



# the Tarpaper

The Tarflower Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society

Volume XXIV

December 2012



## DECEMBER 4 PROGRAM:

### The False Pawpaw – History, Biology and Conservation of *Deeringothamnus* presented by Dr. Eliane Norman

The Annonaceae family is a large family with about 2,000 species made up of mostly tropical trees and shrubs that live in lowland forests. This family, to which the pawpaws belong, is considered a cousin of the Magnoliaceae family. Two genera of pawpaws, *Asimina* and *Deeringothamnus*, are unusual in that they are the only ones that grow in more temperate or subtropical areas. The emphasis of this program will be on *Deeringothamnus*, the so-called “false pawpaws” and the differences between them and the “true pawpaws.” Both species of false pawpaws, *D. rugelii* and *D. pulchellus*, are on the federally endangered list. *D. rugelii* is only found in a small area of Volusia County, while the *D. pulchellus* is curiously found in Charlotte and Lee counties on the west side of Florida, as well as in a small area of Orange county, only about 10 miles from Orlando. The reasons for their rarity will be discussed and methods for their conservation will be suggested.

Dr. Eliane Norman is retired from Stetson University where she taught biology and botany for 26 years. She and half a dozen of her students have published several papers on different aspects of the reproduction and ecology of pawpaws.



*Deeringothamnus pulchellus*  
(Photo by Paul Rebmann)



## Lake Wales Ridge State Forest: Continuing the Prairie Plant Inventory,

### Part I by Catherine Bowman

On the morning of October 28, Pine Lily, Tarflower and Heartland Chapter members ventured once more into the prairies of Lake Wales Ridge State Forest. We were met by Florida Forest Service (FFS) plant ecologist Jennifer Navarra, who provided a special use permit. It was a cool, clear morning. We split up into two four-wheel drive vehicles, heading off in different directions to explore dry prairies, wet prairies, and depression marshes, anxious to add to the species list we began in May. Following a pretty decent rainy season, the grasses, sedges, rushes, and asters were just past peak flowering, and we set about to identify as many as we could and to bag up others for later identification. Some of the first species we spotted in the dry prairies were splitbeard bluestem (*Andropogon ternarius*), with their delicate stalks of silky spikelets, and shortleaf rosegentian (*Sabatia brevifolia*), clusters of bright white star-like flowers on wiry branches about a foot tall. While up at Wekiva Springs this week, the lopsided Indian grass was in



examining splitbeard bluestem

full bloom, with masses of graceful golden flower stalks, but just an hour and a half south at LWRSF, the spikelets had already dispersed and only the tall stalks stood above the palmettos.

Looking across the flat expanse of prairie, with its low palmettos interspersed with patches of herbaceous species and runner oak (*Quercus minima*), we could see strand swamps in the distance; however, the depression marshes on our aerial photographs were difficult to spot in the field until we walked up to them. We were able to spot one marsh from a distance by the group of swamp tupelos (*Nyssa sylvatica* var. *biflora*) in its center, already leafless for the winter. We particularly wanted to search the shallow edges of marshes and the slightly lower elevation spots of wet prairie woven through the stretches of dry prairie. Part of our project to document species on the Prairie Tract continues to be the search for butterworts (*Pinguicula* spp.) and terrestrial orchids that might occur in the wet prairies and outer fringes of the marshes. We did not find any butterworts this trip, though all of us were on the lookout for them; and, we will look for orchids next summer if the area is not as dry as this past summer. The management of the prairies, prescribed fire for the most part, is the responsibility of the cattle leaseholder and is not controlled by FFS staff. It appeared that some prairies were in need of a burn and Jennifer was going to check with the ranger regarding the possibility of coordinating with the leaseholder to find out when a burn is planned. After a fire will be a good (continued on page 3)



swamp tupelos lead the way to a shallow marsh

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

JAN 1 – NO MEETING THIS MONTH!

