Chapter Meeting August 15
Meeting opens at 7pm Program starts at 7:30pm
Meeting will be held at Pine Jog Environmental Education Center
6301 Summit Blvd, WPB

Public welcome • Native plant drawing • Refreshments • Free admission

Back by popular demand....
The Great Palm Beach
Native Plant Trade-Off!

PROGRAM: 2017 NATIVE PLANT SWAP
A Member Participation Event

We will be holding our native plant swap again this year, and hope that you will join us at the Pine Jog Environmental Education Center on August 15 (next Tuesday) for a fun meeting as well as a great opportunity to diversify your native plant collection.

Here’s the game plan:
• Each person can enter up to two plants which can be traded for tickets for a two-part drawing.
• For the first part, tickets will be drawn randomly and each person gets to pick a plant as their ticket number is called.
• For the second part, those who entered two plants get to participate again in the same sort of drawing.
• Extra plants can be brought to donate to those who are new to our meetings or who don’t have a plant.
• The usual raffle drawing, for which tickets are purchased, will still take place if there any plants left over after the plant swap.

Some guidelines for those bringing plants: Please arrive by 6:30 PM to allow sufficient time for all plants to be inspected by our emcee, Rufino Osorio, who will ensure that they are native to Florida, properly labeled, and free from any pests or diseases. Plants will be accepted in containers ranging in size from 4 inches to 3 gallons and should be healthy, well established, and sized appropriately for their container. Smaller plants (4-inch container minimum) will be accepted if they are unusual or rare and have several sets of adult leaves. Labels should include the planta’s name, preferred light level, and preferred soil moisture.

May the luck of the drawing be with you! And don’t forget to tell your friends!

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Visit us on the web!  www.fnps.org

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.
**Chapter Notes**

### The FNPS PBC Chapter Welcomes our Newest Members

*Barbara and James Stark*

*Sabrina and Randy Carle*

**AND... Thank you to all who recently renewed their membership!**

### Nominations for 2018 PBC Chapter Officers

We are pleased to announce the following slate of candidates for nomination to the 2017 - 2018 PBC Chapter Board of Directors:

- **President:** Susan Lerner
- **Vice President:** C.J. McCartney
- **Secretary:** Frank Frank
- **Treasurer:** Fatima Nejame
- **Chapter Representative:** Lucy Keshavarz
- **Conservation Chair:** Chris Lockhart
- **Directors at Large (3):** Jeff Nurge, MaryJo Aagerstoun, Donnie Brown

All nominees are currently serving on the board. Please welcome C.J. McCartney and Donnie Brown who were recently appointed to fill vacant positions.

This slate of candidates for 2017-2018 Chapter Officers will be announced at the August meeting. Voting will be in September.

Only members present at the September chapter meeting will be able to vote. We encourage you to attend the meeting and participate in this process. If you are interested in a board position, please contact Susan Lerner before the September meeting. You must be on the slate in order to be nominated. We welcome volunteers to fill any vacant chair positions. Currently we are in need of an education chair and someone interested in assisting in newsletter preparation.

Remember members, there are a lot of opportunities to volunteer so don't be shy... support your chapter!

### PBCC FNPS PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

**August 2017**

Dear Members and Friends,

It’s been encouraging recently to see articles about the importance of supporting the food web. A recent Facebook post by Audubon.org stated: “Restoring native plant habitat is vital to preserving biodiversity. By creating a native plant garden, each patch of habitat becomes part of a collective effort to nurture and sustain the living landscape for birds and other animals.” What a perfect statement!

The Compass School in Kingston, Rhode Island has planted a Biodiversity Garden, “a unique educational resource, providing learning opportunities for all grade levels.” They claim, “The greater the diversity of plants in an ecosystem, the greater the animal diversity.” Obviously, the message is spreading!

National Geographic posted a book review on Facebook, “Bugged – the Insects Who Rule the World and the People Obsessed with Them”, by David MacNeal. The headline for the article reads “Without Bugs, We Might All Be Dead. There are 1.4 billion insects per person on this planet and we need (almost) every one of them”. Even the Washington Post had an article about the impact of street lighting on pollinating insects. This is such good news!

I take all this activity and press as evidence of people waking up to the importance of restoring and protecting bio-diverse, native habitats that will prevent ecocide. Clearly, we are not alone in our mission; there are others seeking to protect the living planet. That’s a relief, ‘cause there’s plenty to be done! And it moves more quickly when we do it together.

If you haven’t already heard, this year’s Garden Tour (Sunday, October 1st) will have an exciting, special twist. We are partnering with two excellent organizations that are also committed to saving the natural world - Audubon Society of the Everglades and the Atala Chapter of the North American Butterfly Association. Together, we will be giving a bird & butterfly habitat – a Corky-stem Passionvine and a Firebush – to each garden tour participant!

