Over 20 years ago I attended a program hosted by the FNPS Pinellas Chapter given by Craig Huegel on butterfly gardening. Something Craig said during that program has stuck with me for over 20 years. He said “…in the most densely populated county in Florida, imagine the benefits to wildlife, if you and all your neighbors planted native plants in your yards.” Many years later another speaker said something that stuck in my mind. Doug Tallamy spoke to our chapter, and after analyzing all the criteria people use in making their landscape choices, and explaining the co-evolution of plants and insects, he said, “…if you’re not going to use native plants in your landscape, you might as well use plastic plants for all the benefit it will be to wildlife.”

Every morning I wake up to a chorus of birds. When I step outside and hear the drone of bees busily pollinating the wildflowers and I see a butterfly or two flitting through the air, I know it’s because I’ve planted natives in my yard. If I take a step back, I see a bigger picture and I realize that these plants do so much more than entice wildlife. These plants conserve water, use less fertilizer, herbicides and pesticides, and this choice helps to keep Tampa Bay a healthier estuary.

This summer we are hosting three programs to help you select the most appropriate native plants for your yard or landscape. On Saturday, August 9th, a field trip to the Florida Botanical Gardens is an opportunity to learn about more than 100 species growing in the Native Plant Demonstration Gardens. Lisa Boing and the volunteers who care for the collection will give an in-depth tour. On Wednesday, September 3rd is a sneak peak of our 8th Annual Landscape Tour. On Saturday, September 27th is our 8th Annual Landscape Tour featuring six homes in mid-Pinellas County. Please join us.

Candy Arnold
Upcoming Programs

**Important note about location:** 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*. These events are organized by the Pinellas Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society -- free and open to the public. Complimentary refreshments. Seed swap. Silent auction of native plants. For more information visit: [http://pinellas.fnpschapters.org](http://pinellas.fnpschapters.org).

Moccasin Lake Nature Park, 2750 Park Trail Lane, Clearwater, FL  [http://goo.gl/maps/Zofh0](http://goo.gl/maps/Zofh0)

9 July 2014  
Wednesday 7 pm  
**Butterfly Gardening with Native Florida Plants**  
Katy Roberts

Learn which butterfly species are most likely to visit your urban central Florida landscape, how to identify different species, which plants are most attractive to adult butterflies and to caterpillars, and what “tricks” butterflies use to protect themselves from predators.

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6 August 2014  
Wednesday 7 pm  
**Introduction to Mycology**  
Dusty Purcell

Dustin Purcell, Mycologist and Plant Pathologist, will discuss mycology, the study of fungi, mushrooms, molds, yeasts and mildews. Fungi are among the most diverse organisms on earth. Discover the beneficial role fungi plays in the natural environment and in our backyards and gardens. Learn about the harmful effects of fungi and the variety of diseases that destroy desirable vegetation. This program will interest the avid Florida gardener, native plant enthusiast and the curious naturalist alike.

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3 September 2014  
Wednesday 7 pm  
**Sneak Preview: 8th Annual Native Plant Landscape Tour**

Come preview the landscapes included in this year’s landscape tour through slide show and discussion. See what is possible when conventionally landscaped yards are transformed into native plant habitats that are environmentally and wildlife friendly. Tickets for the September tour will be available at the Wednesday night program. Then join us on September 27 to tour the actual landscapes and see how native plants have been incorporated in Pinellas County public and private landscapes.

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**Volunteer Coordinator:** We still need a cheerful person to replace Mary Ann Beekman. The Volunteer Coordinator contacts Chapter members for assistance at chapter events like the landscape tour and plant festivals.

**Field Trip Coordinator:** The Field Trip Coordinator helps identify sites for Chapter outings, is the contact person for participant sign-up, and recruits the field trip leaders.

To volunteer as a coordinator, please contact Candy Arnold at carnold10@tampabay.rr.com

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**Future programs:**

October 1  **How to Create a Low-Maintenance Native Landscape**  by Brian Niemann, Florida-Friendly Landscaping Extension Agent for Pinellas County.

