



Ixia News

February 2008

Ixia Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society

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

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.

The Ixia Chapter meets at 6:30PM on the 3rd Thursday of each month in the Regency Square Library at 6:30 p.m. 9900 Regency Square Blvd., Jacksonville, FL 32225 phone (904) 726-5142

No General Meeting in February. Instead, we'll be joining IFAS in the Florida Friendly Spring Garden Fest on February 23rd from 9 – 3.

Ixia Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society

Ann Arthur, President
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Atlantic Beach, FL 32233

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Please visit our website at www.jaxnativeplants.org

Florida Friendly Spring Gardening Fest

Saturday, February 23rd from 9 am – 3 pm. Kick-off the New Year by coming to this seminar featuring many different speakers on the following: Invasives to know and grow, ID, and how to get rid of invasive plants, gear up for a spring vegetable garden, edible fruits, targeting pests, fertilizer tips and more. We will have vendors and informational booths. The cost is \$10.00 to attend. Please call 904-387-8850 for a registration brochure.

Location: Duval Co. Extension Office, 1010 N. McDuff Ave. Jacksonville, FL

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.

Purpose of Conference: To provide educational programs to FNPS members and the general public about the planting, preservation, conservation and restoration of Florida native plants and their associated plant communities.

Notable conference activities:

Field trips

Native plant sale

Educational exhibit tables; many vendors

The latest news in conservation, preservation and restoration of Florida native plant communities

Workshops

Social activities

Chapter involvement

(from Karina Veaudry, Executive Director)

Solicit one Silent Auction item and send to Conference Team member Al Squires. Ideas include weekend stays at facilities with statewide locations, airline tickets, artwork, crafts, statewide chain restaurant gift certificates, gift baskets, etc. Keep in mind that we are also having a raffle for smaller items. Send a description of the item along with the estimated value and the donor name & address to me executivedirector@fnps.org

Obtain one sponsor for the conference at any level.

Go to www.fnps.org and click on the conference link. There are links to pdf files with detailed information on sponsorship with applications and advertising materials.

Advertise your Business in the Conference Brochure going to 42,000 Residents! Contact Karina Veaudry at executivedirector@fnps.org or 407.895.8446.

Membership News

As you may know, we have new membership rates effective as of January 1, 2008. This includes our new Life Member category and increased rates for renewing individuals, families, contributing members and businesses.

WE HAVE NEW APPLICATION FORMS with these rates available now for you to use. These forms will be available through your Chapter Representative (Jake Ingram) who will be picking up forms for our chapter, or ordering them per your request.

New rates have been posted on our online form: http://www.fnps.org/pages/fnps/membership_appl.html

Rally for the River Feb 15 – 17

Presented by Putnam County Environmental Council, Inc.

The **Rally** is a three-day event designed to inform and educate the public through workshops, music and stories, environmental exhibits, exposure to natural areas, and public involvement in protecting Florida's resources. For detailed information go to their website:

www.pcecweb.org

Friday, February 15: WATER SUPPLY WORKSHOP Reserve your seat online at www.pcecweb.org.

Field Trips: A wide variety of field trips are available on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Most are FREE. Many require reservations and participation is limited. Reserve online at www.pcecweb.org

Saturday, February 16: RIVER FEST - a day of music, literature, art, exhibits, yummy foods and more at Ravine Gardens State Park in Palatka.

Sunday, February 17: TAKE ACTION! Bring your shovel to Rodman Dam and help PCEC plant trees as part of the Peoples' Restoration.

February Specials at the "Reflections of Nature" Garden Center

All Ixia Members 15% off any Plants.(excludes oak tree sale) at our Garden Center *Reflections of Nature* located at 850688 US Hwy 17, Yulee, FL 32097. Office 904-225-9915.

Tree Sale. Shumard Oaks and Live Oaks , 7 gal, 7'-8' Regular Price \$35.99 Sale Price \$19.95

Upcoming Master Naturalist Programs

Uplands Habitats

February 4, 6, 8, 18, 20, 22, 25, 27, 29, 2008

Yulee County Building, 86026 Pages dairy Road, Yulee, FL; Instructors: Steve Gaul, Carol Wyninger, and Christina Nelson

Freshwater Wetlands

February 25, 28, March 1, 3, 6, 8, 10, 13, 17, 22, 24, 2008; Night Classes with Saturday Field Trips

Doctors Inlet Civic Center, 3382 Peoria Road, Orange Park, FL; Instructors: Ray Zerba, Lynn Lisenby, Carol Wyninger

Coastal Systems

March 12, 15, 19, 26, April 2, 2008; Whitney Lab, Marineland, FL; Instructor: Jose Nunez

Upland Habitats

March 3,4,5, 10, 11, 12, 2008; Tree Hill Nature Center, Lone Star Road, Jacksonville, Fla.

