

Magnolia Chapter FNPS January 2013 Monthly Update

"...it must have been a thrilling experience to have traversed the seemingly endless mazes of the virgin long leaf pine forest amid the sixty to one hundred feet high boles, under the shady tasseled tops whispering or roaring eternally in the winds."

(B.W. Wells)

Chapter Happenings

In January, evergreen trees still reign supreme over the North Florida landscape of the Magnolia Chapter, with the reddening of maple tops just testing winter's champions. In January, Magnolia Chapter members eager for the soon to come spring riot, scan every nook and cranny of our floral nature for something of interest. Overhead, the immensity of towering loblolly bays, *Gordonia lasianthus*, canopy giants spruce and loblolly pines (*Pinus glabra* and *taeda*), and the dark bullbay, *Magnolia grandiflora*, stand out against the veiled and silvery winter hardwood forest of the Fort Braden Trail in the Lake Talquin State Forest. Or walk into the Rock Bluff Scenic Area on the banks of the Ochlocknee River, and underfoot and right in front of you but with rarely a glancing look, are small multi-colored, multi-hued, and multi-textured ancient floral jewels, the compound and complex lichens: powderpuff, bubble gum, bloodspot, and gold powder. From botanical rambles to volunteer activities and Arbor Day, the Magnolia Chapter found itself easily amused in the first month of 2013.

January 3, 2013 Program – Malcolm Hodges, "Learn a Little Lichen Lore"

January's program was a festive continuation of the holiday season. An audience of 47 Magnolia Chapter members and interested visitors attended to see what is going on in the Chapter, take a chance on winning a raffle of Dan's pick for the plant of month, and learn a little lichen lore. During the meet and greet time, our speaker Malcolm Hodges, provided a sneak peek of lichens through a dissecting scope and microscope and lichen books that he set up in the lobby.

Malcolm Hodges, resource management biologist and Director of Stewardship for the Nature Conservancy in Georgia, spoke clearly and enthusiastically about the world of lichens. He discovered lichens in 2005, thinking it might be a good idea to win a free book by taking a weeklong lichen class, and developing a passion and expertise that is taking him to all Georgia counties with a colleague, cataloging lichens and compiled material for the Atlas of the Georgia Lichens (including a recent side trip to Wolf Creek in Grady County, where he identified 100 species). Thanks to the journalistic and photographic talents of Scott Copeland, you too can learn about and experience Malcolm's lichens at: <http://www.dailykos.com/story/2013/01/13/1178124/-The-Daily-Bucket-Learning-a-Little-about-Lichens?showAll=yes>.

January 5, 2013 Field Trip – Rock Bluff Scenic Area, Apalachicola National Forest, Leon County

On a cool Saturday, January 5, 2013, Malcolm Resource Manager for the Nature Conservancy of Georgia, and speaker for the Magnolia Chapter's January meeting, led a bewildered group of the 27 native plantsters on a lichen hunt in the Rock Bluff Scenic Area, Apalachicola National Forest. Dr. Ann Johnson and Scott Davis organized the hunt, which bagged, according to Malcolm, "an astounding array of lichens, including a rare sandhill-bluff community we look for in Georgia," about 86 species in all, including the pollution sensitive lichens the slope forest bullbay trunks that he described in his talk. There were lichens on bare sand, twigs, trunks and pine cones: lichens with names like "Bearded, Dixie reindeer, Powderpuff, Jester's Cap, Bubble Gum, Surprise, Gold Dust, Blood Spot, Wart and Lacy Ruffle." It was a hoot, with a stop at for a photo op at the "Big Tree" (-84 40' 27", 30 21' 42.8"). If you don't think there's much going on in a well traveled forest, take a magnifying glass. The diversity of lichens around us is amazing. In addition to Scott Copeland's blog, learn more about lichens and other "non-lichenose fungi" at the following websites.

