

Florida Native Plant Society Pine Lily Chapter



News & Notes
January 2021

Next Chapter Meeting January 28, 2028

6:30pm

In-Person meetings have been changed
to online meetings until further notice

Join by clicking the link below
at 6:30pm on Thursday, January 28:
<https://youtu.be/xiLtzL1n1X8>



Presentation: Slide Show of Native Plants by Karina Veaudry

PDF Copy of Presentation: To obtain a copy of the presentation, email fnpspinelily@gmail.com

Native Plant Nursery

[Green Isle Gardens Native Plant Nursery](#)

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Groveland, FL 34736

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Pine Lily Chapter's First Intern – Marti Wolf



A gracious and warm welcome to Marti Wolf from the University of Georgia who has started an internship with the Pine Lily Chapter for the Spring semester. She will be primarily working with Membership Committee Chair, Jennifer Adams, on membership recruitment and retainment projects. Marti will also be working with Chapter President, Karina Veaudry, on corporate sponsorships and partnerships. She has only been working with the Chapter for two weeks and has already exceeded expectations!

Meet Our Osceola County Forester



Chris Kincaid was born in Tennessee and spent his childhood in Arkansas. There he spent his free time immersed in the Ozark and Ouachita Mountains and bottomlands of the Mississippi Delta. As a young man Chris worked with the Boy Scouts of America on their national staff in Cimarron New Mexico, as a backcountry trail crew foreman and was eventually promoted to Associate Director of Conservation. He later went to work as Arkansas State Parks Trail Maintenance Supervisor and was later promoted as a Park Superintendent and spent seven years working along the shore of the Arkansas River.

Upon moving to Florida in 2007, he worked as the Recreation Coordinator for the Bunnell District of the Florida Forest Service. Shortly thereafter he was certified as a Florida Wildland Firefighter and two years later graduated from the University of Florida. In 2015 he accepted the position of Public Lands Specialist with Osceola County Parks and was promoted to his current position of Urban Forester in 2016. In his free time Chris spends time playing music, foraging wild edibles, and observing and photographing wildlife. Chris holds a bachelor's degree in Organizational Management and a master's degree in Forest Resources and Conservation, a minor in Soil and Water Science and a graduate certificate in Wetland and Water Resources Management.

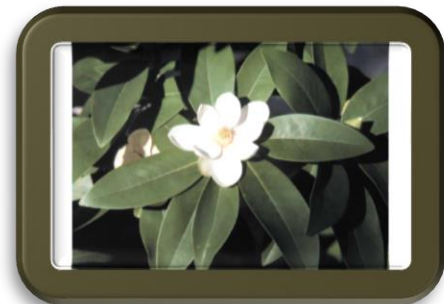
Plant Profile Sweet bay (*Magnolia virginiana*)



Easily grown in acidic, medium to wet soils in full sun to part shade. Prefers moist, rich, organic soils, but, unlike most other magnolias, tolerates wet, boggy soils.

Magnolia virginiana, commonly called sweet bay magnolia, is native to the southeastern United States north along the Atlantic coast to New York. In the deep South, it is apt to be more tree-like, sometimes growing to 60' tall. Features cup-shaped, sweetly fragrant (lemony), 9-12 petaled, creamy white, waxy flowers (2-3" diameter) which appear in mid-spring and sometimes continue sporadically throughout the summer. Oblong-lanceolate shiny green foliage is silvery beneath. Foliage is evergreen to semi-evergreen in the South. Cone-like fruits with bright red seeds mature in fall and can be showy. Genus name honors Pierre Magnol, French botanist (1638-1715).

Source: <http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/>



PROJECT LEARNING TREE® (PLT®)

For many children, the opportunity to spend time in the outdoors is limited. This makes it difficult for them to develop an appreciation of Florida's natural environment. Osceola County Forester, Dana Sussmann has announced the following program: **PROJECT LEARNING TREE® (PLT®)**



PLT® is a program of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI®) and is sponsored by UF/IFAS School of Forest Resources and Conservation. PLT® is an environmental education program designed for teachers and other educators, parents, and community leaders working with youth from preschool through grade 12. Participants in the program learn skills and are given resources to help them use the environment to engage children in learning.



PLT Florida offers professional development training and utilizes a combination of in-person and on-line instruction. Participants who successfully complete the training receive PLT's *PreK-8 Environmental Education Activity Guide*. It contains multi-disciplinary activities--each one tailored to specific grade levels and learning objectives. Activities in the *PreK-8 Environmental Education Activity Guide* are correlated to the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards for Science and Social Studies and Florida Standards for Language Arts and Mathematics. **PLT Florida** has now expanded its outreach to include Early Childhood and High School.

