

November
2011



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

Garden Maintenance Party

Saturday, Nov 19

9am—12pm
Clayton Hutcheson Building



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

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November Chapter Meeting

Tuesday, November 15

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

Invasive Exotic Pythons

Skip Snow, Everglades National Park

What's been the biggest new item in the past month? The Kim Karshaian divorce, the Occupy Wall Street protests...No! It's that a 16' foot python in Everglades National Park (ENP) was captured after recently eating a small deer. With an estimate of 30,000 pythons in ENP alone, the impacts to native wildlife could be devastating. Nearly 1,000 pythons have been removed from the park and surrounding areas since 2002-- likely representing only a fraction of the total population.

Exotic snakes found in the park often result from their intentional release by pet owners. These introductions can have devastating consequences to our ecosystem. Burmese pythons have been found to feed on a wide variety of birds and mammals in the Everglades-- even an occasional alligator! By preying on native wildlife, and competing with other native predators, pythons are seriously impacting the natural order of our south Florida's ecological communities. Their voracious appetite can further threaten many of the endangered species we're trying so hard to protect.

Dr. Skip Snow will discuss efforts that are underway to learn how best to control the python population in the Everglades and prevent new invasions in the future.

*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.

Board Of Directors Meeting Minutes

submitted by Cathy Beals

Board Of Directors Meeting
Palm Beach County Chapter FNPS
Mounts Botanical Building on Tuesday, September 20, 2011 from 5:20 pm -- 7:20 pm.

ATTENDEES: Brenda Mills, Lindy Cerar, Stephanie Duncan, Cathy Beals, Lynn Sweetay, Michael Manna, Mary Jo Aagerstoun, Ryan Leavengood, Kristi Martin-Moyer, Myrna Sossner, Nancy Sloane, Sue Dingwell, and Matthew King.

President, Brenda Mills called the meeting to order at 5:20 pm and requested board and chair reports. Treasurer Stephanie Duncan submitted the financial statement, reviewed the status of the GEL application for 501(c) 3 filing (and bylaw revisions), and suggested an increase from 15% to 20% for a discount to members on book sales. Brenda also reported that she is working on an outline defining the duties of FNPS local officers. She is also working on material to set up the front table at meetings, including greeter information and membership materials. VP Lindy Cerar reported on the status of the butterfly garden project at MacArthur Beach State Park. Matthew King reported on the website design and called for a committee to review and collect information. The board voted to approve support for FANN @ \$100.00.

Treasurer's Report: Stephanie Duncan submitted the financial statement as of August, 2011 showing a year-end deficit at \$98.82, although we have a current bank balance at approximately \$6,200. This financial statement was also reviewed at the regular monthly meeting of the general membership immediately following the Board meeting. Stephanie also called for a vote to authorize a 20% discount to FNPS members on book sales. On a motion by Ryan Leavengood, second by Cathy Beals and carried this motion was approved. Stephanie also reported on the

status of the GEL application and noted that our chapter should be eligible for postage at the non-profit rate once it is approved

Chapter Representative, Lynn Sweetay submitted a report from the August 13, 2011 statewide Board of Directors meeting. New president, Steve Woodmansee reviewed the accessibility of the FNPS website, where pertinent information is available to everyone. Of particular interest is the 2010 Annual Report, coordinated by Sue Dingwell, containing pertinent and valuable information.

Web Site: Matthew King reviewed the current status of our local chapter website and noted areas that are still in need of work. Ryan Leavengood offered his assistance. The Board agreed that a link to Sue Dingwell's blog (on the state website) is appropriate. The Board also agreed that a committee of approximately five people is needed to assist with content and summary information.

Butterfly Garden: VP Lindy Cerar reported on the status of the butterfly garden project at MacArthur Beach State Park. She is still awaiting a list of plants needed for the design and noted that she will attend a meeting at the Park on October 12, when she expects to gather more details regarding the project. A grant request for funding of this project to state FNPS was suggested. A discussion of plants and landscaping activities followed and Kristie Martin-Moyer offered her assistance.

NEW BUSINESS

2012 Program Planning: A preliminary program was discussed by the Board for the year 2012. Details to be finalized by November/December 2011.

