



Sarracenia Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society The SARRACENIA TRUMPET

SPRING 2018

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 14, 2018 - Plant Sale at the Sopchoppy Worm Gruntin' Festival

Downtown Sopchoppy. Look for our joint plant sale with the Wakulla County Garden Club on Winthrop Ave. We will also have our informational displays and handouts and welcome a chance to talk about native plants. 9am to 4pm.

April 17 - Chapter meeting

Soils, What They are, and What are our Native Soils

Stan Rosenthal

Mr. Rosenthal, UF/IFAS Extension Forestry Agent Emeritus and currently with Big Bend Forestry Services will be speaking on soil and what are our native North Florida soils.

May 12 - (Leon Co)

Sarracenia Chapter will have our displays and information at the UF/IFAS Plant Sale & Mega-event in Tallahassee. 615 Paul Russell Rd., Tallahassee. 9:00am - 1:00pm

MAY 15 - Chapter meeting

Native Bees

Jeannie Brodhead, moderator

Ms. Brodhead, our Sarracenia Chapter Representative to the FNPS, will coordinate this presentation on our native bees.

SUMMER BREAK

As usual, we will not meet during the summer months. Our regular 3rd Tuesday meetings begin again in September, with any activities in the interim being announced by email.

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The Sarracenia Chapter meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month September - November and January - May.

Meetings are held at 6:30 PM (6:00 PM social) at the Wakulla Public Library, Crawfordville, Fla. Free and open to the public.

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



SPRING UPDATE

Bonnie Basham Woodward

Spring was a little late this year, but it certainly was worth the wait! Sarracenia Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society members have been rewarded on several field trips with a dazzling display and variety of native plants and trees.

Our first field trip of the year was in February where we joined George Apthorp, master naturalist and fountain of all knowledge on native trees, for a walk on the trails of Wakulla Springs State Park. George and our VP David Roddenberry have spent many years identifying "Champion" trees in the forests of Wakulla Spring State Park. Champion trees are those which are the largest of a species. Wakulla Springs, said to be one of the best forests in the Southeast, holds several trees on the American Forests Champion Trees national register.

Our second field trip was to the pitcherplant bogs area near Sumatra in Liberty County, where we hiked and drove to view *Sarracenia flava*, *Sarracenia rosea*, flame azalea, sundial lupines, grass pink orchids, venus fly-traps (a non-native), and many other amazing wild-flowers, plants and trees. For many of us, it is rare to see the carnivorous plants growing in the wild.

Our most recent field trip was to the north side of the Wakulla Springs State Park where we saw many hidden clear springs bubbling up from the ground. We also saw huge spruce and loblolly pine trees and enjoyed a day of exploration followed by a wonderful late lunch at the historic Wakulla Springs Lodge restaurant.

If you have not joined us on a field trip, we would love to see you on our next one. We know you will find it rewarding, not only because of the special plants we see, but also for the camaraderie of enjoying the outdoors with other native plant enthusiasts.

Check out the photos at the end of this newsletter to share some of the sights we enjoyed on our field trips through the north and south forests of Wakulla Springs State Park and the bogs of Liberty County.

EUTROCHIUM PURPUREUM

Bonnie Basham Woodward

Last year I introduced “Joe Pye Weed” into our garden. It has been a favorite for years, but I have not had the space to grow it before now. While there is much folklore surrounding the name of this plant, a peer-reviewed study suggests that Joe Pye was a Mohican sachem named Schauquethqueat who took as his Christian name, Joseph Pye*. He is said to have used this plant to treat a variety of ailments including fever, kidney stones and other urinary tract ailments.

Some stories describe him as an Indian healer, who lived in Stockbridge, Massachusetts from 1740 to 1785. Pierce and Pringle suggest that colonists who saw Joe Pye collecting up the “weed” ultimately began calling it “Joe Pye Weed.” Traditional folklore also states that American colonists used this plant to treat typhus outbreaks and to reduce fever.*

In the Native tongue, the plant is called Jopi. I first learned of this plant when it was suggested to me as a remedy for a sprained ankle. I was told Joe Pye used the tea as a folk remedy for fever and the leaves as a wrap for broken bones. The plant’s leaves were thought to promote healing. Thus, one of its names is Boneset.



The Joe Pye Weed dealt with here, *Eutrochium purpureum*, is a multi-faceted wildflower which is also an herb and a perennial. The perennial herb Joe Pye weed isn’t the only *Eutrochium* species for which the common name Joe Pye weed is often used.

In recent years, Joe Pye weed has had a few name changes. These plants once were classified in a genus which held a lot of plants, called *Eupatorium*. Recently, *Eupatorium* has been broken down into more accurate groups.

