

October
2010



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

Garden Maintenance Party

Saturday, Oct 23, 2010

9am—12pm

Clayton Hutcheson Building



Come help us tidy up our native display garden. Bring your hat, gloves, water, and hand tools.

Sneak Preview of Coming Attractions

Nov 16 — *What's Cooking in South Florida?*

Dec 21 — *Holiday Party*

Jan 18 — *Winding Waters Natural Area*

Give a Gift Membership

*Share Your Interest in Florida's Native Plants
(See insert for details)*



October Chapter Meeting

Tuesday, October 19, 2010

7:30 – 9:00 pm (doors open at 7)

Mounts Botanical Garden (UF/IFAS Extension)

531 North Military Trail, West Palm Beach, FL 33415

Native Wildflowers

Rufino Osorio

Rufino Osorio, long-time member of the Florida Native Plant Society and author of "A Gardener's Guide to Florida's Native Plants", will give a lecture on gardening with and propagating native wildflowers. The focus of the talk will be on easy-to-grow and common wildflowers that are suitable for beginning native plant gardeners. A few rarities and more difficult-to-grow wildflowers will also be discussed so that inveterate collectors will also find something of interest in the talk.

Next Chapter Business Meeting

Saturday, November 6 beginning at 3:00 pm

at the Mill's Residence

All are welcome and invited to come!

Call **561.247.FNPS (3677)** for directions



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

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.

Tupelo Trees in Florida

by Richard Moyroud

The name tupelo is from Muskogee for “swamp tree” and includes four species in eastern North America, from Central Florida to Maine, and west to Texas. All species seem to prefer moist to wet acidic soils, and often develop swollen trunks in wet sites (for air exchange), a common reaction to flooding. Flooded trees also develop “looping” roots aboveground, similar to the “knee” roots in cypress trees. The plants are mostly dioecious, so that male and female flowers are on different trees, but perfect flowers (with both male and female in the same flower) do occur on some plants. The ridged single seeds are held in a fleshy blue fruit eagerly eaten by birds and other animals. All tupelo trees are in the genus *Nyssa*, in the family Nyssaceae (closely related to the Cornaceae, the Dogwood family.) The fall color in all species is beautiful, with the oblong leaves turning a fluorescent red, yellow, and purple in the early fall.

The most wide-ranging species is *Nyssa sylvatica* (blackgum, sourgum, or pepperidge tree.) This species grows slowly, tolerates shade as well as some drought and fire (perhaps due to a taproot and thick, blocky bark), and can live to more than 650 years, making it the longest-lived eastern hardwood tree. It is present in many plant communities but often goes unnoticed since it never occurs in large numbers.

Nyssa biflora (swamp tupelo) is sometimes referred to as *Nyssa sylvatica* variety *biflora*. It is the southernmost species in the US (farther south, a new species was recently discovered in Costa Rica!), and ranges well into Martin County, Florida. This species forms small colonies in swamps, alongside cypress trees. It grows very well in the western parts of Palm Beach County, where more than 100 planted trees have grown in Heritage Farms for decades. Those trees flower and fruit every year, providing nectar for bees and food for birds.

Nyssa aquatica (water tupelo) is of special interest since it is tolerant of extreme flooding, in both depth and duration. This species is common in the floodplains of the south, and can endure twenty feet of inundation for extended periods. It is a tall tree with

a greatly swollen base, a feature which is claimed to provide more stability in wet soils. The irregularly toothed leaves have long petioles, a feature which separates it from the other species. A few specimens of this tree have been growing in Palm Beach County for more than five years.



Swamp tupelo (*Nyssa biflora*) is adapted to wet, acid soils of southeastern bottomlands.

photo by Shirley Denton

Nyssa ogeche (Ogeechee tupelo, Ogeechee lime) is the odd plant in the group, but economically the most significant. This species can grow as a large shrub or multi-trunked tree, but is restricted to a small region in North Florida and Georgia (along the Ogeechee River, its namesake.) The large (1.5”) reddish fruit has a pleasant acid flavor, and was once used as a substitute for lime juice in beverages. It produces large clusters of flowers, a source of abundant nectar high in fructose. Beekeepers manage their hives near wild stands and are the sole source

Tupelo Trees in Florida *(continued)*

of authentic “Tupelo Honey”, known for its delicate flavor and stability (it does not granulate.) A planting of Ogeechee tupelo documented in 1986 near Tampa has flowered and fruited along the edge of a cypress swamp, proof that it will grow south of its current range. Ogeechee tupelo should grow well in sunny wet soils in Palm Beach County, along the edge of ponds and canals. There are reports of trees beginning to flower as early as three years from planting, but a large number of trees would probably be needed to supply enough nectar for honey production.

