Although we will not be hosting Steve Woodmansee this month for our speaker’s program, we are taking this opportunity to share an article by him that was published during Steve’s term as FNPS President. We look forward to hearing his talk on sustainable landscaping at a future date.

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**On-site Chapter Meetings Canceled Until Further Notice**

Your board of directors is exploring options to offer you virtual meetings. We welcome input from members with expertise relating to online conferencing.

(Canceled) **April Speaker Program: Creating an Ecologically and Sociologically Sustainable Landscape with Steve Woodmansee**

This program will be rescheduled to a later date (TBD)

Although we will not be hosting Steve Woodmansee this month for our speaker’s program, we are taking this opportunity to share an article by him that was published during Steve’s term as FNPS President. We look forward to hearing his talk on sustainable landscaping at a future date.

**At the Heart of the Matter**

*by Steve Woodmansee*

“It’s the Mission that makes us mighty. **Conservation, Preservation, and Restoration**; this is the heart of our mission protecting native plants and their habitats, and these are the actions necessary to resuscitate our wild lands and the human spirit.” ~Steven Woodmansee, FNPS President (2011-2013)

When one **Conserves** resources such as clean air, clean water, and energy, we turn to the plants. Native forests absorb carbon dioxide and toxic elements, mitigating climate change and air pollutants. Native plants can help us to identify overly nutrient-rich water; cattails may thrive in it, but clean water is where the sawgrass predominates. Converting high energy-use landscapes such as lawns and other thirsty plants to low-energy native plant landscapes reduces water and electric bills, and reduces our negative impacts of unnecessary over-consumption as well as our carbon footprint.

When we **Preserve** natural lands, we evaluate them by measuring native plant biodiversity and native plant habitat function. Though we may be concerned for other organisms such as birds, bears, fish or panthers, they cannot survive if we merely provide them space. Within that space, there must be a naturally functioning ecosystem that supports the web of life upon which they are dependent. Florida is exceptional with one of the most diverse assemblages of native plants and native plant habitats in the United States. Folks identify with the natural landscapes on an internal level, giving Floridians a true Sense of Place.

*continued on page 5*

**THE PALM BEACH COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY**

A 501(c)(3) ORGANIZATION

Chapter meetings are held on the third Tuesday of every month at the University of Florida/IFAS Mounts Building Auditorium, 531 North Military Trail, West Palm Beach

[www.fnps.org](http://www.fnps.org)  
[www.facebook.com/PBCC.FNPS](http://www.facebook.com/PBCC.FNPS)  
[www.palmbeach.fnpschapters.org](http://www.palmbeach.fnpschapters.org)

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.
Dear Members and Friends,

I sure hope this newsletter finds you well and in good spirits, all things considered. It seems like a long time ago in a galaxy far, far away that our chapter’s activity was in peak-season high gear. For example, at the beginning of March we had educational exhibits at MacArthur State Park’s Naturescaping event and Gumbo Limbo’s Sea Turtle Festival on the same day, and we were eagerly awaiting a field trip and presentation from one of PBC’s gifts to botany Dr. George Rodgers (which was unfortunately canceled).

Within days following these events, we notified our membership that our monthly meetings and all events would be put on pause until further notice due to covid-19 protocols. Now, a little over a month later, there remains a considerable amount of uncertainty as to when we will be able to meet as a group again and participate in events. The answers will unfold in due time and we can hope that all our efforts to stay home and be part of the solution will be the key to reducing the pandemic’s impact. For those of you that have experienced hardships including the loss of loved ones, our hearts go out to you. Words can’t express the many emotions we have all felt during this trying time.

Our board of directors continues to meet online via Zoom conferencing. We are exploring options to provide video meetings to our membership, as well as taking care of administrative business. On that note, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our newest board member, Melissa Moyroud who stepped up to serve as Director at Large. Melissa is a long time member of our chapter and her expertise in all things related to native plants will be much appreciated. Melissa is filling the board position recently vacated by Donnie Brown who has graciously agreed to serve as our new Membership Chair. Thank you Donnie for your service! We also have a new Education Chair to welcome to the board - Amanda Pike. We are fortunate to be able to add her energy and expertise to the leadership layer of our chapter.

I don’t know about you but I have dedicated a good part of my stay at home time to working in the yard. I’m sure many of you have done likewise and please don’t hesitate to share with us your home landscaping projects. We can post photos on Facebook and our webpage. Send any content to dahooned@gmail.com.

Speaking of sharing, Doug Tallany of Bringing Nature Home fame, has made a video presentation available online discussing his newest book Nature’s Best Hope (a new approach to conservation that starts in your yard). Click on the link below to enjoy this recent presentation by Doug Tallamy.

https://vimeo.com/396957344

Please check out page 7 of this newsletter for more links to online videos for you to enjoy while keeping socially distant. Supplement your native plant knowledge base while traveling the state virtually in the comfort of your home!

Native plants are the Gateway to Sustainability! Now more than ever we need to help shape the future of our planet.

