



the Tarflower

The Tarflower Chapter of the Native Plant Society



Volume: XXVII September 2010 ISSUE

SEPTEMBER 7 PROGRAM — Annual Potluck Social (starting at 6pm)!

September 7 at 6pm is our annual Potluck supper! Join us for games, good food and F-U-N!

The chapter will provide cold cuts, cheeses and drinks. Members and their guests are invited to come and bring a dish to share. Get out those favorite recipes! Non-cooks can bring breads, rolls or their favorite snacks.

Sharpen your minds for Plant Jeopardy and Plant ID contests. (No matter your skill level — we've got an Easy, Hard and Invasives contest!)

Everyone who shows up will receive one free raffle ticket. Each table will have a drawing for its potted plant centerpiece, courtesy of Mike Mingea and Green Images.

Please be kind to the earth and bring your own plate, cup and utensils. And please note that this evening begins at 6pm, an hour earlier than our usual meeting time.

FUTURE PROGRAMS

October 5: Gardening for Native Pollinators with Tracey McCommon

November 2: Fakahatchee with Dennis Giardina

UPCOMING FIELD TRIP

October 9: Return to Seminole State Forest, the Claspig Warea tract — Just in time for blooming!

SEPTEMBER FIELD TRIP *by John Cento*

Oakland Nature Preserve — Experience the Transformation Sunday, September 12th

After a wonderful coastal adventure last month, the Tarflower chapter is heading inland to a preserve close to home and close to the hearts of several members: Oakland Nature Preserve. The beautiful 128-acre preserve has a 2/3-mile boardwalk leading through natural wetlands to a covered pavilion on Lake Apopka. In addition, there are numerous hiking trails leading through its oak and pine forests, habitat gardens and a gorgeous, sustainably built visitor center — complete with a microscope laboratory, live animal exhibits, a cultural/natural history museum and 40-person lecture hall.

Several chapter members have devoted considerable time and effort towards the restoration of this conservation area on the south shore of Lake Apopka. During this field trip, we will enjoy the flora and learn about the progress and challenges ahead for this preserve on the western edge of Orange County. Biologist in residence Clayton Ferrara, as well as Tarflower members dedicated to the preserve's mission will provide field trip participants with an in-depth, guided walk unavailable to the general public. Bring a picnic lunch and enjoy conversation with fellow chapter members, recounting the morning's adventure.

We will meet on Sunday, September 12th at the preserve's new nature center at 9:00am. Please note: this is a Sunday field trip.

Please check periodically for a plant list to be posted on our chapter's website for downloading and study before the trip.

The Oakland Nature Preserve (ONP) is located near the town of Oakland, which is located in Orange County between the towns of Winter Garden and Clermont,
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FIELD TRIP TO NEW SMYRNA BEACH by Pete Dunkelberg (all photos by Pete Dunkelberg)

This was our first field trip to the coast in quite awhile and it was as multi-featured as you cared to make it. The main attraction was a boat tour in the afternoon to learn some Indian River Lagoon ecology and history. Earlier and later activities were a la carte.

I went with an adventuresome group made up of myself, Chuck Roux, his wife Sarah and their daughter Cindy, and James Liao. Cindy was our very fine driver for the day. We started early to take in as much as we could. Our first stop was Canaveral National Seashore's Turtle Mound, a sixty-foot high shell mound left behind by some hungry Timucuan Indians. As we learned from the guide, the Timucuans liked to come to the area in the winter and enjoy the plentiful seafood. Happily, one of their largest refuse mounds was preserved against our road-building use.



Railroad vine (*Ipomoea pes-caprae*)

long as the parking spots were all taken. We drove back up the road and found a spot to park and see the beach and beach plants. The plants included sea grapes, sea oats, railroad vine (a beach morning glory, *Ipomoea pes-caprae*,



Beachelder (*Iva imbricata*)

named for its goat foot-shaped leaves) and one of the plants I was hoping to find, beachelder (*Iva imbricata*), a low shrub with very succulent, salty leaves that you would enjoy in a salad.

We took a winding boardwalk to the top. We couldn't scamper about on the shells directly as the mound is thickly overgrown with coastal plants.

Next, we went to the end of the road and took a look around — but not for long as the parking spots were all taken. We drove back up the road and found a spot to park and see the beach and beach plants. The plants included sea grapes, sea oats, railroad vine (a beach morning glory, *Ipomoea pes-caprae*, named for its goat foot-shaped leaves) and one of the plants I was hoping to find, beachelder (*Iva imbricata*), a low shrub with very succulent, salty leaves that you would enjoy in a salad.