Although these beautiful long-lived native trees supply wood, fruit, and honey, the established ornamental nursery trade has shown little or no interest in the group. Fortunately, the native nursery industry is producing and selling these trees, and they should be included in wetland plantings or landscapes with moist soils for the multiple benefits they offer.



Water tupelo (Nyssa aquatica) is an important food source for a variety of wildlife. The fleshy fruit is consumed by wood ducks, a variety of other bird species, bears, squirrels, raccoons, and deer.

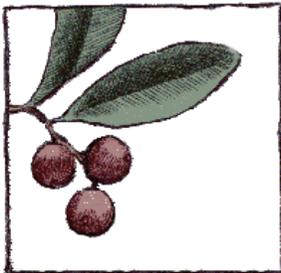
photo by Shirley Denton

Native Roots a Success

Thoughts turn to ideas of bounty in the fall—even here in South Florida—and our chapter has seen a rich harvest this September. Our newspaper article in the Palm Beach Post, *Native Roots*, was deemed important enough to get a mention on the front page, directing readers to the front page of the Living section where it runs. This incredible accomplishment is due to the persistent efforts of **Jeff Nurge**, who has been shepherding the article throughout its life – and we are now in the fourth year of its publication, which is an accomplishment in itself. We are the only FNPS chapter that has a regularly published article in a paper. Jeff has had help from a few other writers, but he has shouldered the deadlines mostly alone, and we certainly owe him thanks!

The article that prompted the Post’s focus was one featuring the butterfly-plant connection. This current fascination with butterflies is fortunate for us, because it is a perfect way to prove to people the importance of native plants, and to get them interested in both growing native plants and supporting the native plant communities where they live. The Post has asked Jeff to keep the spotlight on butterfly plants for the next couple of weeks. They publish *Native Roots* on alternating Saturdays, although it is somewhat irregular. So watch for our article in the Living Section, buy the Post, and SHARE it with friends! Our mission statement and information about our meetings are included with every article. Let’s grow FNPS!

Sue Dingwell



Upcoming Events

Wednesday, October 20

Rosemary Scrub Natural Area

Exotic Plant and Trash Removal

9:00am – 12:00pm Volunteer event to help Palm Beach Co. Environmental Resource Management rid Rosemary Scrub of invasive plants and debris. The Department will supply tools, gloves, and refreshments for the volunteers. **Event participation is limited to the first 15 volunteers who register.** Contact Ann Mathews at 561-233-2426 or amathews@co.palm-beach.fl.us for details.

Saturday, October 23

Mounts Botanical Garden

Get Your Hands Dirty!

9:00 am – 12:00 pm 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. 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 if you have them! For information call 561-247-FNPS (3677)

Saturday, October 30

Jupiter Ridge Natural Area

Trash Removal

8:00am – 11:00am Volunteer event to help Palm Beach Co. Environmental Resource Management rid Jupiter Ridge of debris. The Department will supply tools, gloves, and refreshments for the volunteers. **Event participation is limited to the first 30 volunteers who register.** Contact Ann Mathews at 561-233-2426 or amathews@co.palm-beach.fl.us for details.

Tuesday, November 16

November Chapter Meeting

Mounts Botanical Garden

7:30 – 9:00pm What's Cooking in South Florida, Roger Hammer. For information call 561-247-FNPS (3677).

Tuesday, December 21

December Holiday Potluck Party

Mounts Botanical Garden

6:30 – 8:30pm Our annual FNPS Holiday Party is a great time to socialize and meet current members and guests. This is a potluck dinner so feel free to bring whatever you wish. For information call 561-247-FNPS (3677).

Contributions Wanted

Your suggestions for content are welcomed.

We are always interested in original native plant articles, essays, field reports, photos, event announcements, or other content suggestions.

