



Florida Native Plant Society

Pine Lily Chapter

News & Notes
March 2020

Plant Profile

Native Groundcover: *Stokesia laevis*

- Herbaceous perennial with a 6-8 inch evergreen petiolate (stalked) basal rosette.
- Sprouts several 1-2 foot inflorescence stems that bear 1-4 flowerheads that are a showy 3-4 inches wide.
- Needs acidic, moist, well drained soil and likes full sun. Soil must be dry in the Winter months.
- Do not add lime; Propagates through seeds.
- Butterflies eat the nectar; one of them is the Palamedes Swallowtail.



Native Plant Nursery

[Green Isle Gardens Native Plant Nursery](#)

11303 FL-33

Groveland, FL 34736

(352) 396-6831

Next Chapter Meeting

March 26, 2020; 6:30PM

In-Person Meeting Changed to Online Meeting

Type in URL <https://youtu.be/773o7UKRoyc>
(full directions below) at 6:00P on March 26

Speaker, Jessica Sullivan

Backyard Beekeeping : Learn about the fascinating world of the honey bee colony and the art of beekeeping.

In an abundance of caution, we have replaced our in-person chapter meeting with an interactive live video with the very same speaker we had scheduled - Jessica Sullivan speaking on backyard beekeeping. The meeting will start at 6:00pm, the same time as our normally scheduled meeting. You will be able to ask Jessica questions and make comments in the "Top Chat" box area of the YouTube video.

You can enter the meeting URL into any browser but you must be logged in to your Google account to ask questions or comment. Use the URL link listed above at 6pm. At 6:00pm, the meeting will open so everyone can get logged in and settled with good audio and visual and then the guest speaker will start at 6:30pm.

Jessica Sullivan is an Agriculture Educator with the University of Florida IFAS Extension in Osceola County. She is a beekeeper and is passionate about helping people protect Florida's pollinators and their habitats.

For more information, contact Karina Veaudry at (321) 388-4781.

Native Plant Sale and Earth Day Event at Peghorn Nature Park in St. Cloud is Canceled

The Pine Lily Chapter generates most of its revenue to provide maps of conservation areas and conservation action from the Earth Day Plant Sale. We hope to have a plant sale towards the end of the year or look forward to next year when it is deemed okay to do so.



Native Fungi,
Ptychogaster cubensis

Photo by
Paul
Eisenbrown

Upcoming Events

- 🍃 **Thursday, March 26: Online Chapter Meeting 6P**
Backyard Bee-Keeping - Jessica Sullivan
See directions above on how to log in to the online interactive meeting
- 🍃 **Thursday, April 23: Online Chapter Meeting 6P**
Small Trees of Osceola County and Hurricane Resistant Trees – Dana Sussman, Urban Forester
See directions above on how to log in to the online interactive meeting

THE MARCH AND APRIL FIELD TRIPS HAVE BEEN CANCELED. INFORMATION FOR FUTURE FIELD TRIPS WILL BE SENT IN NEWSLETTERS OR THE PINE LILY WEBSITE AT <http://pinelily.fnpschapters.org>



Asclepias curtissii

Photo by
Loret Thatcher

Pine Lily Has a YouTube Channel!



Currently, the Pine Lily Chapter will be hosting live monthly meetings online on the new YouTube Channel. In the future, we will be posting informational videos for members and the general public. More information coming soon!

Tosohatchee State Preserve, Mesic Pinewood Area



Update on Split Oak Forest an excerpt from the *Orlando Sentinel* Article

by Stephen Hudak

Split Oak defenders to drop Osceola Sunshine lawsuit

The Friends of Split Oak Forest plan to drop a Sunshine Law lawsuit against Osceola County commissioners and focus instead on efforts to keep state protections in place for the 1,689-acre conservation land that is threatened by a proposed toll road, the group said Friday.

The group had accused Osceola commissioners of reaching a consensus to support the road at a board workshop without allowing public comment in opposition. Valerie Anderson, president of The Friends of Split Oak Forest, said the environmental group will press on with its fight to preserve the publicly-owned lands by taking its defense of the forest to the Florida Communities Trust, which can reject the Central Florida Expressway Authority's preferred path to extend the Osceola Parkway through the wilderness area.

"I would say it's a stronger case and more directly about conservation lands," Anderson said of the expected state-level challenge. Despite outspoken pleas from environmentalists and other defenders of Split Oak Forest, Orange County and Osceola County commissioners pledged their support for CFX's plan to run a toll road through the pristine conservation area, beloved by nature lovers and runners for its untouched wilderness areas and a wide variety of wildlife.

Supporters of the road contend it's needed to improve connectivity and prevent traffic congestion in an area where large-scale developments are planned. They also argue the 1.4-mile stretch of road which would go through the forest's southern tip would have "minimal impact," a point Anderson's group refutes.

