



PINE LILY CHAPTER  
FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

May/June 2014  
Volume 8, Issue 5



The purpose of the Florida Native Plant Society is to promote the preservation, conservation, and restoration of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida.

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Visit us on the Web:

<http://www.pinelily.fnpschapters.org/>

### Meeting is Thursday June 19<sup>th</sup> 6:30p.m.

First United Methodist Church  
101 W. Dakin Avenue, Kissimmee

**Are you a member yet?**  
Joining helps Florida  
Conservation efforts

# The Lily Pad

## June Program

It is time for our Chapter Social. Join us for pizza and beverages as we catch up on a few local conservation issues and some chapter issues including elections. It's also a good time to get to know each other better.

## Osceola County BOCC Removes Conservation Protections

On April 21, the Osceola County Board of County Commissioners voted to eliminate key parts of the Conservation Element from the County Comprehensive Plan, despite opposition from Kissimmee Valley

Audubon Society, Audubon Florida, Sierra Club, and Everglades Law Center.

These changes endanger the natural resources and environment in Osceola County as well as the rest of the Northern Everglades.

It is unfortunate that now Audubon has to initiate litigation to challenge changes that just don't make sense. In an effort to restore and protect the water resources needed by the entire state, the State of Florida has spent billions of dollars to correct mistakes made years ago to the Everglades, the Kissimmee River and Lake Okeechobee.

*see "BOCC Guts Conservation" Pg. 2*

## Thank You Mark!

After 7+ years, Mark Johnson has advised that he will no longer be able to serve on the Pine Lily Board of Directors.

Mark has been with the chapter from the beginning (2007). He has done an outstanding job as First Vice President as well as serving as Chapter President for many years. He has consistently found outstanding speakers and presentations for our meetings and we can't thank him enough for his service. That's not to say he is leaving us.

He will continue to be a member of the Pine Lily Chapter.

In case you don't know, Mark is the Principal Landscape Architect for Ecotone Land Design, Inc. based right here in Kissimmee.

Through his firm, Mark strives to improve and enhance residential, civic, or commercial communities' quality of life by emphasizing green strategies and blending hardscape and native amenities into a seamless, vital and sustainable environment. Visit [www.EcotoneLandDesign.com](http://www.EcotoneLandDesign.com)

"Osceola leaders have a responsibility — not just locally, but to all the other parts of Florida that are in harm's way — to make sure growth doesn't come at the expense of the environment."

— Editor, *Orlando Sentinel*  
June 5, 2014

## Volunteers Needed

July 19<sup>th</sup> 8-noon Lake Appreciation Day Kissimmee Lakefront. Pine Lily and Audubon will share an exhibit.

## Pine Lily Helping Local School in Construction Challenge

Harmony Community School is participating in a project called "Construction Challenge". It is to make something better or build something new to help your community.

They choose to do a butterfly garden to create an outdoor learning environment. They plan to make tags for the plants to promote them as our native habitat.

They also hope to create an environment that the butterflies and birds will come too. Creating more learning opportunities through observation of the garden.

The students will then be going to Washington DC to present their garden design and plants for the competition.

They enlisted the help of Pine Lily so we donated the plants and Jenny and Sandy Webb went out to help get them started. Watch next month's *Lily Pad* for further details on the progress of the project including photos and the plant list of what was donated.

## Become a Master Gardener!

Master Gardener classes will begin on September 9th and will meet one day a week from 8:30 am – 4:30 pm each Tuesday thru December 16th.

Fee will be announced once they have determined the cost of the books for this training.

Sign up to receive notification when applications are available by registering interest at:

<http://ocagriculture.eventbrite.com>

## Citizen Scientist: Bird Spotting

Florida Fish and Wildlife has launched a new interactive web page to solicit sightings of Southeastern American Kestrels Florida, Burrowing Owl and Painted Bunting during the breeding season. FWC reports: "This resource will help us update our understanding of kestrel distribution at a fine scale, build better habitat models, and target where to implement conservation actions. Note we are accepting sightings from previous years as well!"

<https://public.myfwc.com/FWRI/RareUpland/UserHome.aspx>

## BOCC Guts Conservation

*Continued from page 1*

According to Audubon Florida:

"The Osceola County amendments were bad enough that the otherwise inert Department of Economic Opportunity advised the county against the changes and recommended that keeping the policies in its Conservation Element to protect the Northern Everglades. Under the new Growth Management Act, DEO cannot appeal a local government plan change unless asked to by another state agency such as the Department of Environmental Protection. Protection of the Northern Everglades and other vital natural areas in Osceola County now depends on litigation."

