

July  
2009



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

### Garden Maintenance Party

Tuesday, July 21, 2009  
6:30—7:30 pm

Clayton Hutcheson Building

*Come join us one hour before the monthly meeting to help tidy up our native garden. Bring your hat, gloves, hand tools, and water.*



### Sneak Preview of Coming Meeting Attractions

**August**—*Butterflies in Your Back Yard*

**September**—*Recreation in the Everglades*

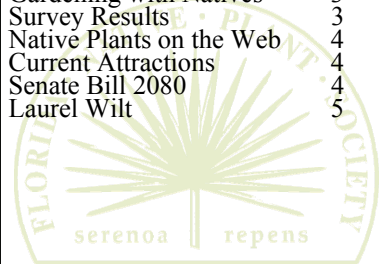
**October**—*to be announced*

**November**—*Invasive Species of the Future*

**December**—*Holiday Party!*

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### July Chapter Meeting

Tuesday, July 21, 2009

7:30 – 9:00 pm (doors open at 7)

Mounts Botanical Garden (UF/IFAS Extension)  
531 North Military Trail, West Palm Beach, FL 33415

*An Update on the Pine Jog Residential Native Landscape Program*

**Kristi Martin Moyer & Susan Snyder**

Pine Jog Environmental Education Center

*Come hear about the exciting residential native landscape program at Pine Jog Environmental Education Center. The project was funded through the national **Together Green** grant program sponsored by Audubon and Toyota. Kristi and Susan will discuss how and why Pine Jog received the grant, the partnerships that were created throughout the project, and the outcome of the project.*

Bring your friends and neighbors!

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

### Business Meeting

**Saturday, August 1 beginning at 2:00 pm**

at the Dingwell Residence

Call Sue at 561.694.0393 for directions

*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.*



**Tally in Ten or Bust!**

This fun phrase was coined by the dynamic duo, **Myrna Sossner & Nancy Sloane** of the Palm Beach Chapter to communicate their eagerness to attend our 2010 conference. Do we see a bumper sticker in the making?

**Membership  
at a Glance**

Business	10
Contributing	7
Donor	3
Family	26
Individual	98
Library	1
Life	1
Not for profit	4
Student	1
<u>Supporting</u>	<u>2</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>153</b>

## A Message from Sue

Dear FNPS Members,

For the past year, the primary focus of our chapter's efforts has been on hosting the 2009 Annual Conference. Now that we have brought that endeavor to a successful conclusion, it is time to turn our sights to our local issues and needs.

Our Board of Directors' meetings have always been open to any member wishing to attend, and I would like to extend a special invitation to all to come to our next meeting, at my home, on **Saturday, August 1st** at 2 pm. We will hear reports from our committee chairs, and we welcome your thoughts as we consider the following questions:

- *Should we be offering field trips as part of efforts to educate the public?*
- *How can we attract new members?*
- *What are the kinds of activities that our members want?*
- *Is our meeting format something we want to change?*
- *How can we motivate members to participate in upkeep of the Mounts Native Garden? What could we do to make it more fun?*

If you have ideas on these subjects, but can not attend, please share them by phone or email! 561.694.0393 or sue@dingwell.net

In spite of our heavy commitment to the conference, our chapter maintained a full schedule of participation in community events of many kinds. The dedication of our group is an established fact, and our chapter can be proud of all that it is already doing! Let's keep it growing!!

Cheers!

**Sue Dingwell**, Chapter President

## Membership News

Our chapter has 153 members as of June 30. We have one new member this month. A warm welcome to **Lee Lietzke**.

**Thirteen** memberships renewed or rejoined in June. **Suzanne B. Speer** of Tropical Plant & Seed Locators renewed as a contributing member. Renewing family or household members are the **Dale M. Barnhart Family, Maureen & Douglas Maclaughlin, Ross Dubin & Margaret L. Shore**. Renewing individual members are **Ray Caranci, Alyssa Dodd, Phyllis L. Ashley, Steve Bass, Cindy Bush, Brad Jones, John Moser, and Nancy Smoak**.

