



the Tarflower

The Tarflower Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society

Volume XX • August 2013

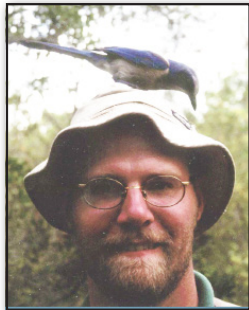


AUGUST 6 PROGRAM: A Plant Primer: Floras, Field Guides, and Flowers presented by Randy Mejeur, M.S.

This month's program is designed for those of us who are less than well-schooled in botany and biology. Come prepared to take notes and learn how to "Name That Plant!"

Since we are not always in the company of our scientist friends who can readily tell us the scientific name and all the common names of every plant they come across, we need tools to help us. At the request of the curious, botanist Randy Mejeur has developed a short how-to course (short — as in one hour!) on identifying the plants you see while botanizing in the wilds or in the parks of Central Florida.

Come learn basic taxonomy lingo, the botanical pieces and parts that make categorizing plant species possible and how to use dichotomous keys. Find out which portable resources (books!) will be most helpful to you when trying to identify specimens while you wander afield. This program will be followed by a hands-on workshop at Mead Garden where Randy will give us more opportunity to reinforce what we learn at the monthly meeting.



Randy Mejeur holds a Master of Science in Botany from the University of Georgia and a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Biology from Taylor University, Upland, Indiana. He has been with AECOM since 1998 and is experienced in plant identification, wetland delineation, threatened and endangered (T&E)

species surveying and permitting, wetland permitting and monitoring, management plan development, and entitlement strategy development. Professional affiliations have included the Florida Native Plant Society, the Society for Ecological Restoration, the Society for Conservation Biology, and the Natural Areas Association.

AUGUST 17 WORKSHOP: Plant ID with Randy Mejeur

In lieu of a field trip this month, Randy Mejeur has graciously agreed to host a hands-on plant identification workshop at Mead Garden. The workshop will take place in the Discovery Barn and throughout the Gardens.

Mead Garden is located at 1500 S. Denning Drive in Winter Park. For directions, visit www.meadgarden.org/visit. If you would like to participate, meet at the Discovery Barn at 9 a.m. Please contact Catherine Bowman or Stacey Matrazzo for more information.

A Message from our President, Amanda Martin: Vote on Tarflower Chapter's meeting location!

Just before I sat down to write this, I took a look at our website, which is looking good. The Tarflower picture is beautiful and the message is simple, depicting who we are, along with information on our upcoming events. One of those regular events is our monthly meeting. Looking under the meeting heading is a google map with the following information:

Meeting Day and Time:

1st Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm

Meeting Location:

Harry P. Leu Gardens

1920 N. Forest Ave.

Orlando, FL 32803

Leu Gardens is increasing their annual membership cost for meeting in the Camellia Room from \$500 to \$1500 per year. (Tarflower Chapter's year begins in September.) As a result, the Board has been in discussion about other venues that might be equally suited for us.

At Leu Gardens, we enjoy meeting in the largest room with proper AV equipment and cordless microphones. I think we all prefer having someone else responsible for our chair and table set-up and breakdown. Our cabinet in the hallway can be a bit stressful when it becomes unorganized, but is helpful most of the time to have our supplies and books close by.

The Board is suggesting that these provisions, along with Leu Gardens' central location, are worth the increased price, and is recommending that we stay put for at least one more year. **We would like our members to vote on this at our August meeting.** We thank Leu Gardens for giving us a great deal for so many years. See you there!

"What's Blooming?" article & photo by Pete Dunkelberg

The showy scrubland goldenaster, *Chrysopsis subulata*, is endemic to (doesn't grow anywhere else) Central Florida. Unlike other species of this genus which flower in the fall, the scrubland goldenaster blooms in mid-summer! This month's field trip participants observed these in open sandy areas where there were patches of scrub and scrubby flatwoods on our way out to Tosohatchee on east SR 50. They have bright yellow flowers that are approximately an inch in diameter, with interesting curved bracts under the composite flower and curly hairy leaves.

