



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

FALL 2025

Upcoming Events

Chapter meetings begin at 6:30pm at the Wakulla County Library, with refreshments at 6:00pm

September 16, 2025 – Chapter Meeting

Sandhill Revival: the St. Teresa Restoration Journey Kristin Ebersol, Florida Park Service

Ms. Ebersol will delve into the vision and the challenges of long-term ecological restoration now underway on a very large 2020 addition to Bald Point SP. The St. Teresa Tract of 7,700 acres came mostly as a dense, commercial sand pine row crop blocking the Florida sun from what was originally open longleaf pine sandhill. In some challenges there may be a place for hands-on assistance by local FNPS members.

Sept. 20, 2025 – Field Trip

This first of two or more follow-up field trips from the Sep. 16 chapter meeting, this outing in sandhills of St. Marks NWR, will better acquaint members with two endemic and endangered asters. David Roddenberry will guide. Future chapter emails will give details.

Oct. 5, 2025 – Field Trip

As the feature follow-up to our Sept. 16 chapter meeting (see above), park manager Kristin Ebersol will host a trip in the vast St. Teresa tract of Bald Point SP. We will view the current state of sandhill restoration and learn what comes next.

October 21, 2025 – Chapter Meeting

Hidden Gems of the NFWFMD Lands; Retired Land Managers share their Favorite Places

Tyler Macmillan of Tall Timbers & David Clayton, Botanist

Messrs. Macmillan and Clayton will be discussing their favorite places in the Northwest Florida Water Management District.

October 25, 2025 – Festival

Monarch Butterfly Festival – St. Marks NWR 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Our chapter will have a booth at the festival. Come and help staff the booth or just come to visit the festival.

Upcoming Events (cont'd)

Nov. 2 - Field Trip

In a follow-up to our Oct. 21 chapter meeting (see above) we will hold a field trip with Tyler Macmillan in the E. Guy Revell Trails here in Wakulla County. Details to follow via email.

November 18, 2025 – Chapter Meeting

Invasive Species Mapping: A Citizen Science Project Chris Wanamaker, Invasive Species Ecologist

Invasive plants degrade ecosystems by crowding out native plants and creating dense monocultures that threaten critical plant, bird and wildlife habitats. Mapping populations of invasive species is an important step toward successful management of these species.

Nov. 19, 2025 – Field Trip

In a follow-up to our Nov. 18 chapter meeting (see above) Chris Wanamaker will conduct volunteer training for invasive species mapping.

Our chapter does not meet in December. A new The Trumpet newsletter, at the end of November, will outline the meetings for the new year.



CHAPTER PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

Melanie Trexler

Greetings, Sarracenia members and friends!
Another hot and humid summer approaches its end, with fewer yellow flies this year, but it was indeed a wicked gnat season! It has, however, been lovely to watch the seasonality of the roadside native plants as summer progressed, and we certainly look forward to the usual spectacular fall blooming season as cooler weather approaches.

On September 16, 2025, we will have our first meeting at the Wakulla County Library at 6:30 p.m. Starting in September, our new President, Jack Richardson, will be taking over Sarracenia's

activities! Jack is a native Floridian, having lived most of his life in South Florida in Dade and Broward counties. He spent 27 years with the Miami Beach Fire/Rescue in various capacities (firefighter, fire prevention inspector, fire investigator, paramedic and driver/engineer). Jack is married to Laurie (almost 38 years), and has three adult children in Seattle, New Orleans, and Tallahassee. Jack and Laurie moved to Tallahassee in 2015, built a home in Crawfordville in 2017 and started attending Sarracenia meetings soon after. We are very lucky to have Jack and Laurie; please be sure to introduce yourselves to them both!

Jack won't be without help – our tireless board members will be coordinating, planning, and assisting Sarracenia Chapter throughout the year: Vice President Jeannie Brodhead, Secretary Sandy Tedder, Treasurer George Weaver, Chapter Representative Lynn Artz and Membership chairperson Ann Reams.

Our first speaker will be Kristin Ebersol, who will talk to us about sandhill revival efforts in the St. Teresa Tract. (see related article “Sandhill Revival: The St. Teresa Restoration Journey,” next page). In October, we have planned a field trip to the St. Teresa Tract, with Ms. Ebersol guiding us, to see those sandhills she will have introduced us to in her presentation. In November, Ms. Ebersol hopes Sarracenia members will volunteer to help with a half-day field workday at St. Teresa and elsewhere in Bald Point State Park for seed-collecting for groundcover restoration at St. Teresa, where the wiregrass sowing and longleaf pine planting have already been done this past year, and then have a second field workday in the second half of November to sow seeds. Those seeds we'll collect and sow will include two rare asters.