Our renewing non-profit member is **Grassy Waters Preserve (Penni Redford)**.

## Gardening with the Natives

### Lancewood (*Ocotea coriacea*)

Lancewood is a tree that plays many roles in the garden. The slender spreading branches and open, rounded crown give lancewood a delightful, elegant appearance. The upper surfaces of its evergreen leaves are glossy dark green, and when viewed from a distance, appear to “drip off the branches.” When crushed, the leaves have a distinctive smell akin to citrus. This might seem unusual given that lancewood, like the closely related avocado, does not look the part. In the spring the tree is full of delicate tiny white flowers with a floral aroma that attracts many insect pollinators. The flowers give way to olive-shaped fruit that turn from purple to black, which birds find irresistible.

Given its handsome form and sturdy attributes, lancewood is an understated ornamental tree

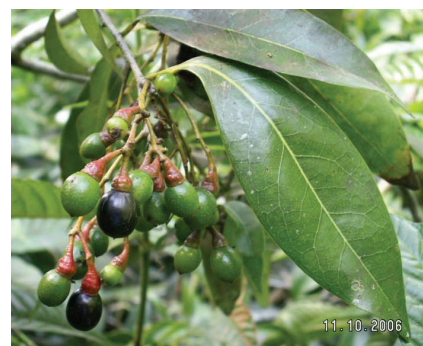
that should find its way into a wide variety of landscapes.

In nature, lancewood is one of the first trees to move into open

#### Did You Know?

*According to the late anthropologist, William Sturtevant, the Seminole Indians used lancewood, not for spears (as might be guessed from the name) but for constructing bows.*

areas. Thus, it likes full sun and can tolerate drought once established. However, it can also thrive in moist, but well-drained soils. Grow lancewood in soil that has some organic matter as



Lancewood's fleshy fruits (drupes) ripen in the fall and early winter. Photo by LeRoy Rodgers

this will lead to a more vigorous rate of growth. Lancewood typically has a moderate growth rate ultimately reaching 20 to 30 feet and can be as broad as it is tall when young. I trimmed the lower branches on my lancewood to encourage a tree form with a single leader. Lancewood also makes a fine bush or shrub. To find nurseries that carry this wonderful tree, visit the Association of Florida Native Nurseries at [www.afnn.org](http://www.afnn.org),

**-Jeff Nurge**

*(originally printed in the Palm Beach Post, April 11, 2009)*

## Conference Feedback Very Positive

### A Message from FNPS Administrative Services

A recent survey distributed to conference attendees drew a huge (and very positive) response rate. In fact, our survey system, SurveyMonkey.com, reported within just a few days that we had reached the capacity of our free account (100 responses). Survey results show that this year's attendees were really pleased with the fantastic program and very satisfied with all aspects of the conference. And by the way, the attendance numbers were almost identical to last year in all aspects. Once again, we send out a huge THANK YOU & CONGRATULATIONS to the marvelous volunteers from the Palm Beach & Martin Cocoplum Chapters.



## Current Attractions



Loblolly bay (*Gordonia lasianthus*) can be seen in full bloom at a baygall near you. You're most likely to spot them north of Palm Beach County.

*Photo courtesy of FNPS*



Starrush whitetop (*Rhynchospora colorata*) are blanketing marshes, wet prairies, and wet ditches with their snow-white bracts. *Photo by LeRoy Rodgers*

## Senate Bill 2080: Looking for Silver Linings

Despite widespread opposition from environmental organizations, Governor Crist signed Senate Bill 2080 into law last month. FNPS joined many groups in opposing the legislation on the basis that it limits public scrutiny of regulatory actions of the state's five water management districts. Specifically, the law allows district executives to issue or deny environmental resource and consumptive water use permits without public hearings. The new law certainly stokes cynicism among those who feel Florida's environmental resources already lack sufficient protections. But within this legislation lies a small gem—Florida-Friendly Plant provisions—which protect native plant enthusiasts from the wrath of water-guzzling, hygienic landscaping policies of many residential home owners' associations (HOAs).

