March 2017

National Weed Appreciation Day
March 28, 2017
Weed Appreciation Day reminds you to get out there and really look at your yard, and find out if perhaps what you once thought of us as a weed, is actually a wonderful new surprise living in your lawn. See page 4 for more.

Chapter Meeting Tuesday, March 21
Meeting opens at 7pm - Program starts at 7:30pm
A native plant drawing follows the program
Public welcome • No reservations needed • Refreshments • Free admission

SPEAKER PROGRAM: FLORIDA NATIVE MEDICINAL PLANTS
with Laura Olson, Native Herbologist
Many of us are aware of the medicinal properties of our native plants but are not familiar with how to put them to use. Join us on the 21st to expand our knowledge base relative to native medicinal plants, some that we may already be growing in our home landscapes. The presentation “Florida Native Medicinal Plants” will briefly cover 12 medicinal plants that are growing around us and how and when to use them for their medicinal properties. Don’t forget to sign up for the April 1st workshop at which we will have the opportunity to make medicinal magic. See notice below for details.

Laura Olson is a Florida native Herbologist, owner of eufLoria healing LLC, and a mitigation banking land consultant from the Treasure Coast. EufLoria healing is a local herbal medicine company that utilizes and specializes in Florida native medicinal plants and their applications. She has dedicated her life to the health of Florida’s ecosystems and its residents.

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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.

Medicinal Plants Hands-on Workshop - April 1
Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 1st for a workshop featuring in-depth plant profiles for gotu kola (Centella asiatica, aka spadeleaf) and lizards tail (Saururus cernuus). We will learn how to make oil infusions and poultices with these plants. Please bring 2 small mason jars with lids (any recycled glass jar with a lid will work). The cost is $20 for PBCC FNPS members, and $25 for non-members. Please pay in cash at the event.

Sign up at the meeting or here (sign up genius):
http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e084babab28a2fd0-florida

Want to find out more about these two plants? Here are links to information:
Click Here for background on the origin and culture of Gotu Kola by Linda Duever
And for an amazing amount of information related to the ethnobotany of Lizard’s Tail, Click Here to read an article by Dan Austin from our FNPS quarterly magazine The Palmetto (Feb. 2003).

THE PALM BEACH COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
A 501(c)(3) ORGANIZATION
Chapter meetings are held on the third Tuesday of every month at the University of Florida/IFAS Mounts Building Auditorium, 531 North Military Trail, West Palm Beach
palmbeach.fnpschapters.org www.facebook.com/PBCC.FNPS
The FNPS PBC Chapter Welcomes our Newest Members

Karen Lindquist
Faye Pelosi
Joseph Atterbury

AND THANK YOU to all who recently renewed their memberships

Volunteer Opportunities

Event Coordinator
Are you the one? We are looking for a new education chair/event coordinator. This is someone who will coordinate the several “tabling events” we do with other organizations throughout the year, and also work on the very special events we have planned for 2017. If this is you, or if you want to take this on as a partnership with someone else, please step forward!

Web Assistant
If you are reading this it is a good possibility that you might be interested in helping to update our web site. This job would include “light” web maintenance and does not require expert skills, only a general level of computer competence and web familiarity. Please contact Susan Lerner if you are interested.

Special Assignment
We need to be keeping track of our volunteers and volunteer hours in order to qualify for grants. Past president Ryan Leavengood and Susan Lerner are working on devising a way to log volunteer hours on our website. We are looking for a someone to be an administrator of our statistics. If interested, talk with Susan.

Newsletter Assistant
Your monthly chapter newsletter, The Dahoo, could use some help with publication tasks. We can talk about how you might be able to contribute. Give me a call!
Winnie Said (Editor) 561-632-7723 or email dahoooned@gmail.com

PBCC FNPS PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE
March 2017

Dear Members and Friends,

It has been a whirlwind first quarter! And we have accomplished much in service of our mission to promote the preservation, conservation and restoration of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida.

