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.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

**President:**
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mwelch@cfl.rr.com

**1st Vice President:**
Mark Johnson
mjjohnson@ecotonelandscape.com

**Secretary:**
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**Treasurer:**
OPEN  Apply now

**Chapter Rep:**
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**Membership:**
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sparent20@yahoo.com

**Publicity/Newsletter:**
Loret
PineLilyFNPS@aol.com

Visit us on the Web:
http://www.pinelily.fnpschapters.org/

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**November Program**

Our speaker this month will be Paul Rebmann. The program is “Florida Botanical Explorers.”

This year, the State marks 500 years of La Florida, “land of flowers,” as Ponce de Leon named this land when he sighted it in March 1513. Through his beautiful photographs, Paul will highlight botanical discoveries and the history of several noted individuals who helped document the individual species of the abundant flora found in Florida.

Paul has been a resident of Florida for over thirty years and has spent much of the past fifteen years learning about, exploring and photographing nature all around the Sunshine State. A Florida Master Naturalist, he is also a longtime member of both the Florida Native Plant Society (FNPS) and the Audubon Society, providing opportunities to learn from many of our experts about the various ecosystems, and the plants and animals that inhabit them.

A network administrator living in Ormond Beach, Paul is also a part-time nature photographer with images published in several field guides, periodicals including The Palmetto and Backpacker magazine, and utilized in exhibits at Weedon Island Preserve and Lyonia Environmental Center. A number of images have also won awards in the Orange Audubon Society's Kit & Sidney Chertok Nature Photography Contest. Awarded the prestigious FNPS Silver Palmetto award in 2007 for his commitment to the organization, he volunteers his services as a member of the FNPS web team, has been a past president and chapter representative of the FNPS Pawpaw Chapter.

As both an outlet to showcase his nature photography and also as an educational resource, Paul has created the Wild Florida Photo website at wildflphoto.com. The site now has over 600 species of plants and over 300 animals plus other nature images. He is also producing videos that are posted on his NaturePaul channel on YouTube – www.youtube.com/NaturePaul.

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“The ultimate test of man's conscience may be his willingness to sacrifice something today for future generations whose words of thanks will not be heard.”

— Gaylord Nelson, former governor of Wisconsin, founder of Earth Day

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**Meeting is Thursday**

**November 21st 6:30p.m.**

First United Methodist Church
101 W. Dakin Avenue, Kissimmee
Native Grasses in the landscape

by Jenny Welch

It is terrific to see our native grasses being used more and more in home and commercial landscapes. It would be wonderful to see more diversity of our native grasses being used in both our home and commercial landscapes.

Our native plant nurseries sell them so why not use them?

Rarely do I see Wiregrass (Aristida strict), Elliot’s or Silver Lovegrass (Eragrostis elliottii), Purple Lovegrass (Eragrostis spectabilis), Sand Cordgrass (Spartina bakei) or my two personal favorites Lopsided Indian Grass (Sorghastrum secundum) and Chalky Bluestem (Andropogon virginicus var. glauca.)

Even worse is when I see our native grasses being maintained improperly. Our native grasses are meant to provide food in the form of tiny seeds for our native migratory and resident birds and other wildlife.

Our migratory sparrows, warblers, painted buntings, indigo buntings, resident titmice, cardinals, and other songbirds eat the seeds IF they are left on the plant.

All of our native grasses provide cover for birds and other wildlife IF they are not cut back.

Proper pruning techniques for our native grasses include the following:

• The right plant in the right place does not to be pruned to be healthy. Space plants properly and far away from structures. Pruning is wounding. It encourages entry of bacteria, viruses, and plant pests

• Deadheading native plants (the removal of dead flowers) is not necessary and interferes with natural flowering and growth cycles.

• It is not necessary to cut back native clump grasses. Dry shafts will be blown away by the wind. Over pruning may cause shock and stress. Stressed plants attract predatory insects, bacteria and viruses.

Please do our native birds and wildlife a favor and stop cutting our native grasses back after the pretty flowers have faded and leave the seeds on them for the birds and wildlife.

You may find that you enjoy the birds and wildlife even more after the pretty flowers fade.

Tosohatchee WMA Field Trip

Taylor Creek Road
East Orange County

Date: December 7, 2013
Leader: Pete Dunkelberg with Tarflower Chapter.

