



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

July 2009

In Bloom: Elephant's foot (*Elephantopus elatus*) and Sneezeweed (*Helenium autumnale*)



www.fnps.org



Species spotlight:

Beautyberry (*Callicarpa Americana*)

Very adaptable, even to low fertility soils, American beautyberry is an outstanding deciduous shrub that grows 6-8 ft (1.8-2.4 m) tall with a loose, open form and outward pointing branches. In springtime, tiny lilac flowers appear and by fall, the flowers give rise to berrylike 1/4 in (0.6 cm) drupes in striking metallic shades of magenta and violet. The berries are packed tightly together in clusters that encircle the stem. Use beautyberry for massing or individually in woodland plantings. Great for low maintenance natural gardens where it contributes year round beauty and food for wildlife. Spring flowers and beautiful fall fruit make this an attractive landscape plant. Use it in semi-shade under tall pines or in full sun where foliage will take on a not unattractive yellow-green color that combines interestingly with the brilliant violet fruits. Source: www.floridata.com

Zebra Heliconian (*Heliconius charithonia*)

Florida State Butterfly



The zebra is easily identified by its long black wings striped with yellow. Found in all parts of the state year round, Zebras fly slowly and don't startle easily, making them easy to follow and observe.

Zebras are totally dependent on Passionvine (*Passiflora* spp) for its reproductive success since Passionvines host zebra eggs and larvae. Passion vines contain toxins that are consumed by the larvae and make the adult butterflies poisonous to predators. Eggs (1.2mm x 0.7mm) are laid in groups of 5-15 on leaf buds or leaves of the host plant; caterpillars feed at night on leaves. The newly emerging caterpillar is yellow. It will go through four or five moltings, becoming white with six bands of black spots and black branched spines and a greenish-white head that is also spotted and has two spines. When it pupates it forms a chrysalis that looks like a spiny curled, dried leaf. If disturbed, the chrysalis makes a rasping sound. The entire process, from the time the egg is laid until the butterfly emerges, depends on temperature and usually takes as little as three weeks (longer during cool weather).

Any of the native passifloras, such as Purple passionflower (*Passiflora incarnata*), Whiteflower passionflower (*Passiflora multiflora*) and Corky-stemmed Passion Flower (*Passiflora suberosa*) are excellent butterfly host plants for zebras, especially if planted in partially shaded areas preferred by this 'sunshine and shadow' butterfly.

Good butterfly nectar sources are, among others, Flatwoods Pawpaw (*Asimina reticulada*), Firebush (*Hamelia patens*), Shiny-leaved blueberry (*Vaccinium mersinites*), Butterfly Weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) and Flatwoods Plum (*Prunus umbellata*).





WEED ALERT!



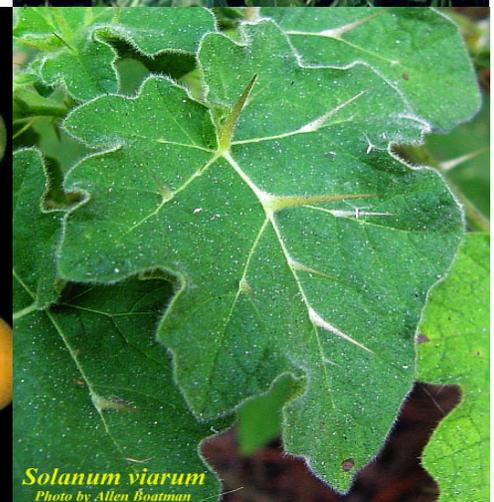
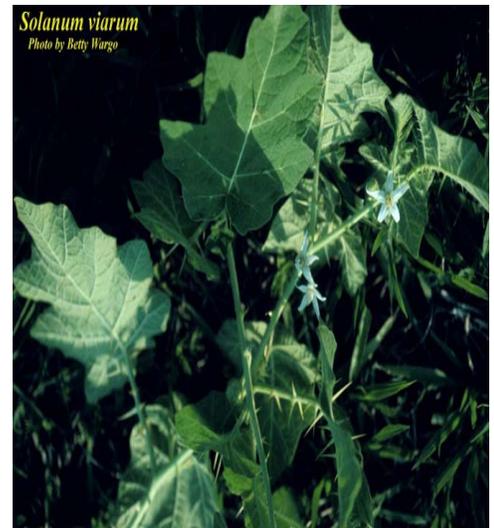
Tropical Soda Apple (*Solanum viarum*)

Tropical Soda Apple (TSA) is a native to Brazil and Argentina. Since it has been found in the United States, it has been found in many southern states in Florida, North Carolina and Mississippi. Approximately, one million acres of pasture, sod farms, forests, ditches, natural areas, etc are covered with TSA in Florida since it was first collected in 1988.

TSA is extremely prolific, producing roughly 40,000 to 50,000 seeds per plant. Seed is spread primarily via live stock and wildlife, such as raccoons, deer and birds that consume the fruit. Its rapid spread throughout Florida caused TSA to be placed on the Florida Noxious Weed List and the Federal Noxious list in 1995.