Also for the day of the Garden Tour, our Director-at-Large, MaryJo Aagerstoun, has organized our first ever bus tour of interesting uses of Florida natives in urban landscapes. This tour is specifically for PB County and municipality elected officials and staff, landscape architects, and members of the American Planning Association. There will be more information about this exciting event in the next Darhoon.

So, we need to keep doing what we’re doing, expanding our outreach and partnering with others on the same path. Let’s do it for the bugs...

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**Susan Lerner, President**

VitalLongevity@gmail.com

561-478-7444

**REMEMBER: We are meeting at Pine Jog Environmental Education Center for our August chapter meeting (Native Plant Swap).**

For directions to Pine Jog - see map on page 7

We will resume meeting at Mounts Botanical Garden Auditorium in September
Conservation Matters by Chris Lockhart, PBCC Conservation Chair

The Palm Beach County LDRAB (Land Development Regulation Advisory Board) Landscape Subcommittee has been meeting over the past couple of months. They are reviewing and updating various articles as it relates to zoning. One such item is Article 7 that deals with the landscape code for new developments. I have been attending these meetings as a representative of our FNPS chapter. There are a few items that are proposed for change that are improvements:

- Pines and palms are now included
- New tree height requirements have been reduced from 12 ft to 8 ft, which will make it easier for developers to acquire and meet the native plant requirement
- So far, the 60% native plant requirement (for all plants, including trees, shrubs and groundcover) remains intact, however, there are a couple of persistent voices who wish this to be reduced. Various benefits of natives have been mentioned, however, we need to be cautious that those opposing voices do not become overly loud and influential. Of course, we can always counter with an argument that at least it’s not 75% native!

Whether native or not, it always makes sense to plant the right plant in the right place. We need to also remember the benefits of natives – better adapted to our South Florida environment, less fertilizer needed so less chemical runoff into our surface waters and aquifers, less susceptible to insect pests so generally less herbicide is needed, less water generally needed once established, and they support the local and native pollinators and wildlife. You may think of more benefits. Remember the song: “Let me tell you ‘bout the birds and the bees and the flowers and the trees and the moon up above…. And a thing called loovee!” Well, without the proper/native flowers and trees we won’t have the birds and the bees.

Remember to plan for diversity in your yard. The same should be for developments. Some non-natives are ok, but avoid the invasive ones and encourage the planting of natives. Support our local native plant nurseries and spread the word!

Back to the landscape ordinance - Article 7, especially Chapter D – read up on it and support it however you can, voice the benefits of natives and the importance to maintain the 60% requirement that’s been in place since the 1980s. No need to change or go backward now. And be a supportive voice by attending meetings if possible. The revised Article 7 will be presented to the full LDRAB board on Wed., August 23rd at 2 pm in PBC’s Vista Center Government Building on Jog Road in West Palm Beach. After their approval, I believe it will then go to the County Commissioners. It will be 2018 before we can rest assured that these proposed modifications will be in place for a while. We need to be persistent and vigilant.

For more information on this, you can see the whole Article with proposed revisions from:


Scroll down to the “Art. 7, Landscaping” section, where you can click the link for August 2 to see the documents and agenda recently discussed, attendees, etc. Save this link to check out the summary when it’s posted.

I don’t know what objections will be voiced on Aug. 23rd, so please mark your calendars and try to attend if you can. We need more than just one voice. I hope to see some of you there.

Natural Area Photography

Photos taken at Grassy Waters Preserve by C.J. McCartney

Halloween pennant dragonfly (Celithemis eponina)

Butterfly Orchid (Encyclia tampensis)

Crested floating heart (Nymphoides cristata)

The crested floating heart is listed as a Category 1 on the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council’s (FLEPPC) 2015 List of Invasive Plant Species. It is also a recently listed state noxious weed. Invasive plant managers with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and South Florida Water Management District are currently trying to control the spread of this plant. Crested floating heart is an aggressive pest plant that develops dense mats and quickly covers lakes and ponds. Similar species, Nymphoides aquatica and N. cordata, are Florida natives.
Palm Beach County Native Plant Nurseries

Indian Trails Nursery
Owner: Jane Thompson
6315 Park Lane West, Lake Worth, FL 33467
Tel: 561-641-9488
Hours: Mon - Fri 8a-4p (by appt only), Sat 8a-4p (call ahead)
Website: www.indiantrails.vpweb.com