To recap, in addition to our monthly meetings, 1) we sponsored the movie SEED: the untold story, drawing attention to the need for preserving our “heritage” plants and seeds. More than 200 people attended! 2) The forty-nine volunteers at our South Florida Fair booth gave 400 hours, and spoke with over 1900 people! 3) We had volunteers at tables at Everglades Day, Lake Worth Festival of Trees, NatureScaping and ERM’s Natural Areas Festival, and spoke and shared information with countless people! 4) We sponsored the film Hometown Habitat, and created GOING NATIVE! NativeScape Marketplace & Film. We partnered with the City of WPB Mayor’s Office of Sustainability and the WPB Downtown Development Authority – adding both as new allies in the effort to champion natives. 5) We continue to be involved with Habitat for Humanity – designing native landscapes and planting them. 6) We submitted suggestions to the proposed amendments to the City of WPB Landscape Code, spoke at the Commissioners’ first reading of the proposed changes, met with the city’s Landscape Planner, and will attend the 2nd reading. 7) We are working towards using grants to support ongoing involvement in statewide legislative activities. 8) In last month’s column (and in the five talks I have given in this county and others) I spoke about egocentricity vs ecocentricity, and that it is up to us to save and protect the food web.

So, why am I taking my column to tell you things I’ve already told you? Good question.

I want to impress upon you, our members and friends, that we have a job to do, and we are doing it. A critical-for-the-planet job. The house of cards that is the food web will survive only with native plants. But not everyone knows that, or understands what PBCC FNPS is really about. Until some of my “non-plant” friends saw the Hometown Habitat film, they believed I was president of a garden club. They came away from the film inspired, understanding the dire importance of native plants to the restoration of healthy ecosystems and the preservation of species. Education of the public, including our elected and appointed officials, is the key to success.

I am asking – begging really – for you to become more involved in the chapter. Please give some volunteer time to help us do our important work. Some people already volunteer regularly – and they have been keeping the chapter moving forward - but as we do more and expand our sphere of influence, we need more hands on deck! Please, find some time at least once a quarter if not more, and give yourself in service of our mission. We need you.

Susan Lerner, President
VitalLongevity@gmail.com
561-478-7444

Call for Plants - In addition to bringing plants to giveaway at our monthly meetings, it’s time to start thinking about our 3 big plant events - the May Auction, the August Plant Exchange and the (new) October Plant Sale. Pot them up now so plants are well-rooted for those three events! Thank you!
February PBC Chapter Meeting Summary - submitted by Frank Frank, Sec.

Approximately 38 individuals attended the FNPS’s February chapter meeting; 28 members and 8 non members. It is always exciting to see non-members in attendance.

Volunteers Cathy Beals and Eileen Martin were acknowledged for their outstanding efforts.

Harper Carroll, ERM Fire Manager and site manager for Pine Glades Natural Area was our featured speaker. He provided an overview of Pine Glades’ 6,650 acres. The preserve was purchased in 2002 with voter approved funding. Once purchased, ERM commenced on removing the extensive exotic monoculture of Melaleuca trees and restoring natural wetland habitat.

Harper explained the importance of elevation for our native species, with the impact a few inches in elevation could have on the species that are present in an environment. Today Pine Glades maintains over 447 plant species and 260 animal species. We have the citizens of Palm Beach to thank for this precious preserve. Harper then continued to give a presentation on the importance of fire in maintaining an ecosystem. The presentation, titled “Fire, the Spark of Life”, gave us a historical perspective of fire suppression and utilization. We learned of the Great Peshtigo Fire of 1871; with over 1.2 million acres burned and 1200 dead, this fire was more deadly than the Great Chicago Fire of the same year.

We learned that fired natural cycle is for a fire to occur in an area every 2 to 3 years. The lovable Smokey the Bear campaign, started in 1944, had the unintended consequence of changing people’s attitudes towards the benefits of these naturally occurring phenomena (fire). If it weren’t for the efforts of Herbert Studdard, and his affinity for quail hunting, we would not have the ability to utilize prescribed, controlled burns to maintain our environments. Today, Florida Statute 590.125 provides governance over how we utilize this important tool.

After Harper’s presentation, many in attendance walked out with a greater appreciation for the minor inconveniences we might have to endure, in the form of smoke, in order for ERM to conduct these important exercises.

Chapter Field Trip to Pine Glades Natural Area - March 25, 2017

Above: Lucy, Eileen, and Jackie enjoying the view along the trail at Pine Glades during our March field trip, led by ERM staff, including the original site developer Kraig Krum (yellow shirt in photo to right), who provided us with fascinating details on the restoration of this beautiful natural area. The folder he is holding in his hand contains a species list of plants that we will be posting as a reference for those who have the opportunity to visit our “adopted” area. Part of our mission will be to help update this list from our observations.

Naturescaping Event
held March 4, 2017

Photos and Narrative by Cathy Beals

Many thanks to Naturescaping volunteers Mary Boehm, Lynn Sweetay, Jackie Kadish, and Eileen Martin who helped me with staffing our chapter table at the 21st Annual NatureScaping event at John D. MacArthur Beach State Park.

