



## Ixia Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society

# *Ixia e-news - April '08*

*The mission of the Florida Native Plant Society is to promote the preservation, conservation and restoration of native plants and native plant communities.*

### **WELCOME! to Northeast Florida's Ixia Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society!!**

Our Chapter's name is ***Ixia***, named after Bartram's ixia "*Calydorea coelestina*" - a beautiful, special little wildflower that is endemic to only 7 counties in Northeast Florida where we are located.

**Ixia's April meeting is Thursday, the 17th at 6:30 pm** at the **RIVERSIDE AVENUE CHRISTIAN CHURCH**, 2841 Riverside Avenue, 32205 in the Fellowship Hall. It is on the corner of Riverside Ave and Cherry Street, and the fellowship hall is around the corner on Mallory Street. **Look for IXIA signs.** Meeting room is on the third floor (elevator available). Thanks to Sally Robson for securing our west side meeting place.

### **Ixia Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society**

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Please visit our website at  
**[www.ixnativeplants.org](http://www.ixnativeplants.org)**

### **Upcoming Ixia Schedule**

*An extended list will be on our website's calendar as well as in future newsletters.*

**April 19 Saturday: - TNC "Earth Day - Coastal Clean-up Day"** 9:00 am til Noon (Sign-up Sheet for Volunteers)

**April 19 Saturday: - Reflections of Nature, Yulee "Earth Day Celebration"** (Sign-up Sheet for Volunteers)

**April 26 & 27: - "Spring into Bloom" at the Jacksonville Zoo.** (Sign-up Sheet for Volunteers)

**May - no meeting, instead: - May 15 - 18 FNPS Annual Conference, Bradenton**

**June 21, Saturday 4:00: - Meeting & Garden Tour** at Bill Berthet's afternoon refreshments & snacks. Nominating Committee to be formed. Program: guided tour of Bill's Butterfly Gardens & presentation by Bill "Butterfly ID, Photographing Butterflies & Plants to attract Butterflies". Bill's address: 12885 Julington Road, Jacksonville, FL 32258 (Mandarin)

**June & July: - NO general meetings,** except for any fields trips that take place. Nominating Committee will meet as well to present final Officers Slate for September 18 General meeting.

**July 19: Saturday: - Exec Board Meeting:** By-laws in place/job descriptions revised

**September 18, Thursday 6:30: - General Meeting at Regency Square Library.** Agenda: Nominating Committee to produce Slate of Officers for 2009 - 2010. Program 1: Reviews/Reports by any Members sharing lectures, workshops & photos, etc from the Annual Conference. Program 2: "Gathering & Storing Seeds".

**October 16, Thursday 6:30: - General Meeting at Regency Library.** Program: "So what is LEED?" . Also swapping of native seeds/plants

**November 20, Thursday 6:30: - General Meeting at Regency Square Library:** Vote on New Officers for 2009 - 2010. Program: Making "Plant Crafts" for Holiday Presents. (Bring old gift paper/ribbons - anything to recycle & pass on!)

**December: - NO General meeting**

**December 6 or 7: - Old Exec Board meet with New Exec Board**

**January, Thursday 15, 2009: - Regency Library 6:30 - Induction of New Officers.** Program: Round-table discussions divided into groups of members that share same interests to suggest programs & direction for the new officers.



### **FNPS Action Alerts** See page 4 of this newsletter for Florida Forever latest alert!

Did you know that FNPS has "Action Alerts" which you can request to be e-mailed to you as they happen? The FNPS tracks legislation and public policies that affect the conservation of Florida Native Plants. Issues that affect our mission and that call for immediate action are presented at this site.

In addition, FNPS maintains an "Eco Alert" list to keep interested participants informed of calls for action on a wide variety of Florida and national environmentally sensitive subjects.

Individuals act on their own, not in the name of FNPS. The Alerts are provided to make you aware of issues related to the preservation, conservation, and restoration of Florida's Native Plants - as in our FNPS Mission Statement. FNPS cannot research and write comprehensive opinions on all issues in a timely manner. Therefore, please read the text, check the information as best you can, make your own decision. Voice your own opinions as well as take action to make a difference.

To Join, send an e-mail to <mailto:info@fnps.org> and request to be put on the list.

# Upcoming Events

## 2008 Earth Day Celebration—Saturday, April 19th

Come on up to Yulee and join us at James Loper's "Reflections of Nature Nursery". Ixia is going to Celebrate Earth Day with several other organizations (The Nature Conservancy, Michael's Organic Foods, The Sierra Club, etc.). There will be tables of information and things for the kids to do and explore, mini-talks, and of course, a wonderful selection of beautiful plants.



