

August  
2012



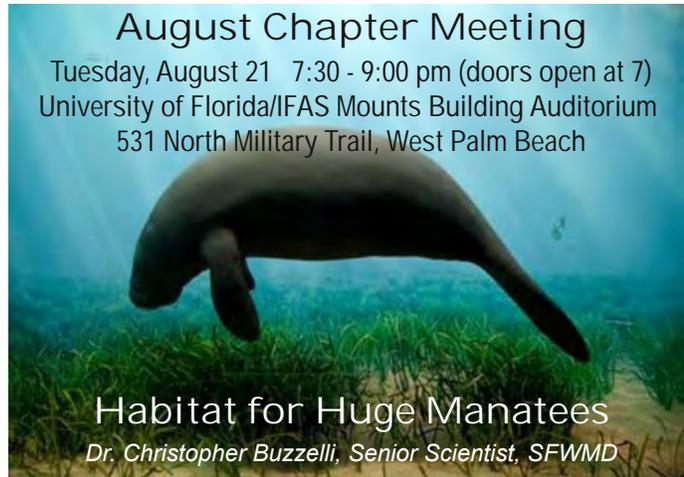
Newsletter of the Palm Beach County Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society

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*The Florida Native Plant Society promotes the preservation of our native flora through education and conservation. To attract wildlife, promote water conservation and prevent the further introduction of non-native pest plants, the society encourages the cultivation of nursery-propagated Florida native plants and promotes their use as ornamentals in public and private landscapes.*



Why are submersed aquatic vegetation (SAV) habitats important indicators of coastal ecosystem status in south Florida? To find out, join us on Tuesday the 21st for an enlightening discussion on native coastal marine vegetation presented by Dr. Christopher Buzzelli.

SAV is an essential component in aquatic ecosystems in Florida. There are 7 species of marine SAV in South Florida with very different plant morphologies and habitat attributes. This presentation will review their distribution and abundance, discuss the environmental drivers that modulate their growth and survival, and emphasize the importance of SAV habitats as indicators of ecosystem condition.

Dr. Buzzelli came to Florida from South Carolina after a professorship in the Department of Biology at the College of Charleston. He specializes in the assessment and modeling of coastal ecosystems, estuarine biogeochemistry, and seagrass and wetland ecology. He is currently a senior scientist in the SFWMD's Coastal Ecosystem Section.

*Free Admission • Refreshments • Native Plant Drawing  
Public Welcome • No Reservations Needed*

## Membership Update

Our chapter has 161 members as of August 1st, 2012. We have 2 new members this month. Warm welcomes to JULIA GEHRING and DIANE GENNEKEN.

7 memberships renewed or rejoined in July. Renewing or rejoining individual members are GUSTAVO ASP, ALANA M EDWARDS, STEVE BASS, NAN OWENS and KATHY WALTERS. DANIELE GARSON of PRESERVATION FOUNDATION PALM BCH renewed as a Not-for-Profit Member. Our renewing business members are MEADOW BEAUTY NURSERY (DONNA LEONE AND CARL TERWILLIGER).

**Membership at a Glance**

Business	6
Contributing	5
Donor or Family	28
Individual	108
Library	1
Life	2
Not for profit	4
Student	3
Supporting	4
<hr/>	
Total	161

A special THANK YOU to **Nan Owens** for coordinating refreshments (and filling in often when there are gaps) throughout the year for both the meetings and the monthly garden maintenance!

## Chapter Notes

submitted by  
Fran Leavengood

The Palm Beach Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society has been enjoying an excellent summer! On Tuesday, June 19, 2012 at 7:30pm one of our chapter's Directors At Large, **Ryan Leavengood**, presented "Plant This, Not That" at the monthly meeting. His talk focussed on native alternatives to common landscape plants. After Ryan's talk everyone was excited to plant more natives in their yards! Luckily we had a great selection of plants donated for our monthly plant drawing. They included Rouge Plant, Helianthus carnosus, Partridge-pea, Black-eyed Susan, Beach Sunflower, Sea ox-eye Daisy, Passiflora pallens, Tropical sage, and some fresh eggs and mangos. In addition to the drawing, a large number of salvias were donated allowing each new person attending the June meeting to receive one as a welcome gift.