Many interested visitors, adults and children, stopped by to collect information about our local chapter, upcoming events, gardening, native plants, butterflies, etc. It was a clear, bright, and breezy day at the park with a good turnout of visitors, who kept the many exhibitor and plant sales booths busy, and the food trucks as well.

Above: Buffy Judd (2nd from right)
Mary Boehm (right) and friends

Below: Jackie discussing butterflies with three inquisitive children
Weeds or Wildflowers? by Doreen Christensen

Reprinted with permission from a Sun-Sentinel article posted on Oct. 20, 2014
Give a weed an inch and it'll take a yard.

In one corner of the yard, forlorn-looking daisies bloom. Over near a sprinkler, a plant with tiny purple and white flowers spread. Are they weeds or wildflowers?

"They are neither. They are wonders," says Susan Lerner, a master gardener and vice president of the Palm Beach County Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society.

"These native plants are a small, yet important part of the beautiful web of Florida life," she adds. "They support our native butterflies and bees, which also support us. They are an important part of our native food chain."

Lerner, who’s also a member of the Palm Beach County Beekeepers Association and president of the Palm Beach County Chapter of the Rare Fruit Council, says to take a peek in the grass and flower beds to discover the native treasures hidden in plain sight in your yard.

Phyla nodiflora- This spreading ground cover, known as matchweed or frog fruit, blooms tiny purple and white flowers and is a host plant for three native butterflies: the Common Buckeye, Phaon Crescent and White Peacock. "Given a chance, it creates a beautiful blanket ground cover," Lerner says. "I have given a whole garden bed to it because I really like the White Peacock butterfly (pictured to right). This is its plant."

Lepidium virginicum- Nicknamed peppergrass, this edible plant has spiky foliage and also is host to several butterfly species. It has been called poor man’s pepper for its spicy flavor, and it blooms year-round here in sun-drenched zone 10. "This edible plant is a host to the Cabbage White and Checkered White Butterflies," Lerner says. All parts of the plant are edible, as noted by EattheWeeds.com. "Add the leaves to salads or soups, and use the seed pods in place of pepper. Grind the root and mix with vinegar for a horseradish-like flavor."

Bidens alba- The white daisies, known as Spanish or Shepherd's needles, are much maligned native wildflowers that get a bad rep because they can spread like wildfire. But it’s a nectar plant for honeybees, native bees and many butterflies, including the Dainty Sulphur, says Lerner. "Spanish needles can be very weedy and people don't like it," Lerner says. "My suggestion is to give an area over to it. If you worry about it traveling everywhere, then just deadhead the flowers."
New Hope for Saving Trees of the Everglades from Laurel Wilt
University of Florida researchers have a new weapon in the fight against laurel wilt, a fungus spread by a beetle that has been wringing the state's avocado industry and wiping out trees across the Everglades. Using red bay trees, a close cousin of the avocado tree, researchers discovered the trees emit a chemical to repel the beetles once infected. When combined with another well-known pheromone used to treat mountain pine beetle, another forest pest, the repellent successfully drove away beetles about 90% of the time.


Sea Level Rise and Climate: Impacts on the Greater Everglades Ecosystem and Restoration
Predictions of sea level rise of 18-59 cm by the year 2099 were presented in the IPCC Report of 2007, but these estimates excluded contributions from melting glacial ice. Recent estimates presented at the Copenhagen Climate Conference (March 2009) suggest sea level will rise a minimum of 50 cm and probably reach 100 cm or more. These estimates present a significant level of uncertainty for South Florida ecosystem restoration. Almost all of the Greater Everglades Ecosystem is less than 5 m above current sea level. A number of factors make South Florida particularly vulnerable to problems associated with rising sea level and global climate change: 1) low elevation; 2) lack of topographic gradient to promote drainage; 3) water table at or near the surface; 4) no upland source of sediment to resupply coast; 5) probability of increasing strength and number of tropical storms; 6) thermal expansion of the oceans (some models show the thermistoric anomalies being greater off the coast of Florida (Plag, 2006); and 7) the fact that water management practices have reduced freshwater flow during the 20th century and thus increased the rate of encroachment of saline waters. Long term tidal gauge records show that Florida has been undergoing a 1.9 mm yr-1 increase in relative sea level between 1950-2000 (Miller and Douglas, 2006; Plag, 2006). The questions are how does this recent rate of relative sea level rise compare to pre-anthropogenic rates, has anthropogenic alteration of the South Florida environment increased the impact of rising sea level, and what are the projected future rates under various IPCC scenarios?

