

Magnolia Chapter FNPS Monthly Update: September 2012

"Is that Erigeron?"
"No, just a small hill."

(L. Anderson)

Chapter Happenings

September 2012 was one to remember. Leigh Brooks put together an exciting program, inviting Ms. Audrey Peterman to get us thinking, talking and acting through our interactions with other groups in new ways. This initiative is really a natural fit for our group as a member of a larger community, and is practiced in ongoing and developing partnerships with the Florida Trails Association, Panhandle Wildflower Alliance, St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge and the Sarracenia Chapter of FNPS, as well as members' fostering relationships with Leon County, the Florida Department of Transportation, the City of Chattahoochee and others. Most exciting are the involvement of people such as Scott Davis with FSU environmental clubs, and the development of more contacts at FSU and FAMU, such as Mike Jenkins' outreach to the FSU/FAMU School of Engineering. Here's looking forward to even more good news as fall is a time to bloom and a time to reap.

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

Before the meeting we enjoyed hosting Ms. Peterman for pizza and salad at Mellow Mushroom with sponsors and chapter members. FAMU journalism student Taeja interviewed Ms. Peterman and others for Mike Abram's class. The well promoted program drew an audience of 87 chapter members, FAMU students and other interested people. The Chapter recognized Dr. Loran Anderson for his service with a poster of rare species he has named, a backup essential botanical tool (Bowie knife) and then was roasted on his own puns (see the end of this newsletter for a complete listing). Rachel Walsh won the plant raffle, Dan Miller's narrowleaf sunflower, *Helianthus angustifolia*.

Thank You Again, 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.

Notes from Ms. Peterman's talk:

Ms. Peterman described how she and her husband Frank became engaged in a "constant construct of discovery" exploring the national parks and plans for visiting them all. To her places like Mount Denali in Alaska help place us in the world and provide perspective.

Mt. Denali said to her: "Look at the size of you. Look at the size of me. You might be here one hundred years. I'll be here long after that. I don't need YOU to protect ME!"

Ms. Peterman then jumped both feet into the topic we'd hoped she help us with: "how can the Magnolia Chapter represent a broader spectrum of the community?" She did a great job supporting her thesis "we are more similar than we are different" with facts and observations and then provided suggestions for reaching out to minority groups. Unfortunately, I have not read her book Legacy on the Land and did not precisely record the references Ms. Peterman cited:

- We shouldn't be surprised that there's racism with our history of slavery, etc.
- Debunk Myth #1 - It's not true that minorities don't care or have the means to protect the environment.
- Surveys show similar beliefs and behaviors among all ethnic groups toward the environment. (eg. blacks chose pesticide free foods, eat less meat and drive less and belong to environmental or outdoor groups at the same rates as whites).
- Debunk Myth #2 – it's not true that whites will take care of the environment since they have so much money and leisure time on their hands.

- Even if every white person spent 100% of their time protecting the environment, it wouldn't work. By 2040 minority populations are expected to equal whites.
- Environmental awareness is increasing among minorities with the discussion of climate change.
- Churches are engaged in "caring for creation" environmental stewardship.
- Minorities may not feel invited into environmental groups.
- It is easy to make the mistake of preaching to other groups about what they should do rather than engaging and listening and communicating what can be done.
- People need to know something to care about it. An Atlanta group "Keeping It Wild" has been successful in getting urbanites into the outdoors and overcoming "bio-deficits".
- With a handful of jalapeno pepper seeds from an eco-club sponsor, Juan Martinez was started on his way to becoming a National Geographic Magazine Young Explorer.
- Getting folks involved is a two way street: someone has to care to reach out and the other person has to be receptive.

After the talk, Audrey spent a good time with audience members, especially FAMU students talking about their environmental activities. Limited time, transportation and money make it difficult for college students to participate in many activities. Ideas for outreach to students and minorities:

- Gardening is a "hook" which connects everybody to the environment.
- Connect to minorities through churches and local community newspapers (eg "Capitol Outlook") and magazines.
- Tree plantings give folks "ownership" in a green activity.
- FAMU students have organized the "Green Coalition".
- FSU has a "Connect With Nature" organization.
- For students, fun events like a Wakulla Springs submerged plant ID snorkel tour need to be planned around spring breaks and the school calendar.

