



Florida Native Plant Society

Pine Lily Chapter

News & Notes
February 2019

Thursday, Feb. 28 Chapter Meeting

Movie Night!



Feb. 28, the Pine Lily Chapter meeting will feature a 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. It's directed by University of Florida graduates Isaac Brown and Eric Flagg. Discussion will follow.

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!

Upcoming Events

- Feb. 23: Field trip — Brownie Wise Conservation Area at Tupperware Island
- Feb. 28: Chapter meeting — "Gimme Green" short film
- 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. Please confirm details prior to any activity. For additional event information, check our Facebook [events page by clicking here](#).

TOMORROW! Feb. 23 Field Trip: Brownie Wise Park



Pine Lily Chapter's February field trip will explore the beautiful Brownie Wise Park at Tupperware Conservation Area. One of the natural areas in Osceola County acquired by the county through the Environmental Lands Conservation Program, formerly known as SAVE Osceola, the site features freshwater marshes, shrub wetlands and remnant cypress. Previously, the property was a cattle ranch and fruit production area.

Site restoration goals are to return the landscape to its natural state to maintain healthy ecological function of the property and reestablish native vegetation to attract wildlife. Reintroduced plants included saw palmetto, longleaf pine, cabbage palm, cypress, oak, bay, magnolia, bluestem, wire grass, and wildflowers.

The February field trip is tomorrow! 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's So Heavenly about Non-Native Heavenly Bamboo?

By Pine Lily Conservation Committee Chair Sandy Webb



Many people plant “heavenly bamboo” (Nandina varieties) in their yards, with the idea that the berries will feed birds. These plants are not bamboo, not heavenly, and although they are drought-tolerant when established, they have another issue: The berries are extremely toxic to birds — as well as kids.

The Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council has placed Nandina domestica (heavenly bamboo) on its Category I invasive exotic list, which describes these species as “altering native plant communities by displacing native species, changing community structures or ecological functions, or hybridizing with natives.”

In my opinion, Agri-Starts Inc., University of Florida, and others are not doing anyone any favors when they develop new “non-invasive” varieties, like the varieties of Lantana Camara, Ruellia simplex (Mexican petunia), and others, by eliminating or changing male or female parts, or both.

Because parts of perfect flowers (those with both male and female parts in the same flower) are changed or eliminated, they are deemed infertile, and therefore non-invasive. Changed flowers can change or eliminate pollen and/or nectar, which is the main reason for their existence, since they lead to both pollination and then fruit (seeds).

Nandina, Ruella, and non-native Lantanas should be removed from our yards, and native plants like Lantana involucrata planted.

In other words, please don't plant these plants!

Registration Now Open for 39th Annual Conference



This year's FNPS conference will be held May 16-19 in beautiful Crystal River, where organizers have planned 20 field trips and four workshops.

For additional conference information, including how to register, [click here](#). You also can send an email to conference.fnps@gmail.com.

March 28 Chapter Meeting: Native Plant Propagation, Part 2

Whether you were able to attend last fall's native plant propagation presentation or not, you'll want to attend this one! Next month, Pine Lily Chapter Conservation Chair Sandy Webb will offer her insights into how you can successfully propagate native plants during this interactive session. Be prepared — you just might get your hands dirty!



A forked blue curls seedling takes root. (Trichostema dichotomum)

Let's keep in touch!



The [Pine Lily Chapter](#) serves Osceola County and surrounding communities.

Smithsonian Study Links Declines in Suburban Backyard Birds to Non-Native Plants

These days, you don't have to seek out publications focused on environmental issues to learn what's going on in the native plant world. Click this link to check out a great research-based article published by the [Smithsonian Institute](#).



Eriogonum tomentosum. Photo credit: Laura Bennett-Kimble

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Thank you so much!



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](#).



Busy as Bees

The Pine Lily Chapter has a lot going on these days, from educating residents about the importance of native plants and organizing local native plant rescues, to advocating for the protection of Split Oak Forest Wildlife — and so much more.

All of that does put us in a bit of a time crunch, however, because while we are doing great things, we just don't have the resources to accomplish everything on our to-do lists.

This is where you can help out. Would you like to help us raise awareness of our organization in local communities? Are you ready to take on a more active role in Osceola County conservation efforts? Would you be interested in helping us grow chapter membership? Do you have some free time to help us maintain our websites?

If you'd like to learn more about how you can support the chapter and its mission to promote the preservation, conservation, and restoration of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida, please let us know!

We're actively seeking persons interested in getting involved with the chapter, as indicated below, and we are always interested in hearing from folks who might be able to help out with a project or two. Many thanks!

Pine Lily Chapter Board and Committee Chairs

- 🍃 Karina Veaudry-Hindle – President
- 🍃 Laura Bennett-Kimble – Vice President/Treasurer
- 🍃 Christi Kapp – Secretary
- 🍃 Tayler Figueroa – Chapter Representative
- 🍃 Valerie Anderson – Policy/Legislation Committee Chair
- 🍃 Sandy Webb – Conservation Committee Chair
- 🍃 Eleanor Foerste – Education/Outreach Coordinator
- 🍃 **VACANCIES** – Webmaster, Membership Coordinator, Fundraising Coordinator *

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

Newsletter Editor: Laura Bennett-Kimble