

# The Sparkler

The Sparkleberry Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society

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**President's Message: Carol Sullivan**

## **NOTICE - CHANGE IN MEETING PLACE FOR AUGUST:**

Our August 14th meeting will be held at the Branford Public Library located at 703 N.W. Suwannee Avenue (U.S. 129) in Branford since Hatch Park Community Center is being used for voting.

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Those of you who were able to attend our July program heard and saw some of the inside details of working with an endangered species from a wildlife biologist. Sarah Lauerman gave us an inside look at how complex and time consuming it is to attempt to re-establish breeding populations of one small bird, the Red-cockaded Woodpecker, in some of its former territory. Her job requires months of monitoring and documenting the birds and much time-sensitive hard work tagging and retrieving the right birds to move. With all her efforts, Sarah is only one part of the tremendous amount of research, preparation and implementation by many dedicated specialists, staff, partners and volunteers required for such a project. This little bird has been on the Endangered Species list for over 40 years because of the decline in mature Longleaf Pine habitat it requires to survive. It is estimated that 97% of the Longleaf Pine ecosystems that were the real Florida no longer exist, primarily due to development. Even though this program was not specifically about native plants - it WAS about native plants!

Thanks to those of you who have volunteered to help with some of the projects our Chapter would like to accomplish. The sign up form will be available at our next meeting for any others who can spare even a small amount of time for some odd job that pops up. Every little bit of help is greatly appreciated.

Remember that we won't be meeting at Hatch Park this month. See you all on August 14th at the Branford Library.

Carol

***Remember – It's Back To Our Regular Meeting Place NEXT month!!!!***  
***Sparkleberry Chapter meetings are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at Hatch Park, 403 SE Craven St., Branford. Meetings start at 6:30 PM.***

**Please join us for our next meeting September 11, 2012**

## **Calendar of Events:**

### **August 14, 2012 - Monthly Meeting 6:30 pm., Branford Public Library**

Annie Johnson, a member of the Nature Coast Chapter, has had a long-running fascination with the varying characteristics of many of our native plants. She knows how and when to select the various parts of each plant for many uses from refreshing teas to healing potions and will be sharing this information with us at the August meeting.

**9/11/12 Monthly Meeting 6:30 pm., Hatch Park, Branford**

Brian Cobble, our Suwannee County Senior Forester, will be our guest speaker in September with a program about some of the native trees in the forests of North Florida.

**9/11/12 Book Sale:** Get your list in by the September meeting for the books you would like to order. Check the FNPS.org website for a list of many great publications on native plants and related matters, and the University Press site at UPF.com. Discounts will apply based on the size of our group order and you can order books on any subject not just about plants. Christmas is coming - books make great gifts!

Nancy See has volunteered to be the contact person for all book orders, so email her at njsee@yahoo.com or call her at home 386-362-2293 with your order.

**Roadside Bloomers:**

Some of the things you might see blooming as you drive along the local roads:

**Standing Cypress**, *Ipomopsis rubra*, is showing off better now that it has dried out some after TS Debby.

**Loblolly Bay**, *Gordonia lasianthus*, is about through blooming, but the trees have been full of large white flowers for well over a month.

**Softhair coneflower**, *Rudbeckia mollis*, is still going strong with its large yellow flowers.

**Dotted Horsemint**, *Monarda punctata*, is just beginning to show some pink color in its leaves.

**Officers and Committee Chairs**

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