



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

WINTER 2025 - 2026

## Upcoming Events

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

### January 17, 2026 – Annual Free Native Tree Giveaway **Crawfordville Arbor Day**

Hudson Park. 10am to 1pm. See article later in this newsletter for FREE TREE giveaway details.

### January 20, 2026 – Chapter Meeting **Pruning Made Easy: Learn How to Prune Native Trees & Shrubs**

**Lynn Artz**

Sarracenia Chapter member Lynn Artz will explain why and how to prune native trees, shrubs, and palms and help you avoid common pruning mistakes.

### February 17, 2026 – Chapter Meeting **What Sarracenia Chapter Members Should Know About Sarracenia**

**Dr. Tom Miller, FSU Biology**

Dr. Miller will describe his community ecology research with *Sarracenia purpurea* and discuss differences among Florida Sarracenia.

### March 17, 2026 – Chapter Meeting **Nature-Based Solutions to Coastal Erosion In the Florida Panhandle** **Will Mather, WSP Engineering**

Mather, an environmental scientist with WSP Engineering, is developing a “living shoreline” with 20 acres of oyster reef and 30 acres of seagrass salt marsh along a 6-mile coastal stretch of US 98 in Franklin County to stabilize the shoreline and restore habitat.



*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. 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.*

## CHAPTER PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

Jack Richardson

Season's greetings to Sarracenia Chapter members and friends!

I hope everyone enjoyed their Thanksgiving traditions, whatever they may be, and did so in the company of family and friends. Christmas is just around the corner, and the end of the year is in sight. Looking back at 2025, I hope everyone got to participate in one or more of the field trips and activities that our chapter sponsored. From visits to reclamation sites across north Florida and Bald Point State Park to hikes in small “neighborhood” parks like E. Guy Revell, to mapping invasive plants as part of a special citizen science project, your local chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society has tried to provide you with ample opportunity to see, explore and learn about our native flora. And thanks to David Roddenberry's efforts, we were able to engage in a reclamation project of our own, gathering and sowing the seeds of native plants in plots within the newly acquired St. Theresa Tract property recently added to Bald Point SP. We can all look forward to more opportunities to participate in activities like these in the future.

In the meantime, the Arbor Day FREE TREE GIVEAWAY is January 17, 2026 at Hudson Park and we can always use help giving away native trees to the citizens of Wakulla County. We hope you'll join us there.



## CONGRATULATIONS, SARRACENIAS

Recent past Chapter president Melanie Trexler was installed in July 2025 as member of the board of FNPS (serving there alongside earlier Chapter president Bonnie Basham).

Chapter member Dr. James Folsom began an initial 3-year term on the 12-member national board of the American Horticultural Society in July 2024. Jim is retired as director, for 35 years, of the Huntington Botanical Garden in California.

## FREE TREES AT THE CRAWFORDVILLE ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION

Lynn Artz

Plan to spend Saturday, January 17th at the annual Crawfordville Arbor Day celebration and tree giveaway at Hudson Park starting at 10:00 a.m.

Come to choose a free tree from among 20 native species. About 1,000 trees will be available on a one-person basis. Bring the whole family to enjoy the festivities (and get more trees). Between 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. visit the children's activities, educational displays, artisan & craft vendors, and food vendors.

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 sign up and receive volunteer instructions in advance by email.

The National Wildlife Federation and the Wakulla County Garden Club will give away roughly 100 each of the following trees in 1-gallon pots: red maple, red cedar, redbud, persimmon, black cherry, rusty blackhaw, white oak, pignut hickory, and blackgum (sourgum). Other native tree species will be offered in small numbers.

The Florida Forest Service will give away 1,000 long-leaf and slash pine seedlings plus more than 130 river birch and sycamore trees in 1-gallon pots.

At the festival's end, leftover trees in pots will be available in unrestricted quantities for a requested donation of \$4 per tree.



2025 Festival Goers

photo by Mary Cortese

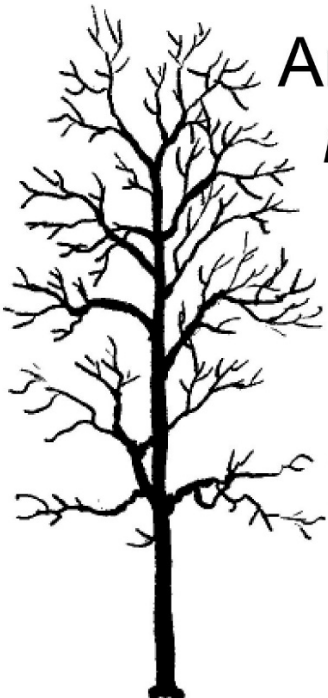
Crawfordville  
**Arbor Day**  
*Free Trees!*

Saturday  
**January 17**  
10:00 am – 1:00 pm  
**Hudson Park**  
*Rain or Shine*

Hundreds of young trees (in pots) will be given away!

