



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

*FALL 2020*

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**September 15, 2020 - Chapter meeting**

**Herbaria: Plant Specimen Libraries That Document the History of our Local Flora**

**Dr. Austin Mast**

Professor, Department of Biological Science, Florida State University and Director of FSU's Robert K. Godfrey Herbarium. Dr. Mast will be our featured speaker via Zoom and will discuss the history of the Godfrey Herbarium and emphasize what a valuable resource this is to science and society. He will show the kind of information stored in collections like this, where to find the Godfrey Herbarium, and will outline a few of its uses for plant enthusiasts, botanical illustrators and photographers.

**October 20, 2020 - Chapter meeting**

**Rare Plants of the Florida Panhandle**

**Floyd Griffith**

Mr. Griffith is the former Assistant Public Defender in Washington County, Florida. He is also an excellent self taught amateur photographer with an interest in botany. Mr. Griffith's Zoom presentation will focus on an illustrated discussion of some odd, threatened, and endangered native plants found right here in the Florida Panhandle.

**November 17, 2020 - Chapter meeting**

**Wildflowers Gone Viral**

**Andrea Naccarato**

President of the Naples Chapter FNPS and horticulture volunteer coordinator at Naples Botanical Garden (Fla). Although the mostly native wildflower garden was closed during peak flowering season due to the pandemic, Ms. Naccarato was at the Naples Botanical Garden photographing the rise and fall of the wildflower display. She will share highlights from her photo journal, plus wildflower profiles and design tips to inspire other gardeners to create similar displays.

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*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 (6:00 PM social) Free and open to the public. FNPS promotes the preservation, restoration, and conservation of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida.*

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**CHAPTER STATUS AND UPDATE FROM MARCH 2020 TO THE PRESENT**

Our March 17, 2020 chapter meeting was cancelled due to the rising number of Coronavirus cases. As the number of cases went up, our April chapter meeting was also cancelled, but in May we returned virtually to our stride, holding a Zoom meeting which featured the originally scheduled presentation and which was well attended. Now, after our usual summer break, we are ready for more chapter activities. These won't include in-person meetings, but we will hold Zoom chapter meetings and perhaps an outdoor field trip or two as appropriate. Chapter emails will give Zoom meeting info and field trip notifications.

**CHAPTER ELECTION**

Our chapter elections have, in recent years, been held during our April chapter meeting, but due to the Coronavirus stay-at-home orders we did not hold an April meeting. In May chapter members voted on a slate of officers, electing the following board members:

- David Roddenberry, President
- Jeannie Brodhead, Vice President
- George Weaver, Treasurer
- Sandy Tedder, Secretary.

You will note that we did not elect a Chapter Representative, so this position will become vacant in September. Below you will find a few sentences describing what the chapter rep does. If any member would like to consider stepping into the post of chapter rep, please let us know. You can explore this by sending email to [Sarracenia.nps@gmail.com](mailto:Sarracenia.nps@gmail.com).

*A chapter representative represents our chapter at meetings of the larger FNPS. The Council of Chapters (COC) meets every 3 months and several times a year we have a GoToMeeting using our computers or phones. We listen to and interact with the state officers and find out what FNPS has been doing and how we can help. At the meetings we learn about the projects, meetings and field trips of the other chapters and [we] tell about what our chapter has been doing. We share ideas about what has worked well and where we need help to become a better chapter.*

## STEALING A MARCH

David Roddenberry

Native-plant enthusiasts shouldn't go too long without squishing around in some wet pine flatwoods and bogs. It isn't only the pitcherplants that we find there, but also orchids and a variety of other colorful native wildflowers. However, that habitat has shrunk in Franklin and Wakulla Counties (and most places). In the former county, ditching and plowing for private pine production compromised a lot of land; witness Tate's Hell State Forest. In both counties, though, there's another agent — the opportunistic titi tree.

It stands to reason that ever since the present pattern of wetlands was produced by that smart rise of groundwater tables ending perhaps five millennia ago, the interface between titi "bays" and open pine flatwoods has been a battle line. As sure as the titi crept forward with tender sprouts in wetter times when the naturally igniting fires in the flatwoods faltered, the more intense fires of drier times roasted it back, killing titi sprouts and preserving the herbaceous groundcover of the flatwoods. Thus the open flatwoods and the thickets of black titi (*Cliftonia monophylla*) both held their territory in an equilibrium that must have held until the age of man's fire-suppression beginning in either the 19<sup>th</sup> or the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

That age would bring the titi's big opportunity. This little native tree of snowy-white, subtly fragrant flowers was able to steal a march. Over decades, its outbreaks to all sides of its former confines grew dense and tall, developing fire defenses.