Continued on page 5

Gardening with the Natives

by Jeff Nurge

American Beautyberry (*Callicarpa americana*)

Beautyberry is in the top five “no brainer” Florida native plants for the landscape due to its hardiness, color and form. Typically four to six feet high and essentially evergreen here in South Florida, the coarse large green toothed leaves are lined up opposite each other on long arching branches. Bunches of tiny pink flowers form along the stems in late spring and summer only to give way to beautiful purple berries that grow in large clusters several inches apart. The weight of the fruit is such that the branches take on an exaggerated weeping effect that can be quite visually stunning. Plant beautyberry close to the road and you will have all your neighbors oohing and aahing! For you bird lovers, there are dozens of species that eat the berries during times when fruit are scarce. It is a particular favorite for the mockingbird, which needs no excuse to chow down.



In our natural hammock areas, beautyberry can be seen growing in filtered sun which lends itself to a vine like appearance as it weaves its way in and around other plants. However it can be grown in full sun which creates a more rounded bush. Even in this

environment you will want to give it a hard prune practically to the ground every couple of years to maintain its shape as it can become quite leggy.

Beautyberry is not too picky about soil conditions as long as it is well drained. It is quite drought tolerant but likes a little water during prolonged periods of no rain. Propagation is by seed or cuttings. Seed readily volunteers in and around the yard from birds eating and passing the fruit. The small plants are easily uprooted and grown in pots to any desired height. There is a natural form of beautyberry with white flowers and berries, which can be quite striking in an all white flower garden. Contrary to some sources, the berries are not poisonous. In

fact they can be eaten raw or processed in the same fashion as elderberry to form a delicious jelly.

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

Visit the FNPS Online Shop



If you love Florida's native plants, you're going to love what's already offered at the FNPS online shop, and it's only going to get better. Go to <http://www.thefnpsshop.com/> and take a leisurely stroll through our little shop and discover all the goodies that FNPS has gathered for your enjoyment (and purchase, too). The site has everything from hats to tees to wonderful works of original art. And, of course, you don't have to be a Florida native plant lover to love what you see, just a friend to nature and lover of beauty.

In addition to cool native plant merchandise, you can shop for beautiful original art like this watercolor by our very own Cathy Beals!



Upcoming Events

Monthly Garden Maintenance

Saturday, November 19 Clayton Hutchinson Building, UF/IFAS Extension
9:00 am – 12:00 pm **Get Your Hands Dirty!**

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! More info: 561-247-FNPS (3677).

Holiday Potluck Dinner

Tuesday, December 20 Mounts Building, UF/IFAS Extension
7:30 – 9:00pm

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. (See page 5 For details)

January Chapter Meeting

Tuesday, January 17 Mounts Building, UF/IFAS Extension
7:30 – 9:00pm **Carnivorous Plants**

Presenter: Mike Manna More info: 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

dahooned@gmail.com

Membership at a Glance

Business	6
Contributing	9
Donor	1
Family	32
Individual	115
Library	1
Life	2
Not for profit	4
Student	4
Supporting	2
Total	176

Membership Update

Our chapter has 176 members as of November 2nd. We have four new members this month. Warm welcomes to **LYNN COX, TERRI JENKINS, MARTHA NUNGESSER,** and **ERIC & JEANNE WASSER.**

Eleven memberships renewed or rejoined in October. **MICHAEL & STACEY DELOYE** renewed as a contributing member. Renewing or rejoining individual members are **PAMELA BOODY, KATHLEEN BRENNAN, PHYLLIS CARR, STEVEN EVANS, JOAN HOURICAN, JOHN KOCH, JOAN MCMAHAN, EDYTHE PEKIN,** and **MIKE ZIMMERMAN.** Our renewing family members are **RYAN & FRANCESCA LEAVENGOOD.**

Thank you all for your continued support of FNPS!



December Chapter Meeting - Holiday Potluck Party!

Tuesday, December 20

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.

Ham, cups, plates and napkins provided.

