The Pinellas Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society hosted the 8th Annual Native Plant Landscape Tour on Saturday, September 27. Weather was sunny with a light breeze, perfect for the event. About 100 visitors toured six sites, including four waterfront residential properties, a school, and a college campus, with a combined total of 107 species of Florida native plants. The garden at Madeira Beach Fundamental School was the 2014 winner of the Florida Wildlife Federation's 5th Annual Kids' Habitat Contest.

St. Petersburg College (SPC) Seminole Campus Natural Habitat Park was included to showcase a successful urban restoration site — recommended for birdwatching and recreation. If you missed the tour, take time for a walk at the SPC Natural Habitat Park.

A boardwalk at the 40-acre site is open to the public. SPC Natural Habitat Park

The Annual Tour of Landscapes could not happen without cooperation of property owners and volunteers. Thanks to homeowners Sue Taylor, Tom and Mary Longfellow, Jason and Michelle Green, and Tim and Jackie Dixon, to Nina Nicholson, Christopher Ateek, and Brooke Crandall at Madeira Beach Fundamental School, and to Maura Scanlon and the SPC Environmental Science Club. Thanks also to those who volunteered as organizers and tour guides.

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"The milkweed pods are breaking,
And the bits of silken down
Float off upon the autumn breeze
Across the meadows brown.”
Cecil Cavendish, The Milkweed

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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)

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**1 October 2014**  
Wednesday 7 pm  
*How to Create a Low Maintenance Native Landscape*  
Brian Niemann

There is no such thing as a "no-maintenance" landscape, but the wise use of native plants can help create a low maintenance garden. It's all about the right plant for the right place. Natives often have the advantage of being disease and insect-resistant. Natives, like other plants, may need fertilizing, watering, and weeding to become established. Join us to learn more about transforming your yard into a low maintenance landscape using beautiful native plants. Brian Niemann, is the Florida-Friendly Landscaping Extension Agent for Pinellas County.

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**5 November 2014**  
Wednesday 7 pm

**Annual Potluck Special: How Big is Your Carbon Footprint?**  
Christopher McVoy

How big is your carbon footprint? Learn more about “low emission lifestyles” and the difference individuals and communities can make in reducing their carbon footprint and mitigating climate change. This meeting mixes business and pleasure. It’s time to elect new officers and board of directors, and acknowledge special contributions of Chapter members.

Bring a dish to share, finger food, side dishes, casseroles, or desserts (turkey will be provided). Enjoy a relaxing evening with good food and good company. Feel free to bring your own plate, bowl, silverware, and bag to carry them home. This will help reduce the amount of disposables used.

Dr. McVoy currently serves as the Lead Environmental Scientist for South Florida Engineering and Consulting, LLC and is in his second elected term as a Lake Worth City Commissioner.

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**3 December 2014**  
Wednesday 6:30 - 9:30 pm  
*Pinellas County Extension Magnolia Room*  
12520 Ulmerton Road, Largo, FL

**Annual Holiday Conservation Celebration: Wild Orchids of Florida**  
Roger Hammer

Mark your calendar for this special event! Roger Hammer has photographed 92 of Florida's 108 native orchids and, along the way, he discovered two tropical species that were new to the flora of Florida. This presentation takes a journey from the Apalachicola National Forest in the Florida Panhandle to the Key Deer National Wildlife Refuge in the Lower Florida Keys, showcasing the beauty and rarity of this most intriguing group of wildflowers. If you are interested in Florida's native orchids, you don’t want to miss this informative program at the County Extension Office.

The Pinellas Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society Annual Holiday Conservation Celebration features exhibits by local environmental organizations, festive refreshments, a silent auction of giftable nature-themed items, and a special presentation. Roger Hammer, award-winning professional naturalist, botanist, and photographer, is also a prolific author and will have his books at the meeting to sell (cash or checks only). Please bring your friends. Guests are always welcome at our free monthly programs. Note location is different for this event!
by Ellen Raabe and Lucy Trimarco

Last issue we took a look at Lucy Trimarco’s backyard, full of life, native plants, birds, and support elements for insects and other wildlife. This issue Lucy is sharing a landscape profile of her front yard.

