PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

There is no greater feeling than the one you get from working with a team of people who are passionate about something, especially if that passion involves the desire to affect positive change for the earth. I am very much looking forward to collaborating with our Chapter’s Board, members and supporters to articulate some humble but clear goals for 2015 that allow us to make a difference in Pinellas and beyond, as nature does not recognize political boundaries.

For many years I have looked forward to the possibility of changing the urban landscape to improve the chances for the wildlife species it has the potential to support. As a government employee and as a consultant I carried out research to determine what it takes to change the behavior and attitudes of groups when it comes to both native plants and what I have termed “flexible ecological landscapes”. I have had the opportunity to carry out several field projects to test some of the conclusions of the aforementioned research, and I would like to share some of this knowledge and experience with our Chapter, in the hope we can devise at least one measurable project to affect change in this regard.

I have a couple of initial ideas on collaborations with city planners, public landscape designers, strip mall owners and community organizations. I have also been cooking up a plan for a native plant truck that would go to neighborhoods, markets and other public areas to sell, promote and educate about native plants and those who maintain and sell them. I will share these ideas during our Board retreat to contribute to the brainstorming process. I am confident that as a team we will come up with a solid

Continued on page 7
Upcoming Programs

Location: Member meetings are 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.

7 January 2015
Wednesday 7 pm

USFSP Butterfly Garden - A Change in Student Culture
Daniel McGarigal

The student culture at the University of South Florida St. Pete Campus is changing. There is a growing desire to make a difference by doing hands-on work: Students have developed a vegetable garden and done a beach renourishment project. Their last initiative has been to design and plant a butterfly garden in a natural area of campus, which is now maintained by student volunteers. Join Daniel McGarigal, Director of Sustainability Initiatives of the Student Government Association, to find out what this generation of student leaders is doing to foster student engagement in environmental projects, and what still needs to be done to ensure the University has a campus that increasingly embraces native plants and promotes a culture of urban sustainability.

4 February 2015
Wednesday 7 pm

The Soils of Florida
Juan Vega

Soil is 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? Join Juan Vega, Area Resource Soil Specialist with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, to learn about Florida Soils.

14 March 2015
Saturday 8:30 am to noon

Collecting Plant Voucher Specimens in the Field Herbarium Workshop
Rosalind Rowe

This field workshop will take place at Terra Ceia State Park. The workshop will begin with a talk and demonstration on the steps for collecting and preserving good specimens (approximately 45-60 minutes), then will continue with a walk through a section of the park where participants will make some collections, work on plant identification, fill out labels, and organize and press specimens in a plant press. Park staff will provide labels and identification guides, as well as the newspaper, blotter paper, cardboard, and plant press needed for making a collection. Participants are welcome to bring additional identification guides and newspaper.

4 March 2015
Wednesday 7 pm

Botany Projects in the Florida Park Service Southwest District
Rosalind Rowe

This presentation is an overview of how botany is used in District 4 to meet the Florida Park Service’s mission. Plants are essential to interpreting, preserving, and restoring Florida’s natural resources and legacy communities.
“REWILDING”

1. A mass restoration of ecosystems
2. A rewilding of human life

What follows are excerpts from a thought-provoking article by George Monbiot titled “Back to Nature”. It is the first article in the BBC Earth’s “A World View” series of essays by leading environmental authors. The concepts, philosophy and research the author presents have great relevance for the native plant movement.

“...By damaging the living planet we have diminished our existence. We have been able to do this partly as a result of our ability to compartmentalise. This is another remarkable capacity we have developed, which perhaps reflects the demands of survival in the ever more complex human world we have created. By carving up the world in our minds we have learnt to shut ourselves out of it.

One of the tasks that parents set themselves is to train their children in linearity. Very young children don’t do linearity. Their inner life is discursive, contingent, impulsive. They don’t want to walk in a straight line down the pavement, but to wander off in the direction of whatever attracts their attention. They don’t begin a task with a view to its conclusion. They throw themselves into it, engage for as long as it’s exciting, then suddenly divert to something else.

This is how all animals, except adult humans, behave. Optimal foraging, the term biologists use to describe the way animals lock onto the best food supply, involves pursuing a task only for as long as it remains rewarding. Our own hunting and gathering would have followed a similar pattern, though it was complicated by our ability to plan and coordinate and to speculate about imagined outcomes. Broadly speaking, ours was a rambling and responsive existence, in which, by comparison to the way we live today, we had little capacity or inclination to impose our will on the world, to lay out a course of action and to follow it without deviation or distraction.