Wikipedia reports that "Golden asters are often used as food plants by the larvae of some Lepidoptera (moths and butterflies) species including *Schinia lynx*, *Schinia nubila* and *Schinia saturata* and *Schinia petulans* (which feeds exclusively on *Chrysopsis subulata*)." Ask around at the native nurseries to see who might be growing these for your yard.



As most of you know, **Dick Deuerling**, one of our beloved founding members, passed away this past Thursday, July 18, 2013. There will be a memorial service for him on Saturday, July 27, 2013, at 10:00 a.m. in the 18th Floor Chapel within Orlando Lutheran Towers, located at 300 East Church Street in Orlando.

Dick will be greatly missed, and lovingly remembered. Come and share this time and your memories with his family, friends, and native plant family.

More information is available at: <http://www.baldwinfairchild.com/obituaries.html>

Backyard Biodiversity Celebration—Planning Continues!

During the first two planning committee meetings on June 26 and July 24, we made enormous progress on the details of this exciting event. In addition to our own members, other participants—who will speak, lead hikes, and have exhibits—will include:

- Orange Audubon (booth and hikes for seasoned birders, novices and families with children)
- Mead Botanical Garden, Inc.
- Winter Park Garden Club
- Orange County Environmental Protection Division featuring the OC Environmentally Sensitive Land Program
- Jim Duby from Seminole County Natural Lands Program will bring a live native reptile and amphibian exhibit and lead a herp hike
- Back To Nature Wildlife Rehab Center (booth and live “ambassadors”)
- Florida Wildflower Foundation will bring seeds
- Walter Taylor will bring his new book for sale and signing
- Mary Keim and Randy Snyder will present a program on landscaping for birds and pollinators, as well as lead an insect hike
- Stacey Matrazzo (not only our *Tarpaper* editor, but Mead Garden’s Staff Master Naturalist) will lead an edible plant hike
- someone from the Central Florida CISMA will have a program on identifying and managing invasive exotics (I know, but the City has really been whittling them down)
- and others are in the works!

Karina Veaudry has designed a poster and a colorful/clear schedule for the Backyard Biodiversity Celebration (BBC) and is heading up the advertising committee. 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 is already gathering and arranging for a big native plant sale. 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 our enthusiastic plant and book sellers.

Amanda is arranging for food trucks—Yea! Maybe someone knows a person or group who would like to volunteer a little time to provide some music for this public education event.

Let Catherine Bowman know if you can 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.) or if you can spend some time posted at one of the three public entrances to Mead Garden with a counter so we will know how many people attend the event. This is very important information for the Garden and for future Tarflower planning.

We also need volunteers to assist speakers who need to use the computer, projector, screen (e.g. PowerPoint) for their presentation, and to assist visitors with finding the location of exhibits, speakers, and starting locations for the various hikes.

For more information, please contact Catherine Bowman (garberia08@gmail.com or 407-637-5883) or any member of the Tarflower Board (listed on page 4 of *The Tarpaper*).

UPCOMING EVENTS, WORKSHOPS & VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

SEP 21 ORANGE COUNTY MASTER GARDENER FALL PLANT & GARDEN FESTIVAL

Tarflower Chapter will be selling native plants at this event. Volunteers are needed! See full article in this issue for details.

When: Saturday, September 21
9a.m.–4p.m.

Where: UF/IFAS Orange County Extension Office
6021 South Conway Road
Orlando, FL 32812

For more information about the event, visit <http://orange.ifas.ufl.edu/mg/index.html>.

OCT 12 SAVE THE DATE! FALL BIOBLITZ!

Fall BioBlitz at Wekiva Springs State Park, Seminole State Forest, and Rock Springs Run State Park. See full article in this issue for details.

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! See article on this page for more details!

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

We’re putting the band back together—Are you in?

Get ready to participate in another BioBlitz! We’ve heard from Jay Exum that a fall BioBlitz at Wekiva Springs State Park, Seminole State Forest, and Rock Springs Run State Park is being scheduled for Saturday, October 12, 2013. If you participated in the last one, you may recall that we were all wishing for a fall event so we could add more grasses and asters to the lists. Well, we got our wish! This time, the BioBlitz will be on Saturday only, rather than a two-day event as it was the first time. If you were not able to participate last time, we had a very fine time in the field! There are many knowledgeable botanizers, so if you are new to identifying plants, please know that we need all the eyes we can get and you will see and learn about many new plants. (FYI to those who might be interested: There were also several long nights of keying out plants that we couldn’t/didn’t want to spend time in the field trying to immediately identify.) Look for more information and sign-up lists as they become available.