This presentation identifies the native plants by name and where they are planted in relation to the house. Notice how the form and size of each plant contributes to the formal nature of a residential street-front landscape. Bruce Turley (Wilcox Nursery) designed Phase I of the landscape in 2006. As Lucy expanded on the plan, she ensured that each plant filled a unique role in the mature landscape.

The element of repetition is used to balance tall columnar hollies on both sides of the entrance. A similar effect was achieved with the muhly grass and beach sunflowers. Lucy also paid attention to differences in texture, canopy shape, color, and appropriate proportions for the house and yard. Empty space allows the eye to seek a path to the gate on the left and to a sitting area on the right beneath a Simpson Stopper (4). This landscape has no lawn, little need for maintenance, and no use of herbicides.

In addition to the numbered plants, pots on either side of the steps can hold annuals. Common ground peanut makes a ground cover in the median by the street. It is such a lovely, little yard. Even Brigid, the dog, welcomes you from the front porch.

Photo by Ellen Raabe. Vincent Cocca prepared the outline illustration to help you distinguish individual plants.
Upcoming Events

Fall Native Plant Festival
11 October 2014
Saturday 9 am - 4 pm
Wilcox Nursery & Landscape 12501 Indian Rocks Road, Largo
(727) 595-2073

Increase your knowledge! Enjoy presentations on native landscaping topics. Fall is a perfect time to garden in Florida. Want to garden more sustainably? Attract birds, butterflies and other wildlife to your garden? Native plants are the way to go! Learn how to successfully incorporate native plants into your existing landscape, at a pace that makes sense for your time and budget. Florida Native Plant Society members will be on hand to provide information and encouragement. Everyone is welcome at this fun annual event!

Free Seminars:
9:00: Newly Available Native Plants - Bruce Turley
10:00: Create and Maintain Ponds - Thomas Armstrong
11:00: Edible Native Plants - Sarah Palm
11:30: Maintain Native Landscapes - Darcey Phillips
12:00: Bring Life to Your Landscape - Craig Huegel
1:00 pm: Milkweeds and Other Butterfly Attractors - Chris Parisi

Kissimmee Prairie Preserve
25 October 2014
9 am

Dr. Paul Gray will lead a chapter field trip at Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park in Okeechobee County. From Clearwater it's about 150 miles to the park. Park admission is $4 per vehicle. A buggy ride is $17 adult and $9 child, limited to 16 people. Please contact Candy Arnold for details about the field trip.

Camping is available at the park and reservations can be made online. Currently space is available in equestrian camping area for Friday and Saturday nights. Chapter members have made reservations, one space in the RV/tent camping area and two spaces in the equestrian area. Each space can accommodate one additional tent. If you would like to share one of these spaces, contact Jan Allyn.

Fall Wildflower Festival
Saturday October 18
9 am - 4 pm
Brooker Creek Preserve
3940 Keystone Road
Tarpon Springs
FREE! Fun for the whole family!

Exhibits all day, butterflies, honeybees, nature crafts, caterpillar petting zoo, presentations, wildflowers for sale, wildflower quest, food, naturalists available all day. Sponsored by Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve. Information: 727-934-2680 or fobcpwff2014@yahoo.com or Friends of Brooker Creek

Brooker Creek has many fall/winter programs. Check the website!

Heads Up - Future 2015 Programs

January 7 A Change in Student Culture at USF St. Petersburg by USF students led by Daniel McGarigal

The native butterfly garden was planned, planted, and now maintained by student volunteers. Come hear about how the next generation is getting involved by embracing, educating about natives, growing them in an urban setting, and related developments.

February 4 The Soils of Florida by Juan Vega, USDA Area Resource Soil Scientist

Soil – the vibrant skin of the earth. Plants grow in it, our water supply is purified and stored in it, it modifies our atmosphere, and it is a habitat for countless organisms. How much do you know about the soil beneath your feet?