Meadow Beauty Nursery
Owners: Carl Terwilliger and Donna Leone
5782 Ranches Road, Lake Worth, FL 33463
Tel: 561-601-9673
Hours: Sat 8a - 12p (or by appt)
Website: www.meadowbeautynursery.com

Native Choice Nursery
Owner: Jeff Nurje
7401 Tropical World Way Boynton Beach, FL
Tel: 561-756-4370
Hours: Fri & Sat 10a-4p
Website: www.nativechoicenursery.com

Southern Native Nursery*
Owner: Michael Catron
16651 Van Gogh Blvd, Loxahatchee, FL 33470
Tel: 561-798-1172
Hours: Mon - Sat 7:30a - 4:30p
Website: www.southernnativenuery.com

D. R. Bates Liners and Gallons
Owner: D.R. Bates
17639 64th Place N. Loxahatchee, FL 33470
Tel: 561-790-3246
Hours: Tues - by appointment
Website: d.r.bates@att.net

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Gardening with the Natives  by Jeff Nurje

www.FloridaNativeGardening.com

Elliott’s Love Grass
(Eragrostis elliottii)

Why we like it: An overlooked and underappreciated component of most landscapes is the use of grasses. This also holds true for most native landscape installations. Many of our native grasses complement, lend structure and provide an ornamental feature to many species of trees, bushes and flowers. Elliott’s Love grass is a prime example. With its silvery blue blades and numerous whitish inflorescence flower spikes comprised of an abundance of seed heads Elliott’s Love grass puts on quite a show in the South Florida breeze. Flowering is in the summer and early fall. The seeds are a rich source of food for our bird population.

How to grow it: Elliott’s Love grass is a fast grower. Clumping in nature and growing from six to twenty inches in height. Growing in its natural habitat of pineland prairies and open coastal areas it is a full sun grass. It is drought tolerant. However, for best performance, and to keep it presentable in formal gardens throughout the year, it likes a little moisture. If left to dry out it will die back to the ground only to return next year from dropped seed. Elliott’s Love grass can grow in a wide range of soil types. Another related species, Purple Love Grass (Eragrostis spectabilis), has, as you might have guessed, purple flower spikes rising above the main plant. The two grasses together are very striking!

Where to buy it: Call your local native nurseries (see list on left) to check on the availability of Elliott’s Love Grass. To find other nurseries that carry it, visit the association of Florida Native Nurseries at www.afnn.org

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Platoons by Scott Svatos

ARE YOU AT PEACE WITH THE UNIVERSE?

NO, I'M COMPLETELY GROUNDED

Wryzomes
The Palm Beach County Ag Reserve is constantly under pressure to be developed despite taxpayers investing $100 million under a 1999 Voter Referendum to designate the area for continued agricultural use.

**More Development Proposed for Palm Beach County’s Ag Reserve**
_Elinor Williams, President Friends of the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge_

A new proposal would put more than 2,000 homes in the Agricultural Reserve, a 21,000-acre farming region west of Boynton Beach and Delray Beach between the Refuge and Florida's Turnpike. More than 7,000 homes have been built there and about 3,200 more are planned. GL Homes is proposing to shift some of the 3,897 homes approved to be built in rural Loxahatchee and the Acreage at Indian Trails Grove to three plots of land it owns in the Ag Reserve. Such a move would require changes to rules in the Ag Reserve, which require builders to set aside 60 acres in the reserve for every 40 they wish to develop there. While GL's plan has been embraced by Acreage/Loxahatchee residents eager to see less development in their own area, south county residents - led by the Coalition of Boynton West Residential Associations - have mounted a campaign against it. The Palm Beach County Soil and Water Conservation District also opposes it, while the Indian Trail Improvement District supports it. GL doesn't plan to approach the county formally until December, when it makes a presentation to the Planning Commission. County commissioners could be asked to consider the plan in January. In 1999 Palm Beach County voters overwhelmingly approved spending $100 million to purchase 2,400 acres in the Ag Reserve in order to preserve the land for farming and environmental protection.

This was not the first development in recent memory that county commissioners actually voted down in western Palm Beach County. That distinction probably belongs to the Iota Carol project in the Acreage. In April, on a vote of 5-2, commissioners turned down a request to change the county's comprehensive plan to accommodate the Iota Carol/Delray Linton Groves project, which called for the construction of 1,030 homes on 1,288 acres west of the Acreage in the northwest area of the county. The two lowest county commissioners, who have been less willing to back development projects than their predecessors, voted with the majority in rejecting the project.

