



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

WINTER 2017 - 2018

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### January 16 - Chapter meeting

#### Wakulla Springs Upland Hardwood Forests

George Apthorp

Mr. Apthorp, long-time and now retired official in management of Florida's state parks and master wildlife conservationist, will bring his intensive acquaintance with Wakulla Springs plant communities to bear. He takes strong interest in noble individual trees.

### January 20 - Arbor Day Celebration and Tree

#### Giveaway. Hudson Park, Crawfordville, FL, 10am

### February 3 - Field Trip with George Apthorp

Come take an easy 1.5 mile stroll with George Apthorp through Wakulla Springs beautiful, nationally recognized, upland hardwood forests. Details will be provided by email.

### February 20 - Chapter meeting

#### The Gadsden Glades

Dr. Ann Johnson

Dr. Johnson, a biologist with Florida Natural Areas Inventory, will describe and illustrate those small herbaceous openings in the forests of Gadsden and Jackson Counties known as "Florida upland glades."

### March 20 - Chapter meeting

#### Where Ethnobotany and Ethnomusicology Meet

Sammy Tedder

Mr. Tedder's presentation will feature some of the musical instruments he makes and plays that are crafted from our native plants and trees. He will also discuss and demonstrate other utilitarian items that indigenous cultures created from native plants.

\* \* \*

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) 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.



## WHERE WE'VE BEEN AND WHERE WE'RE GOING

Bonnie Basham Woodward

On a perfect October day, the Sarracenia Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society joined other organizations including Magnolia Chapter FNPS, Wakulla County Garden Club, the Milkweed Monarch initiative volunteers and the Refuge Woodlands Fire Brigade to behold the wondrous spectacle of hundreds of monarchs flitting among the *Baccharis halimifolia*, (saltbush) plants and *Solidago* (goldenrod) during the Monarch Butterfly Festival at the St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge. It was a beautiful day and monarchs were gathering to drink in the nectar of the *Baccharis* before their long journey to Mexico and parts south.



Sarracenia display at Monarch Festival Photo by Kitty Loftin

Chapter board members Bonnie Basham Woodward, Jeannie Brodhead, David Roddenberry and George Weaver offered native plants for sale and had a beautiful display of blooming natives for show and tell. In addition, they distributed the FNPS Landscaping With Native Plants guide to eager families wishing to get their native wildflower gardens started.

In November, I was honored to be elected the Sarracenia Chapter's newest President. Previous president, Linda Smith, resigned in October and I accepted the Board's vote to move into the President's position. David Roddenberry was elected to serve out my term as Vice President.

Our Sarracenia Chapter continues to grow with new members and we look forward to an exciting lineup of program speakers and field trip opportunities for the New Year.

Saturday, January 20, 2018, is the date for this year's Arbor Day celebration. Please plan to come to Hudson Park to select a free native tree for your yard. We will be on hand to talk about native plants and trees and to give you a copy of our landscaping brochure showing photos of native plants which can be planted in your yard.

Beginning in January we will have an exciting 2-part series, beginning with George Apthorp's presentation on upland hardwood forests found at the Wakulla Springs State Park. In February, Mr. Apthorp will lead us on a field trip to see these magnificent trees up close.

We welcome anyone with an interest in native plants, their habitats, their unique place in our ecosystem and the benefits they bring to wildlife and our daily lives. Our meetings are held at the Wakulla Library, the third Tuesday of the month and begin with refreshments at 6:00pm. Meetings start at 6:30pm and conclude by 8:15 p.m.

Please make plans to join us; and consider becoming a member of our organization if you aren't already.



George Weaver with wildflower identification display  
photo by Kitty Loftin

## A SARRACENIA BEFORE HIS TIME

(Reprinted and excerpted from Celestine Sibley in The Atlanta Constitution, July 15, 1985)

In the little town of Sopchoppy, Fla., there's a man with an idea that should appeal to every person in the entire country who wants a beautiful garden and has little or no money to spend on it. He is Gleney Bonner, a tall, erect, white-haired retired teacher and high school principal. ... He and his wife... built a delightful little nursery... mainly as a public service.

"I had an idea that I could build a place people would enjoy wandering around in..." Mr. Bonner said. "The big trees were already here and there was some grass. We encouraged what we had and started adding things." The entire Bonner theory is that beautiful gardens can be built entirely out of native plants.

