

Long Island Botanical Society

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The Quarterly Newsletter

Summer 2011

Editor's Introduction

By Margaret Conover

This special issue of the LIBS Newsletter is a record of the LIBS 25th anniversary field trip to Florida. Between March 30 and April 8, sixteen LIBS members and friends drove the length of the state. Along the way, they were joined by four other LIBS members and friends, and enjoyed the leadership of five terrific guides. They explored eight unique habitats from Tallahassee to Fakahatchee and observed 33 federal- or state-listed rare, threatened, and endangered plant species, 30 species of ferns/allies, and 12 species of native orchids.

Many of the trip participants contributed to this issue of the LIBS Newsletter. We received a variety of submissions from 11 authors and photographers. We've included most of them here, and more may be found on the field trip blog at <http://libsfl.blogspot.com/>

I had the pleasure of participating in this trip and have enjoyed preparing this issue of the newsletter, as a way of reliving the experience. I've used square brackets to insert editorial notes and to cross-reference photographs and articles throughout. Authors of articles are acknowledged with a byline. Photographers are acknowledged by initials (EL: Eric Lamont, MVC: Margaret Conover, BC: Barbara Conolly, JH: John Heidecker, AFJ: Ann F. Johnson).

I wish to thank all who contributed to this issue of the LIBS Newsletter, and particularly Skip and Jane Blanchard and Ann Johnson for indispensable help in fact-checking, copy editing, and proof-reading.

We all are grateful to LIBS president Eric Lamont for inspiring this trip and for supporting the efforts of Barbara Conolly, organizer of the trip and long-time LIBS secretary. Barbara spent close to two years planning this event. With help from her friend, Elaine Jacobsen, Barbara previewed every site, saw to every detail, and planned for every eventuality. We all agree that it was perfect, in every way!

We appropriately lead off this issue with some highlights from Barbara Conolly.

Highlights of the LIBS Florida Trip, March 30 – April 8, 2011

By Barbara Conolly

The trip began with a highlight: bad weather and tornados were predicted in the Florida Panhandle west of Tallahassee, but they failed to materialize!!

And so, on Thursday, March 31, we sailed into Torreya State Park under the guidance of Ann Johnson and her dear colleague, Wilson Baker, for our first day in the field. Highlights were the unexpected beauty of the steepplands forest there, the view of the Apalachicola River when we descended to the bottom, and finally seeing the needles on the needle palm (*Rhapidophyllum hystrix*!). And of course, the amazing *Ophioglossum* fern found in the grass at the edge of the driveway there [Fig. 1], all of an inch and a half high!

[Ed. Note. -- Other highlights of Day 1 are reported by Carol Johnston and Margaret Conover on page 21.]

The next day, Ann led us through the wonders of the bogs in Apalachicola National Forest [Fig. 2] where we were greeted by a field of the great yellow globes of trumpet pitcher plants (*Sarracenia flava*) [Figs. 23, 28o] interspersed with the well-named dew-threads sundews (*Drosera tracyi*) [Fig. 3], swamp Coreopsis (*Coreopsis nudata*) [Fig. 28k] and the totally bizarre toothache grass (*Ctenium aromaticum*) [Fig. 4].

[Ed. Note. -- Barbara also participated in Eric's cottonmouth adventure, described by David Heerwagen on page 24.]

On our way to Perry that afternoon, we enjoyed the unspoiled country road along the Gulf, followed by a visit to the edge of St. Mark's National Wildlife Refuge to see the rare *Leitneria* (corkwood) in its disjunct location in a swamp there. [See Ann Johnson's article on page 22.]

Saturday our long drive to Sebring was broken by a stop at Fanning Springs where Ron Lang, a friend of Joanne Schlegel, led us to the bizarre, striped pinewoods milkweed (*Asclepias humistrata*).

(Continued on pg 19)

Long Island Botanical Society

Founded: 1986
Incorporated: 1989

The Long Island Botanical Society is dedicated to the promotion of field botany and a greater understanding of the plants that grow wild on Long Island, New York.

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Newsletter Editor

Margaret Conover 631-357-3065

with special thanks to

Skip & Jane Blanchard

Webmaster

Donald House

libswb@yahoo.com

Society News



LIBS 25th anniversary field trip participants (left to right) Eric Lamont, Barbara Conolly, Donald House, Joanne Schlegel, Jane Blanchard, Marian Hubbard, Ellen Kritzman, Yvonne Kuperberg, Regina Conlon, Carol Johnston, David Heerwagen, Ann Johnson, Elaine Jacobsen, Skip Blanchard, Dot Titus, Bill Titus, Margaret Conover, Kathy Gaffney.