Heads Up - Future 2015 Field Trips

January tentative Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park Field Trip with Mike Owen

February 8 Devil's Millhopper Geological State Park Field Trip Meet at Clearwater Mall 7 am Devil's Millhopper

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

For updates to future programs and field trips, please visit the FNPS Pinellas Chapter online calendar: Pinellas Chapter
If You Plant It, Butterflies Will Come

by Candy Arnold

An intrepid group of volunteers showed up for our first workday at Moccasin Lake Nature Park’s Butterfly Garden in June. Expecting only three people, the job of removing all the invasive exotics encroaching on this small garden seemed a little daunting. Imagine my surprise and delight when seven more volunteers arrived to pitch in.

The ten of us spent the cooler part of the morning pulling out rosary pea, skunk vine, Caesar weed and Boston fern. The rosary pea drapes the treetops and has a seemingly endless supply of seeds and skunk vine is equally prolific. It is going to take perseverance to remove these vines from the garden.

Next we installed 26 host plants generously donated by our chapter: Bahama cassia (*Senna mexicana* var. *chapmanii*), privet cassia (*Senna ligustrina*), Maypop or purple passion flower (*Passiflora incarnata*), corky stemmed passion flower (*Passifloria suberosa*), swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*), and twinflower (*Ruellia caroliniensis*).

While this was a good start, all butterfly gardens are a work in progress and we need your help. Beginning October 12th we will have regularly scheduled workdays at Moccasin Lake Nature Park. Please, won’t you join us for one or more of the workdays?

MLNP Butterfly Garden Work Days
2nd Sunday every month
(Oct. 12, Nov. 9, Dec. 14)
1 to 2:30 pm
We will meet in the butterfly garden at 1 pm to do the routine maintenance of weeding, exotic removal, planting, and watering. Please bring garden tools like shovels, trowels, weeder, pruning shears, and loppers. Don’t forget your gloves, hat, and sunscreen. Long sleeve shirts, jeans, and closed shoes are recommended. Snacks and water will be provided. For more information and to sign up, please contact: Candy Arnold (727) 867-9149 or Email: caarnold78@gmail.com

Moccasin Lake Nature Park
Butterfly Garden Guided Tour
2nd Sunday each month 2 pm
(Oct. 12, Nov. 9, Dec. 14)
Would you like to attract butterflies to your yard?
This collection represents some of the best plants for butterflies in Central Florida. Learn about the plants and why butterflies need them. FREE.


carolearnold78@gmail.com

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www.SensingNature.com
info@sensingnature.com
Come Explore Natural Florida with Us!
Support for Amendment 1
by Mary Ann Beekman

Support has been good – but the Florida Water and Land Legacy isn’t slacking off their efforts to inform and educate Floridians about the importance of voting yes on Amendment 1 on the November ballot. Check out their website at voteyeson1fl.org. Lots of good information and links to youtube, facebook, twitter and Instagram.

The petition gathering phase of the campaign was hugely successful. Now the emphasis is on creating visibility and familiarity with the Amendment. Local organizations are starting to galvanize their memberships. Bob Graham is holding speaking engagements and town-hall style telephone calls.

A special effort will be made during the Early Voting period and Election Day itself to be present at high turnout locations with signs and literature that may help the undecided or unsure voter to vote Yes on Amendment 1.

What is Amendment 1?
from voteyeson1fl.org

AMENDMENT 1: Water and Land Conservation dedicates funds to acquire and restore Florida conservation and recreation lands.

It funds the Land Acquisition Trust Fund to acquire, restore, improve, and manage conservation lands including wetlands and forests; fish and wildlife habitat; lands protecting water resources and drinking water sources, including the Everglades, and the water quality of rivers, lakes, and streams; beaches and shores; outdoor recreational lands; working farms and ranches; and historic or geologic sites, by dedicating 33 percent of net revenues from the existing excise tax on documents for 20 years.

The most valuable gift you can give is to vote Yes On Amendment 1 on November 4, 2014 to protect Florida’s water and natural areas for future generations!

For more information: http://voteyeson1fl.org/sections/news

What can I do?

At the regional level, citizens can support conservation and protection of natural areas through campaigns and the voting process.