In October, Sarracenia plans to participate with a booth and seed giveaway at the St. Marks NWR Monarch Festival, as we have done in past years, always a well-attended and fun event!

Also remember that every first Saturday and third Friday of the month (9:00 a.m.), volunteers meet at the award-winning Sopchoppy Depot Park to help keep that remarkable native plant garden sparkling. Help is always needed.

We hope that you will consider participating in our monthly meetings and volunteer opportunities, not only to socialize with your fellow native plant enthusiasts, but to promote the conserva-

tion, preservation, and management of our native Florida flora and lands. No effort is too small! Happy Botanizing! – Melanie Trexler



A NEW IRIS FOR FRANKLIN COUNTY

Anne C. Schmidt, M.S., Conservation Biologist

Ms. Schmidt is a member of the Sarracenia and Magnolia Chapters. The following is adapted from her Concluding Report on Study of a Population of Irises in Tate's Hell State Forest (June 2025) –ed.

In April 2024, Sarracenia Chapter members noticed irises flowering on the flank of Jeff Sanders Road in Tate's Hell SF, Womack Creek Tract, and questioned whether the plants could be identified with any of the three iris species recorded for Franklin County. Shortly afterward, naturalist Floyd Griffith was asked to better examine the plants, which from first sighting had been conspicuously distinct from both *Iris tridentata* and *I. virginica* — two of the three species recorded for the County. This closer examination found the characteristics of the plants also inconsistent with the third recorded species, *I. savannarum*.



In the field at THSF with Annie Schmidt and Floyd Griffith. Photo by David Roddenberry

Mr. Griffith began reviewing his experience with two iris species not recorded for Franklin County but recorded in the Florida Panhandle — *I. hexagona*, with a recorded Florida range (very limited) lying entirely east of Franklin County, and *I. brevicaulis*, with a very small recorded Florida range lying north.

As the hypothesis developed under Mr. Griffith's leadership that the plants in question could best be identified as a species not recorded for Franklin County thus far, I [Anne C. Schmidt] was asked to lead a study to arrive at an actual identification.

Mr. Roddenberry of the Sarracenia Chapter and Mr. Griffith would be co-investigators.

The three of us visited the site in early May 2025 and collected specimens of the iris in its flowering time. We studied the characteristics of the plants and found them most consistent with *I. brevicaulis*. The small population has scattered groups of plants. The iris has a semi-erect stem that zigzags slightly near the top, consistent with specimens vouchered and identified as *I. brevicaulis* in Jackson County, Florida. There are flowers on either side of the zig-zag stem that bloom sequentially, first at the top, then the lowest, then the next and then the next one going up the stem, until there is another final flower at the top.



One of a small patch of irises found in Tate's Hell State Forest, later identified as *Iris brevicaulis*, Zigzag iris.
Photo by David Roddenberry

Along with the specimens, we collected site data for vouchers. After preparation of the material, I submitted each of the two specimens in a Florida herbarium as *I. brevicaulis*, submitting one in the Godfrey Herbarium of Florida State University and the other in the herbarium of the University of South Florida.

We expect our vouchers to update the floras of Franklin County and Tate's Hell SF to include *I. brevicaulis*. This will result also in an update of the Florida range map of the species to include Franklin County—an appreciable range expansion.

The three of us involved in the study wish to express appreciation to Florida Forest Service for its cooperation in authorizing the field work.

SANDHILL REVIVAL: THE ST. TERESA RESTORATION JOURNEY

by David Roddenberry

The Trumpet first observed the huge job of ecological restoration that the State of Florida faces in the much-expanded Bald Point State Park (Franklin Co.) with chapter member Ann Reams's article in the Spring 2025 issue. As outgoing Sarracenia president Melanie Trexler says in the Chapter President's Update in this issue, we expect soon to be intimately acquainted with this important land restoration taking place in the Chapter's home territory. BPSP manager Kristin Ebersol in her upcoming September 16 presentation to Sarracenia—kicking off our 2025–26 series of programs—will explain the park expansion that has placed the entire Franklin County shore of Ochlockonee Bay and miles of the Ochlockonee River in public ownership.