Rare plants seen at Florida field sites between March 31 and April 7, 2011. Compiled by Ann Johnson. The blog for the trip (<http://libsfl.blogspot.com/>) includes Ann's detailed list, including locations and Florida Natural Areas Inventory global and state ranks as well as a list of ferns/allies, compiled by Carol Johnston and a list of orchids, compiled by Eric Lamont.

Calamintha ashei (Ashe's savory)

Carex baltzellii (Baltzell's sedge)

Celtis pallida (=ebrenbergiana)

(spiny hackberry)

Croomia pauciflora (Croomia)

Cynoglossum virginianum

(wild comfrey)

Cyrtopodium punctatum

(cowhorn orchid)

Dendrophylax lindenii (ghost orchid)

Dirca palustris (eastern leatherwood)

Epidendrum nocturnum

(night-scented orchid)

Garberia heterophylla (Garberia)

Guzmania monostachia

(Fakahatchee Guzmania)

Hexastylis arifolia (heartleaf)

Hymenocallis gholsonii (recently
described-soon to be listed)

Hypericum cummicola

(highlands scrub hypericum)

Lechea cernua (nodding pinweed)

Leitneria floridana (Florida corkwood)

Magnolia ashei (Ashe's magnolia)

Panicum abscissum (cutthroat grass)

Parnassia grandifolia (large-leaved
grass-of-Parnassus)

Paronychia chartacea ssp. *chartacea*
(paper-like nailwort)

Pinguicula ionantha
(violet-flowered butterwort)

Polygonella myriophylla
(Small's jointweed)

Rhododendron austrinum
(Florida flame azalea)

Staphylea trifolia (American bladdernut)

Taxus floridana (Florida yew)

Tillandsia balbisiana (inflated and
reflexed wild pine)

Tillandsia fasciculata
(stiff-leaved wildpine)

Tillandsia pruinosa
(fuzzy wuzzy air plant)

Tillandsia utriculata (giant wild pine)

Tillandsia valenzuelana
(soft-leaved wildpine)

Torreya taxifolia (Florida Torreya)

Trillium lancifolium
(narrow-leaved Trillium)

Verbesina chapmanii (vegetative)
(Chapman's crownbeard)

(Highlights cont. from cover)



Figure 1. *Ophioglossum petiolatum* [BC].

The big surprise when we reached the Holiday Inn at Sebring were nearby vacant lots which yielded a fantastic number of scrub plants. An Ashe's calamint (*Calamintha ashei*) in full bloom [Fig. 5] there so moved Elaine Jacobsen (it was her birthday)

that she burst into tears. And, as an answer to a prayer, there were a number of young Florida rosemary (*Ceratiola ericoides*) shrubs [Fig. 6] making it unnecessary to make the long walk to the location at Archbold Biological Station where Ann, years ago, had conducted post-doctoral research on this important and rare Florida native.



Figure 2. Botanists in a bog. Apalachicola National Forest [EL].

Sunday morning we rendezvoused with Ranger Rick at Highlands Hammock State Park. There we surrendered all our cameras to him in order to be photographed in front of a 970 year-old live oak (*Quercus virginiana*) [Fig. 7]. Our smiles turned to gasps as we watched Ranger Rick's big white sneaker obliterate Carol Johnston's camera on the ground. (Happily, Carol was reimbursed for her loss very quickly.) Subsequently we walked a Cypress Swamp trail where lizard's tail (*Saururus cernuus*) was in full bloom.



Figure 3. Dew-threads sundew (*Drosera tracyi*) [MVC].

That afternoon we arrived at Archbold Biological Station and tried to master the oaks (six more to add to the 10 oaks

we had been shown at Torreya! Who knew there were so many oaks?) on the nature trail, besides the tarflower (*Bejaria racemosa*), Garberia (*G. heterophylla*), sand spikemoss (*Selaginella arenicola*) and the tiny papery whitlow-wort (*Paronychia chartacea*). We were all amazed at the variety of endemic plants which thrive on that white sugar sand which is devoid of organic nutrients.



Figure 4. Toothache grass, *Ctenium aromaticum*. Inflorescence from last year [EL].

That night we checked in for the first of five nights at the Comfort Inn near the airport in Ft. Myers. Monday morning we went to Sanibel for a day of R and R at Conolly's in Gulf Pines (where two young eaglets were perched on their nest in a dead Casuarina tree just off the main drive). Sanibel shells beckoned to all who went to the beach for the day.



Figure 5. An Ashe's calamint (*Calamintha ashei*) in full bloom being photographed by Elaine Jacobsen [MVC].

On Tuesday, it was back to Sanibel and onto the five-mile drive at Ding Darling, the National Wildlife Refuge there. Though the roseate spoonbills had left for nesting duties, a large bunch of white pelicans remained on a sand bar with shorebirds.



Figure 6. Young Florida rosemary (*Ceratiola ericoides*) [MVC].

