

Native Plant Society Meeting  
9 Dec 09

Participants:

Pat Born  
James Burkhalter  
Betty Ellis  
Amy Hines  
Dave Hines  
Cheryl Jones - Chapter Representative  
Leland Leonard  
Brenda & Richard Mason  
Leah McCue - Field Trip Leader  
Mike McGrath  
Janet Nestlerode – Speaker Coordinator  
Mickey Quigley  
Donald Ray – Field Trip Leader  
Terry Wallace  
Barbara Albrecht – Chapter Secretary

The Longleaf Chapter of the Native Plant Society convened their monthly meeting in Dec 2009 and combined this meeting with their annual holiday plant swap and party. Amy Hines introduced herself as the newly elected president of the chapter and proceeded to present a vision for growing the chapter, organizing and hosting monthly plant walks, and various opportunities to work within the community. In addition, the chapter membership have been solicited to help document the history of the Longleaf Chapter by recalling past members and presidents, locating photos from past activities and field trips, identifying community projects and information on the founding members. Members were provided with a list of ideas to help remind them of past events and are encouraged to bring their memories/photo's/handouts/etc. to the Jan 2010 Meeting. *[Previous presidents and potential founders of NPS include Rick Harter and Eric Schneider]*

Monthly meetings will be organized to address business issues first before presentations are begun. Presentation will be between 30-45 min. Many attendees voiced the need to 'learn' at meetings as well as to socialize. Attendees were asked if meeting on the second Thursday of the month worked for their schedules, and most agreed that it does.

J. Nestlerode suggested the NPS Board write a grant to receive funding to cover costs of bringing in speakers for monthly presentations. Another suggestion was to write grants to cover the cost of a laptop and a PowerPoint projector, but the new Tryon Library has agreed to allow use of their IT equipment for these meetings.

The first meeting of the year will be 14 Jan 2010 and will feature a presentation on prescribed fire and its effects on the landscape. J. Nestlerode is attempting to secure additional speakers so that information may be posted on the website. Ideas for speakers include Pensacola Growers, Eleanor Williams, and perhaps Larry McDonald.

Upcoming activities include:

- Revisiting Eleanor William's property now that it has matured;

- Visit the Herbarium at UWF during the last Sat in March;
- Revisiting Terry Wallace's Molino property during the 1<sup>st</sup> week in April;
- Hike and explore steephead systems in Blackwater River State Forest & Eglin AFB;
- Hike and explore the Garcon Point Trail;
- Hike and explore the Gulf Islands National Seashore Naval Live Oaks;
- Revisit the Arcadia Mill in Santa Rosa County;
- Hike and explore Tarkiln Bayou;
- Revisit bay Cliff Preserve;
- Continue the Members Yard Tours Program;
- Coordinate with other Chapters to the east & west to expand our knowledge base and see new areas; and
- Hike and explore the Ed Ball Nature Preserve.

A community based project which was discussed at length was the incorporation of native plants for all Habitat for Humanity houses built in the panhandle. At one time, this concept was discussed and approached for the Pensacola Region where over 600 homes have been built under the Habitat Honor.