Celebrate Earth Day 2020- Plant a native tree

Take care and be well,

WPS

Winnie Park  Said
dahooned@gmail.com

PBCC Chapter Notes

The PBC Chapter of the FNPS Welcomes our Newest Members

Luciano Gomez
Elise Harding
Manuela Garner
Carol Easton
Angela Thul
Cecilia Conrad
Christanee Rivers
Amber and George Stoupas
George Stoupas
Amanda Pike
Brian Vertesch
Cerruti, Phillip and Liz Pittaluga
Sabrina Fischer
AND THANK YOU to all who recently renewed their memberships

PBCC FNPS President’s Message

April 2020

Dear Members and Friends,

I sure hope this newsletter finds you well and in good spirits, all things considered. It seems like a long time ago in a galaxy far, far away that our chapter’s activity was in peak-season high gear. For example, at the beginning of March we had educational exhibits at MacArthur State Park’s Naturescaping event and Gumbo Limbo’s Sea Turtle Festival on the same day, and we were eagerly awaiting a field trip and presentation from one of PBC’s gifts to botany Dr. George Rodgers (which was unfortunately canceled).

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Celebrate Earth Day 2020- Plant a native tree

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PBCC FNPS Booth - Sea Turtle Festival Volunteers: Michael & Karen Kohner and Eileen Martin

Volunteer Appreciation

Naturescaping Gang: Top- Nan Owens Bottom- Judy Tramell and Cathy Beals Lynn Sweetay (not pictured)
Bay Cedar
(*Suriana maritima*)

**Why we like it:** Another native plant for the “tough as nails” category. Extremely drought, heat and salt tolerant the Bay Cedar 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. The Bay Cedar flowers off and on all year. It is covered in little yellow cup shaped flowers that when seen in mass are quite a sight. The fruits that develop are a draw for a number of our local bird types. For the butterfly lovers, Bay Cedar is the host plant for several species in the hairstreak family as well as a nectar source for numerous other butterflies. As a point of interest the Bay Cedar gets its name for the cedar like fragrance when the leaves are crushed!

**How to grow it:** While the 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 soils that are well drained. Sandy soils with no irrigation are preferred. The growth rate is moderate in a full sun setting which is recommended for optimal flowering. It 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 with some care the Bay Cedar can be groomed into a small multi-branched ornamental tree. Propagation is by seed. As a matter of fact in the environment it spreads by seed over ocean currents. Here locally the Bay Cedar is threatened due to the loss of coastal habitat. Fortunately the plant has found its way into cultivation and is readily available at native nurseries.

**Where to buy it:** This plant is available at native nurseries, including Indian Trails Native Nursery in Lake Worth (561-641-9488). To find other nurseries that carry it, visit The Florida Association of Native Nurseries website 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.
Native plants in bloom now. How many can you name?

Answers on page 7
Photos: Melissa Moyroud
No More Cypress Mulch
by Richard Moyroud

Recently I visited a site prepared for the display of native plants, ostensibly for the education of the general public through demonstration of the identification and correct use of plant materials, surely with the sincere goal of the improvement of our landscaped urban environment. To my dismay, the most visible feature on site was a mountain of bagged cypress mulch. Whether this occurred because of oversight, or lack of sight, or more likely by the generosity of a dealer in the lucrative cypress mulch mining industry, it is incompatible with native plant philosophy, and more significantly, an affront to every attempt at the preservation of Florida’s rapidly disappearing wilds and freshwater wetlands.

Most of the cypress trees in Florida were logged for lumber decades ago; none were replanted, and logged over land often succeeded to maple swamp, or was drained, burned, and otherwise “improved.” Today, mulch is not being produced as a by-product of any cypress lumber operation. Large tracts of native pond cypress are simply being cut and ground into mulch. The result is a net loss of productive wetland, water recharge and purification areas, and the horrible irony of seeing a living cypress forest reduced to a temporary ornamental mulch for a bed of exotic pest-plants supplied by the local garden center.

The cypress tree deserves a modicum of respect, if only for the rot-resistant wood produced by older trees. A relative of the giant sequoia and coast redwood of California, it once fed and sheltered dinosaurs and the more recently extinct Carolina Parakeet and Ivory-billed woodpecker. Trees can live for hundreds of years and tolerate flood, freeze, hurricane, and fire, but cannot repel bulldozers without our help. There are no more excuses for the continued purchase and use of cypress mulch:

- The cost is so low. Yes, it is being mined the way minerals are mined from public lands in the American west; cypress swamps are ancient ecosystems and are not planted or managed for sustainable harvest.
- It is so readily available and convenient. This is also true of many exotic pest-plants, but does not justify planting bischofia, carrotwood, and schefflera.
- I cannot find alternatives. Melaleuca mulch has been available for more than ten years, and is available in bags; otherwise buy it in bulk and share the cost and the product. Pine bark and Eucalyptus mulch are available. Free mulch is often available from tree trimming companies.
- I only used a few bags, surely that can’t hurt. The same argument has been made for a number of other situations and will not do.

