

May
2012



Newsletter of the Palm Beach County Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society



**Barley Barber Swamp
Field Trip Report**
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Palm Beach County Chapter

May Chapter Meeting

Tuesday, May 15 7:30 - 9:00 pm (doors open at 7)
University of Florida/IFAS Mounts Building Auditorium
531 North Military Trail, West Palm Beach

Palm Beach County Chapter's Annual Native Plant Auction and Silent Auction

Don't miss this exciting opportunity to enhance your landscape with premium native plants and support your local FNPS chapter at the same time!

The meeting will start at 7:30 with the auction beginning shortly thereafter. There will be both a live auction and a silent auction where not only unusual and rare native plants will be available but also other items that are of interest to native plant and gardening enthusiasts.

Michael Manna and Rufino Osorio, long-time chapter members with experience growing a wide variety of native plants, will be on hand to describe this year's plant offerings and to answer any questions. Michael Bodle is scheduled to be our auctioneer, a task to which he brings his entertaining style and humorous wit.

Themes for this unique event include:

Ancient Plants - Edible Plants - Palms - Butterfly Plants

A complete list of plant auction items can be found in the insert

Members.... don't forget to bring your garden-related items for donation to the silent auction. Please come early (around 7pm) so items can be displayed.

***Free Admission • Refreshments
Public Welcome • No Reservations Needed***

The Florida Native Plant Society promotes the preservation of our native flora through education and conservation. To attract wildlife, promote water conservation and prevent the further introduction of non-native pest plants, the society encourages the cultivation of nursery-propagated Florida native plants and promotes their use as ornamentals in public and private landscapes.

Membership Update

Our chapter has 165 members as of May 1st, 2012. We have 3 new members this month. Warm welcomes to UMA BHATTI, SALLY LEYENBERGER, and MR. & MRS. PABLO ROLDAN.

12 memberships renewed or rejoined in APRIL. Renewing or rejoining individual members are JESTENA BOUGHTON, RAY CARANCI, LANA EDWARDS, DAWN SINKA, JOANN JOLLEY, DAVID W. LEI, CELIO MOYA, and JOE ERHARDT. Our renewing family members are ALICE BOJANOWSKI & MICHAEL SOBCZAK, and MIKE GLADSTONE. Our renewing business members are Four Jays Consulting Inc (JAMIE ROTHENBERG) and NATIVE GREEN CAY (MIKE AND SYLVIA JAMESON).



Membership at a Glance

Business	5
Contributing	6
Donor or Family	32
Individual	108
Library	1
Life	2
Not for profit	4
Student	4
Supporting	3
<hr/>	
Total	165

Chapter Notes

PBC Chapter Meeting April 17, 2012

Submitted by Cathy Beals, Secretary



Our fascinating program at the April 17 meeting about Barley Barber Swamp was given by Chuck Barrowclough, Executive Director of Treasured Lands. The Swamp is located in Martin County, and was originally preserved by Florida Power and Light in 1980. It is a 400-acre freshwater wetland area and we were treated to some very interesting folklore about a trapper/homesteader in the late 1800's by the name of "Barley Barber." Chuck also reminded us that "outside is still the best place to play!"

Thanks to Volunteers

To **Stephanie Duncan** for keeping the building open between Mounts closing and meeting time and **Cathy Beals** for evening meeting refreshments

To our newsletter editor, **Winnie Said** and our newsletter publishers/distributors: **Myrna Sossner and Nancy Sloane**

To all the volunteers who donated plants and staffed our FNPS booth at Naturescaping on April 14 (see article)

To **Carl Terwilliger** who did an outstanding job organizing and coordinating our April 22 native yard tour.

To **Steve Chase and Jackie Kadish** for garden maintenance on Saturday, April 21 and **Cathy Beals** for garden maintenance at MacArthur Beach State Park (the newly installed butterfly garden) for two Sundays in April.

And to all our generous plant donors:

Ryan Leavengood, Susan Lerner, Steve Evans, Jeff and Susan (Native Choice Nursery) and Lindy Cerar (leftover Naturescaping plants). Donated plants included Yellowtop, Pencil flower, Scorpion tail, Blue curls, Elliots Love grass, Bearsfoot, Lantana, Pineland heliotrope, Goldenrod, Dahoon holly, Simpson Stopper, Trumpet vine, Wax Myrtle, Snowberry, Paradise tree, and Beautyberry.

Chapter notes continued on page 4

Gardening with the Natives

by Jeff Nurge

Mastic (*Sideroxylon foetidissimum*)

Why we like it: The Mastic, only found in Florida in the United States, is one of our large native trees growing to 50 to 60 feet tall on average. The Florida state champ is 118 feet tall! It is much taller than broader with an irregular but rounded crown. The evergreen leaves are shiny and range from dark green to yellowish-green. The mastic flowers are inconspicuous but soon give way to yellow-orange berries that are about 1 inch long. The fruits attract a wide variety of birds and wildlife. The tree is nearly pest free except for the occasional occurrence of the gall



insect. This does not hurt the tree and is quite frankly a sign of a healthy tree.

