



Sarracenia Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society

The SARRACENIA TRUMPET

SPRING 2014

◆ GROWING NATIVE FNPS CONFERENCE MAY 15-18 FT. MYERS ◆

Upcoming Events

March 2014

18 Chapter Meeting

April 2014

12 Sopchoppy Worm-Gruntin' Festival

15 Chapter Meeting

19 Wakulla Wildlife Festival

26 Green Living Exposition

□ Field Trip – T.B.A.

May

15-18 FNPS Conference – Ft. Myers

20 Chapter Meeting

Chapter Meetings this Spring

Tues., Mar 18 Bill Boothe: Pollen and Creatures That Pollinate

Tues., Apr 15 Dan Miller: Native-Plant Propagation

Tues., May 20 Chase Mason: Strategies for two Endangered Sunflowers

The Sarracenia Chapter meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month September to May. Meetings are held at 6:30 PM at the Wakulla Public Library, Crawfordville, Fla.



Spring Field Trip!

Watch for the date for the FNPS-members field trip associated with the feature presentation this past January. A remarkable wildflower feature of the "well disturbed" site in St. Marks NWR will be the centerpiece of the outing. Its prime time is what the scheduling will try to hit. Thus there may not be quite as long notice as usual. Watch your email.

Wildflowers Get Strong Local Nod

Wakulla County Public Works Department this past November accepted specifications for four stretches of county highways as wildflower management sites. At a total of about 7/10 mile, it's a small step, but as recognition of an additional benefit of the road rights-of-way, it's a giant leap. Sarracenia is proud to be listed as a cooperator.

The sites:

Hwy C-375—

-0.5-mile site three miles NW of Sopchoppy

-500-ft. site nine miles NW of first

Hwy C-365 -530 feet at Spring Creek

Hwy C-59 -130 feet near N end

Promotion of ecotourism in the County was cited by the environmental consultant as an expected impact of the special management. Development of promotional materials by the County is foreseen alongside the management specs.

As implementation of the plan by Public Works gets underway this year, monitoring and photo-documentation are to continue. Adherence to the management specs by the County would have the frequently mowed "safety strip" beside the pavement no more than 9 feet wide (6 feet in two sites). It would have the first mowing of the strip in spring no earlier than necessary, and limit mows outside the strip to late fall and winter.



Hwy. C-375 Site 2 in spring

Consultant Jeff Norcini listed some 66 showy native species in their seasons in the selected sites —and some undesirables for the County to actively combat.

The consultant made the additional observation that a continuous 12 miles or more of C-375, including the two designated sites, "has the potential to rival SR 65 (Liberty, Franklin Counties) in showiness and diversity." David Roddenberry

—INSIDE—

—Non-native Nasties, by Katherine Gilbert

—Flowers Swales, by Jeannie Brodhead

—MORE

The Family Cornaceae, Including Our Local Dogwood Trees

Among the most popular native plants in Florida, both in landscapes and in the wild, is the flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*). Although a relatively small tree in most cases, the showy white bracts around the flower heads, the bright red, berry-like fruit and the colorful autumn foliage set this tree apart. This handsome tree is a member of the family *Cornaceae* which includes two genera, *Cornus* and *Nyssa*, the latter encompassing our local tupelo trees (*Nyssa sylvatica*—black gum/sour gum and *Nyssa ogeche*—ogechee tupelo).

There are two other members of the *Cornus* genus which are also frequently found in Wakulla and surrounding counties, *Cornus foemina* (stiff cornel dogwood, sometimes called swamp dogwood) and *Cornus asperifolia* (rough leaf dogwood). Although both of the latter trees are relatively common, they are so different from the flowering dogwood that many people would not recognize them as related. Hopefully this article will make them more familiar to our readers.