In the proposed county budget that would go into effect October 1, commissioners have included $3 million to begin a three-year, $9 million process to reacquire full ownership of a 571-acre tract of land in the Ag Reserve that the county originally purchased in 2000 using public bond money approved by voters to encourage land preservation and agriculture. The tract was part of the former McMurrain Farms operation west of State Road 7 that is now farmed by the Pero family. A 61 percent stake in the property was sold to the South Florida Water Management District by the county in 2006 for $13.7 million. Because the district plans for constructing a reservoir on it have since changed, it told the county earlier this year it wanted the land sold. That raised fears that private ownership of the land would open the door to its eventual development, even if the buyer were the Pero farming family, which currently leases it for agriculture. While two commissioners argued that trusting the county to resist development pressures on the land would be riskier and more expensive to taxpayers than selling the land to farmers with conservation easements on it, the majority disagreed. Conservation easements would theoretically make future development difficult, but time and again we have seen commissioners lift those development restrictions with a simple majority vote.

**Palm Beach Post Op-Ed** by Laura Reynolds (PBCC FNPS member)

The Ag Reserve is an area in Palm Beach County where 17 years ago, the county drew a line around an area that was to be off limits to buildings, cars and pavement for the sake of maintaining farm lands and sensitive environmental areas. One of the several reasons to protect open spaces is to allow for aquifer recharge. Aquifer recharge occurs over development-free spaces when rainwater seeps into the ground and ultimately percolates into the aquifer that later becomes our drinking water.

When rain falls on pavement, buildings or compacted ground, it does not seep into the ground. Instead, rainfall over developed areas is required, based on the South Florida Water Management District flood protection “rules,” to be diverted into man-made catchment areas, and most of the time, flows into man-made canals and then into the Intracoastal, estuaries and ultimately to tide.

Addressing Ernie Barnett’s letter published in the July 9 edition of The Palm Beach Post, “Agencies’ rules will protect wetlands,” it may be true that the water district permit issued to GL Homes for its development of the Ag Reserve, on paper, shows no impacts. But what he did not say, and likely cannot say, is whether there will be impacts to the aquifer. The reason for that is because the water district does not consider the elimination of aquifer recharge as it permits open spaces for development or how to mitigate for that. This means that developing these last bastions of open spaces results in more runoff to the estuaries and the coastal areas (to prevent flooding), less recharge to the aquifer, decreased water quality and more consumption of what remains flowing into our aquifer. This is not sustainable.

To read the entire article:

**Toxic New Guinea flatworm surfaces in Loxahatchee**

PBCC member Lynn Sweetay, a Loxahatchee resident, brought this to our attention. The invasive flatworm has a toxic slime that will cause an allergic reaction in addition to having the potential to spread a deadly parasite.

Alanna Quillen, WPTV Channel 5 News reports:

The flatworm has a dark, slender body with a distinct orange or tan colored stripe down it’s back.

Jamie Vasquez, a branch manager with Tropical Pest Control in West Palm Beach, said it’s the same worm that transmits the deadly rat-lungworm parasite, which can lead to a disease that causes meningitis.

If you find a flatworm, take a picture and submit a report by clicking here.

To read the entire article: Click here

UF IFAS Extension Invasive Alert Fact Sheet:
Chapter Events

All meetings are held at the University of Florida/IFAS Mounts Building Auditorium, 531 North Military Trail, West Palm Beach, unless otherwise noted.

Tuesday August 15 | 5:30PM - 7PM
CHAPTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
The BoD will meet at the Pine Jog Environmental Education Center prior to the chapter meeting. All members are welcome.

*Please note: The August chapter meeting will be held at Pine Jog Environmental Education Center located at Summit Blvd and Jog Road in West Palm Beach. See page 7 for map*

Tuesday August 15 | 7:30PM - 9:30PM
CHAPTER MEETING
ANNUAL NATIVE PLANT SWAP WITH RUFINO OSORIO, EMCEE
This popular plant exchange event is a great opportunity to diversify your landscape. Only Florida native plants will be accepted. (See front page for more details). Be sure to label your plants with correct scientific names, growing conditions, and any other items of interest you would like to pass on to the new owner. Good reference sites for labeling include: The Atlas of Florida Vascular Plants: www.plantatlas.usf.edu, and the Institute for Regional Conservation’s Natives for Your Neighborhood: www.regionalconservation.org/beta/nfyn/plantlist.asp.
This event is educational and a lot of FUN!

Tuesday September 19 | 7:30PM
JOINT CHAPTER MEETING WITH THE SIERRA CLUB LOXAHATCHEE GROUP
AQUATIC HABITAT CONSERVATION & RESTORATION
Aquatic Habitat Conservation & Restoration will be presented in the joint meeting with Sierra Club by Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Aquatic Habitat and Restoration Section Biological Administrator Steve Gornak.