At our July meeting on Tuesday, July 17, 2012 at 7:30pm the Palm Beach County Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society held "The Great Palm Beach Trade-Off" plant swap. **Lynn Sweetay** did a fabulous job coordinating the meeting event and it was a great success. There were twenty participants in the swap and thirty-two plants were brought in to be traded. The event was held in two rounds with each participant receiving one ticket for the first plant they brought and then a separate ticket for up to one more plant that they brought in for round two. **Jeff Nurge** did a terrific job providing information about each plant before the tickets were drawn. The plants brought in for trade were Paradise Tree, Passiflora pallens, Chromolaena frustrata, Pavonia bahamensis, Cherokee/Coral Bean, Ground Cherry, Porterweed, Fox Grape, Beach Sunflower, Helianthus carnosus, Pink Salvia, Pineland Petunia, Pineland Heliotrope, Hoop Vine, Blue Mistflower, Fiddlewood, Pigeon Plum, Muhly Grass, Yellowtop, Firebush, Blue Curls, Satinleaf, Chalky Bluestem, Pencil-flower, Greeneyes, and Corksystem Passion-vine. There were also three plants donated to be part of the usual meeting drawing: Mistletoe Cactus, Quailberry, Pennyroyal, and



Photography:  
Stephanie Duncan

**Many Thanks go to.....**

**Ryan, Lynn, and Jeff** for all of your hard work making our June and July meetings great, and thank you to all of the members that brought plants and participated in the swap and donated plants for the June and July drawings.

**Lindy Cerar and Jackie Kadish** for keeping the doors open at the Mounts building between closing and our meeting time for the June and July meetings.

Everyone who provided refreshments for June and July. **Chris Schwartz, Nan Owens, Mary Lou Hall and Fran Leavengood**

**Michael Manna, Steve Chase, and Jackie Kadish** for providing the garden maintenance at our demonstration garden at Mounts in June. We do not yet have the names for the July garden maintenance volunteers but will have that information for you in the next Dahoan.

## Gardening with the Natives

by Jeff Nurge

### Bigflower Pawpaw (*Asimina obovata*)

**Why we like it:** Over the years we have brought to the attention to our readers of this column those native plants that one can readily obtain and easily plant. Well we are going to bend that premise just a little for a plant that is a blooming singular beauty. Bigflower Pawpaw is a slow growing scrub and sometimes a tree that usually tops off around six feet. The plant itself visually is not too remarkable. Late fall and early winter it loses most if not all its leaves. However for six weeks between late winter and early spring it produces the most remarkable two to three inch three-petal creamy white flowers that hang like bells that some would describe as having a lemony fragrance. A look inside the flower during full bloom will reveal a number of very interesting beetle species that are responsible for the pollination of the Pawpaw. The plant will set edible fruit in the summer that looks remarkably like small



**How to grow it:** Pawpaws are finding their way into cultivation by way of a few intrepid growers. But here's where we make planting those rare finds a little more challenging. Pawpaws are notoriously difficult to grow in pots and nearly impossible to transplant. That's probably why they are not poached in their native habitats of pinelands and scrub. Pawpaws have a very

long and deep root system that is outsized for the height of the plant above ground. This root system enables the plant to survive fires that race through their areas quite frequently and the occasional freeze during the winter. Plant the Pawpaw in an open sunny area as it will flower more profusely. Soil requirements are only that it be well drained and not too rich with organic matter. Get specific instructions from the grower or nursery as to the correct procedures of placing the Pawpaw in the ground. Establishment period can be up to one year but after that you can literally walk away. It's that tough of a plant. Look for other Pawpaws in cultivation such as Netted Pawpaw (*Asimina reticulata*) which can be found in the wild in Palm Beach County. It is a smaller plant with some purple running through the flowers and a strong spicy fragrance.



bananas. For you butterfly enthusiasts the Zebra Swallowtail butterfly uses almost all Pawpaws in the *Asimina* genus as a host plant. Your best bet for a visit from this butterfly as it shies away from urban and suburban locals is to plant it out in the western regions of Palm Beach County and north.



