



PINE LILY CHAPTER  
FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

July 2011  
Volume 5, Issue 6



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:

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**Chapter Rep:**

..... Apply now

**Membership:**

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**Publicity/Newsletter:**

Loret.....[PinelilyFNPS@aol.com](mailto:PinelilyFNPS@aol.com)

**Meeting is Thursday  
July 21<sup>st</sup> 6:30 p.m.**

First United Methodist Church  
101 W. Dakin Avenue, Kissimmee

### New/Renewing Members

Bridget Murdock (N)  
Thomas and Martha Farabee (R)  
Petra Royston (R)  
Cynthia Meketa (R)

# The Lily Pad

## Chapter Elections Results

Chapter elections were held at the June 16<sup>th</sup> meeting. Jenny Welch and Mark Johnson were re-elected to their positions as President and Vice President-Programs, respectively. Nominations were made from the floor and Sandy Webb was elected as Secretary and Kaity Welch Storer as Treasurer. Susan Parent and Loret will retain their Board positions as Membership and Publicity Chairpersons, respectively. Thanks and congratulations to all those who stepped up to help shape the future of our chapter. If anyone wants to step up and join the board, we still have 2<sup>nd</sup> VP and Chapter Rep positions open.

☆☆☆

## July Meeting

Our speaker this month will be **Stacia Hedrick** from Osceola County Extension Services. Stacia will discuss **Aquatic Plants**. Join us on Thursday, July 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30p.

## Northeast District

*by Loret*

Osceola County Commissioners have approved plans for the Mormon Church to develop 14,000 acres of critical conservation land.

Through the DCA, the State turned down the church's request to build two times already.

Kariena Veaudry, on behalf of the Florida Native Plant Society spoke in opposition of this project at both the State and County levels.

Now that Governor Rick Scott has dismantled that important agency, regulation is placed at the county level. Commissioners say the development will help bring jobs to the county. Since it encompasses an area vital to the North/South wildlife corridor and valuable water recharge areas, it would seem that in the long term, development may do more harm than good since water resources for the entire State may be affected. The county has years of planned but un-built developments already on the books so this project is questionable at best.

The Florida Native Plant Society will continue to monitor and voice its disapproval of this unnecessary project.

“If man cheats the earth, the earth will cheat man.”

— Chinese Proverb

# Making a difference—Highlands Elementary

by Loret

Pine Lily Chapter President Jenny Welch offered the expertise of our Chapter to help plan the landscaping for the reconstructed Highlands Elementary School in Kissimmee. Her efforts are paying off in a big way. On June 16<sup>th</sup>, the retention pond, incorporating a littoral zone, was planted using a variety of native plants that she suggested to the landscape architect.

Prior to her involvement, there wasn't any evidence that a littoral zone, around this pond, was even being considered as a feature of the new grounds. With Jenny's help, the architect was able to come up with a plan that incorporated her ideas that suggested this sustainable and environmentally sound area for the wildlife that call the Highlands Elementary campus their home.

As you probably know, there is an Eagle nest in one of the trees there, and Jenny's input ensured that everyone involved knew how important it was to take careful steps when working in the vicinity of an active nest so that the Eagles were afford proper protection.

And now, additional wildlife will benefit and thrive thanks to Jenny's efforts. Hopefully local residents and businesses will incorporate this great feature in their own landscaping plans to expand urban wildlife corridors throughout Osceola County.



Before



After

## Littoral zones

A littoral zone is the area closest to the shore of a water body (the topmost area). In this particular zone, sunlight can reach to the bottom so it is the warmest. The plants in this zone provide an important function in life since they start the process of changing inorganic material into something usable as food. They are a crucial element to the start of the food chain. The source of all food is the activity of autotrophs, mainly photosynthesis by plants.

An autotroph, in ecology, is an organism that serves as a primary producer in a food chain. Autotrophs obtain energy and nutrients by harnessing sunlight through photosynthesis (photoautotrophs) or, more rarely, obtain chemical energy through oxidation (chemoautotrophs) to make organic substances from inorganic ones. Autotrophs do not consume other organisms; they are, however, consumed by heterotrophs. (Source: *Encyclopædia Britannica; eb.com*)

Plants in the littoral zone filter out some chemicals and toxins that would otherwise make their way into the waters, potentially fouling them which in turn would jeopardize the health of wildlife and humans alike.

