

Florida Native Plant Society



Pine Lily Chapter

October 2017



**Next meeting
Thursday, Oct. 26:
Jessica Sullivan
Landscaping for
Pollinators**

Landscaping for Pollinators

At the next chapter meeting, Jessica Sullivan, faculty with the University of Florida IFAS Extension in Osceola County, will share information about Florida's pollinators and tips for creating a pollinator-friendly landscape. Jessica, who has a bachelor's degree in horticulture and a master's degree in entomology, works in the areas of sustainable agriculture and food systems. She also is an ISA certified arborist and a certified crop advisor.

Chapter meetings held 4th Thursday of the month
**Note: Due to holidays, meetings will not be held in
November or December.**

6:00 to 6:30 p.m. – Social and Refreshments

6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. – Meeting

Kissimmee Utility Authority Building

1701 W. Carroll Street, Kissimmee, FL

We hope to see you there!

Upcoming Events

- October Field Trip: Saturday, Oct. 28 – 8 a.m. Hal Scott Preserve. **See page 3 for details.**
- November Field Trip: Sunday, Nov. 19, 2017 – Three Lakes Water Management Area. **See page 3 for details.**
- Due to upcoming holidays, the next regular chapter meeting will be Jan. 25. More information will be shared soon.

September Meeting Highlights

Taking a close-up view of plants, Dick Diener, a longtime volunteer at Bok Tower Gardens, was guest speaker at the Sept. 28 meeting. His talk, "Small & Beautiful: A Sample of Florida's Tiny Flora," featured dozens of photos of small and beautiful blossoms on everything from tillandsia and poison ivy to resurrection ferns and frog fruit.

Also at the meeting, attending chapter members elected Laura Bennett-Kimble interim vice president. Chapter President Karina Veaudry shared information on small native trees that can enhance landscapes; for details, see below. In addition, numerous lovely native plants were offered for sale.



Florida Native Plant Society 2018 Conference: Call for Research Track Papers and Poster Presentations

The Florida Native Plant Society Annual Conference will be held May 17-20, 2018, at the Miccosukee Resort in Miami. The Research Track of the Conference will include presented papers and a poster session on May 18 and May 19.

Researchers are invited to submit abstracts on research related to native plants and plant communities of Florida, including preservation, conservation, and restoration. Presentations are to be 20 minutes (15 min. presentation, 5 min. questions).

Abstracts of not more than 200 words should be submitted as a MS Word file by email to [Paul A. Schmalzer](mailto:Paul.A.Schmalzer) by Feb. 1, 2018. Include title, affiliation, and address. Indicate whether you will present a paper or poster.



Photo: Zebra Swallowtail and Liatris.

Last Month's Field Trip: Split Oak Forest

Sept. 23, Pine Lily Chapter members joined other plant aficionados, bird-watchers and hikers for a sunny nature walk through the beautiful 1,700-acre Split Oak Forest Wildlife and Environmental Area in the Lake Nona area.

During almost three miles of hiking, the group spotted an eastern meadowlark, various warblers and dragonflies, butterflies including zebra swallowtails and more. Native plants in bloom included Chapman's blazing star (*Liatris chapmanii*), narrowleaf silkgrass (*Pityopsis graminifolia*), whitemouth dayflower (*Commelina erecta*) and vanillaleaf (*Carphephorus odoratissimus*), among others.

Organized by Pine Lily, Orange Audubon Society and Kissimmee Valley Audubon Society, the outing was led by Split Oak enthusiasts Valerie Anderson and Dave Wegman. In response to plans for a toll road to be erected through the forest, the two created a Facebook group, "Friends of Split Oak Forest," to communicate with citizens interested in the nature area. The group is closed, but if you are interested in joining, simply click the request button on the group's page. Response is typically prompt.



FNPS 2018 Endowment Grant Research Awards, Conservation Grant Awards and the Dan Austin Award for Ethnobotany

The Florida Native Plant Society maintains an **Endowment Research Grant** program for the purpose of funding research on native plants. These are small grants (\$1,500 or less), awarded for a 1-year period, and intended to support research that forwards the mission of the Florida Native Plant Society which is "to promote the preservation, conservation, and restoration of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida."

FNPS Conservation Grants support applied native plant conservation projects in Florida. These grants (\$5,000 or less) are awarded for a 1-year period. Projects promote the preservation, conservation, or restoration of rare or imperiled native plant taxa and rare or imperiled native plant communities. To qualify for a Conservation Grant, the proposed project must be sponsored by an FNPS Chapter.

The **Dan Austin Award for Ethnobotany** will provide up to \$1,500 to graduate or undergraduate students who are studying Florida ethnobotany, the study of the relationship between peoples or cultures with plants native to Florida or Florida ecosystems. These can be current or historic uses.

Application guidelines and details are on the [FNPS website](#). Click "What We Do/Grants and Awards." Questions regarding the grant programs should be sent to info@fnps.org.

Application deadline is March 2, 2018. Awards will be announced at the May 2018 Annual Conference at the Miccosukee Resort in Miami. Awardees do not have to be present at the Conference to receive award.

Upcoming Field Trips

Hal Scott Regional Preserve

Location: 3871 Dallas Boulevard, Orlando, FL 32833

Date/Time: Saturday, Oct. 28, 8 a.m. (meet at preserve parking area).

Field trip leader: Native plant expert Pete Dunkleberg.



Bring: Hat, drinking water and picnic lunch.

Hal Scott Regional Preserve, a 9,515-acre nature area, is located along the banks of the Econlockhatchee River in east Orange County. Timucua mounds have been found in the northern part of the site, and some campsites on the property date back several thousand years.