The proposed route through Split Oak would cost an estimated \$790 million.

Anderson said the road-building authority also has a "feasible alternate alignment" but it's more expensive. The acquisition of Split Oak in 1994 was a historic effort by a coalition of governments to protect land from development. The picturesque park, 1,160 acres of which are in southeastern Orange and about 600 in eastern Osceola County, were bought for \$8.6 million with Orange County kicking in \$3.17 million and the Trust chipping in \$2.3 million.

The property is located on the Great Florida Birding and Wildlife Trail.

Anderson said the state should keep its word to taxpayers who funded the Split Oak Forest because the land's high conservation value has not changed.

NOTE: The Pine Lily Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society supports the Friends of Split Oak in this endeavor and will be supporting these efforts to save Split Oak Forest through a letter writing campaign during the process.

New Book Highlights 100 Florida Native Plants for Landscapes

Native Plants for Florida Gardens

Book Review by Kevin P. Connolly

NATIVE PLANTS for Florida Gardens

STACEY MATRAZZO AND NANCY BISSETT



Though Florida's native plants have evolved here over thousands of years, they are often little-known to the state's gardening enthusiasts. The new book ***Native Plants for Florida Gardens***, a colorful new book from the Florida Wildflower Foundation, seeks to change that by providing practical, easy-to-use information on the selection, landscape use and care of the 100 native wildflowers, shrubs, vines and trees.

The book, co-authored by Nancy Bissett and Stacey Matrazzo, is a guide for everyone from beginning gardeners to seasoned landscapers. It highlights readily available native plants that are ideally suited to transform any Sunshine State property into a resilient, self-sustaining ecosystem.

It's design makes finding information quick and easy.

"Each plant profile is laid out in an easy-to-read format and includes an at-a-glance key for determining bloom color, blooming seasons and light and moisture requirements", said Stacey Matrazzo, the Foundation's program manager.

Colorful Photography Shows Off Native Plants

Vivid photography provided by some of Florida's best nature photographers give up-close and personal glimpses of all plants' flowers, leaves and growth patterns. "The book is beautiful; the gorgeous photos should themselves inspire the use of these and other natives in gardens, businesses and plantings throughout the state", said Thomas F. Daniel, curator emeritus of Botany at the California Academy of Sciences. "It is great that it gives useful, uncomplicated information on where, when and how to grow the plants, and even warns about some things to avoid."

Each plant profile includes the species' value to wildlife, whether it serves as a host plant for caterpillars or provides berries for birds, nectar for butterflies or pollen for native and honey bees.

Although native plants are low maintenance and trouble-free when the right plant is used in the right place, the book offers important tips on plant selection and common mistakes to avoid.

Book Can Help Create Native Plant Corridors

While Matrazzo provided technical information on species identification, natural habitats and growth, co-author Bissett helped determine the list of featured plants and provided practical information such as plant size, landscape use and information on care.

“My hope is that whoever uses this book will add more native plants to their home or business that will then add more connections to our natural areas and attract and provide food and habitat for birds, butterflies and other pollinators like our native bees”, said Bissett, a Botanist and Restoration Ecologist who co-owns ‘The Natives’ native plant nursery in Davenport.

The Florida Wildflower Foundation is the national advocate for the state’s native wildflower species, many of which occur throughout the Southeast. Through education, research, planting and conservation programs, the Florida Wildflower Foundation protects, connects and expands wildflower habitat along the State’s roadways and through its urban areas.

To purchase the book, **Native Plants for Florida Gardens** and see sample pages, visit www.FlaWildflowers.org/shop.



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](#).

Volunteer Positions Needed

- Additional Field Trip Coordinator
- Program/Speaker Coordinator
- Membership Director
- Newsletter Editor

Pine Lily Chapter Leadership Team

- Karina Veaudry – President
- President Elect - VACANT
- Christi Kapp – Secretary
- Sandra Johnson – Treasurer and Publicity Coordinator
- Taylor Figueroa – Chapter Representative and Membership Coordinator
- Valerie Anderson – Policy & Legislation Committee
- Sandy Webb – Conservation Committee Chair
- Eleanor Foerste – Education & Outreach Coordinator
- Laura Bennett-Kimble – Director at Large

Chapter Meetings

Until Further Notice, Chapter meetings will be held online on the Pine Lily YouTube Channel or other online service and start at 6:00P on the day of the meeting; Speaker Starts at 6:30P

Interactive capabilities allow questions and comments. The meetings will available after the meeting date/time for viewing.

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 will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the Pine Lily Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society.

Thank You!

Let’s keep in touch!

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



Pine Lily Chapter Website:
www.pinelily.fnpschapters.org

The [Pine Lily Chapter](#) of the Florida Native Plant Society serves all communities in Osceola County