Reddish egrets, little blue herons, tricolored herons and both snowy and great egrets fed along the shore. And George Wilder was there to educate us about the white, red and black mangroves at the Mangrove Overlook.

We moved on to the Shell Mound (still at Ding Darling) with George [Fig. 8]. Since the mounds are made [by native people] from shells, they support a unique plant population.

We ogled rarities like the Jamaica capertree (*Capparis cynophallophora*), spiny hackberry (*Celtis pallida*), pullback (*Pisonia aculeata*), doctorbush (*Plumbago scandens*), rubber vine (*Rhabdadenia biflora*). A predicted thunderstorm drenched

(Cont. on page 20)

(Highlights cont. from pg 19)



Figure 7. At Highlands Hammock State Park, near a 970 year-old live oak (*Quercus virginiana*) [Ranger Rick].



Figure 8. George Wilder shows the difference between myrsine (*Rapanea punctata*) and island marlberry (*Ardisia escallonioides*) [MVC].

us but we were close enough to Conolly's that we could repair there, and eat lunch while drying our clothes in the dryer. We then went back to the Shell Mound to finish up.

Wednesday, we motored down to Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park where Mike Owens regaled us with the history of the orchids and other plants like the bromeliads (which included the fuzzy wuzzy airplant, *Tillandsia pruinosa* [Fig. 9]), arthritis vine (*Hippocratea volubilis*), and strangler fig (*Ficus aurea*).

After lunch Mike led us about six miles into the Strand on Janes Scenic Drive. We parked our vans and followed him along a

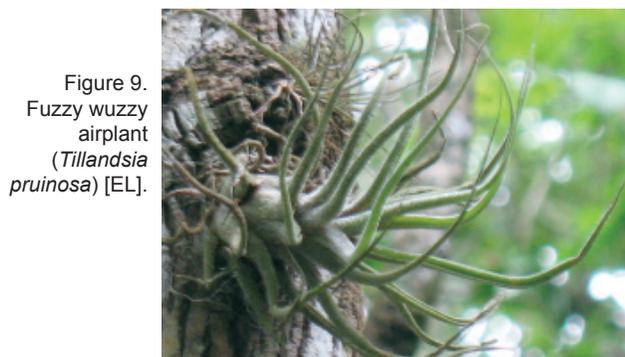


Figure 9. Fuzzy wuzzy airplant (*Tillandsia pruinosa*) [EL].

tram line (a raised ridge constructed for the trains that carted the cut cypresses back to the depot during WW II.) There he showed us ten species of orchids of which three were in bloom, as well as the very rare bromeliad, *Guzmania (G. monostachia)*, [Fig. 28h] which resembled a cascade of healthy orchid-like leaves, cascading down a rotten log, and has so far escaped the predations of the [exotic] "Evil Weevil" which has demolished many large bromeliads. We wished it luck!



Figure 10. LIBS at the Fakahatchee Strand [JH].

[Ed. Note. -- Be sure to read Elaine Kuperberg's reflections on the preservation of the Fakahatchee on page 23.]

Our final day in the field was at Corkscrew Swamp, the Audubon sanctuary about 20 miles east of Naples which boasts the largest collection of old-growth bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) in the country.



Figure 11. *Sacoila (Spiranthes) lanceolata*, scarlet ladies'-tresses [EL].

There Dick Brewer led us along the 2.25-mile-long boardwalk so we could revel in the aura of those giant trees. Virginia willow (*Itea virginica*) was blooming and so were several enchanting foot-high terrestrial red orchids, once categorized as a *Spiranthes* but now given the genus *Sacoila* and known as scarlet ladies'-tresses [Fig. 11]. But Dick was saving the best for last and led us down a side trail to view an enormous cow's horn orchid (*Cyrtopodium punctatum*) in the top of an old cypress tree which sported fluffy blooms of red and orange flowers way over our heads.

[Ed. Note. -- we were all surprised and delighted when, at the conclusion of our last day, Barbara treated us to a special banquet to close our Florida trip in style!]

Savannah Grassland of Torreya State Park

By Carol Johnston

After an exciting time in ravines that ran down to the Apalachicola River, we made a brief foray into a totally different habitat just before we left the park [Fig. 12].

This was a savannah habitat, higher than the forested ravines of hardwoods, where sand overlays the limestone. This savannah grassland had widely scattered long-leaf pines, *Pinus palustris*. It burns often and the plants are extremely fire-adapted.

Recently burned, the young long-leaf pine saplings were arresting to look at. They still held long skirts of burnt needles out of which a fat green terminal bud was poised to go [Fig. 13]. Full of life, they were jaunty and comical to look at [Fig. 14]. It takes these young pines a number of years before they start to branch, and so the juveniles as well give the savannah a distinctive look.