The trees in this genus are known for the toughness of the wood, and *Cornus* is Latin for "horn". What all three of these related trees also have in common are opposite, elliptic to lanceolate leaves with a series of distinct veins that run parallel with the leaf margin right to the leaf tip. Also, as both the scientific (*asperifolia*) and common (rough leaf)

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Cornaceae (cont.)

names suggest, the rough leaf dogwood has smaller leaves than its two cousins and also has stiff hairs on the top surface of the leaf that make it definitely "rough" to the touch. Also, the stiff cornel dogwood does not develop the attractive dark red autumn foliage typical of the other two species; the leaves blacken before falling. Then, the real differences begin:

1. The flowering dogwood flowers are actually tiny, yellowish green and insignificant, being compacted into tight, button-like clusters. Each central flower cluster is surrounded by four showy, white, petal-like bracts, giving the appearance of a single, large, 4-petaled, white flower. In contrast, both the rough leaf and stiff cornel dogwoods produce a flat-topped cluster (cymose) of tiny white flowers.



top, flower and bracts of *C. florida*
bottom, cyme of *C. asperifolia*

2. The fruit of the flowering dogwood appear in the fall as clusters of red/orange berry-like drupes while the fruit of both the rough leaf and stiff cornel dogwoods are blue or black in color. As with the flowers, the fruit of these related species are quite distinct.

3. You may have heard the joke about being able to "tell a dogwood by its bark!!" While it is true that the bark of the flowering dogwood has a distinctive, "pebble-like" appearance, the bark of the two related species have generally smooth bark with no trace of pebbling. So, while the tree's bark may help in identifying the flowering dogwood, it provides few clues to winter identification of the other two species.

4. The final difference is with regard to where these trees prefer to grow. In particular, the stiff cornel dogwood is found only in wetland areas, which gives rise to one of its common names,

"swamp dogwood." Along the banks of local creeks, rivers, and ponds, the stiff cornel dogwood shows its white flower clusters to fishermen and paddlers in late March and early April. On the other hand, both the flowering and rough leaf dogwoods require well-drained sites



fruits of *C. asperifolia*

and will not be found in areas that are subject to frequent flooding. In fact, the presence of well-established, "wild" flowering dogwood trees along riverbanks and creeks serve as one of the foliage indicators of a "wetlands" boundary.

As you watch the sequence of flowering trees in our area this spring, see if you can identify the rough leaf dogwoods in your neighborhood (often shrubby and/or multi-stemmed). Just grab a leaf and you will know. If you have a chance to be on our fresh-water rivers/streams in the next two months you will also likely see flowers of the stiff cornel dogwood as well. *Dr. George Weaver*

Non-native Nasties

We focus here on three more species in two genera. We stick to non-herbicide remedies below (for small areas). Web sites of The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, Univ. of Florida, may prescribe herbicide application. Remember that herbicides must be used sparingly and only as labeled. Spray directly on plant leaves, only enough to not drip off, or directly into a slash made into the trunk as directed.

FIRST NASTY –

- *Cinnamomum camphora* – camphor tree
(Laurel Family - *Lauraceae*)



flowers, fruits of *C. camphora*

Description: Evergreen tree that can grow up to 65 ft. Often seen as a tall shrub invading disturbed areas. Twigs

green or reddish green; leaf stems and major veins light green to yellow. Leaves simple, alternate, 1.5 to 4 inches long, with smooth but sometimes wavy edges. Flowers light green to cream colored held in loose panicles. Fruits become black. Camphor can be readily identified by the smell of fresh crushed leaves or twigs.

Problem: The Camphor tree is native to China and Japan. It was introduced in 1875 for its oils and timber, but didn't prove as profitable as desired. This plant invades disturbed areas and grows quickly. The seeds are spread by birds. Unfortunately, it is still being sold by some nurseries in Florida.

Solution: Hand pull small plants, dig out larger ones. All of the roots must be removed to prevent resprouting. More on its control can be found at <http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/node/101> <http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/parks/camphor.html>

NASTIES NOS. 2 AND 3 –

Ligustrum spp. – Privets
(Family *Oleaceae*)

- *L. sinense* – Chinese privet
- *L. lucidum* – glossy privet

Description: Evergreen shrubs and small trees with smooth-edged leaves opposite on stems. (Leaves of native privet, *Forestiera*, have small serrations along leaf edge). Glossy privet has glossy leaves that are up to 3-5 inches



hedge of *L. sinense*

long. Leaves of some horticultural varieties can be variegated. The shrub can become a small tree, up to 30 ft. tall. Chinese privet has smaller leaves up to 3 inches long with fine hairs on the leaf underside along the midrib. Chinese privet only grows to about 20 ft. tall. New growth is finely hairy (pubescent). Fruits, shown in photo, turn bluish black. Flowers are small and white on several stalks at the ends of the small branches.