Only with the development of farming did we have to discipline ourselves to think linearly: following a plan from one point to another across weeks or months. Before long we were ploughing in straight lines, making hedges and ditches and tracks in straight lines, building houses and then towns in straight lines. Now almost every aspect of our lives is lived within grids, either concrete or abstract.

Thus we box ourselves out of the natural world. We become resistant to the experiences that nature has to offer; its spontaneity and serendipity, its unscripted delights, its capacity to shake us out of the frustrations and humiliations, which are an inevitable product of the controlled and ordered world we have sought to create. We bully the living world into the grids we impose on ourselves. Even the areas we claim to have set aside for nature are often subjected to rigid management plans, in which the type and the height of the vegetation is precisely ordained and, through grazing or cutting or burning, nature is kept in a state of arrested development to favour an arbitrary assemblage of life over other possible outcomes. Nothing is allowed to change, to enter or leave. We preserve these places as if they were jars of pickles...”

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For the full article go to: http://www.bbc.co.uk/earth/bespoke/story/20141203-back-to-nature/index.html

Orion Magazine also has a conversation with the author on his book “Feral: Searching for Enchantment on the Frontiers of Rewilding” at: http://www.orionmagazine.org/article/the-great-rewilding/

Also see Mr. Monbiot’s TED Talk titled “For more wonder, rewild the world” https://www.ted.com/speakers/george_monbiot
Upcoming Field Trips

**Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park**
24 January 2015

*Important: This trip is limited to 20 people. Cost is $25 per person.*

We will take the new "Tram Tour and Swamp Walk," which combines elements of the rolling lecture of the tram tour with an introductory swamp walk to give participants a taste of the real Fakahatchee. Each Tram Tour and Swamp Walk begins with a 1¾ mile ride on the Preserve's Ghost Rider tram to the site of the swamp walk. After about 90 minutes of walking through the swamp, participants board the tram for the return trip. Naturalists leading the group will share their insights about the Fakahatchee's flora and fauna on both wet and dry portions of the adventure.

(3.5 to 4 hour drive to Copeland so we encourage carpooling.)
Field trip participants meet at 7:30 a.m. on the side parking lot of the Publix at Seville Square, 3030 54 Ave S, St. Pete.


For more information contact CandyArnold caarnold78@gmail.com

**Wildflower Wayside Shrine Trail**
7 March 2015

The endemic, endangered *Chionanthus pygmaeus* trees are flowering!

Science, art, and the natural world come together in the Wildflower Wayside Shrine Trail, a walking trail that explores pristine scrubland. Developed through a partnership between the SFSC Museum of Florida Art and Culture (MOFAC) and Archbold Biological Station, Lake Placid, the trail fosters environmental preservation and education by setting aside a portion of this unique and rapidly dwindling ecosystem for scientific observation, artistic inspiration, and reflection. Along the campus trail are six shrine boxes, created by artist and educator Mollie Doctrow to honor the endangered plant species found on the Lake Wales Ridge. Inside the shrine boxes are botanical shadow boxes and journals that tell about the plants. Visitors are encouraged to write in the shrine journals, thereby sharing their impressions with their fellow travelers, and to make rubbings of the shrine boxes as mementos of their visits.

(2.5 hour drive to Avon Park so we encourage carpooling.)
Field trip participants meet 7:00 a.m. at Publix's side parking lot, Seville Square 3030 54 Ave S, St. Pete.

For more information contact CandyArnold caarnold78@gmail.com
Moccasin Lake Nature Park
Butterfly Garden Work Day & Guided Tour

2nd Sunday each month 2 pm
(Jan. 11, Feb. 8, March. 8)

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.

WEEDON ISLAND CULTURAL AND NATURAL HISTORY CENTER*

Guided hikes: on Saturdays from 9:00 to 11:00 AM
Lawn & Garden Help Desk: on Fridays from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM
Mangroves program: January 10, from 10:00 to 11:30 AM
Introduction to Plant Identification: January 17, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM
Advanced Plant Identification. A 6 part series: Every other Saturday from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM, starting February 14 (registration ends February 13 - $30)

BROOKER CREEK PRESERVE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER*

Wildflower Garden Club; last Saturday of the month
Night hike: March 21, from 8:00 to 10:00 PM
Botany hike: April 10, from 9:00 to 10:00 AM
Introduction to Plant Identification: January 10, from 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM
Benefits of trees to people: January 17, from 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM
Grasses identification: January 17, from 1:30 AM to 3:00 PM
Wetland wildflowers: February 7, 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM
Adopt-A-Pond program: February 7, from 1:30 to 3:00 PM
Woods Walk: February 27, from 9:00 to 11:00 AM