We soon went on to have some time at Eldora, or what is left of it. Eldora was an entire Caucasian village in the 1800s, with an economy based on trade, fishing and citrus. After a citrus-killing freeze in the late 1800s, the economy collapsed and everyone moved away. We saw a fine, well-preserved old

house with historic photos and artifacts and of course, the surrounding plants. These included mangroves and the other Iva I was seeking, *Iva frutescens*, the marshelder. This is a larger, sturdier plant than the beachelder, and the leaves aren't so tasty.



View from Turtle Mound.

We left Eldora, made a second stop at the CNS Visitors' Center, and when we could separate everyone from the air conditioning, went back to the Marine Discovery Center for our picnic lunch and Boat trip. On the boat trip we learned more about the coastal ecology, plants, people and creatures. We paid a lot of attention to small islands in the Indian River Lagoon. The smallest islands are used by many seabirds and wading birds for nesting. Why not the larger islands as well? The smallest islands are completely covered with mangroves. Mangroves, with their

thickly branching limbs, make a very good place for nests and are difficult for predators. The larger islands have some higher, not quite so salty territory and are heavily infested with Brazilian pepper. This is not as good a base for a nest, and makes it easier for a terrestrial predator. The birds don't like it. In the spring and early summer, many bird species nest on the small islands, but by mid August, almost all but the pelicans are finished nesting. So we saw lots of pelicans, including young on the nest.

Back on shore, we talked in the shade of the thatched roof pavilion for a while and then my carload went in search of the park at the north end of the island by

Ponce Inlet. We found a very nice park with over a mile of boardwalk and lots of beach. Of course there were more mangroves, sea oats and Ivas. The Ponce Inlet lighthouse was visible across the inlet. A heavy rain finally convinced us to leave.



Birdwatching



Ponce Inlet

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR 2011 FNPS CONFERENCE!

The 2011 FNPS Conference, *Patios, Preserves and Public Spaces – Making Connections*, will be held in Maitland and will be co-hosted by the Tarflower chapter. Volunteers are needed to assist in the Chapter booth, with registration and field trips and with the youth program. Photographers and A/V room monitors are also needed. For details including time/shift commitments, please contact Jenny Welch, 2011 Conference Committee Chair at mwelch@cfl.rr.com or Phyllis Gray, 2011 Conference Committee Vice Chair at psgray@mactec.com. The next meeting of the conference committee will be held on Saturday, September 11, 2010 at 10am at Mactec (4150 N. John Young Parkway, Orlando, FL 32804).

DEADLINE FOR FAITC TEACHER GRANTS IS OCTOBER 1

General education teachers who teach pre-kindergarten through 12th grade in Florida are encouraged to apply for Florida Agriculture in the Classroom Inc.'s 2010-11 Teacher Grant program.

The deadline for applications is October 1. The application and guidelines are on the organization's web site at <http://www.agtag.org>.

Projects that educate students about Florida agriculture are required, and can include school gardens, alternative growing system projects and other agriculture-related programs. Descriptions of teacher grant projects funded in the past can also be found on Florida Agriculture in the Classroom's web site.

Florida Agriculture in the Classroom is a Gainesville-based, non-profit organization charged with educating students about where their food, fiber and fuel comes from and is funded by sales of the agriculture specialty license plate called the "Ag Tag."

For more information, visit their website at <http://www.agtag.org> or contact Lisa Gaskalla at gaskalla@ufl.edu or (352) 846-1391.

BOTANICAL CAPACITY ASSESSMENT PROJECT COMPLETE

The botanical capacity assessment project report is now finished. You are encouraged to visit www.bgci.org/usa/bcap to download the report and review its recommendations. We hope this report will be useful to individuals in the government, academic and private sectors in demonstrating the importance of plants and the need for appropriate capacity in botanical education, research and management nationwide.

Many thanks to all who contributed to this project – including more than 1500 survey respondents, 30 workshop participants and numerous report reviewers.

UCF LAUNCHES FIRST FNPS STUDENT CHAPTER

On 14 August, 2010, The Florida Native Plant Society Board of Directors voted to approve a petition for a new Student Chapter of FNPS at the University of Central Florida (UCF). Courtney Knickerbocker is the proposed Student Chapter President and Dr. Reed Noss will be the Faculty Advisor. Since the Tarflower Chapter is the closest, we are looking for a member to help mentor this new Student Chapter. This is the first Student Chapter for FNPS in the state. If any Tarflower member is interested in helping this new chapter, please let Catherine Boman know at garberia08@gmail.com.

