

Ixia e-news

Volume 1, Issue 2

March 5, 2007

Special points of interest:

- **Native Plant Fair** — March 31, 2007 at Westside Regional Park from 9 am to 12 pm.
- **March Fieldtrip:** Members are encouraged to attend the Native Plant Fair. Nature trails are available for observing native plant communities in Westside Regional Park. We will also be training members on how to identify invasive exotic pest plants.

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Ixia Chapter Conservation Committee Update

Controlling bad plants

The Conservation Committee has been busy this winter working with partners like The Nature Conservancy, Audubon, and the Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens on removing invasive plants in Duval, Nassau and Clay counties.

The Nature Conservancy's January 20th Air Potato Roundup was a huge success with over 100 volunteers working at six sites to remove air potato vine. Over 400 pounds of air potato bulbils were collected in this inaugural event. Plans for a 2008 event are already underway and the Ixia Chapter will continue to coordinate with next years plans.

Spreading the news!

The Conservation Committee has also been working with The Nature Conservancy to hold the first NEFL Native Plant Fair on March 31st at Westside Regional Park on Roosevelt Boulevard in Duval County.

The event will be a larger version of Gardenfest with The Nature Conservancy giving

away 560 native one gallon plants and providing educational talks on the threat of invasive species, promoting Natives for your Neighborhood and other Florida friendly gardening practices, and having various education displays on local resources promoting sustainable gardening.

The Ixia Chapter will be helping staff this event and will have both an education booth and will do a talk on Natives for your Neighborhood.

Ixia Chapter Volunteers Needed: Please contact tgramajo@tnc.org to sign up!

AlterNatives!

The Conservation Committee will also submit a funding proposal to the FNPS Chapter to help fund an "Alternatives Brochure for NEFL" to promote native alternative plants to replace common invasive plants like Tallow and Chinaberry.

March and April General Meetings (see page 4 for location, time)

The speaker at our March 15 Meeting, Jake Ingram, Landscape Architect and Ixia's Chapter Representative to the State FNPS Board, will present a slide show entitled:

"Before, During and After: the conversion of a front yard to Florida Natives."

Members are also encouraged to bring native plants and seeds to sell, swap and trade.

No General Meeting next month on April 19, 2007, due to Annual FNPS Conference in Gainesville.

The Ixia chapter monthly membership meeting will not be held in April, due to the annual FNPS Conference in Gainesville from April 19-22, 2007. Ixia members are encouraged to attend this highly recommended conference!

Northeast Florida Native Plant Fair 2007

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and Ixia Chapter to hold the first Northeast Florida Native Plant Fair on March 31st from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm at Tillie K. Fowler Regional Park (aka - Westside Regional Park) at 7000 Roosevelt Boulevard, Jacksonville, Florida 32244.

TNC will be giving away 560 native one gallon pot sized plants and, along with the help of Ixia Chapter members, providing educational talks on the threat of invasive species, promoting Natives for your Neighborhood and other Florida friendly gardening practices, and having various education displays on local resources promoting sustainable gardening.

Native Plant Fair Volunteers Needed:

Please Email tgramajo@tnc.org



Cedar snag at Cedar Point Preserve in Duval County

Egans Creek Greenway Volunteers Needed

The Watershed Action Volunteer coordinator for Nassau County is looking for a volunteer to help with animal and plant surveys in the Egans Creek Greenway.

Do you know of anyone who would be interested/available/capable? Please feel free to forward this on.

If you would like to volunteer, please e-mail Paula Staples (wavnassau@sjrwmd.com) or call her at 838-8116.

“looking for volunteers to help with animal and plant surveys in the Egans Creek Greenway”

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?

**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 Chap-
ter 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: *Lycium carolinianum* (LY-see-um kair-oh-lin-ee-AN-um)



Lycium carolinianum

Christmasberry (common name) is a super salt- and drought-tolerant plant. It grows along dunes and at the edges of salt ponds throughout the southeastern U.S. in Zones 7-11. Like other members of the nightshade family **Solanaceae** (so-lan-AY-see-ay), christmasberry has a vine-like, cascading growth habit. It generally reaches a height of about 7 feet or so before the branches become heavy and start to droop, eventually cascading to the ground, and sending out new roots to stabilize itself.

New plants develop from secondary branches and the whole plant moves itself along the ground. This is just the effect

you want next to your seawall, or across your dunes.

The photograph on the left was taken at Cedar Point Preserve in Duval County. There you can see large stands of christmasberry above the edges of surrounding-saltmarsh communities. Look for an Ixia chapter field trip to Cedar Point sometime in 2007/2008.