### Where to buy it:

This plant is available at native nurseries, including Native Choice Nursery in Lake Worth (561-843-1192). To find other nurseries that carry it, visit the association of Florida Native Nurseries at [www.afnn.org](http://www.afnn.org), but don't stop there. The site provides only a snapshot of the offerings at local nurseries, so call around.

--Jeff Nurge [WWW.FloridaNativeGardening.com](http://WWW.FloridaNativeGardening.com)

## Upcoming Chapter Events

### Tuesday, August 21

CHAPTER MEETING  
*Habitat for Huge Manatees*  
Dr Christopher Buzzelli  
Senior Scientist, SFWMD  
7:30 - 9pm (doors open at 7pm)

Mounts Botanical Garden  
531 North Military Trail  
West Palm Beach



### Saturday, August 25

VOLUNTEER EVENT  
Demo Garden Maintenance  
9am – 12pm  
Clayton Hutchenson Bldg.  
559 N Military Trail, WPB

Come and learn from experts as you help us maintain our Native Plant Demonstration Garden. It's a great opportunity to ask questions, identify plants and take home cuttings for your garden. Work parties are held on the Saturday following our monthly meetings. Drop by anytime between 9:00 am and noon to learn, socialize and enjoy brunch in the open air. Don't forget to bring your garden tools!



*events continued on page 5*

## MacArthur Beach Butterfly Garden Update

*by Cathy Beals*

The native butterfly garden planted at MacArthur Beach State Park in March 2012 is looking strong and healthy four months later! This garden was designed and the planting coordinated through the untiring efforts of Lindy Cerar, Vice President and Education Chair of Palm Beach County Chapter of Florida Native Plant Society. Park Service Specialist, Art Carton coordinated efforts from the park's perspective and continues to oversee and provide assistance with the garden. Plants were purchased from and delivered by Jeff Nurge of Native Choice Nursery and a rain barrel was donated by Dennis de Zeeuw of Sustainscape, Inc. A few additional plants were also



donated. The installation of the garden was completed by volunteers from both PBCC FNPS and MacArthur Beach State Park. The garden installation and signage was intended as an in-kind sponsorship for the Park's annual Naturescaping event in April, 2012.

It can be a marvelous experience, tending a new garden, in some ways it is comparable to raising a child. The youngsters start off looking very tenuous, fragile, wobbly and susceptible to any number of external or internal conditions. Weather, for example: too much rain, not enough rain, unexpected nocturnal visitors, munchkins, trolls, who knows what quirks of nature might befall a tender new sprout? Even a well-meaning volunteer gardener may pluck a struggling seedling, inadvertently mistaking it for a weed. "One person's weed can be another's native wildflower."

Blessed with early rains in April and May, most of the plants took off with Mother Nature's expert assistance. My volunteer efforts every other week were focused mainly on keeping the weeds at bay. And then, on one overcast Sunday morning, a former gardening volunteer arrived to help with garden maintenance. Ed Frisbee and I had graduated from the same Master Gardener class in 2003 and we had shared some initial volunteer time at butterfly gardens from 2004 to 2006 (or thereabouts) at both MacArthur Beach (front entrance) and also at Blowing Rocks, with a third classmate and friend, Julia Richards. Julie had moved to New York approximately six years ago and Ed and I found ourselves participating in separate volunteer efforts shortly thereafter. We had parted ways and lost track of each other.

As fortune would have it, clouds moved in, the skies darkened and rain began to fall. This was a golden opportunity to make good use of the rocking chairs on the sheltered porch outside the front door to the gift store. We had time to chat and rock, protected from the rain, to catch up on each others' lives. When the rain stopped, we wandered over to the nursery, where we continued chatting, absently pulling weeds out of neglected pots.

