



Florida Native Plant Society

Pine Lily Chapter

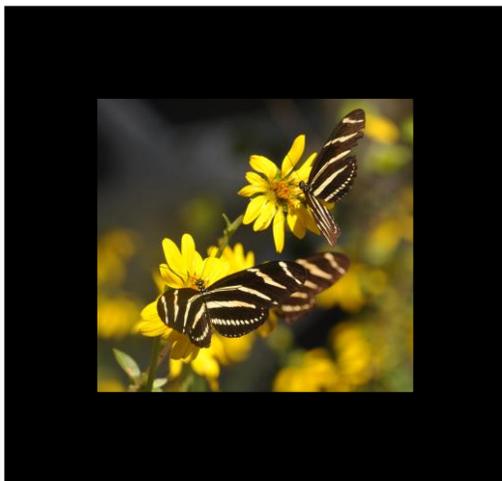
News & Notes
November / December 2019

Native Plant Month Education Programs

October Native Plant Month Educational Programs

October is Native Plant month in Florida. Eleanor Foerste, Education Committee Chair, produced an educational program taught by her and Education Committee volunteers, Vicky Kilroy and Karina Veaudry at the Kissimmee, St. Cloud, Celebration and Poinciana Libraries. Many residents came to the programs to learn about the importance of native plants and asked a lot of questions. Several became members.

For a copy of the educational powerpoint presentation (or in PDF format) email Karina Veaudry at kveaudry@nfclandscape.com or call at (321) 388-4781.



Silphium asteriscus (Starry Rosin Plant– 2'-5' Height. x 1'-2' Spread;
Full sun to part shade; drought tolerant; soil pH 5.1-7.6; readily re-seeds

Next Chapter Meeting January 23, 2020; 6:30PM

**Location: Hanson Walter Associates Office
at 8 Broadway in Downtown Kissimmee**

Due to renovations at our regular meeting location at the KUA building in Kissimmee, we will be meeting at the Hanson Walter Associates office at 8 Broadway, Suite 104, Kissimmee, FL 34741 in January.

The featured speaker will be from the University of Florida Extension Office and they will be speaking on Backyard Composting.



We will return to our regular meeting location at the KUA Building on the 4th Thursday of each month February through October, 2020.

The 'free to the public' regular monthly segment of "Know Your Natives," will feature a slideshow of a selection of Florida's native vegetation.

For more information, contact Karina Veaudry at (321) 388-4781.

Holiday Gathering – All Members

The Pine Lily Chapter is hosting a holiday gathering for members on Thursday, December 19th at 2228 Jessica Lane, Kissimmee.

Dinner will be served and a screening of James Valentine's "Magnificent Florida" nature film will be shown. Significant Others welcome!

Getting the Word Out

Thank you to Sandra Johnson and Tayler Figueroa Publicity Committee members who have promoted our events and programs throughout this year.

Joel Campbell, long-term native plant enthusiast has provided print and radio promotions for the Pine Lily Chapter for several years. Joel has been a dedicated chapter volunteer and is a wealth of information. We thank Joel for his assistance throughout the years.

Upcoming Events

- 🍃 **Thursday, December 19 : Holiday Celebration**
2228 Jessica Lane, Kissimmee, FL
6:00P to 10:00P Dinner served and screening of James Valentine's "Magnificent Florida" nature film.
Call Karina Veaudry for more information (321) 388-4781
- 🍃 **Saturday, December 21 : Field Trip – Split Oak Forest**
10525 Clapp Simms Duda Road, Orlando, FL
(off of Narcoossee Road) To register go to the Pine Lily Chapter's EventBrite page : : <https://pinelily-ft-splitoak-dec-2019.eventbrite.com>
For more information, see our Facebook [events page](#).
- 🍃 **Thursday, January 23 : Chapter Meeting**
Linda Wilinski will speak on Florida' Springs and Surrounding Native Plants and Wildlife
- 🍃 **Saturday, January 25 : Field Trip – Disney Wilderness Preserve, 2700 Scrub Jay Trail, Kissimmee, FL 34749**
Meet at the Visitor's Center.
To register go to the Pine Lily Chapter's EventBrite page: <https://pinelilyft012520.eventbrite.com>
For more information, see our Facebook [events page](#).

Native Plants of the Dry Prairie

- Fire Dependent flat lowlands with no canopy.
- Second-most biodiverse ecosystem in North America.
- Dominated by grasses, rushes, scattered palmetto and low herbaceous plants.
- Dry prairie was once the dominant grassland endemic to central Florida, from the western shore of Lake Okeechobee and extending northeast into Osceola County. Historically, it is thought that Florida's dry prairie covered approximately 1,931 square miles. Pre-settlement dry prairie could be separated into three regions: the 'Kissimmee River Prairie,' 'the Big Prairie' across central Florida, and the 'Myakka Prairie'.
- Frequent fire is needed to maintain this system.
- There are 658 known vascular flora species found in the Florida Dry Prairie.



