



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

SPRING 2024

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### March 19, 2024 – Chapter Meeting

#### **Know Your Invasive Plants**

**Haley Bennett, Native Nursery**

Ms. Bennett who specializes in identification and eradication of invasive species will be teaching how to identify our invasive plants and will show their impacts on the environment with suggestions for native replacements. **DIFFERENT LOCATION: Community Center , 318 Shadeville Hwy, Crawfordville (not at the library for this one meeting).**

### April 13, 2024 – Sopchoppy Worm Gruntin' Festival

Our chapter will have a NATIVE PLANT SALE at the Sopchoppy Worm Gruntin' Festival. 9am to 3pm. Find us at the corner of Winthrop Ave. and Rose St.

### April 16, 2024 – Chapter Meeting

#### **Topic to be announced**

**Peter Hertl, US Dept of Agriculture**

Dr. Hertl has been a featured speaker several times in the past six or seven years. He has always had an interesting and fun presentation. You might remember him for his discussions of earthworms and ants. We don't know yet what the topic will be, but it will surely add to our knowledge of the natural world.

### April 20, 2024 – FSUCML OPEN HOUSE

The FSU Coastal and Marine Lab Open House (3618 Coastal Hwy, St. Teresa, FL) is fun for all ages! Find out more: <https://marinelab.fsu.edu/outreach-and-education/open-house/>. Our chapter will have a booth and will be among the many who will be there to share their knowledge of both land and sea and how these ecosystems are interlinked.

### May 21, 2024 – Chapter Meeting

To be announced via email.



## CHAPTER PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

Melanie Trexler

Greetings, native plant enthusiasts!

The carpenter bees have emerged and are noisily grinding out nests in my wood deck; pine pollen coats everything in pastel yellow; the bluebirds, red-wing blackbirds, and Carolina wrens are loudly getting busy with their family tasks; trees have pushed out the last of their old leaves onto the patio for me to sweep; roadsides are just starting to green up and blossom with color . . . Spring has, as they say, sprung. It has been a mild winter, and we are all glad for it.

We have had very interesting speakers at our meetings thus far in 2024. In January, Mindy Morhman gave a super presentation about urban forestry management; in February, Kent Wimmer spoke to us about sentinel landscapes and the various federal, state, and NGO entities preserving lands in north Florida. In March, we will learn more about invasive plants in our area from Haley Bennett, who works with Native Nursery. Our April and May speakers will be equally interesting and instructive. We hope to arrange for a couple of local field trips as well, as the year progresses.



*Kent Wimmer presentation – Feb. 2024 meeting*

Don't forget to attend the Sopchoppy Worm Gruntin' Festival on Saturday, April 13, 2024,

where Sarracenia will have a booth and its much-anticipated native plant sale. Hard on the heels of that event, the FSU Marine Lab will host its biennial Open House on Saturday, April 20th, 2024 from 10 am - 3 pm, where Sarracenia will also have a booth. We would love to see you at both of these wonderful local events, and we will be sure to remind everyone as those dates approach. Volunteers welcome!

**PLEASE NOTE: Our Tuesday, March 19th meeting will NOT be in the Wakulla Library,** as that is a polling date and our usual room is unavailable. Instead, we will meet at the usual 6:30 p.m. time in the large “Crawfordville” room at the **Wakulla Community Center, 318 Shadeville Rd, Crawfordville, FL 32327.**

We love seeing all of you at our meetings, in person or over Zoom. Keep supporting the mission of the Florida Native Plant Society, however large or small your yard, garden, patio, or windowsill.

## **BE A CITIZEN SCIENTIST!**

The **iNaturalist Bioblitz: 2024 North Florida & South Georgia City Nature Challenge** takes place April 26 – April 29, 2024. A bioblitz is a communal citizen-science effort to record as many species within a designated location and time period as possible. The title of the bioblitz has the word “city” in it, but this north Florida and south Georgia bioblitz encompasses the COUNTIES that are included in the geographic area. These are listed on the iNaturalist project page for this bioblitz at:

<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/2024-north-florida-south-georgia-city-nature-challenge>.