Locally, concerned citizens can help by supporting their municipal parks in need of volunteers. Case in point: the Pinellas FNPS Chapter currently holds their monthly programs at Moccasin Lake Nature Park. This park, managed by the city of Clearwater, has faced serious cuts to funding and personnel over the last few years. Yet it is an asset to the community for recreation and education in native plants, animals, and habitats.

Many city and county parks were impacted by the recent economic crisis. Is there a park near you that could benefit from a few hours of your time each week or month? Even an afternoon stroll helps you to relax and reconnect with nature. At the same time, you will be voting with your feet for conservation of natural areas. It’s a win-win for you and for the park.

Moccasin Lake Nature Park

An advocacy group has been established, dedicated to the preservation and public awareness of Moccasin Lake Nature Park, 2750 Park Trail Ln, Clearwater, FL 33759

Your support at this Facebook link will make a difference!

https://www.facebook.com/Friendsofmoccasinlake

CALLING FOR VOLUNTEERS! The City of Clearwater has agreed to keep the park open on Sundays ONLY if the Friends of Moccasin Lake can field enough volunteers to work that day. We are currently having trouble filling the shift of Noon to 4 P.M. If you are interested in helping us continue to keep the park open, please contact John Hood at jhood2@tampabay.rr.com. Thank you so much for your continued support!
FNPS Reorganization Births Yet Another Website

by Jan Allyn

The Florida Native Plant Society (FNPS) is well represented in cyberspace, with a main website, chapter websites, and a number of social media outlets. At the annual conference in May, members approved the creation of a “Council of Chapters”, an organizational body separate from the Society’s Board of Directors which is composed of Chapter Representatives from around the state. Three Council members are elected from within its body to represent the Council on the Society’s Board of Directors. The Council has its very own website, http://council.fnpschapters.org/. The purpose of the site is to provide a place for sharing information among Chapter Representatives and with members about Council activities. It has a calendar, minutes of meetings, and links to Council discussions on the FNPS Forum. It is hoped that the Council will be valuable in sharing “best practice” knowledge among Chapters, and to allow them to coordinate Chapter-level activities regionally and statewide. As the Council matures and takes on new projects, look for additional information.

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More places to visit FNPS online:

- [http://www.fnps.org](http://www.fnps.org) (and chapter websites)
- [http://www.forum.fnps.org](http://www.forum.fnps.org)
- [http://fnpsblog.blogspot.com](http://fnpsblog.blogspot.com)
- [https://twitter.com/FNPSonline (@FNPSonline)](https://twitter.com/FNPSonline)
- [https://www.facebook.com/FNPSfans](https://www.facebook.com/FNPSfans)
- [https://www.flickr.com/photos/fnps/collections/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/fnps/collections/)

Do you have native plants volunteering in your garden? Please pot them up and bring to a monthly program. A silent auction is held each month. Your extra plants will go home with someone trying to establish natives in their own yard AND the proceeds benefit the Pinellas Chapter FNPS!

Local parks and schools also need native plant donations. Current requests:

- Butterfly plants needed for the MLNP Butterfly Garden ([caarnold78@gmail.com](mailto:caarnold78@gmail.com); page 4)
- If you live along the beaches, Gulf Beaches Elementary School native garden is being replanted. Native coastal and butterfly plants are requested. Contact Nina Nicholson [ninicholson@hotmail.com](mailto:ninicholson@hotmail.com)

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727-543-3010
[http://www.sunsethouseandgardens.com](http://www.sunsethouseandgardens.com)
GOLDEN ASTER MONITORING

Pam Leasure, of Pinellas County Parks and Conservation Resources, needs volunteers to help perform biometric monitoring of two populations of the endangered plant, *Chrysopsis floridana*.

Volunteers will record the following data for each number-tagged plant:
1) Survival status (dead or alive),
2) Stage (new seedling or adult; reproductive or not)
3) Measurements (height and width of each plant)

There will be two workdays each at Weedon Island Preserve and McKay Creek Greenway. These will be “all day” workdays but can accommodate folks who can only work partial days. Everyone staying for the entire day will need to bring their lunch.

