Native Plants in Bloom
by Ellen Raabe

Spring is here, if ever so briefly in Pinellas County, so head out to the closest park, nature preserve, boardwalk, or open space to see spring blooms. Central Florida does have seasons. Spring and fall can be splendid in a natural setting, but you have to be quick. Sometimes it seems that spring, the transition from our mild winter to hot humid summer, gets shorter every year.

One great place to view spring in Pinellas County is the Florida native area at the Pinellas Extension in Largo. The eastern redbud is glorious in deep pink blooms and the flatwoods plum, tropical sage (in four colors!), blanket flower, green eyes, cassia, Carolina jessamine and coral honeysuckle offer color from the canopy to the forest floor.

The Extension’s Florida native area showcases trees, shrubs, native grasses, wetland plants, vines, and wildflowers from multiple ecosystems. This location close to the coast is a microclimate where species typically found in south Florida have survived our occasional cold winters. Each section, whether dry and open, deeply canopied, or wet, creates a unique niche and habitat. The garden supports myriad insects, birds, and other wildlife with cover, berries, nectar, perches, and nesting opportunities.

...in Bloom continued page 6

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Upcoming Programs

Monthly programs are open to the public and are usually held 7 - 9 pm on the first Wednesday of the month at Moccasin Lake Nature Park. In an effort to provide access to all Pinellas residents, future events may take place at Boyd Hill Nature Preserve in St. Petersburg or at Pinellas Extension in Largo. Please read carefully — each announcement will specify the location and time. Monthly programs 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. Field trips may have small fee for entrance or materials. For more information visit: http://pinellas.fnpschapters.org.

6 April 2016
Wednesday 5:30 - 8 p.m.
DIFFERENT TIME!

The Milkweed Project

Mark Godts

Moccasin Lake Nature Park
2750 Park Trail Lane, Clearwater, FL

Marc Godts of Green Isle Gardens presents the Milkweed Project initiated by the Florida Association of Native Nurseries. He will discuss challenges to growers to meet the demand for native milkweed plants. Godts is a leading expert on the topic of native milkweed, and this program is a rare opportunity to learn about how you can help with the national initiative.

Green Isle Garden’s native milkweed plants will be available for sale prior to the program starting at 5:30. Godts’s presentation will commence promptly at 7:00. Chapter business meeting follows program. There will be no plant auction.

Everyone is welcome! Come and get some native butterfly food! http://goo.gl/maps/Zofh0

4 May 2016
Wednesday 6 - 8 p.m.

Native Garden Tour

Pinellas County Extension

Lisa Boing, Craig Huegel & more

Florida Native Garden Area
Pinellas County Extension Building
12520 Ulmerton Road, Largo, FL 33774

DIFFERENT TIME AND PLACE!

The May 4th Pinellas Chapter Program will be held in the Florida Native Area at the Pinellas County Extension in Largo. Tour guides will include regular garden volunteers and Craig Huegel who started the garden in 1989. From 6 to 8 p.m. guides will share their knowledge with visitors interested in learning how to be a Real Florida Gardener. The draw of this garden has kept a steady crew of volunteers since for over 25 years.

Explore spring blooms and a bog designed for wetland flowers. Learn about new plans for a rain garden and the volunteers’ latest tactic to tackle grasshoppers or lubbers.

Hope to see you there!

http://goo.gl/maps/syKdUdvVKFw

1 June 2016
Wednesday 7 pm

Shade Gardening

Craig Huegel

Moccasin Lake Nature Park
2750 Park Trail Lane, Clearwater, FL

Craig Huegel, PhD, is a founding member of the Pinellas Chapter and a nearly 30-year member of the Florida Native Plant Society. Since moving to Florida in 1987, he has focused much of his attention on native plants and wildlife at the urban interface, authoring two early books for the Florida Native Plant Society and three more books published by The University of Florida Press. His most recent book, “Native Florida Plants for Shady Landscapes”, is the subject of his June talk. Plants feed on sunlight and only a small subset perform well in shade. However, most Florida landscapes rely on shade to shelter us a bit from summer heat. Finding the right plants for our shady landscapes is a challenge, but one we can easily overcome with careful planning.

http://goo.gl/maps/Zofh0

Future Programs and Field Trips

For updates to future events, visit the FNPS Pinellas Chapter online calendar.

or check us out at meetup

https://goo.gl/maps/syKdUdvVKFw
Weekend Events

Saturday 9 April

Spring Native Plant Festival

Wilcox Nursery, Largo, Florida

See page 5 for flyer

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Saturday 14 May

10 am - 3 pm

Spring Garden Party

The Roberts’ Garden
166 11th Ave N, Safety Harbor, FL 34695

Join the Pinellas Chapter FNPS for a Spring Garden Party. Come wander through a lovely Florida native garden. Enjoy refreshments and the company of other nature lovers. Hats Optional! Donations accepted.

