



the Tarpaper



The Tarflower Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society

December 2014

SPECIAL DECEMBER MEETING!!

Tarflower has had a busy, fun and productive year and we want to celebrate by starting this month by sharing food and conversation before the program.

If you would like to bring a favorite dish or hors d'oeuvre to share, we will start setting up at 5:00 p.m. Yes, sort of a pot luck dinner — we will have round tables and cloths, instead of just chairs! And there will be some surprises. Festive!

Please let Jackie Sward know by email at jackrabbit31@hotmail.com what you will bring. Also let her know if you can come early and help a bit with set up. We will begin gathering at 6:00 instead of 6:30.

Amendment 1 passes! Thank you, FNPS members!

Amendment 1 was passed by an overwhelming 75 percent of the vote, the highest level of support for a conservation-related constitutional amendment in Florida history. **Thank you to all FNPS members who helped in the effort!**

Support for Amendment 1 came from all regions of the state and spanned the political spectrum. Florida voters demonstrated yet again their strong support for water and land conservation. Ratification of Amendment 1 represents an historic opportunity for water and land conservation. Amendment 1 is the largest state conservation funding measure in the history of the United States. The Amendment is a clearly written set of priorities for spending documentary stamp taxes on water and land conservation.

More than 4.2 million Florida voters voted “Yes” to add these provisions to the Florida Constitution. Florida’s Water and Land Legacy, the Vote Yes on Amendment 1 coalition, looks forward to working with Governor Scott and the Florida Legislature to implement Amendment 1 in a manner that is consistent with the intent of the voters. Given the over-whelming popular mandate demonstrated across our state, particularly with a more conservative mid-term electorate, we know that the Governor and Legislature will seek to faithfully implement the will of the voters.

Now, more than ever, we must stick together. If we are fractured, we are powerless. We must send a strong message to the Florida Legislature and to Governor Scott that we are here to stay. We are watching their every move and we will take them to task if they misuse Amendment 1 funds.

Salvaged Plant Plantings by Jackie Rolly

Plants salvaged from Kerina Parkside Scrub will be planted on December 4, 5, and 6 at 9 a.m. at Bill Fredericks Turkey Lake Park off Hiawasee Road. We have arranged for free admission for those working. The plants will be delivered the morning of December 4. On December 5, we plan to take some plants over to Shadow Bay (Lake Cane Marsha) off Turkey Lake Road. On December 6, any remaining plants need to be in the ground that day.

Anyone wishing to help plant, learn about scrub plants (several are endangered), please call Jackie Rolly at 407-620-6963 or email her at j.y.rolly@att.net.

DECEMBER 2 PROGRAM

Royal Gardner presents “Lawyers, Swamps, and Money: U.S. Wetland Law, Policy, and Politics”

Professor Royal C. Gardner will discuss his book and how recent developments (from the EPA Corps-proposed rule on the definition of waters of the United States to court decisions such as Koontz v. St Johns River Water Management District) are likely to affect wetland regulation, mitigation banking, and private property rights. A limited number of signed books will be available for purchase.

Royal C. Gardner is a Professor of Law and Director of the Institute for Biodiversity Law and Policy at Stetson University College of Law in Gulfport, Florida. His teaching and research interests include environmental and international law with an emphasis on biodiversity-related issues. He served on the National Research Council’s Committee on Mitigating Wetland Losses, which was an impetus for U.S. federal regulations governing the establishment and operation of wetland mitigation banks. In January 2013, he was appointed Chair of the Ramsar Convention’s Scientific and Technical Review Panel for 2013-2015.



A recipient of the National Wetlands Award for Education and Outreach, he is the author of *Lawyers, Swamps, and Money: U.S. Wetland Law, Policy, and Politics*, published by Island Press. His most recent article, “The Legal Status of Environmental Credit Stacking,” appears in *Ecology Law Quarterly*.

Green Mountain Scenic Overlook and Trailhead Ribbon Cutting Ceremony – Monday, December 8

Tarflower members salvaged plants from this site, hardened them off at Green Isle Gardens Nursery, and then planted them a year later in the parking lot area. Green Isle Gardens Nursery also supplied most of the trees, shrubs and plants planted around the facility.

The new Trailhead and Scenic Overlook, which was developed in partnership with the St. Johns Water Management District and the Green Mountain Scenic Byway Committee, includes a 130-foot elevated boardwalk leading to an overlook with views of downtown Orlando and Lake Apopka, a covered pavilion with picnic tables, public restrooms and a switchback trail from the parking area to the railroad bed.

The Green Mountain Scenic Overlook and Trailhead will become the western gateway to the 16-mile Lake Apopka North Shore Restoration Area Trail, with an expected completion date in 2015. The area is an ideal location for birdwatching, hiking, bicycling, day-tripping, picnicking and family events.