## MacArthur Beach Butterfly Garden Update

continued from page 4



Along came Alana Edwards, of the North American Butterfly Association who was performing an annual butterfly count that morning. We had a delightful discussion with Alana, who suggested some additional host plants that could be included in our native garden. Of particular interest to Alana was the dwindling population counts of the endangered Florida White butterfly, whose host plant, Limber Caper, grows naturally along the coastal hammock area. She told us that, even though we had Jamaican Caper in our

garden, it is the Limber Caper that the caterpillars of the Florida White prefer. Here we found ourselves with an unexpected golden opportunity to learn from a butterfly expert, in the midst of routine garden maintenance.

So you see these seemingly mundane and possibly overlooked areas can be truly magical places, not unlike the baffling life cycle of the amazing butterfly itself. How does a creepy, crawly, "mean, green eating machine" with too many legs and an osmeterium turn itself inside out, remain captured inside a chrysalis for a couple of weeks, then suddenly emerge a beautiful, winged jewel with a proboscis that pushes its tip into the base of a flower to reach nectar? And how does it then flit from flower to flower to sample more?

The garden is nestled between the nature center and the new gift store, with a sheltered boardwalk overlooking the garden. The Seaside Goldenrod is sending upward very tall spikes towering over the ground covers of Dune sunflower, Passiflora, Pineland heliotrope, Blue Curly, Scorpion tail, beautiful grey Sea lavender and native Lantana. It won't be long, though until the White Stoppers (*Eugenia axillaris*), Frostweed, Privet, Coral bean, Jamaican Caper and Necklace pods catch up to make themselves equally statuesque. Although I have yet to see my first butterfly in this fairly young garden, a park ranger assured me that some winged visitors have been spotted. The Palm Beach County Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society's butterfly garden at MacArthur Beach State Park in North Palm Beach is a place worth visiting.

Note: The Park offers a Saturday morning butterfly walk at 11:00 AM, once a month. The walk is led by a Park Ranger (or sometimes a volunteer like me) with an initial presentation about butterfly life cycles and gardening suggestions, followed by a walk (or tram ride) across the boardwalk to Hammock Trail where many butterflies are often seen in their native habitat. Current butterfly walks are scheduled for the following Saturday mornings at 11:00 AM (free with park admission): August 25, September 22, and October 20.



## Upcoming Chapter Events

**Sunday August 26**  
**9:00 a.m.**

FIELD TRIP  
EXPLORING LAKE WORTH  
LAGOON SEAGRASS BEDS

Led by Dr. Christopher Buzzelli



Meet in parking lot on north side of the Southern Blvd bridge over the ICW on the Palm Beach (east side).

We'll be walking at low tide towards the small island to the north. This is the most accessible seagrass meadow that you can literally walk to. You must wear water shoes with sturdy soles. Plus bring your snorkeling equipment just in case you want to reach the deeper parts. and of course, water, sunscreen, hat, and the like. Afterwards, we'll take time for snacks and to enjoy the view.

### SAVE THE DATES

**September 18**

CHAPTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING (*rescheduled from August*)  
Members are invited to attend and participate.

CHAPTER MEETING: Pan's Garden & The Preservation Foundation of Palm Beach

**September 22**

FIELD TRIP TO PAN'S GARDEN  
Led by Daniele Garson, Director, Palm Beach Preservation Foundation

## Other Events

### Thursday and Friday, August 23 and 24, 2012

WATER MODULE 2012: "UNDERSTANDING NUTRIENTS IN WATER QUALITY"  
South Florida Water Management District  
3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach

FLORIDA EARTH FOUNDATION

Agenda and registration <http://floridaearth.org/watermodule201>

### September 1-29, 2012

Registration closes on August 27, 2012

FLORIDA MASTER NATURALIST PROGRAM: COASTAL SYSTEMS MODULE



John D. MacArthur Beach State Park: Education Center  
10900 Jack Nicklaus Dr, North Palm Beach, FL 33408

Steve Bass, Environmental and Educational Consultant  
Assistant: Kitty Phillips, NAI CIG

