



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

March 2010



On Mar 18th Mark L. Johnson, MLA, will be making a presentation on “Making Natives Work: Designing Home Landscapes”. Johnson, a registered landscape architect, is a leader in sustainable design and development efforts throughout Central Florida. He was instrumental in the publication of the Florida Chapter ASLA publication “Visions of Smart Growth and Sustainability”; has served on regional Smart Growth bodies; serves on the Board of Directors of the Orlando area’s Back to Nature Wildlife Refuge; and also serves as our current Florida Native Plant Society-Pine Lily Chapter President. This presentation will provide some design theory and tricks that can bring more unity and harmony to an otherwise “wild” landscape.”

In Bloom: Tickseed (*Coreopsis* spp)

Family: Asteracea

Several species of tickseed, perennials in the aster family grow in various parts of Florida in either damp or dry soils and flowers at different seasons. They need full sun to flower well. With daisy like flowers, an inch across, with bright yellow rays and deep brown or purplish centers on slender branched stalks, Tickseed blooms mainly in spring and summer, but flowers may appear at any time of the year in ditches, roadsides, damp woodlands. One, *C. nudata* or swamp coreopsis, a wetland plant of northern Florida, has pink rays and a bright yellow center and is a particularly attractive flowering plant for a wild garden. Coreopsis reseed readily, are simple to grow, and may be used as cut flowers. They also are nectar plants for butterflies. Tickseed is the Florida’s State flower and ranges through East and Gulf coasts, throughout Florida.



Source: floridawildflowerfoundation.org

2011 FNPS Conference in the making! Join us!

If you would like to volunteer and have an active role in planning the 2011 FNPS Conference, there are still positions available. Pine Lily Chapter Member Jenny Welch is co-chair of the 2011 conference. Don't miss the opportunity to help organizing this significant event. For more info, please contact Jenny mwelch@cfl.rr.com and/or attend next meeting, **Saturday, May 1, 2010 (10am - Noon)**.

Location: Mactec - 4150 N. John Parkway, Orlando FL

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

Kissimmee Community Garden and FNPS

The Pine Lily Chapter of the FNPS is supporting the Morning Dew community garden under way in downtown Kissimmee. The MD community is a non profit garden that is located off of Sumner St. and sits directly behind the new downtown Kissimmee fire station. The project of building a community garden is still in the first stages of development, but plans include utilizing a full acre for gardening with raised beds for organic growers, demonstration spots with native plants for education purposes, butterfly garden and children's garden. Most sections throughout the garden will focus on bringing back the natural flora and fauna of Florida. The Pine Lily Chapter is joining forces with the MD community in making this community garden project possible, thanks to the efforts of our committed and outgoing events coordinator, Jenny Welch.

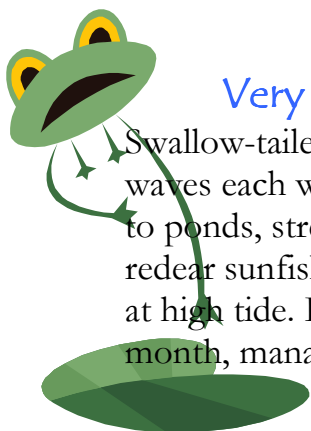
If you think you can help with this project in anyway (time, knowledge, etc), please contact Jenny Welch at mwelch@cfl.rr.com

Mark's Remark

Claudia Canty has been putting together our monthly "Lily Pad" newsletter for the past 16 months. She has done a terrific job, but is unable to continue with this task. We thank her for great service to both the newsletter and the board. Claudia is preparing to move to the northwest United States and will be sorely missed. If you are interested, or have suggestions, we are looking for a volunteer to step forward and take over the reigns.

Very special events going on throughout March in Florida

Swallow-tailed kites return to Florida. Migrating songbirds, in full breeding plumage, arrive in waves each week. Scrub-jays begin to mate and build nests in scrub oaks. Frogs and toads move to ponds, streams and ditches to breed. Largemouth bass start to bed in north Florida, as do redear sunfish in central Florida. Horseshoe crabs lay eggs on coastal beaches on the full moon at high tide. Endangered gray bats return to Florida caves to raise young. By the end of this month, manatees are no longer congregating at warm water sites..