The Tarflower Salvage Committee has been very busy this summer. We received a request to salvage plants by the Lake County Parks and Recreation in July. Parks and Recreation will be constructing a new trailhead along the west side of Lake Apopka just north of Ferndale. The Salvage Committee went to work and has already had two days of hot and heavy work taking out wire grass (*Aristida stricta*), *Piriqueta* spp., *Phoebanthus* spp., milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*), white mouth dayflower (*Commelina erecta*), greeneyes (*Berlandiera subacaulis*), and lots and lots of blazing star (*Liatrix* spp.). All these plants are being hardened off at Green Isle Gardens thanks to Marc and Terry Godts.

Once construction of the trail head is completed, we will be replanting the salvaged plants. Construction is scheduled to begin in September, so maybe one or two more salvages will be scheduled before then.

The Photo is of Ken Ricklick, Jackie Rolly, Tina Meadows, Pete Dunkelberg and Flo Borgie, all volunteers from Parks and Recreation, Oakland Nature Preserve, and Tarflower Chapter, loading up the trailer with the help of the wonderful neighbors to the site who allowed us to drive the trailer onto their property and helped us heave the pots over their fence.

Update on September Orange County Master Gardener Plant Sale Participation

We have an updatable spreadsheet on Google Drive (“Master Gardener Plant Sale Member Contribution”); visit <http://bit.ly/140Ue6I> to access the document. Several members have posted plants that they have propagated (or in some cases, that have propagated themselves), potted up and set aside for the sale. You can see who is contributing what species and sizes so that you can add in more or pot up some different species.

In order to be prepared for the sale (i.e. have plants that are labeled, priced, and ready to set out on the day of the sale), we MUST know by the day of the September 3 Tarflower meeting how many of what sizes and species you would like to donate. If you are not posting to the spreadsheet on Google Drive, you can email or call Catherine Bowman (407-637-5883 or garberia08@gmail.com) or Amanda Martin with your list. The week

before the sale, we ask that you get your plants to one of several holding locations (again, contact Catherine if you need help with this) so that we can gather them all up in a truck for transport to the Orange County Cooperative Extension Service Office on South Conway Rd.

Look for a volunteer sign up sheet at the September meeting. We will need helpers to load and unload plants, write up name and price labels and put them in all the pots, plus a group of enthusiastic plant and book sellers on the day of the event.

Let’s make our first member-grown plant sale a good one! As you can see in the notice from Amanda about the increase in our Leu Gardens membership, we are going to need to bring in a bit more money from plant sales.

July Field Trip to Tosohatchee Wildlife Management Area *by Tina Richards*

On the morning of July 13, we arrived at Tosohatchee Wildlife Management Area in Christmas, Florida around 8:15a.m. I had a feeling that this trip was going to be different than the rest of the trips I have attended because we had a wide-ranging permit that allowed us to collect almost anything on the property, helping us fill the gaps in the USF plant database. This was a luxury because all previous permits limited our specimen collection to a list of pre-approved species.

I have many fond memories of Tosohatchee, having rung in a few New Years there and spent time hiking the trails. Days before the field trip, I was watching the weather to make sure Tropical Storm Chantal did not threaten the safety of our participants. Luckily, the weather we had was exceptional for this time of year—a breeze and a few clouds to buffer the heat. As all of our knowledgeable and curious members continued to arrive, I was much more confident that we would find plants that we were looking to collect along with other interesting plants!

We began our trip in the pine flatwoods area close to the entrance along St. Nicholas Road where we found several species to collect including black root (*Pterocaulon pycnostachyum*), dwarf live oak (*Quercus minima*), and meadowbeauty (*Rhexia petiolata*). We all were very surprised how many common plants had not been vouchered for Orange County and were eager to rectify that situation. It was almost like a treasure hunt! I quickly realized that I needed about three fanny-packs to accommodate all the supplies I was using to collect specimens! Supplies included my iPhone, which I used for tracking GPS coordinates and taking photos; pruners for snipping plants; flagging tape and a marker to label each species; a large black trash bag for temporarily storing the specimens; a hand lens; and my field notebook for writing down data about each specimen collected.