TSA is in the family Solanaceae, or Nightshade family. This family also contains potato, eggplant and tomato. An herbaceous perennial, TSA can grow 3-6 feet tall. Leaves are covered with short, soft hairs, deeply divides into pointed lobes and white to yellowish thorns up to 0.4 inches long are found on the stems, flower stalks and leaves (both upper and lower surfaces). Flowers are white with yellow stamens and are found on the stem below the leaves. Fruits are globular in shape, green when young and yellow when mature.

- **Leaves alternately arranged**
- **Lobed with prominent veination**
- **Spines or prickles extend from midrib**
- **Flowers year round**
- **Watermelon-like fruit (yellow when mature)**
- **Herbaceous freely branched**
- **Single plant can be over 5 ft. tall and over 6 ft. across**



Top row: TSA immature fruit; Bottom row: TSA mature fruit

TSA beetle - A beetle known as *Gratiana boliviana* (TSA beetle) has been investigated over the past several years for the control of TSA plants. This beetle is native to South America and underwent a rigorous quarantine process prior to its release in 2003. Host-specificity tests were conducted in both the U.S. and in South America; the tests proved that this beetle is highly specific to TSA. Unless present at very high populations, the beetle does not control individual plants. However, this beetle does reduce the overall fitness of the plant, making the plant less competitive with native plants. The beetle also reduces the number of fruit formed by the TSA plant.

Source: University of Florida – IFAS Extension

Mark's Remarks on the Pine Lily Picnic Social

For those who arrived early, the unexpected thunderstorm appeared to threaten to possibly put a damper on our summer social activities. Donn Barclay grill right through some of the less inviting rain and the pavilion was large enough to give us plenty of room to move around without being exposed to the rain. With a few adjustments to our planned program of activities, we actually enjoyed most of what we had expected to do. Jennifer had activities for the children who showed up and there was plenty of food for all. We enjoyed visiting with the Master Gardeners and Stacia Hedrick's pet quail.

By 7:00, the light rain had subsided and Eleanor treated us to a “Woods Walk”. We learned about exotic gopher apple and its regulating beetle. We identified several invasive exotic trees like the camphor and Chinese tallow trees. This site was also a good example of the affects of stormwater runoff on our ecosystem and the affect of ranching on aspects of plant life. While the puddles, gates and cow patties limited the access to much of the park on this particular evening, Eleanor urged us to return on drier days and enjoy a more extensive plant walk on our own. We'll ask Doctor Dan to check on that for the future.



The plant walk started along the lakefront



Eleanor's pre-walk presentation on the TSA beetle



Events around town

Trip to Nicaragua's Ecological Areas

A unique trip designed for FNPS sponsored by Latin American Adventures, LLC. www.latinamericanadventuresllc.com For questions: raimundochavarria@yahoo.com or 954-662-1539. The \$2,995.00 cost includes all meals, lodging, all ground transportation, air transportation to Nicaragua, air travel within the country and all activities (entrance fees to parks, reserves and preserves). Limited to the first 20 people to register. Trip begins July 16, 2009.

Tibet-Butler Preserve

Panther Prowl

Saturday, July 18 – 10 am

Purrfect your knowledge on one of Florida's most endangered mammals, the Florida panther. Travel deep into the Everglades as the problems affecting the long-term survival of this animal are revealed and discover how you can help the remaining population. Recommended to ages 10 and adult.

Hurricane: Nature's Fury

Saturday, July 25 – 10 am

Learn how hurricanes form, their history, what hazards they may bring and precautions you can take to prepare for them. Learn how to track future storms and take home your own hurricane tracking chart. Recommended for ages 7 to adult. Call the preserve (407)876-6696 to reserve your space.

All programs are free to the public (8777 County Road 535 – Orlando, FL)



Very special events going on throughout July in FL:

Migratory birds gather and leave us: Purple martins, tree swallows, Swallow-tail and Mississippi kites prepare to migrate south for the Bear breeding season begins; Red and Seminole bats are being born. Make sure to leave patches of soil exposed in your yard for birds "dusting".



Yikes, again!!!!!!!

Sorry again guys, but last year's newsletter the picture credited as Elderberry is actually a Fringe Tree. They are both natives and both are great for FL moon gardens. Thanks, Chris Matson!



Elderberry

©Jenny Welch



Pigmy Fringe Tree

©Jenny Welch

Chris Matson will be presenting about "Surprise sedges" on July 16th

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

Don't forget our Next Meeting is on July 16th 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 board members.

The Board of Directors, Committee Chairmen, and Contacts

President: Mark Johnson
mjohnson@ecotonelanddesign.com
Vice President: Kimberly Duffy
kduffy@stcloud.org
Treasurer: Cindy Meketa
cmeketa@netzero.net
Secretary and Field Trip:
Danny Husband
dhusband@tnc.org
Chapter Representative:
Christina Uranowski
curanowski@aol.com
Events Coordinator: Jenny Welch
mwelch@cfl.rr.com
Membership: Sue Parent
longwing_34746@yahoo.com
Publicity: Loret Thatcher
pinelilyfnps@aol.com
Newsletter: Claudia Canty
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*.

w New Member w Renewal

Name _____

Business name or organization _____

Address _____

City, State and Zip _____

Home phone _____ Work phone _____

Check pertinent category

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
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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**