Join Tarflower (Orange), Cuplet Fern (Seminole) and Pine Lily (Osceola) FNPS Chapters as a way to get better acquainted and exchange ideas while enjoying the pleasure of native flora and fauna.

Highlights per Pete:

“My plan is to make just a quick stop somewhere to be determined, then go along Fish Hole Road to the bridges at Jim Creek. I would like to explore the river forest there, and low water makes it a good time.

In addition there are bound to be some orchids blooming somewhere. We just need to find them. Of course I will look in advance. But then on to the picnic area at Lake Charlie.”

Meet at 9 am at the small parking lot just past the pay station. Pay $3 per car, exact change needed. Bring a “lunch or snack” and water and other usual things (sunscreen, close-toed shoes, hat, etc.)

LCAB Vacancies

The Osceola Board of County Commissioners is looking for qualified citizens of Osceola County to serve on the Land Conservation Advisory Board (LCAB). Currently, there are two positions that will become vacant as of December 31, 2013. They are “Government” and “City of St. Cloud Rep”.

You can read about the LCAB and the responsibilities, at www.osceola.org (Agency Directory /Advisory Boards / Lands Conservation Advisory Board).

Currently, the LCAB meets quarterly (more if deemed necessary), the first Tuesday of the month at 5:30 PM in the Board of County Commissioners’ Chambers. The next meeting is scheduled for January 7, 2014.

If you qualify and are interested in serving in one of these two positions, please fill out the “Advisory Board Online Application”.

If you have any questions regarding the application process, you may contact Brenda Rivera, 407-742-2006.
Master Gardener
Volunteer of the Month

Pine Lily Chapter President Jenny Welch was chosen Master Gardener Volunteer of the Month by the Osceola County Master Gardeners for her coordination of their plant sale with the Pine Lily Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society, and for her dedication to education about native plants. Jenny’s extraordinary efforts benefit not only our chapter and the Master Gardeners, but the residents of Osceola County as well.

West 192 Redevelopment

by Jenny Welch

Sandy Webb and I attended the community meeting about the West 1-92 redevelopment. We gave our opinions and will continue to offer our help and suggestions on the redevelopment project.

Our suggestions included:

Remove invasive plants such as Washington Palms, Mexican petunias, taro/elephant ears, and replace with more diverse plants native to Florida.

Instead, for palms they should use the cabbage palm, which is the State tree of Florida and learn to trim and maintain them correctly.

Landscape retention ponds with native plants to bring in more wildlife for tourists and residents to view.

Promote Osceola County and its unique qualities which is primarily is pristine and untouched natural elements.

Put Osceola county brochures in the hotels and the welcome center.

Make a rack for the shingle creek welcome center that is specifically for educational brochures.

A common theme we heard about the Shingle Creek Corridor is that they want it to look like Florida, as though you have driven to a Florida destination.

We pointed out that Washington palms, Mexican petunias, crape myrtles are not part of Native Florida Flora history.

We suggested that they decrease the amount of lawn turf and include palmettos and flowering natives that will change with the seasons.

Diversity. Tourists and residents like to see a change so plant with seasons in mind.

DWP Open Daily

The Nature Conservancy’s Disney Wilderness Preserve is now open daily (including weekends) through March 2014, 9 am-5 pm.

Address 2700 Scrub Jay Trail, Kissimmee, FL 34759. Phone 407-935-0002.

No admission fee. For more information, visit nature.org/disneypreserve

Event Report

by Jenny Welch

The first annual Peghorn Pigout and Harvest Hoopla held at Peghorn Park in Saint Cloud was great fun for volunteers and visitors.

The Park was decorated with Fall decorations using native plants such as monarda, goldenrod, garberia, liatris, goldenaster, and others.

The BBQ competitors began cooking Friday and the food was terrific. Many families stopped by after they finished their event at the borrow pit fishing. The children were excited about fish they had caught.

Kattya Graham gave classes on permaculture and how to grow your own food. People were excited to be able to swap seeds. James and Jessica were educating about our native bees and other pollinators. Children enjoyed learning about bats as they made their bat craft.

Live music was performed by the Three and One Acoustic Band with Kattya on vocals.

A native plant display to teach people what is good to feed birds and what is bad to feed to birds was pretty and educational. Children enjoyed the free Frisbees and the fairy garden. Everyone enjoyed walking the trails at Peghorn.

