

January
2011



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

Garden Maintenance Party

Saturday, Jan 22

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

Jan 29—*Winding Waters
Natural Area Field Trip*

Feb 15—*25 Years of Restora-
tion: Blowing Rocks Preserve*

Feb 27—*Blowing Rocks Pre-
serve Field Trip*

Mar 15—*Central Florida Wild-
flowers*

Mar 27—*Local Nursery Tour*



January Chapter Meeting

Tuesday, January 18

7:30 – 9:00 pm (doors open at 7)

Palm Beach County Extension—University of Florida/IFAS

Mounts Building Auditorium

531 North Military Trail, West Palm Beach, FL 33415

From Pastures to Wetlands—Restoration of Winding Waters Natural Area

Matthew King, Environmental Program Supervisor
Palm Beach County Environmental Resource Management

Acquired by Palm Beach County in 2001, the 550-acre Winding Waters Natural Area is managed as part of a countywide system of natural areas, protected to maintain the diversity of biological communities and species in Palm Beach County. Approximately half of this area was cleared during the 1950's & 60's for agricultural uses. The site was also hydrologically altered due to canals running through and adjacent to the property, as well as a municipal wellfield to the south and a closed landfill to the north. Through a cooperative agreement with the Solid Waste Authority, the County is in the final process of a large-scale restoration effort that will result in the creation of 185 acres of wetlands, the removal of 150 acres of non-native invasive vegetation and the relocation of over 2,000 native trees.

*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.

Survey Says....

Our 2010 chapter survey elicited many interesting and constructive comments from our members. The web-based survey was developed by **Brenda Mills, Lindy Cerar, and LeRoy Rodgers** in order to seek membership input on chapter improvements, but also to share a little knowledge and have a little online fun. The following is an overview of the results. All original survey submissions in their entirety will be presented to the Board, but space limitations prevent us from including all comments here.

If our chapter were to take on one major project this year, what should it focus on?

The most popular survey suggestion for a major annual project was *Increasing awareness of the benefits of native plants through local outreach activities* (39%). This suggestion was followed by two similar project ideas *Develop educational materials for DIY projects for homeowners* (22%) and *Develop a hands-on workshop that could be presented at education centers, scientific meetings, organization meetings* (22%). There was less support for projects focused on *increasing membership* (11%) and *creating another demonstration garden* (6%).

Stuff we'd like to see more of in the Dagoon...

There was even support for almost all of the survey suggestions—*Native plant cultivation tips, Native plant ecology, News about environmental advocacy, and How-to articles related to cultivation, plant identification, conservation*. We also had a number of interesting write in suggestions for The Dagoon. These included:

- 1) *Reports on native plant hot spots; seasonal blooms; ethnobotany; insects, bats, and other animals as relating to plants*
- 2) *Directions, membership form*
- 3) *Write-ups of efforts the chapter could support as a group, educational, conservational, school yard, Habitat for Humanity.*
- 4) *Profiles on members' gardens*

What is your preferred time for the monthly chapter meetings?

A slight majority (45%) prefer an earlier start to the

monthly meeting, while 40% prefer keeping it the same. Another 15% prefer later.

Other Suggestions from Respondents

We received a number of other write in suggestions for improving our chapter. These included:

- 1) *Increase advocacy for habitat preservation*
- 2) *Increase membership, recruit younger members*
- 3) *Improve organization and selection of field trips. Possibly bring in outside experts for specialty field trips. Add volunteer activities to certain field trips.*
- 4) *Evenings are tough for some members. What about two weekend meetings a year—maybe a breakfast or lunch meeting?*
- 5) *More focus on volunteerism*
- 6) *Demonstration garden at McArthur Park*

On the lighter Side of the Survey...

Plant ID Quiz

53% of respondents correctly identified the mystery plant as *Conradina grandiflora* or large flower false rosemary (As a group, our plant ID skills are "above average"). Many of us guessed *Dicernada densiflora* whose flower has a similar structure and general appearance to *Conradina grandiflora*.



Conradina grandiflora
photo by Shirley Denton

Survey Results (continued)

Favorite Latin Plant Names

We asked respondents to share their favorite Latin plant names. We received multiple entries for *Coloba uvifera* and *Capparis cynophallophora*. Other notable entries included *Ilex vomitoria*, *Conocarpus erectus*, *Saururus cernuus*.

Favorite Place to View Native Plants

Respondents mentioned nearly all the well-known natural areas in the county, and Grassy Waters was named twice. Some of the lesser-known locations included Cypress Creek Natural Area, Pan's Garden, and Green Cay Wetlands.

