



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

WINTER 2023-2024

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### January 16, 2024 - Chapter Meeting

#### **Urban Forestry, The Benefits of our City Trees**

#### **Mindy Mohrman, Urban Forester/Urban Planner**

Ms. Mohrman will share her knowledge of the benefits of planning for healthy, sustainable urban forests. Learn more about planning spaces for trees to improve quality of life, define a unique sense of place and provide substantial health benefits.

### January 19, 2024 - Florida Arbor Day

Wakulla County Garden Club will join more than 150 garden clubs across Florida in celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs as they simultaneously plant native trees. 11AM at the Medart Rec Park.

### January 20, 2024 - Crawfordville Arbor Day

Our chapter helps to host and fund the Crawfordville Arbor Day celebration. Free trees are available. 10AM to 1PM at the Wakulla County Extension Office. See article on page 3 of this newsletter for details.

### February 20, 2024 - Chapter Meeting

#### **Northwest Florida Sentinel Landscape**

**Kent Wimmer, Coordinator of the NW Florida Sentinel Landscape.** NWFSL is one of several sentinel landscapes. The 7.7 million acres in the Florida Panhandle contains rural and agricultural lands, iconic longleaf pine forests and habitat for threatened and endangered species. You will want to know more about this.

### March 21, 2024 - Chapter Meeting

**To be announced via email and newspaper**

\* \* \*



## CHAPTER PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

Melanie Trexler

Hello, Sarracenia members and friends!

I am very pleased to be the newly elected President of the FNPS Sarracenia Chapter for 2023-2024. Our past President, David Roddenberry, presided for several years and is now enjoying his well-earned "retirement" from the Board, with more free time to pursue his many other endeavors. David's work over the years to establish and build the chapter has been invaluable. In appreciation for his many years of support for our chapter, the members of Sarracenia joined in September to surprise David with a lifetime membership in the Florida Native Plant Society. I'm sure we will continue to benefit from his wealth of knowledge of our native plants and the history of our area. Thank you, David!



*Presentation of award for service to David Roddenberry*

This year, and into 2024, Jeannie Brodhead continues as our Vice President and hardworking keeper of our seed collections for distribution to the public; Sandy Tedder keeps our Chapter's records, is the Newsletter editor, and is responsible for most of our advertising and graphics on Facebook and other media; George Weaver continues as our Treasurer and does a wonderful job keeping track of our finances; Lynn Artz keeps us abreast of all FNPS organizational and relevant State and local legislative issues as our Chapter Representative, and manages the twice monthly

volunteers at the award-winning Sopchoppy Depot Park. And David Roddenberry has graciously agreed to continue to be our Webmaster. Thanks to all of our Board members!

Since September, the Chapter has had a full plate of activities. Sarracenia participated with an educational booth in three public events – Outdoor Wakulla Living, the St. Mark’s Monarch Butterfly Festival, and the Sopchoppy Oyster and Mullet Festival. The Sarracenia booth was supported by many volunteers, and we were able to give away hundreds of seed packets to the public, who were surely enchanted by our delightful tabletop display of seasonal native plant blooms (thanks to David and Jeannie).



*Sopchoppy Oyster & Mullet Festival 2023*

In addition, we made wonderful and well-attended field trips to Helen Roth’s Spring Canyon property, Nia Wellendorf’s suburban native yardscape, and had a most pleasant late Fall walk through the Wakulla State Forest, identifying trees with our County Forester, Emily Martin.



*Nia Wellendorf’s native plant yard tour 2023*

The Sarracenia Chapter also saw many terrific presentations this year: Dean and Sally Jue on Butterflies and their host plants, Helen Roth on the ongoing restoration of Spring Canyon, Emily Martin on Southern Pine Beetle

and Floyd Griffith on North Florida Lobelia, Liatris, and Iris. What a privilege to learn from all of these folks.