FEB 5 – Pruning the Native Plants in Your Landscape by Troy Springer of Springer Environmental, Plant City

MAR 5 – Jaret Daniels, UF Entomologist presents Enhancing Habitat for Native Insect Pollinators

## UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

DEC – NO FIELD TRIP THIS MONTH!

JAN 12 – Pine Island

FEB 9 – Secret Springs of Seminole State Forest

MAR 10 – Turtle Mound (Note: this is a Sunday field trip)

## FNPS ANNUAL FUND DRIVE

It's that time of year—to be thankful for all that FNPS can accomplish with the energy, passion, and yes, the financial support of our members. FNPS will soon be sending Annual Fund Drive request letters to members in the mail. Please consider giving as generously as you can and remember, Annual Fund Drive contributions are additional donations above and beyond your annual membership dues.

## November Field Trip to Seminole State Forest *by Ron Blair*

The Saturday November 10th field trip to Seminole State Forest was led by last month's program speaker, Ralph Risch, a biologist with the Florida Forest Service. In keeping with the program, the field trip included a demonstration of attracting, trapping, and banding a scrub jay. In anticipation of encountering these birds in the field, the 16 attendees included chapter members, other society members, and guest birding enthusiasts. The birds were found in scrub areas restored and maintained for their particular habitat requirements.

In addition to scrub, we traversed flatwoods and scrubby flatwoods, and one hydric area associated with a small creek. Near our path, depression marshes could be seen; however, we did not investigate these.

Given these vegetative community types and their condition, a lengthy plant list could be developed; however, it was the representation by several genera and families across this landscape that impressed me and suggested the focus of the listing below.

The upper canopy of the flatwoods was dominated by mature pines consisting of a mix of slash pine, (*Pinus elliotii*), loblolly pine (*P. taeda*), and pond pine (*P. serotina*). Longleaf pine (*P. palustris*) could be seen from the trail. In the scrubby areas, sand pines (*P. clausa*) predominated. While the pond pines could be readily distinguished by the adventitious branching along much of the trunk, the loblolly and slash pines were not readily divided by their growth forms alone, but required the counting of needles per fascicle—predominantly two needles for slash pines and three needles per fascicle for loblolly pines. The size of the mature cones can also be used for identification.

Oaks dominated the subcanopy in much of the flatwoods and scrub, and competed with pines in the scrubby flatwood areas. Myrtle oak (*Quercus myrtifolia*) and sand live oak (*Q. geminata*) comprised most of this oak understory. At least one post oak (*Q. stellata*) was identified, laurel oaks (*Q. laurifolia*) were found nearer to the trailhead, and some live oaks (*Q. virginiana*) and



banding a scrub jay

water oaks (*Q. nigra*) occurred near the creek area. In the scrub, turkey oak (*Q. laevis*) and Chapman's oak (*Q. chapmanii*) were found in addition to the myrtle and sand live oaks.

The diversity of pines and oaks was exceeded by members of the heath family (Ericaceae). These included shiny and high bush blueberries (*Vaccinium myrsinites* and *V. corymbosum*) and deerberry (*V. stamineum*). Other members of this family included dwarf huckleberry (*Gaylussacia dumosa*) and pipestem (*Agarista populifolia*), which could be found in the more hydric areas near the creek. The abundance of lyonias included frequent occurrences of rusty lyonia (*Lyonia ferruginea*), staggerbush (*Lyonia fruticosa*), and shiny lyonia or fetterbush (*Lyonia lucida*). Maleberry (*Lyonia ligustrina*) was found next to the creek. Our chapter's namesake, tarflower (*Bejaria racemosa*) was also present.

Three of the *Carphephorus* genus were found in abundance including deer-tongue (*Carphephorus paniculatus*), vanillaleaf (*C. odoratissimus*), and paintbrush (*C. corymbosus*). Most of these plants had flowered with seed heads remaining at this time, but there were a few individuals that were still in flower. One aggregation of vanillaleaf plants was such that the vanilla scent (from which the common name is derived) permeated the air along this part of the trail.

