



Florida Native Plant Society

Pine Lily Chapter

News & Notes
January 2019

Thursday, Jan. 24 Chapter Meeting: Environmental Lands Conservation Program

Interested in learning about the Environmental Lands Conservation Program in Osceola County? This Thursday, **Osceola County Public Lands Manager Bob Mindick** will share information and answer questions at the Pine Lily Chapter meeting.

This important program was established with a voter-endorsed ad valorem funding source to acquire and manage environmentally significant lands. With the funding, the county issued bonds to purchase nearly 3,300 acres for water resource protection, wildlife habitat, public green space, and resource-based passive recreation.

Find out about the program (formerly known as SAVE, Saving and Valuing our Environment) — and learn more about Florida Native Plant Society work to preserve and protect our native lands — at this month's meeting.

The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Kissimmee Utility Authority building located at 1701 W. Carroll St. in Kissimmee. Please join us!

Pine Lily Supports Osceola County's Natural Areas

 The Florida Native Plant Society mission is all about protecting, promoting, and preserving Florida's beautiful plant life, and that's exactly what Pine Lily is doing. Currently, several Pine Lily board members are working with Osceola County staff on wording for an Urban Forestry Management plan, a landscape ordinance and site development protocols. In addition, we are working on producing and building several demonstration gardens around the county. We'll share more details as plans come together!

Jan. 26 Field Trip: Twin Oaks Conservation Area



Photo credit: Twin Oaks Conservation Area, Osceola County

Pine Lily Chapter's 2019 field trips will focus on natural areas in Osceola County, particularly those acquired by the county through the Environmental Lands Conservation Program. Bob Mindick will discuss the program at our Jan. 24 monthly meeting (see article at left).

Planned field trips for 2019 include:

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| Jan. 26 | Twin Oaks Conservation Area |
| Feb. 23 | Brownie Wise Park at Tupperware Island |
| March 23 | Disney Wilderness Preserve |

Osceola County purchased Twin Oaks, site of our first field trip of the new year, in 2010. The 370-acre parcel, located between Kissimmee and St. Cloud, provides protection and enhancement of water resources, flood storage and wildlife habitat along Lake Tohopekaliga.

Twin Oaks features live oak hammocks, wet prairies, freshwater marshes, shrub wetlands, and remnant cypress. Historically, it served as a cattle ranch and sod production area. Restoration efforts have included reintroduction of more than 45,000 native plants.

The January field trip is right around the corner! Please register at this [Eventbrite page](#) so we know who plans to attend. For more information on this and other events, visit our Facebook [events page](#).

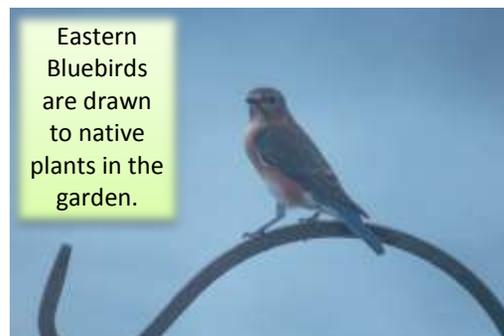
What Does Conservation Mean to You?

The second in a two-part series

By Pine Lily Conservation Committee Chair Sandy Webb

Without our continued help, our pollinators will fail us. There are simply too many chemicals in our environment. There are too many chemicals and too many possible interactions that we don't understand yet. It didn't use to be this way.

The insecticide DDT started the chemical cascade many years ago, and ever since we have been looking for chemicals which are "safer," faster or longer (and shorter) acting, or simply easier to use.



We can reduce this impact by cutting out many chemicals —herbicides, fungicides, pesticides, and fertilizers — in our own yards. This means identifying the "problem" and taking the least poisonous or harmful means to accomplish your goal. This means reading and understanding labeling on containers, and deciding if chemical treatment is necessary.

Planting native flowers, shrubs, and trees is the best way to help our pollinators. They allow insects to munch on their leaves, which is what they are for. Birds and lizards come along and eat many of the insects. Spiders feed insects to their young. Hummingbirds and bluebirds feed spiders to their young. Spiders are usually soft, high in protein, and easy for birds to catch (once they see them — some spiders are well-camouflaged). If your plants aren't being eaten by something, they aren't part of the ecosystem!

The best native plants to use for birds are those that provide food during spring and fall migrations. In spring, birds need insects (which eat your plants), but in fall, they need seeds, berries, and fruit. Diets higher in protein for breeding, egg-laying and young require insects (or fish or meat). Diets high in fats and carbohydrates also are needed for fall migration.

Support your local ecosystem by planting native trees, shrubs and wildflowers in your yard. We recommend using native nurseries, which do not use chemicals. Many plants sold in "big box" stores already have systemic pesticides inside them. These will kill not just "undesirable" insects, but all kinds of pollinators! The systemic insecticide is in the leaves, roots, stems, pollen, and nectar — all parts of a plant. Do we eat those? Yes, we do.

Taking steps to control the amount of chemicals we use and using native plants in our yards are worthwhile conservation efforts. Want to learn more? Join us at our monthly chapter meetings or contact us through the channels shown in the box below this column.