The littoral zone also sustains a fairly diverse community, which can include several species of algae (like diatoms), rooted and floating aquatic plants, grazing snails, clams, insects, crustaceans, fishes and amphibians. In the case of the insects, such as dragonflies and midges, only the egg and larvae stages are found in this zone. The vegetation and animals living in the littoral zone are food for other creatures such as turtles, snakes, and ducks. (Source: *University of California Museum of Paleontology*)

## Help Wanted – Bok Towers

Bok Tower Gardens is seeking a large number of volunteers for a big planting project as part of the “Knoll” restoration at the gardens. The event is scheduled daily for the first 2 weeks in August. For more information and to sign up visit: <http://3196101.poll daddy.com/s/volunteers-needed-for-bok-tower-gardens-sandhill-restoration-planting-event-8-1-to-8-14-2011>

Questions: Katrina Noland, Land Steward Telephone 863.676.1408 ext 2254 or [knoland@boktower.org](mailto:knoland@boktower.org)

# Upcoming

**August** - Jaret Daniels  
Subject: tba

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

**October** - TBA

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## Florida Native Plant Partnership

### Florida Association of Native Nurseries

Association of Florida Native Nurseries (AFFN) has changed its name to Florida Association of Native Nurseries (FANN).

Same great organization, new and improved acronym and logo. Florida gardeners can check out their new Website: <http://www.plantrealflorida.org>, which enables you to find native plants appropriate for your area. They publish the annual *Guide for Real Florida Gardeners*. If you haven't already gotten a copy, pick it up at our monthly meeting.

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## Fundraising

We received a \$119.00 check from sales at the chapter booth at the conference. The items we sold were jewelry handmade by Sandy Webb and Jenny Welch. Special thanks for their continued helpful efforts to the Chapter. If you have any fundraising ideas, please let someone on the Board know.

## Species Spotlight

### SPOTTED BEEBALM (*Monarda punctata*)



Photo © 2010 Loret

A member of the mint family (Lamiaceae), this herbaceous perennial is 3 to 4 ft tall. The plant has square stems. Propagate by division or by seed.

Seeds can also be broadcast on a weed-free surface from January to mid-May in a sunny location. During the first summer of full growth mow the area 3 to 5 times to keep the plants between 8 and 4 inches tall. Mowing also reduces weeds.

*sources: Floridata.com & USDA*

Continue mowing the area, once a year, after a killing frost or in the spring. This keeps woody plants from encroaching and removes plants that have died back.

Likes full sun, but tolerates partial shade; drought tolerant, but it will flower more profusely if given water during dry periods.

Plant it in masses in the back of a border or let it self-seed in a natural area. Perfect for a meadow garden or less formal butterfly garden, as it can spread.

This plant is attractive to hummingbirds and has various Ethnobotanic uses, including treating colds and reducing fever.

Hardiness: USDA Zones 5 - 10.

## Save the Date

**Thursday, July 14, 2011**  
7:00 pm

### Florida Wildflowers

Leu Gardens  
1920 N. Forest Avenue  
Orlando

Lisa Roberts will give a presentation on Florida's wildflowers at the meeting of the Central Florida Chapter Florida Trail Association. Details: 407-739-1201.

**Tuesdays, Aug 2–Nov 15, 2011**  
8:00 am – 5:00 pm

### Master Gardeners' Training

Osceola Extension Services,  
Osceola Heritage Park  
1921 Kissimmee Valley Lane

Registrations are being taken now!  
321-697-3000.

Supply fee of \$100.00 applies.

### Friday August 5, 2011

9:00am - 3:00 pm

### Aquatics Workshop – Invasive Species ID and Management

Orange County Extension Office  
6021 S Conway Rd, Orlando  
Learn to identify and manage aquatic invasive exotic vegetation and animals.

Space is limited: Registration is first come, first served by email to [dtharp@tnc.org](mailto:dtharp@tnc.org).

**Volunteers Needed**  
 Kissimmee Farmers Market Kids'  
 Day ..... July 21 and  
 August 4 9am – 12 pm  
 Back to School/ Back to  
 Business ..... Mon Aug 15,  
 2pm - 8pm  
 Kissimmee Pots  
 Maintenance ..... ongoing  
 contact Jenny Welch

## Before and After – Groundselbush Beetle

(*Trirhabda bacharidis*)

Larvae and adults in this genus usually feed on leaves and flowers of a single plant species, in this case *Baccharis halimifolia* (Groundsel Tree; Sea Myrtle) from which it gets its common name.



© Loret



© Loret

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Contact Loret via email or call (407) 433-4483 for more  
 information.

## What's Blooming

*Vernonia gigantea* (GIANT IRONWEED); *Chamaecrista fasciculata* (PARTRIDGE PEA); *Rhexia spp.* (MEADOWBEAUTY); *Monarda punctata* (SPOTTED BEEBALM); *Asclepias pedicellata* (SAVANNAH MILKWEED); *Buchnera americana* (AMERICAN BLUEHEARTS ); *Phytolacca americana* AMERICAN POKEWEED; *Passiflora incarnata* PURPLE PASSIONFLOWER

### 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:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$35           | <input type="checkbox"/> Not-for-profit organization \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Full time student \$15    | <input type="checkbox"/> Business or corporate \$125      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Library subscription \$15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Donor \$250                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family or household \$50  | <input type="checkbox"/> Life \$1000                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contributing \$75         |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting \$100          |   |

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.