*Red Maple, Red Cedar, Persimmon  
White Oak, Black Cherry, Redbud  
Rusty Blackhaw, Pignut Hickory  
Blackgum (Sourgum), River Birch,  
Sycamore, Longleaf Pine, & more!*

Children's Activities  
Music Food  
Artisan & Craft Vendors



Wakulla County Garden Club, Florida Forest Service,  
Sarracenia Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society,  
National Wildlife Federation, & UF/IFAS Extension Master Gardeners  
with Florida Wildlife Federation, Just Fruits & Exotics, & The Wakulla Sun.



Tree stations

photo by Mary Cortese



Florida Wildlife Federation exhibit

photo by Claudia Farren

## SANDHILL REVIVAL: THE ST. TERESA RESTORATION JOURNEY CONTINUES

David Roddenberry



A line of Sarracenia members ascending a sandhill with implements in hand does not evoke the typical chapter field trip. And indeed, this field event last month was not the typical. The mission was direct service in the restoration of a plant community in our backyard.

We first reported on the long-term project to restore the longleaf pine and wiregrass sandhill community in the new 7,700-acre St. Teresa Tract of Bald Point State Park (Franklin Co.) with chapter member Ann Reams's article in the Spring 2025 issue. Our fall issue of The Trumpet expanded upon this restoration project with David Roddenberry's article. As anticipated in the latter piece, BPSP manager Kristin Ebersol did ask the Sarracenia Chapter for hands-on aid. Eight members stepped up (joined later by a Magnolia Chapter member), and have now carried out a project with the park staff.

You may recall from the park manager's presentation to the Chapter in September that, from mid-2024 to

early 2025, she had overseen state-funded work accomplishing the foundational part of restoration on a first increment of land. Contractors had cleared away the leavings from sand pine farming down to bare soil, had seeded wiregrass, and had installed longleaf pine seedlings by the thousands.



The site in early 2025, with longleaf pine seedlings just visible and wiregrass seeds in the ground. this and top photo by author

Ms. Ebersol recognized the need to go further toward ecological restoration than the foundation. Wildflowers had been decimated by the commercial stands of sand pine. The endangered Florida endemics zigzag silkgrass (*Pityopsis flexuosa*) and Godfrey's blazing-star (*Liatris provincialis*) were only two of them. However, no blueprint or other resources were in hand for restoration of groundcover beyond the wiregrass.

Sarracenia's involvement in the St. Teresa project in its backyard goes back four years – when there was not yet a timetable for the start of restoration. Members had assisted Ms. Ebersol in plant surveys of the tract (bringing the late plant taxonomist Dr. Loran C. Anderson with them several times) that so far tally some 370 species. From those species, and by the time contractors completed the foundational restoration on the first land increment in early 2025, Chapter members had produced a target list of 40 sandhill species whose seeds might be collected in one season or another for restoration seeding. Ms. Ebersol, once she had asked the Chapter for assistance, outlined an experimental seeding envisioned as a first step toward eventual, full groundcover restoration.

With the target list, and a state permit secured by Ms. Ebersol in October 2025 for taking seeds of the two

## Sandhill Revival (cont'd.)

endangered plant species at maximum 10%, five *Sarracenias* were soon fashioning their hands-free collecting pails. They and the park staff took to the field together before that month was out. Distant spots along service roads in the St. Teresa Tract had good relic patches of both of the endangered plants, with a bounty of seedheads. Other tracts of Bald Point SP held other species. Altogether, we would make four group collecting trips.



Park manager Kristin Ebersol goes for seeds of zigzag silkgrass in the St. Teresa Tract  
photo by Sandy Tedder

Before the November sowing date arrived, the seeds collected were loosely estimated at near 65,000 in 19 species, over 7,000 of them the two endangered species. (Besides the 10% limit for taking those two species, the permit application required a figure for maximum weight of the seed take. A figure of 20 pounds was entered as a mark high enough to be well out of the way. Irrelevant though the figure was, only later would it occur to us that 20 pounds might be more than all the seeds on earth for those two tiny-range Florida endemics!)