Read more: www.sofia.usgs.gov/projects/workplans14/impacts_slrlim.html

Oh... and then there's this....

EPA head Scott Pruitt denies that carbon dioxide causes global warming
by Oliver Milman, The Guardian - U.S. Edition

Trump adviser shocks scientists and environmental advocates with statement that negates EPA policy and ‘overwhelmingly clear’ evidence on climate change. Read entire article: click here

What's Going On In The Florida Legislature?
The 2017 Florida State Legislature is now in session.
The FNPS policy committee is tracking bills that are of concern to our membership. We will post summaries to bring you up to date on legislative agendas. To receive eco action alerts from the policy committee, check the appropriate box on your membership form.

We are asking the Legislature to:

Support Senate President Negron's proposal (SB 10) to acquire land south of Lake Okeechobee to build a reservoir. (Update: This bill has just been re-written to include undesirable elements. We are in the process of understanding the ramifications of the new language and will report our findings).

Restore Florida Forever funding- We need to let them know that when we voted in support of Amendment 1 several years ago, we intended for a large portion of the funds to be used to conserve land. Annual funding for the Florida Forever land acquisition program should at least equal the $300 million that was allocated before funding was cut in response to the recession. This amount is not cost-prohibitive given that annual Amendment 1 funding exceeds $700 million.

Support a ban on fracking. (SB 442) Our unique Florida geology is not compatible with fracking.

Manage Florida’s conservation lands responsibly. The land we have already conserved represents a valuable investment and proper management is necessary to protect our investment. Management shouldn’t be short-changed by inadequate staffing or funding. Funding should be sufficient to implement the management plans that have been adopted for each property.

Use Amendment 1 funding as it was intended Do not spend Amendment 1 funds on items previously provided from other funding sources, such as staff salaries. Amendment 1 was intended to supplement funding for conservation and other natural resource protection needs, not replace pre-existing funds that came from other sources.

Please use the link below to contact your Senators and let them know your thoughts:

https://fwfonline.good.do/keepfloridaagreensin2017/Email-Your-Florida-Legislator/

March 22, 10:00 AM – Participate in Reclaiming Florida’s Future for All at the Florida Capitol in Tallahassee. Floridians will make their voices heard by speaking directly with their elected officials on key energy and water issues facing Florida. Public transportation from several cities across the state will be offered, as will advocacy training on March 21st. For more information and to RSVP, click link below.

http://www.rethinkenergyflorida.org/

Registration has now opened for the 1000 Friends of Florida 2017 Florida Legislative Update webinar, to be held on Wednesday, March 22 from noon to 1:30. Find out the latest on legislation being considered www.1000friendsofflorida.org
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 March 21 | 5:30PM - 7PM
CHAPTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
The BoD will meet at the Mounts Auditorium conference room prior to the chapter meeting. All members are welcome.

Tuesday March 21 | 7-9PM
CHAPTER MEETING: FLORIDA NATIVE MEDICINAL PLANTS
Presented by Laura Olson, Native Herbologist

Saturday April 1 | 9 AM - 11 AM
WORKSHOP: MEDICINAL NATIVE PLANTS
$20 members, $25 non-members (see details on front page)

Tuesday April 18 | 5:30PM - 7PM
CHAPTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
The BoD will meet at the Mounts Auditorium conference room prior to the chapter meeting. All members are welcome.

Tuesday April 18 | 7-9 PM
CHAPTER MEETING: PALM BEACH COUNTY NATIVE ORCHIDS
Presented by Chuck McCartney - writer, editor and naturalist

Saturday April 29 | 9 AM - NOON
FIELD TRIP: ORCHIDS AND WILDFLOWERS WITH CHUCK MCCARTNEY
Location: Jonathan Dickenson State Park

Tuesday May 16 | 7-9 PM
CHAPTER MEETING: ANNUAL RARE & UNIQUE NATIVE PLANT AUCTION!
SAVE THE DATE for this popular event
Start preparing your plants and items for the silent auction!

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Plant Biologists of Florida Annual Meeting

The Plant Biologists of South Florida will hold their annual meeting on Saturday, March 18, 2017 at Pinecrest Gardens, 11000 South Red Road (SW 57th Ave.), Pinecrest, FL 33156.