Do not buy cypress mulch. Do not use cypress mulch. Instead, plant cypress trees and mulch them with melaleuca mulch, composted St. Augustine grass, or the mulch from ground-up carrotwood trees. If we do not act to influence the marketplace, then there will be no more cypress trees, and there will be no more cypress swamps, and in any case, there will be no more cypress mulch.

This article was reprinted from the Dahoon of February 1995. The use of cypress mulch remains an issue as do the environmental consequences.
We ❤️ FNPS
You can help preserve the HEART of FLORIDA
Join/Renew your FNPS membership and/or donate online
www.FNPS.org

40th Annual FNPS Conference Has Been Rescheduled
The dates for the rescheduled 40th Conference are: May 13-16, 2021.
The conference venue, University of North Florida (Jacksonville), and hotel
accommodations remain the same. For more information go to https://fnps.org/
news/society-news/40th-annual-conference-has-been-rescheduled

Volunteer Opportunity for PBCC FNPS
Communications Coordinator - This important position needs to be filled.
Please consider stepping up to coordinate chapter communications. You do not
have to have a PhD in native plants for this position. Moderate
knowledge of social media applications and willingness to support your
chapter by getting our message out are the only requirements. It’s a great
opportunity to get involved!
If you are interested or know of anyone that might be, please contact Winnie
Said at dahooned@gmail.com.

Answers to Native Plant ID on Page 4
1. Coralbean, Cherokee bean Erythrina herbacea
2. Ohio spiderwort Tradescantia ohiensis
3. Lignumvitae Guaiacum sanctum
4. Daisy Fleabane Erigeron annuus
5. Jamaica caper-tree Quadrella cynophallophora
6. Gray nicker-bean Caesalpinia bonduc
7. Bastard Indigo Amorpha fruticose
8. Skyblue clustervine Jacquemontia pentanthos
9. Swamp dogwood Cornus foemina

How did you do?

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Yow AngelaYow@live.com
Event Coordinator -Vacant

Like us!  https://www.facebook.com/PBCC.FNPS
Online Options
for exploring the world of Florida Native Plants from the comfort of your home

YouTube Channels you will want to subscribe to:
Palm Beach County ERM - Natural Area Web Cams, Virtual Field Trips and more!  
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwV7W4J5Xs5tvzBsRJvDymQ
Florida Native Plant Society -  https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwV7W4J5Xs5tvzBsRJvDymQ

Thanks to Steve Turnipseed from the Villages Chapter FNPS for providing these video links:
A Video by Julie Wheeler, an FNPS member in The Villages. She created this documentary of the landscape conversion as a project for her Master Naturalist module.  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2G1elgLYNL4
Going Native in The Villages - Flip My Florida Yard:  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xSC-nf_aNg
Transformation of a Residential Turfgrass Lawn into a Central Florida Native Plant Landscape https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n9Eb7MlkYHM
Green Isle Gardens by Al and Joan Lippman:  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BZvdbo6NQMs
2018 FNPS Chapter Landscape Tour by Al and Joan Lippman:  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iXIND2xoMlA

Thanks to Mark Kateli, Pres., Cuplet Fern Chapter FNPS for providing these links to live events:
For Facebook live events go to  www.facebook.com/cupletfernfnps/
For YouTube live events go to  https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFUrLQz1A2ymKCNYmx6hyTg
April 22nd at 2pm YouTube Live:  Garden Chat with Mark: featuring noted author Ginny Stibolt on gardening with pre-established trees and creating suitable wildlife habitat
April 28th at 2pm YouTube Live:  Table talk with Mark: featuring Lindsay Cross, Government Relations Director at Florida Conservation Voters.
April 29th at 2pm Facebook Live:  Garden chat with Mark: featuring noted author Ginny Stibolt on gardening with Florida palms
April 30th at 2pm YouTube Live:  Table Talk with Mark: featuring featuring Jennifer Elliott, UCF Arboretum Program Director, on various Arboretum programs- including Natural Resource Management.

And don't forget to check out all the good content at www.FNPS.org including:
The FNPS Blog- A valuable resource for native plant information "produced by the staff and volunteers of the Florida Native Plant Society (FNPS) for the education and enjoyment of Florida's nature enthusiasts, FNPS members, and gardeners."  http://fnpsblog.blogspot.com/

OUTSIDE 2020: Sharing Perspectives
ONLINE FREE EVENT Friday, April 24, 2020, noon to 1:30, Eastern. To foster the conversation on promoting sustainable landscaping in Florida, 1000 Friends is pleased to continue to partner with OUTSIDE 2020 to conduct OUTSIDE 2020: Sharing Perspectives. This webinar will focus on addressing a series of questions from the industry, academic and government perspectives to help lay the foundation for meaningful change. Visit www.1000fof.org/upcoming-webinars, to find out more and register. Professional certification credits are being offered.
How Can I Become a Member of the Florida Native Plant Society?

You can join on-line www.fnps.org
Membership forms are also available at chapter meetings

The Palm Beach County Chapter of the FNPS
meets on the third Tuesday of every month at the
University of Florida/IFAS Mounts Building Auditorium
531 North Military Trail, West Palm Beach
For more information, please call or email
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palmbeach@fnpschapters.org

Tell a friend!