

November  
2010



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

### Garden Maintenance Party

**Saturday, Nov 20, 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 20** — Yamato Scrub Field  
Trip with Dade Co. Chapter

**Dec 21** — Holiday Party

**Jan 18** — Winding Waters  
Natural Area

**Jan 29** — Field Trip to Wind-  
ing Waters Natural Area

### Give a Gift Membership

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



## November Chapter Meeting

**Tuesday, November 16, 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

### Adventures In Lawn Conversion

*Ryan Leavengood*

In this talk, Ryan will give a brief history of the turfgrass lawn, why it is such a waste of resources, and how he learned to hate his front lawn enough to engage in a major restoration project. His goal—to eliminate all the turfgrass and replace it with primarily native plants and some edibles as well. Anyone else considering removing large patches of turf will learn what works and what doesn't and how the conversion can be done affordably.

### FNPS Holiday Potluck Party!

**Tuesday, December 21**

**6:30 – 8:30 pm**

**Mounts Botanical Garden**

*See Page 4 for details*

*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.*

**F**ellow FNPS Members,

What a privilege and a joy it has been to serve as your Palm Beach County Chapter president. I have truly loved every minute, and I am sorry that I had to miss so much of the action this year after my husband retired and wanted to hit the road.

The past three years have seen many accomplishments. We participated in a record number of local educational outreach events, and Green Fest activities. We gave a record number of talks to garden clubs and Master Gardeners. We gave onsite consultation for a project at FAU, helped with design and donated pond apples for wetland project at Morikami Elementary School in Boca Raton and have given lots of support to the tremendous effort by Eco Art South Florida at Dreher Park. We hosted the 2009 Conference!



We have added regular field trips back to our calendar, and they have been spectacular. Our chapter newsletter has been revitalized, to put it mildly. We found an actively participating, detail-oriented secretary. The folks who bring great plants every month to our raffle table have kept that fund source flowing, and our April native plant auction has exploded! That ever-important component, refreshments, has also really enjoyed an upgrade. Our webpage has been transformed, and will be seeing even more improvements next year.

All of these accomplishments were possible because of the tenacious dedication of our members. Every single person who is a paid-up member contributed to our efforts. We have a loyal group that includes many who maintain their memberships even though they can't get to meetings. Thanks to all of you.

And thanks from the bottom of my heart to all of you who gave unstintingly of your time and talents over these past three years when called on. It was your patience and your passion that made the accomplishments possible. I am forever in your debt for all you did to help.

And now, on to new heights. I was just slightly worried that our nominating committee was going to come up dry for a new slate of officers this year. But I should never have doubted! We are truly fortunate to have the services of a whole new top three. Our new President, Vice

President, and Treasurer are all people who work full time, have a lot to give, and will have to make sacrifices for the good of our chapter. Which I know they will.

So as I bow out as president, I want to assure you that I will still be around. Let's get to work, Palm Beach County Chapter – our county and our natives need us!

*Sue Dingwell*

## A Halloween Tale of Horror....

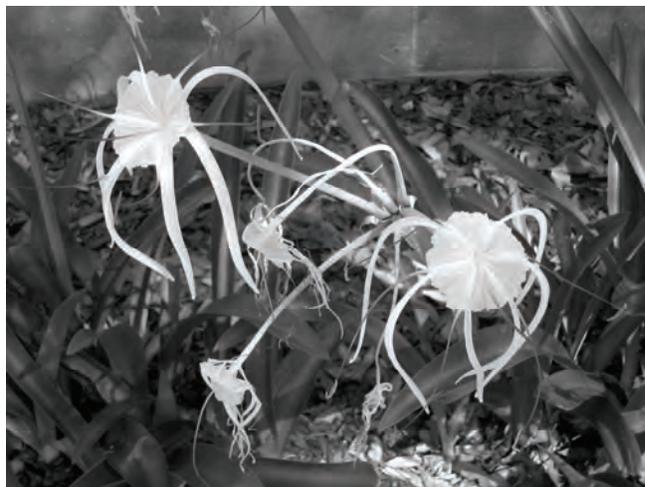
by Kristina Serbesoff-King

One Saturday in early October, a sinister event took place in our front yard. It was an all out attack on the unruly, the unkempt, the undead. I witnessed this event in horror; sure that nothing could survive such carnage. The perpetrator stalked all that was green with clippers in one hand, weed whacker in the other. Limbs and leaves were strewn about the sidewalk. I stood mutely by.

As if to laugh at their oppressor, the shrubs and trees immediately flaunted their remaining foliage. They were veterans. Even the dune flower seemed to bloom rather than bleed. But what of the spider lilies? Surely they would not survive. Meer inches of green stubble stood up where the once lush clumps of green leaves had been. I mourned their passing, fondly remembering their graceful flowers. And yet, there was still life left lurking quietly underground.

