

PINE LILY CHAPTER
FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

The Lily Pad

August Meeting

July Followup

August 2011
Volume 5, Issue 7



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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Our speaker this month will be **Jaret Daniels**. Jaret will discuss **Florida wildflowers and native plants and their relationship/ importance to native insect pollinators**. He is Assistant Curator of Lepidoptera, IFAS Assistant Professor of Entomology, and the Assistant Director of Exhibits and Public Programs for the Florida Museum of Natural History at the University of Florida in Gainesville. Jaret’s research interests focus on insect ecology, population biology and conservation. He is the founder and director of the Florida Butterfly Monitoring Network (www.flbutterflies.net) and currently serves as Vice-Chair of the steering committee for the Butterfly Conservation Initiative (www.butterflyrecovery.org), a national coalition of organizations across North America dedicated to the conservation of threatened, endangered, and vulnerable North American butterflies and the habitats that sustain them. He has authored more than 50 scientific papers, articles and books dealing with butterflies, conservation, integrated pest management, and wildlife landscaping.

by Loret

Stacia Hetrick gave an enlightening program on Aquatic Plants with a fun “*Show and Tell*” section. She brought various plant species to show what is invasive and what is native. The fun part was the plant ID. Each person was given a paper with the name of a plant on it. We then headed over to the tables containing the various specimens and tried to figure out what was what. After reading aloud the applicable data for our plant, Stacia gave further explanation and answered questions. The hands-on aspect made this program really special! As always, Sue Parent came through with tasty snacks.

From the Home Office

FNPS Executive Director Karina Veaudry has decided not pursue renewal of her contract with the organization which ends December 30, 2011. Karina served admirably in the capacity of Executive Director for five years, starting 12 new chapters during her tenure. Karina, who joined the organization in 1984, will continue to be an active member. We should all extend our gratitude for the great job she has done to further the Society’s mission. We wish her well in her future pursuits.

Join us on Thursday, August 18th at 6:30p.

**Meeting is Thursday
August 18th 6:30 p.m.**

First United Methodist Church
101 W. Dakin Avenue, Kissimmee

We are trying to grow our Chapter. Why not ask a neighbor or friend to join?

“Everybody’s interested in instant gratification. Well nature takes time. And we just can’t give up on it.”

— Clyde Butcher, photographer

Stealth Native Plant Gardening

by Adrian Ayres Fisher

At some point, many gardeners begin to propagate their own plants. You buy and plant seeds, baby plants emerge, you're hooked. Then you realize seeds don't really come from the store: plants make their own—in your garden, in the local forest preserve, and along the railroad tracks, too, and if you collect a few, no harm done. Then perhaps you take a propagation workshop, and you discover William Cullina's masterful *Wildflowers: A Guide to Growing and Propagating Native Flowers of North America*. You've fallen in love and developed an obsession.



This happened to me. Already saving seeds and starting plants at home, in 2009 I joined a prairie garden project at the school where I teach. Sudden access to greenhouse space acted like

chocolate on a chocoholic. This year, two other teachers and I started bottlebrush grass, prairie dropseed grass, columbine, three goldenrods, prairie ironweed, butterfly weed, and several other species—more than would fit in the prairie garden—but we couldn't help ourselves.

Then I brought back sixty little native trees and shrubs from a workshop, including spicebush, hazelnut, bur oak, swamp rose and pagoda dogwood. My yard had room for an oak and couple of spicebushes and a swamp rose—but what about the others? I watered, I watched, they grew. May came along, then June. My colleagues and I planted what we could. They took some home. We donated some to a restoration project that involved children.

I watered, the plants grew, I contemplated. Suddenly I realized I could give them away. And I wouldn't have to explain the whole theory behind reconciliation ecology and "bringing nature home." Instead, I'd conduct undercover action to expand the native-plant influence. After all, what gardener could turn down a fourpack of cute little dropseed grasses or an adorable, six-inch-tall spicebush?

Forthwith, I knocked on neighbors' doors and offered them plants, gave plants to friends and took plants to family gatherings. Not one person turned me down, though few had

grown many natives before, or would go looking for them on purpose (most knew that natives help the ecosystem somehow). They thought I was just being nice, or neighborly in a mildly eccentric way. Little did they realize there was a deep ulterior motive: I was acting as a special ops agent for the biosystem.

Many people don't want to be told what to do, or that they should garden a certain way, or make the extra effort to find plants they don't know much about and many nurseries don't sell anyway. But if a relation, friend or neighbor gives them a homegrown plant for the garden, the giftees feel appreciated and loved rather than exhorted and nagged—and the whole biotic community benefits.

There are still a few plants left, but I'm sure they'll find good homes. And next year? My local farmers' market reserves space for community-minded organizations and individuals. One fine day you might see me there with a table full of free plants.

Adrian Ayres Fisher maintains a pollinator reserve on a 35x150-foot urban lot on the Chicago Lake Plain. She volunteers for the Forest Preserve District of Cook County, Illinois and grows plants and harvests seed for the Native Seed Gardeners program. You can find more of her articles at <http://www.ecologicalgardening.net/>.

Ed. Note: This article was originally published at www.beautifulwildlifegarden.com

Landscaping Kids Closet

The Kids Closet houses clothes for Osceola County's destitute school children. It is located at the School District Office.

With the help of a grant from Home Depot we will be landscaping the Kids Closet with a butterfly garden, vegetable garden, reading garden, flower garden, and water garden. Students will be painting the outside of the buildings at a later date to correspond with each garden.

