

## Magnolia Chapter FNPS Monthly Update: August 2012

"Weather Lore"  
June too soon.  
July stand by.  
August look out you must.  
September remember.  
October all [most] over.

(by R. Inwards, 1898)

### Chapter Happenings

In the North Florida night sky, Sirius the dog star, brightest in the Canis Major constellation, moved out of conjunction with the sun's orbit, bringing relief from the dog days of summer and danger into the thick of hurricane season. While all eyes had been on Tropical Storm a.k.a. Hurricane Isaac, the subtle changes of morning birdsong, a few leaves yellowing, and grasses en masse belie the coming of (no – not football season) a reawakening of Magnolia Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society!

### Roadside Wildflower Survey Workshop – August 22, 2012

Eleanor Dietrich organized and led a workshop of 12 participants interested in conducting wildflower surveys of Leon County's Pilot Program for reduced mowing. Eleanor presented the purpose and outline of the pilot program, and showed many of the wildflowers observed on previous surveys. Reduced mowing schedules have been agreed to between the county and FDOT to for SR 267, Bloxham Cutoff, and on Springhill and Smith Creek County Roads. The Magnolia Chapter and trained observers will document blooming times and locations of wildflower populations along the new wildflower friendly roadsides. The observers recruited at the workshop will start the surveys on September 22 at the ANF Trout Pond Recreational Area off Springhill road with plant identification training by Dr. Anderson. This was the Magnolia Chapter's inaugural summer native plant workshop, filling some of the summer's empty space with activities oriented toward more of a hands on appreciation of Florida's native plants. Thanks again to Lana Arnold, President of the Garden Clubs of Tallahassee, and to the Leon County Extension for making the Paul Russell Road facility available for the workshop. Contact Eleanor Dietrich at [eleanor43@aol.com](mailto:eleanor43@aol.com) for more information.

### St. Marks Trail Planting – August 26, 2012

Mike Jenkins reports:

We planted 13 Chinquapins at the Wakulla Station on the St. Mark's Trail on Sunday, in hopes of providing the Coral Hairstreak some mo' nectar. The spot is JUST north of the Wakulla Station on the trail, between the road and the Trail. There are two spots there, split by an unmowed section of the trail (70 yards?).

Mr. Miles Shiver had very nicely cleared us two special spots for the planting. Unfortunately "putting the right plant in the right spot" may have not been achieved as the place he cleared was a very small roadside water drain between the trail and the road. We planted off of the drain a bit but certainly was a better spot for Maples or something. Would have planted them up more.

I did want to tell you all though that there is a 2" diameter or so Chinquapin in front of the garage at the residence there, if you didn't know. The plums we planted are not doing as well as hoped. Mr. Miles told us they have been quite abused there. We plan to plant more plums there and others, and will keep you posted.

Also look forward to a short field trip with Sally Jue and the NABA Hairstreak Chapter to the site next May to look for the Coral Hairstreaks.

### September 6, 2012 Program – Audrey Peterman, "We are More Similar than We are Different!"

September's special program, out of the ordinary line of fare served up at chapter meetings, excited Magnolia members preparing for fall's events. The idea of asking Ms. Peterman to come germinated from our asking ourselves about who we are as a organization, and hoping to get inspiration from others as to how we might grow in breadth and depth. In preparing for the program, we started the process of reaching out to partners in the community having similar missions and goals to ours.

**Thank You September Program Sponsors:** The Magnolia Chapter would like to recognize our friends in the Tallahassee area for helping bring Ms. Peterman to Tallahassee for this event. We thank **Big Bend Environmental Forum, Florida Trail Association - Apalachee Chapter, Native Nurseries, Trail and Ski** and two anonymous donors for their support.

### **September 8, 2012 Field Trip – Natural Bridge State Park**

The Magnolia Chapter Saturday morning, September 8th, organized a field trip to Natural Bridge State Park, famous for its natural beauty and as one of the last battle sites of the War between the States. Mark Stevenson, Florida Park Service Ranger, was recruited to lead the tour and interpret the site's battle history, which included African American contingents on both sides. Scott Davis and Dr. Loran Anderson were tagged with assisting in nature interpretation and plant ID.