*Forester Emily Martin presenting on Southern Pine Beetles*

We expect to have an event-filled 2024. Sarracenia will be part of the Wakulla County Garden Club’s Arbor Day tree-planting ceremony on January 19th from 11:00-11:30 a.m. at the Medart Recreation Park and will help at the Crawfordville Arbor Day free tree giveaway on January 20 (see article further in this newsletter for details). We also look forward to our big annual plant sale at the Sopchoppy Worm Gruntin’ Festival this Spring, and anticipate several excellent meeting presentations and field trips this coming year. One of our goals this year is to encourage NEW chapter membership and aim for zero lapsed membership. We need people from our Chapter to keep in touch with our members and lapsed members, to help out at meetings, and to encourage visitors to join our chapter.

As always, reach out if you would like to get more involved in any of our activities, contribute to the newsletter, or would like to volunteer or partner with us on any of our ongoing projects or have any questions in general. We will continue to use Zoom for our remote meeting attendees, and we ask your continued patience as we work out the bugs in our Zoom functions! So come to the meetings and socialize with your fellow native plant enthusiasts this coming year, and thank you for your generosity and support! You know that plant people are The Best!

As we enter the new year, keep in mind the benefit of getting outside and experiencing the beauty and detail of the natural world, whether in one of our great state or national forests, or in one’s own backyard; we are fortunate to be surrounded by so many beautiful natural areas here in North Florida. Sarracenia will continue to promote the mission of our Native Plant Society to conserve,

preserve and restore Florida native plants and native plant communities.

Happy botanizing!

Your President, Melanie Trexler



VP Jeannie Brodhead presents outgoing President David Roddenberry with “non-tattered” copy of his favorite plant ID book with leather case made by chapter member John Allcorn



**SPRING NATIVE PLANT SALE.** Mark your calendars for April 13, 2024. Our chapter will host a native plant sale on April 13, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Sopchoppy Worm Gruntin’ Festival. More details to follow in the next newsletter and via email.



Join the **Wakulla County Garden Club** to celebrate **Florida Arbor Day**

& the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the *Florida Federation of Garden Clubs*



**Friday, January 19<sup>th</sup>**  
11:00 – 11:30 a.m.  
**Medart Recreation Park**



Cheer the planting of 2 live oaks. Enjoy leaf- and tree-shaped cookies.

Wakulla County Garden Club, Duke Energy Foundation, & Florida Federation of Garden Clubs with The Wakulla Sun & Wakulla Living.

## CRAWFORDVILLE ARBOR DAY

Plan to spend Saturday, January 20<sup>th</sup> at the annual Crawfordville Arbor Day celebration and native tree giveaway that will be held outside the Wakulla Extension Office (84 Cedar Ave) again this year.

Join the car line to get 2 free trees per vehicle at the drive-thru giveaway between 10:00 am and 1:00 pm. Approach on Ochlockonee St. heading north from the County Courthouse. Better yet, volunteer to hand out trees to the public (and get first pick of the free trees). If volunteering, please send an email to [lynn.artz@hotmail.com](mailto:lynn.artz@hotmail.com) to receive volunteer instructions and updates by email.

The National Wildlife Federation and the Wakulla County Garden Club will give away about 100 each of the following trees in 1-gal pots: chinquapin, eastern mayhaw, southern live oak, pignut hickory, possumhaw, southern red cedar, rusty blackhaw, parsley haw, dahoon holly, redbud, overcup oak, and sweet shrub. The Florida Forest Service will give away red maple and river birch trees in pots and containerized longleaf pine seedlings. One tree station will feature small numbers of other species including American holly, in 1-gal pots.



**CRAWFORDVILLE** **January 20, 2024**  
**Arbor Day** 10am – 1pm  
84 Cedar Ave.  
Wakulla Co.  
Extension Office  
**FREE TREES!**  
**DRIVE THRU GIVEAWAY** Rain or Shine!