We will use as many Florida native plants as we can find so please bring any plants you would like to share/donate.

Volunteers needed August 16, 2011 from 8 am until we are finished. Meet at 2310 New Beginnings Road, Kissimmee (off Simpson Road next to the Education Foundation and across from the Sheriff's office).

Upcoming

September - Cheryl Peterson
of Bok Tower
Subject: Rare Plant Collection

October - TBA

November - Peggy Lantz
Subject: Edible Natives

☆☆☆

Projects in the Works

New Beginnings School

We are working on obtaining donations from Home Depot and others to build a reading garden, vegetable and edible garden, wetland garden, flower garden and wildlife garden. New Beginnings is located at 2599 W Vine St. in Kissimmee

If you have any native plants, edible plants, a large shade tree you would like to donate, please let Jenny know. Watch for the date of this project soon!

Highlands Elem. School

The School's butterfly garden was rescued prior to the construction of the new school. Volunteers will be needed to help in the replanting of this garden so let Jenny know you are interested. It will happen sometime after school starts which is August 22nd this year.

Highlands also also received a *Seeds for Schools* Grant from the Florida Wildflower Foundation and has requested our help in moving that project along.

☆☆☆

Species Spotlight

EASTERN PURPLE CONEFLOWER (*Echinacea purpurea*)

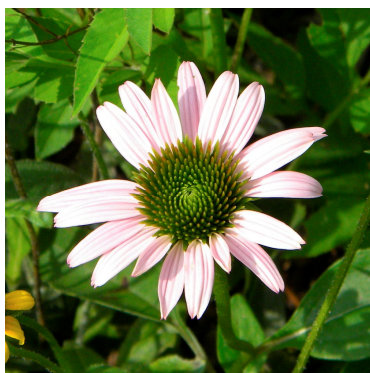


Photo © 2011 Loret

This Florida native is a member of the aster family (*Asteraceae*). Listed as endangered-State. It is a perennial herb that grows one to three feet in height with showy, purple, daisy-like flowers.

Does best in full sun. Drought tolerant. Relatively disease and pest resistant.

It can be used in pots, as accents in flower beds, or as borders.

sources: Floridata.com & USDA

Propagate by division or by seed. Divide mature plants when dormant by splitting the crowns into smaller units, and transplanting to desired locations. The rhizomes and roots are very susceptible to drying during the process. They should be transplanted immediately after splitting.

Ethnobotanic use: taken orally, extracts from purple coneflower roots and leaves are reported to stimulate the immune system and increase resistance to infections

Wildlife value: Used by Hummingbirds, Butterflies and Birds relish the seeds.

Hardiness: USDA Zones 3 - 9.

Save the Date

Thursday, August 18, 2011

1:30 pm – 3:00 pm

Fall Vegetable Gardening

Veterans Memorial Library

810 13th Street, Saint Cloud

Registration required.

Call 321-697-3000

Other Dates/Times/Locations

available. Visit:

<http://osceola.ifas.ufl.edu/> and click

on "Events Calendar"

Saturday, August 20, 2011

9:00 am – 11:00 am

Homeowner Irrigation Workshop

Osceola Extension Services,

Poinciana Community Center

395 Marigold Ave., Poinciana

Registration is required. Please call

407-944-5000

Tuesday, September 13, 2011

9:00 am – Noon

Florida-Friendly Landscaping™

Osceola Extension Services,

Osceola Heritage Park

1921 Kissimmee Valley Lane

Registration is required. Please call

407-944-5000

Learn how to reduce maintenance, save money, and protect our environment.

Saturday, October 15, 2011

Time: tba

Florida Wildflower Foundation

Wildflower Symposium and annual membership meeting

Wekiwa Springs State Park Youth

Camp,

1800 Wekiwa Circle, Apopka

Workshops, forest walks and more.

<http://flawildflowers.org/>

Volunteers Needed

Kissimmee Farmers Market Kids'
Day Thurs Aug 11 9am-12 pm
Back to School/ Back to
Business..... Mon Aug 15 2pm - 8pm
Kids Closet Landscaping at School
District Office.....Aug.16 8am-finish
Kissimmee Pots
Maintenanceongoing
contact Jenny Welch

Before and After – Dragonfly

There are three stages of the dragonfly life cycle, the egg, the nymph, and the adult dragonfly. Most of the life cycle of a dragonfly is lived out in the nymph stage underwater where it dines on aquatic insects (especially mosquito larvae). When ready to emerge into adulthood (as shown in the left photo), the nymph climbs out of the water onto a branch or stick and molts. I'm not sure of the nymph species, but the Adult shown is a Common Green Darner (*Anax junius*) which had just emerged and was drying its wings before first flight.



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information.

What's Blooming

Galactia elliottii (ELLIOTT'S MILKPEA); *Lechea deckertii* (DECKERT'S PINWEED); *Portulaca pilosa* (PINK PURSLANE; KISS-ME-QUICK); *Clinopodium brownei* (BROWNE'S SAVORY); *Carphephorus carnosus* (PINELAND CHAFFHEAD (endemic)); *Echinacea purpurea* (EASTERN PURPLE CONEFLOWER, Endangered-State); *Chamaecrista fasciculata* (PARTRIDGE PEA); *Phytolacca americana* AMERICAN POKEWEED;

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:

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

Name _____

Business name or organization _____

Address _____

City, State and Zip _____

Home phone _____ Work phone _____

*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.