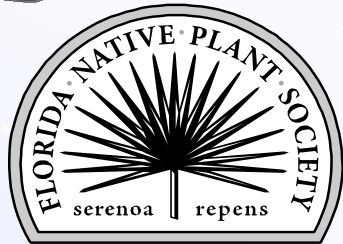




# The Lily Pad



The Pine Lily Chapter of the Florida  
Native Plant Society



FNPS Mission: 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

## December 2009

### In Bloom: *Passiflora incarnata*



*Passiflora incarnata*  
Photo by Asit K. Ghosh

Family: Passifloraceae (Passion flower family)

Common name: Purple Passionflower, Maypop, apricot vine.

*Passiflora incarnata* is a fast growing perennial vine that employs tendrils to grab hold of adjacent shrubs, structure and other supports to lift itself to heights of 8-12 ft (2.4-3.7 m). The large serrated leaves grow 5-6 in (13-15 cm) wide by 6 to 8 in (15-20 cm) long. They typically have three to five lobes and are arranged alternately on the stem with flowers and branches emerging from the axil (the base of the leaf).

Blossoms have 2-3 in (5-7.6 cm) in diameter and are composed of 10 white petals arranged in a shallow bowl shaped with a fringe of purple and white filaments, called the corona. In the center is the white fleshy stigma surrounded by five stamens.

Because it is deciduous (leaves shed annually), Purple Passionflower can survive winter freezes and is a host plant for several native butterflies, including the Zebra Longwing (*Heliconius charitonius*), Florida's state butterfly. **Source:** [florida.plantatlas.usf.edu](http://florida.plantatlas.usf.edu) / [floridata.com](http://floridata.com) / [FloridaWildflowerFoundation.org](http://FloridaWildflowerFoundation.org)

**Also in bloom** are *Poinsettia cyathophora*, one of our native poinsettias; dune sunflowers, some coreopsis, wild petunia; *Physotegia purpurea*, eastern false dragonhead; *Hibiscus aculeatus*, pineland hibiscus; *Balduina angustifolia*, coastalplain honycumbhead; *Conoclinium coelestinum*, blue-mistflower; *Symphotrichum carolinianum*, climbing aster; and berries on the Firebush (*Hamelia patens*), both *Psychotria* species (wild coffees), and *Ilex glabra* (gallberry or ink berry).

**Source:** [www.fnps.org](http://www.fnps.org)



## Looking for red berries?

Check out christmas-berry (*Lycium carolinianum*), the wild coffeees (*Psychotria nervosa* or *P. suzneri*), yaupon holly (*Ilex vomitoria*), and/or dahoon (*Ilex cassine*).

Source: [www.fnps.org](http://www.fnps.org)

## 2011 FNPS Conference in the making! Join us!

FNPS Lake Beautyberry, Pine Lily and Tartflower chapters will be hosting (and producing) the 2011 FNPS Conference. The conference committee, along with Executive director Karina Veaudry, is already starting the planning for the conference in order to have an organized and successful program. If you would like to have an active role in the planning of the conference please attend any one of the meetings listed below.

Currently, we are seeking the following volunteer positions: Merchandise Sales, Audio Visual Director, Field Trip Coordinator, Registration Coordinator, Social Events Coordinator, Silent Auction Coordinator, Vendor/Exhibitor Coordinator and Youth Program Coordinator. You can help making this a memorable event for attendees all over the State!