If you would like to contribute to our chapter newsletter, please email LeRoy and Shari Rodgers at

dahoon@mindspring.com

Membership at a Glance

Business	9
Contributing	8
Donor	1
Family	24
Individual	97
Library	1
Life	2
Not for profit	4
Student	1
Supporting	4
Total	151

Membership Update

Our chapter has 151 members as of August 31. Four memberships renewed in September. Our renewing Supporting Member is **Teri Jabour**. Our renewing individual member is **Jeff Nurge**. Our renewing family members are **Lori & Alex Finkel** and **Brenda Mills**

Thank you all for your continued support of FNPS!

Gardening with the Natives

by Jeff Nurge

Zebra Longwing Butterfly (*Heliconius charitonius*)

This black and yellow striped butterfly with long and narrow wings can't be confused with any other butterfly due to its distinct appearance and slow flight pattern. Gliding through and under dense woods and shrubs this shade loving beauty is right at home in Florida's warm and damp climate. The zebra longwing is a social butterfly gathering in small groups at night to roost in the same location for a number of weeks. They are also an intelligent species practicing what is called trap lining, they return for nectar to the same plant and place over a long period of time. I have removed plants only to find them circling around and around above the bare ground. The caterpillars have a white body with black spines and a yellow head. This coloration usually keeps the birds away as it signals an unpleasant taste from the toxins it ingests from the vines that it eats.



The zebra longwing is unusual in that it can dissolve pollen with its saliva. This enables it to extend its live cycle from a couple of months up to six months making it one of the longest lived butterflies. Flowering native nectar plants of all shapes and sizes will en-

sure a visit from the zebras however if they are to stay year round in the yard they must be provided with a host plant on which to lay their eggs. Two such native passifloras will do the trick. Corky-stem passion vine (*Passiflora suberosa*) and maypop (*P. incarnata*). While the maypop has a nice showy purple flower, the corky-stem passion vine is more versatile in the landscape. Climbing in and around bushes and trees, the corky-stem passion vine is barely noticeable, especially when it has been half eaten by zebra longwing caterpillars. This vine will sprout new growth

after the caterpillars have finished with it. The birds also eat the purple berries that it produces and they spread them around the yard ensuring a new crop of plants for future generations. The native plants to attract and feed this butterfly are available at native nurseries in the area. To find nurseries that carry it, visit the Association of Florida Native Nurseries at 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

FloridaNativeGardening.com

AIN'T EVOLUTION GRAND?

by Ann Weinrich

This is the time of year when our migratory bird oasis really earns its keep – even though it mostly takes care of itself and doesn't need much "keeping". It just so happens, though, that the timing is perfect for the arrival and the passing through of the warblers, vireos, catbirds, orioles and hummingbirds! These pollinating, seed-spreading, insect-nibbling birds will visit the blooming fiddlewood, the Bahama strongbark heavily drooping with big, fat fruits, and the mastic with flowers along the twigs. They will take advantage of the flowers and fruits still on the firebushes, the fruits on the coco plum that are ripening, the tips of the torchwood that may turn into berries, and the cabbage palm is loaded with fruit. The Virginia creeper along the fence has fruit and the soldierwood is abuzz with insects visiting the tiny yellow flowers. Many of these migratory birds are attracted to the bug life that is attracted to the flowers and fruits of our native plants. So the berries are there just at the right time to feed the birds, who are there just at the right time to spread the seeds. What a coincidence! Ain't evolution grand?

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes, August 21, 2010

ATTENDEES: Sue Dingwell, Brenda Mills, Matt King, Cynthia Plockelman, Myrna Sossner, Nancy Sloane, Cathy Beals, Lynn Sweetay, Carl Terwilliger, Mike Manna, Nan Owens, and Ryan Leavengood.

PLANNING MEETING:

Sue Dingwell called the meeting to order and explained that the purpose of this meeting was to plan monthly programs and field trips for the year 2011. A preliminary discussion about the importance of publicity (to invite the general public to meetings and field trips) included suggestions for placing announcements in free newspapers such as the Lake Worth Forum, Boynton Forum, Lake Worth Herald/Coastal Observer, Neighborhood Post and others. The internet was also recommended using the website, Twitter, a Facebook account, etc. and discussion centered around ways to reach a larger audience.

Garden Maintenance Schedule

Native Garden maintenance will continue to be scheduled on the Saturday morning following the monthly general meeting. Field trips will be scheduled on the weekends following garden maintenance (and may alternate on Saturdays and Sundays).