If you want to learn more about **PLT Florida**, please contact:

Dana Sussmann, Senior Forester with Florida Forest Service at Dana.Sussmann@FDACS.gov

Tree Diversity

Of all life forms, plants are the primary source of energy in the biosphere and are, therefore, the basis of all life on land and in water. Forest biodiversity may be the richest of all terrestrial systems. Together, tropical, temperate and boreal forests offer diverse sets of habitats for plants, animals and microorganisms, holding the vast majority of the world's terrestrial species. To destroy such an essential resource appears to be madness, yet in meeting important human needs, forest trees have been plundered on a global scale. The retention and management of plant diversity is urgently needed in order to build "designer ecosystems" that will replicate the natural systems that have evolved over 4 billion years on this planet and that create the very conditions for life to exist. Given that biodiversity also includes genetic differences within each species, it is critically important that genetics from endangered and superior specimen old growth trees be preserved now, while these unique organisms are still alive. (Mock 2007)

Why forest and tree genetic diversity matters

Trees are the foundation species of the forest

Species diversity in a forest ecosystem depends on the genetic diversity of key tree species. For example, as genetic diversity of the main tree species is lost, other species, like insects and fungi, that are specifically associated with certain trees may disappear too, leaving the whole forest ecosystem biologically impoverished.

Forests and trees provide ecosystem services

Trees provide soil and water conservation, facilitate carbon sequestration, improve biodiversity and increase the number of pollinators and natural pest predators, like birds. At least 1/3 of the world's crops depends upon pollination provided by insects and other animals. Forests also provide bridges to aid wildlife movement through agricultural lands and trees provide bridges for smaller wildlife, insects and birds to navigate through urban areas.



American Bluebird

Tree genetic diversity is vital in landscape restoration efforts

Tree populations need genetic variation for survival, good growth and viability in the long term. It enhances resistance to acute and chronic stressors, such as pests and diseases, and the effect of climate change. It is also fundamental in forest restoration efforts to ensure that the trees planted today will become the healthy forests of tomorrow.



Flea Beetle on Salt Bush

Redesigning Suburbia

What will it take to give our local animals what they need to survive and reproduce on our residential and business properties? Native plants, and lots of them. This is a scientific fact deduced from thousands of studies about how energy moves through food webs. Here is the general reasoning: All animals get their energy directly from plants, or by eating something that has already eaten a plant.

Insects are the group of animals most responsible for passing energy from plants to the animals that can't eat plants. This fact is what makes insects such vital components of healthy ecosystems. So many animals depend on insects for food (e.g., spiders, reptiles, amphibians, rodents, and 96 percent of all terrestrial birds) that removing insects from an ecosystem spells its doom. But that is exactly what we have tried to do in our suburban landscapes.

For over a century we have favored ornamental landscape plants from China and Europe over those that evolved right here. If all plants supported wildlife equally, that would be fine. But every plant species protects its leaves with a mixture of nasty chemicals that makes them distasteful at best, and downright toxic at worst. With few exceptions, only insect species that have shared a long evolutionary history with a particular plant lineage have developed the physiological adaptations required to disarm the chemical defenses in their host's leaves. With this specialized relationship, they have developed over time to eat only the plants with those particular chemicals.

When we present insects from Pennsylvania, for example, with plants that evolved on another continent, chances are those insects will be unable to eat them. We used to think this was good. Kill all insects before they eat our plants! But a plant that cannot pass on the energy it has harnessed cannot fulfill its role in the food web. We have planted Kousa dogwood, a species from China that supports only a few insect herbivores, instead of our native flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*), which supports 117 species of moths and butterflies alone.

In hundreds of thousands of acres, we have planted Golden Raintrees, Crape Myrtles, and Camphor trees from China and Australia instead of one of our beautiful native oaks, and in doing so we have lost the chance to grow and support 534 species of caterpillars, all of them nutritious bird food. Research has shown that alien ornamentals support 29 times fewer animals than do native ornamentals.

Sources:

[Why forest and tree genetic diversity matters \(bioversityinternational.org\)](http://bioversityinternational.org)

Mock, Terry, October 2007, "Biodiversity is the Living Foundation for Sustainable Development"

Tallamy, Douglas, American Forests, Autumn 2009, "A Call for Backyard Diversity"

Message from the President

I'd like to wish everyone a very happy and healthy new year. We're excited to welcome the first of our interns to the Pine Lily Chapter and anticipate adding more in the near future. While I know we're all looking forward to the time we can resume our in-person meetings, we are not quite there yet. In the meantime, we have a great line-up of guest speakers for our virtual meetings over the next few months.

If you have questions, comments or ideas, please contact me.



Karina Veaudry, President
Pine Lily Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society
(321) 388-4781

Pine Lily Chapter Leadership Team

- Karina Veaudry – President
- VACANT – President Elect
- Tayler Figueroa – Chapter Representative
- Stephanie Gaspar – Interim Secretary
- VACANT – Treasurer
- Valerie Anderson – Policy & Legislation Chair
- Eleanor Foerste – Education & Outreach Chair
- Sandy Webb – Conservation Committee Chair
- Jennifer Adams – Membership Committee Chair
- Irene Paino – Newsletter Editor
- VACANT – Publicity & Social Media Coordinator

Upcoming Meetings / Presentations

Links to online meeting presentations are sent via email to all chapter members.

- **Thursday, January 28:** Karina Veaudry
 - Native Plant Slideshow
- **Thursday, February 25:** Francine Prager
 - Bats of Central Florida
- **Thursday, March 25:** Mark Robinson
 - Enriching Your Soil Using Amendments and Plants

NOTE: Field Trips have been temporarily canceled until further notice. More information coming in the next several months for field trip locations.

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



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