

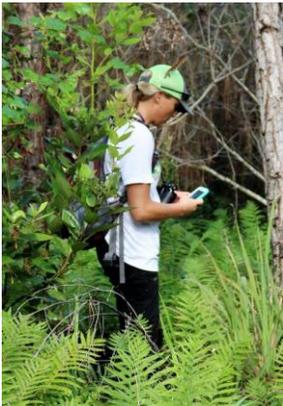


Florida Native Plant Society

Pine Lily Chapter

News & Notes
September 2018

Sept. 27 Chapter Meeting: Conservation in Osceola County



This month's meeting will highlight conservation efforts in Osceola County, including activities intended to stop construction of a proposed toll road through Split Oak Forest Wildlife and Environmental Area. Valerie Anderson, Friends of Split Oak Forest president and FNPS Pine Lily Chapter Policy

and Legislation chair, will lead the presentation.

Please join us! Call (321) 388-4781 for more information.



Last month's speaker

In August, Deborah Krause of School of Holistic Living shared insights and information about herbal remedies created from various plants, including Bidens Alba and other native Florida species.

Circle B Bar Reserve Field Trip Saturday, Sept. 22

If you're looking for adventure, you'll want to join us for this month's field trip to the wild and wonderful [Circle B Bar Reserve](#) near Lakeland in Polk County.

Park Program Director Tabitha Biehl will give us a tour of the native plant demonstration gardens, sharing the triumphs and challenges of their extensive land restoration projects. Following our tour, we will be on our own for optional activities, including viewing the indoor exhibits, exploring the trails or enjoying a picnic lunch in one of the shaded picnic pavilions.

Circle B Bar Reserve, on the shore of Lake Hancock, is a 1,267-acre former cattle ranch that boasts a wide variety of plants and animals in several distinct ecosystems. The Polk County Board Commissioners and Southwest Florida Water Management District acquired the site in 2000, primarily to protect the valuable water and wildlife resources and restore the Banana Creek marsh system.

Park entrance fee is \$5 per person, payable the day of event. So we know how many attendees will take the tour, please register on our [Chapter Eventbrite page](#). Meet at 9:15 a.m. outside the Discovery Center. The tour begins at 9:30 a.m. and ends around 11:30 a.m.

For more information on this and other events, please visit our Facebook [events page](#).



Upcoming Events

- Sept. 22: Field trip — Circle B Bar Reserve
- Oct. 2: Florida Native Plant Month Special Program — "Wildflowers and Serendipity," Harry P. Leu Gardens, Orlando
- Oct. 25: Chapter Meeting — Speaker information pending
- Oct. 26–28: Field trip — Friends of Split Oak Fall Bioblitz
- Oct. 27: Pine Lily Plant Nerds Blitzteam Hike
- Nov. 3: Native plant sale at Great Outdoors Day, St. Cloud

For additional event information, check out our Facebook [events page](#).

Documenting Split Oak's Biodiversity



Photo: Stacy Klema

The Split Oak Forest Wildlife and Environmental Area's [iNaturalist project](#) is now the top Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission project in the state by number of observations!

On the nature-focused crowdsourcing site, almost 70 people have logged information on more than 570 species found in Split Oak Forest, including shortleaf blazing star (*Liatrix tenuifolia*), above, and other native beauties.

To keep the momentum going, a [Fall BioBlitz](#) on Oct. 26–28 has been scheduled. For its October field trip, the Pine Lily Chapter is fielding a [Plant Nerds Blitzteam](#) Oct. 27, 8–10 a.m., with a goal of documenting not-yet seen native plants in Split Oak.

Split Oak Forest, which was set aside as a protected natural space for perpetuity, is under threat from a toll road: the Osceola Parkway Extension.

Interested in learning more? Attend the Sept. 27 Pine Lily Chapter meeting, visit [Friends of Split Oak Forest](#) or contact Pine Lily Policy and Legislation Committee Chair [Valerie Anderson](#) at (386) 852-2539.

Rescuing Native Plants



Plant rescue work is continuing at a beautiful sandhill habitat in Clermont. The location is home to several rare and endangered native plants, and volunteers are needed to help with the project before the bulldozers arrive this fall. There are several rescue dates scheduled in October.

Projects are planned for Osceola County, as well. If you are interested in helping FNPS rescue plants threatened by development — and if you have any plastic pots to donate, please email [Taylor Figueroa](#).

Upcoming Events at Split Oak

Want to experience the beauty of Split Oak for yourself? Join us for the following events! Most activities leave from the main entrance, 12175 Clapp Simms Duda Road, unless otherwise indicated. Click [here](#) for more information.

- 🍃 Oct. 6, Yoga in the Forest, 10:30 a.m.
- 🍃 Oct. 26–28, Fall BioBlitz
- 🍃 Oct. 27, Pine Lily Plant Nerd Blitzteam Hike, 8 a.m.
- 🍃 Oct. 27, Kids Blitzteam, 11 a.m.