Upcoming Events

- Jan. 24: Chapter meeting — Osceola County Environmental Lands Conservation Program
- Jan. 25: Ribbon Cutting and Hike at Lake Lizzie
- Jan. 26: Field trip — Twin Oaks Conservation Area
- Feb. 23: Field trip — Brownie Wise Conservation Area at Tupperware Island
- Feb. 28: Chapter meeting — Film screening "Gimme Green"
- March 23: Field trip — Disney Wilderness Preserve
- March 28: Chapter meeting — Sandy Webb, Plant Propagation
- April 10: Friends of Split Oak Forest Gopher Tortoise Day

Events are subject to change, so please confirm details prior to attending any activity. For additional event information, check our Facebook [events page by clicking here](#).

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.

Ribbon Cutting and Hike at Lake Lizzie Jan. 25

Jan. 25, join [Florida Trail Association](#) and others at [Lake Lizzie Conservation Area](#) to celebrate one of the newest sections of the Florida National Scenic Trail. Festivities start at the South Trailhead, 6495 Old Melbourne Highway, St. Cloud, at 10:30 a.m.

- 10:30 a.m. Ribbon-cutting ceremony and speakers from the Forest Service, FTA and Osceola County.
- 11:30 a.m. Guided 4-mile hike along the entirety of the Florida Trail in Lake Lizzie, including the blue blazed spur to an overlook of the lake. A shuttle will be provided at the North trailhead for transportation back to the South trailhead. For a shorter hike, participants can round the Marsh Loop, then return back to the South trailhead, for a total of 1.5 miles.
- Noon Food truck/picnic lunch at the South trailhead.
- 3:00 p.m. Event ends.



Photo credit: Lake Lizzie Conservation Area, Osceola County



Florida Native Plant Society Mission

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

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

Split Oak Legal Update

The Friends of Split Oak Forest, a 501(c)(3) organization, Speak Up Wekiva, and Friends of Split Oak Forest President Valerie Anderson are plaintiffs in a lawsuit against Osceola County. The lawsuit was filed over sunshine violations the county is alleged to have made when county officials agreed to a road alignment through Split Oak Forest during an April Osceola Board of County Commissioners meeting.

The plaintiffs made it through their first meeting and will be going back to court soon, Valerie said.

The road alignment favored by the Central Florida Expressway Authority (CFX) and Osceola County Board of County Commissioners goes through the Osceola County-owned part of Split Oak and takes more acreage from Split Oak than the last approved alignment.

Interested in learning more about the lawsuit and how you can protect and enjoy this beautiful natural area? Please visit [Friends of Split Oak Forest](#) or contact [Valerie](#) at (386) 852-2539. Donations, which can be made through the FOSOF website, are always appreciated.

February Movie Night



Feb. 28, the Pine Lily Chapter meeting will feature a film screening of *Gimme Green*, an award-winning documentary about America's obsession with lawns.

Lawns are undeniably an American symbol. Yet, what do they really symbolize? Pride and prosperity? Or waste and conformity?

Excessive areas of lawns have been tied to the lack of native plants in urban and suburban communities, which has been linked to the extirpation of native birds and butterflies.

Gimme Green is a humorous look at the American obsession with the residential lawn and the effects it has on our environment, wallets and outlook on life. Directed by University of Florida graduates Isaac Brown and Eric Flagg, this film is 27 minutes in length. Discussion will follow.

Fall Split Oak BioBlitz Results Are In — And They're Impressive!



For 48 hours, from 7 p.m. Oct. 26 through 7 p.m. Oct. 28, participants in a “BioBlitz” focused on finding and identifying as many species as possible over a short period of time did just that. They found 243 species of plants, animals, and fungi in a total of 627 separate observations.

Friends of Split Oak Forest President Valerie Anderson, Pine Lily Policy and Legislation Committee Chair, was more than pleased with the event’s results.

“Our 26 participants found 60 species completely new to Split Oak Forest and 10 additional species that had been seen by FWC but were not on [iNaturalist](#),” she said.

This includes four threatened species: two butterflies (Byssus and Palmetto skippers), one grass (Florida Jointtail Grass, *Coelorachis tuberculosa*), and one bird species (Florida Scrub Jay).

Pine Lily Chapter’s Plant Nerd Blitzeam found two new plant species (Slender Blazing Star, *Liatris gracilis* and Tall Yelloweyed Grass, *Xyris platylepis*) and a new mushroom species (*Trametes cubensis*).

“Of course, more species might continue to trickle in, since a number of species within the project have not yet been identified to species level,” Valerie added.

Want to help? Jump in [here](#).

More fun events are planned: Mark your calendars for Gopher Tortoise Day, a family-friendly afternoon event, on April 10!

Photo: *Liatris gracilis*, slender blazing star, by Valerie Anderson

Support Pine Lily Through AmazonSmile

Did you know you can support the Pine Lily Chapter through your Amazon purchases?

When you place your Amazon orders through [AmazonSmile](#), the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice. Please consider choosing **Florida Native Plant Society Pine Lily Chapter Inc** as your charity. Thank you!

Pine Lily Chapter Board and Committee Chairs

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

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

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