



the Tarpaper

The Tarflower Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society

Volume XX • July 2013



JULY 2 PROGRAM: **Native Landscaping for Dry, Sunny Yard** presented by Catherine Bowman and Marc Godts

Is your landscape sunny with dry, sandy soils such that you have trouble getting and keeping plants growing? Tarflower Chapter Past-President Catherine Bowman and Marc Godts, co-owner of Green Isle Gardens in Groveland, will share some ideas for enhancing the appearance of these sometimes-troublesome areas. Catherine and Marc will provide some examples of Florida native plants that are adapted to a variety of sunny, dry conditions, including large and small trees, shrubs, grasses and wildflowers, along with suggestions for those that can be useful as groundcovers to substitute for some areas of turf. They will also look at what occurs naturally in dry, sunny, native plant communities and discuss how natural examples can suggest attractive non-plant elements for landscapes. In addition to the drought and heat tolerance of the featured plants, special features such as wildlife value, flower color and fragrance will be highlighted.

Marc, a horticulturalist who has been involved with the Florida Native Plant Society for 25 years, runs the Groveland nursery and is the landscape designer for the business that was founded by his wife Terry in 1998. During the past 30 years, Marc has worked on large themed resort projects, education facilities, state and municipal projects, restoration plantings, hotels, streetscapes and specialty home projects.

Catherine works as an ecologist and field botanist for a private ecological consulting firm in Winter Park. Her work often includes the assessment of sites that will be developed or preserved in which her identification of Florida endemic, native, naturalized and invasive exotic plants plays a role in the development of construction, restoration, maintenance and management plans.

JULY 13 FIELD TRIP: **Tosohatchee Wildlife Management Area**

Please join us on Saturday, July 13 at the Tosohatchee Wildlife Management Area. Tosohatchee extends from Taylor Creek Road in Christmas all the way to the St. Johns River and there is always a lot to see. We also have a plant collection permit and will be able to collect specimens for the herbaria. A comprehensive list of the species we will be looking for (indicated in yellow) can be found at <http://tarflower.fnpschapters.org/data/uploads/plant-animal-list-5-edited-1.pdf>

To carpool, meet at the Burger King on Alafaya and East Colonial Dr. We will leave promptly at 7:45a.m. If you would like to meet on site at Tosohatchee, please be there no later than 8:15a.m. There is a \$3 per car entrance fee. Bring exact change. As usual, bring insect and sun protection, water and a snack.

Please note: This is a change from the originally planned field trip to the UCF Arboretum for a workshop.

OCTOBER 26: **Backyard Biodiversity Celebration!**

It started with the idea that it would be great to have a plant sale in the fall to showcase species such as the many asters and grasses that are blooming that time of year. We have been very successful in our many years of participation at the Leu Gardens spring plant sale and decided to look for a place that we could hold a plant sale in September or October. These thoughts were swirling around at about the same time as Tarflower was beginning to collaborate with the folks at Mead Garden to provide some volunteer time toward useful projects at that Garden. During one of the monthly Tarflower workdays at Mead Garden, some of us began kicking around the idea that this might be a good venue for a fall plant sale. But, then we thought: Why stop with just a plant sale? How about if we asked other groups such as Orange Audubon to participate in an event that would provide more information about why native plant communities and native plants are so important?

We have coordinated with The City of Winter Park, Mead Botanical Garden, Inc. (formerly, Friends of Mead Garden), and the Winter Park Garden Club to confirm October 26, 2013 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. as the date that Tarflower and friends will hold the first annual Backyard Biodiversity Celebration!

The formal planning sessions are underway and volunteers are needed to help ensure that the scheduling of tasks proceeds efficiently in the three months between now and mid October, as well as on the day of the event. Here are some activities and planning tasks that are underway (the first official planning meeting was held on June 26, but there will be many more):

- Karina Veaudry, with her years of experience in putting on the state FNPS conferences, will be heading up the advertising committee, and we need a few more people to coordinate with Karina as she needs to get the posters, flyers, ads, etc. into the various media.
- Marc Godts of Green Isle Gardens (who coordinates plants for the Leu Garden sales) will be arranging for plants that we will sell. He will need assistance on Friday afternoon (October 25) to unload plants in a central location at the Garden, then volunteers early Saturday morning before the event begins to move plants to and organize/label them in the sale area at the main picnic pavilion. Of course, we will need numerous plant sellers.
- Amanda is checking on getting a couple of food trucks to come sell food at the event.
- Volunteers are needed to assist in coordinating with folks who will be leading various hikes (birding, native reptiles and amphibians hunt, edible plants, invasive exotic plant ID hike, etc.)
- Volunteers are also needed to assist in finding and coordinating with speakers on topics related to native plants and communities. Presentations requiring a computer, projector, screen (e.g. PowerPoint), and others that would be more comfortable indoors, will be in the Discovery Barn in sequential sessions with some amount of time gap in between.