VOLUNTEER AND HELP FNPS AT NEXT MONTH'S LANDSCAPE SHOW

AFNN and FNPS are completing a survey and desperately need people to help ask people questions, complete the surveys and help man the FNPS booth at The Landscape Show, September 23, 24 and 25 at the Orange County Convention Center. Volunteers will receive free admission to the show (however, parking at the Convention Center is \$10 per day).

The Landscape Show, sponsored by the Florida Nursery, Growers and Landscape Association, features over 200,000 square feet of trees, shrubs, equipment and more from over 500 exhibiting companies. In addition to the extensive trade show, numerous events promoting certification, industry and government surround The Landscape Show. For more information about The Landscape Show, visit www.thelandscape.org.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Kariena Veaudry at executivedirector@fnps.org ASAP!

September Field Trip, continued from page 1

west of the greater Orlando area, along the southern shore of Lake Apopka. ONP can be reached via SR 438 (Oakland Avenue) between the West Orange Trail and Lake Apopka. The preserve shares an entrance with a large church on the right hand side of the road. The closest Turnpike exit to ONP is exit 272 (Winter Garden, Clermont exit). The street address is 747 Machete Trail, but most internet map services will not show this address, so use the intersection of Jefferson Street and W. Oakland Avenue, Oakland, FL 34760, which is one block from the preserve. From this point, head west about 500 feet on Oakland Avenue to Machete Trail.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact John Cento by email: jjcentocpa@hotmail.com or at (407) 913-2417.



FLORIDA WILDFLOWER SYMPOSIUM SET FOR SEPTEMBER 25

The Florida Wildflower Foundation's 2010 Wildflower Symposium and Plant Sale on September 25 will feature presentations on flowering native shrubs for landscapes, butterfly and pollinator plants, using wildflowers in landscapes, and wildflower advocacy. The event will be from 9am to 4pm at the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs headquarters, 1400 S. Denning Drive, Winter Park.

A native plant and seed sale will give participants the opportunity to take home many of the wildflowers and grasses they learn about. Seed mixes, plants, gardening utensils and ornaments, books and art also will be up for bids during a silent auction. Proceeds from the event will benefit native wildflower research, planting and education.

Symposium admission is free for FWF members and \$5 for non-members. (Membership can be confirmed by emailing Lisa Roberts at lroberts@flawildflowers.org. To join today, visit http://www.floridawildflowerfoundation.org/join_us.html.) Box lunches are available for \$5. Lunches must be ordered by September 18 when registering online; they will not be sold during the event.

Space for the symposium is limited; those interested in attending are encouraged to register online by visiting www.floridawildflowerfoundation.org. We look forward to seeing you there!

EAT, DRINK & BE MERRY!

A big thanks to those members who have brought refreshments to the past three meetings.
June: Jackie Rolly, Susan Ledbetter and Nancy Renfro
July: John Cento, Carolina Lane and Lee suberman
August: Anne Vogt, John Hall and Pete Dunkelberg

At our September meeting, be sure to sign up for one of the next four meetings. Your participation is greatly appreciated.

MANGROVES by *Pete Dunkelberg*

There are many species of mangrove throughout the tropics, and they are not, in general, related to each other at all, except that they are all trees. A number of them are in the same genus as our red mangrove, but others are not.



red mangrove prop roots

Mangroves are an ecotype. They are very tough trees that can grow right out in salt water and hold the coast together against the strongest storms. In the tropics, they can be much larger than the mangroves we know here in Florida. In fact, our mangroves get smaller and smaller and disappear altogether before Jacksonville. North of the mangroves, we get *Spartina* marshes instead.

We have three common species, known as the red, black and white mangroves, and they are easy to tell apart. The red mangroves (*Rhizophora mangle*) are the toughest and grow farthest out in the water. The send down prop roots and also drop long seedlings from their branches. Next come the black mangroves, easily recognized by the pneumatophores that grow up from their roots to help the roots get oxygen. Just back on the shore we see the white mangroves. These can always be recognized by the little glands on the leaf petiole near the leaf blade.



white mangrove leaf



black mangrove pneumatophores

RAISE FUNDS FOR FNPS THROUGH ON-LINE SEARCHING AND SHOPPING WITH GOODSEARCH AND GOODSHOP

What if FNPS earned a donation every time you searched the Internet? Or how about if a percentage of every purchase you made online went to support our cause? Well, now it can!

GoodSearch.com is a Yahoo-powered search engine that donates half its advertising revenue, about a penny per search, to the charities its users designate. Use it just as you would any search engine, get quality search results from Yahoo and watch the donations add up!



To search the web using GoodSearch and support FNPS, just go to www.goodsearch.com, choose Florida Native Plant Society – Melbourne from the pull-down menu (or type it in the “Who Do You GoodSearch For?” field) and complete your search. You will be helping FNPS financially without spending a penny.

