

Ixia e-news

Volume 1, Issue 5

July 6, 2007

Special points of interest:

- **FNPS Members Retreat for October 5-7, 2007**, at Pine Lake Retreat near Clermont, FL - see www.fnps.org or call 407-895-8446
- **FNPS Amazon Jungle Safari** see www.fnps.org or call 800-466-9660
- **Next Ixia Fieldtrip September 22** at yet to be determined location. Mark your calendars!
- **Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens** info at www.jacksonvillearboretum.org

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The Florida Hometown Democracy Amendment

By Janet Larson

European explorers looked for gold and the fountain of youth. Developers see exploitable land and advertise the natural beauty of the area, where one can build a dream home (or second or third). And they are ALL right! There is a natural "gold" here in the beauty and biological diversity of the place. . . . but as more un-thoughtful growth develops, the "gold" that is Florida is being bulldozed and paved over. Schools, roads, and emergency services can't keep up (never mind panthers, gopher tortoises and our diminishing native plants). Soon all that is Florida's "gold" will be the advertisements showing what was once here!

But growth can't be stopped or be done smarter — or can it? City Coun-

cils follow a Comprehensive Plan for growth — or do they?

The Florida Hometown Democracy Amendment would make it state law for legislative bodies, if a change in the Comprehensive Plan is desired, to bring it to the voters for approval. This will ensure more accountability for the location of massive developments.

This process first requires that the citizens deliver 611,000 petitions to get this proposed constitutional Amendment on the state ballot. We need your help to reach this goal!

For more information about this matter, please navigate to http://www.florida.sierraclub.org/northeast/issues/hometown_democracy.html, where one can read more about the Amend-

September 20th General Meeting (see page 4 for location, time)

September 20th Program:

False-Foxgloves (*Agalinis* spp.)

John Hays, noted botanist working on *Agalinis* spp in the southeast, will give a slide show and talk on these fascinating plants from the Scrophulariaceae

family. Please join us as this presentation will be followed up with a field trip on September 22.

Next General Meeting September 20, 2007 - no meetings in July or August for summer break

The Florida Home Town Democracy Amendment (cont.)

ment, download the petition and sign it, then send them to **Janet Larson, 887 Marshside Ct., Jacksonville Beach, FL, 32250**. We need to verify that they are legible and filled out correctly and then send them directly to the state—*within 30 days of being signed*. Our website has much more information than I can represent here.

We feel citizens must have more say as to how rampant development is impacting our natural areas, services, and infrastructure, and taxes. This is one way to hold Governmental entities and developers ac-

FNPS Amazon Jungle Safari

The Florida Native Plant Society has coordinated with Explorations, Inc. to create a trip to the Peruvian Amazon for FNPS members. We will stay in several different jungle lodges located deep in forest reserves where great flora and fauna viewing is the most abundant during this rainforest adventure. These areas contain the highest diversity of tree and bird species in the world and we will have the opportunity to view the rainforest from 115 feet up on the world's longest Treetop Canopy Walkway! Participants book the trip with Explorations, Inc. who will provide a donation to FNPS for each partici-

countable. What do you think? Can you support us?

Regards,

Janet Larson
Florida Hometown Democracy Campaign
Committee
Sierra Club Northeast Florida Group
904-247-1876

pant. The trip will leave from Miami on October 19th and return on the 28th. An optional 4 day extension includes the Paracas National Reserve with its "Little Galapagos Islands" and a tour of the incredible Nazca Lines. The cost for this nature trip is \$2,795.00. The extension cost is \$575.00. This trip will be hosted by Jo Anne Trebatoski, fellow FNPS member. For more details and to register for the trip, please review the *BROCHURE* For questions, e-mail Jo Anne at plantnative@earthlink.net or call 800-466-9660.

"Little Galapagos Islands"

"These areas contain the highest diversity of tree and bird species in the world"

Please use updated FNPS Membership Forms

Please be sure when you renew your FNPS membership that you use the 2007 membership forms! These forms are located at www.fnps.org. The new membership rates are as follows:

NEW Individual/Gift: \$25

Renewing Individual: \$30

Family/household: \$40

Contributing: \$50

Please visit the FNPS website to renew your membership or contact:

FNPS Administrative Services

Phone: 321-271-6702

Email: info@fnps.org

Mail: PO Box 278, Melbourne FL 32902-0278



Mystery flower! Can you ID this native plant?
Hint: Use zoom to view.