September Plant of the Month – Narrowleaf Sunflower, *Helianthus angustifolia*

The plant doctor, Dan Miller of Trillium Gardens Nursery picked the robust perennial wildflower, Narrowleaf Sunflower, *Helianthus angustifolia*, suited to sunny planting beds in about any upland site. The fall flowers will stand about 5 feet tall in loose blooms, with the two-inch yellow daisy like flower head contrasting nicely with the dark green strap shaped leaves. Narrowleaf Sunflower takes well drained to moderately well drained soils, and has some drought tolerance. It can be grown from seed or sprigs dug from its spreading rhizomes (underground stems). Narrowleaf sunflower is commonly seen as large yellow swaths on our area's roadsides.

ps: Replacement plant of the month picker Fritz Wettstein sends a shout out to Vanessa Walthall for her September 27, 2012 Tallahassee Chronicle article on *Bidens alba*: "Is it a weed or a wildflower?" Yes!

September 8, 2012 Field Trip – Natural Bridge State Park

On Saturday morning, September 8th, the Magnolia Chapter fielded a 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, led the tour and interpreted the site's battle history, which included African American contingents on both sides. Scott Davis, Dr. Ann Johnson and Dr. Loran Anderson assisted in nature interpretation and plant ID. Eighteen people, including several recruited from Ms. Peterman's talk, ventured into Natural Bridge on the drizzly yet pleasant morning.

September 18, 2012 Sarracenia Chapter Meeting, Wakulla County Library, Crawfordville Highway, Medart.

Magnolia Chapter President Fritz Wettstein ventured down Crawfordville Highway to take in the energy, ideas and good foods offered up by our sister Sarracenia Chapter to the south. Here's his report:

Meet n' Greet: Bill Petty's not lying about the food. Can't beat ice cream on Kitty's apple pie!

Plant of the Month: Blue Mistflower, *Conoclinium coelestinum*. George Weaver.

Plant Raffle: Blazing Star, *Liatrix gracilis*, grown by David Roddenberry.

Chapter Endemic: Godfrey's Blazing Star, *Liatrix provincialis*, known only from Franklin and Wakulla Counties.

Announcements:

- Oct. 6: Sarracenia Chapter will be at the Black Bear Festival at Carrabelle Sands Park. Might be worth dropping by down the coast after the Magnolia field trip to A.N.F. that day.
- Oct. 15: October Sarracenia Chapter Meeting and Annual Election of Officers.
- Oct. 15: Lynn Artz will present to the Wakulla County Commission a reduced mowing resolution developed with the assistance of the Panhandle Wildflower Alliance and others. She needs turn out, e-mails and letter writing because counting "Yea" votes on the commission doesn't look good at this point. Her resolution adds support of a summer mow to the schedule. Les Harrison has been writing a series of articles on roadside wildflowers for the Wakulla newspaper.
- George Apthorp and Jim Stevenson are recruiting support for a proposed pilot "deer enclosure" project in Wakulla Springs State Park. There is some "deer eating ice cream" reason for the project that I missed (maybe thinking about a second serving of vanilla ice cream and apple pie), but the idea is basically to identify changes in the plant community caused by excluding deer. The park and support organization may have resources for the deer fences, but assistance in project design and plant inventories is needed from FNPS. Deer browse and other critter control has been a major topic of discussion at Magnolia Chapter events, so it seems that there may be interest in supporting the deer enclosure pilot project at Wakulla Springs.

September 2012 Sarracenia Program – Gail Fishman: “Journeys through Paradise with Old Botanists.”

Gail Fishman, active in Tallahassee conservation issues for most of her life, and with the St. Marks N.W.R., the Nature Conservancy, and FNPS, among others, put to work her English degree and passion for old botanists in writing *Journeys through Paradise*. Her inspiration came during the time she was working for TNC when she was talking to Angus Gholson about the important contributions of the early botanists responsible for first cataloguing Florida native plants. Angus and other plant experts all seemed to know a little something interesting about these folks, but not much else. To research the book, Ms. Fishman spent time at the Florida State archives, looking at state census records, and finding people to interpret old botanists' journals, in French! She ended up writing an important contribution of her own to our knowledge of Mark Catsby, Andre Michaux, Hardy Bryan Croom, Roland Harper and John Kunkel Small. Her talk and her book did a wonderful job in "connecting the dots" of botanical explorations in Florida, a lot that came through Florida's Big Bend at one time or another.