Photos and Malcolm's Rock Bluff Lichen List <http://magnolia.fnpschapters.org>,

Scott's Blog

<http://www.dailykos.com/story/2013/01/13/1178124/-The-Daily-Bucket-Learning-a-Little-about-Lichens?showAll=yes>

Lichen Site <http://www.waysofenlichenment.net/lichens/Multiclavula%20vernalis>

Florida Arbor Day, Saturday, January 19, 2013

Chapter members had fun joining the Sarracenia Chapter and the Iris Garden Club at Hudson Park in beautiful downtown Crawfordville. This year's trees included: red maple (*Acer rubrum*), flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*), redbud (*Cercis canadensis*), Chickasaw plum (*Prunus angustifolia*), Shumard oak (*Quercus shumardii*), mockernut hickory (*Carya tomentosa*), winged elm (*Ulmus alata*), tulip poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), Eastern hophornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana*), Myrtle oak (*Quercus myrtifolia*), Ogeechee tupelo (*Nyssa ogeche*), Southern red oak (*Quercus falcata*), and a few *Quercus michauxii*, *Quercus laevis*, *Taxodium distichum*, *Tilia americana* and *Celtis laevigata*.

Participation was lower than previous years, maybe scared off by reports of a cold day. But everybody participating left with a native tree, a smile and a good time.

Wolf Creek Trout Lily Preserve, Cairo, Grady County, Georgia

Beth Grant reports on Wednesday, January 30th, "the trout lilies are blooming already - maybe 40%? That means a visit anytime in about the next two weeks is a trip well worth making. It's a beautiful sight!" All scheduled tours are listed on the website <http://www.wolfcreektroutlilypreserve.org>, but are likely to be cancelled unless sun is predicted for the mid-afternoon in time for the late afternoon tour. Beth Grant can be contacted at bethgrant@bellsouth.net for tour schedules.

The loop trail guided tour takes about an hour. You can start one of the guided tours and drop out at any time if you do not want to stay on the tour. The trails around the trout lily slope are well marked. If there is interest after the loop trail tour, an extended tour can be taken further down slope to see the Green Fly Orchid plants growing on a leaning Southern Magnolia, Grape Fern, terrestrial Crane Fly Orchid plants, Needle Palm, patches of Trout Lilies and Trillium, and more beautiful forest.

All of the orchids at Wolf Creek are beautiful, but very tiny. The only ones in bloom right now are Twayblade Orchids. The whole plant is about 3" tall and the flowers are about 1/8" around with two (tway in old English) about 1/2" long. You can bring a magnifying glass or loupe if you want to see the details of the flowers. There is a magnified close-up photo on the website: wolfcreektroutlilypreserve.org

Also, they would love to have more volunteers to maintain the Preserve. There are invasive plants in the floodplain that need to be pulled or cut. College and high school students have helped with this in the past, as well as many adults. Beth is recruiting an Eagle Scout candidate or volunteer group to make permanent signs and even a bridge over Wolf Creek!

Beth also reports there was a full audience for Dan's talk and beautiful slide show on the Wolf Creek trout lilies in Thomasville last night.

Roadside Wildflower Update

The Magnolia Chapter Roadside Wildflower Committee reports that the new State Road 65 wildflower tour guide is going to the printers to be ready for the spring bloom. The full color flyer, with a self guided tour map and wildflower photographs, has been produced with the assistance of the FDOT Highway Beautification Program. Building on the success of the Chapter's SR 65 fall wildflower guide and the FWF Panhandle Wildflower Route

brochure, the new guide will highlight the spring blooming orchids, carnivorous plants and other wildflowers along the scenic highway through the Apalachicola National Forest pinelands.

Also, on the local government scene, Magnoliads, including wildflower experts Dr. Jeff Norcini and Eleanor Dietrich, are assisting city and county staff in a roadside wildflower planting initiative with advice on which sunflower to select as the official County flower, and obtaining seed sources in bulk that would be good choices visually and ecologically.

Eleanor reports on Leon County sunflowers and other species.

Here is the link to the Florida Wildflowers Growers Cooperative for a seed source:

<http://www.floridawildflowers.com/categories/Color/Yellow/>

I'm so pleased they want to use native sunflowers; the only sunflower seed I see available there is the narrowleaf sunflower.