Celebrate FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT MONTH



The FNPS is proud to celebrate the 4th annual Florida Native Plant Month statewide program. The recognition is being given to emphasize the crucial role of native plants in sustaining healthy, diverse ecosystems that support wildlife.

FNPS encourages property owners to celebrate Florida Native Plant Month by incorporating native trees, shrubs, vines, wildflowers and grasses into their landscapes. This benefits the environment by drastically reducing the need for irrigation, fertilizers and pesticides. Native plants are also the preferred choice for attracting birds, butterflies and other wildlife to the garden.

Native Plant Month Lectures

In celebration of Florida Native Plant Month, the Pine Lily Chapter is sponsoring a series of lectures at Osceola Library System branches throughout October. Learn how to beautify your yard, cut down on sweaty landscape work, and help Florida's delicate ecosystem by planting native plants in your yard.

Program dates

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| Oct. 4: Hart branch, 6 p.m. | Oct. 10: Hart branch, 10 a.m. |
| Oct. 5: Buenaventura branch, 10 a.m. | Oct. 10: St. Cloud branch, 6 p.m. |
| Oct. 8: Celebration branch, 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. | Oct. 22: Poinciana branch, 6 p.m. |
| Oct. 9: St. Cloud branch, 10 a.m. | |

In addition, on Oct. 2 at 7 p.m., you can join Florida Native Plant Society chapter members from around the area for a celebratory special event at Harry P. Leu Gardens in Orlando: "Wildflowers and Serendipity," a presentation by Rufino Osorio, author of "A Gardener's Guide to Florida's Native Plants."

Read more about [Florida Native Plant Month](#).

Pine Lily Chapter Board and Committee Chairs

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|---|---|
|  Karina Veaudry-Hindle – President |  Valerie Anderson – Policy and Legislation Committee Chair |
|  Laura Bennett-Kimble – Vice President |  Sandy Webb – Conservation Committee Chair |
|  VACANCIES – Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Coordinator * |  Eleanor Foerste – Education/Outreach Coordinator |
|  Tayler Figueroa – Chapter Representative |  Jenny Welch – Native Plant Festival Coordinator |

* If you are interested in serving in one of these roles, please contact Karina at (321) 388-4781.

Newsletter Editor: Laura Bennett-Kimble

Gardening For Life, Part 2: **A book excerpt from Douglas Tallamy, renowned entomology researcher and educator**

The population of the U.S., now over 300 million people, has doubled since most of us were kids and continues to grow by 8,640 people per day. All of those additional souls, coupled with cheap gas, our love affair with the car, and our quest to own ever larger homes, have fueled unprecedented development that continues to sprawl over 2 million additional acres per year (the size of Yellowstone National Park).

The Chesapeake Bay watershed has lost 100 acres of forest each day since 1985. We have connected all of our developments with 4 million miles of roads; the paved surface is nearly five times the size of New Jersey. [And] we have planted over 62,500 square miles, some 40 million acres, in lawn. Each weekend we mow an area 8 times the size of New Jersey to within 1 inch and then congratulate ourselves on a job well done. And it's not like those little woodlots and "open spaces" we have not paved over or manicured are pristine ... Over 3,400 species of alien plants have invaded 100 million acres of the U.S, and that area is expected to double in the next 5 years.

We have turned 54% of the lower 48 states into cities and suburbs, and 41% more into various forms of agriculture. That's right: we humans have taken 95% of nature and made in unnatural ... Once common species such as the northern bobwhite, eastern meadowlark, field sparrow, and grasshopper sparrow have declined 82%, 72%, 68%, and 65%, respectively, in total numbers, and are completely absent from many areas that used to support healthy populations ...

Biodiversity losses are a clear sign that our own life-support systems are failing ... It is biodiversity that generates oxygen and clean water; that creates topsoil out of rock and buffers extreme weather events like droughts and floods; and that recycles the mountains of garbage we create every day. And now, with human induced climate change threatening the planet, it is biodiversity that will suck that carbon out of the air and sequester it in living plants if given half a chance.

Humans cannot live as the only species on this planet because it is other species that create the ecosystem services essential to us. Every time we force a species to extinction we are encouraging our own demise. Despite the disdain with which we have treated it in the past, biodiversity is not optional.



Florida Native Plant Society Mission

Promote the preservation, conservation, and restoration of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida.

The Society fulfills this mission through:

- Support for conservation land acquisition.
- Land management that enhances habitat suitability for native plants.
- Education.
- Public policies that protect our native flora, especially rare species.
- Research on native plant species.
- Encouragement of local landscaping practices and policies that preserve Florida's native plant heritage.

For information on FNPS activities in Central Florida and beyond, check out the [FNPS blog](#).

Monthly Meetings

Chapter meetings held 4th Thursday of the month

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!

Let's keep in touch!

Click the icons below to visit Pine Lily Chapter Facebook, Instagram and Twitter pages.



The Pine Lily Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society serves Osceola County and surrounding communities.