

Volume 2, October 2008

Mark's Remarks

The September presentation by Linda Young, of the Clean Water Network of Florida gave some perspective on the vital importance of our state's estuaries and the impact of human actions on the plants and animals that depend upon healthy waters to remain viable habitat. From response by both FNPS participants and those drawn to the presentation through it's co-sponsorship by Kissimmee FUMC, it was a meaningful and successful event. While it was great to have Linda come all the way from Tallahassee to provide insights, we are also fortunate to have many local experts to share their knowledge and experience.

October Program: Chris Matson

On October 16th, The Disney Wilderness Preserve's and FNPS Pine Lily Chapter's own Chris Matson, will be presenting slides of a variety of beautiful wildlands and native plants from across North America. All the pictures are taken by Chris and his wife, Amy. Chris will share food for thought that might expand our grasp of plant distribution without overwhelming us with "technical stuff".

Matson graduated from Prescott College, Prescott Arizona in 1996 with a bachelor's degree in restoration ecology and minors in liberal arts and the humanities. Chris has worked as Restoration Projects Coordinator with The Nature Conservancy's Disney Wilderness Preserve since January 2003. He has worked in numerous technical field positions with forprofit, nonprofit and state agencies in Wisconsin, Minnesota, South Dakota, Illinois and Indiana, involved with ecosystem restoration in tallgrass prairie, oak savanna and other ecological communities in the prairie-forest transition of the Upper Midwest. Chris helps his wife, Amy raise two daughters, who both love flowers and insects (except cockroaches). He is a practicing native landscaper, permaculturist, ethnobotanist and heirloom-vegetable seed-saver.

Flower in Fruit

Green Dragon Arisaema dracontium



Mark Your Calendars! Jim Egan, of the Marine Resources Council, I will be sharing his presentation on "How Native Plants Save Lives: The untold Story of Tsunamis and Hurricanes" at our Thursday, January 15th, meeting.

Grant Opportunity

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is seeking proposals for Florida's State Wildlife Grants Program for 2009-2010. As part of Florida's Wildlife Legacy Initiative, the FWC manages Florida's State Wildlife Grants Program. This is a federally-funded matching grants program, providing financial support for projects that address conservation needs identified in Florida's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy. This year's criteria are focused on the Legacy Initiative's priority habitats, and information needs on species of greatest conservation need. Visit the Florida's State Wildlife Grants Program web site for more information, including detailed criteria, application and submission instructions: MyFWC.com/wildlifelegacy/ApplyForGrant.html.

Events Around Town

October 3rd and 4th: Osceola County Master Gardeners' Fall Plant Sale will be held from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM; at the KVLS Building in Heritage Park. Come be surprised by what the Master Gardeners have been growing to sell to you.

October 7th: UCF Center for metropolitan Studies presents: "The Everglades: An Update". At Leu Gardens starting at 8:30 a.m. until Noon. Author Michael Grunwald explores the affects of the purchase of Sugar Cane lands on the restoration of the Everglades

October 8th: Walktoberfest Display at the Civic Center, from 4pm-8pm. Contact Jenny Welsh about your availability to help with this display.

October 11th: Bryology Trip to Seminole County Environmental Studies Center and Spring Hammock. Meet in the parking lot of the Education Center at 9:30 a.m. Dr. Al Miller will lead us through dry pine flatwoods, hydric hammocks and along Pioneer Creek in search of mosses and liverworts.

October 18th: Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park is located approximately 25 miles north of the City of Okeechobee. The Preserve is located 5 miles north of the western terminus of Okeechobee County Road 724. US Hwy 441 and Okeechobee County Road 700A intersect County Road 724. The campground is located 5 miles inside the park entrance gate. Park phone: 863-462-5360 Entrance fee \$2/vehicle. Contact Bill Bilodeau at 727-488-3163, if you are interested in participating.

October 18th: The family of Margaret Hames invites you to a celebration of her long and well-lived life and the sharing of memories in her honor on Saturday at 11:00 a.m. Please join us at the AHF Hall, Town of Melbourne Village, 585 Hammock Road, Melbourne Village, Florida (next to the police department.) You are also invited to share your memories of how you met Margaret, how she influenced or touched your life, stories about your work with her on her many beloved projects, or anything else you would like to say by sending an email to: Hames margaret@yahoo.com. Cathy Hames Smith may be reached by cell phone at 386-290-9482 for more information.

October 24th and November 5th: Lake Lizzie Preserve Woods Walks by Eleanor Foerste. This is a great opportunity to take a guided walk and learn more about our natural systems. Each walk is approximately 2 miles in length. Registration is required; please call 321-697-3000 for more info and to register. Meeting points are provided at registration.

We have a diverse constituency and want to make sure we are doing our best at meeting your needs. If you have ideas for program topics, speakers or field trips, please feel free to send an email to

mjohnson@ecotonelanddesign.com

We Need You!



City, State and Zip

Home phone

Would you like to take a leadership role in the chapter? We have a few open spots to serve as board members. If anyone would like to serve as an officer, we have an opening for Membership Chair, Conservation Chair. **Publicity** Chair, and Education Chair. We also

need a Historian and Hospitality Chair. If you are interested, any present officer would be glad to discuss these opportunities with you.

Don't forget our Next Meeting is on Oct. 16th at 6:30 p.m. at First United Methodist Church in Kissimmee. Located at the corner of Dakin and Church.

The Board of Directors, Committee Chairmen, and Contacts

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