November Program

Jeff Jones, the Smart Growth Manager for Osceola County will be the speaker this month. He will be presenting on Smart Growth plans being considered by the county. Stop by to raise your questions concerning how building in our County is being planned into the future.

"I can’t remember when a landscape style so captured the American gardener as the meadow has today. Perhaps we are tired of designer gardens and highly bred flowers that are ever brighter, shorter, showier, and more uniform. Perhaps as open fields shrink or are rimmed by NO TRESPASSING signs, we feel compelled to create little pieces of country for ourselves. Perhaps it is because of concern for the environment and our natural resources."

— Jim Wilson, Landscaping with Wildflowers
New and Revised Environment Publications

by Mark Johnson

Development activities have slowed down in Central Florida; yet this might be a great opportunity to learn more about how we humans relate to other plant and animal species that share our communities. The following brochures have been prepared by IFAS to help us understand what we and our neighbors can do to enhance and protect biodiversity in our area. There is much to learn and these are helpful introductions to their respective topic areas.

WEC278/UW323 Conservation Subdivision: Construction Phase – Protecting Trees and Conserved Natural Areas
WEC278, a 6-page illustrated fact sheet by Mark Hostetler and Glenn Acomb, discusses techniques and strategies that minimize impacts of the construction process on conserved trees and natural areas. Includes references. Published by the UF Department of Wildlife Conservation and Ecology, March 2010. Available at: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/uw323

WEC280/UW325 Conservation Subdivision: Design Phase – Wildlife-friendly Transportation Network
WEC280, a 5-page illustrated fact sheet by Mark Hostetler and Michael Moulton, discusses road designs and placement strategies that will minimize impacts on local wildlife populations and enhance wildlife movement. Includes references. Published by the UF Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, May 2010. Available at: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/uw325

WEC283/UW328 Conservation Subdivision: Construction Phase – Dark-sky Lighting
WEC283, a 4-page illustrated fact sheet by Mark Hostetler, discusses how to manage lighting during the construction phase and explains the importance of good lighting to biodiversity in a conservation subdivision. Includes references. Published by the UF Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, April 2010. Available at: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/uw328

WEC284/UW329 Conservation Subdivision: Construction Phase – Native Landscaping Palette
WEC284, a 9-page illustrated fact sheet by Mark Hostetler and Martin B. Main, discusses the importance of emphasizing native plants when selecting a landscape palette. Includes references. Published by the UF Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, May 2010. Available at: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/uw329

From the Editor

by Loret

You may notice a few regular features missing from this month’s issue and a few items out of place and so it’s a little lighter than past issues. I was out of town and returned to tons of mail and then had some computer crashing issues. Hopefully all will be back to normal for our December issue. Please bear with me. Thanks!

At Home With Natives

by Loret

Wax Myrtle (Myrica cerifera) flea preventative
4 cups of wax myrtle leaves cover with water
Boil 20 minutes and strain to make infusion
cool and put in a spray bottle
Old wives tale has it that Myrica cerifera prevents fleas. My dogs rarely get fleas and I don’t routinely use any flea preventative chemicals on them, so when I saw a flea on one, I decided to try making an infusion spray from wax myrtle leaves. I sprayed all three dogs and after handpicking one or two live fleas off, the next day none were to be found. The dogs didn’t seem to have any adverse affects. Keep in mind these are large dogs, all are over 60 pounds. Use outside and avoid getting on clothes as Wax Myrtle leaves are also used as a dye (grey in color).
October Follow-up

FNPS Executive Director Kariena Veaudry got a lively discussion going concerning the plans to build a city in the NE quadrant of Osceola County. Her presentation provided maps which clearly highlight how vital this particular section is to Florida’s environment in the form of a continuous North/South wildlife corridor and why building in this area may result in adverse environmental affects for the entire State of Florida. It was the perfect thought-provoking subject as a lead-in to this month’s presentation on by the County’s Smart Growth Manager.

Save the Date

Saturday, November 13, 2010
10 am – 4 pm
19th Annual Pioneer Day
Osceola County Historical Society’s
Pioneer Village & Museum
750 N. Bass Road

Saturday, November 20, 2010
9 am – 3 pm
2010 Kissimmee Mainstreet Fall
Arts, Crafts & Antique Festival
Toho Square, Downtown

This is a coming together of artists, crafters and antique enthusiasts. The festival gives the public the opportunity to shop for art, crafts, and antiques, as well as stroll through Historic Downtown Kissimmee and visit its shops and restaurants.