While the USF-ISB Plant Atlas has not yet recognized the genus change, the USDA has. Most of the commonly cultivated temperate species fall within these new genera of *Eutrochium*. However, it is also necessary to identify which type of Joe Pye Weed you are speaking of, sweet scented, spotted or hollow to ensure the right species is being referenced. **

The new genus, *Eutrochium*, in which Joe Pye weed finds itself, is filled with plants that are much more closely related. The family group is still *Asteraceae* which contains, among other plants, sunflowers, asters, coneflowers and daisies. Joe Pye plants are native to Wakulla and Franklin counties and found throughout the Eastern and Northern United States.

Joe Pye weed or *Eutrochium purpureum* is more particular about how much water it receives than the type of soil it is planted in. You’ll find this wildflower along roadsides, beside or in wet areas, growing in full sun or part shade. Leaves are attached in whorls of 3-5 leaves surrounding the stem, as shown in the photo on page two, and are 3-9 inches long. The leaves are coarsely toothed, and lance shaped.

The more sun it grows in, the more water it wants. It likes partial or even full shade in our garden. Joe Pye weed does not do well in hot, dry conditions. It does not need fertilizer, if it is planted in a somewhat rich soil like a woodland edge. Be careful not to let the soil dry out for more than a few days during our summer. As we said earlier, it is very fussy about how much water it receives.

It grows well in USDA Hardiness zones 5 – 10.

Wakulla and Franklin counties are in Zone 9 while Leon County is in Zone 8. It is deer resistant and does not easily succumb to disease. The biggest challenge I have had is during wet summers when mildew forms because the plant cannot survive under those conditions.



The height of the plant will vary with the variety. Dwarf Joe Pye varieties (or cultivars) developed in the nursery trade grow to about 2 – 3 ft. high and 1 – 2 ft. wide. The indige-

genous form in our yard can grow into an 8 ft. X 8ft. shrub. It self-seeds quite readily. We keep our plants shorter by cutting them in half in June. We cut just above a whorl of leaves. Then, each spring we cut the plants back hard to about 4 – 8 inches.

Joe Pye weed is a late season bloomer, coming into its own in late summer (July) thru early fall (September). It blooms just in time for the monarch butterflies that grace our area each fall. It also attracts Eastern tiger swallowtails, great spangled fritillaries, pearl crescents, monarchs, tawny-edged skippers, bees and other polli

nators. The flowers have a light vanilla scent which is why the plant is called sweet scented Joe Pye weed.

Joe Pye weed is usually reserved for the back of a border, in part because it can get so tall. However, I also put the plant in the back because it is a dramatic background to earlier summer bloomers like *Echinacea purpurea* (purple coneflower), and *Helianthus floridanus* (native sunflowers). As summer gives way to fall, it also is a great backdrop for all varieties of *Solidago* (goldenrod), asters and *Muhlenbergia* (Muhly grass).



This year, I will try pairing it with *Lobelia cardinalis* (cardinal flower) and *Ratibida pinnata* (yellow prairie coneflower) As well as the *En-*

chinacea purpurea and *Helianthus floridanus*. I always leave the seed heads on the plants for two reasons, one is to remind me what grew here last season and the other reason is that the seed heads add an interesting texture to our winter garden.



We will be offering *Eutrochium purpureum* at the Worm Gruntin' Festival in Sopchoppy and fall Monarch Butterfly Festival at St. Marks Wildlife Refuge.

Photos/Images courtesy of Bonnie Basham Woodward

*PEARCE, RICHARD B & PRINGLE, JAMES S. (2017). "Joe Pye, Joe Pye's Law, and Joe-Pye-Weed: The History and Eponymy of the Common Name Joe-Pye-Weed for *Eutrochium* Species (Asteraceae)", *The Great Lakes Botanist*, 56(3-4):177-200.

**Hawke, Richard, "A Comparative Study of Joe-Pye Weeds (*Eutrochium* spp.) and Their Relatives." *Plant Evaluation Notes*, Chicago Botanic Garden, 2014.

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One of the ways that our Florida Native Plant Society fulfills its mission to promote the preservation, conservation, and restoration of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida is to encourage its members to participate in the Land Management Review process.

These Land Management Reviews (LMRs) are mandated by a law (Florida Statutes, Chapter 259) which states that all lands obtained for management of natural resources shall be reviewed by a land management review team, coordinated by FDEP. Teams are made up of the land manager of the review site (in this instance the land manager is the DEP Florida Park Service), FDEP officials, Florida Forest Service, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, local, county or community representative(s), local Soil and Water Conservation District representative(s), a private land manager, and a local conservation organization such as an FNPS chapter. In the past our Sarracenia Chapter has served FNPS in LMRs of Bald Point State Park, St. George Island State Park, San Marcos de Apalache Historic State Park, and Mashas Sands County Park.