### **August Plant of the Month – *Bidens alba* (*Bidens pillosa* misapplied synonym)**

Once again with the Magnolia Chapter's expert native plant growing Dan Miller on leave, the Magnolia Chapter President subs in and picks a common weedy native as his pick for the native plant of the month. *Bidens alba*, a rank annual or short lived perennial, one of six N. Florida *Bidens* species called Spanish Needles or less romantically Common Beggar-ticks, may be Florida's most underappreciated native wildflower. Found on roadsides, ditchbanks and dunes from Pensacola to Key Biscayne, *Bidens alba* produces white daisy flowers as long as pollinating insects visit and Jack Frost stays north. A pantropical species, *B. alba* demonstrates the virtues and values of weeds. Its seeds have been collected from the *Atocha* wreck, a Spanish galleon sunk and submerged off the Marquesas Islands 300 years ago, and germinated according to David Hall and William J. Weber. In addition to its long blooming period and prolific hitchhiking seed, the plant is a shape shifter, morphing to its environment: stubby and groundhugging in a dune or on a roadside, and tall, rank and spreading when in the back row of a fence line. And like many good weeds, *B. alba* is entirely edible. As Dr. A. says: "Every plant is edible...once."

Despite all these attributes, *B. alba* is the Magnolia Chapter August 2012 Plant of the Month by presidential edict to make amends for snubbing it from the Top Five Native Wildflower Butterfly Plants. Sure, Orange Butterfly Weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) and Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*) are fine garden plants, but *B. alba* cannot be beat in attracting lots of butterflies, offering nectar and pollen as long as they are flying. Two observations are offered prove this champion butterfly plant status. First, a recent study of flower visits by native pollinators for their importance to agricultural crops put *B. alba* at the top of its class, yet neglected to recommend it as a fence row crop because of its weedy stigma (or is it style?). Second, it is impossible to go through photographs of pollinating insects and not notice the white petals and yellow disc flowers of Beggar's-ticks. The next time you are nose to nose with a Gulf Fritillary, smell its breath. It has probably been to the Wildflower Bar, nectaring on *Bidens alba*.

### **Thank You, Greg Jubinsky!**

...for conservation service above and beyond the call of duty in your relentless pursuit of invasive exotic noxious nuisance weed pest plants. Greg Jubinsky has worked in the old DNR, DEP and FWC, starting in 1976 with the first-ever large scale stocking of grass carp in Lake Conway, and working with all aspects of aquatic control operations, permitting, various types of hands-on and applied contractual research, and at the pinnacle, apical and most penultimate moment of his career, birthed and raised his greatest love, the upland invasive plant management program. Mr. Jubinsky and his work have won national and state accolades, including something like "Best in Show" from FNPS. Greg is hanging up his sprayer as he says: "With thirty-four years and a few million acres of dead weeds in my wake, it's time for me to move on to greener pastures, literally." He'll be close by, somewhere north of I-10 where he and his wife operate an organic farm, producing seasonal heirloom vegetables and herbs. Best of luck, Greg, turning the brown thumb green.

### **Florida Association of Native Nurseries (FANN) <http://www.FloridaNativeNurseries.org>**

The Magnolia Chapter renewed its support of this important organization, which does much to make native plants available for gardens, landscapes and restoration projects, and to educate the public about planting natives. Our participation in FANN gets our chapter recognized in their "Real Florida Gardener's Guide" and garners us boxes of the informative and pleasing to the eye publication. FANN publishes the Guide for Real Florida Gardeners, <http://www.magazinevolume.com/9799CD> and produces the Native Plant & Service Directory: <http://magazinevolume.com/9025CD/>.

Cammie Donaldson, FANN Executive Director (and FNPS Administrator) writes:

*Dear Everyone in Magnolia Chapter,*

*THANK YOU SO MUCH for your check for \$100. We have received it, will happily deposited it, and are most appreciative. It means a LOT.*

*Sincerely,*

*Cammie Donaldson, Executive Director  
Florida Association of Native Nurseries (FANN)*

FANN supports the preservation and conservation of native plants in their natural habitats and encourages the planting of native species in landscaping. Our members are growers, garden centers, landscape professionals and environmental consultants. We grow, plant and restore Real Florida. FANN is a proud member of: the Florida Native Plant Partnership and the Fresh from Florida Campaign, Florida Dept. of Agriculture & Consumer Services.

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

#### **Magnolia Chapter FNPS Membership Coordinator**

Like to get to know new folks, reconnect with old friends and be a member of a charged up fun group of people? You sound like a perfect membership coordinator (see below). The position has opened up again. Is it hard? Naw, just ask Mike Jenkins, who with Amy is handling membership, chapter secretary, and is a rare plant expert, field hand, daddy and Ms. Magnolia while having time in between to catch some ZZZs! Contact Fritz Wettstein [fwettstein@comcast.net](mailto:fwettstein@comcast.net) or Leigh Brooks [lbrooks2wd@nettally.com](mailto:lbrooks2wd@nettally.com) for more information.