On May 21, Audubon Florida filed its own petition to call for an administrative hearing challenging comprehensive plan amendment number 14-3ESR

For more information on Audubon's challenge to the Osceola Comprehensive Plan Changes with links to the petition files, visit <http://audubonoffloridanews.org/?p=14955>

## Pine Lily President Photo Art

Photographs taken by Jenny Welch will be on display at Kissimmee City Hall on the 2nd floor June through the end of September.

The photos showcase natural areas all around Kissimmee/Osceola County including Mac Overstreet Regional Park, Shingle Creek Regional Park, Reedy Creek, Camp Lonesome, Lake Runnymede Conservation Area, and Twin Oaks Conservation Area.

Kissimmee City Hall is open to the public Monday – Friday, so be sure to stop by to see the natural beauty of our County through Jenny's lens.

## Upcoming programs

July: tba

August: Martha Steuart

September: Loret on Insect/Plant interactions or "Why the Benefits of Some Bugs May Surprise You"

## Stay tuned

Next month's Lily Pad will have a synopsis of the 2014 Conference from Jenny Welch and Sandy Webb who were in attendance.

Register for event at <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/lake-appreciation-day-july-19-2014-tickets-11708892613>

Join us for the Second Annual Lake Appreciation Day!  
July 19, 2014 8 am - noon

More info contact: Eleanor Foerste - efoerste@ufl.edu 321-697-3000

**Kissimmee Lakefront Park**

**201 Lakeview Dr. (check in by the open stage area).**

**This is a community event to celebrate our lakes. You can:**

- clean up litter from the shore or the waterfront
- plant a pond and rain garden
- Visit the Environmental Fair and learn from many environmental exhibitors (9 am - noon)

*Event T-shirts are available for volunteers on a first come first serve basis!*

*Limited number of canoes available for litter cleanup.*

*Join your friends, neighbors and classmates as we cleanup the Environment.*

**Help make a difference!**

**Check List:**

*We will have bags and non-latex gloves for those that need them.*

- Download the waiver located at: **TBA**
- Bring a bucket or something to gather trash in that is reusable or recyclable.
- Please, bring drinking water in a reusable cup or bottle.
- Bring your signed waiver- this helps make things go faster!
- Wear sun protection, closed toe shoes that may get wet and appropriate clothing for the weather.

## From the Home Office

Council of Chapters website has gone live and is, ideally, the one place to find out everything about what the Council is working on. It is just getting started but expect to see the following in the near future:

- The next live and online meetings of the Council and Council subcommittees or workgroups on the Council Calendar tab
- A new dedicated location on the Forum for Council of Chapters' online discussion and votes
- Development of three Council Initiatives (now shown on the Council homepage) with the people in each Initiative group and an offer to work with and coordinate efforts with the FNPS committee working on the same or similar topic

Anyone and everyone is invited to correct, suggest, or submit information for the Council website, most especially the Chapter Representatives, but good suggestions from any source. We believe in democracy and transparency and welcome participation. The Council Officers: Julie Becker (Chair), Neta Vilalobos Bell (Vice Chair) and Scott Davis (Secretary) have the password to the website and the Council Calendar and control its access and content.

There are "How To" pages for "nuts and bolts instructions".

Visit: <http://council.fnpschapters.org>

### Florida Native Plant Society Membership Application

Membership in the Florida Native Plant Society enables you to receive their wonderful quarterly magazine The Palmetto. Joining the FNPS also entitles you to membership privileges in the Pine Lily Chapter of the FNPS and a subscription to their monthly newsletter *The Lily Pad*.

**Check pertinent category:**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$35           | <input type="checkbox"/> Not-for-profit organization \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Full time student \$15    | <input type="checkbox"/> Business or corporate \$125      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Library subscription \$15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Donor \$250                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family or household \$50  | <input type="checkbox"/> Life \$1000                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contributing \$75         |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting \$100          |   |

**Make check payable to: FNPS**  
*Detach and mail to:*  
**Pine Lily Chapter of  
Florida Native Plant Society  
P.O. Box 278  
Melbourne, FL 32902-0278**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Business name or organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State and Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work phone \_\_\_\_\_

The Florida Native Plant Society is registered as a 501(C)3 non-profit organization.