

The Understory



2015 Issue 3

A THANK YOU FROM KATY ROBERTS

I want to thank all the folks who came to help at the Spring plant festival. The day was beautiful, perhaps a little hot. I got great reviews on the hike lead by Greg Coston (thank you Greg). Sales were brisk in the morning and the talks were well attended. Our members and volunteers are what make these days so special. Our next opportunity to learn through volunteering while making friends will be at our landscape tour and next plant sale. See you there! **Katy**



JOIN MEETUP

FNPS Pinellas Chapter now has a [meetup](#) group. Join us to stay in touch with upcoming field trips, programs, and volunteer opportunities



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Upcoming Programs

Member meetings are usually held at Moccasin Lake Nature Park from 7 - 9 pm on the first Wednesday of the month. Exceptions will be noted. If the gate is locked, call Jan Allyn at 727-244-0312. These events are organized by the Pinellas Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society -- free and open to the public, featuring refreshments, seed swap, and silent auction of native plants. For more information visit: <http://pinellas.fnpschapters.org>.

Moccasin Lake Nature Park, 2750 Park Trail Lane, Clearwater, FL <http://goo.gl/maps/Zofh0>

1 July 2015

Wednesday 7 pm

Planting Green Roofs and Living Walls

Claudia Lewis

In the most densely populated county in Florida, walls and roofs could provide practical spaces to bring back the plants and animals that roads and buildings have displaced. These green roofs and walls would have enormous ecological, economic, and aesthetic benefits. Environmental educator Claudia Lewis will showcase examples of green roofs and walls from cities around the world. Consider planting green roofs and walls for insulation, shade, reduced noise, wildlife habitat, and creating an original and beautiful look in our “built” environment.



Capella Garcia Green Wall, Barcelona



5 August 2015

Wednesday 7 pm

Native Plants to Attract Birds

Marie Hughes

Marie Hughes will present native Florida plants that you can add to your landscape that will attract birds, providing them with food, roosting, and nesting places. Plants play a fundamental part in a bird's life. They provide food, shelter, foraging areas, protective cover from predators, a stage for courting and territorial displays, nest-building material, and nest platforms. The berries and seeds of native plants are natural bird food. Plants are also host to insects, another vital food source for birds. By planting a variety of trees, shrubs, wildflowers, vines, and grasses you can provide an array of resources for the birds in your landscape. Learn which plant species are especially valuable, and get started enhancing your landscape to support our feathered friends!

2 September 2015

Wednesday 7 pm

Native Landscape Tour Preview

Jan Allyn

A sneak preview of the 9th Annual Tour of Native Landscapes! See what is possible when conventionally landscaped yards are transformed into native plant habitats that are environmentally and wildlife friendly.

Do you have a tour-worthy landscape? Tour sites should:

- Be composed of at least 75% native species
- Be free of exotic invasive plants (no Category I or II plants on the FLEPPC list (see FLEPPC.org))
- Have no more than 25% irrigated grass area
- Be aesthetically appealing

Sites are chosen based on number and diversity of species, aesthetic appeal, and proximity with planned tour route. To have your landscape considered, contact Jan Allyn (727-244-0312) or jallyn@tampabay.rr.com.

Future Programs and Field Trips

For updates to future events, visit the FNPS [Pinellas Chapter](#) online calendar.

or check us out at [meetup](#)

PINELLAS CHAPTER NEWS

Field Trips

The Florida House Institute

11 July 2015

9:00 am

A Field Trip to Sarasota

Join Kodiak Brothers to visit the first “Green” building open to the public. Twenty years ago, the Florida House was the nation’s first “green” building open to the public and helped catalyze the green building industry. Today, Florida House is poised to be the country’s first high-performance demonstration of improvements and retrofit strategies for existing buildings and communities.