Ixia held our March meeting at "Reflections". James showed us plants for Rain Gardens & he has a great assortment of plants for your Rain Garden. The drive up Hwy 17 was beautiful - lots of marsh and open waterways. We were surprised it only took us 45 minutes from the Beaches! The drive itself is a beautiful way to get out and celebrate Earth Day, the Nursery's Events will be a bonus! Come join us to celebrate Earth Day and welcome Springtime.

### **Reflections of Nature Nursery Landscaping and Garden Center**

850688 US Hwy 17, Yulee, FL32097  
[www.rlnursery@comcast.net](http://www.rlnursery@comcast.net) 904-225-9915

## The Nature Conservancy's Annual Earth Day Coastal Cleanup

**Saturday, April 19th from 9-12 pm**

TNC will be partnering with the City of Jacksonville's Preservation Project, Talbot State Parks, and the American Express "Make A Difference" corporate club to do our annual Earth Day Coastal Cleanup.

The work day will begin at 9 am at the City's "Alimcacani Preserve" located at 11080 Heckscher Drive, Jacksonville, FL 32226 adjacent to the Ft. George River on the south end of the Ft. George River bridge. To mapquest the location, visit the City of Jacksonville's Recreation website at [www.coj.net](http://www.coj.net)

Please take part in TNC's Annual Coastal Cleanup and help us deter more debris entering our coastal areas. Make sure to wear sunscreen, bring your work gloves and appropriate shoes as you may need to collect trash near rocky or oyster shell areas. Not necessary to register unless you are with a large group. For more information, contact Pamela Chancey in the NEFL office at [pchancey@tnc.org](mailto:pchancey@tnc.org); or 904-598-0004

## Membership Mega Explosion CHALLENGE!

Don't forget about **FNPS gift memberships** when you are wondering what to get friends & family who have everything. Hey! How 'bout sending a gift subscription to your neighbor. You'll get twice as many butterflies & happy critters & have great conversations across the fence (about worm castings and such).

The chapter also benefits from your gift—see info on the **FNPS website**.

Click here to download a printable certificate.

**Membership Gift Certificate**

## Florida Native Plant Society 2008 Conference

**May 15th - 18th, 2008**

**Hosted by the  
Mangrove, Pinellas, Serenoa &  
Suncoast Chapters**

The 2008 Annual Conference of the Florida Native Plant Society will be held at the Manatee Convention Center in Palmetto, Florida May 15-18, 2008.

[www.fnps.org](http://www.fnps.org) for more information



## Upcoming Master Naturalist Program

There are 2 Florida Master Naturalist Program Courses coming up in our area:

Duval County: Freshwater Wetlands Module, (7/8/08 - 8/02/08)

Contact instructors  
[wyninger@comcast.net](mailto:wyninger@comcast.net) or [burbaugh@coj.net](mailto:burbaugh@coj.net)

## Master Gardener Program

The next **Master Gardener Program** will begin in the fall. Applications will be mailed out In June. Please see website [http://duval.ifas.ufl.edu/lq\\_master\\_gardener.shtml](http://duval.ifas.ufl.edu/lq_master_gardener.shtml)

## Documentary on the St. John's River airs in April

"In Marjorie's Wake" re-creating Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings' historic "Hyacinth Drift" trip down the St. Johns River Scheduled at 6:00pm Sunday April 13th on WJCT Ch7, Comcast Ch 8. The program will also be seen at 9:00pm Monday April 14 on WJCT DT-7.4, Comcast 212.

The film is being presented to a national PBS audience by the Miami PBS affiliate WPBTV. It will examine the many ways in which the St. Johns River of Florida has shaped culture—literature, art and music—over time.

If the documentary is not being aired in your area, there is a lot of information on the making of the documentary and Marjorie's trip, on the website—<http://equinoxdocumentaries.org/blog/?cat=2>

## Let's All Go to the Zoo!!

March 12 - Jacksonville Zoo & Gardens Director Bob Chabot invited Ixia to join him in exploring ways that Ixia and the Zoo might partner for the sake of plant conservation in N.E. Florida. Bob was kind enough to stay after zoo hours and give a personal guided tour - especially a possible location for a Florida Native Plants theme area. His tour focused on their garden developments - and if you haven't been out there in awhile - the zoo & gardens are beautiful! You gotta go!