In February 2018 the Econfina River State Park in coastal Taylor County was listed for an upcoming Land Management Review. Through the help of Ron Blair of the FNPS Tarflower Chapter, who was formally representing FNPS at the review, I was included on the review team. On a warm February morning I arrived at the Econfina River State Park boat ramp to find that FDEP officials Keith Singleton and James Parker were already there and were applying liberal amounts of repellent against the sand gnats. One by one the other participants arrived and under the guidance of Rob Lacy and Arthur Stiles, the park managers, we began the review of this often overlooked wilderness.

The park is located in southern Taylor County on a high quality salt marsh which is contiguous with a vast salt marsh community stretching from Wakulla County to Pasco County and which represents one of the most extensive, intact salt marsh communities in the U.S. This park also contains large expanses of hydric hammock. These are low lying, closed canopy hardwood forests which harbor a great many plant and animal species, including the rare corkwood tree in this particular park.

The paved roadway into the park, winding through gulf coastal lowlands and past a private resort consist-

ing of a store, a small RV campground and a small hotel, is well-maintained. Our review would take us into the park's trail system which is somewhat overgrown but is wide enough for a car in most places. We first toured the boat ramp and picnic area which are well kept by volunteer RV campers for most of the year. The boat ramp and surrounding resort are the most visited points in the park.



Econfina River State Park Boat Ramp Photo by Sandy Tedder

After inspecting the boat ramp and picnic areas, we set off in two sturdy vehicles and headed into the trail system. We traveled along narrow swamp-edged roads and several other types of habitat consisting of disturbed flatwoods (this upland section used to be a pine plantation), and through hydric hammocks, and bottomland forest with its closed canopy overhead. We bounced through hog-dug pits and passed freshwater tidal swamps, until we came out on the edge of the estuarine tidal marsh overlooking the Gulf of Mexico in the distance. We gazed in wonder at a vast stretch of marsh grass; the vista broken up by islands of palms and oaks.



Tidal Marsh Photo by Sandy Tedder

As we made our way through the park, at several points along the way we made stops to discuss habitat and plant communities and the status of the park officials' efforts at management. Our guides were very knowledgeable and helpful, answering

our questions about the quality of the forest and about meeting the various goals and objectives for the park.

In one area of the park there seems to be extensive feral hog activities. We came across the rare and threatened corkwood tree, *Leitneria floridana*, growing along a wet roadway, but hogs had obviously been rooting (and basking) in the wet bog, and some destruction of the corkwood saplings was evident. The feral hogs are an exotic species, but there seemed to be no invasive plants in the park. The park managers do monitor for invasives and in many areas of the park the native plant communities are intact. The park is managed so that the natural and cultural resources are kept in the best possible condition for the overall management goal of the park, which is outdoor recreation and the conservation, maintenance and enhancement of the natural resources in the park.



Tidal Marsh mixed with mesic flatwoods; a typical look at the trail conditions near the marsh Photo by Sandy Tedder

After our firsthand review of the park habitats and trail system, we convened in the park service cabin near the boat ramp for the official checklist review and for comments and discussions on the status of the management plan. It will come as no surprise that the representative from the Forest Service wanted to see the possibility of more burns, but conditions in this park are challenging for the burning of the entire park due to the existence of the dome swamps found in the xeric flatwoods. One official's suggestion was to manage the planted-pines area by thinning out the slash pine. And, although there is some high ground, some scrubby flatwoods, and mesic flatwoods that might be burned, the Park Service is overworked in other parks, especially during the time of good burn days, so management by prescribed fire may not be attained in this park. Also, this park's burnable acreage is fairly small and it may not be practical for burning as a way to manage the forest, although some sections of the park have been burned in the past and have benefited from it.

As we progressed through the checklist and reviewed the status of the park management plan it was evident that the park is in fairly good condition without a lot of effort on the part of the park service. This park is not one of the heavily visited parks and the forested areas do not have trash problems or invasive plants. The feral hog population is monitored for brucellosis and an effort is underway to trap and remove these nuisance hogs from the park. The boat ramp and surrounding picnic area and bathrooms are clean and well kept. The known cultural resources (archeological and historic sites) are preserved and protected. Some of these cultural resources include Swift Creek and Weedon Island middens, a burial mound site, a possible village site, a quarry and camp site as well as areas where pre-historic point fragments and pottery were found.

If the park was awarded more funding for projects and upgrades there was the recommendation that pedestrian trails be expanded to focus on the natural habitats that tie together the scrubby flatwoods, the hammocks, the tidal marsh and the marsh islands and make it a destination experience for hiking and biking. A suggestion was made to have more primitive camping opportunities and to add a viewing platform on the marsh, which would be a high-light of the park if one could be constructed.

Our checklist review went smoothly with the park rangers explaining the management plan objectives and the status of meeting those objectives. Each LMR participant filled out an itemized checklist that rated how well the objectives were being met. Comments were made and commendations were given for several outstanding achievements such as having no invasive plants and for protecting the cultural and historical sites within the park. An overall report will be issued by the FDEP with recommendations and updates to the original plan. This is being worked on and will be sent out by FDEP at a later date.

