



The Lily Pad

November 2012
Volume 6, Issue 11



The purpose of the Florida Native Plant Society is to promote the preservation, conservation, and restoration of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

President:

Jenny Welch.....mwelch@cfl.rr.com

1st Vice President:

Mark Johnson
.....mjohnson@ecotonelanddesign.com

Secretary:

Sandy Webb..... swebbzeit@gmail.com

Treasurer:

Kaity Storer email pending

Chapter Rep:

..... Apply now

Membership:

Susan Parent sparent20@yahoo.com

Publicity/Newsletter:

Loret..... PinelilyFNPS@aol.com

Visit us on the Web:

<http://www.pinelily.fnpschapters.org/>

**Meeting is Thursday
November 15th 6:30p.m.**

First United Methodist Church
101 W. Dakin Avenue, Kissimmee

Ask a friend or a neighbor
to join and help preserve
more natural areas

November Program

Our speaker this month will be Heron Elliott who will present on Native Aquatic Plants in the Pondscape.

Heron will discuss the importance of vegetation to ponds and the wildlife visiting it; vegetation planting for aesthetics (aquascaping) and will provide plant suggestions to use for aquascaping.

A garden pond is a great way to provide for wildlife, so please be sure to join us.

Lake Wales Ridge

by Jenny Welch

Several local chapters met and conducted plant identification at Lake Wales Ridge State Forest.

It was a beautiful day with cool dry temperatures.

Fall is my favorite time of year in Florida because of the numerous wildflowers that bloom at this time.

We saw a wide variety of them in full bloom at Lake Wales Ridge State Forest.

The yellows of goldenrods, silver leaf aster, St John's Wort varieties, yellow milk pea, the abundance of narrow leaf sunflower were bright and cheery.

The purples contrasted beautifully with the purples and included blazing star, false foxglove, meadow beauty, elephant's foot, Carphophorus and even the bright red of sundew.

The grasses were also in bloom with muhly grass, lopsided indian grass, the silver of the chalky bluestem grasses, and several others.

We inventoried the same areas that were done in the Summer and after lunch we drove to another area and inventoried more plants.

It was a great day to be outdoors seeing all of Florida's Fall colors in full bloom.

Food Donations Needed

We'd like each person coming to our program this month to contribute a large box of cereal or similar ready-to-eat non-perishable food item to be donated to Kissimmee Elementary School's "Friday Backpack" program.

Backpacks are donated food supplies gathered and given to children who may not have other means of having a meal. They are distributed on Fridays so the kids have food for the weekend.

Since schools are closed during the Thanksgiving holiday, it is even more important that these kids have some supplies to cover these additional days away from school.

Let's help see that our local children don't go hungry. Jenny can provide any information and will collect and bring to the school.

"The 'control of nature' is a phrase conceived in arrogance, born of the Neanderthal age of biology and the convenience of man."

— Rachel Carson (1907–1964)

Raising Important Questions

How often do you see or learn of something that just doesn't seem right but just shrug your shoulders. It is important to let our governmental agencies know that we are paying attention to our environment and natural resources. We should all take a page out of the book of Pine Lily President Jenny Welch who never sits back and doesn't seek answers.

Her recent letter to Forestry:

“Subject: saw palmetto berries

It has recently come to my attention that Florida State Forests have begun allowing people to legally harvest saw palmetto berries.

I have questions and concerns about this.

How many people are granted these permits each year?

Is there a limit to the amount of berries an individual with a permit can harvest?

Do you allow multiple people to harvest berries from a single permit?

Are you keeping track and if so how are you keeping track of how many berries are being harvested?

My concern is for our Florida wildlife whose very existence relies on saw palmetto berries.

How do you know if there are still enough being left in the state forests for the wildlife?