The Green Mountain Scenic Overlook and Trailhead is located at 20700 County Road 455 in Ferndale. The ribbon cutting ceremony will begin at 10 a.m.

Plant of the Month – Three-seeded wild mercury (*Acalypha gracilens*) by Catherine Bowman

Looking for native plant fall color? How about this usually overlooked plant that bursts into color in November around Central Florida? *Acalypha gracilens* is an annual plant in the Euphorbiaceae family, which includes spurges and poinsettia. You may be familiar with its non-native, ornamental cousin, Wilke's copperleaf (*Acalypha amentacea*), which is an evergreen shrub. There are numerous species of native and non-native *Acalypha* in Florida and in the United States. *Acalypha* is the same family as *Mercurialis perennis*, commonly known as dog's mercury, is a woodland plant found in much of Europe and the Middle East. According to Wikipedia, the plant's common name derives from the plant's resemblance to the unrelated *Chenopodium bonus-henricus* (Good King Henry, also known as mercury, markry, markery, Lincolnshire spinach). Since *Mercurialis perennis* is highly poisonous, it was named "dog's" mercury (in the sense of "false" or "bad"). So our little three-seeded wild mercury is so named because it resembles an unrelated plant and, actually, has nothing to do with mercury or Mercury.



Acalypha gracilens occurs throughout the eastern United States, from Texas to Michigan to Maine and south through Florida. The plant seeds readily and grows well in dry sandy soils with full sun. The little tooth-edged cups that hold the seeds are the bracts under the female flowers in the leaf axils. The tiny green flowers appear in the summer. I recently saw these plants in the Discovery Barn Native Garden at Mead Botanical Garden and in masses along the Cross Seminole Trail, east of Big Tree Park. They are quite striking in appearance this time of year and looked good next to silver palmetto leaves, native blue porterweed, and the misty masses of lovegrass (*Eragrostis elliottii* and *E. spectabilis*) flower and seed stalks.

When the chapter was helping with some cleanup in the Discovery Barn garden on one of our monthly workdays, I left the little, green wild mercury plants in places where it was mixed in with other species, hoping that it would provide some nice fall color — rather than “weeding” it out, as I suspect is our tendency with this plant when we find it in our yards. This year, I am going to collect seeds and distribute them where I want some masses of beautiful coppery fall color next year — or maybe put some in pots for fiery foliage display with some black-eyed Susan.

What are those fuzzy little balls on the ground?

Have you noticed the abundance of little fuzzy balls that seem to be blanketing the ground around oak trees lately? Were you wondering what they are? *Orlando Sentinel* reporter Kevin Spear wrote an expository article about these interesting little pom-poms. Turns out, they are a type of gall (a gall is a growth on plant tissue caused by stimulation by fungi, insects or bacteria). These “fuzzy leaf galls” are made by a species of wasp, but not much else is known about their life cycle or why they appear to be so prominent this year.

In his article, Spear interviewed Eileen Buss, a professor at the UF entomology and nematology department. She explained: “What forms the gall is the combination of the secretion and the larva starting to chew on the plant tissue.” This changes “the normal behavior of a leaf, which has naturally tiny hairs, so that it manufactures a ball of dense, not-so-tiny hairs that engulf and becomes the hairy home that protects larvae from other, parasitic wasps. Fuzzy leaf galls will stay attached to the leaf or fall to the ground, while larvae mature into adult wasps that live for only days.”

The full article can be found in the October 22 edition of the *Orlando Sentinel* or online at www.orlandosentinel.com/news/breaking-news/os-strange-fuzzy-balls-oak-trees-20141022-story.html.

DECEMBER 13 FIELD TRIP Savage-Christmas Creek

PLUS: Fun How-to-Key-Out-Plants Workshop

In September, Todd Angel (Fireman Todd to many of you) asked about having a workshop to practice and learn how to use keys to determine the identity of plants — dichotomous keys such as Wunderlin and Hansen's *Guide to the Vascular Plants of Florida*. It is a very satisfying thing to key out a plant to its correct identification, and we all could use a little practice.

For December, we thought it might be fun to practice in the field rather than inside at tables, so we decided to combine this useful type of workshop with a field trip to a local natural area.

Savage-Christmas Creek preserve is a 1134-acre preserve located in the St. Johns River Basin watershed; the preserve is one of Orange County's environmentally sensitive lands. Visitors can see over nine different habitats as they walk through the preserve. Some of the more notable habitats are sandhill, freshwater marshes and scrubby flatwoods. In late summer/early fall, the property is awash in colors from the numerous wildflowers that call this preserve home, including *Carpheous*, *Rhexia*, *Liatris* and catbells. In spring, visitors observe reticulated pawpaw in bloom, as well as Tarflower. There are over five miles of trails that hikers and horseback riders can enjoy as they explore all the wonders that this property has to offer.