The most common flowering plants were the silk grass goldenasters (*Pityopsis graminifolia*) and grasses including several bluestem (*Andropogon spp.*) and one of the three-awns (*Aristida spiciformis*).

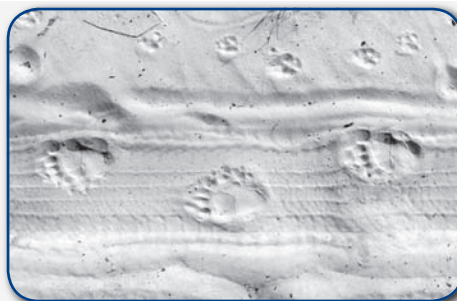
Clearly the forest is used by more than scrub jays and bird and plant enthusiasts as evidenced by the tracks that could be seen in the sand roads for black bears, deer, and bobcats, to name a few. The forest also provides multiuse opportunities for biking, horseback riding, and fishing, as well as camping and canoeing with special use permits. We concluded our day use by gathering under a pavilion at the parking area and sharing lunch.



tarflower



pine overstory



tracks in the sand

## Butterfly Garden at OWP *by Jackie Rolly*

Through the work of Tarflower members Randy Snyder, Mary Keim and Jackie Rolly, and Joe Garchinsky, the native plant garden next to the Orlando Wetlands Park Education Center is taking shape. While we have been emphasizing plants that attract butterflies and their caterpillars, birds and other wildlife have started coming in as well. Tarflower members had a very successful plant salvage at the Orlando International Airport site on November 11 and brought in several large wire grasses that will be used as groundcover, support and shade for the flowering plants. The diversity of plants was also greatly increased by the salvage of combleaf mermaidweed (*Proserpinaca pectinata*), hooded pitcherplants (*Sarracenia minor*) and pink sundews (*Drosera capillaris*), glades lobelia (*Lobelia glanduosa*), orange milkwort (*Polygala lutea*), grassy arrowhead (*Sagittaria graminea*), water dropwort, (*Oxypolis filiformis*), button snakeroot (*Eryngium yuccifolium*), bloodroot or redroot (*Lachnanthes caroliniana*), pipewort

(*Eriocaulon decangulare*), flat-topped goldenrod (*Euthamia caroliniana*), meadowbeauty (*Rhexia spp.*), and above all, deer-tongue (*Carphephorus paniculatus*) which we had run over with our vehicles, but rescued anyway. We searched in vain for violets and other wetland plants that were known to be there and are also good for butterflies, but we will have to wait for their spring blooms so we can find them. Another salvage is planned for spring—check the *Tarpaper* for dates and times.

Although we would like to have people come and visit, the park will be closed to the public until January 31, 2013. With winter coming, many plants will go dormant and we need to wait for spring anyway to see what pops up before we plant too much more. The Orlando Wetlands Festival is scheduled for February 16 and the Garden can be seen then.



rescued plants have a new home at OWP



meadowbeauty

## UPCOMING EVENTS

DEC 6, 2013

### ENVISION SUSTAINABILITY ART EXHIBIT

Come see the winning pieces in Orange County Environmental Protection Division's "Envision Sustainability" Pollution Prevention Calendar Art Contest. The objective of the contest is to connect art to science by encouraging high school students, grades 9th-12th, to think critically and to creatively communicate, through art, sustainable practices. Over 200 entries in both 2-D and 3-D art forms were received and all will be on display.

**When:** Thursday, Dec 6, 4pm-7pm

**Where:** 1427 Alden Rd, Orlando (near Loch Haven Park)

DEC 13, 2013

### WAREA TRACT CLEAN-UP

The Florida Forest Service invites us to visit the Warea tract and help clear away high fuel loads from areas to be burned—the better to protect the habitat of *Warea amplexifolia*, which is quite rare. You may recall this beautiful plant from one of our field trips.

