

PINE LILY CHAPTER
FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

The Lily Pad

June Social

The rains were intermittent but area lightening prevented the plant walk until near dark.

We had some hearty souls at the last meeting which took place in Chisholm Park on East Lake Toho in Saint Cloud. The treats were delicious and included some fresh pickled duck eggs, a sweet delight called "puppy chow", watermelon, chips and dip, cold beverages and other several other desserts. Recipes and plant experiences were exchanged.



a young juvenile evening bat
Photo: © Jenny Welch

We had visits from a family of sandhill cranes and two baby bats who were crawling along under the tables when they were spotted. Turns out they must have been dropped by their mother and she apparently has no way of retrieving them once that happens.

It was a great way to spend our meeting during National Great Outdoors Month.

July Program

Our own Dick Diener will be giving a presentation on the Spurge Family (Euphorbiaceae). Learn about what makes the tiny flowers of this family so special.

★ ★ ★

Get Involved

Pine Lily Chapter

Due to relocation, we have lost both Danny Husband and Chris Matson as board members. They will be sorely missed and we thank them for providing their help and expertise to the Chapter over the past years.

That said, we desperately need some members to step up and help the Chapter in moving forward. Speak to Jenny Welch if you can pitch in and help. No experience necessary!

FWC

Monitoring wild bird deaths can help officials track the spread of some mosquito-borne diseases. Anyone who discovers a dead bird is encouraged to report it via the Internet. The bird mortality reporting system is located on the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Website at: www.MyFWC.com/bird/. Citizens may also report dead birds to the Osceola County Health Department by calling 407-742-8608 or the local Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission office.

July 2010
Volume 4, 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.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

President:

Jenny Welch.....mwelch@cfl.rr.com

1st Vice President:

Mark Johnson

.....mjohnson@ecotonelanddesign.com

Secretary:

..... Apply now

Treasurer:

Amy Johnsonartmji@embarq.com

Chapter Rep:

..... Apply now

Membership:

Susan Parentsparent20@yahoo.com

Publicity/Newsletter:

Loret.....PinelilyFNPS@aol.com

**Meeting is Thursday
July 15th 6:30 p.m.**

at the Church

Upcoming Volunteer Events

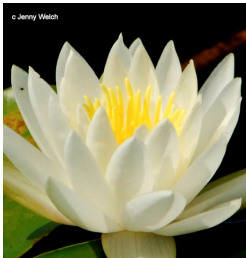
Discover Osceola September 16
Pioneer Day: November 13

“When you kill off the natural enemies of the pests, you inherit their work.”
C. Huffacker

Exploring Native Plant Ethnobotany

by Loret

I've grown curious about what Florida native plants might be food sources or have value in medicinal uses. I'm not sure I would ever recommend trying some of the suggestions I found, but it is interesting to read how they were used in days gone past. Two such plants just happen to be growing in my pond.



© 2010 Jenny Welch

American White Waterlily (*Nymphaea odorata*)

An aquatic plant found from Quebec southward through Florida, Oklahoma, Texas, and Arizona. Common in ponds, lakes, marshes, sluggish streams, ditches, canals, and swamps. Leaves heart shaped

in outline, usually green above and purplish below. Flowers fragrant, white (sometimes pink), and floating.

The young leaves, seeds, and tubers (*N. tuberosa*), are edible delicacies. Both indigenous tribes and European settlers (taught by the Native tribes) found food and medicinal value for this plant throughout its range. North Carolina listed the plant as a remedy against bronchial problems, sore throats, and dermatological ailments. The chemistry is yet undefined; however, alkaloids, and many tannins (dermatological interests) are present.

Here is a quoted passage from an Indian Medicine Guide published in the 1800s: "The root contains tannin, therefore is an astringent. A tea made of the root is a good remedy for diarrhoea. The cold tea forms a fine astringent injection for gonorrhoea in the second stage. The mashed root, stewed with bread and milk, forms a valuable poultice to old sores, indolent ulcers, and cuts that won't heal."

Pickerelweed (*Pontederia cordata*).

Pontederiaceae (Pickerelweed family) A creeping, rhizatomous, aquatic herb found throughout Florida and east to Texas and north to Ontario and Minnesota. Often found in swamps, marshes, ditches, streams, and lakes. The seeds and young, unfurled leaves can be eaten



© 2010 Loret

cooked or raw. The seeds are added to homemade granola mixes. Fishermen would fish by the plants, believing pickerel fish might be there. Cultivated as an ornamental water garden or aquarium plant.

The leaves and seeds are edible and nutritious. The young uncurled leaves may be used in salads or as cooked greens. The seeds may be eaten off the plant or may be dried, roasted, or ground into a type of flour.

CAUTION. Not poisonous, but known to absorb water contaminants.

Source:

50 Common Native Plants Important In Florida's Ethnobotanical History, Circular 1439, one of a series of the Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Department, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida. Published: December 2002. Reviewed August 2009. Please visit the EDIS Web site at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>.