Florida House Institute
4454 Beneva Rd. Sarasota, FL
(941) 924-2050

To RSVP and get directions, contact Candy at caarnold78@gmail.com

For more about The Florida House go to: <http://flhouse.org>

Environmental Restoration Tour

5 September 2015

8 am - 12 noon

See firsthand a few of the projects around Pinellas County designed to improve water quality, biodiversity, recreation opportunities, and aesthetic appeal. Debbie Chayet, Senior Grants Specialist for Pinellas County, will lead this outing. Carpool encouraged: meeting place and time to be announced. Debbie Chayet dchayet@verizon.net



9th Annual Landscape Tour

26 September 2015

8 am - 3 pm

Tour route TBA. For more information see page 2 or contact Jan Allyn

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Goals of the Pinellas Chapter FNPS

The mission of the Florida Native Plant Society (FNPS) is to promote the preservation, conservation, and restoration of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida.

The FNPS Pinellas Chapter Board of Directors has been in discussion about how the mission can best be expressed here in Pinellas County.

To date, long-term goals include expansion of the urban tree canopy, increase involvement of younger generations, develop revenue-generating workshops, increase membership, and, since Pinellas County has little land left to preserve, support

the preservation of existing parks and preserves.

Short-term goals include plant propagation for Silent Auction, showcase a local park or preserve each month, balance budget with minor changes to ongoing activities, expand publicity, education, advocacy, and outreach, recognize business efforts, and test-drive a Garden Party in conjunction with Landscape Tour in 2016.

A LABOR OF LOVE

by *Candy Arnold*

It's an odd little plant. For much of the year it appears no more than a wispy tuft of green threads a few inches in size, with older plants spreading into fairy rings. Mushrooms aren't the only ones that form rosettes or clonal colonies called genets; bacteria, corals, and plants form them too. Genets are genetically identical individuals called ramets that originate vegetatively, not sexually. Several other Florida natives form genets: Sweetgum, Pawpaw, Blueberry, and Sumac species are a few examples.



Critically Imperiled in Florida, Nuttall's Rayless Goldenrod, *Bigelovia nuttallii*, grows naturally at Boyd Hill Nature Preserve *Photo by C. Arnold*

The plant is Nuttall's Rayless Goldenrod, *Bigelovia nuttallii*, listed as S1 Critically Imperiled in the state of Florida. It currently grows naturally at only two known locations, Boyd Hill Nature Preserve (BHNP) in the City of St. Petersburg and Florida's

panhandle region at Rock Hill, owned by the Nature Conservancy. Its home range is in rocky terrains throughout the Piedmont and Coastal Gulf Plains. It grows sporadically in areas of Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, and Texas, where it is listed as S3 or Vulnerable throughout most of its range.

The St. Petersburg colony is unique, growing in sandy scrub rather than rocky sandstone strata, and is genetically different than the specimens growing at Rock Hill.

Nuttall's Rayless Goldenrod is a bit of a misnomer. It is not a goldenrod, but it is rayless, meaning this member of the Aster family has no outer petals on the flower head, only disk florets. The flowers of *Bigelovia nuttallii* bloom later than its northern counterparts. In Pinellas the fluorescence is seen in November after most fall wildflowers have gone to seed.

Juliet Rynear, Rare Plant Specialist at Bok Tower Gardens and the Conservation Chairperson for FNPS, explains in an article on the Bok Tower website ([Bok Tower Conservation](#)) how she became involved in the project. "Because the population is small and occurs near a major pathway through the park, park staff asked the Rare Plant Conservation Program for help in protecting and preserving the population. From 2009-2011, the Rare Plant Conservation Program collected seeds as well as ramets which are rooted individuals within the clonal colony at Boyd Hill."

Since 2009, Juliet has spent countless hours caring for the plant collection placed at the Center for Plant Conservation, National Collection at Bok Tower Gardens. In the summer of 2014 she began growing a new population of plants from the genetically unique stock collected at BHNP for re-introduction back into their scrub habitat. Thanks to Juliet's efforts this endangered species will

keep growing, colonizing, and surviving at its home in the scrubby pinelands in St. Petersburg.

The staff at Boyd Hill has worked just as diligently. Since 2011 the scrub has had two prescribed burns and Barbara Stalbird, Nature Preserve Supervisor, has spent over 150 hours on grant management. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) awarded three grants for habitat management.



Juliet Rynear explains the importance of tags in each pot of Nuttall's Rayless Goldenrod. *Photo by C. Arnold*

Love continued on page 7.....

