



# The Lily Pad

The Pine Lily Chapter of the Florida  
Native Plant Society



FNPS Mission: 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

## January 2010



### In Bloom: *Erythrina herbacea* (Coral Bean)



*Erythrina herbacea*  
Photo and © by Roger Hammer  
Wildflowers of the Everglades

### Family: Fabaceae/Leguminosae (Bean family)

Coral bean (also known as Cherokee bean) is a showy semi-herbaceous member of the bean family. It produces herbaceous stems from a woody base that are typically about 3 ft (0.9 m) in height but sometimes more. In areas that experience freezes the stems are killed back in winter but in frost-free areas the plant will form woody stems and may grow to 16 ft (5 m) in height.

Coral bean is deciduous and has interesting compound leaves made up of three leaflets that are uniquely shaped with pointed tips and a bulge in the middle. In late spring and early summer showy scarlet blossoms appear. These long flattened tubes are about 2 in (5.1 cm) long by approximately 1/8 in (0.3 cm) in diameter. They are arranged in clusters at the stem tips and appear custom designed for hummingbird beaks. Flowers are followed by large pods that split open to reveal bright red seeds in late summer and fall. **Source: floridata.com**

**Also in bloom:** Tropical sage (*Alvinia coccinea*), painted leaf (*Poinsettia cyathophora*), gaillardia (*Gaillardia pulchella*), lizard's tail (*Saururus cermus*), Carolina yellow jessamine (*Gelsemium sempervirens*), dune sunflowers (*Helianthus debilis*), some wild petunia (*Ruellia caroliniensis* or *R. ciliosa*) and some lingering climbing aster (*Symphiotrichum carolinianum*).

Time to do some weeding and a little light pruning. Water those newly planted shrubs and trees at least once a week - this tends to be our dry season.



Jim Thomas from Biosphere Consulting, Inc is our January speaker and will be presenting about the importance of Florida's native plants and how we can incorporate them into our landscapes on Jan.21<sup>st</sup>.

## Mark's Remarks: 2009 in perspective

**Happy New Year!** The Pine Lily chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society is still not a huge group, but we provide an important place for people to voice their interests and concerns about what society can do for the environment; as well as to learn about native plants for xeriscaping and Florida Yards and Neighborhoods designs. Our group seeks to promote the use of native plants and the conservation of areas that have natives; because promoting native plants also promotes the sustainability of other species (including humanity).

As 2009 progressed, we had an excellent variety of speakers at our meetings. While our meeting attendance is always fluctuating and revolving, we appear to have regained some stability since our move to the church fellowship hall. Jenny Welch and Loret Thatcher were pivotal in organizing and manning many of the public displays that were presented around the community, this year. The spring tour of the Disney Wilderness Preserve was great fun and a real hit. Even the summer social was enjoyed by those who had faith that the thunderstorms had passed. Everyone seems to be pitching in as they can to bring something to the table for the greater organization.

**If you haven't made it to a meeting lately, we need your voice and active assistance in promoting the preservation, conservation and expansion of "natural" landscapes and the flora and fauna that inhabit them. If you want to learn more about plants and their communities we urge you to support our local programs and participate in our field trips.**

Sincerely,  
Mark L. Johnson  
President

## 2011 FNPS Conference in the making! Join us!

If you would like to volunteer and have an active role in planning the 2011 FNPS Conference, there are still positions available. Don't miss the opportunity to help organizing this significant event. For more info, please contact Jenny Welch [mwelch@cfl.rr.com](mailto:mwelch@cfl.rr.com) and/or attend any of the Saturday meetings below:

January 9, 2009 – 10:00am

March 6, 2009 – 10:00am

May 1, 2009 – 10:00am

### Location:

MACTEC Office Building

4150 N. John Young Parkway Orlando, FL 32804

Day of meeting phone contact: (321) 388-4781

# Save the date

## Air Potato Exchange Day

Saturday, January 9, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Bert J. Harris, Jr. Agricultural Center

Bring at least a grocery bag full of this destructive invasive plant and receive a free native plant!

Also, prizes will be awarded for:

- The biggest air potato
- The most air potatoes (pounds)
- The smallest air potato
- The most uniquely shaped air potato

**Bret J. Harris Jr. Agricultural Center is located at George Blvd. Sebring, FL**

## Longleaf Pine planting at the Disney Wilderness Preserve

January 19, 20, 21 (Tues, Wed, Thurs), 8:30 am – 1 pm

Volunteers needed for a big tree-planting project. This is a unique event that does not happen often, so please help if possible. Feel free to recruit friends and family to come one, two or three of the days! Volunteers do not need to commit to long-term volunteering, but may sign up just for this project if they wish. The trees will be planted in a variety of places around the preserve, but the areas should be dry. Bring gloves, hat, a refillable water container, and portable snacks. Long pants, socks, and closed-toe shoes are required. Sunscreen is recommended. 20 volunteers are needed for each day.