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

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

Board Of Directors Meeting Minutes *(continued from page 3)*

President's Request for Vote: At the annual meeting of the general membership, Brenda Mills reviewed the status of needed bylaw revisions and called for a vote to approve these revisions. On a motion by Steve Chase, seconded and carried, the bylaw revisions were approved as submitted.

ELECTION: Also at the annual meeting of the general membership, on behalf of the Nominating Committee, Kris Serbesoff-King presented the following slate of nominees to serve a one-year term of office for 2011-2012:

President: Brenda Mills
 Vice President: Lindy Cerar
 Treasurer: Stephanie Duncan
 Secretary: Cathy Beals
 Conservation Chair: Michael Manna
 Chapter Representative: Lynn Sweetay
 Directors-at-large: Alyssa Dodd, Ryan Leaven-
 good, Kristi Martin-Moyer

Note: The president and vice president (elected to a one-year term), may serve up to three consecutive terms of office. This is the second term for the current president and vice president. Directors-at-large may serve up to three consecutive terms, and this is Alyssa Dodd's third term. Ryan and Kristi begin their first term this year.

There being no nominations from the floor, on a motion by Cynthia Plockelman, seconded and carried unanimously, the nominees were approved by the membership.

Next Board Meeting: The next PB County Chapter FNPS Business Meeting will be scheduled at the call of the president (by December or January); date place and time TBA.

Respectfully submitted,
 Cathy Beals, Recording Secretary

Monthly Meeting Notes

Submitted by Cathy Beals

Steven Woodmansee, now FNPS president, gave a detailed presentation on native plants and other wilds of the Big Cypress National Preserve. He noted that "Big Cypress" consists of 700,000 acres and is home to a variety of critters including black bears and cottonmouth snakes among many others. And there is a huge variety of plants that thrive in different ecosystems, from tidal swamps, coastal berms and dome and strand swamps to pine flatwoods and slightly higher elevations! He recommended that we visit the website for more information at www.regionalconservation.org.

Thanks to our volunteers! **Michael Manna** for holding the building open between Mounts closing time and meeting time. **Gene & Sue Sanchez**, **Linda Haurert**, **Lindy Cerar**, **Susan Lerner**, and **Native Choice (Jeff and**

Susan) for October donated plants **Lindy Cerar**, **Judy Trammel**, and **Kristi Moyer** for signing up to staff the FNPS table at Lantana Greenfest (Oct. 22)

LeRoy & Shari Rodgers for producing our monthly newsletter. **Myrna Sossner** and **Nancy Sloan** for mailing our monthly newsletter.

Also a big thanks to the Sierra Club for joining us at the October meeting and for providing refreshments.

The Sierra Club announced several upcoming events and invited everyone to attend their general monthly meetings as well as their upcoming holiday party on December 10, 2011.

Cathy

Sustainability Advisory Committee Forming

West Palm Beach Sustainability Advisory Committee sets up Natural Resources and Water Conservation Subcommittee

FNPS-PBC member Mary Jo Agerstoun is chairing the new Natural Resources and Water Conservation Subcommittee of West Palm Beach's Sustainability Advisory Committee (SAC) and is seeking FNPS members who live within the city limits of West Palm Beach, and who have expertise in this area of sustainability action for the city.

The Natural Resources and Water Conservation subcommittee, is one of 6 which track the Focus Areas of the city's Sustainability Action plan (see the draft online at <http://wpb.org/sustainability/climate-action-plan/>).

The other subcommittees are:

- Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy
- Land Use, Redevelopment, and Transportation
- Housing and Green Building Codes
- Waste Management and Recycling
- Growing a Green Economy
- Urban Agriculture and Community Gardens

The SAC's subcommittees will reach out to the larger nongovernmental areas of the city's citizenry to encourage the whole city, private and public sectors, to move greening the city forward. The city's Sustainability Action Plan is in final stages of preparation for presentation to the Mayor and City Commission for ap-

proval before the end of the year.