I recommend that our native plant society members become familiar with this LMR process in their area of Florida and try to keep up with the various land management plans for our state with the goal to keep as much of our Florida ecosystems as natural as we can. As E. O. Wilson says in his new book, *Half-Earth*, "We must move swiftly to preserve the biodiversity of our planet...[we must] dedicate fully half the surface of the earth to nature." In this way we could help to fulfill the FNPS mission to preserve, conserve and restore the native plants and native plant communities in Florida. ◇◇◇

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE WAKULLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Ralph Thomas, Chairman
Commissioner Randy Merritt
Commissioner Jerry Moore
Commissioner Mike Stewart
Commissioner Chuck Hess

Thank each of you, on behalf of the Sarracenia Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society, for your recent review and modification of the county mowing plan for state roads.

We are pleased you have agreed to fully mow the safety strip and right-of-way on a twice a year basis in winter and late to mid-May on the following roads:

- Hwy 267 from the Leon County Line to Hwy 98 in Newport (both sides, 29 miles)
- Hwy 319 (Sopchoppy Hwy) from Hwy 98 in Medart to the Franklin County Line (both sides, 12 miles)
- Hwy 98 West from Hwy 319 in Medart to the Franklin County Line (both sides, 8 miles)
- Hwy 98 East from Spring Creek Road to the Jefferson County Line (both sides, 16 miles)
- Woodville Hwy (Hwy 363) between Hwy 267 and Hwy 98 (both sides, 2.5 miles)
- Hwy 98 from Hwy. 319 to the Wakulla River (both sides), but ***please note this section of the road the safety strip shall be the front slope to the beginning of the swale.***

We understand the need for a full mow of the remaining state roads six times a year.

We agree with Commissioner Hess that the February 5, 2018 mowing plan did not take into account the positive benefits the wildflowers on these roads bring not only to visitors but to farmers, bee keepers and home gardeners.

As Commissioner Hess stated, Wakulla County is a center of biological diversity, and relies on Eco-tourism, and plays host to the Monarch Butterfly Festival where thousands of visitors flock to the St. Marks Wildlife Refuge each October.

We appreciate your vote to keep Wakulla County the "Natural Place to Be."

Bonnie Basham Woodward
President
Sarracenia Chapter, Florida Native Plant Society

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NOTICE TO MEMBERS: Please review the draft Bylaws recently sent to you. We will vote on them at the April 17th meeting.

PHOTOS FROM RECENT FIELD TRIPS:



Flame azalea (*Rhododendron austrinum*) Liberty County
3-18-18 field trip Photo by Sandy Tedder



March 31, 2018 Field Trip to Wakulla Springs State Park, North Side
Sarracenia Chapter at Wakulla Springs north 3-31-18 field trip
Photo by Kitty Loftin



Jack-in-the-pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*) 3-31-18 field trip
Photo by Kitty Loftin



Sarracenia rosea blossom Liberty County 3-18-18
Sarracenia rosea blossom 3-18-18 field trip Photo by Bob Thompson



Sarracenia rosea Liberty County 3-18-18
Sarracenia rosea pitcherplant 3-18-18 field trip Photo by Kitty Loftin



Sundial Lupine
(*Lupinus perennis*)
Liberty County 3-18-18

Sundial lupine (*Lupinus perennis*) 3-18-18 field trip
Photo by Bob Thompson



George Aphorh and Sarracenia
Chapter group
2-3-18 Field Trip - Wakulla Springs

George Aphorh and Sarracenia Chapter at Wakulla Springs
champion trees 2-3-18 field trip
Photo by Bob Thompson



Large loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*) 3-31-18 field trip
Photo by Sammy Tedder

JOINT PLANT SALE

Our Sarracenia Chapter will have a booth at the annual Worm Gruntin' Festival in Sopchoppy, Florida on April 14. You won't want to miss the chance to purchase native wildflowers and trees at great prices. Our booth will be open at 9:00am and we will be there until 4:00pm.



JOINT PLANT SALE

Sarracenia Chapter of the
Native Plant Society
&
Wakulla County Garden Club

Join us on April 14th, at the
Sopchoppy Worm Gruntin' Festival.

Our booths will be located on Winthrop Avenue
for easy drive up plant pick-up.
Cash & checks accepted.

A varied collection of wildflowers, native plants,
garden perennials and trees suited for our area.
Plenty of choices for wildflower enthusiasts,
butterfly & bird lovers.

Sarracenia Board and Regular Volunteers

Bonnie Basham Woodward
Jeannie Brodhead
George Weaver
David Roddenberry
Sandy Tedder
Kitty Loftin

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