



Florida Native Plant Society

Pine Lily Chapter

Please note: No November or December meetings due to the holidays.

News & Notes
November 2018



Oct. 25 Chapter Meeting: Seeds Galore!



Last month, Pine Lily Chapter's Conservation Committee Chair, Sandy Webb, left, shared her techniques in propagating native plants from seed in an interactive session.

Plant propagation requires a certain amount of information, diligence and good housekeeping, according to Sandy. Although there are several books and other materials on plant propagation and starting seeds, most deal with regions other than Florida. Florida's climate, soil, plant hardiness zones, seasons and ecosystems are unique in the U.S. and within different regions of the state.

"Plants for Birds" is a national Audubon campaign to replace non-native trees, shrubs and groundcovers with natives to provide what birds need for food, resting and nesting. State native plant societies nationwide are also heavily involved in trying to preserve native seed banks and plant germ plasm/DNA.

"Since Florida is the last stop before the Caribbean on the eastern migration south, and the first land on the eastern migration north, it is critical that we conserve, preserve and restore what native plants we can in all areas of Florida," Sandy said. "This is where seed propagation comes into play."

Lake Lizzie Field Trip: Saturday, Nov. 17



Join Pine Lily Chapter the morning of Nov. 17 for an exploration of [Lake Lizzie Conservation Area](#)'s rare plants. Several unique and important species, such as gopher tortoises, sandhill cranes, osprey, limpkins and wood storks, have been observed at this special place. Listed plant species, such as slender club moss, hooded pitcher plant, sand holly, cinnamon fern and the big yellow milkwort, are also found here.

Please register at this [Eventbrite page](#) so we know who plans to attend. For more information on this and other events, please visit our Facebook [events page](#).

Upcoming Events

- Nov. 17: Field trip — Lake Lizzie Preserve North Loop
- Dec. 15: Field trip — Details pending.

NOTE: There will be no November or December chapter meetings, due to the upcoming holidays.

For additional event information, check out our Facebook [events page by clicking here](#).

Stumping for Split Oak

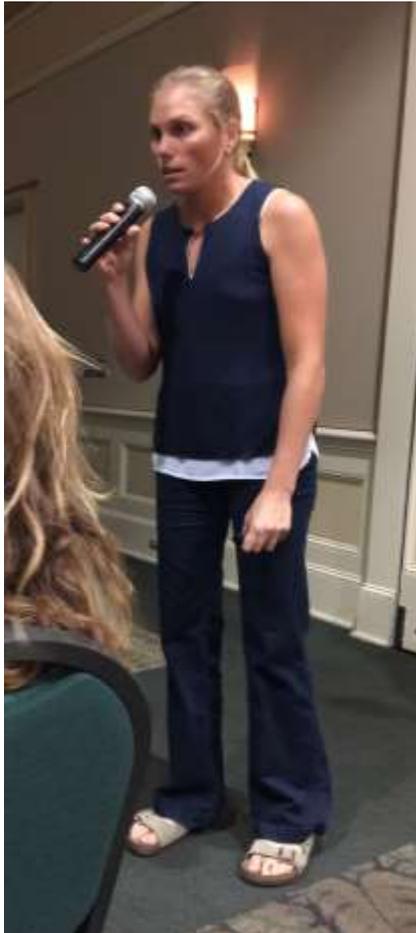
How do you legally define “perpetuity”? That’s a key question in the fight to keep a toll road out of Split Oak Forest Wildlife and Environmental Area, as the land was set aside years ago as a protected natural space *for perpetuity*.

Valerie Anderson, Pine Lily Policy and Legislation Committee Chair and FNPS Communications Director, spoke at the Nov. 6 FNPS Tarflower chapter meeting in Orlando to raise awareness of the threatened property and share information on steps being taken to protect it, including legal action.

Audience members had many questions about the specific property, as well as ramifications from previous legal precedence related to other lands in the state that have either been protected or succumbed to development that may potentially affect the site’s future. Below, Valerie answers a question regarding how Split Oak is managed as an environmental area located in two counties: Orange and Osceola.

The current road alignment favored by the Central Florida Expressway Authority (CFX) and Osceola County Board of County Commissioners goes through the Osceola County-owned part of Split Oak and takes more acreage from Split Oak than the last approved alignment.