There are many species from all over the Eurasian land mass, but none native to the Americas. Their tolerance of poor environmental conditions historically made them very desirable landscaping plants. They spread through fields and

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Nasties (cont.)

forests vegetatively below ground and the fruit is distributed by wildlife. Native to southeastern Asia. Introduced worldwide. Found in the Atlantic and Gulf coastal states and Arkansas.

branchlets of L. sinense



twig with young fruits, L. lucidum

Problem: Quickly spreads throughout wooded areas, out-competing native species, including young trees. The growth can become very dense. The seeds are dispersed by birds and other critters. Some people react when the flowers are in bloom with cold symptoms and headaches.

Solution: Hand pull small plants, dig out larger ones. All of the roots must be removed to prevent resprouting. Other methods are described at <http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/node/231#management>

Katherine Gilbert

Wet Swales and Other Flowery Places

The tremendous amount of rain that we've had lately will bring us a luxuriant crop of wet-soil-loving wildflowers over the next few months. Quite a few of them are insectivorous with various methods of trapping and dissolving insects for nourishment. *Pinguicula*, *Drosera*, *Sarracenia* and *Utricularia* are a few of such genera that will be present. Representing the *Pinguicula* genus will be Chapman's butterwort (*P. planifolia*), southern butterwort (*P. primuliflora*) and small butterwort (*P. pumila*) with their pale violet-blue petals. Our local yellow butterwort (*P. lutea*) is easily seen along our moist St. Marks NWR roads.

Our *Droseras* will be sending up their pretty flowers, among them dew-threads (*D. tracyi*) with its string of pink flowers and dwarf sundew (*D. brevifolia*) with its white flower, both of these often seen in moist ditches.

Utricularia is another genus that will be blossoming during this season. Horned bladderwort (*U. cornuta*) and zig-zag bladderwort (*U. subulata*) both bear sunny yellow blossoms.

Our namesake *Sarracenias* will also be flowering. Yellow pitcherplants (*S. flava*) with their tall yellow trumpets produce a beautiful flower this time of the year. Parrot pitcherplants (*S. psittacina*) have an awesome red flower, hooded pitcherplants (*S. minor*) produce a drooping yellow blossom, and white-topped pitcherplants have a deep red, drooping flower.

The next time you're out driving in our natural areas, stop the car, get out and see the wonderful wildflowers that are coming up in those wet swales and savannas.

If you want a list of 100 native spring wildflowers, blossoming trees, vines and shrubs that grow in our area; send me an email at sarracenia.nps@gmail.com

Jeannie Brodhead

Some Sarracenias Seize the Moment

Congratulations are in order for Sarracenia members Dr. Howard and Anne Kessler and Vic Lambou. They were leaders in the successful petition drive by Wakulla Wetlands Alliance to qualify a Wakulla County wetlands-protection ordinance for referendum. They and the many other leaders and volunteers carried on a determined grassroots campaign, cleared a very high hurdle, and appear to have brought about a landmark moment right now in Wakulla County affairs.

(Dr. Kessler is also a member of the Board of County Commissioners of Wakulla County.)

Membership News

Please join the Sarracenia board members in welcoming our newest member, Elizabeth Clark, who lives at Ochlockonee Bay. She joined our chapter on February 22, 2014. As I was checking our membership information on the FNPS website I noticed that a few of our members are longtime members of FNPS. The Sarracenia Chapter has been around since November of 2006 so some of our members were originally part of our sister chapter, Magnolia in Tallahassee, or other chapters around Florida. We currently have 36 memberships but quite a few of those are families so we have 56 members now. Thank you all for supporting our mission here in Florida.

Jeannie Brodhead

The purpose of the Florida Native Plant Society is to preserve, conserve, and restore the native plants and native plant communities of Florida.