I looked on the Atlas of Florida Vascular Plants to see which native sunflowers grow in Leon County and found the following, but not a Florida seed source:

<i>Helianthus angustifolius</i>	Narrowleaf or swamp sunflower
<i>Helianthus divaricatus</i>	Woodland sunflower
<i>Helianthus heterophyllus</i>	Variable leaf sunflower
<i>Helianthus hirsutus</i>	Hairy sunflower
<i>Helianthus radula</i>	Stiff (or rayless) sunflower
<i>Helianthus strumosus</i>	Paleleaf woodland sunflower

Some of the things to consider in this project are blooming season and habitat, as well as Florida seed sources, all of which would be defining factors.

I would suggest that the project consider expanding to sunflower-like wildflowers that can grow in multiple habitats and bloom over longer periods of time. Examples of this would include Rosinweed, Florida Greeneyes, Golden Aster, and Lanceleaf coreopsis. Some of the rudbeckias may work well, too. There are Florida seed sources for all of these in addition to the above narrowleaf sunflower. Rosinweed, Florida Greeneyes, and Lanceleaf coreopsis or tickseed, all have long blooming seasons and can grow in our more common habitats.

To which Dan Miller adds:

In addition to those suggested by Eleanor, I'd like to suggest other Yellow flowering natives: *Heliopsis helianthoides* (Ox-eye sunflower which flowers from March-Dec, lower growing than most true sunflowers); *Ratibida pinnata* (Yellow coneflower, flowers all summer). These are tough plants, not aggressive, ie stay put well. These two are locally available in pots (speed development over seed planting) at very reasonable cost. Likely others may work too, let's study this more.

Dr. Norcini recommends narrowleaf sunflower, *Helianthus angustifolius*:

Based on my experience, it will perform well in moist areas as well as in any good garden soil (but not dry soil); must be in full sun, or under high pine shade. In my opinion, though, *H. heterophyllus* is the showiest one in our area and has a neater appearance, but it probably will only perform well in moist sites, and to the best of my knowledge neither seed or plants are available.

Invasive Plants

City of Tallahassee National Invasive Species Week Declaration

Brian Pelc, TNC restoration specialist and regional Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area dynamo, reports: "It looks like the City of Tallahassee will be formally declaring March 3-9 as National Invasive Species Awareness Week. I'll be on hand for the Feb 13th city council meeting where the Mayor will make the proclamation and they've asked for a few comments on local weed issues."

Gholson Nature Park Invasive Plant Removal Workday Sat. February 17, 9 am - 12 pm.

Hi Friends,

I'm gearing up for a new year of workdays to control non-native invasive plants at Angus K. Gholson, Jr. Nature Park in Chattahoochee. Please consider wandering amongst the wildflowers with me for some hands-on learning and productive work. Opportunities to help are limited to four dates in 2013, so put one of these on your calendar:

Sunday, February 17 - trout lilies, trillium, rain lilies, blue phlox, false garlic, woodland spurge

Saturday, March 16 - lance leaf trillium, rain lilies, flame azalea, silverbell, wild white indigo

Sunday, April 14 - flame azalea, Indian pink, fringed campion, tuberous gromwell, Baldwin's spiny pod
Times: 9 a.m. to noon.

Meet at the parking area off Morgan Avenue. For directions, map, and information about the park visit <http://www.floridahikes.com/angusgholson>, or contact Leigh Brooks at 850-663-4361 or lbrooks2wd@nettally.com. Workdays are sponsored by the City of Chattahoochee and Florida Native Plant Society, Magnolia Chapter.

2013 Elinor Klapp Phipps Park Exotic Plant Removal, Tallahassee, Sat. February 9, 9:30 am

The Magnolia Chapter FNPS is partnering with the Apalachee Chapter of the Florida Trail Association to attack the invasive exotic coral ardisia in an important plant area north of town. This program will use Elinor Klapp-Phipps Park's extensive invasion of Coral ardisia (and other exotics) for a series of hands-on education and volunteer opportunities. Each session involves working in a selected test area of the park. Learn how to identify and safely eradicate Coral ardisia (and others), wherever you hike or use trails from FNPS expert, Mike Jenkins. The events will continue on Sunday March 17 and Saturday April 13. Meet at 9:30am at the Meridian trailhead, off Meridian Rd at the entrance for baseball fields; the trailhead is located on left about ¼ mile in from Meridian Rd.