Savage-Christmas Creek is one of Orange County's Green Place properties at which the county Environmental Protection Division staff are currently conducting some restoration activities. As a part of their monitoring data collection, they are compiling phenological data for plants on the site. Phenology is the relationship between periodic biological phenomena and climate; for example, the time that certain plants flower or fruit at this site, given its geographic location and the changing climate.

Very often plants are keyed out using characters such as the shape and size flower and fruit parts; this means that we will see species in flower and/or fruit and can document that this was occurring on the date that we are onsite. Of course, December is far from the height of the growing season, so the abundance of things flowering will not be as great as at other times of the year. However, as Pete Dunkelberg so often points out after his frequent explorations of natural sites, there is always something blooming.

It will be extremely helpful to your keying out if you have a 10x hand lens with which to examine plant parts; for example, to see various types of hairs on leaves or stems or flower parts, or to look at the seeds of grasses or graminoids (plants that look sort of like grasses, but are sedges and rushes). If you do not have a hand lens (like a jeweler's loupe), you can get them at some jewelry stores or online at Carolina Biological Supply, or Amazon, or maybe some local photo and hobby store such as Colonial Photo and Hobby (I did not check there recently, though). They typically range in cost from \$10 to \$20, depending on the quality of the glass.

You should bring a Wunderlin if you have one or can borrow one, as this is the most frequently used key for this part of the state. Also, bring guide books that have photos, like Taylor's or Nelson's, as quick references or support for your just-keyed-out specimen identification. Bring other types of lenses or small portable microscopes if you like. And be prepared to sit on the ground or squat down during the keying process.

Many of you who know former Tarflower President Rick Ehle will be excited to know that he will be coming to help us with identifying plants! If you are experienced in using keys, please come out and help the newer folks.

Because it is the holiday season and the weather is cooler, we will meet a little later than usual. We will meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Burger King at East Colonial (SR 50) and Alafaya Trail to carpool OR meet at the site at 10 a.m. Bring a lunch, sunscreen and a hat. It will be best to carpool and not take too many vehicles onto the site. We will let you know by December 11 in the email field trip reminder exactly where the county will allow us to go by vehicle. The main public entrance/trailhead is on West Christmas Road. A trail map is on the Tarflower website, along with a map of the vegetative communities and the site's plant list to date.

Field Trip Coordinator needed

The Tarflower Chapter Board of Directors is seeking fresh ideas for our monthly field trips. A little over a year ago, we had a fantastic intern, Tina Richards, who coordinated with land managers around Central Florida for the ability to key, collect, press and submit native species to the University of South Florida Herbarium. We used each monthly field trip to visit a new area that contained certain native plant species that had not yet been properly recorded. Tina has since graduated and moved forward with her career, leaving less time for these adventures.

Our active members have jumped in to offer suggestions and coordinate trips that complement our monthly programs. We are taking a new approach to the monthly 'out of meeting' activity to engage members more directly with the FNPS mission, discussing topics for workshops to bring hands-on experiences and, when applicable, taking part in outreach opportunities in which members can participate. A great example is the Orlando Wetlands Festival held in February, where our very own Tarflower members host plant hikes throughout the event. What makes a trip through the woods more enjoyable are the many eyes pointing out various species they see, hearing the shutters close on digital cameras that can hold hundreds of photos, and laughing at the slow pace we move down the trail because there are worlds within each square foot.

So, send us your thoughts on where you'd like to go next, and perhaps you'll find some like-minded individuals that would love nothing more than to go with you. If you have ideas like to help coordinate our monthly outings, please contact Amanda Martin via email at tarflower.fnps@gmail.com.

GROWVEMBER at Mead Botanical Garden

by Cecilia Catron, Pete Dunkelberg, and Jackie Rolly

Mead Garden put on a plant sale with a touch of class. The main sale occurred on Saturday, November 8, but all vendors had to be set up by 4 p.m. on Friday for a private, invitation-only pre-party, including Winter Park Commissioners. From 4 p.m. until 7 p.m., there were hors d'oeuvres complete with wine and cheese. The large, beautiful, twinkly blue decorative globes were still suspended from the oak branches the next day.

