



Sarracenia Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society
The SARRACENIA TRUMPET

FALL 2023

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 19, 2023 – Chapter Meeting

Free the Longleaf!

Helen Roth, Magnolia Chapter member

Ms. Roth will share her extensive knowledge of the history and evolving process of restoring a longleaf pine and wiregrass ecosystem following a long period of fire exclusion.

October 14, 2023 – Outdoor Wakulla Living Expo

Our chapter will have a booth. Hudson Park in Crawfordville (10am to 2pm).

October 17, 2023 – Chapter Meeting

Emily Martin, Florida Forest Service

Emily Martin, senior forester with the Florida Division of Forestry, will be our presenter. Details to be provided by email and Facebook.

October 28, 2023 – Monarch Butterfly Festival

Our chapter will have a booth. St. Marks Wildlife Refuge Visitors Center (10am to 4pm).

November 11, 2023 – Sopchoppy Oyster & Mullet Festival

Our chapter will have a booth. Downtown Sopchoppy Depot Park. (9am to 2pm).

November 18, 2023 – Field Trip

Emily Martin, our presenter for the October chapter meeting, will lead a field trip in the Wakulla State Forest. Details will be sent via email.

November 21, 2023 – Chapter Meeting

Native Lilies and Irises of North Florida

Floyd Griffith

Mr. Griffith is an excellent self-taught amateur photographer with an impressive knowledge of our area's wildflowers. His presentation will focus on our Florida panhandle native lilies, irises, and an odd witch hazel.



FNPS ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2023 REVIEW

One of the highlights of the FNPS annual calendar is the annual conference. In the past, members have traveled to various locations around the state in order to attend the conference, but in recent years the conference had to be held online. Our last newsletter described the virtual annual conference, scheduled for the end of April 2023, and also outlined the regional venues which were designed to be actual in-person "Conference Field Days" for field trips and speaker venues.

Our Sarracenia Chapter partnered with the Magnolia and Sweetbay Chapters to hold several field trips and provided a conference location with exhibits and speakers. Jeff Talbert of the Atlanta Botanical Garden gave an excellent presentation on the Wetlands Restoration at Deer Lake State Park near Panama City. His excellent photos of the wet prairie restoration efforts were informative and inspiring. Helen Roth of the Magnolia Chapter led a round table discussion of restoration experiences in various habitats in our area. Ms. Roth is currently restoring a long leaf habitat at their property called Spring Canyon Tract near Quincy.



Speaker Jeff Talbert and Round Table Participants

Four field trips were also scheduled as part of our regional field days: Tall Timbers, Spring Canyon, Apalachicola National Forest and Coastal Plains Institute. Sarracenia Chapter member, Sammy Tedder, videoed two of these field trips. Segments of the field trips can be seen on our chapter's YouTube Channel.

Ann Johnson field trip ANF:

<https://youtu.be/HhEpNosfWxQ>

Helen Roth tour of Spring Canyon:

<https://youtu.be/j1Bt9j0OY0U>

PLANT OF THE MONTH

This is a call for volunteers to present a plant-of-the-month segment for any of our chapter meetings. The plant discussion can be just a short informative presentation from your engagement with a plant whether as botanist or as nature observer. We welcome the help. We also need more Chapter members to assist at our event booths when we attend festivals and gatherings. You don't need experience or in-depth knowledge of plants. Contact us at sarracenia.nps@gmail.com to volunteer.



TWO EXCELLENT PLANT ID APPS

Many of us are challenged to know the names of all of the plants we come in contact with. Our interest in native plants sometimes outweighs our knowledge of what is even a native or what is considered an introduced or possibly even an invasive species. iNaturalist and PlantNet are two of the half dozen accepted applications that allow you to identify plants simply by photographing and submitting them with your smartphone. Both also have websites that can be accessed (inaturalist.org and plantnet.org).

One big difference between the two plant ID apps is that iNaturalist has the ability to help identify more than just plants. It will identify insects, fungi, animals, and both terrestrial and aquatic flora and fauna. With iNaturalist, it appears to be more critical to read the instructions and get to know the app before you use it.

PlantNet is easy to use and is fast at returning results; sometimes as fast as within a second or two. PlantNet seems to have a greater ability at identifying vegetative grass-like weeds, although iNaturalist might have become better at this over the last year or so.

iNaturalist helps you identify the plants and animals around you while generating data for science and conservation. The community aspect appeals to many and is definitely a help to our scientists who follow the input of the community of citizen scientists.

