



Florida Native Plant Society

Pine Lily Chapter

News & Notes
October 2019



FALL 2019 SPLIT OAK FOREST

October Chapter Field Trip: Fall BioBlitz at Split Oak Forest

Join the Pine Lily Plant Nerd Blitzteam and make a difference! This month's field trip will take place during the [Fall BioBlitz at Split Oak Forest](#), and it promises to be an entertaining hike.

A BioBlitz is an intense period of biological surveying in an attempt to record all the living species within a designated area, and people of all skill levels can participate. Split Oak Forest, a conservation park near Narcoossee and Lake Nona, is threatened by a potential future toll road through the property. And it is also home to a great variety of interesting plants and critters, including rare, endangered, and endemic species. This is the third BioBlitz in Split Oak Forest.

Pine Lily Chapter board members Tayler Figueroa and Valerie Anderson, who is also president of Friends of Split Oak Forest, will lead the team as it seeks out plant species not yet documented at the site. Please join us!

Friends of Split Oak Forest is hosting the BioBlitz. Click here for more information: [Pine Lily Plant Nerd Blitzteam with Tayler and Valerie](#).

For additional information on this and other events, visit the Pine Lily Chapter Facebook [events page](#).

Oct. 24 Chapter Meeting: Rare Plants of Osceola County

This month, guest speaker and longtime Osceola County resident Dick Diener will discuss "Rare Plants of Osceola County," including a microscopic view of "Small and Beautiful," showing the beauty in structure and variety of our native plants.

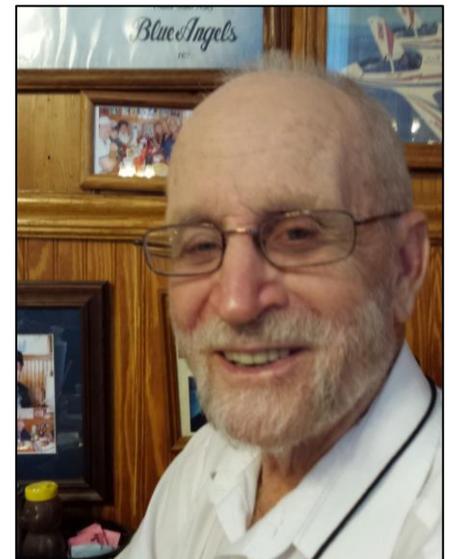
In addition, Chapter President Karina Veaudry will present the regular monthly segment of "Know Your Natives," a slideshow featuring a selection of Florida's native vegetation.

We'll also have some free native plants to take home, as well, so you won't want to miss this event.

The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Kissimmee Utility Authority building, 1701 W. Carroll St. in Kissimmee.

There is no charge to attend the meeting.

For more information, call (321) 388-4781.



Guest speaker
Dick Diener

Getting the Word Out

For those of us in the know, the Florida Native Plant Society is a great organization with a great mission. But not everyone knows what we do. So, it's important to get the word out when opportunity arises—which is why Chapter Representative and Membership Coordinator Tayler Figueroa and Policy and Legislation Committee Chair Valerie Anderson recently joined other nonprofit organization representatives to meet young professionals at the annual Barnyard Olympics & Non-Profit Fair at the KVLS Pavilion in Kissimmee. The event by Young Professionals of Osceola County, a division of the Kissimmee Chamber of Commerce, gave participants a chance to learn about a number of local non-profits and how they might get involved with the organizations.



Tayler Figueroa, center, facilitates a game with Barnyard Olympics & Non-Profit Fair attendees.

Photo by RTW Photography

Holiday Gathering – Mark Your Calendar

The Pine Lily Chapter Board of Directors are hosting a holiday gathering for members on Thursday, Dec. 19 in Kissimmee.

Dinner will be served buffet style, and a screening of James Valentine's "Magnificent Florida" nature film will be shown. Chapter funds will not be used to host the event.

Please note: There will be no regular chapter meetings in November or December, due to the holidays.

A Winning Smile



At the August chapter meeting, a special plant drawing was held for a Sandhill Milkweed plant. Here, Larry Rosen shows off his new prize. Be sure to attend the Pine Lily Chapter meetings—you never know what you might find!

FNPS 2020 Awards

The Florida Native Plant Society provides limited funding to researchers, projects and students to support Florida's native plant communities.

Deadline is March 6, 2020, for upcoming awards:

- **Endowment Research Grant** — Small grants (\$1,500 or less), awarded for a 1-year period, and intended to support research that forwards the FNPS mission "to promote the preservation, conservation, and restoration of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida."
- **FNPS Conservation Grants** — These grants (\$5,000 or less) are awarded for a 1-year period. These projects promote the preservation, conservation, or restoration of rare or imperiled native plant taxa and rare or imperiled native plant communities. To qualify, the proposed project must be sponsored by an FNPS Chapter.
- **Dan Austin Award for Ethnobotany** — Up to \$1,500 to graduate or undergraduate students studying Florida ethnobotany, the relationship between peoples or cultures with plants native to Florida or Florida ecosystems. Can be current or historic uses.

Application guidelines and details are available at <https://fnps.org/participate/awards>.

