

May  
2009



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

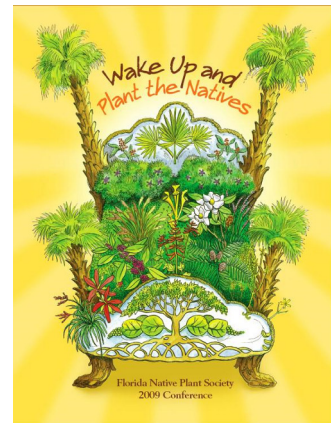
## Wake up and Head for the Conference!

Dear Palm Beach Chapter Members,

I want to personally urge you to give yourself the gift of attending the FNPS 2009 Conference. This is a golden opportunity to participate without having to drive far! FNPS executive director, **Karina Veaudry**, recently said that this year's conference lineup is generating excitement like she has never seen.

When we began planning the conference more than a year ago, we agonized over the theme. We brainstormed for months. After much debate, a simple idea, (thanks **Winnie Said!**) "Wake Up and Smell the Natives" was, in the next minute, refined to "Wake Up and Plant the Natives" and we knew we had the answer. It was, above all things, fun. We then strove to obtain the BEST, most knowledgeable and relevant presenters. And we feel we did it!

Come to the conference. You will learn amazing things, you will love meeting people from all walks of life who share our passion for natives, and you will leave inspired, renewed, and regenerated—I guarantee it! **-Sue Dingwell**



May 21-24, 2009  
West Palm Beach, Florida  
Hosted by the

Palm Beach County & Cocoplum Chapters

## Call to Action

Corporate sponsorship to cover conference costs is way down this year. Taking a cue from the Obama campaign, we figure if each member of our chapter donates just \$10, we will raise \$1500 for our cause. Many members already made donations (thank you!) but there are still many of us out there. So if you haven't yet chipped in, here's your chance!

If you are able, please mail a check today to our treasurer, **Matt King** at **351 Pilgrim Road, West Palm Beach, FL 33405**, and specify "**Conference**" in the memo line. Thank you.

**Sue Dingwell & Stephanie Brown**

### MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Our Chapter has 151 members as of May 1. Twenty three memberships were renewed/rejoined.

Renewing family or household members are **Lynn and Frank Huber, Rosa & Joseph Durando, Matthew King & Kristina Serbesoff-King, Eugene & Nancy Sanchez, Oswaldo Fernandez & Christina Perez**. Renewing individual members are **Cecily Hangen, Judie Lamia, Kevin Holler, Joanne Davis, Lindy Cerar, Mathew Mierzwa Jr, Teresa Jabour, William Edmunds, Mike Bodle, Cathy Beals, Cynthia Plockelman, Daniele Garson, Deborah Levulis, Ellen Tannehill, Lana Edwards, Leslie Clarke, Victoria Lang, and Celio Moya**.

*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.*



*“Many organizations that are opposing growth management legislation are paying little or no attention to FNPS priorities, making it even more important that we retain our focus.”*

### Ask an Expert

Have a question about Florida’s native plants? Send us your question and we’ll find an expert to answer it. Selected questions and answers will be posted in the *Ask an Expert* section each month.

Send your question to:  
[Dahoon@mindspring.com](mailto:Dahoon@mindspring.com)

## Growth Management Advocacy

*An excerpt from Gene Kelly’s letter to chapter presidents regarding FNPS advocacy on growth management legislation*

Dear Chapter Presidents:

There is a groundswell of concern within FNPS regarding legislation that could reduce the ability of government to control the impacts of future development on Florida’s environment. At least one chapter has issued an action alert promoting organized opposition to some of those initiatives, and it has been suggested that FNPS should become involved at the state level.

FNPS is currently involved in many issues that would further our mission and we intend to remain focused on those issues. They include: 1) securing Florida Forever funding; 2) supporting the Springs Protection Act and other measures meant to reduce nutrient enrichment of Florida waters; 3) crafting and implementing Florida Friendly Landscaping measures; 4) passage of the Nonnative Wildlife Invasion Protection Act to prevent invasions by nonnative wildlife and to set the stage for similar federal legislation on nonnative plants; 5) support for Q-37 regulation changes meant to prevent importation of pests and diseases; and 6) implementation of screening procedures to help prevent invasive plant introductions.