**"Gardening is civil and social,
but it wants the vigor and
freedom of the forest and the
outlaw."**

— Henry David Thoreau.

CONSERVATION TOPICS

SPEAK UP NOW ON AMENDMENT 1

Reprinted from FNPS website:

The Florida legislature continues to ignore the wish of the voters by not funding the Amendment 1. “FNPS worked throughout the session to convince the legislature that the Florida Forever land acquisition program deserves much more funding than the pittance they have budgeted to this stage.

Many of our lawmakers continue to advance inaccurate arguments that we shouldn’t buy any more land because we don’t properly manage what we already own – or the even more outrageous position that we’ve already protected enough land through public ownership. We’ve sent them a letter on your behalf that refutes their wrong-headed position. You can download a copy from our website at <http://fnps.org/news/alerts/LetterToLegislature>.

Please phone or email your local Representative and Senator and tell them you'd like to schedule a 5-minute appointment to discuss what you had in mind when you voted “yes!” on Amendment 1. You can find contact information for your senator at www.flsenate.gov and for your representative at www.myfloridahouse.gov. Download a copy of our (FNPS) letter before you contact them, using the link above, to arm yourself with facts and other information that refute their bogus arguments.” (from [FNPS news](#))

SWFWMD SURPLUS LANDS

by Katy Roberts

The official FNPS position and letter written to SWFWMD can be found at the FNPS website [FNPS News SWRWMD](#)

Lands that are to be surplussed can be found on the water management district website [SWFWMD Surplus Lands](#).

I attended the meeting in Tampa where the lands were reviewed and was pleased with the flexibility shown in their review and recommendations to the board. One exception that has been in the paper is that Hillsborough County is very unhappy with surplussing lands that they helped to purchase. The Tampa Tribune reported “The Alafia property includes a number of significant species, including gopher tortoises, Sherman fox squirrels and kestrels. It also contains grand oaks and is a critical link in the plan to establish a green corridor linking Lithia Springs Regional Park and Alafia River State Park.”

It is understandable that the district might want to turn the 150 Alafia acres in the Alafia River Corridor Preserve over to the county. The preserve was bought jointly by the district and Hillsborough ELAPP, and the lands in question are leased and managed by the county. It is not unreasonable for the

district to want the county to hold the title. But to act as if the land “is no longer needed for conservation purposes” and to hold out the threat that “a public sale will be” initiated if an equitable exchange cannot be worked out with Hillsborough is appalling. The county should not have to pay for land that it partnered in good faith with the district to preserve. Yet the district looks to be playing hardball with the county. [SWFWMD Surplus Lands](#). To read the whole article: [Surplus Lands Fiasco](#)

PARK REVENUE VERSUS VISITORS AND NATURAL ECOSYSTEMS

Florida Department of Environmental Protection ([FDEP News](#)) is proposing more private cattle grazing in state parks. Cattle grazing at state parks is part of FDEP’s newest plan to make green spaces earn more “green” and to become self-sustaining. Officials are considering increasing or adding revenue-generating activities to some areas of State Parks including logging, cattle grazing, and hunting (see [Tampa Bay News](#)).

“It’s a short-sighted view of revenue,” says Chuck O’Neal of the League of Women Voters. “I’m not really sure what the disconnect is with this particular administration.” It is up for debate whether the proposal to increase mixed-use of State Park lands is:

- appropriate to solve FDEP budget-woes
- is in line with the State Park system goals and objectives
- or may have adverse impacts on ecosystem or park-visitor needs.

Environmental groups say introducing cattle to lands would fundamentally change the ecosystem and damage the lands. "We're unhappy about the mixed use, commercial and industrial development of our state parks," said Frank Jackalone, with the Florida chapter of the Sierra Club. See more at [Action News](#), [The Republic](#), [Channel News 9](#), and [FDEP News](#) to consider the issues.

Conservation continued page 8.....



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SUMMER CALENDAR

Hot summer months in Pinellas County are usually fairly quiet. With increased humidity, heat, and thunderstorms, there are fewer public outdoor events. You might even limit your own outdoor activities to early morning or evening walks, kayaking, or a refreshing bike ride.

