



Sarracenia Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society
The SARRACENIA TRUMPET

WINTER 2020 - 2021

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 16, 2021 – Crawfordville Arbor Day

If you pre-ordered your tree online, don't forget to pick it up. As of the date of this newsletter, all trees have been spoken for.

January 19, 2021 – Chapter meeting

Hues and Tones: The Pinelands in Fall

Sarracenia Chapter Virtual Field Trip

Come along virtually on a field trip made for the screen by the Sarracenia Chapter --- Gifted filmmaker/musician Sammy Tedder and expert field guide David Roddenberry take us on a journey to enjoy the natural splendors of the pine woods of Apalachicola Nat. Forest in fall, with rich organic tones of wind instruments as complement. Enjoy David Roddenberry's knowledge of our region's native plants and Sammy Tedder's filmmaking and musical talents.

February 16, 2021 – Chapter meeting

iNaturalist

Peter Kleinhenz

Mr. Kleinhenz will explain the uses of the smartphone app iNaturalist. iNaturalist will help you identify plants, animals, and most anything in nature. Download the free iNaturalist app from the Google Play Store or iPhone Appstore. If you want to learn more about using this free app you can visit: <https://www.inaturalist.org/pages/video+tutorials>.

March 16, 2021 – Chapter meeting

Building Communities that Conserve Wetlands

Rebecca Means

Ms. Means, the director of the Coastal Plains Institute, will speak on the ecosystem biodiversity of the Apalachicola National Forest's ephemeral wetlands and how these habitats affect our native plant species as well as all creatures tied to these wetlands.

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The Sarracenia Chapter meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month September – November and January – May. Meetings are held at 6:30 PM. Free and open to the public. FNPS promotes the preservation, restoration, and conservation of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida.

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CHAPTER UPDATES

Happy New Year. Our Sarracenia chapter is still in "virtual mode" due to the Covid-19 coronavirus restrictions, but meetings go on and are well attended in the online meeting platform, Zoom. Hopefully later in the year we will be able to hold in-person meetings and large field trips once again. We miss the snack table that was a nice addition to our in-person chapter meetings at the library.

Not everything has had to be virtual though. The chapter conducted a field trip on September 26 with a socially distanced group of 10 people. The field trip explored the sandhills of the Medart area of the St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge. There were well over three dozen wildflower species on display for the group, all in flower or fruit. You can read more about this trip and see our photos from the trip at:

<https://sarracenia.fnpschapters.org/news/>.

Another field trip you'll want to know about is the upcoming chapter meeting in January that features a video field trip taken in late October to the pinelands and bogs of the Apalachicola National Forest near Sumatra, Florida. David Roddenberry conducted the field trip with Sammy Tedder filming. They and three other Sarracenia members explored three locations in the forest and present a variety of habitats and an exquisite selection of the native plants to be found in those habitats. Sammy Tedder's production of the video with accompanying music and professional videography make it an impressive seasonal documentary of the pinelands in fall. You won't want to miss this field trip, from the comfort of your home, at our January 19 virtual chapter meeting.



Title screen from the field trip video – January chapter meeting

NEW FNPS LICENSE TAG: "FLORIDA NATIVE"

Thanks to FNPS members Eugene Kelly, Policy and Legislation chair, and Sue Mullins, Lobbyist, Governor DeSantis has recently signed the bill creating a Florida Native license plate. The FDOT has approved the plate and pre-orders are a necessity if FNPS is to realize their goal for production of the new tag.

The legislation for this tag required that at least five plant species native to Florida be included. And, the tag had to conform to a camouflage theme and had to include the words "Florida" and "Native." There are actually six Florida native plants on the tag: longleaf pine, slash pine, live oak, Spanish moss, a greenfly orchid and the saw palmetto.

At least 3,000 plates **must be sold in advance** before any will be produced! We have 2 years to reach the 3,000 pre-sales mark otherwise the plate will not be produced. We encourage all FNPS members to support this effort and commit to pre-purchasing the tag. The cost is \$33 (\$25 of this goes to FNPS for our educational programs). Here is the link to apply for the tag voucher:

<https://www.floridanativelicenseplate.com/fnps/>.

If you apply at the above link for the pre-sales tag you will receive the following message: *You will hear from the Indian River Tax Collector about how to complete your pre-order purchase of the Florida Native License Plate. No matter what county you live in, the Indian River Tax Collector's office can complete your order.*

If FNPS does not sell the required number of plates, your \$33 will be returned to you. Your purchase will enable FNPS to expand its outreach and efforts to protect and preserve Florida's native plants and plant communities.



The new FNPS Florida Native Tag. Pre-order. Help us reach our goal.