According to our chapter bylaws, the September meeting is our designated opportunity to elect chapter officers, receive reports, and amend bylaws if necessary. Business will be conducted before the speaker program. Members are encouraged to attend this meeting and vote for your chapter’s directors.

Sunday October 1 | 10AM - 7PM
ANNUAL NATIVE GARDEN TOUR ***Save the date!!***
This is a self-guided tour to private native gardens in Palm Beach County. This year’s tour will take place in east central PBC. There will be docents and plant lists at each property. Volunteer now to participate in this fun event. We will have sign up sheets at the chapter meeting or you can call Susan Lerner to volunteer.

Tuesday October 17 | 7:30PM
CHAPTER MEETING
FLORIDA MILKWEED INITIATIVE with Scott Davis, Refuge Ranger at St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge
Refuge Ranger Scott Davis has developed a long term plan to support the monarch butterfly in the Big Bend of Florida by sourcing local ecotypes of milkweed species to provide an ongoing viable seed source for the refuge, as well as distributing as many seedlings as possible to the conservation lands. More milkweeds = more monarchs!

Individual monarch butterflies migrate from the Northeastern United States, riding the leading edges of cold fronts, and then overwinter in Mexico. The arduous trip back requires three generations of butterflies. The presence of milkweed along the route is critical to monarch caterpillars.

Photo: Cathy Keifer

Other Events

PBC ERM Volunteer Event in the Pine Glades Natural Area
Trash removal along Indiantown Road
Wednesday, August 17, 2017
Time: 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.
Directions: From I-95 exit at Indiantown Rd. (State Rd. 706) and head west for roughly 7 miles – the parking area is on the left – a brown natural area sign is visible from Indiantown Road and is located at the parking lot entrance – look for a white County truck to find designated meeting area.

Additional Information: Volunteers should wear long pants, t-shirts, boots or sneakers. Some of the areas we will be cleaning may have standing water – so volunteers should wear clothing they don’t mind getting wet or muddy. Poison ivy is found at this natural area. Tools, gloves, and refreshments will be supplied. Event participation is limited to the first 10 volunteers who register: Call Ann Mathews 561-233-2426

ARThUR R. MARSHALL LOXAHATCHEE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Solar Eclipse Canoe Tour
Monday, August 21, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Join us for a paddling experience like no other! Take a guided tour on our Canoe Trail during the August 21st solar eclipse. You might see alligators, anhingas, egrets, herons, and many more species that call the northern Everglades their home. You may rent a canoe for $35 from Loxahatchee Canoeing by calling 561-733-0192 or bring your own. (One canoe seats 2 to 3) Meet at the Lee Road Boat Ramp. RESERVATIONS REQUIRED. Call the Visitor Center at 561-734-8303.

Rain Forests and Waterfalls of the Appalachians Tour
September 10 – 15, 2017
Our native plant society is embarking on an adventure to the Appalachians this summer to botanize, socialize and explore the mountains on a refreshing trip to the temperate rain forests. Come with us while we discover the amazing world of the spruce-fir forests of the southeast with local, expert guides. Invite your favorite traveling companion or come alone and make new friends. Seating is limited but you can reserve your spot for only $50. For more information:

www.indigotravelcompany.com
SAVE THE DATE

The Annual Native Garden Tour is happening on October 1 in east central Palm Beach County and of course, we will need volunteers!! PLEASE, clear your calendar and be sure you can volunteer at/attend this exciting yearly event! As soon as we have all the properties, we’ll be posting the volunteer sign up sheets.

PLEASE NOTE: Due to construction at the Mounts Auditorium, our July and August Chapter meetings will be held at:

Pine Jog Environmental Education Center
6301 Summit Blvd, WPB
(561) 686-6600

Contributions to the Dahoon newsletter are always welcome. Content relevent to the Florida Native Plant Society such as meeting & field trip notes, summaries of recent FNPS activities, local event/meeting announcements, legislative updates, native plant articles/notes, and photos of native plants or native plant enthusiasts in action can be submitted to the editor at:

dahooned@gmail.com

The Dahoon is published monthly (except July and December) by Palm Beach County Chapter FNPS

http://palmbeach.fnpschapters.org/

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Like us!

https://www.facebook.com/PBCC_FNPS
How Can I Become a Member of the Florida Native Plant Society?

You can join on-line www.fnps.org
Membership forms are also available at chapter meetings

The Palm Beach County Chapter of the FNPS
meets on the third Tuesday of every month at the
University of Florida/IFAS Mounts Building Auditorium
531 North Military Trail, West Palm Beach
For more information, please call or email
561-247-3677
palmbeach@fnpschapters.org

Tell a friend!