Why not take the time to do a little reading, online learning, or explore local parks, preserves, and trails, now that the crowds have gone.

Pinellas County has a lot to offer, and some of it might be near your home, school, or workplace. Take a Master Naturalist course or enroll a youngster in a nature-based summer camp. Consider learning about Florida Native and [Florida-Friendly](#) landscaping options for your condominium, apartment, or neighborhood park. Become familiar with [No Mow Zones](#) and [Water Wise](#) concepts. Learn what Friends Groups (see list to right) do for their favorite park or preserve. Volunteer at your own community park.

Here are some websites to explore.

Water Conservation in Saint Petersburg: http://www.stpete.org/water/water_conservation/index.php

Pinellas County Extension Service Lawn and Garden Section: http://pinellas.ifas.ufl.edu/home_landscape/index.shtml

Plant Real Florida: <http://www.plantrealflorida.org/county/pinellas>

Pinellas County Parks and Events: <http://www.pinellascounty.org/Events/default.htm>

Florida-Friendly Plant Database:

<http://www.floridayards.org/fyplants/index.php>

Explore Your Alternatives: A plant substitution guide for South Florida:

<http://www.fleppc.org/Misc/AlterNative2.pdf>

The Florida Botanical Gardens

<http://www.flbg.org>

Adopt A Park: https://www.pinellascounty.org/park/adopt_a_park.htm

Friends Groups:

- [Friends of Boyd Hill Nature Preserve](#)
- [Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve](#)
- [Egmont Key Alliance](#)
- [Friends of Florida Master Naturalist](#)
- [Friends of Fort Desoto](#)
- [Friends of the Hammock](#)
A park in Dunedin, FL. See page 10
- [Friends of the Island Parks](#)
- [Friends of Moccasin Lake](#)
- [Friends of Shell Key](#)
- [Friends of Tampa Bay National Wildlife Refuges](#)
- [Friends of Weedon Island](#)

Florida Wildflower Symposium

25-26 September

Harry P. Leu Gardens in Orlando

<http://flawildflowers.org/events/2015-wildflower-symposium.html>

The 7th Annual Florida Wildflower Symposium focuses on Florida's native wildflowers. The symposium includes field trips, a dinner with speaker, J.C. Cahill, and a plant sale.

Florida Master Naturalist Course

July 14-17 & 20 "Freshwater Systems Module" Saint Petersburg College, Seminole Campus, and regional field trips. Register by July 9 at <http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/fmnp/>

Wings and Wildflowers Festival

2-4 October

Venetian Gardens in Leesburg FL
<http://www.wingsandwildflowers.com/>

With thousands of acres of preserves and passive parklands, Lake County has become a premier birding location. This 4th annual festival includes field trips to birding hotspots and programs by wildflower and nature experts. It is a great opportunity to learn more about the connection between wildlife and Florida's natural habitats.

Did you know?

that wildflowers along roadsides provide food and shelter to crop pollinators such as honey bees and native bees, as well as the imperiled Monarch butterfly

Florida House and Senate agriculture appropriations subcommittees were butting heads over a request to fund valuable pollinator habitat and education in Florida. Unfortunately, the [pollinator project](#) was not funded, even though it was in line with the National Pollinator Strategy.

For more information on pollinators go to [Pollinator Partnership](#) or start a [Pollinator Garden in a Pot](#)

.....*Love continued from page 4*

Burning was one component of the project aimed at creating ecological openings so herbaceous plants, grasses, and gopher tortoises could thrive. Burning is vital to insure a healthy environment for this keystone species. In preparation for these burns, staff and volunteers have spent hundreds of hours marking sensitive plants and gopher tortoise burrows, and hand trimming around these areas. Tree cutting and spraying invasive exotics are also part of preparing for these burns.

The Florida Native Plant Society also awarded a grant for the Sand Scrub Conservation Project to “evaluate the current health and diversity of the Scrub Habitat through a species inventory, analysis of the inventory, and recommendations for future management to preserve this imperiled plant community” ([FNPS Conservation Grants](#)).



Volunteers gather at Boyd Hill Nature Preserve for the 2015 replanting effort of Nuttall’s Rayless Goldenrod, *Bigelovia nuttallii*.