Days later, sure that no one was looking, the green leaves reemerged. One, two, finally ten to twenty, and not just leaves, but flower stalks, too. Literally

two short weeks before Halloween, the spiders came out! There are more waiting in the wings. As the costumed children come up our walk, laughing and clutching their bags full of candy, our spiders will be reaching out towards their unsuspecting calves and knees. The lilies will have the last laugh.



## Join the Dade Chapter on a Yamato Scrub Field Trip

**Saturday, November 20, 2010: Yamato Scrub, Southern Palm Beach County. 9:30 am -12:30 pm.**

This 217 acre natural area is the largest remaining scrub tract in Southern Palm Beach County, lying on a sandy ridge along an ancient shoreline. The vegetation is mostly sand pines, saw palmettos, dwarf oaks and lichens, but there is also oak hammock, pine flatwoods and dry prairie. Endangered plant species include Curtiss' milkweed, long strap fern, sand dune spurge, large-flowered rosemary, burrowing four-o'clock, cutthroat grass and several bromeliads. Members of the Palm Beach FNPS Chapter will join us and help in identifying the plants that don't occur in Miami-Dade. We will start the walk by looking at a created wetland near the parking lot.

**Leader:** Lee Lietzke, Environmental Analyst, Palm Beach County Environmental Resources Management

**Address:** 701 Clint Moore Road, Boca Raton.

**Directions:** From I-95 take Yamato Road/SR-794 (Exit 48B) west and go 1 mile. Turn right (north) at Congress Ave and go 1 mile. At Clint Moore Road turn right (east) and go 1/3 mile. Make a U-turn (at the Boca Raton Shrine Club) to get to the Yamato scrub parking entrance on the north side of the road. This is about 50 miles from I-95 and US1 in Miami-Dade, so allow an hour from there. If you want to take a different route, please consult your own map.

**Difficulty:** Easy/moderate - short distance, mostly on sandy paths.

**Bring:** Sun protection and water to carry. Bring lunch if you'd like to picnic afterward (we can go to a nearby park for tables, if desired).

**Note:** There is a Port-o-Let but no running water on site.

**More info:** See [www.pbcgov.com/](http://www.pbcgov.com/) - visitors - natural areas

**Lost?** Try Patty's cell (305-878-5705, for use that morning only).



## December Chapter Meeting - Holiday Potluck Party!



Tuesday, December 21

6:30 – 8:30 pm

Mounts Botanical Garden

531 North Military Trail, West Palm Beach

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.

Drinks, cups, plates and napkins provided.

Please RSVP by email ([palmbeach@fnpschapters.org](mailto:palmbeach@fnpschapters.org)) or phone (561-247-3677).

And yes...it does start at 6:30 pm!

## PLANTS ARE FOR THE BIRDS!

by Ann Yeend Weinrich

*A brief commercial for Native Plants from your friendly local birder.*

### Plants provide:

**TRUNKS...**for the Common Flicker, who will excavate a nest cavity to raise its young. If a dead tree is not too near your house, leave it standing!

**BRANCHES...**for the Great Horned Owl baby in his nest. He will wait for his mom to come with a rat for him to eat.

**LEAVES...**for the Red Shouldered Hawk...a good place to hide while keeping an eye out for prey.

**FLOWERS...**for the Spotted Oriole. They are fairly recent newcomers to Florida and a beautiful spot of color and song in our gardens.

**BERRIES...**for the Cedar Waxwing - a winter visitor that comes to us with flocks of Robins from January to March.

**HOLES...**for the Screech Owl – to hide from Blue Jays and Crows in the daytime. They eat lots of bugs and mice at night.

**CONES...**for the Pine Warbler - one of the many small birds high in the treetops--and pine trees are their favorite.

**STICKS...**for the Brown Thrasher who will gather them for a nest among the branches. This ground feeder thrashes about among the leaves finding bugs and worms to eat.

**BARK...**for the Red-bellied Woodpecker - it will find many insects hidden underneath the flakes and in the crevices on the sides of trees.

**STALKS...**for the Limpkin, who hides and walks among them while he searches for food along the edges of canals and lakes.

**SEEDS...**for the Common Grackle, gathered raucously with the rest of its flock.

**WOOD...**for the Purple Martin house. They eat millions of flying insects daily, which reduces our stress due to mosquitoes.

**PERCHES...**for the Great Crested Flycatcher--another insect eater that nests in tree cavities.

**NECTAR...**for the Ruby-throated Hummingbird. There are many brightly colored flowers that are attractive to these tiny birds.

So come on everybody! Let's put back some of the plants that have been removed. Plant leaves in your yards! Blossoms in our parks! Branches along our streets! Trunks along our roadsides!