A large stormfront slowly ambled eastward over the Garden on Saturday, kindly not raining until we were packed up and gone. More than 30 plant sellers and their tents popped up like a farmer's market, except just for plants. There were herbs of all kinds for sale, edible fruit trees, bromeliads, orchids, ferns and crotons. Classes were offered on growing herbs and aeroponics, and Central Florida gardening expert Tom MacCubbin took questions from the audience. Workshops were held on how to build a fairy garden with ferns and foliage, a worm cafe, and how to mount airplants, and Orange Audubon conducted birding hikes through the Garden to see fall migrants. At the Orange County Extension Service booth, master gardeners answered gardening questions. FNPS Tarflower Chapter and Biosphere sold native plants.

Marc Godts' Green Isle Gardens provided beautiful shrubs and perennials for the Tarflower display. Darrow's blueberry (*Vaccinium darrowii*) is a bush with showy, purplish-blue foliage, and Simpson's stopper (*Myrcianthes fragans*) has many smallish, rounded, shiny green leaves. Fall-blooming mints and asters such as Georgia calamint (*Calamintha georgiana*), largeflower false rosemary (*Conradina grandiflora*), and Maryland goldenaster (*Chrysopsis mariana*) were full of blossoms and particularly attractive. We were lucky to have not only Marc Godts' great plants, but also plant donations from members and a few remaining plants from previous sales. This helped tremendously in a profit of over \$700 for the event.

Very special for us was the number of people who stopped by, not only at this sale, but also at the Backyard Biodiversity Day event, to let us know how much they appreciate our efforts in restoring sandhill areas at the Garden. Let's keep up the good work, get those native plants out there, and show the public that we are not weeds! Thanks to all, again, who made this a great event, and who keep coming out to support our mission.

UPCOMING EVENTS & VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

DEC 4, 5, 6 SALVAGED PLANT INSTALLATIONS

Where: Bill Fredericks Turkey Lake Park & Shadow Bay Park

When: December 4, 5, 6, 9 a.m.

See notice on page 1 or contact Jackie Rolly for details.

DEC 6 MONTHLY VOLUNTEER WORKDAY @ MEAD

Where: Mead Botanical Garden, Winter Park

When: Saturday, December 6, 9–11 a.m.

DEC 8 GREEN MOUNTAIN SCENIC OVERLOOK AND TRAILHEAD RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY

Where: 20700 County Road 455 in Ferndale

When: Monday, December 8, 10 a.m.

See article on page 1 for details.

JAN 4 MONTHLY VOLUNTEER WORKDAY @ MEAD

Where: Mead Botanical Garden, Winter Park

When: Sunday, January 4, 9–11 a.m.

Monarch Waystation planting at Mead Garden

by Stacey Matrazzo

Thank you Tarflower Chapter members Ron Blair, Catherine Bowman, Mary Keim, Randy Snyder, Jim Erwin and John Hall, and volunteers Jackie McFadden, Hunt Sparra, Tamara Webster and her friend Gary, and late arrivals Pete Dunkelberg and Eugene Stoccardo for your outstanding efforts in helping to establish a Monarch Waystation at Mead Garden. Not only did we install all 120 specimens of milkweed, *Liatris*, ironweed, blanketflower, purple coneflower, black-eyed Susan, verbena, goldenrod, *Salvia*, *Coreopsis*, porterweed and phlox; we also laid pine straw, harvested seeds, and weeded and planted in the native garden.

A very special thanks to Ron Blair and Catherine Bowman for their help laying out the plants and for their expertise in suggesting and installing a rain garden along the Discovery Barn where the *Asclepias perennis* will have a better chance for success.



CENTRAL FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT PROFESSIONALS AND NURSERIES

Green Isle Gardens Native Plant Nursery

www.greenislegardens.com
321-436-4932

Biosphere Consulting & Native Plant Nursery

www.biospherenursery.com
407-656-8277

Green Images Native Plant Nursery

www.greenimagesnursery.com
407-568-1333

Full Moon Native Plant Nursery

www.fullmoonnatives.com
386-212-9923

The Natives, Inc.

www.thenatives.net
863-422-6664

Maple Street Natives

www.maplestreetnatives.com
321-729-6857

For more information and additional listings, visit the **Florida Association of Native Nurseries'** websites at www.PlantRealFlorida.org (retail) and www.FloridaNativeNurseries.org (wholesale).

Tarflower Chapter meetings Chapter meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month at 7p.m. at HARRY P. LEU GARDENS (1920 N. Forest Ave., Orlando. For directions, call 407-246-2620, option 1).

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

Tarflower on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/pages/FNPS-Orange-County-Tarflower-Chapter>

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. **The submission deadline for the January 2015 issue is December 18.**

Tarflower Chapter Executive Committee meetings The next board meeting will be Tuesday, December 9, 2014 at 6p.m. For more information, contact Amanda Martin. Members are welcome.

Tarflower Chapter Executive Committee members

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