We have already confirmed some good speakers/presenters, hike leaders, and exhibits. Please contact Catherine Bowman (garberia08@gmail.com or 407-637-5883) to volunteer and to attend the planning sessions.

Review: Sustainable Gardening for Florida by Ginny Stibolt

Review by Cecilia Catron

The meaning of sustainable gardening is that one can maintain a healthy garden in the same spot year after year. In *Sustainable Gardening for Florida*, the definition leans heavily toward the idea of reducing one's carbon footprint, thus increasing the sustainability of gardening on the planet. This is a useful guide that covers the integration of native plants into the food garden, showing how to grow a healthy garden without making mistakes that hurt the environment.

Ginny Stibolt came from Texas and Maryland, and although she is a thoroughly capable gardener, she had to figure out how to garden under subtropical conditions. Her book is a manual for successful gardening in Florida that is easy for both beginners and experts to understand:

- It explains why compost is good and how to make it.
- It advocates water conservation, discusses the best Florida lawn techniques and garden design, tree pruning, hurricane planning, waterfront gardening, and takes into account temperature, soil and water differences from north to south Florida.
- It tells how to make a rain garden, large or small, that benefits from runoff and filters pollutants out of water before it returns to lakes, the aquifer and the ocean.
- It encourages planting native plants for pest management.

There are online and book resources listed at the end of each chapter for further reference. And half of all royalties from book sales are paid to the Florida chapter of The Nature Conservancy.

Two of the biggest problems that gardeners face are too much pesticide and too much fertilizer. In Florida in particular, rainwater carries fertilizer and pesticides out of the garden and mixes it with other water, promoting too much growth in lakes and poisoning or suffocating birds and fish — not to mention increasing the difficulty of maintaining a clean water supply for humans. The further south you go, the more tropical it gets. Plant growth is more lush and abundant, but there are more ingenious bugs, fungi and other macro- and microscopic creatures that eat the plants. This book tells how to use compost and integrated pest management to balance the garden's system, and reduce or eliminate fertilizer and pesticide.

The book is laid out with easy references to gardening jargon in a glossary at the back of the book. Also at the back is an abridged plant list that recommends plants such as Simpson's stopper and coral honeysuckle for wildlife habitat, fruits and vegetables such as tomatoes, blueberries and cucumbers. It warns against planting the disastrous invasive exotics, Australian pine, *Melaleuca* and Brazilian pepper, and tells why. There are lots of good secrets there. Books and websites that expand the list, such as Gil Nelson's *Florida's Best Native Landscape Plants* (University Press of Florida, 2003) are included here, too.

Stibolt's latest book is *Organic Methods for Vegetable Gardening in Florida* with Melissa Contreras (University Press of Florida, 2013). It expands the edibles section of *Sustainable Gardening*, focusing on organic standards, which differ from sustainable practices. The alchemy of native plants that help control pests is also encouraged in this book.

Knowledge is power. If enough people learn and use the strategies outlined in this book, for the home garden and elsewhere, Floridians can sustain a good quality of life instead of creating bigger problems later. Think Dust Bowl averted. For updates to the book, visit www.sky-bolt.com/garden and www.greengardeningmatters.blogspot.com.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

AUG 6 – Randy Mejeur: How To Identify Plant Species

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

AUG 10 – Plant ID Workshop at Mead Garden
with Randy Mejeur

UPCOMING EVENTS, WORKSHOPS & VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

JUN 29 PLANT RESCUE

A plant rescue is planned for Saturday, June 29 at a new site on the west side of Lake Apopka, near Mt Verde. It's upland vegetation, although the site has not been walked so we don't know exactly what's there. The site will be developed as a trailhead. We have been asked to take plants out, hold them (at Green Isle nursery), and replant after construction. We can also take plants home, and some will be taken for Oakland Nature Preserve. Plan to meet at 8 a.m. at the Kangaroo gas station at SR 50 and Oakland Ave. Bring pots, water, etc.