Photo by C. Arnold

Years of effort came to fruition on May 27, 2015 when Juliet Rynear arrived at BHNP with 392 pots of *Bigelovia nuttallii*. A group of dedicated volunteers worked through the hot afternoon to establish three locations in the preserve. When I asked Juliet why she worked so long and hard on this project, she replied “It is a labor of love”.



Grow-out of Boyd Hill Nature Preserve Nuttall’s Rayless Goldenrod, *Bigelovia nuttallii*, clones in 2013 at a National Collection Bed at Bok Tower Garden.

Photo by J. Rynear

The lifespan of this species is still unknown; some of the oldest living plants are clonal plants that are thousands of years old. Now a new and exciting phase begins for this program, collecting data on this enigmatic little wildflower. Volunteers are needed to perform biometric monitoring on survival status, life cycle stage, and height and width of each plant. The first monitoring is scheduled for this September. To help please contact Juliet Rynear at jrynear@boktower.org.

Did you know?

that Pinellas County is the 2nd smallest county in Florida

with 280 square miles, Pinellas County is smaller than all but Union

that Pinellas County is the most densely populated county in Florida

with over 900,000 residents, Pinellas County has 3,400 residents per square mile compared to 360 people per square mile statewide or the next closest county, Broward, with 1,500 people per square mile.

that less than 6% of land in Pinellas County is vacant or developable

Pinellas County reached “build-out” by 2005

that the majority of Pinellas County residents do not own or have control over a “landscape”

Landscaping with native plants is an option for only about 43% of residents, those who actually own and occupy a single-family home. Upwards of 57% of Pinellas County residents either rent homes or live in mobile homes or multi-unit structures with limited control over landscape and gardens.

that Pinellas County boasts 16 acres of recreation and open space per 1000 residents

Countywide, including both developed and environmental park land, recreational trails, boat ramps, municipal and State Parks, it comes to 29 acres per 1,000 residents. Pinellas County Commission says conserving open space is an important legacy. (See [2005 Pinellas Plan](#))

Welcome New Members

- Leah Bailey
- Joena Bartolini
- Norma Bartolini
- Evette Bloom
- Lois Bradshaw
- Amy DiAngelus
- Dudley Diehl
- Nora Gaunt
- Jay Gould
- Sherry Hawley
- Kendal Jackson
- John Mankowski
- Karen Mullins
- Doris Pierro
- Angela Pietras
- Jim Reeder
- Misty Reeder
- Zachary Leyton Rivera-Reed
- Deborah Scholtz

New Business Members

- Earth Friendly Nook

2015 FNPS CONFERENCE REPORT

by Jan Allyn

The annual conference was held in Tallahassee this year, with a theme of “Born to Burn”. Presentations on this theme included: fire ecology education, controlled burning in urban settings, role of fire in natural history of red cockaded woodpecker, flatwoods salamander, longleaf pine ecosystem, pine-grassland plant communities, prescribed fire and public engagement, “the natural and unnatural history of fire in Florida”, fire management on private land, flower visitors under fire regimes, and fire ecology and the Florida Master Naturalist



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Program. Thursday night’s social was on the top floor of the State Capitol building, with spectacular views. A Friday night social event was held at the lodge in Wakulla Springs State Park with attendees enjoying a sightseeing cruise on the river. A Saturday night social was located at Tall Timbers Research Station, a fitting spot as a center of research on prescribed burns and the longleaf pine ecosystem.

For central Florida residents like us, Tallahassee offers a wonderful change of pace for field trips, and the conference did not disappoint in this regard. Conference-goers were treated to marvelous wildflowers, pitcher plant bogs, longleaf pine and wiregrass forests, calcareous upland glades, and kayaking on the Wakulla River.