Save the date

Kowtown Festival

Toho Square

Saturday, March 20

Celebrating the 127th Birthday of Kissimmee. This year's event will include historical exhibitors, a variety of vendors, fabulous food, kid's area, antiques, live entertainment and much more. We will also have "The Seventh...23rd Annual Meatloaf Cook-off". The grand prize for the Meatloaf Cook-off will be \$500 cash.

Kissimmee Valley Audubon Society

Field Trip – Pancakes and Scrub Jays

DeLeon Springs State Park and Lyonia Preserve Environmental Learning Center

Sunday, March 21

Join our Audubon friends in making your own pancake breakfast at the Old Spanish Sugar Mill Restaurant at DeLeon Springs State Park near DeLand. Then travel the short distance to Lyonia Preserve for a hike with endangered Florida Scrub-Jays and other scrub animals and some great scrub habitat plants. Contact Peggy Cholley pegs04@cfl.rr.com to register.

Forest Songbirds and Habitat Fragmentation

Tuesday, March 23 – 6:45pm

Kissimmee Utility Authority Building

When forest habitats are divided by subdivisions, roads, or logging, what happens to the songbirds that remain? How does the habitat fragmentation affect the birds' behavior? How can good landscape design make a positive difference for songbirds?

Dr. Kathryn Sieving, Ph.D. in Ecology, Ethology and Evolution from the University of Illinois will be answering these questions during her presentation.

KVAS monthly meetings are held at KUA (Kissimmee Utility Authority) Building located at 1701 W. Carroll St. in Kissimmee. Free and open to the public!

2010 Florida Wildflower & Garden Festival

Saturday, March 27 (9am – 4pm)

Downtown Deland

In addition to wildflower education, the festival features vendors who provide information, wildflower-themed products, and arts and crafts related to native plant gardening, gardening for birds, butterflies and wildlife, habitat creation, environmental conservation, recycling and "Green" living. Family-friendly programs, hands-on demonstrations, off-site field trips, wildflower and general gardening vendors and more! A trio of educational field trips are available to Festival attendees who pre register to participate on March 27. Call 386-822-5778 for details or to register. For more info see www.floridawildflowerfestival.com
.West Indiana Ave. Downtown Deland. Free parking and admission

Prescribed Fire Awareness Week

March 7 – 13

Historically, fires ignited by lightning swept unimpeded across Florida. Each spring and summer in the state, this scene repeated itself in a natural process needed by the plants and animals of the pinewoods, which were accustomed to those frequent fires and which depended on fire for their very survival. Without fire, these communities change; the plants and animals unique to the original habitat maintained by fire are lost. Fox squirrels, gopher tortoises, scrub jays, red-cockaded woodpeckers, wire grass and longleaf pines are just a few of the many species which depend on fire.

Today, because of highways, homes and businesses, and public safety, such wildfires can no longer be allowed to burn freely. Periodic “prescribed fires” (also known as controlled burns) are the only means land managers have to meet the needs of many plants and animals while also reducing the threat of property damage from wildfires. Prescribed fire is the use of carefully planned fire purposefully set under stringent conditions to control the fire’s effects. Prescribed fire’s benefits include restoring and maintaining natural communities, reducing chances of destructive wildfires, perpetuating fire-adapted plants and animals, cycling nutrients, controlling tree diseases and opening scenic vistas.

To learn more about prescribed fire, visit www.fl-dof.com/wildfire/rx_index.html Source: sjr.state.fl.us

7th Annual Dark Sky Festival at Harmony

Saturday, April 17 (6pm – 11pm)

Learn about the marvels of astronomy and the importance of protecting dark skies, not only for astronomy purposes, but also the value of darkness for wildlife. The evening will include discussions, education, cosmic Kids Zone, stargazing opportunities, nocturnal animals, mobile planetarium, food and street performers. Attendees are encouraged to bring blankets and chairs for lawn use in the amphitheatre area. Loret Thatcher, publicity chair of the Pine Lily chapter of the FNPS will be manning a booth at the festival.