## SARRACENIA CHAPTER AWARDED “OUTSTANDING CHAPTER OF THE YEAR”

Former FNPS President and former Sarracenia Chapter President Bonnie Basham presented the FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OUTSTANDING CHAPTER OF THE YEAR AWARD to our chapter during the September 2023 chapter meeting.

This award is presented to chapters who “make a difference.” Our Sarracenia Chapter has made a difference in many ways. We held our monthly meetings in spite of a Covid pandemic. We struggled with learning Zoom in order to bring the meetings to people in their homes, with competent speakers and informative topics. We have worked hard to provide field trips to visit unique and rare wildflower and native plant locations. Members of our chapter plant and maintain the Sopchoppy Depot Park gardens for all to learn from and enjoy. Seeds from the native plants in the park are given away for anyone who wants to grow natives in their yards. We hold an annual native plant sale so that people can purchase already established native plants for our birds, bees and other pollinators. We have a fantastic record of outreach in attending festivals and events in order to help people learn about native plants and their importance in our ecosystem. Members of our chapter attend public meetings on behalf of saving roadside native plants or presenting the chapter’s views on proposed ordinances that concern our native wildflowers and trees. Last year our chapter logged 2,753 volunteer hours which was the second highest number of volunteer hours of all reporting FNPS chapters. We continue to strive to conserve, preserve and restore Florida’s native plants and native plant habitats.



OUTSTANDING CHAPER OF THE YEAR award

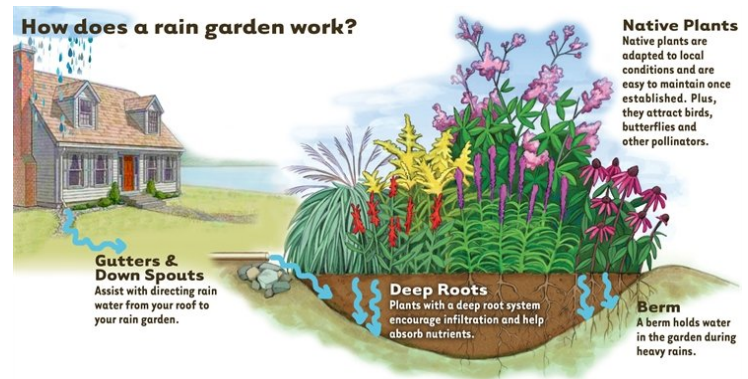
## START PLANNING A RAIN GARDEN

By Bonnie Basham

The end of the year is a great time for taking stock of your native plant and wildflower garden(s) so you can plan for changes in next year’s gardens. This also is a great time to either plan a “rain garden” or see if you can expand the one you started a year or two ago. Rain gardens offer the gardener a way to introduce wetland natives to the garden. A rain garden also helps absorb rainwater that would otherwise run down the drive or yard and wash fertilizer, pesticides, oil and other pollutants into our groundwater. That is because during a storm, the first few inches of rain will fill the rain garden and minimize the amount that enters a storm drain, ditch or nearby stream. This water will slowly seep deeper into the ground, filtered by the soil and plants, and replenish the Floridan Aquifer - our region's valuable drinking water supply.

You may already know where the rainwater “pools” in your yard after even a light rain. It’s that spot which will make a great garden. If you’re not sure, you may need to observe your yard after a good rain so you can be certain where the water pools and where it sits compared to where it drains more quickly. This will help in your rain garden placement.

As you plan this garden you should keep in mind that it should be away from the foundation of the house and any area with trees. The most ideal spot is one with full sun, but your rain garden might be in part sun/part shade which lends itself to having a greater number of plants to select from. The area also should be away from tree roots.



Having created a couple of rain gardens, here are a few “do’s and don’ts” to remember. If there is

grass and/or weeds in the area of your new garden, they should be killed and dug up when you begin. Make certain you have gotten all the roots of the weeds and grass. Weeds will come back if you just turn over the dirt in the area of your new garden. Amending the soil with a combination of mushroom compost and bagged dirt is a good idea. Do consider using wood chips or river rock in and around your plants for mulch. They will help the water drain better than if you use pine straw.