#### Volunteer Activities

- ⤴ Serve as Chapter contact for state office to receive quarterly membership reports. Forward to the Magnolia Board.
- ⤴ Coordinate follow up of lapsed memberships. Prepare an email to Magnolia Board members that lists the delinquent names and asks board members to reply who they know and can follow up with by phone call or email. For unclaimed names, send email and/or postcard. Keep track of who is contacting who and results, keep everyone on schedule.
- ⤴ Monitor membership trends, keep the board apprised of such trends, and make periodic recommendations about increasing membership in the chapter, plan activities for increasing membership.
- ⤴ Follow up with dropped members to ascertain their reasons for allowing the membership to lapse.
- ⤴ Insure that the chapter has a supply of membership forms for dissemination at regular meetings.
- ⤴ Submit an annual budget request to the Treasurer when requested.

#### **Magnolia Chapter FNPS Outreach and Education Coordinator**

Have a knack for education or media relations, or just willing to deploy your numerous talents in helping spread the native plant gospel? The Magnolia Chapter has a need for a person to help with announcing chapter meetings and special events, distributing the excellent public information materials produced by FNPS and partner organizations, and getting involved with area schools. Contact Fritz Wettstein [fwettstein@comcast.net](mailto:fwettstein@comcast.net) or Leigh Brooks [lbrooks2wd@nettally.com](mailto:lbrooks2wd@nettally.com) for more information, or if you know someone just perfect for the job.

#### Volunteer Activities

- ⤴ Help with the production of flyers and announcements for bulletin boards and electronic postings.
- ⤴ Post announcements of chapter meeting and events on Facebook and community website calendars.
- ⤴ Help coordinate, set up and interpret at the native plant booth set up at special events. If you haven't seen it, the native plant booth includes poster displays, native and exotic plant cuttings, brochures, pamphlets and books, calendar sales and fun stuff for kids. There is often a native plant raffle at the event.
- ⤴ Coordinate the distribution of FNPS and partner public information, such as the "Real Florida Gardener's Guides," and the "Florida Wildflowers and Butterflies" pamphlet.
- ⤴ Reach out to local school systems for activities such as native plant projects for science fairs, native butterfly gardens and field trips.

**Magnolia Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society, Fall 2012 Activities and Events  
(some events subject to change...check your email!)**

Sunday 2 pm Presentation: "Floral Strategies in Plants" by Dr. Loran Anderson  
9/02/2012 Nature's Classroom, St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge, Wakulla County

Thursday 7 pm **Chapter Meeting:** Audrey Peterman, Earthwise Productions  
9/06/2012 Authors of "Legacy on the Land: A Black Couple Discovers Our National Inheritance and Tells Why Every American Should Care"

Saturday 9 am **Field Trip:** Natural Bridge Battlefield Historic State Park, Leon County  
9/08/2012 Led by Mark Stevenson, Park Ranger. Plant walk afterward with Dr. Loran Anderson and Scott Davis.

Saturday 9 am – noon Workday: Gholson Nature Park/River Landing Park, Gadsden County  
9/15/2012 International Coastal Cleanup at Apalachicola River, Leigh Brooks

Saturday 8:30 am Volunteer monitoring field trip: Leon County  
9/22/2012 Monitoring the Leon County roadsides project, Eleanor Dietrich

Saturday 9 am – noon Workday: Maclay Gardens State Park, Leon County  
9/22/2012 FNPS garden day, Bob Farley

Thursday 7 pm **Chapter Meeting:** Jeff Caster, FWF, & Jeff Norcini, PhD, OecoHort, LLC  
10/04/2012 Panhandle Wildflower Route & other Florida Wildflower Foundation news

Saturday 9 am **Field Trip:** Panhandle Wildflower Route, Apalachicola National Forest  
10/06/2012 Led by Jeff Caster & Jeff Norcini

Saturday 9 am – noon Workday: Maclay Gardens State Park, Leon County  
10/20/2012 FNPS garden day, Bob Farley

Saturday 9 am – noon Booth: Master Gardener Open House, Leon County Extension Service  
10/20/2012 Eleanor Dietrich

Saturday 9 am – 4 pm Booth: Monarch Butterfly Festival, St. Marks NWR, Wakulla County  
10/27/2012 Pat Stampe & Robin Kennedy

Thursday 7 pm **Chapter Meeting:** Will Sheftall & George Kish, Project Mgr NPN (USGS)  
11/01/2012 National Phenology Network, opportunities for citizen scientists

Saturday 9 am **Field Trip:** Elinor Klapp-Phipps Park, Leon County  
11/03/2012 Led by George Kish

Prepared by Fritz Wettstein 850/412-1121  
August 30, 2012

*The purpose of the Florida Native Plant Society is to promote the preservation, conservation, and restoration of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida.*