Bring water, bug spray, gardening work gloves, and wear shoes appropriate for hiking. Although some tools will be provided, please bring a clipper and/or a shovel (pointed type is best), and/or root jack, if you own them. Lunch will be provided. No pets, please. Note that this activity is not appropriate if you are severely allergic to poison ivy. IvyBlock barrier cream will be provided for those who wish to use it. For more information contact: Karen at (850) 570-5740, kjberkley@gmail.com.

Phenology Workshops

Will Sheftall with the Leon County Extension Office (UFL-IFAS) has scheduled phenology observation training workshops for February and March. Will spoke recently to both Magnolia and Sarracenia Chapters of Florida Native Plant Society, Magnolia Chapter meetings and recruiting interested citizen-scientists. Workshop announcements will be available at Chapter meetings or by contacting William Sheftall at sheftallw@leoncountyfl.gov. For more information also visit the website for the USA National Phenology Network (NPN) at <http://www.usanpn.org/>.

Whitney Gray, Sea Level Rise Coordinator for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and Florida Sea Grant, was out biking recently, caught the phenology bug and found a good website: http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2013/01/130116195344.htm?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+sciencedaily%2Fplants_animals+%28ScienceDaily%3A+Plants+%26+Animals+News%29.

Ms. Gray writes “*I’d love to see your bloomers!* Send your photos to me at this email address anytime over the next couple of weeks – it’ll be our own little phenological report on what’s actually blooming in January all over the state. Make sure you note where the flower is located. Feel free to pass this along to any other folks you know that might be interested! File sizes over 5MB won’t make it to me, so keep it under that. Have fun and get outside! Whitney Gray (whitney.gray@myfwc.com).

FNPS Native Plant Owners Manuals

The newly revised 'Native Plant Owners Manuals' are currently available on the FNPS State website at Resources/Downloadable Documents: <http://fnps.org/resources/pubs>. The species accounts were created by Mark Hutchinson as a member of the Education Committee to be used by FNPS chapters and members. These Plant Presentations are quite thorough, covering most aspects of the plants, from name origin, life cycle, pollination, propagation, to ethnobiology. Although these manuals were created in west central Florida, most of them occur where your chapter is located, please make use of them.

These Plant Presentations are in *.pdf format, and can now be used in two different ways. The presentations can be viewed as a simple start to finish slide show, or can be used in open discussion using the 'Navigation' page of the presentation. This page provides internal links to different parts of the presentation, making a free wheeling discussion of the plant easy and convenient.

This is a list of the 'Native Plant Owners Manuals' currently available:

Asclepias humistrata Pinewoods Milkweed
Asimina pygmaea Dwarf Pawpaw
Berlandiera subacaulis Florida Greeneyes
Callicarpa americana Beautyberry
Chamaecrista fasciculata Partridge Pea
Clematis baldwinii Pine-hyacinth
Coreopsis lanceolata Lanceleaf Tickseed
Coreopsis leavenworthii Leavenworths Tickseed
Erythrina herbacea Coral Bean
Gaillardia pulchella Blanket Flower
Helianthus debilis Beach Sunflower
Hydrangea quercifolia Oakleaf Hydrangea
Lonicera sempervirens Coral Honeysuckle
Muhlenbergia capillaris Muhly Grass
Passiflora incarnata Purple Passionflower
Ruellia caroliniensis Carolina Wild Petunia
Salvia coccinea Tropical Sage
Serenoa repens Saw Palmetto
Silphium asteriscus Starry Rosinweed
Tripsacum dactyloides Eastern Gamagrass

Viola affinis Sand Violet

Coming very soon:

Rudbeckia mollis Softhair Coneflower

Solidago odora Chapman's Goldenrod

Melanthera nivea Snow Squarestem

For more information, contact: Mark Hutchinson mhutchinson10@tampabay.rr.com.

Panhandle Wildflower Alliance

Lisa Roberts, Executive Director, Florida Wildflower Foundation reports that they applying for a Visit Florida marketing grant in order to develop a smart-phone/tablet app based on the Eastern Panhandle wildflowers brochure. She needs as many letters of support for the project as possible and can provide a suggested letter for agency and organizations to use. Contact Lisa at lroberts@flawildflowers.org or 407-353-6164 if you have questions.