We looked at the acreage on the marshy riverfront they would like to develop as Native Florida. Along the side of the Florida Native site, they are beginning to work on their Asian Gardens which will be finished in 2 years. Next? the Florida Natives.

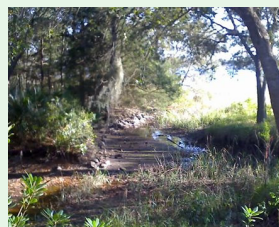
There is an old house on the property which needs restoring, but already has that charming Florida Cracker Shack look. This building backs up to the Asian Gardens and will be used as public rest-stop, bathrooms, souvenirs.

The property for the Florida Native area slopes down to the river with a beautiful natural tidal creek along the edge (complete with an old houseboat banked in the river at the very end of the zoo boundary - really old Florida look!) The Florida Cracker Shack will help a great deal with our goal to introduce the idea of Florida native plants being used in a well-behaved landscape. Not the wild & weedy look that most people envision when they hear the words "Native Plants".

Ixia, this is an excellent opportunity to exhibit our Florida native plants ability to conserve on water, filter groundwater before it reaches our St. Johns River, no use of fertilizer & chemicals and, of course, provide food and habitats for wild Florida animals. After all we are at the zoo!

The Florida Native Plant area would complete the full circle of the zoo's Master Plan to weave through garden themes from around the world.

**It's an exciting opportunity for Ixia to be a pioneer helping develop this dedicated area of the Jacksonville Zoo and Botanical Gardens. It's an exciting time to be part of bringing together this new Northeast Florida Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society. Let's all go to the Zoo!**



## Ixians Judge State FNPS Landscape Awards By: Jake Ingram



On Saturday, March 22, Scott Sager and I spent all day reviewing this year's submittals for the FNPS Landscape Awards. They are presented to the winners each year at the FNPS annual conference. Since this was a new venture for Scott and me, the FNPS Executive Director, Karina Vaudry, joined us and kept us on task.

There are nine project categories: Residential, Commercial, Institutional, Schoolyard, Ecosystem Restoration, Mitigation, Transportation, Wildflower/Butterfly Garden and Preservation. Basic requirements for a submittal are that at least 75% of the species planted must be Florida natives and projects need to be in the ground for two years minimum. The FNPS website provides the application process and if anyone meeting these basic requirements are strongly encouraged to apply. As incentive, 1st and 2<sup>nd</sup> Place winners in each category are given a free conference registration and banquet meal! Not bad!

All of this year's submissions were outstanding! We were amazed at the quality and variety of the projects.

For example, there's the homeowner in Miami who had over 175 species of site-appropriate native plants on his 60'x120' lot! And it's totally sustainable, without irrigation, fertilization or chemicals.

Judging the projects was not easy. All submissions were so well prepared and projects so capably executed and maintained (very important) that choosing one over another was challenging. The good news is that all projects received an award of some kind and will be duly recognized at the Awards Banquet on May 17. Soon after, the results will be posted on FNPS.org for all to see. Last year's winners are currently posted and certainly worth a look. They're a great source of inspiration so don't waste another moment! Now is the time to start thinking about applying for an award next year for your yard or perhaps some other project you know of that would qualify. Just remember: *Free Food!*

## Ann Arthur's Backyard Wildlife Habitat

"Bring wildlife home! Restoring habitats where commercial and residential development have degraded natural ecosystems can be your way of giving back to wildlife." (National Wildlife Federation)

Food, water, cover and places to raise young are all that's needed and you too can have a certified backyard wildlife habitat.

To discover how to certify your yard, click on [www.nwf.org/backyard/](http://www.nwf.org/backyard/), click on Let's get started, and follow steps 1-6.



## Florida-friendly Interactive Yard

Creating a low-impact, Florida-friendly yard and landscape can be fun and rewarding. But, where do you start? [www.floridayards.org](http://www.floridayards.org)

Start with the Interactive Yard. This online tool will take you through the steps needed to transform a yard dominated by lawn into one featuring beautiful beds with Florida-friendly plants and Florida native plants that require little or no fertilizer or irrigation.

You'll also learn about features like micro-irrigation, compost bins, and rain barrels that make a yard environmentally friendly.

Take what you learn with the Interactive Yard and apply it to your own yard.