THE INDIAN HOUSEHOLD MEDICINE GUIDE, Second Edition, By J. I. LIGHTHALL, The Great Indian Medicine Man, PEORIA, ILL., 1883

Aquatic Plants & Algae of New Hampshire's Lakes and Ponds, by Amy P. Smagula and Jody Connor, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services

☆☆☆

Ruling Protects Environmentally Sensitive Lands

by Mark Johnson

As many of you are aware, the county commission allowed a request to plan a future new city in the northeast corner of Osceola County to be sent to our state's Department of Community Affairs for a ruling. There were considerations for the expansion of the county's Urban Growth Boundary to accommodate future development in this area of the county. The department's Office of Comprehensive Planning has recommended that the Urban Growth Boundary not be adjusted without avoiding encroachment into wetlands and other environmentally sensitive areas that are deemed important to both future water resources and as an anchor for the biodiversity that keep existing natural systems healthy. This may not mean that the significantly agricultural and natural landscape of this section of the county will avoid development; but that more detailed studies and plans are recommended before changing the county comprehensive plan. For a lot more detail about the ruling, the entire PDF file can be found at http://www.fnps.org/chapters/pinelily/pdfs/osceola_dca_orc_june_25.pdf

Firefly Watch

A Citizen Science Project

Firefly Watch combines an annual summer evening ritual with scientific research. Join a network of volunteers. Observe your own backyard. Track your progress online and interact with fellow Citizen Scientists.

Help scientists map fireflies found in New England and beyond. No specific scientific training required.

The Museum has teamed up with researchers from Tufts University and Fitchburg State College to track the fate of these amazing insects. With your help, we hope to learn about the geographic distribution of fireflies and their activity during the summer season. Fireflies also may be affected by human-made light and pesticides in lawns, so we hope to also learn more about those effects.

Learn more about the environmental factors affecting firefly habitats.

More details and signup is at https://www.mos.org/fireflywatch/about_firefly_watch

☆☆☆

FNPS Name Badges

Florida Native Plant name badges are a stock item at Custom DeSigns in Orlando, telephone 407-898-0373. The badge is white with green and is made of hard plastic.

The badge with pin has FNPS logo, name and chapter name engraved at a cost of \$5.65. Optional clip is \$.75 or magnet is \$2.00. Shipping is by USPS starting at \$3.35 for 1-2 badges, \$3.55 for 3-4, etc. Members can save on shipping by having badges sent to one address. Large orders are shipped via UPS so it is insured and tracked. They accept checks or credit cards as payment.

Species Spotlight

Amorpha fruticosa

by Loret

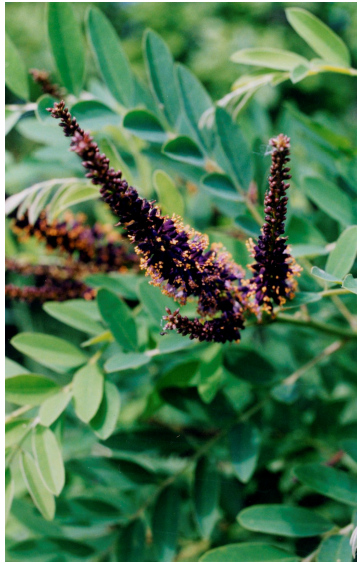


Photo: © Jennifer Anderson @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database

Bastard False Indigo is a deciduous, perennial, multiple stem shrub in the Fabaceae Family. It has purple blooms appearing in late spring. It was brought to my attention by Susan Parent while shopping this past week at *Maple Street Natives*, the native plant nursery in West Melbourne, FL. According to the USDA database, it

has a slow growth rate with a mature height of 15 feet. It prefers moist, well-drained sandy soils and has a medium drought tolerance so will tolerate short periods of drought once established.

It does best in full sun to light shade and provides food and cover for wildlife. It is a butterfly larval host plant for both the Silver-spotted Skipper (*Epargyreus clarus*) and the Southern Dogface (*Zerene cesonia*) and a nectar source for countless others.

Resinous pustules on the plant contain amorpha, a contact and stomachic insecticide that also acts as an insect repellent (Huxley 1992). Desert false indigo also contains some indigo pigment that can be used to make blue dye.

It has a symbiotic relationship with certain soil bacteria. These bacteria form nodules on the roots and fix atmospheric nitrogen. The growing plant utilizes some of this nitrogen but other plants growing nearby can also use some (Huxley 1992).

sources: USDA NRCS National Plant Data Center; and <http://regionalconservation.org/>

Order by fax to 407-898-2189 or email to orderdesk_cds@bellsouth.net

GoodSearch

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!

Save the Date

Thursday July 8, 2010
9:00am-11:00am
Preparing Your Landscape for Hurricanes

University of Florida/IFAS
Extension Services
1921 Kissimmee Valley Lane,
Kissimmee
Registration required. Call 321-697-3000.

Learn to prune young trees for strong structure, minimize landscape damage during storms, and salvage landscape plants after a storm.

Saturday July 10, 2010 and
Saturday August 7, 2010
10:00am
2011 Conference Planning
MACTEC office
4150 N. John Young Parkway
Orlando, FL 32804

Pine Lily is one of four chapters co-hosting the 31st Annual FNPS Conference in May 2011. Find out where you can fit into the planning picture.

Tuesdays, Aug. 17th – Nov. 16th
8 am – 5 pm
Master Gardener Volunteer Training
Extension Services, Osceola Heritage Park
1921 Kissimmee Valley Lane,
Kissimmee

Great Gardener Training: coming in January 2011
Call Eva Pabon for details and registration for both of these programs at 321-697-3000.

Book Review

by Loret

Read it: *Anoles: Those Florida Yard Lizards* by Steven B. Isham, Illustrated by Henry Flores, Commahawk Publishing LLC
<http://anolebook.com/>

I borrowed this book from a friend and couldn't put it down once I started reading. Concise and easy to read, good for youth as well as oldsters it offers a way to learn about these delightful creatures through a dialog where the anoles do the talking. Fun and informative. I learned quite a bit about our friendly green natives and their reliance on native plants.

Advertisements are now being accepted for The Lily Pad newsletter! Ads are free to **Pine Lily Chapter Business Class Members**. We currently publish 12 months of the year. Please send a business card size ad to the_lilypad@hotmail.com along with your membership number.

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 _____

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

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

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