Letter from the President

Dear Pine Lily Chapter Members,

We are a healthy and stable chapter and have been listed as one of the fastest growing chapters in the state. This has boosted our success in providing action towards our mission of conservation, preservation and restoration of native plants and native plant communities in Osceola County. The Chapter has a dedicated Board of Directors that donate time and organization. Their names are listed at the end of this newsletter. The large body of work your Board of Directors is producing is as follows:

- Working with county staff to renew 'SAVE Osceola,' a conservation lands purchasing program
- Changing the language of landscape ordinances to require a minimum 50%-65% native plants
- Digging up, saving and transplanting native plants, including rare species, on development sites through our Plant Salvage Program
- Providing monthly field trips with expert guides
- Educating children through St. Cloud Summer Camp programming
- Designing and fundraising for three native plant demonstration gardens
- Creating a "Critical Areas of Conservation" map for Osceola county
- Creating a Pine Lily Chapter YouTube Channel and producing informative videos
- Writing white papers on environmental effects of Coal Ash and the commercial permit over-harvesting of *Lyonia ferruginea*. and *Serenoa repens* (the main foraging plants for our endemic Black Bear species)
- Producing a "Butterflies and Their Caterpillars of Osceola County" document, which includes photos and a list of the host native plants that feed on.

As you can see, the Pine Lily Chapter Board has been industrious on your behalf. Thank you for your continued commitment, which helps us accomplish so much!

Sincerely,

Karina Veaudry

Save Our State Trees!



Over the past 25-30 years, a harmful, unnecessary and wasteful landscape practice has become widespread: trimming Sabal Palms. Sabal Palm fronds do not need to be trimmed unless they are interfering with foot traffic, power lines or building maintenance.

The fronds drop when ready and brown fronds are valuable to the environment. Thirty plus years ago, no one did this. Someone came up with this practice as another way to make money off ignorant property owners. Save money, save your palms, and just say no to palm pruning.

Green fronds are the palm's source of nutrients! Cutting green fronds stunts growth, invites disease, and reduces the palm's natural resilience to high winds. Harsh pruning takes food and shelter from songbirds, woodpeckers, butterflies, honey bees, tree frogs, bats, anoles, and other wildlife. Over-pruned palms may develop weakened trunks, which can cause them to break off and die.

Brown fronds provide unique habitat for tree frogs and bats (chemical-free mosquito control). In nature, there is no waste. Recycle fallen palm fronds as mulch or a brush pile for wildlife. Palm berries are critical sources of highly nutritious food for many birds and other wildlife. Plant palms where berries and sprouts won't be a problem. Palm "boots" (the leafbases) are important habitat for other plants, including many beautiful rare and endangered ferns.



[Print this handy
handout with more
information.](#)

[Article excerpt from
FANN post, March 22,
2012.](#)

At left: Example of an over-pruned Sabal Palm.

Pine Lily Plant Sales: Volunteers Needed!

- Nov. 2: Great Outdoors Day, St. Cloud Lakefront Park
- Nov. 9: Pioneer Day, Pioneer Village at Shingle Creek in Kissimmee
- Nov. 16: Peghorn Homestead Picnic, St. Cloud



During these events, we will offer native plants for sale, along with native plant information and advice. And we need volunteers to help with cashier duties, new member sign-ups, and plant sale area set-up and take-down. If you can help us out by volunteering at an event, please let us know. Hope to see you at one or more of these fun local events!

Upcoming Events

- 🍃 Oct. 24: Chapter meeting — Dick Diener, Rare Plants of Osceola County
- 🍃 Oct. 25–27: Field trip — [Friends of Split Oak Forest](#) Hike — Fall Bioblitz 2019
- 🍃 Nov. 2: Native plant sale at Great Outdoors Day, St. Cloud Lakefront Park
- 🍃 Nov. 9: Native plant sale at Pioneer Day, Pioneer Village at Shingle Creek in Kissimmee
- 🍃 Nov. 16: Native plant sale at Peghorn Homestead Picnic, St. Cloud
- 🍃 **NOTE: No November or December chapter meetings, due to the upcoming holidays**
- 🍃 Dec. 19: Holiday celebration — Casual dinner and screening of James Valentine’s “Magnificent Florida” nature film

For more information, see our Facebook [events page](#).

An Audience with Your Legislators

Nov. 19 from 9 a.m. to noon, your state legislators will be at the Osceola County Commission Chambers for a listening session. This is your opportunity to speak directly to them and make statements. The following Pine Lily chapter members will speak on these topics:

- Florida Forever – Valerie Anderson
- Ecological Corridors – Christi Kapp
- Road to Ruins toll roads – Karina Veaudry
- Invasive Plants – Tayler Figueroa

More information is available [here](#).



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](#).

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!

Support Pine Lily Through AmazonSmile

Please consider choosing **Florida Native Plant Society Pine Lily Chapter Inc** as your charity when placing Amazon orders through AmazonSmile. Amazon donates 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice. **Thanks!**

Let's keep in touch!



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

Pine Lily Chapter Leadership Team

- 🍃 Karina Veaudry – President
- 🍃 Christi Kapp – Secretary
- 🍃 Sandra Johnson – Interim Treasurer and Publicity Coordinator
- 🍃 Tayler Figueroa – Chapter Representative and Membership Coordinator
- 🍃 Valerie Anderson – Policy/Legislation Committee Chair
- 🍃 Sandy Webb – Conservation Committee Chair
- 🍃 Eleanor Foerste – Education/Outreach Coordinator
- 🍃 Laura Bennett-Kimble – Member, Board of Directors

Newsletter Editor: Laura Bennett-Kimble
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