Growth management is certainly relevant to our mission; however, the issues enumerated above are directly relevant to plant conservation and in some cases are of greater long-term importance. Many organizations opposing growth management legislation are paying little or no attention to FNPS priorities, making it even more important that we retain our focus. While we are concentrating our energy on those issues, we do not discourage growth management advocacy by our members and individual chapters.

I have three requests of those taking action on growth management legislation:

- 1) Please present your case in a respectful and science-based manner. The legislators you will be addressing may also be our partners in advancing legislation on other matters of importance to FNPS.
- 2) If taking action on HB1349 as a chapter, refer to the FNPS wetland policy statement posted on our website. It can assist in presenting a science-based argument.
- 3) Be prepared to respond to statewide action alerts in support of priority FNPS issues. When it comes to advocacy, our greatest strength lies in our numbers and rational positions.

Gene Kelly, FNPS President

## Gardening with the Natives

### Satinleaf (*Chrysophyllum oliviforme*)

Satinleaf is one remarkable tree that looks nothing like any of our other natives in South Florida. On gracefully arching branches the tops of the leaves are a shiny dark green while the bottoms are a distinctive brilliant copper color which flashes at you whenever the wind blows. The slender trunks are no more than 8 to 12 inches around with a rough bark that is light brown. The greenish flowers are rather inconspicuous but they quickly give way to dark purple fruits the size of small olives which are attractive to a variety of wildlife.

Satinleaf grows naturally in tropical hammocks as an understory tree and is currently a threatened species due mostly to loss of habitat. Ideally you

will want to plant it in an area that is moist, partial to deep shade, and with soil conditions that contain some nutrient matter. Satinleaf can thrive in full sun but it has been my experience that transplanted plants

#### Did You Know?

*Satinleaf produces sweet and edible fruit. The one-seeded purple berries have a chewy fruit skin and produce milky sap when crushed.*

take at least 6 months to establish themselves and will need occasional watering during extended periods of drought.



*Satinleaf bearing immature fruits*

Photo by LeRoy Rodgers

Grown from seed, this slow to moderate grower can reach heights of 30 feet. Once established, the Satinleaf is one tough tree. I cut my 6-foot Satinleaf literally to the ground to experiment with the shape and it is now growing back nicely as a bush.

**-Jeff Nurge**

*(originally printed in the Palm Beach Post, 3 January 2009)*

## Upcoming Events

### Tuesday, May 19

Native Plant Garden Maintenance Volunteer Event  
Mounts Botanical Garden Clayton Hutcheson Building  
6:30 – 7:30pm

**Note: No Chapter meeting in May**

### Thursday, May 21 through Sunday, May 24

Florida Native Plant Society Conference  
West Palm Beach Marriott

### Wednesday, May 27 through Thursday, May 29

Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council Annual Symposium  
Delray Beach Marriott

### Tuesday, June 16

Native Plant Garden Maintenance Volunteer Event  
Mounts Botanical Garden Clayton Hutcheson Building  
6:30 – 7:30pm

### Tuesday, June 16

June Chapter Meeting—*Selecting, Installing and Maintaining a Healthy Tree*, **Matthew King**  
Mounts Botanical Garden 7:30 – 9:00pm

### Tuesday, August 18

August Chapter Meeting—*Butterflies in Your Back Yard: Learn to Attract Them in Yours*

Promoting the preservation, conservation, and restoration of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida



## Florida Native Plant Society

### Palm Beach County Chapter

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### Visit us on the web

[www.palmbeach.fnpschapters.org](http://www.palmbeach.fnpschapters.org)

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PALM BEACH COUNTY CHAPTER  
FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY  
MEETS

**3rd Tuesday of the month  
7:30 P.M.**

(doors open at 7:00)

Mounts Botanical Garden Auditorium  
531 North Military Tr.

(1/4 mi north of Southern Blvd.)

West Palm Beach, Florida

**Meetings are free and open  
to the public.**