



# The Lily Pad

## Upcoming Events HELP WANTED

We have the opportunity to showcase our Chapter and Organization at the Kissimmee Arts and Crafts Festival but we need VOLUNTEERS to help cover this two-day event (Nov. 18-19). You don't have to commit to both days, or even a full day. Any time you can offer to man the information table, help kids with a craft (to be decided) will be appreciated. We also will need tour

guides so people can see the results of the hard work that Jenny and Company have put into improving the downtown planters.

Make an effort and lend a hand. Volunteer!

☆☆☆

## October Meeting

Get your appetites ready! Peggy Lantz will teach us about Edible Natives. Join us on Thursday, October 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30p.

October 2011  
Volume 5, Issue 9



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](mailto:mwelch@cfl.rr.com)

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President:**

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.....[mjohnson@ecotonelanddesign.com](mailto:mjohnson@ecotonelanddesign.com)

**Secretary:**

Sandy Webb..... [slwebbzeit@gmail.com](mailto:slwebbzeit@gmail.com)

**Treasurer:**

Kaity Storer ..... email pending

**Chapter Rep:**

..... Apply now

**Membership:**

Susan Parent ..... [sparent20@yahoo.com](mailto:sparent20@yahoo.com)

**Publicity/Newsletter:**

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

**Meeting is Thursday  
October 20<sup>th</sup> 6:30 p.m.**

First United Methodist Church  
101 W. Dakin Avenue, Kissimmee

### New/Renewing Members

Paul Lowry (transfer)           N  
Sandy Webb                       R

## A Message of Thanks from Osceola Education Foundation

September 15, 2011

Thank you to all of you that support our programs and a big thank you to all of the sponsors of last night's event. We could not have done it without you. You are some the best.

Fusion Signs for donating the wrap of the Kid's Closet Sign;

Home Depot for donating all of the plants at the Kid's Closet and for their employees that donated their time for free to work on planting;

**Pine Lily Florida Native Plant Society** for spending many hours of their time to plant and landscape; Golden Carriage Florist for donating an amazing centerpiece; Zenith students for preparing wonderful appetizers for this event and all of the amazing restaurants that donated food and their time to serve at this event: Boston Lobster Feast, Chick Fil A, Coke, Dominos, McDonalds, Pei Wei, Planet Smoothie, Signature on the Lake, Sweet Tomatoes, Unos Pizza, Village Inn.

HAVE A GREAT WEEKEND EVERYONE.

Judy Alexander

Partners in Education Specialist

OASIS Department

"But a weed is simply a plant that wants to grow where people want something else. In blaming nature, people mistake the culprit. Weeds are people's idea, not nature's."

—Author Unknown

# What IS The Back Ten Feet

by Sue Scott

The Back Ten Feet (of any typical property) is a starting point for converting water wasteful, boring, unproductive turf grass yards into drought tolerant, wildlife friendly, interesting and storm protective landscapes. In The Back Ten Feet, we DO NOT use fertilizers, pesticides or any other man-made chemicals or additives, in order to keep our water clean and our yards safe for children, pets, birds and butterflies. We use flowers, shrubs and trees NATIVE to the region where we live, and we purchase those NATIVE plants from LOCAL native nurseries, in order to ensure the plants we buy are grown in our region and come from stock that is NOT treated with harmful pesticides.

In The Back Ten Feet, we learn that by providing a balance in our yards that mimics natural systems, insects and other bugs are kept in check naturally, and that a few plants with leaves that are chewed is nothing to get hysterical about, natives are MEANT to be eaten. In fact, wherever you live, NATIVE shrubs and trees are utilized by native butterflies as larval host plants, and spraying with pesticides puts their species' very existence at risk. In The Back Ten Feet, we make a commitment to treating other life forms with respect and care, and we enjoy knowing we have company, that we are not alone. The Back Ten Feet landscapes are filled with the songs of birds, humming of native bees and other bugs. Native plants are judged to be beautiful not by the size of their blooms, but how much food, shelter and nesting sites they provide.