## Gardening with the Natives

by Jeff Nurge

### Giant Swallowtail Butterfly (*Papilio cresphontes*)

The giant swallowtail is Florida's largest butterfly, spanning up to 6½ inches. It is a handsome giant dressed in black, sporting diagonal yellow stripes across its forewings. The giant swallowtail is easy to spot not only by its size but also by its habits. When flying they glide long distances between wing beats and when nectaring on flowers of firebush (*Hamelia patens*)—one of this butterfly's favorite native plants—they flutter their wings in a rapid motion. The caterpillars are black and white and as camouflage resemble large bird droppings. This enables them to avoid detection by birds who may otherwise make a meal of them! Although the giant swallowtail butterfly is abundant, in the garden setting it is generally a solitary soul. Occasionally you can spot more than one at a time during mating season.

The giant swallowtail is active and flying almost all year in South Florida, and may produce three or more broods during the course of a year. They lay their eggs on plants in the citrus family. The resulting caterpillars or "orange dogs" as they are commonly known in the citrus industry are unfortunately considered a pest by grove owners as they eat their fair



share of plant leaves. There are native plants that are closely related to cultivated citrus that if present the giant swallowtail will prefer to use as a host. These plants are Wild Lime, Hercules Club, Biscayne Prickly Ash and Yellow Wood. Of these natives the Wild Lime is widely cultivated and easy to locate.

Despite its name, the Wild Lime does not produce edible fruit. It does however have beautiful small compound leaves that when new are lime green that stand in contrast to the older dark green foliage. A word of caution, plant the Wild Lime away from walkways as the stems are armed with hooked thorns.

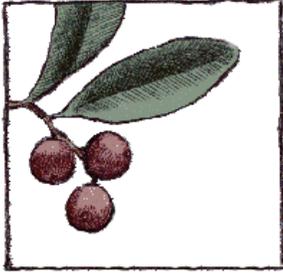
The native plants to attract and feed this butterfly are available at many of the native nurseries in our area. To find nurseries that carry butterfly-friendly native plants, visit the association of Florida Native Nurseries at [www.afnn.org](http://www.afnn.org), but don't stop there. The site provides only a snapshot of the offerings at local nurseries, so call around.

Jeff Nurge  
[WWW.FloridaNativeGardening.com](http://WWW.FloridaNativeGardening.com)

## We Want Your Children-Only the Green Ones!

Many of you have been so gracious and generous in supplying your green offspring for sale at Naturescaping—THANK YOU! This event would not be such a resounding success for our Chapter without your propagation and volunteer donations. Naturescaping is set for Saturday, April 16, 2011. Please keep up the good work and rear the little ones to be ready for their adoptive parents in April.





## Upcoming Events

**Saturday, November 20**

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, November 20**

Yamato Scrub Natural Area

Field Trip at Yamato Scrub

9:30 am – 12:30 pm The Dade Chapter of FNPS is coming to Palm Beach County in search of scrub habitat, and they kindly invited us come along. See page 3 for details.

**Saturday, November 20**

Jupiter Community Center

Benefit for the Jupiter Environmental Research and Field Studies Academy

6:00 – 11:00 pm Bring your friends for an adult night of fun, food, dancing, and outstanding raffle prizes. Live band and light appetizers. Jupiter Community Center, 200 Military Trail. For more info and to purchase tickets online visit [jersapartnership.org](http://jersapartnership.org)

**Tuesday, December 21**

Mounts Botanical Garden

December Holiday Potluck Party

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).

**Saturday, January 29**

Winding Waters Natural Area

Field Trip at Winding Waters

9:00 am – 12:00 pm Join **Steve Pisano** for a walk through the 550-acre Winding Waters Natural Area, managed by Palm Beach County. The natural area contains large areas of pine flatwoods, cypress forests, freshwater marshes and wet prairies. Some listed species that may be found there are the butterfly orchid, giant leather fern, royal fern and a number of *Tillandsia* species. Restoration efforts have begun to re-establish most of this area as freshwater marsh and to remove exotic vegetation. For information call 561-247-FNPS (3677).

## Membership Update

Our chapter has 154 members as of October 31. We have five new members this month. Warm welcomes to **Marci Green, Bethlyn Ferrigan, Linda Mccandless, Peter Nebe, and Ryan Leavengood.**

Thirteen memberships renewed or rejoined in October. **Sue & Randy Dingwell** renewed as donors, **Joan McMahan** renewed as a supporting member, and **Michael & Stacey Deloye** renewed as contributing members.