Areas of expertise Mary Jo is seeking for the Natural Resources and Water Conservation subcommittee include:

- ecosystems of Grassy Waters; potential of Grassy Waters as a carbon sink through habitat improvement
- ecosystems of the Lake Worth Lagoon (intracoastal waterway)
- stormwater reclamation, storage, cleaning and re-use
- urban forestry
- urban meadows
- environmental education outside the public education system regarding water conserving home and business landscaping and maintenance
- green infrastructure planning and implementation
- preventive integrated non toxic pest management
- green roof and green wall design and maintenance
- pervious paving--best uses in home and business

Please contact Mary Jo at mjaa-gerstoun@ecoartsof.org. It will help greatly if you include in your email a brief description of your area of expertise and interest in participating in the committee.

Announcements

Correction In the September 2011 article, "FNPS Teams with Northwood GREENlife for Native Urban Forest Pilot," the name of Palm Beach County Department of Environmental Resources Management Director **Rich Walesky** was misspelled.

Electronic Newsletter

We're still on a campaign to transition the Dagoon from paper to digital. So far, over 20% of our membership has transitioned to electronic distribution (thank you). But that's not enough, basically, if you have an email address, we want you to sign up. We understand that not everyone is on the "information superhighway" and we'll continue to mail out the paper copy for those that want it. So if you want to receive The Dagoon via email, please send an email to info@fnps.org.

Big Cypress NP Addition Lands

A coalition of environmental organizations has filed suit to challenge a National Park Service decision to open the Addition Lands of the Big Cypress National Preserve to motorized recreation. Download the full press release from the Sierra Club here.

<http://m1e.net/c?142966030-bE2paYRqibI8s%406955263-iEK5xfzs9LZiM>

Call for Research Papers and Poster Presentations

The Florida Native Plant Society annual conference will be held at the John R. Trinkle Center, Hillsborough Community College Plant City Campus, Plant City, Florida **May 17-20, 2012**. Researchers are invited to submit abstracts on research related to native plants and plant communities of Florida including preservation, conservation, and restoration. Abstracts of not more than 200 words should be submitted as a MS Word file by email to **Paul A. Schmalzer** paul.a.schmalzer@nasa.gov by February 1, 2011. Include title, affiliation, and address. Indicate whether you will be presenting a paper or poster.

FNPS 2012 Endowment Grant Research Awards and Conservation Grant Awards

The Florida Native Plant Society maintains an Endowment Research Grant program for the purpose of funding research on native plants. These are small grants (\$1500 or less), awarded for a 1-year period, and in-

tended to support research that forwards the mission of the Florida Native Plant Society which is "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 1-year period. Examples of projects that this grant supports are on-the-ground native plant community restoration, land acquisition, and habitat enhancement. 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), click on 'Awards and Grants'. Questions regarding the grant programs should be sent to info@fnps.org.

Application deadline for the 2012 Awards is March 2, 2012. Awards will be announced at the May 2012 Annual Conference in Plant City. Awardees do not have to be present at the Conference to receive award.

Snook Island

We are still seeking help for the Snook Islands Project in Lake Worth. As published in the Oct. Dagoon, Project Manager **Dave Niemi**, needs assistance with unbudgeted native landscaping at the project. We can best help by donating plants and possibly by assisting with the design. If you have specific questions about the project, the site, etc, please contact Dave directly. He can be reached at agrassroot@comcast.net

Botanical Exploration Cruise

FNPS is hosting a botanical exploration cruise to the Exumas Islands in The Bahamas, Feb. 17-27, 2012. The trip will be led by FNPS president and botanist Steve Woodmansee, on the research vessel Coral Reef II, and will visit several remote islands of the Exumas, exploring different habitats and ancient endemic species.

DOWNLOAD detailed flyer at:

http://www.fnps.org/committees/fnps/pdfs/explore_the_exumas_with_fnps2.pdf

The trip is open to FNPS members only and will be filled first come, first serve. Please email Steve at president@fnps.org or call 786.488.3101 as soon as possible.



Florida Native Plant Society

Palm Beach County
Chapter

[palmbeach@
fnpschapters.org](mailto:palmbeach@fnpschapters.org)



Visit us on the web
palmbeach.fnpschapters.org

Or come Tweet with us....

twitter.com/palmbeachfnps

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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
(complimentary)**

Manager
Gumbo Limbo Nature Center
1801 N Ocean Blvd
Boca Raton, FL 33432-1946



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.**