Phone: 561-613-1621 (Steve), 561-427-3158 (Kitty)  
Email: [stephenbass@earthlink.net](mailto:stephenbass@earthlink.net), [kittyphilips@hotmail.com](mailto:kittyphilips@hotmail.com)

### GRASSES, SEDGES, RUSHES AND GRASSLIKE PLANTS IN THEIR NATURAL ECOSYSTEM

**When:** Fall Term (late August-early December), Monday afternoons 3-5:45 pm (ending in time for PBSC evening classes)

**Where:** Based at the PBSC North Campus, 3160 PGA Blvd., the class often meets at field sites within a 20-minute driving radius of the campus.

**Who:** There are no prerequisites. The class is for any high school graduate interested in grasses, sedges, rushes, xyris, bogbuttons, wetland plants(!), and native plants. Students may include land managers, biologists, teachers, horticulturists, photographers, hayseeds, and enthusiasts for the green world. Students provide their own transportation to field sites and must be able to walk a mile in natural areas under normal conditions on trails or otherwise easy terrain.

**What** (will happen): The course is a mixture of lecture, extensive fieldwork, and laboratory follow-up to the fieldwork. We learn to identify the major families and genera (subgroups) of grasslike plants, and a large number of individual species. Further, we will learn the vocabulary and techniques required to identify such plants on our own. The text will be handed out in class. See [www.floridagrasses.org](http://www.floridagrasses.org)

For more information: Contact George Rogers, Ph.D., Palm Beach State College, 3160 PGA Blvd., Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410. [rogersg@palmbeachstate.edu](mailto:rogersg@palmbeachstate.edu).



For non-degree-seeking students. Students not in a PBSC program are welcome.

~Thank You~

To all those who welcomed us into their gardens this spring for the 2012 Native Yard Tour.  
Your contributions to this event were much appreciated.

**Bader  
Residence**



**Brazeau  
Residence**



**Cummings  
Residence**



**Ferrano Residence**



**Roland Residence**



**Hauert Residence**



*Photography  
Stephanie Duncan*

In an effort to continue clarifying our by-laws a small group of the Board members (Lynn Sweetay, Cathy Beals, Stephanie Duncan, Brenda Mills) and our past president (Kris Serbesoff-King) met earlier this year. After pondering several ideas, we decided to just recommend minor edits to clarify a few key points in the bylaws. The proposed changes below achieve four goals:

- consistently refer to the Chapter as the PBCC FNPS while referring to the entire organization “as statewide FNPS”
- confirm that we’re a charitable organization
- enable distribution of the election slate and proposed bylaw changes in writing or electronically
- fix a typographical error.

***Please review the changes in the document below. Changes are indicated by an underline (word added) or strike-out (word deleted). We will update the bylaws at our September general meeting.***

## BYLAWS OF THE PALM BEACH COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY, INC.

September 2012 DRAFT document (revisions only)

***Please Note: A complete version of the 2012 draft bylaws can be found on our chapter webpage or contact Brenda Mills - palmbeach@fnpschapters.org***

### ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

#### Section 2.

a. PBCC FNPS is organized exclusively for educational and/or ~~scientific~~ charitable purposes, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt under section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section(s) of any future federal tax code.

### ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

Section 2. Chapter membership is part of a joint membership with the statewide Florida Native Plant Society, which shall set membership classes, process membership applications, set and collect dues, and rebate a portion of the dues to PBCC FNPS

### ARTICLE IV – MEETINGS

Section 3. A special meeting of PBCC FNPS can be called at any time by the Board of Directors or shall be called by a petition from 10 percent of the members. All members of PBCC FNPS shall receive one week’s advance written or electronic notice of the time, place, and purpose of any special meeting.

### ARTICLE V – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. The business of PBCC FNPS shall be managed by a Board of Directors consisting of nine members: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Chapter FNPS Representative, Conservation Chair, and three Directors at Large. The Board of Directors shall make rules and regulations to govern its meetings and the affairs of PBCC FNPS.

