

FNPS Ixia News

The purpose of the Florida Native Plant Society is to promote the preservation, conservation, and restoration of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida."

Volume 2, Issue 3

Winter 2011

President's Message

by Barbara Jackson

This year our Chapter will celebrate its twentieth year. We were not active for the entire time, and in fact, disbanded for five or six years. At our inception, we had 200 members, active projects, **and took the name "Ixia." We started our chapter again in 2006.** Right now, we struggle to keep seventy members on our roster. The majority of our members are not active. They do not attend our meetings or our field trips. We often have more guests than members at our meetings.

We are addressing the membership issue in a number of ways. First, each member will receive a survey in January that will ask what topics you want at our meetings, and which areas you want to visit for a field trip. Our Membership Chair will call those with no E-mail and remind them of our meetings and events. She will continue to contact those that indicate interest in our Chapter when we have a booth at a community event.

We are also planning our first Membership Drive. All members are asked to participate by urging friends, family, and colleagues to join Ixia. The drive will be between January and March. Members will be asked to E-mail me the name of the person they persuaded to join Ixia and I will check this against the monthly membership roster our State headquarters sends us. The person responsible for signing up the most new members **will receive Gil Nelson's new book, "Best Native Plants for Southern Gardens."** We hope all of you will respond and help us remain a healthy,

vital Chapter.

I would like to thank our Ixia Board of Directors for agreeing to serve two more years. We work hard to set the course for Ixia over the next year or more. Also, another heartfelt thanks to outgoing Chapter Representative, Jake Ingram. We will **miss Jake's support and presence at our Board meetings.**

2011—2012 Ixia Board of Directors

President: Barbara Jackson
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Vice-President: James Loper
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Treasurer: Sally Robson
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Membership: Linda Leopold
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Chapter Rep & Website: Linda Schneider
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The Florida Native Plant Society

31st Annual Conference

May, 19-22, 2011

Maitland

Hosted by the Cuplet Fern, Lake Beautyberry, Pine Lily and Tar-flower Chapters

[Patios, Preserves and Public Spaces: Making Connections](#)

Join us in May, 2011 for this exciting and comprehensive conference that connects Florida's natural values and conservation with the landscapes that we create in our personal and public environments.

[2011 Conference Website Info](#) – click this link for more info and to register today!

Highlights

- * Over 40 speakers and workshops!
 - * Social events each evening
 - * Plant Vendors / Exhibitors / Vendors
 - * Research Presentations & Poster Exhibits
 - * Learn about Earth Jurisprudence
-

FNPS Has Become Social!

By Ginny Stibolt

As a group, FNPS always has provided social occasions with our meetings and conferences, now we are also making good use of three social networking tools on the Internet.

1) The first tool is a blog at <http://www.fnpsblog.org> where Sue Dingwell, member of the Palm Beach chapter, and I coordinate two or three posts per week. Posts cover a wide variety of topics: native plant appreciations, coverage of chapter field trips or annual convention, and other information on native Florida plants, the preservation of habitat and the people or organizations that help with the effort. The majority of the blog posts either Sue or I write, but we love to have guest posters. Our own Pete Johnson and Bill Berthet have written posts and we also have posts from Shirley Denton, Rufino Osorio, and others.

Right now the traffic averages just under 100 hits per day, but each month since it started last spring, the traffic has increased. Some of the traffic comes from direct links, but some comes from Google and other search engines. The more traffic the blog receives, the higher its ranking on the search engines, so we see this as an ever-increasing situation.

2) The second tool is on Facebook where the FNPS **page has nearly 700 “fans.”** Because of a networked blogs application, each time we make a post on the blog, a link to it automatically appears on the Facebook page. We also link to other articles, resources, and other items that further the cause of native plants in Florida and elsewhere. For instance we often post a link to www.beautifulwildlifegarden.com blog because on Fridays Loret Setters, a member of the Pine lily FNPS chapter posts about central Florida gardening and habitat. We also posts link to many of the

posts from our sister organization, the Florida Wildlife Federation <http://www.floridawildflowerfoundation.org/>.

3) The third tool is Twitter. I’m not personally involved with this aspect, but every time there is a post or other newsworthy happening, it’s “tweeted” in 140 characters or less to the “Twitter -O-sphere.” Apparently there is quite a bit of traffic.

So what are the results of all this socialization? We know at least one person who joined after she found us on Facebook and we assume that there are others who have not spoken up about this. We consider these tools as a marketing effort, which lets people know what we are trying to accomplish.