BOYD HILL NATURE PRESERVE

Botanical Print Making: January 17, from 4:00 to 6:00 PM - Cost $10 (14 yrs & older)
Night hike: Saturday. January 10, 6:00 PM - Cost $3 adults, $1.50 children
Wildflower walk: Saturday, January 24, 9:30 AM - Cost $3 adults, $1.50 children

MOCCASIN LAKE NATURE PARK*

Birds in Your Florida Garden: Saturday, January 17, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM
The Secrets of Soil - Creating nutrient rich soil for a garden using permaculture. January 17, 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Cost $6, $8 or $10 (for details call 793-2976)

*Events are free unless otherwise noted
Legislative Matters

Implementation of Amendment 1

Our Conservation Chair, Katy Roberts, has been contacted by the Florida’s Water and Land Legacy coalition to begin preparing for the legislative session of 2015. The topic of discussion this year will be the implementation of Amendment 1, the Water and Land Conservation Amendment. The Coalition wants to send a clear message to our lawmakers that the intent of the 4.2 million voters who voted YES on Amendment 1 is to restore funding for Florida’s existing highly successful conservation programs, including Florida Forever.

Their first task will be to meet with Florida Legislators before the session begins in March. They are asking for our help in January to help implement the Coalition’s legislative strategy. Lawmakers will be convening in Tallahassee during the week of January 5th for committee meetings. During that same week, the Florida’s Water and Land Legacy will be providing all of the members with a toolkit for meeting with their respective legislators which will include talking points on Amendment 1, examples of projects in each district that would qualify for Amendment 1 dollars, media clips, and statistics on Amendment 1 support in each respective district.

They would like us to schedule a meeting with each of our legislators for the week of January 12th when they will be returning to their district offices. Time is of the essence as their schedules fill in very quickly. They have provided the appropriate links to find our lawmakers’ contact information. Once we have scheduled the meetings, we will let them know so that they can effectively coordinate with the coalition partners and ensure everyone gets all the materials.

What can our membership do?

One thing you can do to help is continue to support our municipal parks and preserves in need of volunteers, such as the Moccasin Lake Nature Park, which has faced serious cuts to funding and personnel over the last few years.

You can also share your knowledge, concerns and enthusiasm relating to Florida’s water issues and natural areas with your neighbors, friends and coworkers.

"Sticks in a bundle are unbreakable" ~Kenyan Proverb

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 will make a difference!

https://www.facebook.com/Friendsofmoccasinlake
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Continued from page 1

long-range plan to present to the membership.

During 2015, I envision us working even more closely with academic institutions, community organizations, conservation groups and government entities, to brainstorm ideas on how to increase and diversify our membership, which in addition to the obvious benefits, would also give us more manpower to plan and undertake hands-on projects.

Last but not least, I aspire to increase our Chapter’s outreach using both social and traditional media, in order to make our projects, programs and materials known by a larger percentage of the local population.

None of these things can happen without your active engagement and support! I am looking forward to your feedback and ideas throughout 2015. Please call or e-mail me or any of the Board members anytime you wish to share an idea, volunteer your time or give us feedback on how we can better serve you and accomplish our goals. The more we educate, motivate and empower, the greater the impact we can have!

We count on seeing you often at our monthly meetings where we plan on having a “Sharing” short section, to instigate a vital exchange of ideas and information among us throughout the year.

May 2015 be a great year for the natural world!

"We are confronted by insurmountable opportunities" ~POGO
CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

GIVE A DAY FOR THE BAY

Moccasin Lake Nature Park

The focus for this event is removing invasive plants within the park, cleaning along the trails, buildings and shelters, weeding the butterfly garden and working in the organic garden.

Moccasin Lake is a 51-acre nature preserve with trails and boardwalks under a canopy of mature oaks and across ponds and creeks, with an array of wildlife including gopher tortoises, raccoons, and many birds. It is home to several injured birds of prey.

The park is hoping to have 50 volunteers for this workday. After the work is done, they will celebrate with a delicious lunch for the volunteers, who then will be able to enjoy the park for the rest of the afternoon.

Where and When:
Saturday, January 10, 2015, 8:30am – 1:00pm
Moccasin Lake Nature Park, 2750 Park Trail Ln, Clearwater, FL 33759

What to Bring and Wear:
- A water bottle
- Sturdy work gloves
- Closed-toe shoes
- Long-sleeve shirt, pants, a hat, sunglasses and sunscreen recommended
Children must be accompanied by an adult.

For more information or to register, contact Misty Cladas at (727) 893-2765 or misty@tbep.org. You can also register online at https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07ea95japo43e1de18

Half-day workdays are held on Saturdays several times a year, at various parks and preserves throughout the Tampa Bay watershed. Removal of invasive plants is a primary focus of the workdays, along with native plant installation, to help restore important coastal and upland habitats throughout the bay watershed. Watch short videos of some of our previous workdays at http://www.youtube.com/TheTBEP.