Thank you,
Jenny Welch”

Here is the response:

“Dear Ms. Welch,

I am responding to your inquiry as it pertains to the harvest of saw palmetto berries (drupes) on Florida State Forests. To be specific the answer to your initial question is, yes, the Florida Forest Service does issue State Forest Use (SFU) permits to individuals for the harvesting of saw palmetto berries on various State Forests where saw palmettos exist as a component of the understory vegetation. SFU permits are issued on a per person per day basis and a fee is charged for them. The fee for this SFU permit is \$10.00/day. Permits are per individual and not multiple persons under one permit. Permit holders are advised of locations where palmetto berries can be picked but they are not allowed to just pick anywhere on the State Forest, so we are managing this activity from the standpoint of regulating picking locations thus providing some level of control to assure that there are still available

saw palmetto berries for a wildlife food source. Generally speaking most of the saw palmetto berry picking occurs in forest areas that were prescribed burned two years prior to the current year. Based on the research information we have obtained from the University of Florida/IFAS Extension Service, in years where optimal conditions exist (adequate rainfall primarily) the availability of saw palmetto berries is better on these sites. We utilize this information as a guidance tool but we are also utilizing on the ground observation as a tool for determining picking locations as well.

The number of SFU permits for saw palmetto berry picking fluctuates from year to year based on the berry crop. For example the number of permits that were issued in FY 2010-11 was 203 (an indication that the saw palmetto berry crop was very low) however for FY 2011-12 the number of permits issued was approximately 4,850 (saw palmetto berry crop was very good). For the current fiscal year we have issued approximately 586 permits. We are not tracking the amount (weight value) that an individual picks because; 1. We have no practical method to obtain this information at our State Forest locations and 2. Our available staffing cannot accommodate this, hence this is why we utilize a SFU Permit per individual. Even though we are trying to be very diligent in our management of this activity there is still illegal picking of saw palmetto berries occurring on State Forest. If this is discovered by our forest managers, Wildlife Officers, and other law enforcement, individuals are ticketed/fined and the berries they have in possession are confiscated. These confiscated berries are then re-distributed back out in the State Forest in multiple locations for wildlife to utilize.

We at the Florida Forest Service are concerned for the needs of our wildlife. Through our conscientious management of this activity we are doing our very best to provide a balanced level of public access and use of our State Forests and at the same time providing optimal wildlife habitat.

Sincerely,
Steven L. Jennings
State Lands Supervisor
Florida Forest Service
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services”

Have a similar experience? If you get answers related to native plants or preservation of natural areas in Florida, be sure to share the information by emailing to *The Lily Pad* at PineLilyFNPS@aol.com. You may see it in print.

Upcoming

December– NO MEETING.

Happy Holidays

January–Reed Noss

Subject: Forgotten Grasslands of the South

February–Mike Wacht,

Subject: Sunrail Public Involvement

Save the Date

Thursdays, Nov 15, 22, 29

7:00am – 1:00pm

Osceola Farmers Market

Toho Square, Kissimmee

Sundays, Nov, 18, 25

9:00am – 3:00pm

Celebration Sunday Farmers' Market

Market Street, Downtown Celebration

Tuesday, November 20, 2012

9:00 am – 1 pm

Lake Lizzie Woods Walk – South Entrance

Meet in the parking lot

6495 Old Melbourne Highway

A guided interpretive walk on natural trails within local conservation areas.

Participants learn about ecosystems, plants and animals as well as local history in an outdoor setting. Info: 321-697-3000 Registration required.

<http://woodswalk2-eorg.eventbrite.com/>

Tuesday, December 18, 2012

8:30 am - 2:00 pm

Camp Lonesome Woods Walk

4755 N. Canoe Creek Rd., Keanansville

Information: 321-697-3000; details (what to wear/bring) and Registration (required):

<http://www.eventbrite.com/event/4585054020/eorg#>

meet at Tractor Supply in St Cloud 8:30a –or– C. Lonesome gate 9:30a

Species Spotlight

Asters (*Symphyotrichum spp.*)



Photo © 2010 Loret

USF Institute For Systematic Botany's *Atlas of Florida Vascular Plants* lists 26 *Symphyotrichum* species as native to Florida so there is likely a type of this wildflower to use in your landscape. Many are late fall blooming.

*sources: Dave's Garden
plantrealflorida.org*

One of the more popular and commercially available species is Climbing Aster (*S. carolinianum*) a deciduous climber that needs room to grow and support of a trellis or fence is probably prudent. The flowers are very fragrant.