Favorite Ground Cover for Shady Spots

Basketgrass (*Oplismenus hirtellus*) received mention twice. Respondents offered up many other interesting responses including mimosa, angel's tears, native bromeliads, ferns, coontie, porterweed, phlox, and peperomia.

Tastiest Native Fruit

The most popular were blueberry, cocoplum and mulberry. Other tasty fruits on mention were blackberry, natal plum, satin leaf, and seagrape.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the survey! We will keep the survey website up for another month. If you have not completed the survey and wish to provide your input, please visit <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BQRXCCB>



Basketgrass (Oplismenus hirtellus)
Photo by Forest & Kim Starr

Field Trip to Winding Waters

Saturday, January 29, 2011: Winding Waters Natural Area, Central Palm Beach County 9 am – 11:30 am.

This 550-acre natural area contains large areas of pine flatwoods, cypress forests, freshwater marshes and wet prairies. Some listed species that may be found at Winding Waters Natural area are the butterfly orchid, giant leather fern, royal fern and a number of *Tillandsia* species. The field trip will highlight recent restoration efforts to re-establish most of this area as freshwater marsh, the removal of exotic vegetation, mitigation tree planting, and several of the native plant communities.

Leader: Steve Pisano, Environmental Analyst

Location & Directions: Winding Waters Natural Area is located on the west side of Haverhill Road between 45th Street and the Beeline Highway (SR 710), and just south of Dyer Park. From I-95, take 45th Street Exit, head west for 1.5 miles, turn right (north) at Haverhill Road. Meet at the main SE entrance -½ mile north of the intersection of Haverhill Rd and 45th Street, west side of Haverhill Rd. There is a double gate entrance there with an asphalt/hardened strip that should accommodate 10-15 cars.

Difficulty: Moderate – 1.5 mile loop on recently cleared ground

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

Notes: Restroom facilities are NOT available

More info: See <http://www.pbcgov.com/erm/natural/natural-areas/winding-waters/>

Chapter Board Meeting Minutes

Cathy Beals

November 6, 2010 Pine Jog Environmental Center

ATTENDEES: Brenda Mills, Lindy Cerar, Stephanie Duncan, Cathy Beals, Myrna Sossner, Nancy Sloane, and Alice Bojanowski

Absent (voting) Officers: Lynn Sweetay, Mike Manna, Carl Terwilliger, Alyssa Dodd, Mary Jo Agerstoun.

This meeting lacked a quorum and no business was conducted. Subsequent to this, at the November 16, 2010 meeting, the president detailed levels of support that local chapters are considering, and on a motion by **Cynthia Plockel-man**, second by **Lindy Cerar** and carried it was moved that the Palm Beach County Chapter will contribute \$500 to the statewide research project. This support is requested because of major budget cuts at the state level.

OLD BUSINESS:

Yard Certification Project:

Current status of the FNPS Yard Certification project was not determined. President and Vice President plan to meet with Chair **Jeff Nurge** prior to the monthly meeting for an update. **Alice Bojanowsky** agreed to contact **Laura Sana-gorsky** for information on the IFAS Yards & Neighborhoods program for similarities, suggestions, possible integration, etc.

Tablecloth and Chapter Computer

Brenda plans to order a tablecloth with FNPS Logo this month. Estimated cost and status of a chapter laptop computer is to be reviewed with our former Treasurer.

Monthly Newsletter

Advertising in the Dagoon was discussed. It was suggested that FNPS members may advertise for free and that non-members would be charged. A policy to define advertising parameters is needed. **Brenda Mills** will contact the executive director to determine how other chapters handle advertising. Electronic distribution of the monthly newsletter is to be pursued in the near future.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Stephanie Duncan reported that there is a balance of \$6,804.37 (subsequently corrected to \$8,568.33 as a deposit had not been included.) The bank is requiring additional identification before Stephanie's name can be added to the account. Also, there is some confusion regarding the chapter's 501 (c) 3 status. Stephanie will contact **Matthew King** and staff at the state level for clarification and advice on how to proceed. It was also noted that the membership brochure shows an incorrect membership fee and that corrections are needed.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Cathy Beals reported that prior Board minutes were approved via e-mail and noted that minutes for the regular monthly meeting were not required, as generally no business is conducted. However, it was agreed that the secretary should notify the newsletter editors of names of volunteers who donate plants, refreshments and time to keep the Mounts building open on meeting nights.