Field Trips

Upcoming: January 2011
Field trip to a native plant nursery to celebrate Florida Arbor Day. Details coming soon!

Species Spotlight

Plumbago zeylanica (syn. P. scandens)
by Loret

![Photo © 2010 Loret](image)

Wild Plumbago or Doctorbush is a deciduous, perennial herb which can be grown as a small shrub or vine. It does best in part shade and is drought tolerant but does best with regular watering.

It has a varied habitat and can be found in hammocks, thickets, shell mounds, and rocky areas.

Propagate from woody stem cuttings or from seed; direct sow outdoors in fall. Collect seedhead/pod when flowers fade; allow to dry.

sources: Davesgarden.com
http://www.floridasnature.com

It is distinguished by the unusual stalked glands along length of flower tube ribs. Flowers year round in S. Florida.

Weeds to Watch Out for

![Photo © 2010 Loret](image)

Taro can be distinguished from elephant ears by the attachment of the leaf from the petiole. In taro, the petiole attaches to the leaf several inches from the base of the ‘V’ of the leaf, while the petiole is attached directly at the base in elephant ears. Both species are found in swamps and along stream banks. The large leaves may shade and prevent regeneration of desired species. Taro is more widespread and can frequently be observed along the shorelines of many central Florida lakes.

The first step in preventative control of elephant ear and taro is to limit planting and removal of existing plants within the landscape.

Native alternatives include: Golden club (Orontium aquaticum) and Alligator Flag (Thalia geniculata)

source: Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants, UF, IFAS
Community

Pine Lily President Jenny Welch will have her photography on display at Kissimmee City Hall beginning November 4 through January 2011 as a part of CITY OF KISSIMMEE ‘CALL FOR ARTIST’ PROGRAM. The artwork will be available for public viewing Monday–Friday from 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Be sure to stop by to see her talent!

The photos she chose represent several Florida native plant species as well as her other passion, birds, and include: Pine Lily, Eagle Pair, Field of blooming Liatris, Scarlet Hibiscus with Sulfur Butterfly, Bluebird in Flight, Snail Kite, St. Johns Wort and Glossy Ibis

From the Home Office

Conference Calling Service
This is a tool that you can use to bring groups together of up to twenty-five people over the telephone. Once you decide upon a date and time for your group, call 559.546.1100 on the time and date that you have decided upon. The participant access code is 424279#. If your telephone company normally charges you for long distance calls, you will be charges. If you have long distance calling included in your service, then the call is free.

Volunteer highlights:

Harmony Harvest Festival

Jenny Welch (left) and Loret talk about insects and natives to Boy Scout attendees at the Harmony Harvest Festival.

The Pine Lily Chapter set up shop at the Harmony 2010 Harvest Festival next to Eagle Landscaping Nursery’s display who kindly positioned their native plant offerings as a border between us. Pine Lily Chapter member Sandy Webb and owner Mrs. Sylvia Bright were great, informative companions at this venue. As always, Mike Welch provided muscle to set up and take down the display and I wonder if he noticed the additional plants that he took home. Needless to say, Jenny and Loret were unable to contain themselves and bought several plants from Eagle’s great selection. The nursery is located at 5455 N. Eagle Road in Saint Cloud; (407) 957-5455.

Once again kids and adults alike were inquisitive about the live insects and the various native plants on display. Jenny’s photos of the butterflies and which use each plant as a host drew great attention to the need for natives in the garden. Kattya Graham stopped by to help and took photos of the display and posted them to Facebook. She also has been writing a very creative and informative blog with a local flair. Check it out at http://www.aldeaosceola.blogspot.com where you can find a link to her Facebook page.

Before and After – Polka Dot Wasp Moth

(Syntomeida epilais)

Host Plants: Non-native Oleander (Nerium oleander), Desert Rose (Adenium species), Devil’s Potato (Echites umbellata) and perhaps other members of the Dogbane Family (Apocynaceae). Adults nectar on flowers, particularly members of the Asteraceae. The adult Polka Dot Wasp Moth is a pollinator, so it is beneficial.