Roadside Wildflower Survey– September 22, 2012

Eleanor Dietrich organized a "dry run" of 5 chapter members conducting wildflower surveys of Leon County's Pilot Program for reduced mowing. Dr. Anderson identified numerous herbs and grasses growing in the mowed area of the road shoulder and the adjacent verge, which is expected to be a source for recruitment of new species into the reduced mowing area. Among the species spotted was a good stand of zigzag silkgrass, *Pityopsis flexuosa*, a "DYF" somewhat common in sandy pinewoods but endemic (found only in) to our area. 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 dry run resulted in a lot of good ideas for the survey form and monitoring protocol of several sampling sites for each road. Contact Eleanor Dietrich at eleanor43@aol.com to get involved.

Monarch Massacre, U.S. Highway 98, September 2012

On balmy sunny September days, the end of the summer beach traffic, the start of wildflower peak bloom, the spectacular autumnal migration of Giant Sulphur, Monarch, Gulf Fritillary and other butterflies, and maintenance crews converged on coastal roads rights-of-ways south of Tallahassee. The result: goldenrod, sunflower and blazing

star flowering stalks mowed and mulched, Lepidopteran carcasses strewn everywhere and concerned folks put on a letter writing campaign to their local officials: "Stop the Slaughter of the Innocents!" Well maybe not quite so dramatic, but it did help raise awareness on the roadside mowing issue. Following is a letter Eleanor Dietrich started that was sent to the head of the FDOT Midway District Operations, Ms. Gabriella Corbin. In addition, Wakulla County Commissioner Lyn Artz will be presenting a new reduced roadside mowing resolution to the Wakulla County Commission on October 15th. If you are a Wakulla County resident, your voice supporting this effort is important.

Dear Ms. Corbin,

The Magnolia Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society strongly supports the request to schedule the full mowing of rights-of-ways after the main part of the Monarch butterfly migration and the fall wildflower bloom. Our members have been following the recent news and communications regarding the fall mowing of the full right-of-way on roads in District 3. Commissioner Artz and Representative Rehwinkel Vasilinda have both proposed that full mowing not be done in September and October as this is the height of the wildflower bloom which is a critical energy source for the migrating butterflies. These resources, so especially valuable on U.S. Highway 98 and the District's Scenic Byways, are a major asset for tourism in our area, as Commissioner Artz has pointed out so well, and can be easily be protected with a small change in the maintenance mowing schedule.

The Florida Native Plant Society is very appreciative of the support you have given us in the past on the State Road 65 project and of your openness to our communicating our concerns. We can report that we are already seeing a great bloom of yellow wildflowers from the reduced mowing regime on Leon County's pilot roads, a project in which your staff support has been great. Promoting the fall wildflower bloom for the Monarch butterfly migration by changing the mowing schedule is another wonderful opportunity for the Florida Department of Transportation to step up and be good steward of Florida's natural resources while not compromising the sound management of its highway assets.

Thank you very much for considering this request.

Fritz Wettstein, President
Magnolia Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society

Florida's Water and Land Legacy Campaign

In September, the board of the Magnolia Chapter FNPS voted to endorse Florida's Water and Land Legacy campaign. The campaign was recently started by a coalition of environmental organizations to get a constitutional amendment on the November 2014 ballot to reinstate state funding for conservation. You can read about it at <http://floridawaterlandlegacy.org/>.

According to our FNPS state rep, Scott Davis, FNPS has endorsed though it is not yet showing on Legacy web site. Go to <http://www.fnps.org/> and look at the second item down under News.

Recently, the legislature has repeatedly raided funds meant for the successful Florida Forever program. Florida led the nation and the world in purchasing environmentally important lands through first Preservation-2000 and then the successor Florida Forever program, funding the programs from documentary stamp taxes on real estate sales. This amendment would protect a certain percentage of those revenues for the Land Acquisition Trust Fund to be used only for specific conservation-related purposes.

