



Florida Native Plant Society

Pine Lily Chapter

News & Notes
August–September 2019



Sept. 28 Chapter Field Trip: Scotty's Cove Conservation Area

The site of a former 80-slip marina and restaurant, Scotty's Cove Conservation Area was purchased through a partnership with Florida Communities Trust in January 2002 and is now the launching point for water-borne fun and adventure as an official canoe/kayak stop on the Shingle Creek Paddling Trail.

The site hosts iconic flora and fauna, such as a mesic oak flatwoods, a bald cypress stand, and freshwater marsh wetlands that are home for ospreys, limpkins, sandhill cranes, great blue herons, anhingas, songbirds, and red belly turtles.

"We will take a short, shaded walk on the natural trail under the oaks and visit the lakefront pavilion and education display. This will not be a strenuous outing, but it could be steamy this time of year," said Eleanor Foerste, our knowledgeable and friendly Pine Lily Chapter Education and Outreach Chair. "And, there's an active osprey nest at the lakefront."

In addition, Eleanor said, "We will be helping with some invasive plant removal, so if you wish to help, please wear comfortable clothes and bring gloves."

Meet at 9 a.m. at Scotty's Cove Conservation Area: 1570 Parsons Rd, Kissimmee, FL 34744. There is no charge to attend, but please let us know you'll be there by registering at this [Eventbrite page](#). For more information on this and other events, visit the Pine Lily Chapter Facebook [events page](#).

Sept. 26 Chapter Meeting: Transitioning to a Native Plant Landscape

This month, Pine Lily Chapter President Karina Veudry and Chapter Representative and Membership Coordinator Tayler Figueroa will discuss the process they each went through to transition their yards to native plant landscapes.

Karina, a native plant landscape designer, and Tayler, a native plant enthusiast, will discuss proper methods as well as a few lessons they've learned along the way. They'll also share before and after photos.

Please join us for an informative, entertaining look at ways you can transition your outdoor space to attract and support birds and pollinators—and enjoy a colorful, sustainable landscape!

The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Kissimmee Utility Authority building, 1701 W. Carroll St. in Kissimmee. For more information, call (321) 388-4781.



Forked blue curls can create a nice shrubby look in a landscape.

Proclaiming Florida Native Plant Month

Every year, the Florida Native Plant Society and all statewide chapters celebrate October as Florida Native Plant Month.

In recognition during a recent Osceola County Commissioners meeting, Commissioner Viviana Janer presented a Proclamation to representatives of the Pine Lily Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society, declaring October 2019 as Native Plant Month in the county.



From left, Tayler Figueroa (and her sons), Valerie Anderson, Christy Kapp, Karina Veaudry, and Viviana Janer.

The Importance of Sandhill

At last month's chapter meeting, Policy and Legislation Committee Chair Valerie Anderson shared insights and information in her presentation, "There's Not Much Sandhill Left in Osceola County, but There's Some in Split Oak."

Valerie is president of Friends of Split Oak Forest, a volunteer group formed to protect the ecologically diverse mitigation area from encroaching development.

"Sandhill is so rare that it is considered by the Florida Natural Areas Inventory to be 'Threatened,' which unfortunately confers no protection from development," she said.

More than 20 years of prescribed burning has revealed gorgeous sandhill along Split Oak's Western Ridge. For more information on the nature area, visit the [Friends of Split Oak Forest](#) website.

Birds Need Insects—and Insects Need Plants!

The food chain is real: According to research by birder Dick Tuttle ([NABS Bluebird Journal, Winter 2007](#)), one adult tree swallow consumes about 2,000 insects daily during an average 45-day nesting period, as well as capture some 6,000 insects daily to feed their brood over a 20-day period. And all those insects need native plants to eat, set up housekeeping, and thrive. Let's do our part and plant natives in our landscapes!

Conservation in the News!

From Pine Lily Chapter President Karina Veaudry:

"Check out this newspaper article regarding Osceola County's five goals to limit green-house gas emissions – which include a commitment to purchase conservation lands."

Osceola News-Gazette, Sept. 21, 2019

[County presents plan to reduce greenhouse emissions](#)

FNPS Member Benefits

If you aren't already a member, consider joining the Florida Native Plant Society at <http://www.fnps.org> and specify Pine Lily Chapter. Your contribution will help us provide on-the-ground action for native plant preservation in Osceola County. And you'll receive some great benefits, too. For details, contact Membership Coordinator [Tayler Figueroa](#).



