



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

SPRING 2026

Upcoming Events

Chapter meetings begin at 6:30pm at the Wakulla County Library

March 27 - 29, 2026 – LEEF Annual Conference

The League of Environmental Educators of Florida (LEEF) is holding its annual conference at Wakulla Environmental Institute. Chapter Rep Lynn Artz will be a featured speaker. See Leef-Florida.org to register.

April 4, 2026 – Field Trip

As the feature follow-up to our Feb. 17, 2026, chapter meeting, FSU biologist Dr. Tom Miller will host a field trip in the Apalachicola National Forest. This field trip currently has no openings for additional members.

April 11, 2026 – Native Plant Sale

Our annual native plant sale and popular FNPS educational station will be at the Sopchoppy Worm Gruntin' Festival from 9am-4pm in downtown Sopchoppy (corner of Winthrop Ave. and Rose Street).

April 21, 2026 – Chapter Meeting

Rooted Stories: Unearthing the Past with Plants

Barbara Clark, Regional Director, North Central &

Northwest, Florida Public Archaeology Network (FPAN)

Explores how archaeologists recover plant remains from ancient sites, highlights important plants used in the Southeast, and offers insight into early history.

April 22, 2026 – Earth Day in Apalachicola

Keep Florida Beautiful is a co-sponsor of this event. Our chapter will staff an FNPS station. The event is from 10am-2pm. Bring a glass bottle to recycle and get a free plant. Riverfront Park, 175-199 Water St, Apalachicola, FL.

April 25, 2026 – FSUCML Open House

FSU Coastal & Marine Lab Open House. 10am to 3pm. Hands-on educational displays, food trucks, silent auction, and a celebration of science. Free admission. We will have a station with educational materials, native wildflower displays, and more.

May 9, 2026 – Field Trip

Fritz Wettstein of the Magnolia Chapter leads this field trip to the Maclay Gardens native plant arboretum that the Magnolia chapter volunteers have created. Both our Sarracenia Chapter and the Magnolia Chapter are invited.

May 19, 2026 – Chapter Meeting

The State of Pollinators and How You Can Help

Mark Tancig, Extension Agent, Commercial and Residential Horticulture, UF/IFAS Extension Leon County

Learn about the latest research on pollinator and insect conservation concerns and how citizens can help provide habitat, improve habitat, and be a citizen scientist in pollinator research.



CHAPTER PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

Jack Richardson

Greetings Sarracenians,

Although it's sometimes hard to tell which season we are in, spring has officially sprung! The jessamine and redbud blooms were here and gone all too quickly, but if you're lucky enough to have a dogwood or red buckeye close by, they should be providing a nice splash of color in these early spring days.

Sarracenians are venturing forth on field trips hither and yon. This past weekend Will Mather led a follow-up to his informative presentation an excursion into the coastal area of Franklin County to observe how nature-based solutions are combating shoreline erosion. April 4th will find members of Sarracenia, Magnolia and FNPS staff joining Dr. Tom Miller in observing our namesake plants in the wild (sorry, this trip filled up only hours after being announced). Sarracenia will have a booth at the Sopchoppy Worm Gruntin' Festival on April 11th to inform folks about native plants and provide some for sale. April 22nd is Earth Day and we will be in Apalachicola. April 25th will find us at the FSU Coastal Marine Lab Open House, helping folks enjoy themselves as they learn about native flora and marine fauna.

Whew! I think the best way to determine when spring occurs is when there's so much to do that you simply can't do it all. Do come out and join us at these events, or better yet, join the Florida Native Plant Society (see the info in this issue) and come to our monthly meetings. We'd love to share Florida's native plants with you so you can view nature naturally.



by Sandy Tedder

Leaving some wild space or re-wilding your yard can create a small functioning ecosystem that can help to provide a sanctuary for many species and contribute to local biodiversity. Leaving a “messy” corner or area in our yards—brush piles, leaf litter, seedheads, and unmown edges—are exactly what many native plants and animals need to survive. This is one of the simplest and most powerful actions a homeowner can do for local biodiversity.