The resident bald eagles made their appearance on the communication tower across the street from the park. Everyone enjoyed walking the trails at Peghorn.

It was a great event to showcase one of the natural gems of the City of Saint Cloud and Osceola County. (photos page 5)
No December Meeting

Happy Holidays!

See you back on January 16, 2014
Presentation by Catherine Bowman and Marc Godts
Native Landscaping for the Dry, Sunny Yard

Species Spotlight

MUHLY GRASS (Muhlenbergia capillaris)

Life Span: long-lived perennial grass
Size: Height: 2.0 to 3.0 ft    Width: 1.0 to 3.5 ft
Propagation: readily self-seeds.
Recommended Uses: Hedge, specimen plant, mass planting

Full to partial Sun, sandy soil

Plant in fall or winter
Also called: HAIRGRASS

Source: FNPS.com

Keep on top of things:

FNPS Website: http://fnps.org/
FNPS Blog: http://fnpsblog.blogspot.com/
FNPS on Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/FNPSfans
Pine Lily on Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/PineLilyChapterFNPS
Pine Lily on Twitter: http://twitter.com/PineLilyFNPS

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.

Name _____________________________________________
Business name or organization _______________________
Address __________________________________________
City, State and Zip _________________________________
Home phone ____________________ Work phone __________

Check pertinent category:

☐ Individual $35          ☐ Not-for-profit organization $50
☐ Full time student $15    ☐ Business or corporate $125
☐ Library subscription $15 ☐ Donor $250
☐ Family or household $50 ☐ Supporting $100
☐ Contributing $75         ☐ Life $1000

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

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

Seeds available for purchase online from the Florida Wildflower Growers Cooperative:
http://www.floridawildflowers.com/categories/Seed-Packets/

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MUHLY GRASS (Muhlenbergia capillaris)

Photo © Jenny Welch

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Keep on top of things:

FNPS Website: http://fnps.org/
FNPS Blog: http://fnpsblog.blogspot.com/
FNPS on Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/FNPSfans
Pine Lily on Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/PineLilyChapterFNPS
Pine Lily on Twitter: http://twitter.com/PineLilyFNPS

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Business name or organization _______________________
Address __________________________________________
City, State and Zip _________________________________
Home phone ____________________ Work phone __________

Check pertinent category:

☐ Individual $35          ☐ Not-for-profit organization $50
☐ Full time student $15    ☐ Business or corporate $125
☐ Library subscription $15 ☐ Donor $250
☐ Family or household $50 ☐ Supporting $100
☐ Contributing $75         ☐ Life $1000

Make check payable to: FNPS
Detach and mail to:
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P.O. Box 278
Melbourne, FL 32902-0278

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Peghorn Pigout and Harvest Hoopla

All photos this page © 2013 Jenny Welch
free event!

14th Annual ORLANDO wetlands festival

A day of fun & learning for the whole family!

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2014 • 9 A.M. - 3 P.M.
At Fort Christmas Historical Park
1300 North Fort Christmas Rd, Christmas, FL, 32709

Information: 407.568.1706
orlandowetlandspark@cityoforlando.net
CityofOrlando.net/wetlands
The Lily Pad

14th Annual ORLANDO Wetlands Festival
Saturday, February 15, 2014
Fort Christmas Historical Park

Exhibits • Door Prizes • Face Painting • Rock Climbing Wall
Backyard Tree Giveaway • Hayrides • Bounce House • Wilderness Hikes
Guided Photography Hikes • Guided Bus Tours of the Wetlands
Guided Birding & Native Plant ID Hikes • Live Animal Demonstrations
Out-On-A-Limb Kids Tree Climbing • Games

Directions to Fort Christmas Historical Park
From Downtown Orlando: Follow 408 East (Toll Road) to S.R. 50. Continue East on S.R. 50 until the town of Christmas, Florida. Turn Left (North) onto Fort Christmas Road (County Road 420). Travel 2.0 miles to Fort Christmas Historical Park. General Parking for the event will be on the right side of the road (across the street from the Fort).

From Titusville: Follow S.R. 50 West towards Orlando until the town of Christmas, turn right (North onto Fort Christmas Road (County Road 420). Travel 2.0 miles to Fort Christmas Historical Park. General Parking for the event will be on the right side of the road (across the street from the Fort).

For more information visit our website: cityoforlando.net/wetlands or call 407.568.1706