### 2011 FNPS Conference Meeting Dates (Saturdays)

January 9, 2009 – 10:00am

March 6, 2009 – 10:00am

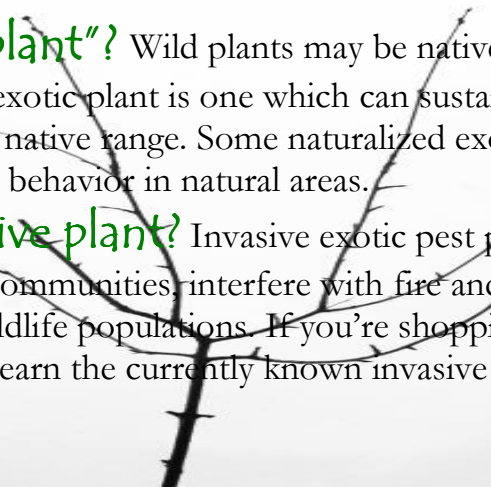
May 1, 2009 – 10:00am

**Location:** MACTEC Office Building  
4150 N. John Young Parkway  
Orlando, FL 32804

Day of meeting phone contact: (321) 388-4781

## Help FNPS while you shop for the holidays!


When you use the Internet search engine **GoodSearch**. From [GoodSearch.com](http://GoodSearch.com), just select **FNPS Melbourne** from the pull down menu and complete your Internet search. Each time you search, a penny is donated to FNPS! Or when purchasing office supplies, gifts, household goods, please use **GoodShop**. From [GoodShop.com](http://GoodShop.com), first select **FNPS** before you shop online; a percentage of the purchase price goes to FNPS. All brand name stores are a part of the GoodShop network.



**What is a "wild plant"?** Wild plants may be native or may be naturalized exotics. A naturalized exotic plant is one which can sustain itself outside of cultivation, outside its native range. Some naturalized exotics are considered pests because of their weedy behavior in natural areas.

**What is an invasive plant?** Invasive exotic pest plants disrupt naturally balanced native plant communities, interfere with fire and water flow, erode the soil and reduce fish and wildlife populations. If you're shopping for plants go to [www.FLEPPC.org](http://www.FLEPPC.org) to learn the currently known invasive plants.

Source: [www.fnps.org](http://www.fnps.org)



**Under the *Viscum album*:** Native to Europe and western and southern Asia, the mistletoe (*Viscum album*) - also known as European mistletoe and Common mistletoe - has yellowish flowers, white berries and grows parasitically on various trees.

## Air Potato Exchange Program

Air potato (*Dioscorea bulbifera*), a native of Asia, was first introduced to Florida in 1905. Due to its ability to displace native species and disrupt natural processes such as fire and water flow, air potato has been listed as one of Florida's most invasive plant species since 1993 and was placed on the Florida Noxious Weed List by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services in 1999.

Air potato invades a variety of natural areas in Florida including pinelands and hammocks. It rapidly grows to the tops of tree canopies and forms a vine mat which weighs down and shades native vegetation. Once air potato invades an area, it is difficult to eliminate due to the prolific production of aerial tubers.

Air potato can grow extremely quickly, roughly 8 inches per day. New plants develop from bulbils (little potato like objects) that form on the plant and these bulbils serve as a means of dispersal. The aerial stems of air potato die back in the winter, but resprouting occurs from bulbils and underground tubers. The primary means of spread and reproduction are via bulbils. The smallest bulbils make control of air potato difficult due to their ability to sprout at a very small stage.

**Identification:** Air potato is easy to recognize. It is a twining herbaceous vine with stems growing as long as 60 feet in length. The vines are round and slightly angled in cross section. They produce a bulb (tuber) that looks similar to a potato. It is generally a tan color and can be small or large. The leaf is green, heart shaped, basally lobed and it quickly tapers to a point at the leaf tip. You have most likely seen this plant in your neighborhoods or in some of the parks in your county choking trees and keeping the sunlight from reaching lowest vegetation.

The Highlands Soil and Water Conservation District will host the **"Air Potato Exchange Day" on January 9, 2010** (see "Save the Date" section below). All you have to do is bring in some air potato bulbils (at least one grocery bag full) to the Agricultural Center in Sebring, and receive a free native plant.

Source: [highlandsswcd.org](http://highlandsswcd.org)

# Save the date

## Kissimmee Valley Audubon Society

### December extra meeting

Tuesday, December 15<sup>th</sup> – 6:30 p.m.

KUA (Kissimmee Utility Authority) Building

Kissimmee Valley Audubon Society has just scheduled an extra meeting in December to hear from Dr. James Rotenburg, Assistant Professor of Tropical Environmental Ecology at the University of North Carolina Wilmington. He will talk about the Painted Bunting Observer Team (PBOT) citizen science project for monitoring wintering Painted Buntings at feeders. They were getting so many Painted Bunting reports from Central Florida that the study has now been expanded into our area! Come see how you may be able to entice this beautiful bird into your backyard and become part of the project!

This month the meeting will be held on **Tuesday, December 15, which is the THIRD Tuesday**, not the usual fourth Tuesday of the month.

KVAS monthly meetings are free and open to the public.

KUA (Kissimmee Utility Authority) Building is located at 1701 W. Carroll St. in Kissimmee.

