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~ MARCH 2006 NEWSLETTER ~ MEETINGS AND FIELD TRIPS

We meet on the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 pm. General meetings conclude by 8.15pm and are followed by a guest speaker beginning at 8:30 pm. There is time for a cuppa between the meeting and the guest speaker. The venue for the meeting is Marrara Christian School Library, on the corner of Amy Johnson and McMillan Drives. All welcome.

Bring plants to swap, sell or have identified.

~ NEXT MEETING THURSDAY 16th MARCH ~ Jeremy Russell-Smith “Arnhem Land plateau vegetation”

The Arnhem Land plateau provides habitat for a distinctive assemblage of species, many of which are relict or restricted in range. Jeremy will talk about the conservation and management of this ecologically diverse region.

~ OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS ~ “*Nervilia* Sampling”

**8.30am on Sunday 19th March
Charles Darwin National Park**

Please contact Dave on 8945 6809 to confirm attendance. If participants are known, then they can be advised of last minute changes to the sampling schedule.

“Willie’s Open Garden” Weekend of the 8th & 9th April 7A McArthur Court Leanyer

Remember we need plants for sale and volunteers on the day to make this a successful event. There is also a working bee the week-end before. See inside article.

**Included in this month’s Newsletter is Greening Australia
amendments for Native Plants of Northern Australia.**

What are your 3 favourite Top End Native Plants?

We would like to know what has worked best for you in your
“Top End” gardening experiences.

E-mail: lacunant@bigpond.com.au or write them down and give them to
a committee member.

~Willie's Open Garden 8th & 9th April~

Willie and May Burgess will open their garden on the weekend of the 8th and 9th of April at 7A McArthur Court, Leanyer, from 10am to 4pm. If you've been Willie and May's place, you'll know it's a great show of what can be established on a suburban block using predominantly native plants. The weekend will be a very important promotion of native plants, and a fundraiser for TENPS.

There are a number of ways that YOU could assist. We need people on a roster to collect the \$4.50 entrance fee at the front gate, some of which comes back to TENPS as the nominated charity. Other people will be rostered to assist with plant sales and to provide information to visitors.

Some members have been propagating Territory native plants to be ready for sale, either individually or at the propagation days held in the past few months at Sally's. Thanks Sally for organising these events, and thanks to those who have participated.

If you have plants for the weekend, please arrange with Marj to get computer-generated labels for each specimen. A reminder of our guidelines.....

Appearance of Plants and Pots

Plants should look healthy and vigorous (unless in a deciduous phase). Pots should be clean and undamaged.

- ❖ Plants should be free of any obvious disease or pest damage.
- ❖ Dead or partly eaten leaves should have been removed from plants.
- ❖ Weeds should have been removed from pots.
- ❖ Untidy growth on plants should be pruned.
- ❖ Any root material outside of pot should be pruned.
- ❖ Plants should be staked as necessary.
- ❖ The size of the plant needs to be appropriate to pot size.
- ❖ The plant should be ready to plant out or pot on.

- ❖ The potting material should be a good quality mix permitting free drainage.

Labelling

Where possible, labels should be arranged well in advance of plant sales. Plants should be labelled using TENPS computer generated labels, if possible with the following information.

- ❖ Botanic name.
- ❖ Common name, particularly in the Top End of the NT.
- ❖ Description, including ultimate size.
- ❖ Growing conditions.
- ❖ Pruning tolerance.
- ❖ Water requirements.
- ❖ Special features, eg. bird or butterfly attracting, indoor or veranda, deciduous, perfumed, colourful flowers and leaves, shade or screening benefits.

Plants can be brought to Willie's just before the 8th of April, so they can be ready for sale from 10 a.m. Growers need to have a list of the number of plants with prices so that we can keep a track of the sales. A reminder that when purchasing, TENPS members receive a 10% discount off the price of the plants.

We will also an information/display stand. Thankyou to the NT Carers Association for lending the display boards and providing a trailer for a barbeque and refreshments which St John Ambulance Cadets will operate over the weekend.