Finally, consider putting a water feature or a mister in the garden to attract butterflies and birds. The mister will help keep the area moist during dry spells and you'll be amazed at the critters it attracts.

Now for the fun part! Because your garden will hold water longer than other gardens in your yard, you can plant some really unique plants which love to have their feet wet. You can find a plant list for rain gardens on the internet and at FNPS.org, or you could choose wildflowers like cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*) with its tall red spikes; black-eyed or brown eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia* sp.), swamp milkweed (*Asclepias perennis*) which is a favorite of Monarch butterflies, Florida tickseed (*Coreopsis floridana*), swamp lily (*Crinum americanum*), Elliott's aster (*Symphyotrichum elliottii*), blue flag iris (*Iris virginica*), woodland phlox (*Phlox divaricata*), giant ironweed (*Vernonia gigantea*), rose mallow (*Hibiscus coccineus*), seaside goldenrod (*Solidago sempervirens*), swamp sunflower (*Helianthus angustifolius*), and rain lily (*Zephyranthes atamasca*). Many ferns such as cinnamon fern (*Osmundastrum cinnamomeum*), and various grasses, groundcovers, vines and shrubs also work well but keep in mind they do get large when they are happy.



You can find a very complete listing of suitable plants at the Florida Native Plant Society ([fnps.org](http://fnps.org)). *And if you are not a member, you should consider joining.* When you are on the site, search for plants by area of the state or county to find what is appropriate for your garden. Then look for the plants at places such as at Native Nurseries in Tallahassee, or you may find seeds at the seed depot free seed give-away box at the Sopchoppy Depot Park. A good article with step-by-step information can be found here:

<https://befloridiannow.org/wp-content/uploads/rain-garden-manual.pdf>.

You will get a tremendous sense of satisfaction when you create your rain garden. In building it you will have found a new set of plants to enjoy, helped bring pollinating plants to your yard and kept some of the harmful runoff substances from going into the aquifer.



## 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-flr4O7nxo1cDZll-bO0X9Oy126> .

Our Sarracenia chapter has a YouTube Channel. Here is the link: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC\\_xtH-t3PBaGshb6KrTI4PA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_xtH-t3PBaGshb6KrTI4PA) .

Virtual field trips during the Covid years ([From the Ashes - The Pinelands in Spring - YouTube](#) and [Hues and Tones - The Pinelands in Fall - YouTube](#) ).



## SOPCHOPPY DEPOT PARK UPDATE

We always need volunteers to help maintain the park. 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 9:00 am.

This past October we set out more plants in the park. Over a two-day period, volunteers planted more milkweeds, cardinal flowers, *Liatris*, *Coreopsis*, a couple of pipevines, as well as several other varieties of native wildflowers. This coming year will be a spectacular year for wildflower blooms in the park, so plan to visit often if you can.



Planting day at the park; October 21, 2023

As we always do, we try to remind folks that the City of Sopchoppy maintains a website with a section for the Depot Park:

<https://www.sopchoppy.org/sopchoppy-depot-park.html>.

Our Sarracenia Chapter also 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 popular section of the local news.



Sopchoppy Depot Park at Christmastime – early morning with Christmas lights and a tree in the performance pavilion



*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 at the Wakulla County Public Library. 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  
Jeannie Brodhead  
George Weaver  
Sandy Tedder  
Lynn Artz  
David Roddenberry

### Please Join Us at Any Board Meeting

Email us for dates and location  
[Sarracenia.nps@gmail.com](mailto:Sarracenia.nps@gmail.com)

### Other Volunteer Help

Ask how you can help with Chapter meetings, or help us at the Sopchoppy Depot Park.

Membership information is available at all in-person Chapter meetings, or contact us at [Sarracenia.nps@gmail.com](mailto: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](https://sarracenia.fnpschapters.org)