The land of this added St. Teresa Tract has come with the industrial crop of sand pine that replaced the natural longleaf pine-wiregrass community. The first increment of removal of this pine row crop and installation of longleaf pines and wiregrass, under administration of Ms. Ebersol, has been accomplished just since mid-2024.

Our speaker will discuss the elements of such land restoration. One element is the revival of a diverse ground cover besides the wiregrass. No money is budgeted for this. Seeds are not available commercially for two endemic and endangered wildflowers extirpated by pine farming here, and probably likewise for other species involved. However, those seeds may be abundant this fall elsewhere in BPSP.

Considering these circumstances, it will be no surprise if Ms. Ebersol asks Sarracenia for hands-on help. Members are encouraged to consider the possibility that that opportunity will be placed before us this fall. Sarracenia is a leader in per-member volunteer service to Florida's native plants and public lands. One category of volunteer activity credited by FNPS is habitat restoration.



Bald Point Habitat Restoration sign 2025.
Photo by Ann Reams

FSU COASTAL AND MARINE LAB LANDSCAPING

Another significant volunteer effort by members of our chapter is at the FSU Coastal and Marine Lab grounds. The FSU "Marine Lab" has recently cleared its old landscaping and has asked our Sarracenia chapter to provide expert advice on native plants to replace the vegetation that was removed. Under the leadership of chapter members David Roddenberry, Scott Davis, and Lynn Artz, along with chapter volunteers Melanie Trexler, Jack Richardson, Jeannie Brodhead, Ann Reams and Sandy Tedder a plan has been established and transplanting was undertaken on a *Yucca gloriosa*, with some extra hand weeding in the Marine Lab courtyard. Volunteers are needed. If you would like to work on this project, please send email to Sarracenia.nps@gmail.com.

SOPCHOPPY DEPOT PARK UPDATE

We still need volunteers at the Sopchoppy Depot Park, now more than ever. We are under the gun to dig and relocate some plants in the next couple of months. You don't have to have any gardening knowledge, just come and you'll be instructed in the best way to help. We meet at the park the first Saturday of the month and the third Friday of the month at 9am. We will be adding extra work days between now and November in order to get all of the transplanting finished. On our workdays, please stay as long or short a time as you wish.

Our Sarracenia Chapter has a section of our website devoted to the park (thank you David Roddenberry for being our webmaster):
<https://sarracenia.fnpschapters.org/resources> (scroll down to #3 on that page).

You can see some of what is currently blooming at the park in the weekly newspaper, *The Wakulla Sun*, where Lynn Artz's articles are featured in a column called "Flower of the Week at Sopchoppy Depot Park." With text and photos, it is a great teaching tool.

SOME QUICK LINKS

FNPS's Lunch and Learns series – hour long speaker sessions on lots of native plant topics:
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLT16Qn-flr4O7nxo1cDZil-bO0X9Oy126>.

Jordan Parker's [L&L - Native Landscaping - Butterfly landscaping for the real Florida with JPCharisma](#).

Our Sarracenia chapter has a YouTube Channel. Here is the link: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_xtH-t3PBaGshb6KrTi4PA.

Chapter member Dr. Jim Folsom offers a free crash course in basic botany that is hosted by the Florida Wildflower Foundation. Here is the link to register and to view these informative webinars: [Botany in Context Webinar Series! - Florida Wildflower Foundation](#).

Find out what wildflowers will grow in your area and in your specific habitat: [Florida Native Plant Society \(FNPS\)](#)

Where to purchase native wildflower seeds:
<http://floridawildflowers.com/>. For bulk native wildflower seeds, try this company: [Roundstone Native Seed Company](#). For native plants in pots visit Native Nursery in Tallahassee.



The Sarracenia Chapter meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month September – November and January – May. Meetings are held at 6:30 PM at the Wakulla County Public Library. Refreshments served before the meeting. Meetings are free and open to the public. FNPS promotes the preservation, restoration, and conservation of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida.

Sarracenia Board

Melanie Trexler
Jack Richardson
Jeannie Brodhead
George Weaver
Sandy Tedder
Lynn Artz

Please Join Us at Any Board Meeting

Email us for dates and location
Sarracenia.nps@gmail.com

Other Volunteer Help

Ask how you can help with Chapter meetings, or help us at the Sopchoppy Depot Park or on any of our other volunteer projects.

Membership information is available at all in-person Chapter meetings, or contact us at Sarracenia.nps@gmail.com, or go online to FNPS.org on the Join/Support tab.

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

Visit our webpage: Sarracenia.fnpschapters.org