How to grow it: Don't start this tree out in partial shade. The Mastic loves full sun and lots of it. It grows naturally in tropical hardwood hammocks where it is an important canopy tree. Once established it is highly drought tolerant and does not need any supplemental watering. The tree will thrive in a wide variety of soils provided it is in an area that drains well. Growth rate is moderate. Plant in an open area where shade is desired and away from driveways, decks and walkways as the falling berries will leave a mess. Propagation is by seed.

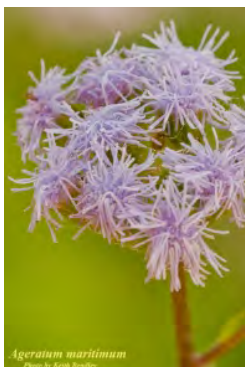
Where to buy it: This plant is available at native nurseries, including Meadowbeauty Nursery in Lake Worth. To find other nurseries that carry it, visit the association of Florida Native Nurseries at www.afnn.org, but don't stop there. The site provides only a snapshot of the offerings at local nurseries, so call around..

--Jeff Nurge WWW.FloridaNativeGardening.com

Plants Wanted

Rufino Osorio is seeking seeds, cuttings, or plants of *Ageratum maritimum* (synonym: *Ageratum littorale*) and *Ocimum campechianum* (wild basil). If you have either of these, please contact him at

rosorio@sfwmd.gov
or 561 682-6261.



Ageratum maritimum
Photo by Keith Smith



Ocimum campechianum
Propagated by Rufino Osorio
Wildflowers of the Everglades

CONTRIBUTIONS WANTED FOR THE DAHOON

We are always interested in original native plant articles, essays, field reports, photos, event announcements, or other articles of interest.

We are also interested in your suggestions for improved content.

Send us an email!
dahooned@gmail.com

**Barley Barber Swamp Field Trip
May 5, 2012**

submitted by Stephanie Duncan

Twenty of us met at the Seminole Inn in Indiantown where Chuck Barrowclough, Executive Director of Treasured Lands Foundation, loaded us on the bus for a 12 mile drive to the Swamp. While on the bus we saw a video about the Swamp and the efforts to reopen it after it was closed as a result of 9/11. Luck was with us on the way in and we got to see a majestic Bald Eagle standing sentinel, as well as an alligator with three of her yearlings.



The 400 acres that encompass the Swamp is on FPL property who, along with Treasured Lands Foundation, works to preserve the Swamp for all of us to enjoy and get a glimpse of the real Florida.

Chuck shared his love and passion of the Swamp with us as we walked the mile long boardwalk. We saw a Bald Cypress that is over 1000 years old, stands 88 ft tall, and has a circumference of 33 ft.



We saw ET and a wart hog – actually they were Cypress knees that school children have named. We viewed a 16 foot tall sand Indian Mound while listening to the theories as to how the Indians transported the sand from the beach 30 miles to the Swamp.



Continued on page 8

Chapter Notes (cont.)

**McArthur Beach State Park NatureScaping
April 14, 2012**

The weather was great and, even though there were a lot of other events going on in Palm Beach County at the same time, attendance was up by 8% from 2011 for the McArthur Beach State Park NatureScaping 2012. Once again, we participated as a sponsor.



Our booth display included our new FNPS Banner, Native Plant & FNPS literature, and plants for sale donated by our members **Lindy Cerar, Lynn and Darryl Sweetay, Gene and Sue Sanchez, Carrie Kalanich, Steven Evans and Stephanie Duncan**. **Lindy Cerar** coordinated our booth and with her volunteers **Jackie Kadish, Steven Chase, Judy Trammel, Lynn Cox, Lynn Sweetay, Deborah Crawford, Cathy Beals and Stephanie Duncan** helped answer the many questions from the public regarding which plants would be best for their gardens.

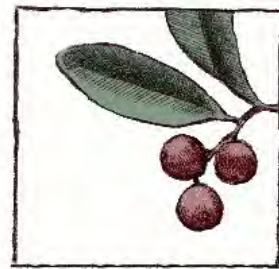
It was very rewarding to see how much interest the butterfly garden generated. This garden was recently planted by PBC FNPS volunteers. (see April Dahoon article).

