-15 gallons of water once or twice a week, just to keep the little plants alive. Mother nature could help a lot with a little rainfall!

This LLSP project is a personal interest, and really has little to do with our nursery. The few listed species we are able to cultivate and sell, like *Nolina brittoniana*, for example, certainly have a better shot at survival!

— Terry Godts

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

JUN 16 Guided Walk Through Baldwin Park's Native and Florida-friendly Landscapes with Miquel Garces (with Cuplet Fern Chapter)

2012 TARFLOWER BOARD ELECTIONS

The slate of nominees for the 2012 Tarflower Board of Directors is listed below. Voting on the slate of nominees will be at the Annual Meeting on May 1, 2012. We will continue to take nominations from the floor at that time. Please come out and vote for the candidates.

President

Nominee Catherine Bowman
Nominee _____

1st Vice-President (Programs)

Nominee Kay Hudson
Nominee _____

2nd Vice-President (Events)

Nominee Jim Erwin
Nominee _____

Secretary

Nominee Jackie Rolly
Nominee _____

Treasurer

Nominee _____
Nominee _____

What's Blooming?

Leafless beaked orchid (*Sacoila lanceolata*)

Chuck Roux reports that the annual bloom of *Sacoila* is in progress in his yard!

The leaves appear later as a rosette that could be mistaken as a plantain, with each leaf up to 10 inches long and 3 inches wide.

"*Sacoila* can be distinguished from the closely allied *Stenorrhynchos*, which does not occur in Florida, by the presence of a mentum, or saccate [sack-shaped] spur, at the base of the flower" (from Paul Martin Brown's book, *Wild Orchids of Florida*).

According to Chuck, the original plant (not in picture) appeared spontaneously about 30 years ago and, at one time, there were nearly 100 specimens.



UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY 8 The Natives Spring Retail Saturday

Check out The Natives' incredible selection of native wildflowers, groundcover, shrubs and trees, all from Central Florida ecosystems.

When: Saturday, May 8, 9am-3pm

Where: The Natives Nursery,

2929 J. B. Carter Road, Davenport, FL 33837

For more information, visit www.thenatives.net or call 863-422-6664.



JUL 8 Cuplet Fern hosts Bill Belleville

The Cuplet Fern chapter will host author Bill Belleville at their July meeting. Belleville's works feature environmental issues that are facing the state of Florida while highlighting the beauty of our state's natural resources. He will be giving a presentation on his newest book, *Salvaging the Real Florida*.

When: Sunday, Jul 8, 7pm

Where: 200 Fairmont Dr., Sanford

This program is free and open to the public. For more details please call 407 302-7616.

Support the Tarflower Chapter — Donate Plants!



Consider donating native plants or seeds from your garden or yard to the Tarflower Chapter's monthly plant drawing. Simply bring your donation to a monthly meeting and you'll be supporting the Tarflower Chapter!

Silent Auction Still Items Needed

Contributions for the Annual Conference Silent Auction are still needed! If you have an item you would like to contribute, please contact Kay Hudson at 407-432-2364 or bring it to the Trinkle Center (site of the 2012 conference) no later than Thursday, May 17. If you plan to bring it to the conference, please notify Harriett Wright, Silent Auction coordinator, at harriettwright@gmail.com.

Please include the following information with your donation:

- name of article
- commercial value, if known (to assist with determining a minimum bid)
- business cards of the provider (or pertinent information)

All donations will be appreciated! Thank you!

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, May 1 at 7pm**. See you there!

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

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 June 2012 issue is May 20.**

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

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

MAY 17-20, 2012
John R. Trinkle Center, Plant City

Preserving the
NATURAL HEART OF FLORIDA

FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
32nd Annual Conference

SESSIONS FOR ALL
Conservation & Ecology,
Native Plants in the
Landscape, Current
Issues, Native Plant
Research, and FNPS
Initiatives.

Field Trips in the
Heart of Florida
Social Events & Entertainment
Florida Native Plant Sale
Vendors & Exhibitors
Plant ID Contest
Authors' Book Signing
Silent Auction
Landscape Awards

Register online
www.fnps.org/conference



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