At this point, the Chapter has agreed to endorse the campaign and support the recruitment of volunteers for the petition drive. Personally, some of us are concerned about referendums and getting caught up in political campaigns. One thought is "the only referendum that I could vote for is a referendum to end referendums. Let's elect political leaders to do the right thing." Another is "this is a democracy, let the people express their rights and vote. The environment is too important to leave up to the politicians." Either way, the campaign will direct some

political attention on an important issue as well as raise others related to adequately funding the management of these public lands with exotic species control, prescribed fire, water quality restoration and other activities.

September 29, 2012 Green Apple Day of Service Event at the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering. Magnolia Chapter was invited to participate in the Saturday 9/29 Green Apple Day of Service Event at the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering. Justin Vandebroek, Project Manager - FAMU-FSU Engineers Without Borders, and Director of Strategic Development - Tallahassee Sustainability Group, has sought out Chapter members' expertise in the redevelopment of the Engineering College's stormwater facility with native plantings at the Innovation Park site. For more information contact Justin at justin.vandebroek@gmail.com.

Happy Birthday Mr. Angus K. Gholson, Jr.!

Gail Fishman reports that Mr. Gholson is a September baby, brought into the world to mentor generations of naturalists, collect and curate over 15,000 plant herbarium specimens (donated to the Florida Museum of Natural History), and to be the namesake of numerous plant species. Just think of all the plants named "angus-tifolia" or "angus-tifolius" or something like that (just kidding). Seriously, Angus significantly advanced the body of knowledge for plant diversity in the biologically important Apalachicola basin, and for that we wish him a "Happy Birthday!"

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 or Leigh Brooks 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 or Leigh Brooks 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, October 2012 Activities and Events
(some events subject to change...check your email!)**

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 Norcini

Thursday 6 pm Big Bend Environmental Forum, Tallahassee City Hall
10/18/2012 Nia Wellendorf

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 Fritz Wettstein

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

Saturday 9 am – 6 pm Booth: Florida Seafood Festival, Franklin County
11/03/2012 Leigh Brooks

Saturday 8 am – noon Workday: Northwest FL Water Management District, Gadsden County
11/10/2012 Wildflower planting party, Leigh Brooks

Prepared by Fritz Wettstein 850/412-1121
September 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.

Here's a collection of classic Anderson puns, starting with some contributed by his friend Howard Horne:

If you want to study the Pteridophytes, you need to learn a "fern" language...

Two Scottish botanists are out looking at plants when one bends over and says in a thick Scottish accent, "Aye, it's a quillwort!" His friend replies back, "Isoetes!" (spoken in a long drawn out Scottish accent to sound like "Eye, so it eees!")

*Botanists have successfully created the first hybrid plant involving three distantly related species by combining genes of *Carya*, *Cichorium*, and *Rumex*. The new species is called "Hickory, Chickory, Dock".*

Scientists crossed a four-leaf clover with poison ivy and got a rash of good luck...

Botanists are the root of all evil...

Why was the botanist so wise? He was very sage.

The professor was not able to begin his research experiment on plants because his lab assistant hadn't botany (hadn't bought any...).

Good gardeners take care of their plants –weed'em and reap.

After typing a very long research paper on the morphology of the ovule-bearing structure in flowering plants, the botanist developed carpal-tunnel syndrome.

*In graduate school, Dr. Anderson had to write a report on the fruit of *Musa acuminata*. It was very difficult to get the banana in the typewriter...*

*Two botanists are out looking at plants when one yells out to his friend who is walking ahead. "Hey, is that *Erigeron*?" His friend replies back, "Nope, just a small hill...."*

Others recalled this classic pun with slight differences:

*"Is that *Erigeron* or a ridge your standing on?" John Tobe*

*"Is that *Erigeron*? No, just a little hill." Gil Nelson*

The first thing out of his mouth on the first day of Introductory Botany class as he stood in front of a large projected photograph of a marijuana plant was, *"In this class we will learn about the higher plants"* – Amy Jenkins

"All wild plants are edible...once." - Scott Davis