According to the law, garden fashion police shall no longer (legally) harass homeowners who choose native landscaping over thirsty lawns and shrubbery. The new law may be the *Emancipation Proclamation* (to be a touch dramatic) for aspiring native plant gardeners wishing to free of themselves from their HOA's restrictive landscaping rules. To many conservationists, this legislative promotion of "green landscaping" comes with a heavy price—reduced public oversight of environmental regulatory decisions—but native plant gardeners may at least revel in their newly found freedom from horticultural tyranny.

## Native Plant Information Resources

### July's Featured Internet Resources

**Growing Native Forum** — *Rufino Osorio's web forum/ mailing list is a great place to network and get advice on native plant gardening in Florida.*

<http://groups.yahoo.com/invite/growingnative>

**Natives for your Neighborhood** — *The Institute for Regional Conservation's web-based native gardening resource is a must bookmark for your internet browser.*

<http://regionalconservation.org/beta/nfyn/default.asp>

**Natives to Plant!** — *Our Society's website has a great tool for choosing plants for your landscape. Select your region, then scroll and sort the large database of regionally-appropriate plants for your yard.*

[www.fnps.org/pages/plants/landscape\\_plants.php](http://www.fnps.org/pages/plants/landscape_plants.php)

**US Forest Service Fire Effects Information System** — *The FEIS summarizes research about living organisms—their biology, ecology, and relationship to fire.*

[www.fs.fed.us/database/feis/plants](http://www.fs.fed.us/database/feis/plants)



## Ask an Expert

### Q: *What is laurel wilt and why is it so devastating to our redbays?*

Answered by: **Mark Torok**, State Forester, Everglades Region, Florida Department of Agricultural & Consumer Services

Laurel wilt is a vascular disease of redbay (*Persea borbonia*) and many other related tree species in the laurel family (Lauraceae), especially in the *Persea* genus. It is caused by a fungus (*Raffaelea lauricola*) that enters the host tree by a non-native ambrosia beetle (*Xyleborus glabratus*). The redbay ambrosia beetle originates from Asia, and is believed to have been transferred to the U.S. via wooden crating material. The insect was first detected in the U.S. in 2002, and then found in Florida in 2005. Within nine months of its detection in Florida, the mortality of infected trees increased from 10% to almost 60%.



*String of compacted ambrosia beetle sawdust protruding from a redbay trunk.*

Photograph by A.E. Mayfield

The redbay ambrosia beetle is a small, cylindrical insect with an elongated body that is about 2 mm long. It can be distinguished from other ambrosia bee-

gles by its blackish coloration and its glabrous (without hairs) upper body.

Ambrosia beetles carry fungal spores of *Raffaelea lauricola* on their body, which



*String of compacted ambrosia beetle sawdust protruding from a redbay trunk.* Photograph by M.C. Thomas

is deposited in the tree when the insect bores into the wood. This fungus quickly spreads through the tree causing damage to vascular tissue, ultimately leading to leaf wilt and tree death. The beetle does not actually feed on the wood; it feeds on the fungi growing in the sapwood.

Laurel wilt is currently found in 20 Florida counties and is moving south. Okeechobee and St. Lucie Counties are currently the southern-most limits of laurel wilt in Florida. Since redbay occurs throughout Florida, many professionals feel that it is not a question of *whether* laurel wilt will spread to South Florida, but *when*.

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)

Think you have an infected tree?

Contact your local state forester

**Mark Torok**  
(954) 475-4194

[torokm@doacs.state.fl.us](mailto:torokm@doacs.state.fl.us)



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

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Palm Beach County Chapter  
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Native Plant Society**

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**Visit us on the web**  
[palmbeach.fnpschapters.org](http://palmbeach.fnpschapters.org)

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**Membership Re-  
newal**

«FirstLastName»

«OrgNameOtherName»

«StreetAddress»

«City», «State» «Zip»



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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 Trail  
(1/4 mi north of Southern Blvd.)  
West Palm Beach, Florida

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