"This is an informal meeting of an informal group to share knowledge and joy of plants." - Phil Busey, PhD

Coffee and morning snacks begin at 9:30 am in the meeting room on the left as you enter Pinecrest Gardens. Presentations will begin at 10:00 am, break for lunch at 12:30 pm (bring your own), and reconvene at 2 - 4 pm.

PBSF has no dues and the meetings have no registration fees, but everyone attending will have to pay the $5 admission to the gardens.

Contact Phil Busey for agenda: phil@philbusey.com

Editor's Note: Thanks to Chris Lockhart, PBCC Conservation Chair for bringing this to our attention. Having attended one of these meetings in the past, I can highly recommend the event for anyone who wants to get a satisfying dose of the plant kingdom. Contact Chris Lockhart or Winnie Said if you want to carpool. (see page 7 for contact info)

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Other Events

Mar 16, 2017 Thursday 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM. The Atala Chapter of the North American Butterfly Association meeting will have a program on Butterfly Gardening with Jeff Nerger of Native Choice Nursery. Pine Jog Environmental Education Center, 6301 Summit Blvd, West Palm Beach, FL 33415. For more information contact Teri Jabour tjjabour@comcast.net or Lana Edwards atala613@bellsouth.net

The Dade Chapter FNPS
22nd NATIVE PLANT DAY
Saturday, March 25, 2017, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Elaine Gordon Enchanted Forest Park

Programs • Nature walks • Children's activities • Plant clinic • Displays • Plant sales • Book & merchandise sales • Food • Raffles

FREE! More information:
http://www.dade.fnpschapters.org/events/nativeplantday.php

3rd annual SWA Soiree and Run AWAY
5K Trail Run/Walk:
Sunday, April 2, 2017, at the Solid Waste Authority of Palm Beach County’s Renewable Energy Park and Greenway Trail System. Celebrates the harmony of industry and nature, bringing awareness to recycling and solid waste issues.

http://www.swa.org/397/SWA-Soiree

Florida Master Naturalist
A Natural History Training Program
Coastal Systems course begins May 2. Great lineup, field trips, speakers and more. Limited space so register early!

www.masternaturalist.org

The River Center's Naturalist Series
Located in Jupiter on the east side of Burt Reynolds’s Park (805 North US Highway 1), the River Center manages the environmental education program for the Loxahatchee River District

March 30- Adult Nature Excursion to the Jupiter Inlet Outstanding Natural Area. 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm
April 18- Nature Walk, Jupiter Ridge Natural Area 9:00 am to 10:00 am

To Register please contact the River Center at 561-743-7123 RiverCenter@recd.org
Announcements

Audubon's Conservation Stewardship Training Course
Audubon Society of the Everglades in partnership with IFAS/UF Extension of PBC offers The Conservation Stewardship Training Course, a seven-week basic environmental education with an advocacy component that combines classroom study and fieldwork. Designed for the average citizen to understand the function and importance of how five distinctive Florida natural habitats sustain plants and wildlife, and the their adaption to climate change, this course will encourage and empower stewards to make a personal commitment to develop an action plan to nurture and to advocate for a specific local, natural habitat they love.

The course will be offered from March 27th to May 8th on consecutive Mondays from 9am-1pm. Registration will open February 13. The course fee is $90.

The class will be capped at 30 participants, and a catered lunch will be provided free of charge. For more information email: asestewardshiptraining@gmail.com

Register Now for the Florida Native Plant Society
37th Annual Conference

CONNECTIONS: ABOVE AND BELOW

May 18 – 21, 2017
Westgate River Ranch Resort
just south of Lake Kissimmee

Registration is now open!
http://fnps.org/conference/2017

Original artwork by Linda Conway Duever

Northern Alabama Spring FNPS Tour, April 17 – 22nd, 2017
Finally, a travel tour planned by native plant people FOR native plant people! Join us in April 2017 as FNPS travels to northern Alabama to discover the native plants in the Bibb County Glades, the Bank Head Wilderness, Cane Creek Canyon Preserve, Little River Canyon National Preserve, AND MORE


Florida Wildlife Federation Chooses FNPS as Conservation Organization of the Year!
The Federation chose FNPS because of the conservation work conducted by the organization year after year.

If you would like to attend the award banquet, tickets can be purchased from the Florida Wildlife Federation. Banquet information and accommodations information can be found at: http://www.fwfonline.org/

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Like us!

https://www.facebook.com/PBCC_FNPS

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http://palmbeach.fnpschapters.org/
How Can I Become a Member of the Florida Native Plant Society?

You can join on-line [www.fnps.org](http://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!