On the Saturday prior to the weekend, April 1st (no joke), there will be a working bee at 7A McArthur Court. If you could help out to weed and tidy things up for an hour or so that would be good. We will start at 9 am.

Please come to the next General Meeting on March 16th to put your name down on a roster for the 8th and 9th of April, or contact Russell failing this. Your generous help and time will be greatly appreciated.

Russell Dempster

~Speargrass, Fuel And Fire~

A Landscape in Eucalyptus miniata woodland.

All measurements were taken in woodlands/open savanna, and not pastures.

Factors important to speargrass and herb distribution.

- Climate
- Rainfall
- Soil and drainage
- Fire – it maintains savanna – grasses are lost without fire.
- Large animal grazing
- Speargrass cycle – fuel loads getting larger with breakdown of traditional fire regime and removal of buffalo. This is a hypothesis put forward by Greg Miles, but not proven.

Areas where speargrass dominated had higher fuel loads. Don Franklin found this previously in his survey. Higher fuel loads are also present in perennial grass systems and that some spear grass-dominated herb layers have relatively low fuel load.

Louis measured burnt areas using Landsat images. He found that woody perennials did not correlate well with environmental variables, and that differences between burnt and unburnt areas are predominantly structural, not floristic (Yep).

Systems with short annual grasses are not dominated by speargrass. They burn frequently with a low fuel load. Undamaged savanna systems have highly variable grass loads – short annual grass to large speargrass often with rock/gravelly areas.

There is a poor relationship between grass fuel load and fire activity – short annual grass systems with low fuel load burn higher than

speargrass sites, and some perennial grass systems have a high fuel load and low fire frequency.

Increase in speargrass results in higher fuel load but pure speargrass has lower fuel load than some mixed systems (speargrass and other native grasses).

Fire activity goes up with increase in speargrass and annual grasses generally.

Flammability is an important factor that is, annual short grass burn more often because they cure quicker and have a higher fuel load. And annuals are more flammable.

Perennials have higher fuel load through accumulation. Woody perennials and shrubs reduce grass fuel load. The presence of woody perennials is associated with lower grass fuel loads and it is thought that competition between these two different life forms is very important in determining grass fuel load.

Grass fuel load is affected by woody perennials.

Conclusions: - Speargrass fire cycle is driven by flammability. A potential grass-fire cycle involving annual grasses is qualitatively very different from that involving perennial species. Concepts of fuel architecture, such as flammability and horizontal continuity may be more useful than solely considering the grass biomass of the herb layer.

Kindly edited by Michael Stott

~Visit To Western Arnhem Land~

TENPS are planning a four day trip to western Arnhem Land, in early June. We will be camping at Barkibong, about half way between Oenpelli and Maningrida, and travelling from there to escarpment country and hills (including Baby Dreaming), open forest and wetlands. Our main guide will be

Peterson Nganjmirra, my adopted son. Others will probably join us as well. It will take 6-8 hours to get to the area.

A four-wheel drive vehicle is necessary, and there will need to be spare seats for yours truly, Peterson and his wife Stephanie.

Depending on how other members feel, I'd like to encourage members to bring their families. Although this trip will mainly focus on plants, I'd like to encourage interaction particularly between families. I'm happy to donate my services as facilitator.

On past trips my indigenous relatives have joined us for a meal, up to fifty last trip which made for a riotous night overall. We had eight kids and my relatives turned up with about two dozen children, didgeridoos and their best singing voices! This trip was run for members

of the Australian Museum Society and Manning Clark House, Canberra.

There is a camping fee of \$20 per person per night, and a guiding fee of \$100 per adult per day (for three days minus a day's travelling).

Denise Lawungkurr Goodfellow has provided the above information, if you have any questions, or would like to register your interest in this trip, please contact Denise on 8932 8306 or e-mail goodfellow@bigpond.com.au by the 31st March.

~Plant Propagation Workshop~

Another successful Plant Propagation Workshop was held last week where nine TENPS members potted-on about 200 plants in preparation for our plant sale at Willy's Open Garden on 8th & 9th April. Participants also took home a choice of their favourite plants to put into their own gardens.