EDUCATION AND VP

Lindy Cerar reported that she will continue as Education Chair along with assuming the duties of vice president. She has been attending monthly meetings for Naturescaping at MacArthur Beach State Park, which is scheduled April 16, 2011. FNPS will again sponsor, staff a booth, and sell plants at the event.

NEW BUSINESS:

FNPS ANNUAL REPORT

Brenda Mills distributed copies of a letter from **Sue Dingwell**, Communications Chair, regarding creation of a statewide Annual Report. Noting the need for statistics on volunteer activities, including participation at outreach events, workshops, field trips, etc. the secretary was asked to estimate and summarize activities for the year 2010. Sign-up sheets for collecting this type of information will be needed for the upcoming year.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT:

Financial Support for Naturescaping @ \$250.00 SUPPORT FOR AFNN (\$250 - \$500) *Treas. To review this amount for last year

SUPPORT FOR FNPS RESEARCH GRANT (\$500)

President and vice president will visit the storage unit to determine available materials for distribution at outreach events. The display board needs to be replaced. Changes to the raffle table were discussed.

2011 PROGRAM BROCHURE

Brenda reviewed changes to the program brochure and noted that final confirmations are needed for next year's program brochure. Vice president will follow-up. The tri-fold should be ready for distribution at the December Potluck social and will also be inserted for mailing with the January Dagoon. 500 copies will be printed.

Next Board Meeting

The next PB County Chapter FNPS Board Meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 2011. Date and location to be determined.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Beals, Recording Secretary

Gardening with the Natives

by Jeff Nurge

Bay Cedar (*Suriana maritima*)

Bay cedar is another native plant for the “tough as nails” category. Extremely drought, heat and salt tolerant, this plant can be seen growing on the back side of sand dunes and coastal thickets near the ocean. Its appearance belies its strong constitution. Clothed in evergreen gray-green one inch fleshy succulent type leaves, it looks too delicate for the harsh location. Bay cedar flowers off and on all year round with little yellow cup shaped flowers, and they are quite a sight when they appear en masse. The fruits are a draw for a number of our local bird species. Bay Cedar is also the host plant for several butterfly species in the hairstreak family and is a nectar source for numerous other butterfly species. As a point of interest, bay cedar gets its name for the cedar like fragrance when the leaves are crushed.

While bay cedar is primarily a coastal plant, it will do quite well in a wide range of soil types including inland areas provided it is planted in well-drained soils. Sandy soils with no irrigation are preferred. The growth rate is moderate in a full sun setting, which is also recommended for optimal flowering. Bay cedar can grow up to 12 feet but usually stays from 6 to 8 feet tall. However it can be easily trimmed to any desired height and makes a nice loose hedge planted about five feet apart. In formal landscapes bay cedar can be groomed into a small multi-branched ornamental tree. Propagation is by seed. In fact, bay cedar is dispersed in the environment by seed over ocean currents. Bay cedar is threatened locally due to the loss of coastal habitat.



Bay cedar is native to the coastal Florida, the Caribbean, eastern Central and South America, East Africa, tropical Asia, and Australia.

Photo by Jeff Nurge

Fortunately, the plant has found its way into cultivation and is readily available at native nurseries.

This plant is available at native nurseries. 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

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, January 22

Mounts Building, UF/IFAS Extension

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, January 29

Winding Waters Natural Area

Field Trip to 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. See page 3 for details.

Saturday, February 12

Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge

Everglades Day

8:00 am – 4:00 pm Over 30 exhibitors from agencies, clubs and non-profit organizations. Event includes: wildlife presentations, canoeing, birds of prey, music, educational programs, guest speakers, español presentations, exhibits, food, interactive activities, Strazulla Marsh & LILA tours. **Free to the public.** Call 561-734-8303

Tuesday, February 15

Mounts Building, UF/IFAS Extension

February Chapter Meeting

7:30 – 9:00pm 25 Years of Coastal Restoration at Blowing Rocks, Mike Renda. For information call 561-247-FNPS (3677).

Saturday, February 27

Blowing Rocks Preserve

Field Trip to Blowing Rocks Reserve

9:00 am – 12:00 pm Join Mike Renda for a walk through Blowing Rocks Preserve, managed by The Nature Conservancy. For information call 561-247-FNPS (3677).

Membership Update

Our chapter has 157 members as of January 4, 2011. We have three new members in the months of November and December. Warm welcomes to **BEN KOLSTAD & MARCELLA MUNSON** and **BILL WILSON**.