At the annual members meeting on Saturday afternoon, a change in the Society’s bylaws was adopted that changes the way the president is elected. Previously, a new FNPS president was elected every other year in even-numbered years, with the president serving on the FNPS board for three years, two as president and then one as past president. The new bylaws switches the election to odd-numbered years, and the president-elect will now serve for four years: one

year as president-elect, two years as president, and one year as past-president. Elected as president-elect at the meeting was Catherine Bowman, botanist, past president of Tarflower Chapter (2006-2013), and proprietor of the firm Bowman and Blair Ecology Design Inc. She will shadow current president Anne Cox for a year to “learn the ropes” and take office as the Society’s president in May 2016. Other incoming officers include our own Debbie Chayet, continuing as vice-president of administration, a position to which she was appointed last year to fill a vacancy. Kim Zarillo (Conradina Chapter) will continue in her role as treasurer. New at-large directors are Winnie Park Said (Palm Beach Chapter) and Peter Rogers (Conradina Chapter). Peter is replacing Dave Feagles (Serenoa Chapter), who is incoming Chairman of the Council of Chapters, replacing Julie Becker (Tarflower Chapter).

Despite its distance from Pinellas, our chapter had a good showing. Attending from Pinellas were Debbie Chayet, Sue Taylor, Ray Wunderlich, Craig and Alexa Huegel, Connie Price, Jim McGinity, and myself. The 2016 conference will be quite a bit closer, as it will be hosted by the Pawpaw Chapter in Daytona Beach. Save the date—May 19-22, 2016!

.....*Conservation continued from page 5*

PINELLAS COUNTY

Clearwater residents seeking to preserve one of Pinellas County's last pieces of undeveloped land on Old Tampa Bay are a step closer to seeing it turned into a park ([Tampa Bay Times](#))

In a zoning hearing on June 9th, commissioners left the door open to the idea of a park on about 12 acres near 164th Avenue and 49th Street, at the south end of the Bayside Bridge. Neighbors and representatives from local chapters of the Audubon Society and Sierra Club now want the commission to take the next step: put the county land back on an agenda, rezone it for "resource-based recreation" and create a passive park. That would give visitors access while protecting the habitat offered by wooded uplands, wetlands and thick clusters of mangrove trees along Old Tampa Bay.

CLEARWATER CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

Clearwater Christian College has closed their doors. Located on old Tampa Bay, the property is home to nesting eagles and may come on the market soon. Due to its waterfront location it may become an attractive property for development. The property's zoning is classified as institutional. There are 28 acres of uplands and 85 acres of low elevation and protected wetlands. This may be worth monitoring for conservation issues. See [Tampa Bay Times](#) article.

Be Active

If you have a personal opinion on a conservation topic, please contact your representative or the contact provided with each topic. If you are aware of a conservation topic, particularly about native plants in Pinellas County, please share with your FNPS Chapter pinellas@fnpschapters.org

FANN TRADE SHOW

by *Lisa Boing*

This year's Florida Association of Native Nurseries (FANN) Trade Show was held 9-10 April 9 at Osceola Heritage Park Exhibition Building, Kissimmee, Fla.

My friend and Florida native plant enthusiast Sue Taylor and I set out early to Kissimmee to fulfill our passion of "all things native"! This was not our first trip together, having shared expenses and experiences at the Wildflower Symposium at Bok Tower in Lake Wales and the Florida Native Plant Society Convention in Ft. Myers, but this was our first experience at a trade show together. It proved not to be a disappointing trip.

Sue, being the Secretary of the Pinellas Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society and I, a Master Gardener and Florida Botanical Garden Board Member, were hoping to meet and learn about native plant vendors in our area. As an added bonus, we had the opportunity to hear from a panel of expert speakers on topics which included:



Day 1: Native Plant Adaptations, Native Plants for Stormwater Ponds, Landscaping for Pollinators, and Native Plants for S. FL Butterfly & Hummingbird Gardens

Day 2: Native Plant Landscaping for Shady Places, Creating Wildflower Gardens & Meadows Successfully, Simply Sabals - Florida Native Sabal Palms, and Natives vs. Invasives.

Throughout the exhibition hall were many booths of vendors of native shrubs, wildflowers, trees, and liners (a trade name for a tray of similar small seedlings or plants) as well as authors, mulch vendors, seeds vendors, vendors of wildlife food, and specialized nurseries who were promoting publications and apps of native plants. Need a restoration to a pond or large meadow or tract of land? There were people selling their services for that, too. The folks at the booths were very happy to share their vast knowledge and experience with us and share a list of plants they were growing and of course, selling.