If you would like to participate, please let Jackie Rolly know (407-359-4963 or j.y.rolly@att.net) in case there are changes or if the rescue is cancelled.

JUL 7 TARFLOWER WORKDAY @ MEAD GARDEN

Help weed and apply pine straw to the native planted area along S. Denning Dr (located between Orchid Ave and Garden Dr adjacent to the Community Garden). Weeding is also needed in the native planting around the Discovery Barn.

Meet at 10 a.m. and bring a picnic lunch or snacks, gloves, digging and clipping implements, large trash bags and water. Wearing closed-toe shoes and a hat is recommended.

Call Catherine Bowman (407-637-5883) or Stacey Matrazzo (407-590-5321) if you have questions. Otherwise, just show up!

Mead Garden workdays happen every month on the first Saturday or Sunday. Check the Tarflower calendar on our website at <http://tarflower.fnpschapters.org/index.php?id=calendar> for specific dates.

OCT 26 SAVE THE DATE! BACKYARD BIODIVERSITY DAY @ MEAD GARDEN

On October 26, 2013, Tarflower Chapter will host its first Backyard Biodiversity Day at Mead Botanical Garden. The day will celebrate the native flora and fauna of Central Florida, and will feature speakers, workshops, informative hikes, and a native plant sale!

If you would like to get involved, please contact Catherine Bowman at garberia08@gmail.com. Stay tuned for more details!

Orange County Master Gardener Plant Sale Preparations are Underway!

Tarflower members have begun to propagate and pot up our natives for sale at the Master Gardeners Sale September 21.

We have commitments of donations from several members, but will need more in order to have sufficient plants to offer throughout the day of the sale. An interactive list of what people have committed to growing/supplying has been posted to Google Drive. Please contact Amanda Martin (ajm.fnps@gmail.com) for access to the list if you would like to add your name and plants.

If you have Central Florida natives that are not already on the list, you can add another row. If you can help others pot up plants in their yards, please let Catherine Bowman (garberia08@gmail.com, 407-637-5883, or 407-761-7109) or Amanda Martin know and we will let you know who needs your help.

Orchids in the Air, Orchids Everywhere! by Pete Dunkelberg

Our June field trip to see orchids with Prem Subrahmanyam showed us that there were plenty of orchids blooming nearby. You just have to know how to find them — and Prem knows. Our first nice surprise was a colony of grass pinks (*Calopogon tuberosus*) blooming right on highway 50 in Christmas. (Unfortunately I missed this stop at first, but I went back to it after lunch with Chuck.) How could we tell that it was *C. tuberosus* rather than another species of grass pink? The clue is the long tall wide leaf. The *tuberosus* leaf is around a centimeter wide, while the leaf of other grass pinks is half that or less. But in each plant I checked in our roadside colony, the leaf, although wide, had been cut short by a blunt instrument. Evidently the leaf comes up first and the flower stalk was not yet up when the mower got there. My photo from another site shows the plant as it should be. Some *Sacoila* orchids closer to town were not so lucky. Their bright red blooms were standing tall for a few days in May but they were mowed low on May 22nd. With less mowing, we might have a lot more roadside flowers.

Our next surprising stop was the park at the old Christmas Fort. In the oaks around the fort, tree after tree had butterfly orchids (*Encyclia tampensis*) in full bloom. They were safely out of reach (except for one that had fallen down) but very obvious once you looked up. After we admired the many butterfly orchids, Prem had another surprise for us.

The very tiny jingle bell orchid turns out to be common in the cedar trees in the park. This little plant can easily escape notice unless you know what to look for and where to look. It has no leaves, but the combination of pale green roots and “jingle bell” dangling seed pods are distinctive. Orchids make much better use of their roots than our tree-living *Tillandsias* do. The *Tillandsias* are just hanging on, but the roots of arboreal orchids can absorb water and nutrients and carry out photosynthesis. The jingle bell orchid used to be known scientifically as *Harrisella porrecta*, but Prem explained that genetic analysis showed it was close to the famous, and leafless, ghost orchid. So now it's *Dendrophylax porrectus*.

Next we went to Orlando Wetlands Park and walked the hammock trail most of the way. Here we found butterfly orchids and jingle bell orchids and also greenfly orchids, but none were blooming. A fine butterfly orchid used to bloom right on the trail at this time of year, but alas, someone stole it last summer. But there was much more to see on the trail and along the lake as we walked back to where those still with us had lunch.