Section 5. A member of the Board of Directors can be removed from the board by a two-thirds vote of the membership present at a monthly or special meeting, provided that advance written or electronic notice of the removal motion shall be given to all members

Section 7. Directors at Large shall be elected at the annual meeting by a majority vote of the members present, for a period of one year and they may serve up to three consecutive terms. They shall provide guidance and assistance on matters of the PBCC FNPS and as requested by the President.

### ARTICLE VI – OFFICERS

#### Section 5. Duties of the Treasurer

d. Submit to FNPS an annual revenue and expense report and an asset, liability and fund balance report in the format required for the annual Florida Registration for Charitable Organizations. The annual revenue and expense report will cover January to December.

#### Section 6. Duties of the Chapter FNPS Representative

a. Represent PBCC FNPS at all statewide Florida Native Plant Society Board of Directors meetings or find an alternate if unable to attend.

c. Prepare a brief written report for each calendar quarter, due at the quarterly PBCC FNPS board meeting.

### ARTICLE VII – COMMITTEES

Section 1. A Nominations Committee shall be ~~created~~ appointed by the President. This committee shall consist of a minimum of two members and shall present a slate of officers to be published in the monthly newsletter at least one week prior to the annual meeting.

Section 2. The President shall ~~create~~ appoint such standing and temporary committees as may be deemed necessary to accomplish the aims of PBCC FNPS

### ARTICLE VIII – AMENDMENTS

These bylaws may be amended at the annual meeting, or at a special meeting called for that purpose, by two-thirds vote of those present, provided that the membership shall have been notified of the proposed amendments in writing or in electronic format at least one week prior to such meeting.

## Announcements

### September Election of Officers and Board

*submitted by Kristina Serbesoff-King*

Per the Palm Beach County Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society bylaws, our annual meeting to elect officers, receive reports and amend bylaws if necessary, is in September. I am excited to announce the nomination slate for the upcoming year's officers and board members.

We are very privileged to have 8 of our 9 positions willing to return for another term, albeit in different roles. We'll continue to build on their expertise in new ways. The new Officer for your consideration is Francesca Leavengood who is willing to serve as our Secretary. Francesca has been volunteering for many events and roles over the years and is very qualified to fulfill the Secretary's responsibilities. Combined, these members have been working with our Chapter for at least one year (officially, many many years as members) and provide continuity to our Chapter's efforts.

President – **Lynn Sweetay**  
 Vice president – **Lindy Cerar**  
 Secretary – **Francesca Leavengood**  
 Treasurer – **Stephanie Duncan**  
 Conservation chair – **Michael Manna**  
 Chapter Representative – **Brenda Mills**  
 Director at large 1 – **Ryan Leavengood**  
 Director at large 2 – **Kristi Martin Moyer**  
 Director at large 3 – **Susan Lerner**

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our outgoing Secretary, **Cathy Beals**. She has been a longtime supporter of our chapter through her generosity and willingness to tackle new projects – from the annual report, to painting mailboxes for the Demonstration Garden to helping to establish a butterfly garden at MacArthur Beach State Park. She will continue to support our Chapter and conservation in Florida wherever she is and may be back volunteering for PBCC FNPS in the future. Please take the opportunity to thank her for her dedicated service as PBCC Secretary for last five years.

## Officers & Chairpersons

President—Brenda Mills  
 247-3677 palmbeach@fnpschapters.org

Vice-President—Lindy Cerar  
 312-0660 lindycerar@yahoo.com

Treasurer—Stephanie Duncan  
 575-7956 duncan694@aol.com

Secretary— Fran Leavengood (Acting)

Chapter Rep.—Lynn Sweetay  
 798-6208 lynnsweetay@hotmail.com

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 561-966-7797 mmanna@bellsouth.net

Director at Large—Susan Lerner

Director at Large—Kristi Martin Moyer

Director at Large—Ryan Leavengood

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 561-247-3677

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Visit us on the web  
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[www.fnps.org](http://www.fnps.org)

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