Toward the end of the show on Friday, plants were available for purchase by the public. As attendees of the Trade Show, we were able to pick up a few plants early to bring home for the Native Area of the Florida Botanical Garden in Largo, where Sue and I volunteer on Wednesdays. We snugly



packed a few plants in my Sonata, armed with insight as to proper plantings for the right ecosystem, sun light requirements, as well as knowledge about some plants we had never heard of before.

We highly recommend anyone who wants to increase their knowledge of native plants to attend this trade show next year. It is a great source of information and a way to make new connections with vendors in your area. We overheard Cammie Donaldson, who runs the show, say that FANN is the largest association of native nurseries in the country. Great people, a great time, and well done!!

SILENT PLANT AUCTION



Do you have native plants volunteering in your garden? Please pot them up and bring to a monthly program (1st Wednesday of each month at Moccasin Lake Nature Preserve). A silent auction is held each month. Your extra plants will go home with someone trying to establish natives in their own yard or community project AND the proceeds benefit the Pinellas Chapter FNPS!



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PARKS TO VISIT IN PINELLAS

The Hammock

The Hammock is a beautiful nature park in the city of Dunedin. It is a large multi-use urban park with butterfly garden, disc golf, trails, boardwalks, salt and freshwater wetlands, creeks, dry uplands and mesic woods. Dogs are allowed on leash, biking is supported, and kayaking is possible when tides are high. The park boasts 95 acres with wildlife habitat supporting otter, gopher tortoise, marsh rabbit, woodland and wading birds, and much more.

An active friends group, Friends of the Hammock, helps to address management issues such as development pressure, removal and ongoing prevention of invasive species encroachment, and habitat loss or maintenance. Before you go, check out Friends of the Hammock website: <http://hammockpark.org>

Be forewarned, Pinellas County is the most developed county in Florida. The park and butterfly garden are highly recommended for viewing native plants and plant communities, wildlife habitat, and "old Florida" landscapes. But this park and many others also contain exotic and invasive plants (see Did You Know page 10). In addition to native plants, you may see invasive plants such as torpedo grass, Brazilian pepper, non-native palms, Boston fern, air potato, Mexican petunia, Chinese tallow, bamboo, rosary pea, and more.

Curlew Creek Park

Also in Dunedin, two-acre Curlew Creek Park is on the south side of Curlew in the middle of housing and condominium developments. This site has towering oaks covered with ferns and air plants, a stately longleaf pine, coral bean, St. Andrew's Cross, spice bush, and wetlands along a creek with a small spring. This site is worth a 30-minute walk to experience a remnant sandy upland and running stream.



The Butterfly Garden at The Hammock is well-cared for and worth a visit. Here, Theresa Polgar arrives for weekend maintenance. *Photo by E. Raabe*



The Hammock is an urban nature-park with disc golf, trails, and boardwalks in addition to natural habitat. *Photo by E. Raabe*

Did you know?

that Florida native plants were in Florida before European settlement

The natural range of a Florida native plant includes part of Florida. Florida native plants are adapted to physical conditions, weather, and other features of their home range. Native plants provide wildlife benefits and mutual support under natural conditions.

that exotic plants come from a different region or part of the world

An exotic plant (also called non-native, introduced, or alien) has its origins somewhere other than Florida. An exotic plant might require extra resources (water, fertilizer) to survive. An exotic plant might "naturalize" - grow on its own in Florida. OR an exotic plant might be so aggressive it becomes invasive.

that an invasive plant is so well-adapted that it is a problem

An invasive plant is usually an exotic, or non-native, plant that has "naturalized" and become a nuisance, interfering with ecosystems, agriculture, or the economy.

that not all exotic plants are invasive

Less than 300 of the 20,000 exotic plants introduced to Florida are considered to be invasive.

Read more [about terms](#) or about non-native invasive plant assessments at [IFAS assessment](#)

COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTEER SUPPORT

Our Chapter can help FNPS achieve its mission of conserving, preserving, and restoring native plants and native plant communities with the help of our members. Your participation in the Chapter, with local parks, or at home is encouraged.