Native Plants of the Dry Prairie



Lyonia ferruginea (Rusty Lyonia)

Lyonia lucida (Shiny Lyonia)



Serenoa repens (Saw Palmetto)



Ilex glabra (Gallberry)

Native Plants of the Dry Prairie



Ctenium aromaticum (Toothache Grass)



Rhynchospora sp. (Beak Rush)



Aristida stricta var. beyrichiana (Wiregrass)

Reducing Lawns, Adding Native Plants Could Help Save Birds

By Deborah Green, Audubon of Central Florida

A study, reported in the journal *Science*, reveals that since 1970, bird populations in the United States and Canada have declined by 29 percent. This is a loss of almost 3 billion birds across diverse species and habitats. Among the steepest declines have been grassland birds, with a 53-percent population decline. **Native grasslands** of the midwestern U.S. and Canada once provided food and nest sites for grassland birds such as bobolinks, larks and sparrows but have been converted to large-scale agriculture. The damaging chemicals used, including seed coatings and herbicides, kill birds directly or eliminates their insect food.

The second bird group mentioned in the report is shorebirds, most of which winter in coastal habitats that are now heavily populated by buildings, people and predatory animals like raccoons. Most shore birds that winter in Florida breed in the ice-covered high arctic where in early summer they feed on insects in the thawing permafrost. Climate change is altering these habitats and this along with degraded winter shoreline habitat has caused a loss of more than one-third of the pre-1970 shorebird population.

The final group highlighted in the report is the beautiful, mostly insect-eating songbirds that winter in the tropics and migrate to northern forests to breed. There they feed their nestlings caterpillars that feed on the newly emerged spring leaves. Millions of these songbirds migrate north from the tropics at night from February to May in flocks that are seen on Doppler radar. The volume of spring migration, measured by radar in the night skies, has dropped by 14 percent in the past 10 years. The steep drop in North American bird populations parallels losses elsewhere in the world.

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The action that the Audubon Society and the Florida Native Plant Society believe will do the most to help birds in our area is to reduce lawns and plant native plants. Florida native landscaping recreates habitat destroyed when our homes were built. **Native plants are essential as host plants for host-specific butterflies** — like the Monarch that has declined for many of the same reasons as grassland birds — and other native pollinators, as well as for the food chain needed by migratory birds.

In native landscapes, caterpillars feed on the leaves and serve as food for songbirds, so save money and time and let the birds work for you. Caterpillars that the birds miss become beautiful butterflies! **Native plants add to the natural food chain that benefits birds**, and we can also choose native plants with berries and seeds to supplement a bird's insect diet. Florida native landscaping has other environmental benefits. Since native plants require no fertilizer and little water once established, Florida native landscaping reduces the need to withdraw irrigation water from our aquifer and eliminates fertilizer runoff, protecting the water quality in our springs and rivers. The therapeutic value of gardens for the infirm and those with PTSD is well known; making these gardens all-native eliminates the need for unhealthy pesticides. The book "Last Child in the Woods" by Richard Louv links a lack of nature in the lives of today's wired generation directly to childhood obesity, attention disorders, and depression. Planting natives, and involving your children in the project, is a good start to re-creating a calming bird and other wildlife-rich habitat worth getting outside for.

Pine Lily Education Events and Plant Sales

Chapter Volunteers gave out educational brochures, answered questions and talked to residents of Osceola County at the following events this Autumn:

- 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, the volunteers also sold native plants to raise funds for the chapter. These funds will go towards providing future events and programs and the equipment needed.



Pine Lily Chapter Leadership Team

- Karina Veaudry – President
- Christi Kapp – Secretary
- Sandra Johnson – Treasurer and Publicity Coordinator
- Tayler Figueroa – Chapter Representative and Membership Coordinator
- Valerie Anderson – Policy & Legislation Committee
- Sandy Webb – Conservation Committee Chair
- Eleanor Foerste – Education & Outreach Coordinator
- Laura Bennett-Kimble – Director at Large

February to October Monthly Meetings

Chapter meetings are the **4th Thursday** of each month
at 6:30 p.m. on the 3rd Floor
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 will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the Pine Lily Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society.

Thanks!



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](#).

Let's keep in touch!

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



Pine Lily Chapter Website:
www.pinelily.fnpschapters.org

The Pine Lily Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society serves all communities in Osceola County

Volunteer Positions Needed

- Website Editor
- Hospitality Coordinator
- Membership Director
- Newsletter Editor