Peghorn Planting Party—And More

Peghorn Nature Park in St. Cloud got a boost of green last month, when some 300 summer campers ages 5-12 and camp staff planted 260-plus plants in a new native wildflower garden. The garden is being installed to attract birds, butterflies, animals and native pollinators including beneficial beetles, bees, flies and wasps.

“Before the garden was even completed, while working in the garden planting and watering, the volunteers saw a cottontail rabbit, butterflies, dragonflies and bees — and learned how important it is to add native plants into our landscapes,” said Eleanor Foerste, Pine Lily Chapter Education and Outreach Chair.

Eleanor had the chapter involved in several camp programs, including presentations about the importance of native plants, a nature art class, and a relay race game.

“In the relay game, poker chips represented native ecosystem resources, and some were removed each time a developer built houses and businesses,” Pine Lily Chapter President Karina Veaudry said. “The campers learned that improving urban habitat involves adding native plants. This was a creative way to teach an important lesson.”

Thanks to Eleanor and the volunteers she organized, the Pine Lily Chapter helped staff with camp activities and, importantly, engaged the youth of the community with the Florida Native Plant Society mission.



July 29, Pine Lily Chapter representatives and volunteers helped establish a native wildflower garden at Peghorn Nature Park. From left: Kathleen Blanco, Eleanor Foerste, Sandra Webb, Stephanie Gaspar and Gabriel Almonte. Not shown: Pine Lily Chapter President Karina Veaudry.

Thank You, Dave Tomek



Dave Tomek, Osceola County Community Development Director, shared valuable and actionable information for county residents at the July chapter meeting.

With the population dramatically increasing and new roads, retail areas, and residential developments popping up everywhere in the county, now is the time to stand up for smart development that balances growth with land conservation—a hallmark of the Florida Native Plant Society’s mission.

At the meeting, Dave described the process developers must follow to move forward on building projects, as well as the county’s comprehensive plan and land development code.

Citizens interested in learning about and getting involved in the development process can attend County Board of Commissioners meetings.

To find Board of Commissioner meeting information online, visit [Osceola.org](https://www.osceola.org). You can find agenda information, as well as site plans, master drawings on development, staff reports and applications, which are all visible to the public.

The Board of Commissioner meetings are currently held the first Thursday of the month at 6 p.m. In a few months, the day will be changed to the third Thursday of each month. Location is 1 Courthouse Square, Kissimmee, FL, 34741.

You can also provide public input at development review committee meetings, which are held the first and third Wednesdays of each month.

The Pine Lily Chapter will continue to keep chapter members informed about ways to be involved.

Please contact us at fnpsinelily@gmail.com with any questions.

Upcoming Events

- Sept. 26: Chapter meeting — Tayler Figueroa and Karina Veaudry, Transitioning to a Native Plant Landscape
- Sept. 28: Field trip — Scotty's Cove Conservation Area
- Oct. 1: Native Plant Month Kick-Off Program — Harry P. Leu Gardens, 7 p.m.
- Oct. 25–27: **Friends of Split Oak Forest** Hike — Fall Bioblitz 2019

For more information, see our Facebook [events page](#).

Monthly Meetings

Chapter meetings held 4th Thursday of the month

6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Kissimmee Utility Authority Building
1701 W. Carroll Street, Kissimmee, FL

Doors open at 6 p.m. We hope to see you there!

Support Pine Lily Through AmazonSmile

Please consider choosing **Florida Native Plant Society Pine Lily Chapter Inc** as your charity when placing Amazon orders through AmazonSmile. Amazon donates 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice. **Thanks!**

Let's keep in touch!



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



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](#).

Pine Lily Chapter Leadership Team

- Karina Veaudry – President
- Emily Kelly, Treasurer
- Christi Kapp – Secretary
- Tayler Figueroa – Chapter Representative and Membership Coordinator
- Valerie Anderson – Policy/Legislation Committee Chair
- Sandy Webb – Conservation Committee Chair
- Eleanor Foerste – Education/Outreach Coordinator
- Sandra Johnson – Publicity Coordinator
- Laura Bennett-Kimble – Member, Board of Directors

Newsletter Editor: Laura Bennett-Kimble | Copyright 2019



A few photos show some of the finds by 2018 Split Oak Bioblitz participants and FNPS members Laura Bennett-Kimble, Brian Brandon and Aimee Krivan. From left, *Dasymutilla occidentalis* ("cow killer"), *Callisia ornata* (Florida scrub roseling), and *Drosera capillaris* (pink sundew). **Another Bioblitz is planned for Oct. 25–27.**