Layered vegetation, dead stems, and leaf litter provide cover, nesting sites, and hunting grounds for birds, small mammals, toads, lizards, and countless insects. Many native insects overwinter as eggs, pupae, or adults in hollow stems and under leaves; when we “clean up” every inch, we quite literally throw away next year’s pollinators and the food base for baby birds. Studies have shown that gardens with native plants and habitat structure support a higher diversity of bees and other insects than conventional, highly manicured landscapes.

From the gardener’s perspective, a designated wild zone can make the rest of the yard easier and more interesting to care for. A small brush pile under native trees, a strip of tall grasses along a fence, or a corner where leaves are allowed to lie can become a “backyard pocket park” alive with birdsong, butterflies, and the quiet work of soil life.

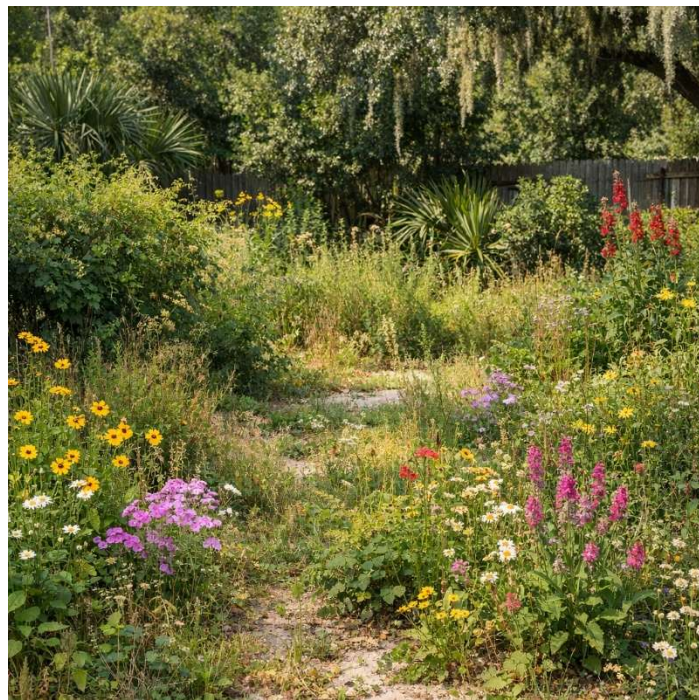


A re-wilded yard with a brush pile and mounded leaves. The non-cut grass and wildflowers help pollinators.

As more of us replace sterile, heavily managed lawns with intentional brushy edges and native plant thickets, our individual yards begin to link together as stepping-stones for wildlife moving through an increasingly fragmented landscape. In a time of rapid

habitat loss, preserving a little wildness at home is not neglect; it is everyday conservation, right outside the back door.

There is a nationwide effort to join with others in our neighborhoods, communities, regions and states to form an interconnected Homegrown National Park. Your yard can become a part of this interconnectedness. Visit <https://homegrownnationalpark.org> to find out more.



A re-wilded yard example. There could even be a brush and weed pile to give added space for birds and other small animals.



Fun facts about Sarracenias

There are 5 species of pitcherplants in our focus area of Wakulla and Franklin counties. Our chapter’s logo has a drawing by Helen Dull of a yellow pitcherplant, *Sarracenia flava*.

Pitcherplants are members of the family Sarraceniaceae, which is named after Dr. Michel Sarrazin, a physician and naturalist from Quebec.





FNPS MEMBERSHIP RATES ARE CHANGING APRIL 1, 2026

New Annual Rates:
 Individual: \$35 → \$50
 Household: \$50 → \$90

Your membership fuels the protection of Florida's native plants & their habitats when they need us most.

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS!

SCAN ME

FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
 SARRACENIA CHAPTER
 COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS

Membership rate change – renew before 3/31 to take advantage of old rate. You can renew for 2 years at this rate (or 4 years if you go through the 2-year renewal process twice.) To renew: <https://fnps.app.neoncrm.com/forms/renewindivhouse>.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTIONS

Sarracenia Chapter Board of Directors elections are coming up at the April 2026 chapter meeting. Two positions are currently seeking nominations: Chapter Representative and Secretary. You can self-nominate or nominate another individual. If nominating another individual please ensure they are aware and willing to serve if elected. Nominations can be made by contacting sarracenia.nps@gmail.com before our April 21st meeting. This is a chance to help guide the chapter into the future.