The way to participate, and it can be adults and children, is to make as many observations (photos) of organisms as possible in diverse habitats anywhere in the listed counties (Leon, Wakulla and Franklin are included among the 25 counties).

Many of you already use iNaturalist for plant identification, but if you are a newbie, you can download iNaturalist in the App Store or Google Play, then open the app and sign up. Once you are signed up, go to the bottom of the main page and go to the Projects tab at the bottom of the screen and type the name of the project (iNaturalist Bioblitz: 2024 North Florida & South Georgia City Nature Challenge) into the search bar. Click on “Join this Project”.

And then whenever you use iNaturalist in the future this project will appear in your projects tab for you to review others’ photos or to add your own plant, animal, fish, or insect observation that you find as part of the bioblitz.

If you are new to iNaturalist and want to watch some instructional videos, there are good ones on YouTube or you can go to iNaturalist.org and watch their instructional videos (recommended). Doing “projects” is a little bit involved for a novice, but there are instructions (YouTube or iNaturalist.org) for creating and/or contributing to projects that can help you get started.

While projects can be useful and beneficial, it is not necessary to create or contribute to a project to enjoy using iNaturalist. Making observations and identifying observations are by far the most important part of iNaturalist. So, consider downloading the iNaturalist app to your smartphone. It can help to identify many of our area’s plants, insects, mosses, mushrooms, and other species in our natural world. And, if you want to get involved with projects use the link to the April bioblitz project to find out more.



**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. We will have our booth at the corner of Winthrop Avenue and Rose Street (main street) where we’ve been in the past. Come out and make a day of it at this one-of-a-kind festival.



## **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-flr4O7nXo1cDZII-bO0X9Oy126> .

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

## **DRIVE-THRU TREE GIVEAWAY CELEBRATED FLORIDA ARBOR DAY**

by Lynn Artz

For twenty years, the Crawfordville Arbor Day team has given free trees to area residents to celebrate Florida Arbor Day. At this year's drive-thru giveaway, more than 1500 native trees found homes.

Hundreds of people in vehicles lined up on Saturday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, to get free trees. Fifteen kinds of trees were available at 15 tree stations outside the County Extension office.

The Florida Forest Service contributed red maples, river birch, and containerized longleaf pine seedlings. Other trees were purchased as bareroot seedlings with grant funds from the National Wildlife Federation. Wakulla County Garden Club members planted the baby trees into pots last February and tended them for a year.

Fifty volunteers braved frigid weather to conduct the giveaway. Volunteers included members of the Wakulla County Garden Club and the Sarracenia Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society as well as Master Gardeners. The 20th annual Crawfordville Arbor Day celebration was deemed a success.



Crawfordville Arbor Day photo by Gerald Brown



## **VOLUNTEER HOURS MATTER**

Reporting your volunteer hours is easy and so many things that you do will count toward making FNPS proud of all we do for our native plants. Our Sarracenia chapter has consistently been high on the list of volunteering chapters for our state.

All you need to send us are the date you volunteered, how long you spent volunteering, and what you did. You can even include travel time. To report your volunteer hours you can email Jeannie Brodhead at [sarracenia.nps@gmail.com](mailto:sarracenia.nps@gmail.com)

Here are some things that count!

- Writing, photographing or blogging about 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
- Presenting programs about native plants or educating people about 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
- Administrative tasks for FNPS chapter or state activities

The Sarracenia chapter uses our sign-in sheets from meetings and field trips to record volunteer hours so be sure to sign in.



## SOPCHOPPY DEPOT PARK UPDATE

This past winter we kept up with maintenance at the park, but not much was blooming until recently. Just in the last week or so we've seen these beauties:



*Rhododendron canescens* – Pinxter Azalea

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 9am.

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).



*Coreopsis lanceolata* – lanceleaf tickseed



*Conradina canescens* – false rosemary

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.



*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

### 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](http://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](http://Sarracenia.fnpschapters.org)