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Sunday 5 June 9 am - noon

Emerson Point Preserve
5801 17th Street West, Palmetto, Manatee County

Join Stephanie Coutant at the first parking lot inside the preserve at 9 am. The walk will include visiting the mound complex, south restoration trail, Terra Ceia trail, and north restoration trail — about three miles through coastal hammocks, boardwalks, overlooks, and an observation tower. Attendees can bring a bike or drive out to the point afterwards, to visit the scenic overlook and beach trail on their own.

Emerson Point Preserve

You are cordially invited to attend

THE ANNUAL FNPS CONFERENCE

FNPS 36th Annual Conference

will be hosted by the Pawpaw Chapter 19-22 May this year in Daytona Beach, Florida. The 2016 Conference artwork is titled 'Native Beauty' by Jane Coon of Port Orange. The original painting will be raffled off during the conference. For more information go to: http://www.fnps.org/conference/2016

Movers and Shakers

Team Native got it done. Five members of Pinellas Chapter FNPS, organized by Sue Taylor, moved storage and reduced monthly expenditures. Nancy Bickner, Andy Karpinski, Sue Taylor, Carlton Rowell, and Lisa Boing migrated tables, tents, and supplies from one storage location to another. Thanks to Sue, the Chapter will save $40/month at this new location.
Many of us use the terms “tree” and “shrub” in casual conversation without realizing there is a technical definition for each growth form that is quite different. Maintenance practices vary according to a plant’s growth form, so it is a good idea to know the difference and use the correct term when communicating with a tree or landscape professional. So here are the definitions according to the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) International Dictionary online:

**Tree** – woody perennial usually having one dominant trunk and a mature height greater than 5 meters (16 feet).

**Shrub** - a woody plant, generally smaller than a tree, typically with multiple stems branching from or near the ground.

Pruning techniques in particular are different. You should NEVER “top” a tree. “Topping,” in case you are not familiar with the term, is “inappropriate pruning technique to reduce tree size. Cutting back a tree to a predetermined crown limit, often at internodes.” It is important that all pruning cuts on a tree be made at branch nodes, just outside the branch collar. There are many books on the proper techniques for pruning trees, depending on the objectives of the pruning effort. Another difference is that a tree actually has a much bigger root system than is often realized; the typical unconfined root system for a tree reaches out in excess of 3 times the width of the visible tree canopy.

**Topping may** be an appropriate technique for a shrub. Most of us have pruned a shrub into a hedge, which is essentially topping on all sides. Shrubs include many species we think of as trees (Wax myrtle (*Myrica cerifera*), Simpson’s Stopper (*Myricanthus fragrans*), Sea Grape (*Coccoloba uvifera*) and Walter’s viburnum (*Viburnum obovatum*), to name a few. These may even be classified as “small trees” in many documents, and the difference is not always obvious, but the most important difference is the tendency to have multiple, smaller diameter trunks which are more tolerant of less-than-proper pruning techniques. Because they are also smaller at maturity, shrubs have smaller root systems and are a better planting choice in small spaces.

So now you know…

**Additional Resources:**
- Online Dictionary: [ISA Dictionary](http://www.isa-arbor.com)
SAT. APRIL 9th, 2016
9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Spring Native Plant Festival

Wilcox Nursery & Landscape
12501 Indian Rocks Road, Largo

Come and Learn How to Go Native &
Create a Haven of Biodiversity & Water Conservation

Topics & Speakers

9:30 AM  The Virtues of Underused Florida Native Plants – Bruce Turley (Wilcox Nursery)
10:30 AM  The Buzz About Pollinators & How Home Gardens Can Support Them – Katy Roberts
11:30 AM  Do the Plant Swap: Invasives Out, Natives In – Jan Allyn
12:30 PM  Native Florida Plants for Shady Landscapes – Craig Huegel

PLANTS DISCUSSED WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR SALE

FNPS members will be available to help you choose the right plants for your landscape needs and conditions

FNPS members receive a 10% discount at Wilcox Nursery year-round! Join at the festival and receive a free book!

Welcome New Members
Christina Aikman
Elizabeth Baylis
Gary Cox
Dorothy Fields
Barbara Hammond
Georgene O’Keefe
Theresa and James Polgar
Susan Stevenson
Julia Stokley
Donald Streib

The Earth Friendly Nook
Healing The Earth Naturally

Cindy Stiles
Proud Distributor of Naturali Pro™ Products
727-458-9007
carthfriendlynook@gmail.com

Green Isle Gardens
11303 State Road 33
Groveland, FL 34736
407-948-8980  321-436-4932
godts123@gmail.com

The Understory
5
Craig Huegel initiated the native garden in 1989 with a small grant. The garden is currently managed by Lisa Boing, a Master Gardner, with mentoring from Craig Huegel and help from amazing and passionate volunteers. The Pinellas County Extension, Florida Botanical Garden (FBG) Foundation and Pinellas Chapter FNPS have provided support. Additional funding from a Florida Wildflower Foundation ‘Viva Florida’ Grant was secured by Debbie Chayet in 2013.

After 25 years of growth one can observe mature specimens and adjustments made by individual plants to adapt to the local environment. Plant labels help visitors identify the common and scientific names of each plant. Lisa commented, “We are trying to achieve a balance between a bit of wild Florida and a specimen garden. This garden can serve as an example for the home garden, demonstrating the use of native plants for color, form, and accent through the seasons in a planned landscape.”