And finally, The Back Ten Feet is a starting point for communities to create greenways throughout their neighborhoods, using only about \$150 per yard for native plants, free mulch from local tree trimmers, and NO money or labor from their local governments. Imagine if just half the property owners in our communities created back ten feet landscapes in their yards and business sites: cooler, cleaner, living landscapes with minimal work and investment.

Learn more, work less, and enjoy!

*Sue Scott, a Master Naturalist, strives to provide property owners in Florida with a sustainable approach to gardening/landscaping. She is a Master Naturalist and has been an Environmental Professional of the Year, Southwest Florida Audubon Society. Sue currently works in Television Production. Email Sue at backtenfeet@gmail.com. Learn more about her and The Back Ten Feet concept at [www.backtenfeet.com](http://www.backtenfeet.com). And be sure to "Like" her facebook page.*

# Team up at the MG Plant Sale

by Loret

Jenny Welch, Sandy Webb and I met with the Steering Committee of the Master Gardeners of Osceola County to discuss providing native plants at their upcoming Fall Plant Sale in November. The organization was very receptive and will accept any plants we provide on a consignment basis. The result of sales of these particular plants will be split between the Master Gardeners and The Pine Lily Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society.

It will be up to our Chapter to organize our plants and provide a list that includes the plant, pot size and price. We are to mark all pots with a fluorescent orange dot. Jenny and/or I will see that the pots get marked, so you need not worry about this aspect.

We need to tag the individual plants, providing planting information such as sun requirements, water requirements, size at maturity, bloom color, etc.

These plants should also be marked with the name and preferably include the scientific name, so it is clearly apparent that they are native to Florida. FNPS uses the *Atlas of Florida Vascular Plants* produced by the Institute of Systematic Botany as the authority to determine the nativity of plants. This can be found on the internet: <http://www.florida.plantatlas.usf.edu/>

This is an important **fund raising** opportunity for us and we hope that all members will contribute some plants that they can propagate and/or spare from their own gardens. Jenny will need to know what plants and the size pots prior to the sale in order to make up our consignment list. The Plant Sale is Friday and Saturday, November 4-5. We will be setting up on Thursday and **volunteers** are needed. We also will need help at the sale itself. It's a fun event and you can get nice plants at reasonable prices, so be sure to stop by. It all takes place in the area behind the Extension Services office at Osceola Heritage Park on 192. There is parking. Melaluca Mulch, which is an environmentally sound alternative to Cypress mulch will also be available at rock bottom prices.

# Highlands Elementary

Highlands has received their wildflower seeds from the Florida Wildflower Foundation Grant. Their wildflower bed is not even started. Ideas needed on how to get the flower bed ready quickly so that they can get these seeds sown in time for Spring blooms. Contact Jenny Welch.

## Upcoming

**November** - I. Jack Stout  
 Subject: Lake McLeod Tract of Lake  
 Wales Ridge National Wildlife  
 Refuge; Tales of the Scrub Lupine

**December** - No meeting, Happy  
 Holidays!

**January** - tba

## September followup

by Loret

Cheryl Peterson of Bok Tower Rare Plant Collection gave a detailed presentation outlining the obstacles they encounter in trying to propagate and save threatened and endangered plants of Florida and the various methods the team works on to do so. The complicated methods of seed gathering, the precision propagation, testing and planting, with sometime limited success, goes to show that it is imperative to preserve as much of the natural habitats necessary to preserve our flora so they can flourish in the wild, as intended.

Jenny Welch brought some sweets, Loret provided some plants as door prizes and we realized \$11.00 in the drawing for the Coral Honeysuckle.

## Gopher Tortoise Conservation

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is asking the public to share its thoughts on improving conservation of the gopher tortoise, a state threatened species. The plan will be updated in 2012.