Remember, your volunteer hours are a flexible gift. Give what you can and when you can. Taking your family for a walk to enjoy nature is a way of volunteering by teaching the next generation to appreciate our natural resources. Please do that and be happy. If you are happy

giving a few hours on a weekend to remove invasive species from a park, please do that and be happy. If you are happy writing articles, planning programs or field trips, manning a booth, managing an event, or being active in conservation, then please do that and be happy. In any case, your interest, your dedication, and your joy brings joy to everyone around you. We are all better for that! How do you volunteer? Please share.

Volunteer opportunities currently available:

- Volunteer Coordinator
- Field Trip Coordinator
- Plant Festival Manager
- Hospitality Provider
- Membership Coordinator
- Program Coordinator
- Sales Table Manager



More information about these positions can be found at: <http://pinellas.fnpschapters.org/volunteer/>

Our volunteers are the best. Thank you to our members, new and old, and thank you to our business members. They support the Florida Native Plant Society. Please support them.

This is your newsletter. As always, please feel free to contribute. Understory Editor, [Ellen Raabe](#)



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Chapter Directory

"To the artist there is never anything ugly in nature"
 ~ Auguste Rodin

Officers

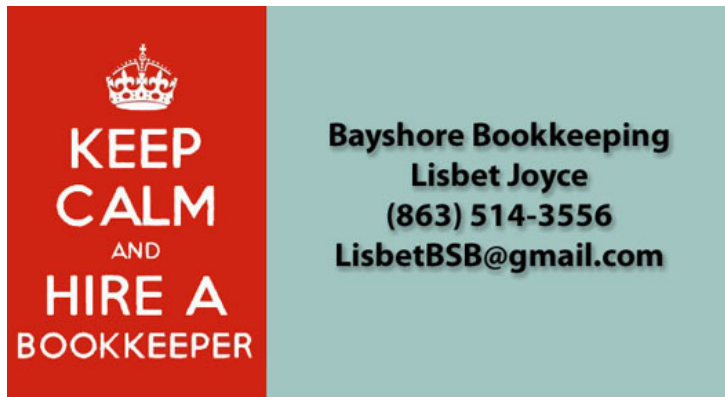
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Donna Trott, Treasurer, donnatrott@me.com
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Committee Chairs and Coordinators

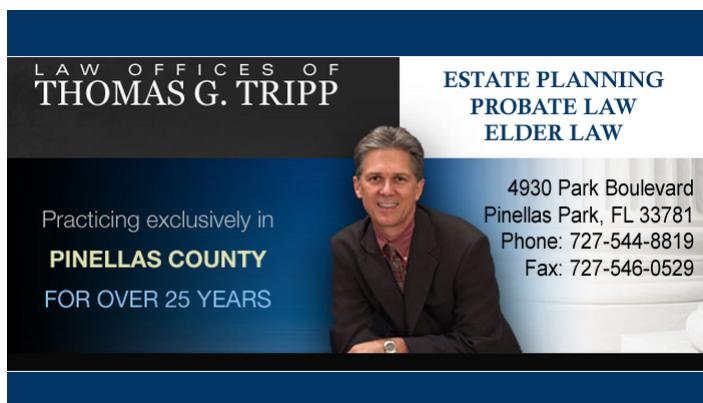
- Advocacy/Conservation: **Katy Roberts**
 Artist: **Cathy Vogelsong**
 Events/Displays: **Andy Karpinski**
 Fall Plant Sale Coordinator: **Mary McMahon**
 Hospitality: **Kodiak Brothers**
 Membership Coordinator: **Nancy Bickner**
 Programs/ Field Trips: **Vacant**
 Publicity: **Carlton Rowell**
 Sales/Merchandise: **Vacant**
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 Understory Editor: **Ellen Raabe**
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FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

The mission of the Florida Native Plant Society (FNPS) is to promote the preservation, conservation, and restoration of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida.



Join us at monthly meetings for inspirational speakers, on field trips to see natural habitats, at plant sales, or visit local plant nurseries specializing in native plants. Visit us online.

Pinellas Chapter web address: <http://pinellas.fnpschapters.org/>

FNPS Blog: <http://fnpsblog.blogspot.com>

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