Besides the grasses, especially *Andropogon gyrans* (Elliott's bluestem), and *Myrica cerifera* (wax myrtle), I was drawn to Darrow's lowbush blueberry, *Vaccinium darrovii*, with its tiny, very blue leaves, scattered here and there in the sunny, dry, park-like savannah.



Figure 12. Savannah grassland of Torreya State Park [C. Johnston].



Figure 13. Terminal bud of long-leaf pine sapling [EL].



Figure 14. Long-leaf pine saplings look jaunty and comical [EL].

Croomia Reunion

By Margaret Conover

Croomia (*Croomia pauciflora*) is a rare spring ephemeral of the southern coastal forests of the U.S. and the only member of the Stemonaceae to occur in the Western Hemisphere. With net-veined leaves and flower parts in multiples of four, members of the Stemonaceae are unique among the monocotyledons.



Figure 15. *Croomia pauciflora* [MVC].

I first saw *Croomia* when I traveled to the Florida panhandle in March, 1978 to collect it for my dissertation research. My guide at the time, the legendary Florida field botanist Dr. Robert Godfrey, generously escorted me to a *Croomia* collecting site in a soon-to-be-developed location where I gathered living specimens to grow in the University of Massachusetts greenhouses. Dr. Godfrey drew me a map to a place high on the river bluff at Torreya State Park where I also observed *Croomia* to be growing. When I next visited the park, twenty years later, I was unable to relocate that population, and on this trip I learned, to my disappointment, that *Croomia* is no longer believed to occur in the park.

So I was delighted when, at the end of our long day of botanizing at Torreya, a small party of tired LIBS botanists led by Wilson Baker continued north to a swamp forest on the east bank of the Apalachicola River. There, we waded through the muck to a gentle slope where we found not only *Croomia*, but several species of flowering spring ephemerals. For me, it was a happy reunion after 33 years. I snapped a few photos [Fig.15] and promised to return soon.

Leitneria floridana, the Florida Corkwood

By Ann F. Johnson

Community Ecologist, Florida Natural Areas Inventory, Tallahassee, FL 32303

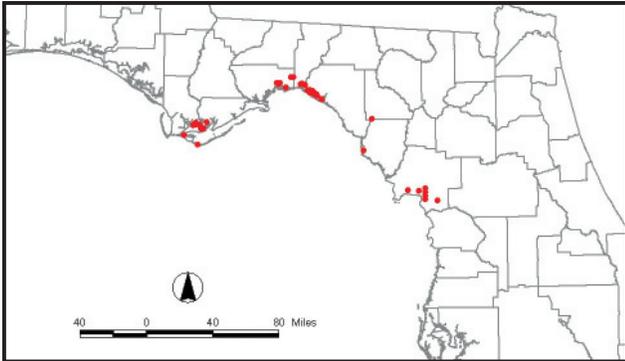


Figure 16. Locations (74) for *Leitneria floridana* in Florida [Florida Natural Areas Inventory 2011].

During our Florida trip, LIBS members made a detour on their way to Perry for a look at *Leitneria floridana* (Florida corkwood), a peculiar shrub growing in swampy woodlands near the coast in the Big Bend area of Florida (Figure 16). The species name honors Edward Leitner, a nineteenth century German naturalist, and the common name refers to the local use of the light wood as floats for fishnets¹. *Leitneria* is clonal, deciduous, and relatively unbranched—in winter it looks like a bunch of sticks stuck in the middle of mucky depressions, often growing with sawgrass (*Cladium jamaicense*) or Walter's sedge (*Carex striata*), in the live oak-cabbage palm forests near the coast. The sticks develop catkins in late February and each clone generally has either male (yellowish) or female (reddish) catkins (Figures 17, 18). Fruits (Figure 19) and leaves (Figure 20) develop in late March. Its unbranched form and large leaves clustered at the top of the stem have earned it the nickname “leaves-on-a-stick.” Besides shady woods ponds, it can also occasionally be found in open, sunny sawgrass marshes where it is subject to regular fires, after which it re-sprouts vigorously.



Figure 17. Male catkins of *Leitneria floridana* [AFJ].



Figure 18: Female catkins of *Leitneria floridana* [AFJ].

Evidence that it is a relic species includes its widely disjunct distribution in small areas in Texas (S1²), Arkansas (S2), Missouri (S3), Florida (S3) and Georgia (S1), as well as its taxonomic isolation. It has been classed as the sole representative of the order Leitneriales, the family Leitneriaceae, and the genus *Leitneria*. Most recently it has been put in the Simaroubaceae within the Sapindales based on molecular evidence (Angiosperm Phylogeny Group 2003).

