



# Florida Native Plant Society

## Pine Lily Chapter

News & Notes  
April 2019



### Celebrate Earth Day with Some New Plants from the Florida Native Plant Society!

April 27 Earth Day Celebration

Join FNPS and other organizations as we celebrate Earth Day on Saturday, April 27, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Peghorn Nature Park, 2101 Peghorn Way in St. Cloud. In support of the "Protect Our Species" global theme for Earth Day 2019, the Pine Lily Chapter will offer Florida native threatened and endangered plants as thank-you gifts for donations. We also will provide information on native plants you can use to attract native pollinators in decline. **Please note, all of the plants were propagated through reputable licensed nurseries and obtained with proper permits and permissions.**

At 11 a.m., Gabriel Amonte, City of St. Cloud Natural Resources Supervisor, will lead a 45-minute nature walk in Peghorn Nature Park. The City of St. Cloud event also will feature music, a butterfly release, recycling crafts, face painting, tree planting, environmental exhibits, animal ambassadors and more.

"Turn your landscape into a native plant habitat for wildlife, pick up some publications on growing native plants, and get to know a little bit about Pine Lily Chapter and what we've been doing to 'Protect our Species' here in Osceola County," said Chapter Representative Tayler Figueroa.

For more information on this and other events, visit our Facebook [events page](#).

Image: Earth Day Network

### Thursday, April 25 Chapter Meeting Syrphid Flies: Pollination without the Sting, Plus Pest Control



It's all the buzz: On April 25, local naturalist Loret Thatcher will share her knowledge about Florida insects at this month's meeting.

The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Kissimmee Utility Authority building, 1701 W. Carroll St. in Kissimmee. Doors open at 6 p.m. for social time. We hope to see you there!



Shop at Lucky's Market Vineland on April 23, and 10% of sales from the day will be donated to the Pine Lily Chapter! The grocery store, located at 11601 Regency Village Dr., Orlando 32821, is one of several Lucky's Markets in the area and offers a wide variety of fresh produce and other yummy items. Please stop by, pick up a few supplies, and support our important mission!

## Gopher Tortoise Day a Success!

Friends of Split Oak Forest hosted its first annual Gopher Tortoise Day on April 10 as a part of the Gopher Tortoise Council's official day of celebration of these amazing animals.

The highlight of the day was Sheldon, a rescued tortoise cared for by Kim Titterington of Swamp Girl Adventures, signing Friends of Split Oak Forest's Gopher Tortoise Day Proclamation with his foot.

"We used non-toxic paint, and Sheldon was very cooperative," said FOSOF President Valerie Anderson, who added that it was a treat to be able to introduce the forest's managers, David Turner and Bryan Ames, to the many happy hikers who appreciate their hard work in managing the property.

In preparation for the day, Pine Lily Chapter Representative Tayler Figueroa had picked up gopher tortoise-preferred food plants the day before at Green Isle Gardens, and then demonstrated how homeowners can choose native plant species to provide better forage for this threatened, keystone species.

Interested in learning more about Split Oak Forest? Visit [Friends of Split Oak Forest](#).



## 39th Annual FNPS Conference

This year's FNPS conference will be held May 16-19 in beautiful Crystal River, where organizers have planned 20 field trips and four workshops. For additional conference information, including how to register, [click here](#). You also can send an email to [conference.fnps@gmail.com](mailto:conference.fnps@gmail.com).

## Chapter Elections in May

If you'd like to learn more about how you can support the Pine Lily Chapter, please attend the May 23 chapter meeting, when we will be voting on leadership for the coming year.

## Legal Update: Split Oak Forest

On April 16, exactly one year after the Osceola County Board of County Commissioners decided to support alignment of a toll road through Split Oak Forest, a judge decided to hear a lawsuit that alleges the County violated sunshine law. Plaintiffs Valerie Anderson, Friends of Split Oak Forest, and Speak Up Wekiva spent an hour in court as their lawyer, Ralf Brookes, argued against the County's Motion to Dismiss the three counts of Sunshine Law violation brought by the plaintiffs. The judge denied the motion to dismiss and a hearing date will be set within the next month or so.

Split Oak is a 1,700-acre public park and wildlife refuge near Narcoossee that was purchased with state and county funds and is managed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. It has a high population of listed threatened and endangered species, including gopher tortoises, scrub jays, garberia, Florida milkweed, giant orchids, and Florida jointtail grass. It is protected with conservation easements, mitigation agreements, and is owned by both Orange and Osceola County with deed restrictions held by the Florida Communities Trust, a division of DEP.

## Upcoming Events

- 🌿 April 25: Chapter meeting —Syrphid Flies: Pollination without the Sting, Plus Pest Control
- 🌿 April 27: Earth Day celebration, Peghorn Nature Park
- 🌿 May 23: Chapter meeting —
  - 🌿 Osceola County Planning and Development Process: How to be Involved
  - 🌿 Chapter elections
- 🌿 May 25: Field trip — Cherokee Pointe, St. Cloud

**Events are subject to change. Please confirm details prior to any activity.** For additional information, check our Facebook [events page by clicking here](#).

## Taking on Plants That Behave Badly



Plants are not good or bad, but some “behave badly” in our natural areas. That was the message presented by Eleanor Foerste, Pine Lily Chapter Education and Outreach Chair, to 48 cub scouts, siblings and parents from Cub Scout Pack 153 at St. Thomas Aquinas Church.

The boys learned how to recognize five key invasive plants, how they spread and replace our native plants, and why they are a problem. Then the boys played an interactive game that demonstrated how quickly invasive species spread in Florida’s natural areas.

In addition, leader George Eversol organized 17 youth and adults who removed six bags of invasive weeds from Osceola County’s Lake Runnymede Conservation Area. Some of the scout families will meet again to remove more invasive plants and complete their Conservation Good Turn Project.

This project is an opportunity for Cub Scout packs, Boy Scout troops, Varsity Scout teams, and Explorer posts to join with federal, state, local or private conservation or environmental organizations to carry out a conservation Good Turn in their home communities. FNPS helps cub scouts and their families assist our Osceola County Parks remove weeds and learn about native plants and conservation.



### 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](#).

## ICYMI — In Case You Missed It

- FNPS Executive Director Juliet Rynear was interviewed in an April 14 In Defense of Plants podcast. The focus of her discussion was “Saving Florida’s Native Plants.” Check it out [here](#).
- The condition of Osceola County’s Lake Kissimmee, which is overrun with invasive vegetation, was the topic of a recent news article in The Ledger. Read it [here](#).

## Monthly Meetings

**Chapter meetings held 4th Thursday of the month**

6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Kissimmee Utility Authority Building  
1701 W. Carroll Street, Kissimmee, FL

***Doors open at 6 p.m. We hope to see you there!***

### 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.**

## Pine Lily Chapter Board and Committee Chairs

- Karina Veaudry-Hindle – President
- Laura Bennett-Kimble – Vice President/Treasurer
- Christi Kapp – Secretary
- Taylor Figueroa – Chapter Representative
- Valerie Anderson – Policy/Legislation Committee Chair
- Sandy Webb – Conservation Committee Chair
- Eleanor Foerste – Education/Outreach Coordinator
- VACANCIES** – Membership Coordinator, Fundraising Coordinator \*

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

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