... Although the Bonners themselves don't stick entirely to native plants... they have avenues of swamp myrtle and sweet bay, native magnolias and yaupons.

Native ferns are everywhere and the woodland effect of the nursery is tranquil and charming. Sopchoppy is a small town and it was very poor when Gleney Bonner first went there from Mobile, Ala., to teach... .

People who are hungry, observed Mr. Bonner, don't take easily to learning and are often oblivious to beauty, even the natural beauties all around them. Part of his mission as a teacher was to help feed bodies as well as minds and spirits. ... People who plant vegetable gardens are seldom hungry, and people who ... perpetuate the natural beauty around them are happier for it.

Above story contributed by David Roddenberry after finding the article in an old publication.



*Lycium carolinianum* (Christmasberry) near Monarch Festival booth at St. Marks NWR  
Photo by Kitty Loftin

## SPIGELIA MARILANDICA

Bonnie Basham Woodward

Indian pink, hummingbird pink or woodland pink-root (*Spigelia marilandica*) is one of the “stars” of my garden. This clump-forming perennial loves moist woods, with their fertile, organic-rich soils, and thrives in semi-shade. While it loves rich soil, it will grow well in any type of soil from sand to clay. However, it is not salt-tolerant.



*Spigelia marilandica* (Indian Pink) Photo by Bonnie Basham Woodward

Indian pink is in the Loganiaceae family which contains over 60 ornamental plants distributed over the warmer parts of the Americas, from the latitude of Buenos Aires to the southern United States. Other species of *Spigelia* are found as far north as Vermont and west to Texas. In some states, like Indiana and North Carolina, *Spigelia marilandica* is listed as endangered. This is due in large part to over-harvesting.

*Spigelia marilandica* is native to Wakulla, Franklin, Leon, Jefferson and Jackson counties. Fortunately, we have nurseries specializing in native plants for our area who offer this charming plant in the early spring. We plan to offer this plant at the Sopchoppy Worm Gruntin’ Festival which will be on April 14, 2018, in downtown Sopchoppy.

Carl Linnaeus, in his 1753 *Species Plantarum*, named this plant after Adrian van der Spiegel (1578-1625), professor of anatomy at Padua University. Padua, located in northern Italy and founded in 1222, was also the university where Galileo Galilei taught.

*Spigelia* does not tolerate the direct sun of Florida summers nor does it like to be transplanted. You may read that gardeners have had success with planting *Spigelia* in full sun. However, on closer examination you will find they reside in Vermont or Minnesota or similar climates.

Once *Spigelia* finds a place to its liking, very little maintenance is needed. When grown in full shade it gets leggy and is not as attractive. I located my first plants on the side of a berm and placed *Echinacea purpurea* above them for the dappled shade the plants want. *Spigelia* should be watered moderately often in the same way you water oak leaf hydrangea (*Hydrangea quercifolia*). We have a nice clump of *Spigelia* at the front of our *Hydrangea quercifolia* bed as well as a section of a walkway in front of our *Rhododendron austrinum* (flame azalea). It also blends well with our native Columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*).

My plants have not experienced any trouble with either diseases or insects. In fact, I have been unable to find any mention of either diseases or insects that are troublesome to this plant.

The plant features one-sided cymes\* of upward facing trumpet-shaped red flowers. From the side, the flowers look to me like the individual feathers found on Native American headgear. Each blossom is about 2” long and they sit atop stiff stems that can extend up to 18”. Each red flower is yellow inside and the lobes flare at the top to form a five-pointed yellow star.



*Spigelia* cymes of upward facing flowers  
Photo by Bonnie Basham Woodward

The leaves are lance-shaped, growing from 2 to 4 inches long, and up to 3 inches wide. They are positioned opposite each other along a wiry stem that stretches to about 2 ft. from root to the tip of the blossom. The leaves are a rich glossy deep green which further enhances the blossoms. The plants grow to about 2 ft. high.

Its seeds are widely dispersed if left alone or you can monitor the seed heads and collect them just before the dark brown seedpods are ready to burst. You can sow them directly into garden beds or in pots so that you can keep track of them. The pots will need to winter outside where the seeds can be exposed to nature's varying seasonal temperatures required for germination.

This plant is a great attractor of birds. So if you are searching for plants to attract wildlife Indian pink is a great choice. Hummingbirds love it and it is listed on "Operation Ruby Throated Hummingbird" website as one of the 10 best plants for these birds. We have found that pollinators of all varieties enjoy it as well. Our research indicates it is a favorite of honey bees.