In other states it is found in widely varied habitats (Sharma et al. 2008), none of which, except for their swampy-ness, come very close to matching those found in Florida. These include, for



Figure 19. Fruits of *Leitneria floridana* [Gil Nelson].

example, pond cypress-gum swamp along the Altamaha River and limesink depression ponds in Georgia (T. Patrick, Georgia Natural Heritage Program, pers. comm. 2011), margin of a pond shaded by *Carya aquatica* and *Fraxinus pennsylvanica* in Texas (J. Poole, Texas Natural Heritage Program, pers. comm. 2011), and swales of a sandy dune/swale topography at Sand Ponds Conservation Area in Missouri (S. Farrington, Missouri Natural Heritage Program, pers. comm. 2011).

The currently accepted fossil record of *Leitneria* extends to the early Oligocene. Fossils of the inner wall of the ripened ovary (endocarp) have been identified in the early Oligocene and Pliocene of western Siberia, as well as the Miocene and Pliocene of Europe (Dorofeev 1994; Nikitin 2006, both as cited in Clayton et al. 2009). It's tempting to speculate that *Leitneria* is a relic of a group of plants that grew in swampy areas around the shores of the epi-continental seas that gradually drained off North America (and Eurasia) during the Tertiary Period, most



Figure 20. Leaves of *Leitneria floridana* [Gil Nelson].



Figure 21. The author in a stand of *Leitneria floridana* in Florida [EL].

precipitously in the Oligocene. The shallow northeast arm of the Gulf of Mexico off the coast of Florida's Big Bend has been identified by geologists as one of the last of these seas (Davis 1997).

1) In Florida *Leitneria* is sometimes confused with *Stillingia aquatica* (Euphorbiaceae) which is also called "corkwood."

2) state Heritage rank (NatureServe 2010).

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Preserving the Fakahatchee Strand

By Yvonne Kuperberg

On a hot, humid day in March, replete with deer flies, the LIBS Florida tour marched into the Fakahatchee Strand State Park. Mike Owen, park biologist had already walked us through the boardwalk in the southern portion of the park. Now we were "off-roading" it where we could see bromeliads, orchids, ferns, cypress and palms up close and personal. Mike enthusiastically explained how he regularly visited, talked with, and measured his orchid "friends."

This was the part of the tour I was most anxious to see. Years ago, Mel Finn, a Florida east coast attorney and orchid lover, had talked to everyone he could get to listen to him, describing the beauty and unusual diversity of this part of Florida. Mel was determined that the land be saved from development and/or deforestation. My husband, Joel, was director of Florida State Lands when Mel first talked with him. Later, when Joel was working with the Trust for Public Lands, Mel continued selling his idea for preservation of these lands.

Finally, one day Mel caught him in a weak moment and Joel agreed to join Mel in a trip to the Fakahatchee Swamp. That trip, in April 1970, sold Joel. He added his voice to Mel's request for preservation of the land and, eventually the State purchased about 80 square miles at the western edge of the Everglades.

For years I have heard about this unique piece of land, complete with the "ghost orchid" featured in the book, *The Orchid Thief*.

By the time the State got the land, Joel and I were living in Washington State, trying to preserve habitat on Vashon Island. After Mel Finn's untimely death, Joel and Nat Reed, a Floridian and former Assistant Secretary of Interior under Nixon, arranged to recognize Mel's part in preserving this property in its natural state. Today there is a plaque on a huge rock at the trail head that does just that.

There is a great sense of satisfaction in seeing the preservation of an ecosystem come to pass. There is even greater satisfaction in knowing how many people and how much time went into that project. This is the satisfaction I experienced in finally walking into that part of the Fakahatchee. My husband, Joel, played a small part in this effort, but it was good to see the habitat that Mel was so passionate about still preserved, appreciated and monitored.

[Ed. Note. -- Author Yvonne Kuperberg is neither a Long Islander nor a botanist, but she joined us on this trip in order to experience the natural areas that she and her family had enjoyed exploring (and protecting) when they lived in Florida many years ago. Mike Owen spoke to us, warmly, about Joel Kuperberg's important role in the preservation of the Fakahatchee Strand, and this was a memorable and moving moment of our trip. For those interested in knowing the full story, a newsletter issue of the Friends of the Fakahatchee Strand is available on the web, and has been posted to the LIBS Florida Field Trip Blog.]

Some Personal Reflections on Tallahassee to Fakahatchee

By David Heerwagen



Figure 22. Buds and branches of the Florida Torrey pine (*Torreya taxifolia*) [MVC].

We had barely left the Tallahassee Airport on our way to the motel in Blountstown when we passed a group of churches, and I knew we had hit the Bible Belt. We would also see another cluster of churches in

Perry. There's nothing else like it at least in the Northeast – to see these conglomerations of churches cheek by jowl.

As soon as we were checked into our motel in Blountstown some of us started botanizing the grounds. There would be little rest from botany for this group for the rest of the trip.

Torreya State Park was our first stop and for some of us it was our introduction to Florida flora. I noted that with all the lichen, moss and algae on the trees down here it was hard to read the bark. Up north you could sometimes ID a tree just from its bark and gestalt. Down here even for the same trees we have up north (e.g., the tulip and sweetgum) you had to look up at the leaves for certain identification.