Global Warming is a Threat to Native Plants! Please Do Your Part by Reducing your Carbon Footprint!

Calculate your Carbon Footprint

The Nature Conservancy carbon calculator can be found at:
www.nature.org/initiatives/climatechange/calculator/

Individual Actions ADD UP

Individual choices can have an impact on global climate change. Reducing your family's heat-trapping emissions does not mean forgoing modern conveniences; it means making smart choices and using energy-efficient products. Though you may pay a bit more up front, you may see a return on your investment in terms of energy savings within a couple of years. Your help to stabilize our climate is hard to put a price tag on.

1. Recycle, Reuse, Reduce!

Do your part to reduce waste by choosing reusable products instead of disposables. Buying products with minimal packaging (buy in bulk or the economy size when that makes sense for you) will help to reduce waste. And whenever you can, recycle paper, plastic, newspaper, glass and aluminum cans.

Aim to recycle half of your household waste.

CO₂ reduction = 2400 lbs/year

2. Conserve Water

You can reduce your energy consumption by using less hot water. Run your dishwasher only when full and use the air dry option.

Wash clothes in cold or warm water, never hot.

CO₂ reduction = 500 lbs/year

When it's time to replace your washing machine, choose a new high-efficiency front-loader. You'll see great savings on water, electricity, and detergent, and you'll discover you can more safely wash delicate items, too.

Set your water heater at 120 degrees to save energy.

CO₂ reduction (for each 10-degree adjustment) = 500 lbs/year.

Wrap your hot water heater in an insulating blanket.

CO₂ reduction = up to 1000 lbs/year

Buy low-flow showerheads to save hot water

CO₂ reduction = 350 lbs/year

3. Tame the Fridge Monster

New refrigerators use about 50% less energy than those made just 10-15 years ago. That's important because **refrigerators account for between 10 and 15% of total home energy consumption.** The next time you buy a new refrigerator or any household appliance look for the Energy Star label to be sure you're getting a high efficiency model. In the meantime, keep your refrigerator's thermostat set to the recommended temperature and clean the condenser coil regularly. This one, very simple thing can improve the efficiency of your refrigerator by a third! If you own a second refrigerator, unplug it when it is not being used for special occasions.

4. Home Heating and Cooling

Reduce excessive use of home heating and cooling. Try turning up the thermostat in the summer and turning it down a few degrees in the winter. If you don't have an automated thermostat, install one. Program it to adjust temperatures at nighttime. Try installing better insulation throughout the house. Seal up windows, close vents, and clean filters. If you really want to save energy, try to avoid using air conditioning on all but the very hottest days. You'd be amazed at how effective ceiling fans alone can be in making you feel cooler.

Set your thermostat just 2 degrees lower in winter and higher in summer.

CO₂ reduction = 2000 lbs/year

5. Change Your Light Bulbs

Switch from conventional incandescent bulbs to energy-efficient compact fluorescents. Or better yet, try to maximize your use of natural sunlight for daytime lighting needs. Replacing just one 60-watt incandescent light bulb with a CFL will save you \$30 over the life of the bulb. CFLs also last 10 times longer than incandescent bulbs, use two-thirds less energy, and give off 70 percent less heat.

If every U.S. family replaced one regular light bulb with a CFL, it would eliminate 90 billion pounds of

Upcoming Events:

Upcoming Master Naturalist Programs

Coastal Systems Module

July 10, 12, 14, 17, 19, 21, 24, 26, and August 7, 2007

Night classes with Saturday Field Trips

Instructors: Brad Burbaugh, Carol Wyninger

Location: University of North Florida

Upland Habitats

August 20, 23, 25, 27, 30, September 6, 13, 15, 17, 22, 2007

Night Classes with Saturday Field Trips

Doctors Inlet Civic League, 3382 Peoria Road, Orange Park, Fla.

Instructors: Ray Zerba, Lynn Lisenby, Carol Wyninger

Freshwater Wetlands

September 27, 29, October 4, 6, 11, 13

Trout Creek Park, 6795 Collier Rd, Orangedale, Fla.