What can you do to help us? Follow the feed for the blog and visit more often. We would love to have more comments—**we’ve made it easy so you can comment anonymously if you like.** The more traffic the higher our ranking on the search engines. **If you’re on Facebook, “like” our page and comment often. If you’re on Twitter follow us and re-tweet our posts.** We would love to have you as a guest poster either on the blog or on the Facebook page—it could be just a great photo that **you’ve taken or a more detailed post about a plant or wildlife encounter.** You can send your **questions or entries to me and I’ll take care of the rest.**

Thanks so much and Happy New Year!

Ginny Stibolt gstibolt@sky-bolt.com

Recent FNPS Blog Posts Related to Jacksonville and Ixia Chapter

Willie Browne's Enduring Gift to Jacksonville: Nature

<http://fnpsblog.blogspot.com/2010/12/one-person-can-make-difference.html>

Torrey State Park Fieldtrip

http://fnpsblog.blogspot.com/2010/12/field-trip-to-torrey-state-park-with_07.html

Okefenokee Gold

<http://fnpsblog.blogspot.com/2010/11/okefenokee-gold.html>

Butterfly Bonanza at the Florida/Georgia Line

<http://fnpsblog.blogspot.com/2010/09/butterfly-bonanza-at-floridageorgia.html>

Removing Invasives in Mandarin: a Team Effort

<http://fnpsblog.blogspot.com/2010/10/removing-invasives-in-mandarin-team.html>

Rescuing Rain Lilies

<http://fnpsblog.blogspot.com/2010/06/rescuing-rain-lilies.html>

We should all be proud of Ixia's own Ginny Stibolt, for being the driving force (aka blog master) behind the FNPS blog. Thanks Ginny!

Snakes: Beneficial for our Environment?

By Barbara Jackson

The short answer is yes, snakes are extremely beneficial to our environment. I would like to quote liberally from a great little guide from the University of Florida, IFAS Extension, called **“Identification Guide to the Snakes of Florida,”** by Steve A. Johnson and Monica E. McGarrity.

Johnson and McGarrity say: “Florida is home to 46 species of native snakes, only 6 of which are venomous. Snakes play important roles in our natural ecosystems and should be respected rather than feared. Snakes are important predators that help control rodent populations that can spread disease to humans. They are also important prey for birds, mammals, alligators, and even other snakes.”

“Most species of Florida’s snakes are in peril as a result of habitat loss and destruction, road mortality, and persecution. You should learn to respect Florida’s snakes and adopt a ‘leave them be’ attitude—this will reduce your chances of being bitten! Snakes are not aggressive toward humans but can be defensive and may bite when threatened, harassed, or handled.”

Venomous snakes in Florida are the Eastern Diamond-Backed Rattlesnake, the Pygmy Rattlesnake, Timber Rattlesnake, Copperhead, Cottonmouth or Water Moccasin, and Coralsnake. The Timber Rattlesnake and the Copperhead are not found in our area of Florida, but the other four venomous snakes are. The best advice is to leave the area when you spot a venomous snake and do not threaten, hassle or pick up a venomous snake. If bitten, seek medical help immediately.

I see three types of non venomous snakes in my yard on a regular basis: Black Racer or Blacksnake, Common Gartersnake, and Red Cornsnake or Red Ratsnake. I live at the beach, near the Intercoastal Waterway, but these snakes are found all over

Florida. When I spot a snake in my yard, I have a silent celebration. It means my ecosystem is thriving and healthy. The snakes have cover, water, and prey. They eat lizards, frogs, toads, mice and rats. And yes, sometimes bird eggs. I can personally attest to a shrinking rodent population. Much **to my dismay, my “rodent proof” compost container** became home to a lively colony of field mice and brazen rats. Luckily, a good friend and neighbor began breeding a wild caught female red ratsnake, and I have released over twenty baby ratsnakes in my yard over the past two years. This fall, I suddenly realized I am without rodents. No beady little eyes stare at me when I open the lid to the compost container. I am no longer seeing rodents in my yard.

We are fortunate that we are not yet seeing invasive Burmese Pythons and other non-native snakes in our area of Florida. Long range predictions indicate they will eventually come this far north and even further. If you see a Burmese Python in the wild, please report it immediately: http://myfwc.com/WILDLIFEHABITATS/Nonnative_BurmesePython_Reporting.asp

I would like to close by asking you to please respect our native snakes and allow them to continue to play a vital part in our ecosystems.