The time and date (provisional) are: meet at 9 am at the site on Thursday, December 13. If you are interested, contact Pete Dunkelberg for details at 321-400-0222 or [petedunkpi@gmail.com](mailto:petedunkpi@gmail.com).

JAN 10-13, 2013

### EVERGLADES COALITION 28TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The 28th Annual Conference on Everglades Restoration will take place January 10-13, 2013 at the Biltmore Hotel in Coral Gables. The conference is organized by the Everglades Coalition, an alliance of 57 local, state, and national conservation and environmental organizations dedicated to the full restoration of the greater Everglades ecosystem. It is the largest annual forum for Everglades conservation and restoration, which brings together allied organizations with local, state, and federal partners. This year's conference theme is "America's Everglades: Our Legacy, Our Future."

FNPS members are encouraged to take part. Visit <http://www.evergladescoalition.org/Conference.htm> for details. For additional information, contact the FNPS rep, Joan Bausch, at 772-219-8285 or [jclb@gate.net](mailto:jclb@gate.net).

FEB 16, 2013

### 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)

This event is sponsored by the City of Orlando, the Orange Audubon Society and Orange County Parks and Recreation. For more information, 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)).**



(*Lake Wales Ridge*, continued from page 1) time to return and see what is flowering.

The humidity was low and, although the temperature was only in the low to mid 80s, we were feeling dry and ready for a break by lunchtime. The team that rode with Jennifer was departing after lunch and so we picnicked under live oaks on the bank of a wide ditch while we waited for her to take them back to their car and join our group. Of course, we botanized as we waited. We spotted a small patch of old world climbing fern on the far bank and later noted this to Jennifer so she could let staff know it needed to be treated with herbicide. We identified aquatic plants while we lunched, including tiny-leaved baby tears (*Micranthemum umbrosum*) and an interesting water horn fern (*Ceratopteris pteridoides*), which is identified by its wider, inflated petioles.

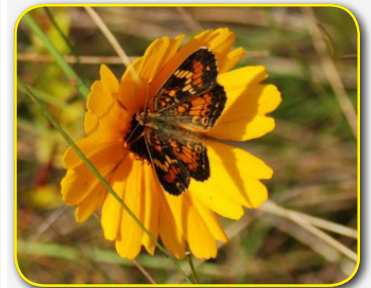


After lunch, we left the prairies at the south side of the Prairie Tract and ventured up toward Lake Kissimmee where there were some larger, deeper marshes dominated by sand cordgrass (*Spartina bakeri*) and sawgrass (*Cladium jamaicense*). Notable in this area, on wet prairie edges of the marsh, were the many intensely yellow Florida tickseed (*Coreopsis floridana*), whose leathery, elongate basal leaves identify them when not in bloom, and patches of pale blue glades lobelia (*Lobelia glandulosa*).

We wrapped up at about 3pm and headed back with our bags of plants to be ID'd at home; the names of the new species were emailed back to Jennifer to add to the Excel table. New member Amanda Martin and I still have a few specimens in presses; if you have time and would like to assist with the IDs, please call Catherine Bowman at 407-761-7109.



botanizing a diverse ditch during lunch



### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT MEAD GARDEN

Mead Botanical Garden is looking for volunteers to help maintain the Discovery Barn native plant garden. Regular volunteers are needed to help pull weeds, suggest and add new plants, spread mulch, prune old growth, and deadhead spent blooms.

Volunteers are also needed immediately to help get this area in shape before the upcoming performance of the Florida Symphony Youth Orchestra in the new outdoor pavilion on December 9.

If you would like to help maintain the native garden, or for more information, contact Stacey Matrazzo at [stacey@meadgarden.org](mailto:stacey@meadgarden.org) or 407-590-5321.



## 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, December 4 at 7pm**. See you there!

**Executive Committee** — The next board meeting will be **Tuesday, December 11, 2012 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 January 2013 issue is December 12.**

### BECOME A MEMBER

Make checks payable to:

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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.**

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## *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.



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