WIREGRASS GENTIAN -- *Gentiana pennelliana*

Jeannie Brodhead

When the fall wildflowers have faded and the flowers have gone to seed we venture out into the moist savannas and pinelands to seek the beautiful, rare wiregrass gentian. We sometimes find them along roadsides but if there has been a prescribed burn, we can also find them hiding amongst the wiregrass that covers the pinelands. We choose a sunny day for our search since the flowers don't open when it is cloudy.

Gentiana pennelliana was first described by Merritt Lyndon Fernald in 1940 and was named after American botanist Francis Whittier Pennell.

Wiregrass gentians are a perennial herb about 8 inches tall with 1 to 1.5 inch long, linear, elliptic, opposite leaves that are widely spaced along the stem. The showy white tubular flowers that are about 3 inches long flare at the opening and have 5 lobes alternating with 5 shorter, fringed membranes.

Wiregrass gentians occur in wet flatwoods and savannas from Walton County east to Leon, Franklin and Wakulla Counties. They are a type of "fire flower" since they appear after the area has been burned.

They are considered endangered which is sad since this part of Florida is the only place in the world where they are found. Their primary threat is habitat loss due to fire suppression, degradation of the watershed, and the conversion of pine flatwoods to slash pine plantations. To help preserve this beautiful species of wildflower, authorities say the grassy flatwoods and prairies where they are found need to be burned on a 2-3 year rotation, preferably in the early part of the growing season.

To view this beautiful, pure white flowering plant, go on a sunny day from mid-November to mid-January and seek out pine flatwoods that have had a recent prescribed burn. We have been able to find and photograph them in our nearby west end of the Panacea Unit of the St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge. Let us know if you find any.



Wiregrass gentian
Gentiana pennelliana

FNPS TO HOLD VIRTUAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON MAY 14-16

Bonnie Basham

FNPS will hold a virtual annual meeting May 14 – 16. We plan to have break out sessions, featured speakers and a new feature: short videos from all chapters about projects they are working on or field trips they have taken and want to share with us.

The cost of the conference will be \$35 per person. Watch for more details in the Executive Director’s Letter in the *Sabal Minor* coming out in early January.

We hope you will plan to attend these events. We all look forward to being able to once again meet in person in 2022.



Our parent organization, FNPS, has been providing weekly lunch and learn presentations that can be viewed anytime on the FNPS YouTube channel. Please check out the previous lunch and learn topics on the Youtube playlist for FNPS:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLT16Qn-flr4O7nxo1cDZil-b00X9Oy126>. There is a lot of information and many helpful techniques for improving our landscapes and learning about our native plants.

Check out the full FNPS YouTube Channel, as well: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTom5I9pQlwTC-S_uDjkAEw.



FAVORITE QUOTE: [Landscapes] should do more than paint a picture; they should be alive, they should change with the seasons, and they should create expectation. ...Landscapes should be music, not paintings; alive, not static. Craig Huegel in his book *Native Florida Plants for Shady Landscapes*.



SOPCHOPPY DEPOT PARK UPDATE

One of the volunteer projects that our Sarracenia chapter helps with is the Sopchoppy Depot Park in historic downtown Sopchoppy. In November 2020 there was a planning session for new plantings in the park for 15 to 20 species of native plants and trees. Also planned was a pitcherplant bog garden for *Sarracenia minor* (hooded pitcherplants.)

On November 7, 2020, in masked and socially distanced conditions our team planted the majority of the pre-selected native species and on November 14, 2020, with the welcome help of Mark Perrin preparing and digging the large area for the bog garden and Lynn Artz directing, we meticulously mixed our planting soil according to directions from Dr. Larry Mellichamp, a pitcherplant expert. Into the new bog we planted the hooded pitcherplants, dewthreads and sundews – all native carnivorous plants that feed on insects.

We wouldn’t have been able to accomplish this effort without the talented help of our coordinator Lynn Artz, Sopchoppy Mayor Lara Edwards, landscaper Betsy Smith, and our team of planting volunteers: David Roddenberry, Jeannie Brodhead, Betsy Rudden, Pam Pafford, Sandy Tedder, and George Boszilkov.



Planting and planning for November 2020

There is always a need for volunteer help to maintain and weed the park plantings or to set out new specimens or check water conditions, so if you would like to help out, please contact us at our chapter email address to let us know: Sarracenia.nps@gmail.com. A few of our recent photos over the summer show what a fine native wildflower park this has become (photos on this and following page by Sandy Tedder.)



Blanketflower or firewheel

Gaillardia pulchella



Purple coneflowers *Echinacea purpurea*



Monarch butterfly on coral honeysuckle



The *Sarracenia minor* pitcherplant bog garden



Leavenworth's tickseed *Coreopsis leavenworthii*



Swamp milkweed *Asclepias incarnata*



Butterflyweed *Asclepias tuberosa*

Sarracenia Board and Regular Volunteers

David Roddenberry
Jeannie Brodhead
George Weaver
Sandy Tedder
Bonnie Basham, Lynn Artz, Kitty Loftin, Pam Pafford

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