GoodShop.com is an online shopping mall that donates up to 20 percent of each purchase to your favorite cause! Hundreds of great stores including Amazon, Target, Gap, Best Buy, eBay, Macy’s and Barnes & Noble have teamed up with GoodShop and every time you place an order, you’ll be supporting your favorite cause. From the same website, click on GoodShop, select or enter Florida Native Plant Society – Melbourne and start shopping. It’s that easy!



And if you download the GoodSearch – Florida Native Plant Society – Melbourne toolbar, our cause will earn money every time you shop and search online — even if you forget to go to GoodShop or GoodSearch first! Add the FNPS toolbar at www.goodsearch.com/toolbar/florida-native-plant-society-melbourne.

HAVE YOU CHECKED OUT OUR BLOG?

The FNPS blog is your source for native plant news. FNPS’ team of great writers, The Jolly Bloggers, will cover a wide range of topics. They will talk about native plants and how to use them in your landscape. They’ll tell you where the good places are to see native plants. They’ll let you know about ways FNPS is working with legislators and local governments — and how you can help. The blog is also your source for links to other informative blogs as well as books on native plants and other resources. So visit it, bookmark it, subscribe to it... just check it out — and often! Visit the blog at <http://fnpsblog.blogspot.com/>.

HURRICANE PREPARATION STILL NECESSARY by Chuck Roux

I was surprised on June 16 of this year when, at about 11:30am, I heard a loud crash I thought that something had landed on the roof. There was no wind. I went out and climbed a ladder and saw nothing on the roof. My wife, Sarah, came out and quickly pointed out the problem. There was a large (13 inch diameter) living live oak limb on the corner of the lot under the neighbor’s tree, which is at least 100 years old. We were lucky because the debris edge was more than 30 feet from the house, but not so lucky as the branches took down the electric wires and meter box. The TV cable (not used) and telephone wires were also down yet the electric and phone lines were still connected! The electric had to be upgraded to code so we got off easy with a better installation and paid only the deductible on insurance. But damage is still possible if the tree breaks again.

I had previously wanted to take the tree out for other reasons, but that would have been too expensive and I really didn’t think it could hit the house. (I can take it out because all of it hangs over my yard and it has other damage, but I never expected this.) I’ve been proclaiming that live oaks are so much better than laurel and so-called “water” oaks — and I still know so.

Here is why this happened — and these are things to consider in *your* hurricane preparation. 1) Spanish moss, *Tillandsia usneoides*, is more abundant than I have ever seen in this area (after 1960) and this tree was loaded. 2) It had rained the day before and the moss was still very heavy. 3) Hurricane Charley knocked this area around and may have contributed in some way although not evident. 4) There was a small knothole above the break that had let in water, which produced some rot. 5) There was an insect borehole 1/2 inch in diameter in the break area and in a smaller limb. Still, there was no real prior reason to predict this would happen.

Consider *your* trees and yard, though, and you may see reasons to take action. Tell your neighbor if you see something on their property that needs action. (There are rules governing what you can cut coming over your yard from the neighbor’s yard and what falls on your yard that you should learn, but I’m not the one to relay them.) There are advertisements in the *Orlando Sentinel* for tree work wanted. I think there might be many qualified people needing work, so now may be easier than previous years. I can recommend the person that cleaned up my mess if you are interested.

Local Native Nurseries

Biosphere Consulting Inc
(407) 656-8277
14908 Tilden Rd
Winter Garden, FL 34787

BB Brown's Gardens
(352) 429-5566
Montevista Rd
Clermont, FL 34711

Green Images
(407) 568-1333
Taylor Creek Rd
Christmas, FL

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|--------|--------------------------|
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| \$40 | Family/Household |
| \$50 | Contributing/ Non-Profit |
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| \$1000 | Life |
| \$15 | Full-time Student |
| \$15 | Library or School |

Make checks payable to:
Florida Native Plant Society
P.O. Box 278
Melbourne, FL 32902-0278
Phone: 321-271-6702

SOCIETY NEWS:

Chapter Meetings

Chapter meetings are held the first Tuesday each month at **HARRY P. LEU GARDENS**, (1920 N. Forest Avenue, Orlando). The next meeting is **Tuesday September 7 at 6:00 P.M.** See you there! (For directions, call 407-246-2620 option 1)

Executive Committee

The next board meeting will be August 12, 2010. For more information, contact Catherine Bowman. Members are welcome to attend.

Tarpaper Online!

Current and past issues of the Tarpaper can be viewed on line by accessing the chapter web site through FNPS.org. Click on Chapters -> Tarflower and follow the instructions to the tarpaper!



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