The area consists of flatwoods and open prairie, with hammocks of cypress, maple, pine, oak, and sweetgum trees, interlaced with creeks and rivers. Wildlife includes deer, turkey, bald eagles, sandhill cranes, gopher tortoises, bobcats, river otters, indigo snakes and downy woodpeckers. The preserve is also home to a few breeding pairs of the threatened red-cockaded woodpecker.

Directions

From Orlando:

Head east on State Road (SR) 50 to SR 520. From SR 520, turn west into the Wedgefield subdivision on Macon Parkway. Turn left on Bancroft Boulevard, right on Meredith Parkway, left on Dallas Boulevard/County Hwy-13. The park entrance is 1.6 miles from the Meredith/Dallas intersection, on the right. There is an exit for Dallas Boulevard from the BeeLine (FL-528) east-bound expressway (tolls).

From the Kissimmee area:

Use Florida's Turnpike north to head to FL-417 N/Central Florida Greenway North (tolls). From FL-417, take the FL-528 Exit 26 east-bound expressway for approximately 8 miles (tolls). Take the Dallas Boulevard Exit 24 and then turn left onto Dallas Blvd. The park entrance is 1.6 miles from the Meredith/Dallas intersection, on the right.

Sunset Ranch Trail – Kenansville, FL

Location: [Prairie Lakes Unit WMA area map](#)

Date/Time: Saturday, Nov. 18, 8 a.m.

Meet at 8 a.m. at Publix parking lot, 3372 Canoe Creek Rd., Saint Cloud, FL 34772. It is a one-hour drive to the site. We will carpool and caravan (follow each other). Back at Publix parking lot at approximately noon.

Contact number day of event: Tosohatchee office (407) 568-5893. **Cell phone reception:** Good.

Bring: Drinking water, snacks, binoculars, closed-toed shoes, long pants recommended.

Trail length: 2.2 mile loop. **Degree of Difficulty:** Easy to Moderate (Natural trail, level ground, boardwalk, mostly shade). **Wheelchair access:** No. **Entrance fee:** \$3 per person or \$6 per vehicle (or purchase an annual Wildlife Management Area permit \$26.50 from any Florida tax collector office).

Field trip leader: [Eleanor Foerste](#), former University of Florida IFAS Extension agent and current President of [Eleanor Foerste Adventures, LLC](#).

Explore a natural trail through pine flatwoods, cypress swamp, prairie, and huge canopy oaks to an overlook on Lake Marian in a 'No Hunting' area within the Prairie Lakes Unit of Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) manages the land for non-game wildlife and recreation. The trail head is approximately 28 miles south of St. Cloud on Canoe Creek Road. The fenced parking area is on the right (west side) approximately 4 miles south of the Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area designated camping area. Watch for eastern bluebirds, Audubon's crested caracara, bald eagles, whooping cranes, sandhill cranes, Osceola turkeys and bobcats along the drive.

Nearest restrooms: There is an outhouse at the check-in station. **Nearest gas station:** From the WMA entrance is on SR 50: 3.7 miles going east or 9 miles going west.

Focus on Native Plants in Central Florida

Small native trees provide not just aesthetic elements to a landscape, they also support other native species, including birds, invertebrates and more. Here's an overview of several native trees that don't take up too much space.

Hercules' Club/Toothache Tree (*Zanthoxylum clava-herculis*)

- Florida native, citrus family.
- Grows naturally in dry (scrub, sandhill) areas.
- Extremely drought tolerant.
- Host plant for giant swallowtail butterfly.
- Fruits are prized by birds.
- Good for nest placement.
- Open branching.
- Has thorns.



Hollies (Dahoon Holly, East Palatka Holly)

- Various species of native hollies are available in Florida, adapted to wet, mesic and dry habitats.
- Fruits are prized by birds, including American Robins and Cedar Waxwings (below).
- Good bird cover and nest locations.
- Hollies are dioecious, requiring male and female trees to cross-pollinate before the female trees set fruit.



Native Plums

Prunus angustifolia (Chickasaw Plum)

Prunus umbellata (Flatwoods Plum)

- Beautiful spring blossoms.
- Attractive fruit.
- Suitable for open or wooded yards.
- Drought tolerant once established.
- Chickasaw plum tends to sucker.



Fringe Trees

Chionanthus virginicus (Fringe Tree)

Chionanthus pygmaeus (Pygmy Fringe Tree)

- Frilly/showy spring blossoms.
- Purple fruit for birds.
- Drought tolerant-sun or partial shade.



Palms & Palmettos

- Provide fruit and insects for birds.
- Provide excellent cover and nesting locations.
- Well adapted to Florida climate.
- Palmettos make a beautiful natural screen.

Winged Sumac (*Rhus copallinum*)

- Great for woodland edges or background plants.
- Showy flower and fruit clusters-pretty fall color.
- Dry, sandy soils best.
- Spreading tendency: aggressive.



Pine Lily Chapter Board and Committee Chairs

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| ▪ Karina Veaudry-Hindle – President | ▪ Taylor Figueroa – Chapter Representative |
| ▪ Laura Bennett-Kimble – Vice President | ▪ Susan Parent – Membership Coordinator |
| ▪ Kathleen Devitt – Secretary | ▪ Eleanor Foerste – Education/Outreach Coordinator |
| ▪ Sandy Webb – Treasurer | ▪ Jenny Welch – Native Plant Festival Coordinator |

Newsletter Editor: Laura Bennett-Kimble