At Torreya we saw many wonderful plants and shrubs. Sadly we saw how the emblematic Florida Torreya tree [Fig. 22] was succumbing to disease. Just as with our chestnut trees up north, these Torreya trees rarely reach past the sapling stage before they are blighted. On one of the trails at Torreya we were in view of the Apalachicola River and we came across some earthworks that had been the sites of Confederate batteries. This lent an interesting historical note to the tour.

One of our very best days was the following day at Apalachicola National Forest. We hit a pitcher plant bog and saw pitcher plants and sundews that were new to many of us [Fig. 23]. As we moseyed around looking at the bog plants Eric Lamont decided to do some off-site tramping and he soon let out with a shout that he had a cottonmouth in attack mode – or words to similar effect. Being a snake enthusiast myself, I rushed over to see



Figure 23. Flower of *Sarracenia flava* (yellow pitcherplant) [BC].

Eric staring down an agitated cottonmouth with its jaws gaping, its cotton mouth showing and its fangs baring [Fig. 24]. We just stood there frozen about four or five feet away just admiring the animal for far too long.

High on my nature wish list was to see the actual cotton mouth of that very same animal. But having had a chance to think it over that night, Eric and I agreed the following morning at breakfast that what we did was pretty stupid. Yvonne had called her son-in-law (a herpetologist I think) and he agreed that what we did was 'pretty stupid.' Still I have to thank Eric for my most thrilling moment in the field ever.



Figure 24. Cottonmouth snake [EL].

Perhaps our most memorable lunch stop was the Family Coastal Restaurant in Sumatra, Florida. I never thought to ask how the town of Sumatra got its name. This was definitely the funkier eatery we stopped at the whole tour. The waitress was pure Florida outback. I had fried mullet, fried okra and hushpuppies, and it was good.

All of our guides were remarkable but none was more upbeat than Mike Owen [Fig. 25] who took us through Fakahatchee. Mike had received some press in Susan Orlean's noted book *The Orchid Thief*. Mike was an expert in all manner of flora and fauna but I'm not sure I could have held up under his boyish enthusiasm for an entire day.

If there was one disappointment in the entire trip it was the less-than-spectacular orchid show at Fakahatchee and Corkscrew. I had just come from the New York Botanical Gardens orchid show and I was naively expecting all kinds of showy orchids to



Figure 25. Ranger Mike Owen describes the ghost orchid while John Heidecker photographs it [MVC].

Figure 26. *Epidendrum amphistomum* (big-mouth star orchid), seen at Fakahatchee Strand [JH].



be gracing the trees. With the help of our guides we had to look hard and learn how to identify orchid plants by their less showy parts. Only a few were in flower [Figs. 26 and 27] and they were not easy to see.

Corkscrew Swamp was the most remarkable nature preserve I've ever seen. Within 2 ¼ miles of boardwalk—can there be anything else like it in the world? With all the wonderful plants



Figure 27. *Epidendrum rigidum* (stiff flower star orchid), seen at Corkscrew Swamp [EL].

and unspooked animals it is as close to paradise for a nature lover as you can get. You don't have to work hard to see so much great stuff.

In sum Barbara put together a great itinerary and with the help of all our superb guides we had a fantastic trip. There is an 'other' Florida (as the title of one book has it) that is unspoiled by development, and we saw a good part of it.

Tallahassee to Fakahatchee: On the Road with the Long Island Botanical Society

By Joanne Schlegel

[Ed. Note. -- Joanne is vice president of the Niagara Frontier Botanical Society in Buffalo, NY, and a LIBS member. This is an excerpt of an article she wrote for the spring issue of their newsletter.]

First stop: Torreya State Park. Here we saw Florida Torreya (*Torreya taxifolia*) which resemble yews [Fig. 22]. They are now one of the rarest trees on earth thanks to the invasion of a fungus which has reduced their number in the wild to about 200. We also saw Florida yew (*Taxus floridana*) also listed as federally endangered. This species is more tree-like than our local shrubby yew species (*Taxus canadensis*). Because the park is located at the north end of the state we also saw many trees familiar to us northerners, including beech, white oak, white ash, pignut hickory, tulip tree, and ironwood.

While in the Florida Panhandle we stopped at two magnificent bogs where we feasted our eyes on a plethora of carnivorous plants, including three species of sundews, two species of butterworts, and two species of pitcher plants with *Sarracenia flava* actually in flower. All this plus *Calopogon barbatus* [Fig. 28f], a beautiful bog orchid which blooms only after fire. Later that day, on the drive south, our guide led us to an off-trail stand of corkwood (*Leitneria floridana*) in St. Mark's National Wildlife Refuge. This weird looking shrub is the only member of the family Leitneriaceae and is listed as federally endangered.