For more info visit www.darkskyfestival.com

3500 Harmony Square Drive West Harmony, FL

The Florida Native Plant Society’s 30th Annual Conference

Rooted in History: Forever Blooming

May 20-23

DoubleTree Hotel

101 S. Adams St. Tallahassee, FL

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

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>



New Florida landscaping law supersedes homeowner association rules

The state would like more Floridians to have yards like Linda Dunne's, a St. Johns County master gardener who designed her yard to feature Florida native and Florida-friendly plants because they don't need fertilizers, watering or much maintenance. A state law passed last summer supports homeowners who want to convert thirsty lawn grass to plants that are friendlier to the environment. It supports them even if they live in communities with covenants and restrictions, where it's expected that they have pristine St. Augustine grass lawns that are regularly mowed, edged and weeded.

Gov. Charlie Crist signed Senate Bill 2080 (the Water Rights Bill) on June 30 because lawn and landscape irrigation uses a tremendous amount of water, seriously impacting the Floridan aquifer, which provides the state's drinking water and feeds its springs and other ecosystems.

One of the bill's key provisions states that any landscape that follows Florida Yards and Neighborhood Guidelines promoting the nine principles supersedes and takes precedence over all other municipal, county and homeowner association rules, ordinances or laws, because "the use of Florida-friendly landscaping and other water use and pollution prevention measures to conserve or protect the state's water resources serves a compelling public interest."

The law encourages the nine basic principles of Florida-friendly landscaping, which are: use the right plant in the right place, water efficiently, fertilize appropriately, mulch, attract wildlife, manage yard pests responsibly, recycle, reduce storm water runoff and protect the waterfront.

Dunne began removing the St. Augustine grass from her front yard in 1998, replacing it with attractive and colorful Florida-friendly plants. Since she removed patches of grass gradually, she didn't run into any opposition from the gated community's homeowner association and she didn't need the new law to protect her.

However, a homeowner in the L'Atrium community in Ponte Vedra Beach who recently ripped up his St. Augustine grass front lawn encountered protests from his community association, said St. Johns County horticulture agent Joe Swards. The homeowner replaced the grass with Florida-friendly trees, shrubs and other plants, then covered the remaining soil with mulch. After neighbors complained, the homeowner association cited the resident and called for a hearing. With the new state law on his side, the resident won the right to keep his new Florida-friendly yard intact.

St. Johns County horticulture agent Joe Swards says that people need to be careful if they decide to change their yards, because they could encounter problems if they don't stay within the general landscape theme of their community. "It depends on the situation," he said. Right plant, right place means there are a number of alternatives to St. Augustine grass, including a variety of grasses or ground covers. People shouldn't "go out and rip out their landscapes," without a plan that's preferably sanctioned by their community, he said. Some native plants might not be appropriate "because home landscapes bear little resemblance to native landscapes in many cases."

For some Beaches gardeners who are longtime fans of Florida native plants, the new law is welcome news, even if they don't need it to protect them from community restrictions. Laurie Clarke of Neptune Beach keeps a "pesticide free" sign in her front yard. She has so little grass that she can use a push mower. The rest of the property is covered with various types of ground cover, trees and flowering shrubs and vines that don't need water or fertilizer. In the summer, they bloom in a variety of colors: "They're used to the natural cycles of rain here," she said. "They don't need chemical spraying because they have natural defenses to the insects that have adapted to in this environment."



Linda Dunne walks through her front yard

Clarke said she especially likes Florida native plants because they support and attract wildlife. Birds love the berries on her beautyberry shrubs, Migratory flocks of robins gobble the berries that grow on her cabbage palms, the state tree, bees love the dune sunflowers that cover the ground in the place of grass, hummingbirds and butterflies flock to the orange and red tubular flowers on her firebush shrub and her saw palmettos, which naturally flourish around the state, make a great habitat for tree frogs: "That's a Florida thing to me," she said. "I look at them and think of Florida."

You can raise money for FNPS with a click when you use the Internet search engine **GoodSearch.com**. From 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. Please use **GoodShop.com** when purchasing office supplies, gifts and household goods. All brand name stores are a part of the GoodShop network. First select **FNPS** before you shop online; a percentage of the purchase price goes to FNPS!

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 Mar 18th 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

- w Individual \$25
- w Full time student \$15
- w Library subscription \$15
- w Family or household \$30
- w Contributing \$40
- w Supporting \$250
- w Not-for-profit organization \$50
- w Business or corporate \$100
- w Donor \$250

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