Program and Field Trip Details:

The Vice President will be responsible for coordinating the information as programs and field trips are confirmed. Members are urged to notify **Brenda Mills** (bmills@sfwmd.gov or BrendaM604@gmail.com) as soon as confirmation is secured. Individuals who agree to contact prospective presenters will begin making those contacts immediately. The deadline for preliminary confirmations is October 15. Speaker name, topic and date are needed to prepare the 2011 program brochure, for distribution in December. Please notify Brenda Mills at 315-1842 or at one of the e-mail addresses above.

In addition, it is imperative that each contact provides the newsletter editor with details at least a month in advance of the program. Each contact person will notify **LeRoy & Shari Rodgers** (dahoon@mindspring.com) of the speaker's bio with a summary of the presenta-

tion. Contacts are reminded to request this information during the initial call, so that it will be available for inclusion in the Dahoon prior to the scheduled program. Only the basic information (speaker, topic and date) will be needed for the October 15 brochure deadline. A list of tentative monthly meeting presenters and field trips was prepared at the meeting.

President's NOTE: Our chapter has authorized offering a speaker's fee of \$50 for local non-governmentals and \$100 for those who travel from outside the county. Also, the chapter traditionally pays for the presentation dinner for the speaker and contact(s) on the evening of the program.

September Election of Officers. Nominating Committee consisting of **Kris Serbesoff-King**, **Rob Hopper**, and **Sue Dingwell** (outgoing president) will prepare a slate of officers for vote at the September 21, 2010 meeting.

Secretary's Note: Officers are elected for a one-year term at the September meeting. President, Vice President, and Director-at Large serve for a maximum three-year term according to the Bylaws. 2011 will be Director-at-Large **Alyssa Dodd's** third year. **Mary Jo Aagerstoun** and **Carl Terwilliger** will both be serving their second year in 2011, if they accept the nomination. Current President, **Sue Dingwell** has served a three-year term, along with Vice President, **Brenda Mills**.

There was some further discussion regarding a need for detailed position descriptions. These issues will need to be addressed at a future meeting.

New Committee:

For the Rare Plant Auction in April, a new committee has formed, with **Mike Manna** as Chair, to guide and support this, our main fundraiser. Mike's committee members are **Brenda Mills**, **Cynthia Plockelman**, and **Ryan Leavengood**.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Beals, Recording Secretary

Mangroves in the Classroom

by Alyssa Dodd

Wading through the mud and coastal waters this past September, high school students from American Heritage and the Riviera Beach Maritime Academy collected about 5,000 red mangrove propagules. Why all the hard work? The students are part of the Mangroves in the Classroom program, a new partnership between Kids Ecology Corps and the Palm Beach County Department of Environmental Resources Management (ERM) that engages students in efforts to restore and protect wildlife habitat in Lake Worth Lagoon and other coastal waters.

Just over 2,000 students from nine schools are participating in the program. Kids Ecology Corps offers a unique hands-on presentation in the classroom. Students learn about our coastal estuaries, with a special emphasis on Lake Worth Lagoon,



*Native Plant Society member **Chris Lockhart** describes how red mangrove trees reproduce by producing a propagule.*

and the important role mangroves play in the ecosystem. High school students participate in propagule collection events led by Palm Beach County ERM while elementary and middle school students are primarily responsible for growing mangroves in the classroom.



Riviera Beach Maritime Academy Student

Seedlings grown by students as well as those grown at the Mounts Botanical Garden nursery by Palm Beach County ERM staff will be planted next year. Over 30,000 mangrove seedlings will be planted by volunteers as part of environmental restoration projects. A little over 4 acres of mangrove habitat will be created at the Juno Dunes Natural Area, in the Town of Juno Beach. The South Cove Natural Area project, within Lake Worth Lagoon in the City of West Palm Beach, will create about 2 acres of mangrove habitat.

Learn more about the Mangroves in the Classroom program at RadioGreenEarth.org (click on "Podcasts") and by visiting the Lake Worth Lagoon Initiative website at www.LWLI.org.

For additional information, please contact **Alyssa Dodd**, Palm Beach County ERM at 561-233-2448, ADodd@pbcgov.org, or visit www.pbcgov.org/erm.

Visit www.KidsEcologyCorps.org to learn how this organization is inspiring kids to take action to protect our environment.