Citizens with suggestions on revising the Gopher Tortoise Management

## Species Spotlight

### **LOPSIDED INDIANGRASS (*Sorghastrum secundum*)**



Photo © 2011 Loret

A member of the grass family (Poaceae). Lopsided Indiangrass is a warm-season, perennial bunch grass. The height ranges from 3 to 6 feet. The seedhead has a narrow golden brown one-sided panicle giving its common name.

It is adapted to well-drained soils. It does not grow on poorly drained sites or on sites subject to standing water.

source: *Florida Wildflowers Growers Coop & USDA*

Plant in full sun to high pine shade.

Bloom Season: Fall

Tall and wispy the showy display lasts about 2 to 3 weeks.

Seeds are available via the web from the Florida Wildflowers Growers Cooperative:

<http://www.floridawildflowers.com> or you can obtain containerized plants from some native plant nurseries. Stop by <http://www.afnn.org/> to find a member nursery or give your local nursery a call to see if they have this beauty available.

Excellent forage for cattle and wild birds feed on seeds.

Plan can review the plan and submit their ideas online at: <http://share.myfwc.com/GT2/Lists/Input> on Revisions to the GT Mgmt Plan. Public input will be accepted through Nov. 28.

## Save the Date

**Saturday, October 22, 2011**  
 9:00 am- 1:00pm

**Native Plant Awareness Day/  
 Plant Sale sponsored by FNPS  
 Cuplet Fern Chapter**

Environmental Studies Center,  
 Spring Hammock Preserve,  
 2985 Osprey Trail; Longwood

Plant experts, guided hike, native plant workshops, vendors, NATIVE PLANTS FOR SALE, and exhibitors. info: 407 349-0959

**Saturday, October 15, 2011**

8:00am - 6:00 pm

**Boktoberfest & Plant Sale**

Bok Tower Gardens  
 1151 Tower Blvd. Lake Wales, FL

Free parking/admission. Multiple Vendors, Pinewood Estate Tours, Children and Family Activities, Live Entertainment, Info: 863.676.1408  
<http://boktoberfest.com>

**Fri/Sat, November 4-5, 2011**

9 am – 2 pm

**Master Gardener Plant Sale**

Behind KVLS Building,  
 Osceola Heritage Park

**Volunteers Needed**  
 MG Plant Sale..... Nov 4-5  
 Kissimmee Arts/Crafts  
 ..... Nov 19-20  
 New Beginnings School  
 ..... Wednesdays  
 Kissimmee Pots  
 Maintenance ..... ongoing  
 Highlands Elementary  
 Wildflower Garden  
 help..... tba  
 contact Jenny Welch

Historical Gardens Landscaping  
 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday each month  
 9:30a – 12:30p  
 contact Kattya Graham  
 407 396 8644 or  
 kattya@osceolahistory.org

# Before and After – Viceroy

*(Limenitis archippus)*

Identification is difficult to pinpoint down to subspecies of which there are several. A Florida native larval host for this species is willows (*Salix spp.*). The Viceroy mimics the color of the Monarch and Queen butterflies, which are distasteful to birds, in an effort to protect itself from predators.



Photos © Loret

## Helping Wildlife Reminder

Skip the Fall Cleanup! Deadheading removes fruits and seeds vital to a bird's diet during the winter when insects are less plentiful. Raking breaks down brush, which is good for protective cover of many different species. Leave the cleanup duties for the Spring.

## Extension Services

**GARDEN PARTY - The public is welcome!**  
 Saturday, October 29, 2011, 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm  
 Come celebrate 30 years of the Osceola County Master Gardeners. Visit our demonstration gardens and attend our gardening seminars. Light refreshments will be offered.

**Florida Master Naturalist Program – Uplands**  
 Monday, November 7, - December 12, 2011 8:30 am – 4:30 pm  
 Forever Florida & other locations throughout Osceola County  
 Register online at <http://masternaturalist.org>; Fee \$225

### 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.