TENPS members "potting on".



TENPS members at Knuckeys Lagoon

~ Some Committee Meeting Dot Points ~

- Lots of discussion on Willie's Open Garden.
- Library Trolley will soon be delivered and we are going to buy a Data Projector, which we should have by this meeting.
- We haven't forgotten the 10% discount membership card.
- Working on funding for Bankers Jungle fencing and a Community Benefit Fund for a laptop computer.
- Working on a submission to DCC Environment Management Plan.

~A Call For Newsletter Articles ~

Please send any articles of interest, stories of past field trips and photos of plants or members to Grace: lacunant@bigpond.com or GPO Box 1672 Darwin NT 0801.

Also: Australian Plants is calling for articles of the Top End. Contact Cas Liber :02 9559 2656. Mobile: 0400 475 862. A mix of cultivation and conservation articles: 2:1 ratio print to photos; any

length; timeline 4 weeks. Potential topics: NT gardens; Citrus Rediscovery of new species; Banksias; Aboriginal use; fossils.

~ Call For Past Newsletters ~

Sally Jacka, TENPS Librarian is compiling a folder of TENPS Newsletters and hoping to get a complete set for our Library. It would be greatly appreciated if members could look through copies they have kept to see if any of the following issues are among them. If so, please contact Sally to arrange copying.

1987	1989	1995	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003
October	October	February	February	April	June	March	January
					July	April	February
					November	July	March
						August	



My favourite Top End Garden Plant: Helicteres isora

Love the cool green foliage, the amount of birds continually visiting. But we have to cut it right back in the dry season when it stops flowering to ensure a good regrowth in the coming wet season.

Grace Matarazzo

~ Native Plants of Northern Australia – Amendments ~

Native Plants of Northern Australia by John Brock {1993, New Holland Publishers (Australia) Pty Ltd} is a very useful book about native plants in the Top End of the Northern Territory. Since publication the botanical names of some plants have been changed. This list provides a summary to help you find your plant. Many thanks to the NT Herbarium at the Department of Infrastructure Planning and Environment for information used to compile this list.

Name in Native Plants of Northern Australia (NPNA)	New Name	NPNA Page No.
<i>Acacia aulacocarpa</i>	<i>Acacia lamprocarpa</i>	56
<i>Aglaia rufa</i>	<i>Aglaia brownii</i>	83
<i>Aidia cochinchinensis</i>	<i>Aidia racemosa</i>	83