Calopogon tuberosus (photo by Pete Dunkelberg)



Jingle bell orchid (photo by Phyllis Gray)



Orchids in the air (photo by Phyllis Gray)



Prem explains the butterfly orchid (photo by Phyllis Gray)

Earth Jurisprudence: What and Why? A follow-up to our June talk by Sister Pat Siemen by Pete Dunkelberg

The mission of FNPS is the conservation, preservation and restoration of Florida's plants and plant communities.

But can we do that effectively? Can anyone? If not, why not? How do things like earth jurisprudence, rights of nature and democracy deficits come into it?

Earth jurisprudence is not just environmental law. Rather, earth jurisprudence starts with the idea that existing laws of nature are inadequate and fundamentally inappropriate. Different laws with a better basis are needed. Here are a couple of problems with current law: Nature is regarded as property and as such has no rights; and private corporations are granted powerful legal rights which are not granted to public corporations like communities, cities and states—nor to mere humans.¹ Due in part to these problems, various environmental protection agencies cannot easily avoid becoming permit-granting agencies. Corporations can often take natural property and make it their own. For instance, the nearby town of Groveland had to surrender a substantial part of its water to a corporation that wanted to bottle it for sale. Groveland also had to pay the corporation 1.3 million dollars for its legal expenses.

Groveland capitulated in 2008. By 2010, there was a rapid expansion of fracking in Pennsylvania, and Pittsburgh found the safety of its drinking water threatened. Conventional law, stripped of its lengthy complexities, came down to “Resistance is futile.” How can you speak for the trees or the waterways if they are just property and have no rights to defend? So Pittsburgh tried an earth jurisprudence approach. The city council voted

unanimously for a Right of Nature ordinance, granting waterways and ecosystems the right to persist in certain ways, and granting the city and its citizens the right to defend these rights.² State government said the city had no right to do this, so Pittsburgh appealed to the state supreme court, which is still mulling it over. Since then, well over 100 communities and even one entire county in New Mexico have protected themselves in this way.

But how does this involve us? There is no fracking in Florida, is there? No, not yet, but it's coming. It's coming to south Florida not far from the Everglades and the Fakahatchee Strand. A Texas-based company has informed some south Florida communities that in effect resistance is futile.³ What's in our future, Rights of Nature, or the “Frakahatchee” Strand?

Resources

1. “Corporate rights.” *Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund website*, <http://celdf.org/-1-86>.
2. “Pittsburgh's Community Protection from Natural Gas Extraction Ordinance.” *Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund website*, <http://www.celdf.org/pittsburghs-community-protection-from-natural-gas-extraction-ordinance>.
3. “Estates residents alarmed by letter about possible neighborhood evacuation.” *Naples Daily News*, April 27, 2013. <http://www.naplesnews.com/news/2013/apr/27/estates-residents-alarmed-letter-about/>

CHAPTER INFORMATION

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, June 4 at 7pm. See you there!

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 July 2013 issue is June 16.**

Executive Committee The next board meeting will be Tuesday, June 11, 2013 at 6pm. For more information, contact Amanda Martin. Members are welcome to attend.

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; jim.erwin@wellsfargo.com)

Secretary Jackie Rolly (407-359-4963; j.y.rolly@att.net)

Treasurer Mirtas (Mark) Kateli (mirtas@gmail.com)

Chapter Representative Julie Becker (jlbecker@cfl.rr.com)

Field trips Tina Richards (ktina.richards@gmail.com)

Membership Phyllis Gray (407-253-5462; Phyllis.Gray@amec.com)

Plant rescue Marge Holt (407-679-6759)

Publicity Jackie Sward (407-647-5233; jackrabbit31@hotmail.com)

Conservation Carolina Lane (carolina@mindspring.com)

Landscape Brent McCallister (mccallisterfamily@hotmail.com)

The Tarpaper Editor Stacey Matrazzo (stacey@impactpress.com)

The Tarpaper Mailing Chuck Roux (407-851-8889; clroux@bellsouth.net)

NO PEEKING!



UNTIL JULY 6TH!

You are invited to a sneak preview of
Back to Nature's new location!

Here is your chance to walk the layout of the future location, see where the enclosures will be built, enjoy the beautiful scenery and see how far we have come and how far we have to go to reach our goal.

Snacks and Beverages Provided too!

**July 6th 2013
9am-1pm**

Join us at
10525 Clapp Simms Puda Road
Orlando, Florida 32832
Adjacent to Split Oak Preserve
for a sneak peek, tour
and presentation!



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



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