Instructors: Beverly Fleming and Carol Wyninger

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

For groups of 10 or more contact us for classes at your site!

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

c/o Ann Arthur
380 Begonia Street
Atlantic Beach, FL 32233

Email: annwarthur@yahoo.com

Please visit our website at
www.jaxnativeplants.org

*Serving Clay, Duval, Nassau, and
St Johns Counties*

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 third Thursday of each month in Suite 102 of the St. Johns River Water Management District building. Off Baymeadows Rd & I-95, the address is:

7775 BAYMEADOWS WAY, Jacksonville, FL 32256

Plant Profile: *Agalinis purpurea*

Purple gerardia (common name) is mostly a wetland species found throughout Florida. It is in the snapdragon/figwort family Scrophulariaceae.

Pink, bell-shaped flowers on short stalks bloom in the axils of opposite, linear leaves.

The rose-purple corolla of this widely spreading, smooth-stemmed annual has dark spots on the inside of the throat. As a group, the Gerardias are slender, wiry-branched plants with narrow leaves. A smaller species, found in salt marshes, Seaside Gerardia (*A. maritima*), has rather fleshy linear leaves and smaller

flowers. Over fifteen species of this genus occur in eastern North America, all with pink to purplish (or occasionally white) flowers.

Bumblebees and other long-tongued bees visit the flowers for nectar and pollen. The caterpillars of the butterfly *Junonia coenia* (Buckeye) feed on the foliage, while the caterpillars of the moth *Rhodocia aurantiago* (Orange Sallow) bore into the seedpods.

Many different species of butterflies use *Agalinis* spp flowers for a source nectar.



Agalinis purpurea

Global Warming (cont.)

greenhouse gases, the same as taking 7.5 million cars off the road.

6. Think Before You Drive

Consider driving less by taking public transportation, walking, bicycling, or carpooling. Drive a more energy-efficient vehicle. When you drive, follow the speed limit and drive at a consistent speed. Take your car in for regular tune. Take off any rooftop carriers when not in use. Keeping your tires properly inflated can improve your gas mileage by more than 3 percent. Every gallon of gas you save not only helps your budget, it also keeps 20 pounds of carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere.

Leave your car at home at least two days a week (walk, bike or take public transportation to work instead).

CO2 reduction = 1,590 lbs/year

7. Plant a Tree

Plant leafy trees around your house to provide wind-breaks and summer shade. Each year, the average yard tree cleans 330 pounds of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. An average tree absorbs ten pounds of pollutants from the air each year, including four pounds of ground level ozone and three pounds of particulates.

8. Buy Local

As much as possible, buy local produce and other goods. The fewer miles your fruits and vegetables have traveled, the less energy has been used for refrigeration and transportation. Whenever possible, select organic produce. The pesticides used to kill pests also kill the organisms that help keep carbon dioxide in the soil.

9. Stand Tall

Yes, your individual actions do add up! But with more consumer choices — such as the option to buy your electricity from renewable sources, more and less expensive hybrid car model, among others — we can have an even greater impact. But we won't be successful in reducing global warming pollution without major changes in the kinds of energy we use and an economic system that depends on a high rate of wasteful consumption. These changes will come about only if you act. You can do a lot to support the work

of local, state, and national governments to curb global warming. Stay informed, write letters to your leaders, and support those candidates who promise to take the aggressive and farsighted actions necessary to curb global warming.

10. Cut emissions in your yard.

Gasoline mowers are big polluters and greenhouse gas emitters. In one hour, a conventional lawn mower produces as much pollution as 40 late-model cars driving for the same amount of time. Try a manual or cordless electric mower, or be sure to tune up and maintain your gas mower so it runs with fewer emissions. Reduce the amount of lawn you need to mow by planting native species of ground covers, plants and wildflowers, or vegetables — that's better for birds too! Plant trees for shade, CO2 absorption and improved air quality. Mulch gardens with pesticide free clippings. Take your yard organic and eliminate chemical inputs of pesticides and fertilizers. Nitrous oxide, a byproduct of nitrogen-based fertilizers, is a potent greenhouse gas.