On April 2 we began driving southward in earnest. A day was spent at two contrasting sites in central Florida south of

Orlando. In the morning we visited Highlands Hammock State Park, a moist-to-wet climax forest where we saw 1000-year-old live oaks (*Quercus virginiana*), our first bald cypresses of the trip, and many other new plants including marlberry (*Ardisia*), native swallow-wort (*Cynanchum*), and shoestring fern (*Vittaria lineata*). Then it was on to Archbold Biological Station to experience a dry "scrub community." Here life has evolved along a spine of ancient nutrient-poor sand dunes deposited prior to the Pleistocene. Plants seen included four species of shrubby oaks, sand pine (*Pinus clausa*), and a number of endemics. Highlight: seeing a federally-threatened gopher tortoise [Fig. 28m]!

Then it was on to Fort Myers in southwest Florida where we stayed five nights. The days were spent exploring three renowned sites in the area: Sanibel Island, Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park, and Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary. Sanibel's highlights included seeing all four species of North American mangroves, and visiting a shell mound created by Calusa Indians centuries ago and containing unique species. In Fakahatchee and Corkscrew, the focus was on the many epiphytic orchids and bromeliads. We were lucky enough to see a number in bloom, including a stunning red ladies' tresses (*Sacoila lanceolata*) and a massive cowhorn orchid (*Cyrtopodium punctatum*). Also, we were kept very busy learning dozens of new species such as pond apple (*Annona glabra*), strangler fig (*Ficus aurea*), and arthritis vine (*Hippocratea volubilis*).



Figure 28. A sampling of photographs taken by LIBS members:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. <i>Cnidocolus stimulosus</i> (tread lightly) [MVC] b. <i>Illicium floridanum</i> (Florida anisetree) [MVC] c. <i>Tillandsia fasciculata</i> (cardinal airplant)[EL] d. A typical LIBS photographer: Donald House [BC] e. <i>Erythrina herbacea</i> (coralbean or Cherokee bean) [EL] f. <i>Calopogon barbatus</i> (bearded grasspink) [MVC] g. <i>Pinguicula lutea</i> (yellow butterwort) [EL] | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> h. <i>Guzmania monostachia</i> (West Indian tufted airplant) [JH] i. <i>Borrchia frutescens</i> (bushy seaside tansy) [BC] j. <i>Tradescantia hirsutiflora</i> (hairy spiderwort) [EL] k. <i>Coreopsis nudata</i> (swamp Coreopsis) [BC] l. Spring azure butterflies [Jane Blanchard] m. Gopher tortoise [EL] n. <i>Rhododendron austrinum</i> (Florida flame azalea) [EL] o. <i>Sarracenia flava</i> (yellow pitcher plant) [MVC] p. <i>Trillium underwoodii</i> (longbract wakerobin) [BC] |
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FIELD TRIPS

JULY 23, 2011 (SATURDAY) 10 AM

Christie Estate South (Muttontown South), Nassau County, NY

Trip leader: Rich Kelly

Cell: (516) 509-1094 Email: vze2dxmi1@verizon.net

This is a former Winthrop estate, and the habitats include mixed upland woods, successional fields, and kettle hole ponds. There will be a wide variety of summer wildflowers. Bring plenty of water, suntan lotion, and insect repellent. This will be a long but easy walk. The trails may be muddy, but you would have to make a special effort to walk in standing water on this trip. It would be best if you could carry your lunch. Please contact the leader prior to the trip. (This is a joint trip with the Torrey Botanical Society.)

Directions: Meet at 10:00 AM at the parking area for Nassau Hall at 1864 Muttontown Road, Syosset. *By car only:* From either the Long Island Expressway or Northern State Parkway, go north on North Broadway (Rtes. 106/107) in Jericho. Very soon after passing under Jericho Tpke (Route 25), bear right onto Rte. 106 which is Jericho - Oyster Bay Road. Continue north for 2.2 miles and turn left onto Muttontown Road/Eastwoods Road. Go west 0.4 mile and turn left at Nassau Hall. If the gate is locked, backtrack a few feet and take the driveway that goes through the building.

SEPTEMBER 10, 2011 (SATURDAY) 9:30 AM

Hubbard Creek Marsh & vicinity, Suffolk County, NY

Trip leader: Eric Lamont Email: elamont@optonline.net

We will visit tidal marshlands, a tidal creek, seepy roadsides and, if time permits, an Atlantic white cedar swamp. We should see several rare plant species and ecological communities, including *Agalinis maritima*, *Bartonia paniculata*, *Carex collinsii*, *Carex hormathodes*, *Chamaecyparis thyoides*, *Cuscuta obtusiflora* var. *glandulosa*, *Oclemena (Aster) nemoralis*, *Plantago maritima* var. *juncooides*, *Solidago sempervirens* var. *mexicana*, *Viburnum nudum*, and the northernmost populations in eastern North America of *Fimbristylis castanea* and *Lythrum lineare*. Not long ago, *Helianthus angustifolius* and *Lilaeopsis chinensis* occurred here, but have not been recently seen. We will see very common coastal plants (e.g., *Ilex glabra*) that do not occur in New York, north of Long Island. Dress for possibly wet (ankle deep) marshes. Bring water, lunch, and insect repellent. (Co-listed with the New York Flora Association.)