November 5  **Climate Change**  by Dr. Chris McVoy, ecohydrologist and Palm Beach county commissioner. Annual membership meeting and potluck.

December 3  **Annual Holiday Conservation Celebration. Orchids of Florida**  by Roger Hammer.  *At Extension Service Office in Largo.

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**Welcome New Members**

Eve Broomes  
Jason Burke  
Patricia L. Capen  
Mallory Dimmitt  
Richard Duquette  
Carolyn Edds  
Elaine Faraone  
Diane Lebedeff  
Jill Miller  
Barbara New  
Lynn Summerson
Upcoming Field Trips

Please RSVP (sign up) for all field trips with Jan Allyn:
jallyn@tampabay.rr.com

12 July 2014
Time 10 am - 1 pm
Spring Hill, Fla.

Weeki Wachee Springs

Join us for a boat cruise on one of Florida’s first magnitude springs. This historic tourist attraction, now a state park, still has the mermaid shows, reptile shows and river boat ride, all included in the price of admission. Adult: $13.00, Child (Ages 6 - 12): $8.00, Children 5 and under: FREE. Car pool departs 8:30 am from Lowe's parking lot, Clearwater Mall, Gulf to Bay Blvd at US Hwy 19 N. Or meet at Weeki Wachee parking lot near entrance at 9:45 am. There are several concessions or bring a brown bag lunch. Carpool will return to Clearwater around 2 p.m.

Directions: Weeki Wachee Springs State Park is located at the intersection of S.R. 50 and Hwy. 19 (6131 Commercial Way, Spring Hill, FL 34606). Travel distance and time from Clearwater Mall to Weeki Wachee Springs is 43 miles and approximately 1.2 hours. Adjust according to your start destination. Visit the web site: http://www.weekiwachee.com

9 August 2014
9 am - 12 noon
Florida Botanical Garden
Pinellas Extension, Largo, FL

Demonstration Garden

Tour the Native Plant Demonstration Garden at the Florida Botanical Garden. This demonstration garden has over 125 native species, and many were planted about 24 years ago. This is the place to see how big that mature tree or scrub will get. This is also the place to see native vines, grasses and wildflowers. Join Lisa Boing, Master Gardener and her team of knowledgeable volunteer for a tour of the Native Plant Demonstration Garden, an amazing resource. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Florida Botanical Garden at Pinellas Extension Office, 12520 Ulmerton Rd, Largo, FL

27 September 2014
9:00 am - 3 pm
8th Annual Native Plant Landscape Tour

The Pinellas Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society will host its 8th Annual Native Plant Landscape Tour on Saturday, September 27. The tour provides an opportunity to visit private and public gardens that are aesthetically appealing, but also conserve water, provide habitat for birds, butterflies and other wildlife, and are salt tolerant where necessary. There will be six landscapes on the tour. The tour is self-guiding. Each tour goer will receive a booklet with suggested route, addresses and descriptions of tour sites. Pinellas FNPS members will be at each site to greet visitors and answer questions.

Come and find inspiration for your own yard! The landscape tour and sneak preview emphasize how to incorporate native plants in a Pinellas County landscape. To encourage carpools and reduce traffic tour fee will be by carload: $10 pre-sale and $15 day of tour. Carpool sign-up will be available at Wednesday night programs.

For information as the date nears, go to www.PinellasNativePlants.org/tour

NOTES

Changes to our Board of Directors: Debbie Chayet resigned as Chapter Representative after serving on the board of directors for many years. She is now FNPS Vice President for Administration on the state level.

Jan Allyn is our new Chapter Representative and Sue Taylor is our new Secretary. Lisa Boing joined the board as liaison for the Native Plant Demonstration Garden.

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Come Explore Natural Florida with Us!
Photo Challenge. What is different in the photographs below? Identify at least eight items that are different between two photos of this native plant and Florida-friendly backyard. See page 8 for answers.