Special thanks go to **Lindy** for spearheading the Butterfly Garden project as well as being the coordinator for our NatureScaping booth for the last several years.



submitted by Stephanie Duncan

Upcoming Chapter Events



Tuesday, May 15- Chapter Meeting: Palm Beach County Chapter's Annual Native Plant Auction and Silent Auction

7:30 - 9:00pm (doors open at 7pm)
Mounts Botanical Garden
531 North Military Trail, W Palm Beach FL 33415

Saturday, May 19- Volunteer Event: Native Plant Demo Garden Maintenance

Location: Clayton Hutchenson Building at Mounts Botanical Garden, West Palm Beach
Come and learn from experts as you help us maintain our Native Plant Demonstration Garden. It's a great opportunity to ask questions, identify plants and take home cuttings for your garden. Work parties are held on the Saturday following our monthly meetings. Drop by anytime between 9:00 am and noon to learn, socialize and enjoy brunch in the open air. Don't forget to bring your garden tools!

May 17-20- FNPS 32nd Annual Spring Conference: Preserving the Natural Heart of Florida

Hosted by the Suncoast and Hernando Chapters

At the Hillsborough Community College Plant City Campus
John R. Trinkle Center
1206 North Park Road
Plant City, FL 33563
Phone: (813) 757-2180
Fax: (813) 707-7008

Check out the conference information at www.fnps.org.

Tuesday, June 19 - Chapter Meeting: Plant This, Not That: Native Replacements for Common Exotic Landscape Plants -Ryan Leavengood, Director-at-Large

7:30 - 9:00pm
Mounts Botanical Garden
531 North Military Trail, W Palm Beach FL 33415

*Free Admission • Refreshments • Native Plant Drawing
Public Welcome • No Reservations Needed*

Save the Date.....



Coming in July The Great Palm Beach Trade-Off

The July chapter meeting (7/17) will feature a plant exchange!
Start now selecting and growing the plant(s) you will bring to trade.

Other Events

RISK AND RESPONSE: Sea Level Rise Summit, the Future of Florida and the Coast

June 20 – 22, 2012

Boca Raton Marriott, 5150 Town Center Circle, Boca Raton, Florida 33486

"Forty percent of the nation's sea level rise risk is in Florida," Ben Strauss, Climate Central. Projections even for the short-range future, suggest a steadily growing threat to Florida's infrastructure and ecological treasures. Salt water intrusion into coastal aquifers, failure of vital drainage canals, and periodic flooding at high tides are already newspaper headlines. This summit will focus on the complex sea level rise issues in Florida and provide examples from other coastal regions within the US and internationally.

Call For Posters: Online submission. Deadline May 23rd

Poster Session and Pre-Summit Panel – Wednesday afternoon, June 20th

This session will focus on the issues surrounding effective climate change related communication.

An experienced panel of media representatives scientists, authors, and climate change communication experts will tackle this timely and important topic.

Special screening of the award winning movie: There Once Was an Island

Plenary and Panel Discussions – Thursday and Friday, June 21-22

Plenary Discussion topics:

- o Sea Level Rise and Florida: A complex and unique relationship
- o Managing Risk: Organizing for an uncertain future

Panel Discussion Topics:

- o Economic Implications: From Insurance to Tourism
- o Impacts on Built Environments: Water Utilities and Transportation
- o Collaboration: Organizational Structures
- o Public Engagement: Communication, Outreach, and Education

Early Registration discount through June 1, 2012

<http://www.ces.fau.edu/SLR2012>

Coordinated by the Florida Center for Environmental Studies, Florida Atlantic University

Restoration Report

THE AMAZING STORY OF THE SNOOK ISLANDS NATURAL AREA MARITIME HARDWOOD HAMMOCK RESTORATION PROJECT

by David Niemi, Planting Coordinator

The Snook Islands Maritime Hardwood Hammock was created through a public-private-volunteer partnership that was inspired and implemented by the Snook Islands Volunteers on Lake Worth Lagoon (SIV-LWL).

The public use facilities at the Snook Islands Natural Area were under construction for a year. During that time, Gael and Howard Silverblatt and decided that the “weedy”, overgrown construction site had potential as an upland restoration project. We contacted local native plant growers and asked if they had any “cast-away” native plants that they could donate for such a project.

One local grower, FNPS member Jane Thompson of Indian Trails Native Nursery, responded with an offer of approximately 200



native plants from her January overstock. Jane met on site with a few local volunteers. She measured and mapped the potential planting area, then designed a maritime hardwood hammock restoration plan for the upland area at the edge of the lagoon. Her design included over 400 native plants, which she donated. However, the plants needed to be transported from the nursery, located west of U.S. 441, to the edge of the lagoon.

Buck Thornton, a resident of Lake Worth and owner of J.D. Thornton Nursery in Clewiston, volunteered to transport the plants with two truck/trailers and two crews of men. Buck also



donated and delivered approximately 32 cubic yards of melaleuca mulch to the site.