A dozen achenes of the endangered zigzag silkgrass, each holding a seed inside  
photo by Sandy Tedder



L-R, Sandy Tedder, Jack Richardson, and Ann Reams collect seeds of narrowleaf goldenaster (*Chrysopsis linearifolia*) in Bald Pt SP  
photo by D. Roddenberry

The ground we would seed in the experiment was no longer bare ground at all after mid-2025. A surprising, spontaneous groundcover restoration was already steaming along. A hairsedge (*Bulbostylis*), a *Croton*, and "Poor Joe" (*Hexasepalum*) made a too-abundant threesome, but some diversity was on display also. In fact, by September Godfrey's blazing-star was flowering conspicuously enough to challenge the need for more re-introduction. All this may have come from a long-viable seed bank that had lain under the pine row crop.

Going by the park manager's prescription, *Sarracenias* staked six 5-meter-square plots randomly among the seedlings of longleaf pine and wiregrass in one end of a 97-acre restoration zone. While all the plots already had

## Sandhill Revival (cont'd.)

a partial groundcover, all also had plenty of bare ground. Species we would seed were scarcely represented in any of the randomly located plots.

We nine FNPS members assembled on sowing day – November 20 – gave three of the six plots a scratching with leaf rakes. We then sowed all plots heavily, at around 25 seeds a square foot, with the 19 species. We dropped seed mixes on the ground and then walked on them. In addition to the plots, a separate area nearby, with a service road as a boundary, was sown by making myriad, random scratchings and dropping seeds of the same 19 species plus a couple.



Scratched, sown, and trodden photo by Ann Reams

With the seeds on the ground at last, and total volunteer time north of 120 hours in the books in service to the FNPS mission, we backed off to await the effects of winter showers and then a warm spring sun.

The park manager anticipates data from this experiment for counsel in planning further increments of groundcover restoration. We all anticipate the fun of checking for results in 2026, to see whether our labors

have aided an important ecological restoration here in the Panhandle.

(The participants: David Roddenberry, Jack Richardson, Sandy Tedder, Ann Reams, Jeannie Brodhead, Julie Sabados, John Parks, and Rod Whitefield of Sarracenia, joined by Claudia Farren of the Magnolia Chapter.)



## SOPCHOPPY DEPOT PARK UPDATE

We still need volunteers at the Sopchoppy Depot Park, now more than ever. 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. 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).



## SOME QUICK LINKS

To help amplify our voice on issues threatening Florida's native plants, sign up to receive [ACTION ALERTS](#). Your information is never shared with anyone:

<https://www.fnps.org/advocate#gsc.tab=0>.

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).

Chapter member Dr. Jim Folsom recently offered a free crash course in basic botany that was hosted by the Florida Wildflower Foundation. Here is the link to view these informative webinars:

<https://www.flawildflowers.org/webinar-series-botany-in-context/>.

Find out what wildflowers will grow in your area and in your specific habitat: <https://www.fnps.org/plants>.



David Roddenberry

The fall issue reported a first-ever voucher for a Franklin County occurrence of the zigzag iris, *Iris brevicaulis*, from the 2025 work of Sarracenia members (article “A New Iris for Franklin County”). The University of South Florida herbarium has now accredited the voucher, and thus the Florida Plant Atlas now shows the range of the species to include Franklin County. It is, at present and interestingly, a disjunct range, the other three counties lying along the north line of the state.



*Iris brevicaulis* now recorded for Franklin County  
photo by Floyd Griffith



Find us on Facebook at Sarracenia Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society and visit our webpage: [Sarracenia.fnpschapters.org](http://Sarracenia.fnpschapters.org)

Volunteering with our Florida Native Plant Society offers more than a chance to get your hands in the soil — it's an opportunity to nurture both the environment and your community. Beyond conservation, volunteering builds friendships and connections among people who share a passion for native plants. It's a great way to learn from experienced botanists and gardeners while contributing to real ecological impact.

As a volunteer-based nonprofit organization, a record of reported volunteer hours is important to FNPS to use as qualifications and matching funds for grants, to maintain standing with organizations advising donors and grant providers, to substantiate IRS nonprofit status, to demonstrate reach and impact achieving the mission, and for volunteer recognition and strategic planning input.

We track all volunteer hours, so please submit any hours to Jeannie Brodhead, Sarracenia Chapter Vice President, at [Jeannieb9345@gmail.com](mailto:Jeannieb9345@gmail.com). Types of volunteer activities to report:

- Writing, or photographing native plants for publications. (online or print!)
- Helping maintain a native garden on public property (like our Sopchoppy Depot Park)
- Volunteering with native plant rescues or plantings or give-aways
- Volunteering with removing exotic invasives
- Going on a field trip to a natural area
- Collecting seeds or cuttings from native plants and giving them to other people
- Propagating native plants for sales or give-aways
- Attending a presentation about native plants or natural areas
- Helping with a Sarracenia booth at festivals or other events

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:Sarracenia.nps@gmail.com), or go online to FNPS.org on the Join/Support tab.