Interested in learning more about how you can protect and enjoy this beautiful natural area? Visit [Friends of Split Oak Forest](#) or contact [Valerie](#) at (386) 852-2539.



Pine Lily Hosts FNPS Meetings



Above: Representatives from across the state were in attendance at the FNPS Board of Directors meeting.

Pine Lily Chapter recently hosted the Florida Native Plant Society’s quarterly Board of Directors and Council of Chapters meetings in Kissimmee.

The Nov. 10 meeting was open to chapter leaders, and in addition to the quarterly meetings, sessions were held to help chapters maximize their efforts. Topics included outreach tactics, website management, chapter collaboration and more.

“It was wonderful to see the dedication across the society leadership to support our shared mission to promote the preservation, conservation and restoration of Florida’s native plants and their communities,” said Pine Lily Vice President Laura Bennett-Kimble. “The passion, camaraderie, can-do attitude and good humor of this group is truly inspiring.”

Let’s keep in touch!

Click the icons below to visit Pine Lily Chapter Facebook, Instagram and Twitter pages.



The [Pine Lily Chapter](#) of the Florida Native Plant Society serves Osceola County and surrounding communities.

Gardening For Life, Part 4: Redesigning Suburbia

A book excerpt from Douglas Tallamy, renowned entomology researcher and educator

What will it take to give our local animals what they need to survive and reproduce on our properties? NATIVE PLANTS, and lots of them. This is a scientific fact deduced from thousands of studies about how energy moves through food webs.

All animals get their energy directly from plants, or by eating something that has already eaten a plant. The group of animals most responsible for passing energy from plants to the animals that can't eat plants is insects. This is what makes insects such vital components of healthy ecosystems. So many animals depend on insects for food (e.g., spiders, reptiles and amphibians, rodents, 96% of all terrestrial birds) that removing insects from an ecosystem spells its doom.

But that is exactly what we have tried to do in our suburban landscapes. For over a century we have favored ornamental landscape plants from China and Europe over those that evolved right here.

If all plants were created equal, that would be fine. But every plant species protects its leaves with a species-specific mixture of nasty chemicals. **With few exceptions, only insect species that have shared a long evolutionary history with a particular plant lineage have developed the physiological adaptations required to digest the chemicals in their host's leaves.**

They have specialized over time to eat only the plants sharing those particular chemicals. When we present insects from Pennsylvania with plants that evolved on another continent, chances are those insects will be unable to eat them. We used to think this was good. Kill all insects before they eat our plants! But an insect that cannot eat part of a leaf cannot fulfill its role in the food web. We have planted Kousa dogwood, a species from China that supports no insect herbivores, instead of our native flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*) that supports 117 species of moths and butterflies alone. In hundreds of thousands of acres we have planted goldenraintree from China instead of one of our beautiful oaks and lost the chance to grow 532 species of caterpillars, all of them nutritious bird food. My research has shown that alien ornamentals support 29 times less biodiversity than do native ornamentals.

Next month, we will share the final segment of this series on the importance of native plants in the landscape.

Support Pine Lily Through AmazonSmile

Did you know you can support the Pine Lily chapter through your Amazon purchases? When you place your Amazon orders through [AmazonSmile](#), the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice. Please consider choosing **Florida Native Plant Society Pine Lily Chapter Inc** as your charity. Thank you!

FNPS leaders toured Lake Lizzie after a day of meetings.



Florida Native Plant Society Mission

Promote the preservation, conservation, and restoration of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida.

For information on FNPS activities in Central Florida and beyond, check out the [FNPS blog](#).

Pine Lily Chapter Board and Committee Chairs

- 🍃 Karina Veaudry-Hindle – President
- 🍃 Laura Bennett-Kimble – Vice President
- 🍃 Tayler Figueroa – Chapter Representative
- 🍃 Valerie Anderson – Policy and Legislation Committee Chair
- 🍃 Sandy Webb – Conservation Committee Chair
- 🍃 Eleanor Foerste – Education/Outreach Coordinator
- 🍃 Jenny Welch – Native Plant Festival Coordinator
- 🍃 VACANCIES – Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Coordinator *

* If you are interested in serving in one of these roles, please contact Karina at (321) 388-4781.

Newsletter Editor: Laura Bennett-Kimble