Eighteen memberships renewed or rejoined in the months of November and December. **SUSAN & SERGIO CASAMENTO** renewed as a contributing members. Renewing or rejoining individual members are **GINNY POWELL, WINNIE SAID, MAIR BUDDUG, PHYLLIS CARR, MARK EBERSOLD, STEVEN EVANS, THOMAS GIRE, JOAN HOURICAN, VICTORIA LANG, CAROL ANN LOEHNDORF, TONI MANUEL,** and **DIANE BRADLEY**. Our renewing family members are **JANETTE & RICHARD WOJCIAK, DAVID BLACK & CAROLYN SUSMAN** and **CAROLYN KALINICH**. Our renewing business member is Native Creations Inc (**GARY BARNETT**).

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

dafoon@mindspring.com

Membership at a Glance

Business	9
Contributing	9
Donor	2
Family	25
Individual	100
Library	1
Life	2
Not for profit	3
Student	1
Supporting	5
Total	157

Field Trip Report: Yamato Scrub Natural Area

by Tom Gire

On November 20, 2010, members of the Dade and Palm Beach Chapters of FNPS were lead by **Lee Lietzke** through the Yamato Scrub Natural Area, a 217-acre preserve that protects Florida scrub habitat as well as scrubby flatwoods, oak-palm hammock, and a restored basin marsh. Lee, an Environmental Analyst with the Palm Beach County Department of Environmental Resource Management, provided a wealth of information on the rehabilitation and management of this site since its acquisition in 1997, and on its plant communities.

We observed a total of 86 species, which included three endangered species—*Chrysopsis delaneyi* (Delaney's goldenaster), *Panicum abscissum* (cutthroat grass), and *Tillandsia fasciculata* (cardinal airplant) and three threatened species—*Conradina grandiflora* (large flower false rosemary), *Lechea cernua* (nodding pinweed), and (*Tillandsia balbisiana*) northern needleleaf. Among the 11 non-native species we observed, three were FLEPPC Category 1 (highly invasive) species—*Ardisia elliptica* (shoebutton Ardisia), *Melinis repens* (rose natalgrass), *Nephrolepis cordifolia* (tuberous sword fern). The plant list was compiled with the generous assistance of **Chuck McCartney** and **Martin Roessler**.



Lechea cernua photo
by Shirley Denton

Defender of the Environment Awards Dinner Coming in March

Please join **Nature Wise** on **Saturday March 5th** in Orlando, as we recognize our local environmental heroes and hear a presentation from nationally recognized journalist and Florida environmentalist **Juanita Greene** who was recently featured in the PBS series *The National Parks: America's Best Idea*. Our program for the evening features a fabulous menu including hors d'oeuvres and dessert, musical entertainment, raffles, award presentations, and a wildlife oil painting performance by Karen Harrod of Harrod Design. Our featured speaker, Juanita Greene, will receive the Nature Wise *Defender of the Environment Lifetime Achievement Award* in recognition of her steadfast and effective contributions over several decades of defending Florida's environment for all of us! Nature Wise will also proudly present *Defender of the Environment Awards* to fifteen local environmental heroes, and display the art of winners of our children's art contest, *Art With a Purpose*. \$25 donation requested. Please register now by visiting www.naturewisetv.org and clicking on the Defenders Awards Dinner.

Tracy McCommon, Executive Director
Nature Wise, Inc. 407-579-7989

FNPS Endowment Grant Research Awards & Conservation Grant

The Florida Native Plant Society maintains an Endowment Grant program for the purpose of funding research on native plants. These are small grants (\$1500 or less), awarded for a one-year period, and intended to support research that forwards the mission of the Florida Native Plant Society "to promote the preservation, conservation, and restoration of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida."

FNPS Conservation Grants support applied native plant conservation projects in Florida. These are small grants (\$1500 or less) awarded for a one-year period. On-the-ground native plant community restoration, land acquisition, and habitat enhancement projects are examples of projects that this grant is intended to assist. To qualify for a Conservation Grant, the proposed project must be sponsored by an FNPS Chapter.

Application guidelines and details are on the FNPS Web site (www.fnps.org). Questions regarding the grant programs should be sent to info@fnps.org. Application deadline for the 2011 Awards is March 4, 2011. Awards will be announced at the 2011 Annual Conference in Maitland.

*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
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(3677)



Visit us on the web
palmbeach.fnpschapters.org

Or come Tweet with us....

twitter.com/palmbeachfnps

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**Membership Renewal
(complimentary)**



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

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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 Building Auditorium
University of Florida/IFAS Extension
531 North Military Trail
(1/4 mi north of Southern Blvd.)
West Palm Beach, Florida

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