State Listed Plant Conservation Programs

Florida is only 5 out of 12 potential USFWS listed plant conservation programs (like the one I work in) in the Region 4, Southeast US...they are TN, AR, KY, NC, FL. This is out of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, (as well as the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands).

Florida's program was started in 1991 by Dennis Hardin in the Florida Forest Service (then the Florida Division of Forestry). States administer federal funds (procured under the Endangered Species Act, Sect. 6 "Traditional" funds) through their natural resources programs. The Florida Forest Service is the lead Florida agency for listed plants and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is lead for the listed animal funding.

Native Nurseries Needs Native Wildlife and Plant Photo!

Donna Legare reports: "We are converting our slide show for Jody's workshop, Feeding Birds and Designing a Bird Garden, from slides to Power Point; but some of our old favorites seem to lose something in the conversion. If you have any great bird photos you'd be willing to share (especially photos of birds on feeders, birdbaths or feeding on native plants), we'd love to see them. Make sure you include your name so we can recognize you as the source should we use your photo. E-mail to mary@nativenurseries.com."

2013 Florida Legislative Session

February 4, 2013	Interim Committee Week
February 11, 2013	Interim Committee Week
February 18, 2013	Interim Committee Week
March 1, 2013	House Bills must be in final draft form
March 5, 2013	Regular Session convenes
March 5, 2013	12:00 Noon, deadline for filing bills for introduction
May 3, 2013	60th day - last day of Regular Session

Upcoming Magnolia Chapter Native Plant Society Activities and Events (some events subject to change...check your email!)

Feb 02, '13 Booth: Bay Day

St. Joseph Bay Buffer Preserve, Gulf County

Leigh Brooks

Feb 07, '13 Meeting: Integrated Digitized Biocollections: Unlocking the Secrets of Scientific Collections

7:00 pm King Bldg, FSU campus, Room 1024

Speaker: Gil Nelson

For further details, a link to the program flyer is available on the Meetings page.

Feb 09, '13 Field Trip

9:00 am Apalachicola Bluffs & Ravines Preserve, Liberty County

led by Annie Schmidt, TNC

Feb 09, '13 Invasive Exotics Education and Volunteer Program

9:30 am Elinor Klapp-Phipps Park, Leon County

This is a joint Florida Trail Association and Florida Native Plant Society project led by Karen Berkley.

Feb 09, '13 Guided Tour led by Dan Miller

1:00 pm Wolfe Creek Trout Lily Preserve, Grady County, GA

Feb 10, '13 Guided Tour led by Wilson Baker

1:00 pm Wolfe Creek Trout Lily Preserve, Grady County, GA

Feb 10, '13 Guided Tour led by Beth Grant

3:30 pm Wolfe Creek Trout Lily Preserve, Grady County, GA

Feb 17, '13 Exotics Workday

9:00 am Gholson Nature Park, Gadsden County

9 - noon, Led by Leigh Brooks

Feb 23, '13 Workday: FNPS Garden Day

9:00 am Maclay Gardens State Park

9 - noon, led by Bob Farley

Mar 07, '13 Program: Plants of Highway 65

7:00 pm Room 1024, King Bldg, FSU Campus

Speaker: Eleanor Dietrich, Past President, FNPS Magnolia Chapter

Mar 09, '13 Booth at the Red Hills Horse Trials

Elinor Klapp-Phipps Park

This will be a joint Florida Trail Association and FNPS booth led by Karen Berkley.

Mar 09, '13 Field Trip

9:00 am Highway 65, Apalachicola National Forest, Liberty County

Led by Eleanor Dietrich & Virginia Craig

Mar 16, '13 Exotics Workday

9:00 am Gholson Nature Park, Gadsden County

9 - noon, led by Leigh Brooks

Mar 17, '13 Invasive Exotics Education and Volunteer Program

9:30 am Elinor Klapp-Phipps Park

This is a joint Florida Trails Association and FNPS project led by Karen Berkey, 9:30 - 12:30.

Mar 30, '13 Workday:FNPS Garden Day

9:00 am Maclay Gardens State Park

9 - noon, led by Bob Farley

Prepared by Fritz Wettstein
January 31, 2013

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.