



# Sarracenia Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society The SARRACENIA TRUMPET

WINTER 2016-2017

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Welcome to 2017. Please join us at our upcoming meetings featuring these outstanding educators, naturalists and researchers.

### January 17

**Florida's special places compose the nation's finest park system, but they are at risk. Find out what we can do.**

Jim Stevenson

Former Chief Biologist for Florida State Parks and for 36 years, the Chief Naturalist for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

### February 21

**Seed Dispersal Strategies in Plants**

Dr. Loran Anderson

Professor Emeritus, FSU Dept. of Biological Science

### March 21

**Local Waters: Wild Places (a new movie documenting many of the wild flora and fauna of North Florida)**

Sammy Tedder

Musician, Videographer and Naturalist

Winter and Spring Field Trips will be announced by email and on our Facebook page. Please let us know about any interesting swamp, flood plain or coastal trails that might make a good field trip. There is a lot to see out there.



The Sarracenia Chapter meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month September – November and January–May. Meetings are held at 6:30 PM at the Wakulla Public Library, Crawfordville, Fla. The public is invited.



FNPS promotes the preservation, restoration, and conservation of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida.



## LUPINES

Jeannie Brodhead

Of the five native lupines in Florida we are lucky to have three of them in our area. You can find them blooming from March through May in the sandhills and scrub of our coastal areas. They all need well-drained, sandy soil in full to part sun.

The first lupine species that I met was *L. villosus*. I loved its large, furry leaves and deep pink or purple flower spikes. The plants are up to 3-feet tall but the ones that I've seen were about a foot tall. They are easy to spot scattered along roadsides and in open, cleared areas.



The latest lupine that we came across was while we were bicycling in the St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge on Refuge Road 321. We had stopped for a water break when our group's botanist spotted something that we hadn't seen before. The leaves were composed of 7-11 leaflets radiating from a central stem. The pea-shaped flowers were bluish purple. We'd found a large patch of sundial lupines, *L.perennis*. Since then we have spotted them in several other nearby patches. Their species name *perennis* comes from the fact that they are a perennial. They disappear underground for much of the year but come back every spring.



Our latest lupine find was in abundance along the dune hiking path in Franklin County at the edge of Tate's Hell State Forest. The Gulf Coast lupine, *L.westianus* is a stout, perennial shrub that can be 3.5 feet tall and wide. The flowers are purplish blue with purplish red spots. It also has big, furry leaves like the lady lupine. It was winter when we took that hike so we plan on going back next spring to see their blossoms. Let me know if you want to come along. The loop we took was 5.8 miles but I'm sure that we can make it a much shorter hike and

see just as many lupines and the other wildflowers of the area



### WHAT A GOOD FOGGY DAY CAN DO TO MUHLY GRASS



Muhly Grass "Fountain"

photo by David Roddenberry



## SELECTING, PLANTING AND GROWING NATIVES

Linda Smith

Sarracenia continues to advocate enhancing home and public landscapes with native trees, shrubs, grasses and vines. Our parks and yards can easily attract, feed and shelter many of our migrating, nesting and resident birds. We know that we can increase the diversity of insects upon which the birds feed their young and themselves. We know the forests require insect diversity for pollination.

I know from years of planting experience, that native trees and shrubs are easy to grow and very attractive, providing we keep a few things in mind:

Plant the right plant in the right spot. Check your growing conditions and research the available possibilities. Consult the FNPS.org and the Florida Association of Native Nurseries web site data bases of plant communities and lists of plants for geographic areas. A good match of plants to growing conditions can yield a sustainable landscape that needs no water once the plants are established.



Saw Palmetto

Photo by George Weaver

Many native trees and shrubs adapt to drier conditions from those in which they are often found growing. Mayhaw, (*Crataegus aestivalis*), sweet bay magnolia (*Magnolia virginiana*), and river birch (*Betula nigra*) are examples of moist site natives used in drier landscapes. It will behoove us to water these plants when necessary. Moist site and wetland trees will not thrive in very sandy, scrubby, nutrient poor, alkaline soils.

Establish your plants with good watering techniques. Lack of water is a big reason why new plantings die. One day too dry and the small root ball cannot sustain the plant. Monitor for water needs for up to a year.



Needle Palm and native ferns

Photo by Linda Smith

Water the plant well when planting. Then also make a bowl around everything you plant with extra soil and leaf mold or mulch. Pour water into the bowl to avoid run off. Mulch around the plant and bowl. Apply a healthy drink of water directly over the root ball every two days for a week, every three days for a week or so, and every week for two to six months. Adjust for rainfall, soil conditions and quality of the mulch. If a plant begins to look slightly pale, it needs water immediately.

Apply nutrients sparingly. Most natives do quite well if planted in healthy soil. Harsh chemical fertilizers can disrupt the exchanges of water and nutrients among bacteria and fungi and roots. Many recommended doses force artificial growth. Many people prefer to let natives grow at their own pace. If you fertilize, organic alternatives are gentle. Avoid high nitrogen formulas.

Arrange and prune your natives for eye appeal. Our hawthorn (*Crataegus spp.*), Viburnum and other shrubs are beautiful when they grow in their natural growth. They can also be pruned into size and shape like any other shrub. Prune right after a bloom to not forfeit next year's flowers and fruit. Plant your trees and shrubs with at least a half day of sun for fuller growth.

There are mature native shrubs growing in the front of the Wakulla Extension Service buildings. These shrubs have never been pruned or tended.



## A BIG THANK YOU

Scott Davis of the Magnolia Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society recently conducted a survey of lands along Hwy. 319 in the Wakulla Springs State Park. He identified and mapped several threatened or endangered plant species in this State Park that grow only along the highway in northern Wakulla County:

THREATENED (State): *Malus angustifolia* - Southern Crabapple  
ENDANGERED (State): *Pityopsis flexuosa* - Zigzag Silkgrass Aster  
COMMERCIALY EXPLOITED (State): *Osmunda regalis* var. *spectabilis* - Royal Fern.

A big thank you goes out to Scott for attending the recent ARC (DEP's Acquisition and Restoration Council) meeting where discussions took place in preparation for the widening of Hwy. 319. Scott presented the information about these plants and the need to preserve and to relocate them when the easement through the Wakulla Springs State Forest is granted.



## HERE ARE SOME DATES TO REMEMBER

### PANHANDLE WILDFLOWER ALLIANCE ANNUAL MEETING

January 19, 2017, Panama City Gulf Coast State College Advanced Technology Center from 9am to 4pm

### ARBOR DAY:

January 21, 2017, Hudson Park, 10am to Noon

### SOPCHOPPY WORM GRUNTIN' FESTIVAL:

April 8, 2017 from 9am to 4pm

### WAKULLA SPRINGS WILDLIFE FESTIVAL:

April 15, 2017 from 10am to 3pm



### Sarracenia Board and Regular Volunteers

George Weaver  
Jeannie Brodhead  
Doug Gilbert  
Kitty Loftin  
Linda Smith  
Bonnie Basham

### Please Join Us at Any Board Meeting

Second Monday of September  
October, November, January,  
February, March, April  
Email us for location:  
Sarracenia.nps@gmail.com

### Other Volunteer Help

Come to Chapter Meetings at 5:45 to help set up tables and chairs

Membership information is available at all Chapter meetings (ask Jeannie for info) or online at FNPS.org.

Find us on Facebook at Sarracenia Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society