It's Official—New Officers Are Approved

The slate of officers was presented by **Kris Serbesoff-King**, on behalf of the Nominating Committee (Kris, **Rob Hopper** and **Sue Dingwell**) at the September 21, 2010 annual meeting. There were no nominations from the floor. The following officers were elected by unanimous vote:

President - **Brenda Mills**
Vice President - **Lindy Cerar**
Secretary - **Cathy Beals**
Treasurer - **Stephanie Duncan**
Chapter Representative - **Lynn Sweetay**
Conservation Chair - **Michael Manna**
Director - **Alyssa Dodd**
Director - **Carl Terwilliger**
Director - **Mary Jo Agerstoun**

Thanks again to the Nominating Committee for their fine work!

Present this coupon for a 10% discount on select items in stock.

Save **10%**

InjnTrails@aol.com

Native Plants: Low to No H2O!
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561.641.9488

The coupon features a central illustration of a landscape with a river, mountains, and evergreen trees. A large eagle is shown in flight, carrying a banner with the email address 'InjnTrails@aol.com'. The text 'Save 10%' is written in a decorative, scalloped-edged shape at the top. The nursery's name and phone number are at the bottom.

Gift Membership Form (or enroll online at www.palmbeach.fnpschapters.org)

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New Member Contact Information * = required

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*Last Name: _____

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*Address: _____

*City: _____

State: _____ *Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____

FAX: _____

Email: _____

Sabal Minor Newsletter Mailing Preference:
(check one)

_____ Email _____ Postal mail

EcoAlerts FNPS maintains an EcoAlert list for those wanting to be aware of time-sensitive environmental issues.

_____ Yes - add me to the list _____ No thank you

New Member's Interests and Skills

Expertise/Interests (Check all that apply)

- Advocacy/Legislation
 Art/Photography
 Education
 Event Planning
 Field Trips
 FNPS Leadership or Chapter Leadership
 Fund Raising, Society Development
 Government Policy
 Landscape Design or Gardening
 Growing Plants
 Master Gardener/Master Naturalist
 Membership Development
 Plant surveys, botany
 Publications, Writing
 Public Speaking
 Volunteer Coordination

Profession (Check all that apply)

- Accountant
 Attorney
 Botanist/Ecologist
 Educator
 Elected official
 Graphic designer
 Land manager
 Landscape Architect/Designer
 Agency/Municipal Planner
 Naturalist
 Nursery
 Other _____

Payment

Amount from above: _____

Additional Donation: _____

Total Amount Enclosed: _____

Enclose personal check (payable to "FNPS")

Remit this form and check to :

FNPS Palm Beach County Chapter
13443 Windover Way
Palm Beach Gardens, Florida 33418

If you prefer to pay by credit card, go to:
www.palmbeach.fnpschapters.org
 and select "Become a Member"

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



**Florida
Native Plant Society**

Palm Beach County
Chapter

bmills@sfwmd.gov
(561) 247-FNPS
(3677)



Visit us on the web
palmbeach.fnpschapters.org

Or come Tweet with us....

twitter.com/palmbeachfnps

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Palm Beach County Chapter
534 29th Street
West Palm Beach, FL 33407

Membership Renewal
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«StreetAddress»

«City», «State» «Zip»



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

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Director at Large-**Mary Jo Aagerstoun**

Director at Large-**Alyssa Dodd**

Director at Large-**Carl Terwilliger**

Education Chair-**Lindy Cerar**

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Landscape Chair-**Robert Hopper**

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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.**

**Support FNPS and educate your friends and neighbors
with a gift membership this year.**

Gift memberships can be submitted online at
[http://fnps.org/pages/programs/programpg.php?
keyword=Membership](http://fnps.org/pages/programs/programpg.php?keyword=Membership)

or by filling out the form in this issue.

You can send the gift certificate below to let them know of your
generosity and the good news of their membership.

Let's Grow FNPS!



A Gift Membership for you to the
Florida Native Plant Society
www.fnps.org

To: _____

From: _____

Date, and Chapter (if applicable): _____

You will soon receive a welcome letter and membership card from FNPS. Benefits of Membership include the Society's quarterly magazine, the *Palmetto*, the *Sabal minor* e-news, and discounts at the annual conference and participating native plant nurseries. Your membership contributes to the conservation, preservation and restoration of Florida's native plants and the communities that support them.

FNPS is a 501c(3) not-for-profit corporation.