**For more info or to sign up, contact Letty Zook, [LZook@tnc.org](mailto:LZook@tnc.org) or call 407-935-0002, Ext. 125**

## Tibet-Butler Preserve

### Florida's Native Plants

Saturday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> – 10 am

Welcome Jim Thomas from Biosphere Consulting, Inc (our January speaker) as he discusses the importance Florida's native plants play in our environment and how you can incorporate these plants into your landscape (limited to 50 participants). **Call the preserve (407)876-6696 to reserve your space.**

### Ecosystem Hike I Pine Circle

Saturday, January 30<sup>th</sup> – 10 am

Discover the plants and animals that inhabit pine flatwoods and oak hammock ecosystems on a guided hike around the Preserve (limited to 25 participants). **Call the preserve (407)876-6696 to reserve your space.**

## 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Air Potato Raid

Saturday, January 23, 10:00am - Noon

Volunteers are needed at Spring Hammock Preserve, 2985 Osprey Trail, Longwood, FL, to help remove the aggressively invasive air potato plant. Families and Organizations are welcome. The event is sponsored by the *Seminole County Natural Lands and Friends of the Environmental Studies Center*. **For more information or to register, contact the Natural Lands Program at 407-349-0959**

## Kissimmee Valley Audubon Society Alligators and Wading Birds: A Natural Symbiosis

Tuesday, January 26 - 6:45pm

Too many Floridians seem to think the only good 'gator is a dead one. Did you know alligators are crucial to many healthy Florida ecosystems, and that wading birds actually prefer to nest over swamps crawling with 'gators? This presentation by Mike Godwin, grandson of Gatorland's founder and board member of Orange Audubon Society, will show you what a successful rookery full of nests of herons, egrets, storks, and even spoonbills can look like in Central Florida. Rumor has it Mike might bring one or more critters with him!

**KVAS monthly meetings are held at KUA (Kissimmee Utility Authority) Building located at 1701 W. Carroll St. in Kissimmee. Free and open to the public!**

## The Florida Native Plant Society's 30th Annual Conference Rooted in History: Forever Blooming

May 20-23, 2010

DoubleTree Hotel

101 S. Adams St. Tallahassee, FL

Join us in May 2010 for the FNPS 30th Anniversary!

Join us in Tallahassee when the Magnolia Chapter hosts the 2010 Annual Conference. This will be a special 30th anniversary conference that honors our Florida Native Plant Society history. Over 400 people are expected to attend the 4-day conference. Celebrate the plants, people and places of Tallahassee and the Big Bend Region.

**For more info and details visit <http://www.fnps.org/pages/conference>**



## Very special events going on throughout January in Florida

\*Nesting season begins for roseate spoonbills, Florida sandhill cranes, hawks and owls. Snail kites begin courtship in central Florida. Cedar waxwings and robins are eating our holly berries. The black bears in north Florida should be sleeping by now. Black crappies start a feeding binge in central Florida.



You can raise money for FNPS with a click when you use the Internet search engine **GoodSearch.com**. From [GoodSearch.com](http://GoodSearch.com), just select **FNPS Melbourne** from the pull down menu and complete your Internet search. Each time you search, a penny is donated to FNPS. Please use **GoodShop.com** when purchasing office supplies, gifts and household goods. All brand name stores are a part of the GoodShop network. First select **FNPS** before you shop online; a percentage of the purchase price goes to FNPS!

We have a diverse constituency and want to make sure we are doing our best at meeting your needs. If you have ideas for program topics, speakers or field trips, please feel free to send an email to [mjohnson@ecotonelanddesign.com](mailto:mjohnson@ecotonelanddesign.com)

Don't forget our Next Meeting is on Jan 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at First United Methodist Church in Kissimmee, located at the corner of Dakin Ave. and Church St.

We are always looking for people to help make our chapter everything it can be. If you ever feel you would like to lend a helping hand please just contact any of our

*The Board of Directors, Committee Chairmen, and Contacts*

**President:** Mark Johnson  
[mjohnson@ecotonelanddesign.com](mailto:mjohnson@ecotonelanddesign.com)  
**Vice President:** Kimberly Duffy  
[kduffy@stcloud.org](mailto:kduffy@stcloud.org)  
**Treasurer:** Cindy Meketa  
[cmeketa@netzero.net](mailto:cmeketa@netzero.net)  
**Secretary and Field Trip:**  
 Danny Husband  
[dhusband@tnc.org](mailto:dhusband@tnc.org)  
**Chapter Representative:**  
 Christina Uranowski  
[curanowski@aol.com](mailto:curanowski@aol.com)  
**Events Coordinator:** Jenny Welch  
[mwelch@cfl.rr.com](mailto:mwelch@cfl.rr.com)  
**Membership:** Sue Parent  
[longwing\\_34746@yahoo.com](mailto:longwing_34746@yahoo.com)  
**Publicity:** Loret Thatcher  
[pinelilyfnps@aol.com](mailto:pinelilyfnps@aol.com)  
**Newsletter:** Claudia Canty  
[thelilypad\\_fnps@hotmail.com](mailto:thelilypad_fnps@hotmail.com)

**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*.

New Member                       Renewal

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Business name or organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State and Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Check pertinent category**

- Individual \$25
- Full time student \$15
- Library subscription \$15
- Family or household \$30
- Contributing \$40
- Supporting \$250
- Not-for-profit organization \$50
- Business or corporate \$100
- Donor \$250

*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**