Instructors: Carol Wyninger, Brad Burbaugh; 10 seats open

Freshwater Wetlands

April 2008, Dates TBA; Ft. Clinch State Park, Fernandina Beach, FL; Instructor: TBA

Each module consists of: 40 hours of classroom presentations, videos, and field trips covering key plants and animals, ethics, and interpretation. Two volume comprehensive syllabus, patch, and pin.

Course fee: \$225. Advance registration required. Class size limited.

Course requirements: Attendance, Participation, and Enthusiasm!

Teachers may earn up to 40 hours CEUs! For groups of at least 10, classes may be offered at your site!

For registration go to www.masternaturalist.org, for more information contact Carol Wyninger, 220-0232, wyninger@comcast.net.

2nd Annual First Coast Air Potato Roundup

The 2nd Annual "Great Air Potato Roundup" for the First Coast has been set for **March 1, 2008** and will be one of several local events to take place during the 9th Annual National Invasive Weed Awareness Week. For more information, please contact Trish Gramajo at tgramajo@tnc.org or Pete Johnson of Duval Audubon at petejohnson71@bellsouth.net.

Last year's roundup was a resounding success and the The Nature Conservancy, the Ixia Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society, Duval Audubon, Jacksonville Arboretum, UNF and many others are planning for another fun family event! Various sites like the Arboretum, Audubon Crosby Sanctuary and UNF will be work sites that will help collect as many Air Potato, *Dioscorea bulbifera bulbils* as possible to prevent new vines from establishing. A winner of the largest tuber collected will win a prize and volunteers are encouraged to come out and help gather as many of these nuisance potatoes as possible and help local conservation preserve and park managers remove them from Florida's special places.

Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council 2008 Symposium

The 23rd Annual Symposium of the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council will be held by the St. Johns River in Jacksonville, Florida:

When: April 21-24, 2008

Where: Crowne Plaza Hotel on the Jacksonville Riverfront

This year's symposium will include oral presentations, posters, and science-based field trips to local areas. CEUs will be available for natural areas, rights-of-way, and aquatics. Keynote speaker will be Dr. Bernd Blossey of Cornell University. FLEPPC symposium information will be provided soon at <http://www.fleppc.org/symposium.htm>

Conservation News

Florida Forever Update

Audubon of Florida recently held Session 4 of **Dialogues on Funding and Tools for Land and Water Conservation** at the Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve. The meeting conveners included Jacksonville Mayor John Payton and John Hankinson of Audubon of Florida. Many stakeholders and partners on the Federal, State, Local and Grassroots levels came together for a 3-hour open discussion. The discussion was structured around five questions: 1) What are the land and water conservation priorities in this region?; 2) What tools and strategies are available to secure these priorities?; 3) Are current conservation policies and programs achieving their goals?; 4) What policies and funding strategies should be recommended?; and 5) How can advocates create more public and political support for the goals? Many good discussions and comments were openly shared between participants about these five questions. Notes should be available from Audubon of Florida soon.

Did you know that between 1995 and 2007 the acreage of land conserved in Northeast Florida through Florida Forever grew from 75,000 acres to 630,000 acres? Did you know that currently the Florida Forever fund constitutes only 0.4 percent of the state budget? However, due to several factors this highly successful program's future is in jeopardy. The funding is running low (all remaining funds allocated), property tax cuts loom over the budget, and the Florida legislators and Governor have not passed a successor program to Florida Forever.

The current goal of Audubon and the Florida Forever Coalition is to secure 600 - 900 million/year for the next 10 years. To get this level of support from the state there is a crucial need to show a strong level of support from the local and grassroots level, ASAP. **Please contact your legislators and governor by February 5, 2008, or as soon as possible thereafter. It is especially important to contact your state Representatives either by letter, email, or phone.** Let them know that you support a successor to Florida Forever at up to 1 billion per year for the next 10 years. This amount of support, when creatively leveraged with local, federal, and private sector funds, as well as conservation easements and development rights buy-outs would help create a better future for conservation and rural/agricultural lands in Florida.

Share Your Photos with Ixia Chapter

Ixia News is looking for photos of your native plant gardens. Send pictures of you enjoying your garden to Pete Johnson, editor, at pjohnson@sjrwmd.com. Let us know where your garden is located and what types of plants are in the pictures. Also tell us how you created your garden or an interesting fact about it, and the photo just might pop up in the next Ixia e-Newsletter!