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Name in Native Plants of Northern Australia (NPNA)	New Name	NPNA Page No.
<i>Canthium lucidum</i>	<i>Cyclophyllum schultzei</i>	113
<i>Cassia leptoclada</i>	<i>Senna leptoclada</i>	116
<i>Clerodendrum holtzei</i>	<i>Clerodendrum tatei</i>	123
<i>Coelospermum reticulatum</i>	<i>Pogonolobus reticulatus</i>	124
<i>Coleus scutellarioides</i>	<i>Plectranthus scutellarioides</i>	125
<i>Corypha elata</i>	<i>Corypha utan</i>	126
<i>Dracaena angustifolia</i>	<i>Pleomele angustifolia</i>	142
<i>Drypetes lasiogyna</i>	<i>Drypetes deplanchei</i>	144
<i>Dysoxylum oppositifolium</i>	<i>Dysoxylum acutangulum</i>	145
<i>Ervatamia orientalis</i>	<i>Tabernaemontana orientalis</i>	148
<i>Ervatamia pubescens</i>	<i>Tabernaemontana orientalis</i>	149
<i>Eucalyptus alba</i>	<i>Eucalyptus tintinnans</i>	152
<i>Euc. alba var australiasica</i>	<i>Eucalyptus alba</i>	153
<i>Eucalyptus bleeseri</i>	<i>Corymbia bleeseri</i>	157
<i>Eucalyptus clavigera</i>	<i>Corymbia polysciada</i>	160
<i>Eucalyptus confertiflora</i>	<i>Corymbia confertiflora</i>	161
<i>Eucalyptus ferruginea</i>	<i>Corymbia ferruginea</i>	162
<i>Eucalyptus foelscheana</i>	<i>Corymbia foelscheana</i>	163
<i>Eucalyptus grandifolia</i>	<i>Corymbia grandifolia</i>	164
<i>Eucalyptus jacobiana</i>	<i>Corymbia jacobiana</i>	166
<i>Eucalyptus kombolgiensis</i>	<i>Corymbia kombolgiensis</i>	168
<i>Eucalyptus latifolia</i>	<i>Corymbia latifolia</i>	170
<i>Eucalyptus nesophila</i>	<i>Corymbia nesophila</i>	172
<i>Eucalyptus papuana</i>	<i>Corymbia bella</i>	173
<i>Eucalyptus polycarpa</i>	<i>Corymbia polycarpa</i>	176
<i>Eucalyptus porrecta</i>	<i>Corymbia porrecta</i>	177
<i>Eucalyptus ptychocarpa</i>	<i>Corymbia ptychocarpa</i>	179
<i>Eucalyptus setosa</i>	<i>Corymbia setosa</i>	180
<i>Euodia elleryana</i>	<i>Melicope elleryana</i>	183
<i>Gardenia suffruticosa</i>	<i>Kailarsenia suffruticosa</i>	194
<i>Grewia multiflora</i>	<i>Grewia asiatica</i>	210
<i>Gymnanthera nitida</i>	<i>Gymnanthera oblonga</i>	212
<i>Hibbertia sp.</i>	<i>Hibbertia cistifolia</i>	220
<i>Hoya sp.</i>	<i>Hoya australis</i>	224
<i>Ixora tomentosa</i>	<i>Pavetta brownii</i>	229
<i>Keraudrenia sp.</i>	<i>Keraudrenia corollata</i>	234
<i>Leptospermum longifolium</i>	<i>Leptospermum madidum</i>	236
<i>Lysiphyllum cunninghamii</i>	<i>Bauhinia cunninghamii</i>	245
<i>Melaleuca magnifica</i>	<i>Asteromyrtus magnifica</i>	254
<i>Melaleuca symphyocarpa</i>	<i>Asteromyrtus symphyocarpa</i>	255
<i>Melastoma polyanthum</i>	<i>Melastoma malabathricum</i>	256
<i>Myrtella sp.</i>	<i>Lithomyrtus retusa</i>	262
<i>Regelia punicea</i>	<i>Petraeomyrtus punicea</i>	291
<i>Rhaphidophora australasica</i>	<i>Epipremnum amplissimum</i>	292
<i>Sarcostemma australe</i>	<i>Sarcostemma viminale</i>	295
<i>Scaevola sericea</i>	<i>Scaevola taccada</i>	296
<i>Terminalia sericocarpa</i>	<i>Terminalia microcarpa</i>	317
<i>Trema aspera</i>	<i>Trema tomentosa</i>	320
<i>Xylocarpus australasius</i>	<i>Xylocarpus moluccensis</i>	335
<i>Zornia nervata</i>	<i>Zornia prostrata</i>	337

This list has been provided by Greening Australia Northern Territory Inc. as Green Tips handout.

**~ NEXT MEETING THURSDAY 16th MARCH ~
~Jeremy Russell-Smith~
“Arnhem Land plateau vegetation”**

The Arnhem Land plateau provides habitat for a distinctive assemblage of species, many of which are relict or restricted in range. Jeremy will talk about the conservation and management of this ecologically diverse region.

**SENDER: TOP END NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
PO BOX 135 PALMERSTON
NT 0831**

TO:

**~SUBSCRIPTION FORM MEMBERSHIP DUE 1 JULY 2006~
TOP END NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
PO BOX 135 PALMERSTON NT 0831**

Please accept my subscription/renewal for membership of the Top End Native Plant Society
My details are as follows:

Name/s (Please print all family member names).....

.....

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Email address.....

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Signature:

Date:/...../.....

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