WE STILL NEED TO FILL THE FOLLOWING COORDINATOR POSITIONS:

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.

Volunteer Coordinator:

Social Media Coordinator:

To volunteer as a coordinator, please contact Claudia Lewis at clewis.consulting@gmail.com

Our volunteers are dedicated, fun and resourceful! They make work of the organization possible. Please consider joining our team!

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.

“"You cannot do a kindness too soon because you never know how soon it will be too late.” Ralph Waldo Emerson
Getting the Word Out to our Garden Brethren

by Jan Allyn

Our chapter has done more than most when it comes to reaching out to our members and others using the World Wide Web and social media. Our website, our Facebook group, and our Facebook page help us keep in touch with our members and others. But people have to know to look for our website, and a lot of people do not use Facebook and have no interest at all in joining it. Blogs are a great way to attract followers, but it’s a huge commitment to continually provide content for one and not something we want to tackle. (FNPS has an excellent one you should check out, if you haven’t.)

So… what other networks should we try to tap, either “social media” or otherwise? How can we let more people know about the joys of growing Florida native plants?

Gardening—for butterflies or wildlife, with wildflowers, to save water—is the “hook” we use to attract new members in most cases. Raising conservation awareness about plant communities and their importance to ecosystems typically comes later. Like most hobbies, gardening has many subcultures. Enthusiasts who love roses, daylilies, palms, orchids, bromeliads, flowering trees, bonsai, etc. have societies of their own, with their own communication networks. The Florida Federation of Garden Clubs is very popular, especially with retirees. If you are a member of any of these groups, you can help us spread the word by inviting their members to our programs, field trips, or any other activities you think might interest them. Other ideas: Post a photo of a native orchid on your orchid fancier’s social media page. Write an article about coonties for the cycad club newsletter. Remind people about our wonderful native palms at the Palm Society, etc. Members of garden clubs may also enjoy reading FANN’s publication “Real Florida Gardeners”, which always has great articles. We have copies at every meeting; take a few and pass them out to your gardening friends. You also might distribute copies of our 2015 Program Schedule at your garden club meetings, to let folks know what we have in store this year. Remember, our programs are open to everyone! Our first priority is to advance the FNPS mission through education. Adding to our member rolls, though important, is a secondary motivation which we hope will happen naturally through community involvement. Please pass the word about FNPS, and let’s help our gardening community learn about natives!

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“Good actions give strength to ourselves and inspire good actions in others” ~Plato

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Welcome New Members

Barrie Carson
Sean Tennant and Meeghan Casey
Michael Cote
Vicki Featherstone
Antonia Gary
Susan Green
Susan Herper
Connie Johnson - Gearhart
Kathryn Joy
Beverly Mandalou
Helga Matausch
Sandra D Padgett
David Petersen
William & Mary Roen
Karin Spronz
Kristin Pokorny and Kevin Ochs

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!
Chapter Directory

Officers
Claudia Lewis, President clewis.consulting@gmail.com
Kodiak Brothers, Vice President, kodiak224@gmail.com
Sue Taylor, Secretary, susn31taylor@gmail.com
Dianne Fecteau, Treasurer dianne@kendiacorp.com
Jan Allyn, Chapter Representative jallyn@tampabay.rr.com
Candace Arnold, Past President, caarnold78@gmail.com

Board Members
Andrew Karpinski, ak@stonemarmot.com
Katy Roberts, kroberts@tampabay.rr.com
Debbie Chayet, dchayet@verizon.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 Coordinator: Sally McConnell
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! Urgently needed!
Web Master: Jan Allyn
Web Assistant: George Bickner

Community and Volunteer Support
“A man does not plant a tree for himself. He plants it for posterity.” — Alexander Smith

Hawthorn Hill Wildflowers
HawthornHillWildflowers.blogspot.com
Craig Huegel, PhD
Author & Professor
Huegel55@AOL.com
(727) 422-6583
Nursery open by appointment only
Pinellas County, Florida

Wilcox Nursery
12501 Indian Rocks Road
Largo, Florida 33774
(727) 595-2073
wnursery@tampabay.rr.com
www.wilcoxnursery.com
Bruce Turley
Tiffany Custer

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Detail Divas
Landscaping Gardeners
The MISSING LINK of Landscape Maintenance
Kathy Schaedel 727-455-6910
Darcey Phillips 727-510-7067
– Serving Pinellas County & Surrounding Areas –
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

Pinellas Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society
P.O. Box 1661
Pinellas Park, Florida
33780-1661