Directions: We will meet at 9:30am at the McDonald's on Route 24, just east of the Riverhead traffic circle. NOTE: there are two traffic circles in Riverhead; you don't want the one on Route 58 at the hospital. You want the traffic circle just south of Peconic River, in the Township of Southampton. Travelling from the west, take the LIE to exit 71 (Route 24) and proceed east to the traffic circle.

OCTOBER 1, 2011 (SATURDAY) 10 AM

Hempstead Plains, Nassau County, NY

Trip leader: Betsy Gulotta Cell: (516) 317-7267

Over 200 species of native and non-native flowering plants have been identified at the 19-acre Hempstead Plains at Nassau Community College (NCC). The native grasses characterizing the tall grass prairie are particularly beautiful at this time of year. The walk takes about an hour. Bring water and sturdy shoes

Directions: From either Meadowbrook Parkway Exit M4 or Merrick Ave. north of Rt. 24 Hempstead Turnpike, take Charles Lindbergh Blvd west. Turn at first right into East Parking of NCC. Go to first intersection. See parking along fence and sign for Hempstead Plains.

OCTOBER 15, 2011 (SATURDAY) 10 AM

Caumsett State Historical Park, Suffolk County, Long Island, NY

Trip leader: Dr. Andrew Greller

Email: agreller2@optonline.net

This is an all-day trip. We will explore for fall flora and identify oaks and hickories. Bring plenty of beverage, lunch, insect repellent, and sturdy footwear. Camera, binoculars and hand-lens are optional but recommended. (This is a joint trip with the Torrey Botanical Society.)

Directions: Meet at the parking area after the entrance booth (NYS Park fee may be applicable). *By car only:* From New York City take the Long Island Expressway to exit 36 toward Searingtown Rd/Port Washington; merge onto Nassau Blvd/S Service Rd; turn left at Searingtown Rd; continue north about 1 mile (to the end), and turn right at 25A E/Northern Blvd/North Hempstead Tpke; continue east on 25A for 14.5 miles and turn left at West Neck Rd, Huntington; continue north on the winding West Neck Rd for 4.4 miles until you find yourself bearing sharply right onto Lloyd Harbor Rd; continue on Lloyd Harbor Rd until you see the sign for Caumsett State Park (on your right); turn left at the sign for the park and continue up a hill after which the road will veer to the right. Go past the guard house and you'll see a parking lot on your right. From eastern Long Island take LIE to Route 110 Huntington; go north until you reach Main Street (Route 25A) in Huntington - make a left; on the third block from your turn (about 400 yards distance), make a right turn onto West Neck Rd. Follow directions as above.

LIBS T-shirts & Sweatshirts are once again available for a limited time. They can be picked up at monthly meetings. The cost is \$15 for T-shirts and \$25 for sweatshirts. For more information, contact Mary Laura Lamont at 631-722-5542.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

September 13, 2011* Tuesday, 7:30 PM
Andrew M. Greller: "Galapagos Natural History." Learn about Darwin's "Classroom in Evolution." This talk will cover plant life, animal life, and geology of the enchanted islands. Andy is LIBS Vice President, Co-Chair of the LIBS Flora Committee, and is a world traveler in search of botanical wonders.

Location: Bill Paterson Nature Center, Muttontown Preserve, East Norwich

October 11, 2011* Tuesday, 7:30 PM
John Turner: "Atlantic White Cedar: Notes on its Historical and Current Status on Long Island." Atlantic White Cedar is one of the Island's most iconic trees. This program will discuss the historical abundance and current distribution

of Atlantic White Cedar on Long Island and opportunities for potential reintroduction. John is a naturalist, conservationist, and writer whose 2nd Edition of "Exploring the Other Island: A Seasonal Guide to Nature on Long Island" has recently been published. He is also founder and president of Alula Birding & Natural History Tours, a nature tour company connecting people with the natural world, and a co-founder and past board member of the Long Island Pine Barrens Society.

Location: Museum of Long Island Natural Sciences, Earth and Space Science Building, Gil Hanson Room (Room 123), Stony Brook University, Stony Brook



* Refreshments and informal talk begin at 7:30 p.m.

Formal meeting starts at 8:00 p.m.

Directions to Muttontown or Stony Brook: 516-354-6506