Mature black titis in their spring flowering season



A raceme of the titi's flowers

In this way it has apparently overrun tens of thousands of acres of wet flatwoods in Apalachicola National Forest. This is very pronounced in Wakulla County's part of ANF.

Even if something of an equilibrium has now been reached again in many places in ANF with the application of prescribed fire, the titi seems not to be readily yielding back much territory. A big problem clouding the hope of reclaiming the many acres of former herbaceous pine flatwoods is that even though a fire may be intense and run well into the titi bay, roasting large titis to the ground, the decades-old, well rooted stems sprout back.



Blackened shrubs of a "roast" 50 feet into an ANF Wakulla County titi bay, part of a huge burn by a USFS "hotshots" crew from out of state in March 2020



Patches of yellow pitcherplant (*Sarracenia flava*) released – temporarily, at least – by the work of the hotshots

If trips to bogs preserved in ANF's western parts in Liberty County make us dream of one day seeing the like in Wakulla County, we may be dreaming too big. Nevertheless, it would seem that the evolving know-how in fire application gives hope of at least curbing further encroachment by the titi thickets.

*Photos by David Roddenberry*



Our parent organization, FNPS, has been providing weekly lunch and learn presentations that can be viewed anytime on the FNPS YouTube channel. Please check out the previous lunch and learn topics on the Youtube playlist for FNPS:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLT16Qn-flr4O7nxo1cDZll-b00X9Oy126>. There is a lot of information and many helpful techniques for improving our landscapes and learning about our native plants.

Check out the full FNPS YouTube Channel, as well:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTom519pQlwTC-S\\_uDjkAEw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTom519pQlwTC-S_uDjkAEw).



One of the projects that our *Sarracenia* chapter helps with is the Sopchoppy Depot Park in historic downtown Sopchoppy. This mostly native plant park delights visitors with splashes of color in wildflower beds that are labelled with their common and scientific names. You can learn the names of native plants that thrive in our area and can get design tips and a more knowledgeable view of how native plantings can enhance any landscape. (We'll see at our Nov. 17 virtual chapter meeting – see page 1, Upcoming Events, "Wildflowers Gone Viral" – how the Depot Park's native gardens compare with one installed more recently and 300 miles south in Naples, Fla.) We always need volunteer help to maintain and weed the park plantings or to set out new specimens or check water conditions, so if you would like to help out, please contact us at our chapter email address to let us know: [Sarracenia.nps@gmail.com](mailto:Sarracenia.nps@gmail.com). A few of our recent photos over the summer show what a fine native wildflower park this has become.



Sopchoppy Depot Park with pink *Echinacea purpurea*, Purple coneflower in the foreground



Sopchoppy Depot Park pond with *Hibiscus coccineus*, Scarlet rosemallow



We could not have created such a beautiful park without the help of Sarracenia Chapter members and planners, David Roddenberry and Lynn Artz.



Chapter member, Pam Pafford, gives many hours volunteering in the Depot Park



*Gaillardia pulchella*, Firewheel or Blanket flower, adds color to the front of the old train depot building across the street from the Sopchoppy Depot Park



*Coreopsis leavenworthii*, Leavenworth's tickseed, lending color to one of the wildflower beds in the park

### Sarracenia Board and Regular Volunteers

David Roddenberry  
 Jeannie Brodhead  
 George Weaver  
 Sandy Tedder  
 Bonnie Basham, Lynn Artz, Kitty Loftin, Pam Pafford

Membership information is available at all in-person Chapter meetings, or contact us at [Sarracenia.nps@gmail.com](mailto:Sarracenia.nps@gmail.com), or online at [FNPS.org](http://FNPS.org) on the Join/Support tab.

### Please Join Us at Any Board Meeting

Email us for dates and location  
[Sarracenia.nps@gmail.com](mailto:Sarracenia.nps@gmail.com)

### Other Volunteer Help

Ask how you can help with Chapter meetings, or help us at the Sopchoppy Depot Park.

Find us on Facebook at Sarracenia Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society  
 Visit our webpage: [Sarracenia.fnpschapters.org](http://Sarracenia.fnpschapters.org)