Juvenile Red Ratsnake



Torrey State Park — Plant List of Interesting NW FL Species ID'ed

November 20, 2010

Ixia, Sweetbay and Magnolia Chapters – Florida Native Plant Society

Gil Nelson – trip leader, plant identifier

Family	Scientific Name	Common Name
Pinaceae	<i>Pinus glabra</i>	Spruce Pine
Taxaceae	<i>Taxus floridana</i>	Florida Yew
Taxaceae	<i>Torreya taxifolia</i>	Florida Torreya
Arecaceae	<i>Rhapidophyllum hysrix</i>	Needle Palm
Arecaceae	<i>Sabal Minor</i>	Dwarf Palmetto
Dryopteridaceae	<i>Polystichum acrostichoides</i>	Christmas Fern
Poaceae	<i>Chasmanthium laxum var. sessiliflorum</i>	Longleaf Woodoats
Poaceae	<i>Sorghastrum elliottii</i>	Nodding Indian-grass
Juncaceae	<i>Juncus coriaceus</i>	Leathery Rush
Sapindaceae	<i>Acer negundo</i>	Box elder
Sapotaceae	<i>Sideroxylon lanuginosum</i>	Gum Bully
Aquifoliaceae	<i>Ilex ambigua</i>	Carolina Holly
Aquifoliaceae	<i>Ilex decidua</i>	Possumhaw
Aquifoliaceae	<i>Ilex opaca</i>	American Holly
Aquifoliaceae	<i>Ilex longipes</i>	Georgia Holly
Sapindaceae	<i>Acer saccharum subsp. floidanum</i>	Florida Maple
Sapindaceae	<i>Acer saccharum subsp. lucoderme</i>	Chalky Maple
Cyrillaceae	<i>Cyrilla racemiflora</i>	Titi, Swamp Cyrilla
Ericaceae	<i>Oxydendrum arboreum</i>	Sourwood
Fagaceae	<i>Quercus alba</i>	White Oak
Fagaceae	<i>Fagus grandifolia</i>	American Beech
Orobanchaceae	<i>Epifagus virginiana</i>	Beechdrops
Acanthaceae	<i>Dicliptera brachiata</i>	Branched Foldwing
Styracaceae	<i>Halesia diptera</i>	Two-wing Silverbell
Styracaceae	<i>Styrax grandifolius</i>	Bigleaf Snowbell
Staphyleaceae	<i>Staphylea trifolia</i>	American Bladdernut
Rosaceae	<i>Amelanchier arborea</i>	Serviceberry, Shadberry
Rosaceae	<i>Crataegus spathulata</i>	Littlehip Hawthorne
Rosaceae	<i>Crataegus viridus</i>	Green Haw
Rosaceae	<i>Crataegus marshallii</i>	Parsley Haw
Rosaceae	<i>Crataegus flava</i>	Summer Haw
Rosaceae	<i>Purnus alabamensis</i>	Alabama Cherry
Celtidaceae	<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	Hackberry
Adoxaceae	<i>Viburnum dentatum</i>	Southern Arrowwood
Oleaceae	<i>Fraxinus americana</i>	White Ash
Oleaceae	<i>Chionanthus virginicus</i>	White Fringetree
Oleaceae	<i>Forestiera godfreyi</i>	Godfrey's Swampprivet
Thymelaceae	<i>Dirca palustris</i>	Eastern Leatherwood
Lamiaceae	<i>Dicerandra linearifolia</i>	Coastalplain Balm
Fabaceae	<i>Baptisia megacarpa</i>	Apalachicola Wild Indigo
Magnoliaceae	<i>Magnolia macrophylla var. ashei</i>	Ashe's Magnolia, Bigleaf Magnolia
Magnoliaceae	<i>Magnolia pyramidata</i>	Pyramid Magnolia
Asteraceae	<i>Solidago odorata</i>	Sweet Goldenrod, Anisescented Goldenrod

Meetings, Events and Field Trips: January — April, 2010

[Click this Link to Calendar of Events on Ixia Chapter Webpage](#)

Ixia Chapter meets at 6:30 PM on the third Thursday of each month except for May, July, August and December. We sometimes have field trips in place of our regular meeting date. Please check our Chapter Calendar of Events prior to attending a meeting.

We meet at the Regency Square Library, 9900 Regency Square Blvd, Jacksonville, FL 32225

Regency Library Phone 904-726-5142

National Invasive Species Awareness Week

Feb. 28 – March 4th.

The NE Florida Air Potato Round-up Saturday March 5th.

First Coast Invasive Working Group will be planning soon for National Invasive Species Awareness Week and the NE Florida Air Potato Round-up.

Contact:

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