Wildlife Benefit: Butterflies; Pollinators

Propagate: by division or from softwood cuttings

Light: Full sun – partial shade

Moisture: Dry – moist, Moist, Wet

USDA hardiness zones: 6A through 10B (via DavesGarden.com)

Audubon Field Trip/Woods Walk

Saturday, December 8, 2012

9:30 am - 4:30 pm

Camp Lonesome Conservation Area

4755 N. Canoe Creek Rd., Keanansville

Eleanor Foreste will be the guide on this field trip/walk.

Please share link below with Audubon and Native Plant society folks for sign up.

Info/Registration required: <http://www.eventbrite.com/event/4737001499/eorg>

Meet at the Tractor Supply at 8:30 am even though ticket says to meet at gate at 9:30 am

Wear sunscreen, close-toed comfortable shoes and dress for the weather. Bring **WATER** and an easy carry snack such as crackers or fruit, **LUNCH**, insect repellent; Optional---camera, binoculars;

open to the public; sprinkle or shine, as long as there is not severe weather (strong wind or lightning)

Volunteers Needed – Contact Jenny Welch

New Beginnings School..... Wednesdays Highlands Elementary Wildflower Garden help..... tba

From the Home Office

Native Plant Landscape Awards

Each year at the Annual Conference, FNPS gives awards for high quality native plant landscapes in the categories of residential, commercial, institutional, transportation, preservation, restoration, mitigation and wildflower/butterfly garden. Head to the website www.fnps.org for the application, which includes information on the submittal process.

☆☆☆

Vegetable Garden Class

City of Saint Cloud Urban Agriculture Program – **Starting a Winter Vegetable Garden**

Class is for ages 14 and up is scheduled for **November 17**, 9-11 a.m., Peghorn Nature Park.

Registration is required. \$8 per person.

Details: (407) 957-7243

Before and After – Pale-edged Selenisa Moth

(*Selenisa sueroides*)

Host Plants: Shyleaf (*Aeschynomene americana*); possibly other legumes



© Loret



© Loret

The caterpillar serves a host for several parasitic wasps. Often if you kill caterpillars, you may very well be killing off a beneficial pollinator by eliminating their habitat to lay eggs, or by taking away their food once the eggs hatch. Please think about the web of life partners before you kill off that which you may consider a pest to your plants. A little chew damage shows you garden with nature in mind.

The Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council has announced availability of its 2013 Kathy Craddock Burks Education Grant.

The intent of this grant program is to provide funding to organizations or individuals who will educate Floridians about non-native invasive plants and their impacts on the natural areas and economy of Florida. Proposals will be accepted from individuals, public or private nonprofit organizations, and academic institutions. The FLEPPC Education Grant Committee will review all applications. Winners will be announced during the business meeting at FLEPPC's annual symposium in spring 2013. Winning applicants/organizations must present their results (poster or presentation) at the next annual symposium or provide a summary article for Wildland Weeds magazine. Deadline: 5PM, February 15, 2013. Details: <http://www.fleppc.org/edgrants.html>

Florida Native Plant Society Membership Application

Membership in the Florida Native Plant Society enables you to receive their wonderful quarterly magazine The Palmetto. Joining the FNPS also entitles you to membership privileges in the Pine Lily Chapter of the FNPS and a subscription to their monthly newsletter *The Lily Pad*.

Name _____

Business name or organization _____

Address _____

City, State and Zip _____

Home phone _____ Work phone _____

The Florida Native Plant Society is registered as a 501(C)3 non-profit organization.

Check pertinent category:

- Individual \$35
- Full time student \$15
- Library subscription \$15
- Family or household \$50
- Contributing \$75
- Supporting \$100
- Not-for-profit organization \$50
- Business or corporate \$125
- Donor \$250
- Life \$1000

Make check payable to: **FNPS**
Detach and mail to:
**Pine Lily Chapter of
Florida Native Plant Society
P.O. Box 278
Melbourne, FL 32902-0278**