## 110<sup>th</sup> Audubon Christmas Bird Count

Saturday, December 26<sup>th</sup>

Join Audubon on 2009 Bird Count! Numerous teams that spread out close to home to count birds from sunrise to sunset as part of an annual Audubon Society citizen science and conservation project throughout the western hemisphere. This is the 110th year!

**For more info and to sign up contact Peggy Choley (pegs04@cfl.rr.com) or visit: [audubon.org/bird/cbc/getinvolved.html](http://audubon.org/bird/cbc/getinvolved.html).**

## Tibet-Butler Preserve

### Holiday Recycled Crafts

Saturday, December 19<sup>th</sup> – 10 a.m.

Celebrate the holiday season by making various crafts focusing on winter time and the holiday season. **Open to all ages (limited to 50 participants)**

**Call the preserve (407) 876-6696 to reserve your space**

## Air Potato Exchange Day

January 9, 2010 10:00 a.m. — 2:00 p.m.

Bert J. Harris, Jr. Agricultural Center

Bring at least a grocery bag full of this aggressive invasive plant and receive a free native plant!

Also, prizes will be awarded for:

- The biggest air potato
- The most air potatoes (pounds)
- The smallest air potato
- The most uniquely shaped air potato

Bert J. Harris Jr. Agricultural Center is located at George Blvd. Sebring, FL

Directions:

<http://maps.google.com/maps?q=George+Blvd.+Sebring+FL+33870+United+States>

## The Florida Native Plant Society's 30th Annual Conference

Rooted in History: Forever Blooming

May 20-23, 2010

DoubleTree Hotel

101 S. Adams St. Tallahassee, FL

Join us in Tallahassee when the Magnolia Chapter hosts the 2010 Annual Conference. This will be a special 30th anniversary conference that honors our Florida Native Plant Society history. Over 400 people are expected to attend the 4-day conference. Celebrate the plants, people and places of Tallahassee and the Big Bend Region.

For more info and details visit <http://www.fnps.org/pages/conference/>

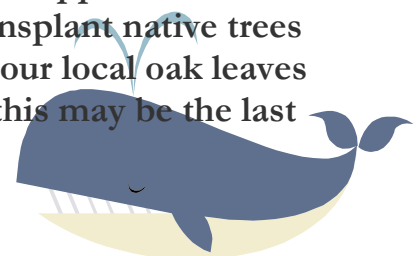


Join us in May 2010 for the FNPS 30th Anniversary!



Very special events going on throughout December in Florida

Great horned and barred owls are courting; listen for their hooting! Manatees congregate at natural springs and industrial warm water sites. Bears are still on the move, especially inland. Along the east coast, right whales appear north of Sebastian Inlet in Brevard county. This is a good time to transplant native trees and shrubs and to replenish your mulch (NO cypress! Use your local oak leaves and pine needles or buy Florimulch). If you trim and mow, this may be the last time you'll need to do it for the rest of the winter.



No meeting this month (Happy Holidays!). Jim Thompson of "Biosphere" will be our speaker on January 21<sup>st</sup>.

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](mailto:mjohnson@ecotonelanddesign.com)

Don't forget our Next Meeting is on **January 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 p.m.** at First United Methodist Church in Kissimmee, located at the corner of Dakin Ave. and Church St.

We are always looking for people to help make our chapter everything it can be. If you ever feel you would like to lend a helping hand please just contact any of our

*The Board of Directors, Committee Chairmen, and Contacts*

**President:** Mark Johnson  
[mjohnson@ecotonelanddesign.com](mailto:mjohnson@ecotonelanddesign.com)  
**Vice President:** Kimberly Duffy  
[kduffy@stcloud.org](mailto:kduffy@stcloud.org)  
**Treasurer:** Cindy Meketa  
[cmeketa@netzero.net](mailto:cmeketa@netzero.net)  
**Secretary and Field Trip:**  
Danny Husband  
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**Newsletter:** Claudia Canty  
[thelilypad\\_fnps@hotmail.com](mailto:thelilypad_fnps@hotmail.com)

**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*.

New Member                       Renewal

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

**Check pertinent category**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$25           | <input type="checkbox"/> Not-for-profit organization \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Full time student \$15    | <input type="checkbox"/> Business or corporate \$100      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Library subscription \$15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Donor \$250                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family or household \$30  | <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting \$250                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contributing \$40         |   |

*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*