This plant was used by the Cherokee and other Native American tribes as a ritual and ceremonial herb to induce visions and foretell the future. Native Americans used it to help rid the body of parasitic worms, which accounts for one of its common names, "worm grass." Several other medicinal properties have been ascribed to it, but it *should never be ingested without supervision, for it can cause convulsions and even death. While the plant is listed in some sources as an edible, the USDA information indicates it is poisonous.* In our garden we look for the blossoms in mid-May thru late June. As with any flowering plant, deadheading the withered blossoms will prolong the blooming season.

Indian pink is great for inexperienced gardeners just starting their native plant gardens as well as those who like low maintenance gardens.

-----

\*(A flat-topped or convex flower cluster in which the main axis and each branch end in a flower that opens before the flowers below or to the side)

▲ ▲ ▲ ▲

---

## COASTAL DUNES TOUR -- FNPS FUNDRAISER

---

Our Chapter was included in an email from the main Florida Native Plant Society office about a new fundraiser for the FNPS. The fundraiser is a tour of the freshwater dune lakes found right next to our Gulf Coastal waters to the west of Wakulla and Franklin Counties. Coastal dune lakes are found in New Zealand, Australia, Madagascar.....and in the north Florida panhandle. Indigo Travel Company will be conducting the tour of the coastal dunes via a luxury motor coach on March 9 - 12, 2018. The tour will visit 15 freshwater dune lakes with three overnight stays at Topsail Hill Preserve State Park (comfortable accommodations.) A canoe trip on the Blackwater River is also part of this tour. For more information, call Devon at 813-478-1183, email [indigotravelcompany@gmail.com](mailto:indigotravelcompany@gmail.com) or visit [www.indigotravelcompany.com](http://www.indigotravelcompany.com).

☞ ☞

---

**NOTICE:** Sarracenia Chapter members will be asked to ratify our Chapter bylaws during the March meeting. You will receive a copy of the proposed bylaws in February for your review. There will be a discussion of the proposed bylaws during our February 20th meeting.

---

☞ ☞



*Spigelia marilandica* (Indian Pink) Photo by Bonnie Basham Woodward

*Jeannie Brodhead*

Our 15<sup>th</sup> annual Arbor Day will be held on January 20, 2018. Everyone who signs in will be able to choose one free native tree. Many of the trees were purchased by the Wakulla County Garden Club, others were provided by a grant from the National Wildlife Federation.

We'll have a "Meet the Trees" presentation at the library at 12 noon on Wednesday, January 10, 2018. We'll introduce each of the trees and go over information about planting trees and keeping them healthy.

This year's 900 trees include crabapple, redbud, fringe tree, American beech, big-flowered silverbell, southern magnolia, bigleaf magnolia, wild olive, flatwoods plum, rusty blackhaw, black walnut, hoptree, dogwood, mockernut hickory, parsley hawthorne, sand live oak and bald cypress. There are 100 of some species available and only a few of some of the others. The forestry service is usually there with bundles of long leaf pines, too, so everyone should be able to choose a good tree for their yard.

**A lot of volunteers are needed** to make the day a success. The trees are already waiting in 1-gallon pots of good soil at Just Fruits Nursery located on US 98 and St. Francis Street. 

Here's what we need volunteers for:

Wednesday, Jan. 17--The trees need to be prepared for the event. A few will need to be trimmed or weeded and many will need to be clipped from the underlying landscape fabric.

You'll need to wear work clothes and gloves for this. Meet at Just Fruits Nursery and bring sharp clippers or loppers if you have them. We'll begin at 9 AM and work until we are finished. We'll also need people to put tags on the trees and count how many of each that we have.

Friday, January 19--We'll need volunteers with vans, trucks and trailers to transport the trees from Just Fruits Nursery to Hudson Park beginning at 2 PM. Lynn Artz will be at the park to show where each species needs to be placed. Volunteers will be needed at Hudson Park to help unload trees and put up the garden club and native plant society tents.

Saturday, January 20, 2018--The trees will be given out beginning at 10 AM.

More detailed information will be sent out to the garden club and native plant society member email lists, websites and Facebook. Don't forget to come to the library at 12 noon on Wednesday, January 10 to "Meet the Trees." Snacks and handouts will be provided.

**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**