SIGN UP FOR ACTION ALERTS

We have a lot to be thankful for in our state. But we still need citizen input in order to improve things environmentally. Native plants and their habitats sometimes get overlooked. To help amplify our voice on issues threatening Florida's native plants, sign up to receive email and/or text notifications. Your information will not be shared with anyone and Florida Native Plant Society only uses your contact info for Action Alerts. Visit this link: <https://www.fnps.org/ecoaction-alerts#gsc.tab=0>.

SOPCHOPPY DEPOT PARK UPDATE

The Sopchoppy Depot Park volunteers are working hard to bring the native plant gardens back from the winter freezes in time for the Sopchoppy Worm Gruntin' Festival. The festival will be held in historic downtown Sopchoppy on April 11, 2026. We're holding a big plant sale at the festival, as we do every year lately and you can get relatively inexpensive native plants and wildflowers at our booth. Find us at the corner of Winthrop Ave. and Rose Street from 9am to 4pm on Saturday, April 11.

We need volunteers to help maintain plantings at the park. We meet at the park the first Saturday of the month and the third Friday of the month at 9am. On our work-days you can stay as long or short a time as you wish and you don't have to have any gardening knowledge to be a big help.

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).



Native Azaleas are blooming in Sopchoppy Depot Park



OXALIS WOODSORREL OVERVIEW

by Desiree Cureton

Species of the *Oxalis* genus, in the wood sorrel family (Oxalidaceae), are often among the first blooms that usher in Spring. Also known by their common name of woodsorrels, perhaps you've seen them appear this time of year in your gardens. Often thought of as weeds, these small flowering perennials provide much-needed nectar and pollen post-winter with bees as primary visitors and flies as secondary pollinators. Self-pollination is possible, enabling seed capsules that disperse seeds mechanically.

In north Florida, two native species with bright yellow, five-petaled flowers and three clover-like leaflets are common: *Oxalis corniculata* (creeping woodsorrel) and *Oxalis dillenii* (slender yellow woodsorrel), although not all authorities agree on the nativity of these two species. *O. corniculata* is typically a low, creeping, ground-hugging plant of lawns, roadsides, garden beds, and other disturbed or open sites, where it often behaves like a weed. *O. dillenii* will form somewhat taller multi-stemmed clumps, with hairy leaflets and can spread rapidly on lawns, along roadsides, and especially in disturbed habitats.



Slender yellow woodsorrel (*Oxalis dillenii*)

You may also notice sorrels in your garden with light pink or purplish-colored flowers. In the Florida panhandle that includes *O. debilis*, or pink woodsorrel,

which closely resembles the native yellow-flowering species but stands apart with its slightly larger pink-to-purple flowers. Believed to be introduced to Florida as an ornamental in the 1930s, *O. debilis* is now widespread although not yet classified as an invasive species.

As a sidenote, sometimes escaped house plants can also be found in our suburban and urban environments. In this vein, I identified the *O. triangularis*, or false shamrock in my neighborhood, as it grows in a swale beneath a mature Live Oak tree. It is actually a Brazilian species where it is endemic and considered an edible perennial plant. Its leaves are much bigger than those of native woodsorrels and are grouped in three large triangular leaflets that vary in color from variegated green to dark purple. But unchecked, this tuber-based *Oxalis* will spread rapidly and should be removed to a container to limit growth.

Florida has around eight species of *Oxalis* species recorded in herbarium records, but most are nonnative including *O. debilis* and *O. triangularis*. *O. triangularis* has recorded wild populations in Leon and Alachua counties but has not yet been documented in either Wakulla or Franklin counties. I hope this article inspires you to take a closer look at the humble woodsorrel and perhaps leave a few of the yellow-flowering kind in your gardens for the bees.



Pink woodsorrel (*Oxalis debilis*)



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.



Find us on Facebook at Sarracenia Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society and visit our webpage: Sarracenia.fnpschapters.org.

Sarracenia Board

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, at Sopchoppy Depot Park, or on any of our other projects.

Membership information is available at all Chapter meetings, or online at FNPS.org on the Join/Support tab.