**Where and When:**
Weedon Island Preserve
1800 Weedon Dr NE
St Petersburg, FL 33702
Saturday, November 1st – 9 am to 3 pm
Tuesday, November 4th – 9 am to 3 pm

McKay Creek Greenway (near County Extension, not publicly accessible)
Saturday, November 8th – 9 am to 3 pm
Thurs., November 13th – 9 am to 3 pm

Please call if you have questions.
To volunteer, contact Pam Leasure at (727) 453-6505 or pleasure@pinellascounty.org.

Membership and Volunteer Coordinators: 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 and keeps track of new and old members.

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 caarnold78@gmail.com

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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
SEARCH FOR CANDIDATES

Request for 2015 Board Candidates

The Nominating Committee of the Pinellas Chapter is looking for Pinellas Board candidates, elected officer and director positions listed below. Members should review the duties of the various officers and recommend names and contacts to fill these positions. The Nominating Committee will contact the candidates to ensure their availability to fill the position.

Although some people currently serving on the Board may opt to continue serving, we wish to provide this opportunity for others to serve. Recommendations can be made to Katy Roberts or Jan Allyn, or see us at the October meeting. Voting on the slate of nominees will be at the November Annual Meeting. Any member in good standing of the Pinellas Chapter may be nominated "from the floor" at the November membership meeting, when new officers and board members will be elected.

Members who are interested in serving should review the duties of the position (see below). Officers and directors are elected for a period of one (1) year. Officers and directors shall serve without compensation except reimbursement for actual expenses incurred or to be incurred. For more information about serving the Chapter as an officer, a director, or on a committee, please contact Katy Roberts or Jan Allyn. To review the Chapter bylaws, visit this page: Pinellas Chapter Bylaws

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PRESIDENT: The president shall direct and administer the affairs of the Chapter as its executive head and shall supervise all phases of its activities, subject to instructions by the Board. The President shall preside at all membership and board meetings; serve ex-officio on all committees except Nominating Committee, and shall approve all contracts, documents, and official actions of the Chapter. The president shall appoint the chairpersons of all Standing Committees, subject to consent by the Board.

Nominee: Claudia Lewis
Nominee _________________________

VICE-PRESIDENT: The Vice-President shall assist the President in carrying out his/her duties, and shall exercise the duties of the President during the absence or disability of the President.

Nominee: Kodiak Brothers
Nominee _________________________

SECRETARY: The Secretary is the official recording officer of the Pinellas Chapter of the FNPS and the custodian of all Chapter records, except financial records. The Secretary is responsible for keeping accurate minutes of all meetings of the Board of Directors, reporting all pertinent information to the membership, and for providing copies of the minutes to members upon request. Also, according to Article VIII, Section 5 of the FNPS Bylaws, the Chapter Secretary shall inform the Chapter Representative or FNPS Secretary of activities by forwarding reports or other pertinent documents at those times deemed necessary and convenient by Chapter officers.

Nominee: Sue Taylor
Nominee _________________________

TREASURER: The Treasurer shall keep and maintain accurate and legible records of all financial transactions, shall deposit all monies to the credit of the Chapter, and maintain all accounts held by the Chapter at financial institutions, shall make regular reports on the treasury to the Board of Directors and membership, and shall disburse Chapter funds as may be approved by the Board.

Nominee: Diane Fecteau
Nominee _________________________

CHAPTER REPRESENTATIVE (to FNPS): The Chapter Representative shall attend all meetings of the Board of Directors of the FNPS to represent the Pinellas Chapter, and report to the Chapter the actions and decisions there taken. The Chapter Representative shall designate a proxy if unable to attend any meetings.

Nominee: Jan Allyn
Nominee _________________________

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (up to 5): The duties of the Directors shall be as liaisons to standing committees and the membership.

Nominee: Andy Karpinski
Nominee: Katy Roberts
Nominee: Debbie Chayet
Nominee _________________________
Nominee _________________________

The Understory
Community and volunteer support

"I only went out for a walk and finally concluded to stay out till sundown, for going out, I found, was really going in." — John Muir

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@tampabay.rr.com
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 Coordinator: Open!
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!
Web Master: Jan Allyn
Web Assistant: George Bickner
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
Twitter @FNPSonline
Join/Like us on Facebook
Pinellas Chapter FNPS