For using both of these apps I would suggest going to YouTube and looking at several instructional videos for helpful tips and hints. When using apps or internet searches to identify plants, it is always advised to check the identification with a reputable source, such as a government or university-

affiliated site. The ATLAS OF FLORIDA PLANTS (<https://florida.plantatlas.usf.edu/>) database is a good place to double check the identified photos and also the known distribution of your identified plant to make sure you have the plant correctly recognized. It is especially important to check another source, such as the above plant atlas or field guide, before eating any plants you are not totally sure of.



HOMEGROWN NATIONAL PARK

The Homegrown National Park's mission is to regenerate biodiversity and ecosystem function through voluntary collective action. Folks are urged to go native and go natural by planting native plants in our home landscapes, thus connecting our yard to neighborhoods and parks and cities and forests and into one collective national park. Together we can build a critical ecological network and spark a culture change in how we relate to nature. We cannot leave the fate of biodiversity to scientists alone. It requires all of us to help out by planting natives when we can. Native plants are the anchors for above and below ground biodiversity which are one of the keys to a stable climate.

FNPS is encouraging all of our members to register their yards: <https://homegrownnationalpark.org/>. Document the use of native plants in your landscaping so that the map of connectivity of our homegrown national parks can be shown.



SOPCHOPPY DEPOT PARK UPDATE

We hope that you are able to keep up with the weekly articles in *The Wakulla Sun* that our chapter representative, Lynn Artz, writes. These articles provide a glimpse of what is currently blooming in the Sopchoppy Depot Park. There is much more to see than just the bloomers, though. You can identify plants by their leaves and flowers with Jeannie Brodhead's handy QR coded labels and just stroll and relax in this beautiful native garden setting. If you miss the newspaper's "Flower of the Week at Sopchoppy Depot Park" article, you can always see the article on our Sarracenia chapter website: <https://sarracenia.fnpschapter.org/resources> (scroll down to #3 on that page.)



Above: QR code for a crossvine plant at Sopchoppy Depot Park.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Want to help protect the environment, get some exercise and have fun with a nice group of people? Some members of our chapter help to maintain the Sopchoppy Depot Park gardens. We have an upcoming planting day in October when we will be installing new native plants, but there is always a need for maintenance help on the first Saturday of the month and the third Friday of the month. We gather at around 9am and work at whatever needs attention. There are usually several Sarracenia Chapter members present to direct the volunteers on what needs the most care. You don't need to be a member or know a lot about gardening in order to be a big help to us. Contact us at Sarracenia.nps@gmail.com or just come on the first Saturday or the third Friday of the month to the park (34 Rose Avenue, Sopchoppy, FL). You can work as much or as little as you have time for. Bring water, hat, and gloves if needed.



Sopchoppy Depot Park entrance



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. Free and open to the public. FNPS promotes the preservation, restoration, and conservation of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida.

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 .



BOTANICAL DEFINITIONS – WORD OF THE DAY

Determinate/Indeterminate: This term describes flowers that bloom in a bunch.

Determinate bloomers start at the tip of the spike or twig, and progressively open more flowers lower on the spike (as Dense Blazing Star (*Liatris spicata*) or on side branches (as Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*) or Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*); this means that the end of the stalk is already determined when the first flower opens.

Indeterminate bloomers open from the bottom up or from the outside in (as Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*); you can't tell how long the stalk will become when the first flower opens.



**The Open Window:
The Native Gardens of
Sopchoppy Depot Park**

Presented by David Roddenberry, Sarracenia Chapter FNPS

Thursday, September 7, 7:00 pm

Room 1024 King Bldg, 319 Stadium Dr., FSU

David Roddenberry, winner of an FNPS Landscape Award of Excellence, will present on the improbable but important native gardens in a new park in the heart of Sopchoppy. Topics will include the themes, the large diversity of plants exhibited, the challenges, and the opportunity for significant educational benefits.



Photo by David Roddenberry

David Roddenberry and Lynn Artz will be giving a detailed overview of the park at the 9/7/23 Magnolia Chapter meeting. All are invited.

Sarracenia Board

Melanie Trexler
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.

Membership information is available at all in-person Chapter meetings, or contact us at Sarracenia.nps@gmail.com, or online at 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