Renewing or rejoining individual members are **Kathleen Brennan, John Koch, Michele Lundeen, Rufino Osorio, Edythe Pekin, Jim Philpott, Michelle Seifert, Valerie Tipton, and Mike Zimmerman.** Our renewing family members are **Matthew & Jennilee Mierzwa.**

**Thank you all for your continued support of FNPS!**

## 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](mailto:dahoon@mindspring.com)

## Membership at a Glance

Business	9
Contributing	8
Donor	2
Family	25
Individual	97
Library	1
Life	2
Not for profit	4
Student	1
Supporting	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>154</b>

## FNPS Helps Green Up Lantana Greenfest

Palm Beach County Chapter of Florida Native Plant Society participated in Lantana Greenfest on Saturday, October 23, 2010. Volunteers **Sue Dingwell** and **Cathy Beals** handled setup and greeted a number of friendly and enthusiastic visitors. They handed out FNPS brochures, 2010 event calendars, AFNN magazines, along with other related printed material. The volunteers also responded to a variety of questions and provided loads of native plant information to a steady stream of interested people. One visitor completed a membership application, several issues of "Inspirations" by **Carl Terwilliger** were purchased, and a number of people indicated interest in our society and agreed to consider the possibility of attending an upcoming meeting.



Our Landscape Chair, **Rob Hopper**, gave an impressive half-hour presentation on Conservation Garden-

ing at 11:00 A.M. in the Lantana Town Hall Meeting Room. **Ryan Leavengood** and **Brenda Mills** staffed the FNPS table from 1:00 PM until the close of the



event. Ryan's participation is very much appreciated and we commend his obvious interest in our native plant society goals by attending a recent Board meeting and offering to participate as a presenter for one of our upcoming programs in year 2011. A model new member!

Overall, this event was considered a very positive outreach and well worth the volunteer hours. There was a balmy breeze that offset the warm Southern Florida Autumn temperatures. The event was well attended and it was evident that increased numbers of people are becoming aware of the vital need for maintaining (and replenishing) Florida's NATIVE HABITAT. We are making a difference!

## Help Our Chapter Be Even Better

We are looking for suggestions on how we can be leaner, greener and keener at serving our members, the public and our native habitats. Would you prefer the meetings start a bit earlier or be conducted differently? Do you have a place in mind for a community garden, or an idea for an outreach project? We would like to collect your thoughts for improvement and future endeavors. Please ponder deeply and forward your findings to Lindy via email ([lindycerar@yahoo.com](mailto:lindycerar@yahoo.com)) or phone 561-312-0660.

We have also created a member survey with several questions on ways to improve the chapter with a few fun plant questions thrown in.

If you have not already, please visit [www.surveymonkey.com/s/BQRXCCB](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BQRXCCB) and take the survey!



## Florida Native Plant Society

Palm Beach County  
Chapter

[bmills@sfwmd.gov](mailto:bmills@sfwmd.gov)  
(561) 247-FNPS  
(3677)



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

Or come Tweet with us....

[twitter.com/palmbeachfnps](https://twitter.com/palmbeachfnps)

The **Dahoon** is published monthly except December by the Palm Beach County Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society. Newsletter subscription is included in membership fees paid to the FNPS.

PRINTED ON RECYCLED  
PAPER

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

Florida Native Plant Society  
Palm Beach County Chapter  
534 29th Street  
West Palm Beach, FL 33407

**Membership Renewal**  
«Renewal»

«FirstLastName»

«OrgNameOtherName»

«StreetAddress»

«City», «State» «Zip»



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

## Officers & Chairpersons

President-**Brenda Mills**

247-3677, [bmills@sfwmd.gov](mailto:bmills@sfwmd.gov)

Vice-President-**Lindy Cerar**

312-0660, [lindycerar@yahoo.com](mailto:lindycerar@yahoo.com)

Treasurer-**Stephanie Duncan**

575-7956, [duncan694@aol.com](mailto:duncan694@aol.com)

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799-4007, [bealsc@bellsouth.net](mailto:bealsc@bellsouth.net)

Chapter Representative-**Lynn Sweetay**

798-6208, [lynnsweetay@hotmail.com](mailto:lynnsweetay@hotmail.com)

Conservation Chair-**Michael Manna**

Director at Large-**Mary Jo Aagerstoun**

Director at Large-**Alyssa Dodd**

Director at Large-**Carl Terwilliger**

Education Chair-**Lindy Cerar**

312-0660, [lindycerar@yahoo.com](mailto:lindycerar@yahoo.com)

Field Trip Coordinator-*open*

Landscape Chair-**Robert Hopper**

Membership Chair-**Dennis de Zeeuw**

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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>

or by mailing in the completed form on the back of this page.

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](http://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.

# Gift Membership Form (or enroll online at [www.palmbeach.fnpschapters.org](http://www.palmbeach.fnpschapters.org))

Special! Individual or Family Gift Membership  
**\$35.00**

This gift provided by: \_\_\_\_\_

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email or postal Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## New Member Contact Information \* = required

\*First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Business/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\*City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ \*Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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

## 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](http://www.palmbeach.fnpschapters.org)**  
and select "Become a Member"