Photo 1. Lucy's backyard before
Photo 2. Lucy's backyard after

Photos by Ellen Raabe
1st-Time Attendee
by Sue Taylor

My trip to the 2014 FNPS Conference represented many firsts for me. My first experience in a college dorm room, very modern and well designed, since my own college dorm room decades ago. Corkscrew Swamp and Fakahatchee Strand are two names that have always caught my imagination, and I walked in both of them to satisfy my curiosity of years. I heard wonderful speakers with fascinating stories and thought provoking data and made a Palmetto Basket. I’m so glad I was able to Grow Native.

Field Trip to Hickey’s Creek Mitigation Park
by Judy Fisher

I was fortunate to be one of the winners of a drawing to attend the Florida Native Plant Society Conference in May, compliments of our Pinellas Chapter. I thoroughly enjoyed the experience. I chose a field trip into a scrub area of Hickey’s Creek Mitigation Park in Lee County led by Annisa Karim of Lee County Parks and Recreation and wildflower author, Dr. Walter Kingsley Taylor.

Ms. Karim explained that the property’s purchase was to provide habitat for gopher tortoise to offset other southwest Florida lands where habitat was destroyed by development. It is not a relocation site for tortoise. We also learned that in a fire community, like this scrub, burns historically occurred when the humidity was less than 35%. However, forestry does not permit prescribed burns when the humidity is below 35% and it is also hard to get a fire going if the humidity is high. Land managers are taught to first roller chop an area and let the material dry for about two weeks and then burn.

During our walk, Dr. Taylor and Daniel Young keyed out many plants using Wunderlin and Hansen’s Guide to the Vascular Plants of Florida. For some plants, Daniel read each step of the key out loud for all. We wandered in and out of those discussions.

Some of what we saw included bastard false indigo (Amorpha fruticosa), Carolina indigo (Indigofera caroliniana), butterfly milkweed (Asclepias tuberosa), white beardtongue (Penstemon multiflorus), pitted stripeseed (Piriqueta cistoides), pine-hyacinth (Clematis baldwinii), tall ironweed (Vernonia angustifolia), and spurred butterfly pea (Centrosema virginianum).

Example of a Palmetto frond basket shown on a calamint, a native aromatic shrub. Photo by Sue Taylor

Pine-hyacinth bloom (Clematis baldwinii) observed in Hickey’s Creek Mitigation Park in Lee County. Photo by Judy Fisher

TO OUR VOLUNTEERS
Thank You to all the volunteers who have served on boards, committees, worked on the newsletter, web communications, press releases, given a program, worked in one of the gardens, or volunteered at an event. You are the heart of this organization and we couldn’t do it without you.

Mary Lou Albrecht Jan Allyn
Kyle Anderson Mary Bahmiller
Mary Ann Beekman George Bickner
Brandon Blogan Lisa Boing
Kodiak Brothers Davis Byrkit Debbie Chayet
Adam Conner Greg Coston Dale Dyer Judy Fisher
Craig Huegel Marie Hughes
Andy Karpinski Joanne Kleshis
Belinda Lambert Claudia Lewis
Tim Marshall Nancy McClelland Sally McConnell
Kevin Metzner Chris Parisi Darcey Phillips Mary Ellen Phillips
Monica Pinnell John Pinnell
Carolyn Piper Ellen Raabe
Katy Roberts Carlton Rowell
Shannon Senokosoff Cindy Smith Sue Taylor
Evelyn Timber Bruce Turley
Recently our chapter had the opportunity to participate as part of the FNPS Land Management Partners committee. This committee works with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection’s Division of State Lands on state-mandated land management reviews, which must be conducted by the State of Florida on lands that were purchased with public conservation funds such as P2000 and Florida Forever. Each property greater than 1,000 acres must have an on-the-ground review every five years and a review and update of the management plan every 10 years. FNPS participates as a team member in the Conservation position. Its members provide ecological expertise that assists the state in ensuring that lands are being managed consistent with the purpose for which the lands were purchased, and participation gives FNPS a voice in promoting the preservation and conservation of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida. FNPS served on 100% of the FDEP Land Management Reviews in 2010, 2011 and 2012 and 86% in 2013. FNPS strives to maintain 100% FNPS participation on these important on-the-ground land reviews. Danny Young is the new chair of the committee, replacing Anne Cox who vacated the position to become FNPS president.

