



Ixia Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society

Ixia e-news - March '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.

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

March's meeting will be held on the 20th and important information regarding the FNPS 2008 Conference will be discussed.

Ixia Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society

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Please visit our website at
www.ixnativeplants.org



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 to over 20 locations highlighting native plant communities, native trees, shrubs and wildflowers led by botanists and local plant specialists.
- ❖ Native plant sale providing locally grown trees, shrubs and wildflowers throughout the event. Hundreds of new native plants for home landscapes!
- ❖ Educational exhibit tables; many vendors
- ❖ The latest news in conservation, preservation and restoration of Florida native plant communities
- ❖ Workshops for landscape design, making plant specimens, nature photography and much more.
- ❖ Social activities—something for everyone!

Chapter involvement

Silent Auction, Sponsorship

Go to www.fnps.org and click on the conference link. There are many 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.

St. Johns River Celebration Cleanup

**Saturday,
March 15, 8 a.m.**

Jacksonville's 13th annual kick-off event for the

Florida Great American Cleanup. This local effort will combine with national and regional volunteer efforts to clean and protect the environment through May 2008. There are many locations to help with this important project!



To learn more, call Clean It Up, Green It Up at (904) 630-3420 or visit www.coj.net, key words: St Johns River Celebration.

Fanning Springs Garden Festival

Saturday, March 15, 2008 from 9:00-3:00
at Fanning Springs State Park



Learn about native plants, natural fertilizers, insect and plant disease control, and safe inexpensive watering.

"How To" classes, plant identification, Native plant sales, food, music, tours of native landscaping,

For more information, contact Annette Long at mlongalong@bellsouth.net or (352) 213-2167

Membership Input Request

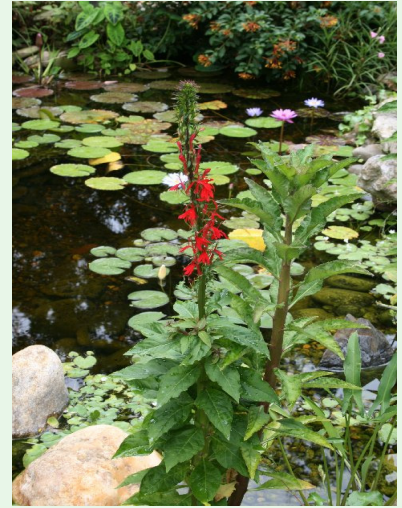
Please send us your ideas for monthly programs and fieldtrips. We value our members and want to provide you with interesting programs and fieldtrips. You can help us do that by letting us know what you want! Please either email suggestions to pjohnson@sjrwmd.com, or come to our planning meeting at UNF Nature Trails picnic area at 1:00 p.m. on March 15th. We will do a native plant ID walk afterward. Park in the nature trail/visitor parking area near the security booth just inside the campus entrance off St Johns Bluff Rd/9A. Call 904-536-4806 with any questions or for directions.

NEW FEATURE: "Native Garden of the Month"

Ixia News is looking for photos of your native plant gardens. Send pictures of you enjoying your garden to Pete Johnson, editor, at pjohnson@sirwmd.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!

This month features **Barbara Jackson's** garden in Neptune Beach as "Native Garden of the Month".

Cardinal Flower with Firebush in background in Koi Pond



Legislature Will Consider Funding for Florida Forever

With the 2008 Legislative Session quickly approaching, 1000 Friends of Florida has been working with the other members of the Florida Forever Coalition to develop recommendations to increase funding for and improve Florida Forever, this state's landmark program to protect Florida's vanishing natural lands. Please take a few minutes to review the [Florida Forever Coalition's recommendations](#), and call your legislators to ask for their support on this critical issue.

Volunteers to Track Climate Clues in Spring Flowers

Starting last month, citizen-scientist volunteers are able to help track climate change by observing and recording the timing of flowers and foliage.

Project BudBurst, operated by the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR) and a team of partners including the U.S. Geological Survey's USA National Phenology Network, allows U.S. students, gardeners, and other citizens to enter their observations into an online database that, over time, will give researchers a more detailed picture of global climate change.

The project, which was launched on Feb. 15, will operate year-round so that early- and late-blooming species in different parts of the country can be monitored throughout their life cycles. Project BudBurst (<http://www.budburst.org>) builds on a pilot program carried out last spring, when a thousand participants recorded the timing of the leafing and flowering of hundreds of plant species in 26 states.

"By observing these cycles through time, researchers can better understand and predict global climate change, and monitor drought conditions, wildfire risk, invasive species, and the spread of infectious diseases," said Weltzin. "In the long-term -- and with enough data -- such information can help us better understand, mitigate and adapt to ongoing and future climate change."

"Climate change may be affecting our backyards and communities in ways that we don't even notice," says project coordinator Sandra Henderson of UCAR's Office of Education and Outreach. "Project BudBurst is designed to help both adults and children understand the changing relationship among climate, seasons, and plants, while giving the participants the tools to communicate their observations to others. Based on the success of last year's pilot program, this project is capturing the public's imagination in a way we never expected."

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Upcoming Master Naturalist Program

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.