We were off to a good start when we decided to head down Powerline Road toward the river. On the way we saw many beautiful flowering plants,

including two species of *Hibiscus*: swamp hibiscus (*Hibiscus coccineus*) and swamp rosemallow (*Hibiscus grandiflorus*). I currently have swamp hibiscus blooming in my yard, but seeing it in such abundance in nature is truly breathtaking.

We decided to skip the river and head south through the park. On the way we saw the beautiful seaside gentian (*Eustoma exaltatum*), and collected *Eupatorium* spp., showy milkwort (*Polygala grandiflora*), and skyflower

(*Hydrolea corymbosa*). At this point it was getting hot and we were starting to get a little hungry. We made our way to Lake Charlie and the picnic pavilions. As we sat to chat, we began removing the plants from the trash bag and placing them into the press. When you have plants with delicate petals or other parts, it is important to press the plants as quickly as you are able.

Hydrated, refueled and ready to go, we started back on the path. The lunch must have really tuned us into our surroundings because within the first 20 minutes we found another six species! We stopped at a wet area that had cypress and a very interesting water locust (*Gleditsia aquatica*). Then

we meandered around for a short bit, hopped in the cars and headed for our final stop, a grassy meadow of sorts. As everyone else was botanizing, Ron and Catherine were collecting Fakahatchee grass (*Tripsacum dactyloides*). At that point in the day I was feeling a little silly and decided to take a few hatpins (*Syngonanthus flavidulus*), stick them in my hat, and pretend I was a bee or maybe Marvin the Martian!

The fieldtrip was a success and the omniscient black skies told us it was time to go. Remember, collecting specimens for the herbaria is important because the data is used by researchers to study climate change, track range shifts in species over time, make recommendations for listing plants as threatened or endangered, and support civic engagement in conservation. Please consider joining us on our future field trips where you can see the plants first-hand in their native environments.



seaside gentian (*Eustoma exaltatum*)



hatpins (*Syngonanthus flavidulus*)



Fakahatchee grass (*Tripsacum dactyloides*)



Catherine Bowman and Ron Blair collect Fakahatchee grass for the Herbarium

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). The next meeting is Tuesday, August 6 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 September 2013 issue is August 15.**

Tarflower Chapter Executive Committee meetings The next board meeting will be Tuesday, August 13, 2013 at 6pm. For more information, contact Amanda Martin. Members are welcome to attend.

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; jim.erwin@wellsfargo.com)
Secretary Jackie Rolly (407-359-4963; j.y.rolly@att.net)
Treasurer Mirtas (Mark) Kateli (mirtas@gmail.com)
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The Tarpaper Mailing Chuck Roux (407-851-8889; clroux@bellsouth.net)



FNPS PHOTOS ON FLICKR !

Have you seen the FNPS Flickr photostream? Check it out now (<http://www.flickr.com/photos/fnps/>) and you'll see great photos from the 2013 Conference in Jacksonville, including the Ixia Chapter Conference Committee! Rumor has it that everyone in the Ixia Chapter—even President Barbara Jackson—has fully recovered.

Maybe it's NOT too early to tell you to SAVE THE DATE for the 2014 Conference in Fort Myerson May 15-18, 2014, hosted by the Coccoloba Chapter!

RECORDING FAMILY/HOUSEHOLD AND OTHER GROUP MEMBERSHIPS

With Family/Household and higher level memberships, it is now possible for FNPS to record multiple names, phone numbers, email addresses and other information for the multiple members in a single household or at a single organization (everyone must be at the same physical address). So if you know of husbands, wives, partners and colleagues that we should be tracking, let us know and we'll do it. You can see this information using the online Chapter Membership Tools.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

SEP 3 – Cyndi Bennington, Professor of Biology at Stetson, discusses Ethnobotanicals

OCT 1 – Florida's Naval Stores presented by Marty Hale

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

SEP 14 – TBD

OCT 12 – Ocala National Forest

BECOME A MEMBER

Make checks payable to:

Florida Native Plant Society

P.O. Box 278

Melbourne, FL 32902-0278

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or call 321-271-6702.

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