Now all the SIV-LWL needed was volunteers. Six environmental and native plant groups, including the **Palm Beach Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society (FNPS)**, placed requests in their newsletters for volunteers to help install the plants on March 3, 2012. Approximately 100 volunteers responded. By the end of that day, all of the plants were in the ground, mulched and watered in. The total cost of the project was \$220 for fertilizer, which was donated by FNPS. The SIV-LWL was especially proud to have FNPS as a partner.

Although the SIV-LWL has no formal ties to any governmental entity, the City of Lake Worth Grounds Maintenance Department, under the supervision of Dave McGrew, was an active partner in the project. Dave’s department, Indian Trails Native Nursery, J. D. Thornton Nursery, and the SIV-LWL teamed together to create the maritime hardwood hammock. The hammock is a living museum of native vegetation, giving visitors a glimpse into the pre-development past.



Barley Barber Swamp Field Trip
(continued from page 4)

The swamp is home to various mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and invertebrates. We observed hawks, butterflies and green anoles. There was a great variety of natives including Pond Apples, Leather Fern, Red Maple, Buttonbush, Shoestring Ferns and Blue Flag Iris (just to name a few). The tour was so captivating we didn't leave the swamp until 1pm. By then all of us were



ready to return to the Seminole Inn for that Fried Green Tomato Sandwich. As we left the Swamp the Bald Eagle bid us adieu. Everyone had a wonderful time and many expressed an interest in scheduling another



tour for next year. The twilight full moon tour sounded quite intriguing.

From Our Members.....



Spring is Here

A "fresh" look at a native garden

Now that South Florida's "fall" is almost over, and the windrows of leaves have been re-distributed, there are signs of springtime. Let's have a look...

Walking about my backyard, I feel more sleuth than delighted observer. True, the cinnamon bark will be more showy soon, but now its small nosegays are just beginning to open. Check on yours soon. Shrubs of wild coffee are covered with visible white blossoms though. The rhamna (Maiden-Berry) nearby has almost microscopic blooms. How can they produce those "BB"-sized berries later!? The pisonias are lavishly festooned but their efforts are almost unnoticeable. Oh, look, the native croton is blooming too.. See? Look closely!

The West Indian cherry tree blooms are detectable —just. They would never make it in Washington D.C. All the various ilexes are quietly blooming away. Their fruit will be quite visible later. (Too bad my Krug's holly has never been provided with a mate.) However, the bitterbush two-some is side-by-side. The male thick with long hanging strings of pollen. The female, as always, is producing her strings of "flowers" a few days later. Yes, those small dots-on-a-string will turn into grape-sized clusters of dark red fruit. (Bitter? My, yes!)

The several bushes of Florida boxwood are just opening flowers. The tiny white flowers will turn into bright red berries. Strong barks seem to bloom and fruit often. Just now the grass is thick with fallen small white blossoms. It's a constant joy, the strong bark. Fruiting and flowering.

But look! Bright orange showy flowers. Yea for the geiger! Blooming! Orange! And the cinnacord -its blooms are so high on the sprawling branches they've gone unnoticed. Like most of the acacias, the flowers are bright yellow spheres.

We're ending with a burst of color! Did you ever wonder how Florida got its name? Hurry out into your yard and look closely.

It's spring!



Announcements

A Message from Lynn Sweetay

I need helpers to call our dropped members to determine if they wish to rejoin. Please contact me at 561-798-6208 or email lynnsweetay@hotmail.com

How Can I Become a Member of the Florida Native Plant Society (FNPS)

You can join on-line . .

http://www.fnps.org/pages/fnps/membership_appl.html

Membership forms are also available at the chapter meeting held every 3rd Tuesday of the month at the Mounts Botanical Garden auditorium in West Palm Beach

As a member of FNPS you support the preservation and restoration of wildlife habitats and biological diversity. You help promote resource conservation through the propagation and protection of native plants.

Your contribution supports awards for leaders in native plant preservation and education, important publications, and research on our native flora.

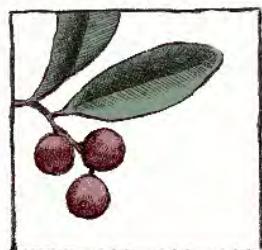
In addition, you become part of a fascinating group of people who share your interest in enjoying and preserving Florida's natural heritage.

The Florida Native Plant Society is registered as a 501(C)3 non-profit organization

PBC Chapter FNPS is Seeking a New Secretary

After five dedicated years, Cathy Beals is ready to step aside as secretary of the PBC Chapter of the FNPS.

Please contact any of our officers and/or Kris Serbesoff-King if you are interested in this position.



Visit us on the web
www.palmbeach.fnpschapters.org
www.fnps.org

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