## St Johns River Water Withdrawal Issue:

As the Opposition to Withdrawing Water from the St Johns River gets more heated, many members have asked that Ixia as a Chapter join in supporting the efforts to stop the water withdrawal proposition. We feel it directly effects and harms the very core of our mission to protect, preserve and conserve our native wildlife and their habitats.

Chapter Representative Jake Ingram has drawn up a proposal that will be presented at our April 17 meeting: "The Ixia Chapter submits herewith our opposition to the proposed withdrawal plans as described below that could potentially jeopardize vast native plant communities in the St. Johns River basin. The St. Johns Riverkeeper has requested that Ixia join the many organizations that are against this proposal by Seminole County.

As potable water supplies in central Florida are being exhausted, local governments are searching for ways to maintain their unbridled growth habits. The lower (upstream) St. Johns River seems the logical source, right in their own backyard. Sadly, the *St. Johns River Water Management District* has gone along with this proposal. We feel there has been insufficient research to warrant support for such a proposal. The effects of a dramatically decreased flow of water through the entire length of the river could have drastic effects on water quality, salinity, and adjoining riverine plant communities. The 'dilution solution' to the river's pollution would be greatly diminished and it's doubtful that anyone can accurately predict the ultimate impact. Now the important issue is to stop the increased withdrawal of our river water. [Ixia Opposes the Proposition to Withdraw More Water from our St. Johns River.](#)

Since we will discuss and vote on this issue at the meeting, I will be sending out the full IXIA Statement with references for you, such as [www.stjohnsriverkeeper.blogspot.com](http://www.stjohnsriverkeeper.blogspot.com) as well as [www.stjohnsriverkeeper.org/thirstthreatens.asp](http://www.stjohnsriverkeeper.org/thirstthreatens.asp). Please be aware of this issue we will be discussing. There will be forms available for individuals to support the opposition, as well as the proposal representing our Ixia Chapter. Updates are on-going at several websites and we will be glad to supply you with more informational resources. Ixia wants to take a stand. Please send your opinions if you cannot attend the meeting.

-- Ann Arthur, President, Ixia Chapter.



## Support Florida Forever!!

Florida Forever is the state's premier land acquisition that also funds the bulk of Florida's land management, recreational development, and water resource protection programs. The next two weeks are *crucial* in determining the future of Florida Forever. Please contact you legislators to renew and expand the Successor Program as proposed by the Florida Forever Coalition today.

To learn more about the bills and key legislators you can target your support and comments to, visit [www.supportfloridaforever.org](http://www.supportfloridaforever.org). Please forward the link to your friends and family and urge them to get involved too!

For businesses or groups that want to get more involved in helping support Florida Forever, please contact Ixia Conservation Chair, Trish Gramajo at [tgramajo@tnc.org](mailto:tgramajo@tnc.org)

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### **This just in: FLORIDA FOREVER ACTION ALERT!**

**House Proposes No Money for Florida Forever.** A major, new threat to Florida Forever and Everglades restoration looms in the emerging state budget, which is being drafted for the year beginning July 1.

**Act Now: The House Budget is the Priority.** The most important message to communicate in support of Florida Forever RIGHT NOW is to be directed to Members of the House: Fund Florida Forever and Everglades restoration.

**Contact House Speaker Marco Rubio, House Budget Chairman Ray Sansom, and your local State Representative, and tell them how you feel!** [Click here for contact information and tips on communicating with legislators.](#)

**The Latest Information.** Keep abreast of the latest news and advisories on Florida Forever at: [www.supportfloridaforever.org](http://www.supportfloridaforever.org)

## Share "GREEN" information with your local officials!!

These landscape ordinance guidelines are intended to be used by local governments that wish to adopt or amend their existing landscape ordinance to encourage or require the use of appropriate native vegetation in all landscaped areas. This document provides sample language that can be adopted (in whole or in part) by a local government that wants to promote these goals and acquire the benefits of appropriate native landscaping. Many local officials simply don't know about such landscape ordinances. You could be a valuable resource for them. Share your knowledge (as we learn also ) about the many benefits of native landscaping. Call or get on the Internet & find out who your local officials are that would be involved in the landscaping of your own community. Contact them. **Be Green.**

Model Native Plant  
Landscape Ordinance Handbook



## Simple Ways to BE GREEN:

- ❖ Use both sides of the paper when you print, draw, make lists, etc.
- ❖ If you haven't started using your own grocery bags yet, ask for paper & use them to wrap presents, for mulch (that's *really* recycling back to earth!)