In May and June, Chapter members Candy Arnold, Greg Coston and Jan Allyn reviewed the management plans and participated with the review teams for Shell Key Preserve and Caladesi Island State Park. Honeymoon Island State Park was also reviewed, with Kevin Love of the Hernando chapter representing FNPS on that review. Reviewers prepared by thoroughly reviewing the management plans, then joined teams composed of representatives from state agencies, Pinellas County, and other organizations for an on-the-ground inspection of the properties. After each tour, team members gathered to complete detailed checklists designed to evaluate the success with which management plan objectives were being met. Team members compiled lists of “commendations”, areas where land managers are exceeding expectations, and “recommendations” for improvement, either in management practices or suggested changes for the management plan during its next revision.

Caladesi Island and Honeymoon Island are managed as state parks. Shell Key Preserve is owned by the state, but is leased and managed by Pinellas County. Happily, the reviewers from our chapter found no major concerns about the management of the properties they visited, Caladesi Island and Shell Key Preserve. Honeymoon Island was also found to be well managed, but because of its very heavy visitor traffic it requires more staff involvement and there was some concern expressed about insufficient state funding. Fortunately, Honeymoon Island (and Caladesi) have a very active Citizen Support Organization, the Friends of the Island Parks, with members fundraising and providing volunteer labor to supplement what is provided by the state. Our Chapter’s reviewers found the experience of participating in the Land Management Reviews very rewarding and enjoyable, and all say they would do it again.

To learn more about the Land Management Partners committee, visit the FNPS website: http://www.fnps.org/committee/partners
The Pinellas Chapter recently lost two long-supporting members, each a champion of the natural world in general and of native plants in particular.

Alice Changstrom of Dunedin joined FNPS in 1987 and was an avid promoter of environmental education for young people. Alice was an active member of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs (FFGC), helping to plant school butterfly gardens and teaching her garden club friends from “up north” about the marvels of Florida’s native species. She used gardening to educate children about the environment in after-school classes at Dunedin Elementary and at the FFGC’s Wekiva Youth Camp among other places.

Donations may be made to Wekiva Youth Camp: WYC Treasurer, c/o FFGC Headquarters, 1400 S. Denning Dr., Winter Park, FL 32789-5662 or to the Suncoast Hospice Foundation, 5771 Roosevelt Blvd., Clearwater, FL 33760.

Joanne Shrewsbury was also a founding member of the Pinellas Chapter, joining FNPS in 1986. She and her husband Jerry were tireless volunteers for FNPS Pinellas Chapter and for St. Petersburg Audubon Society. Joanne loved native plants and her home landscape was full of them until she relocated to an apartment for seniors. Her career was in teaching and she carried that through to her retirement years.

Joanne was among the small group of enthusiastic members who got our Chapter started, and we owe her a debt of gratitude. We will miss her sweet disposition, the twinkle in her eye, and her ready smile. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Joanne’s name to League of Women Voters St. Petersburg Chapter, PO Box 11775, St. Petersburg, FL 33733.
My yard is a huge source of enjoyment and excitement for me. I love how it is constantly changing … there is always something to look forward to. Right now three big *Encyclia tampensis* (native orchids) are blooming like crazy. At first my focus was on creating a butterfly garden. Once I discovered the Florida Native Plant Society, I expanded on that approach. I started using native plants to create a habitat for birds and other wildlife. Over the twelve years that I have lived here, I have become more aware of how what I do in my yard impacts the environment. Eliminating my lawn meant that I would not be using pesticides, herbicides, fungicides that would run off into Crescent Lake and then to the Tampa Bay Estuary. I also wanted a yard that would be beautiful, and as I planned and planted, I considered elements of art like texture, line, shape, space, color; and principles like emphasis, balance, repetition, unity, proportion and contrast. Now my little yard is not just wonderful, it’s beautiful too. See below for photo challenge answers.

**Photo Challenge Answers**

*(page 4)*

So much life in such a little space. There is a mix of native and non-native elements in this Florida yard. You might notice several stationary items: *Simpson’s stopper* (*Myrcianthes fragrans*), *dwarf yaupon holly* (*Ilex vomitoria “Nana”*), *river oats* (*Chasmanthium latifolium*), *rosinweed* (*Silphium sp.*), *Christmasberry* (*Lyceum carolinianum*), *bushy aster* (*Symphyotrichum dumosum*), *firebush* (*Hemelia patens*), and two squirrel-proof bird feeders.

In addition there are potted and hanging plants and other features that provide wildlife support. Use this list to find things that moved between the before and after photos on page 4.

**Did you find…**

Potted plants in front of bird feeders: *maidenhair fern* (*Adiantum sp.*) and *butterfly milkweed* (*Asclepias tuberosa*)

Hanging plants: *water hyssop* (*Bacopa sp.*), *butterfly orchid* (*Encyclia tampensis*), *balmoss* (*Tillandsia recurvata*), and *swamp milkweed* (*Asclepias sp.*)

Two birdbaths - white on ground, and dark-colored on pedestal, *hanging bird feeder*, and *bird nesting material in suet cage*.

*White pot with nectar bouquet* of pentas and trailing porter weed

Brigid, the dog

Blue jay on bird feeder platform

Florida Association of Native Nurseries (FANN) sign: “Native plants bring life to this landscape”

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*
Chapter Directory

**Officers**
Candy Arnold, President caarnold78@gmail.com  
Claudia Lewis, Vice President, clewis.consulting@gmail.com  
Sue Taylor, Secretary, susn31taylor@gmail.com  
Cindy Smith, Treasurer csmith55@tampabay.rr.com  
Jan Allyn, Chapter Representative jallyn@tampabay.rr.com  
Jan Allyn, Past President, jallyn@tampabay.rr.com

**Board Members**
Kodiak Brothers kodiak224@gmail.com  
Andrew Karpinski, ak@stonemarmot.com  
Katy Roberts, kroberts@ij.net  
Lisa Boing, Native Plant Demonstration Garden Liaison

Committee Chairs and Coordinators

**Advocacy/Conservation:** Katy Roberts  
**Artist:** Cathy Vogelsong  
**Events/Displays:** Andy Karpinski  
**Hospitality:** Kodiak Brothers  
**Membership:** John and Monica Pinnell  
**Programs/Field Trips:** Open - coordinator needed!  
**Publicity:** Carlton Rowell  
**Sales/Merchandise:** Monica Pinnell  
**Social Media:** Open - coordinator needed!  
**Understory Editor:** Ellen Raabe  
**Volunteer Coordinator:** Open - coordinator needed!  
**Web Master:** Jan Allyn  
**Web Assistant:** George Bickner

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"Live in the sunshine, swim the sea, drink the wild air." —Ralph Waldo Emerson

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![Hawthorn Hill Wildflowers](image1)  
Craig Huegel, PhD  
Author & Professor  
Huegel55@AOL.com

![Wilcox Nursery](image2)  
12501 Indian Rocks Road  
Largo, Florida 33774  
(727) 595-2073  
FAX: (727) 674-0731  
Bruce Turley  
Tiffany Custer

![Law Offices of Thomas G. Tripp](image3)  
4930 Park Boulevard  
Pinellas Park, FL 33781  
Phone: 727-544-8819  
Fax: 727-546-0529

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**The Understory**
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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Pinellas Chapter FNPS