“The distinction between native plants in the wild and a tended landscape is the intentional use of design options and deliberate editing through placement, pruning, and clearing,” says Julia Herbst, a landscape designer and garden volunteer. The home gardener should keep in mind: a botanical specimen garden like this, where many species are on display, is different from a home garden. Julia says most landscapes use repetition and rhythm, where pattern provides a visual path and mass plantings give the eye a place to rest.

An avid volunteer, Mary Ellen Phillips says, “What I like about this garden, it’s entirely Florida native plants. Once established they don’t require a lot of care and together they reflect early Florida scenery.” Other current garden volunteers are Carolyn Piper, Joanne Kleisch, and Evelyn Tumber.

The garden is constantly changing. New plants will be added to accommodate shifts in conditions and the evolving vision of its’ caretakers. A new rain garden is planned and the area will be mapped to help the FBG Foundation with a computerized map of all plantings at the Botanical Gardens.

Join us on Wednesday, May 4 at 6 pm for a twist on the monthly program – a guided walk through the garden. Come early and walk through all of the Florida Botanical Gardens in Largo. You will find Florida native plants and natural habitats elsewhere on the grounds, but not necessarily labeled!

For more about The Florida Botanical Gardens http://www.flbg.org

See what’s blooming now in your area: http://flawildflowers.org/index.php

“Forget not that the earth delights to feel your bare feet and the winds long to play with your hair.” — Khalil Gibran
WRAP-UP OF 2016 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

by Jan Allyn

Because this is a presidential election year, the Florida Legislature convened in January instead of March, and wrapped up its 60-day session on March 11th. It passed an $82.3 billion budget which does provide funding for environmental programs, but the amount is puny compared to what was provided in the past. Once again, the legislature thumbed its nose at the Floridians who overwhelmingly passed Amendment 1 in an attempt to fund conservation land acquisition and responsible land management.

Among the roughly 275 bills that survived to the end of the session and were signed into law, several have direct impact on native flora, habitats, and water supply and quality:

Legislators doubled the amount of money previously earmarked for Everglades cleanup. In addition, a bill dubbed “Legacy Florida” sets aside $200 million each year for Everglades restoration, $50 million annually for springs restoration, and $5 million a year for the long-suffering Lake Apopka. The Florida Keys Stewardship Act provides $5 million annually for a decade for land acquisition from the Florida Forever program. Another $5 million in one-time funding goes to water quality projects in the Keys.

A new state water policy establishes management plans for agriculture around Lake Okeechobee, the Caloosahatchee Estuary and St. Lucie River and Estuary. It also sets minimum water-flow levels for springs and establishes guidelines for the Central Florida Water Initiative, a cooperative regional water-supply planning effort.

Happily, the UF/IFAS research center on invasive species in Fort Pierce will survive the governor’s veto this year and will receive $844,171. Last year the governor zeroed out the funding for the center, which had to rely on emergency funding allocations from local governments to keep its doors open.

HB 1075 makes numerous changes to the provisions under which state-owned lands are acquired, managed and disposed of. Many of the changes address appraisals, transfers between agencies, and reporting on holdings. A positive change was added language to encourage “alternatives to fee-simple acquisition”: i.e., purchase of development rights, timber rights, mineral rights, or hunting rights; conservation or “flowage” easements; purchase of agricultural interests or silvicultural interests; and creating life estates. This is an economical way to encourage owners of natural land to keep it undeveloped, while providing a way to compensate the landowners.

It is a change advocated by The Florida Wildlife Corridor project. On the negative side, the bill removes a provision previously in the law that required all land use plans to include an analysis “to determine if any significant natural or cultural resources are located on the property. Such resources include archaeological and historic sites, state and federally listed plant and animal species, and imperiled natural communities and unique natural features.” Continuing the legislature’s obsession with surplusing land, the bill adds the requirement that, “Each updated land management plan must identify any conservation lands under the plan, in part or in whole, that are no longer needed for conservation purposes and could be disposed of in fee simple or with the state retaining a permanent conservation easement.”

HB 1361 eliminates state review of new Developments of Regional Impact — huge subdivisions that affect transportation, schools, public safety, and other public facilities in multiple counties — if they are deemed compatible with a local comprehensive plan. Lawmakers contend that the deregulation is justified because the review process was put in place before local governments began implementing comprehensive plans (a dubious claim).

Bills not passed, or vetoed:

A controversial bill that would have set up a state permitting process for hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, was passed by the House but died in the Senate. The oil and gas industry will undoubtedly keep up pressure on legislators to reintroduce a version of the bill in next year’s session. Proponents of the bill say that it establishes needed rules for the practice, while opponents would prefer an outright ban on fracking in Florida, given the state’s reliance on groundwater for potable water supply and the potential for damage to the state’s aquifers.

The final budget included funding to store runoff water bound for estuaries and projects to clean water that flows into the Indian River Lagoon. Inexplicably, despite the current water quality crisis involving polluted runoff from Lake Okeechobee, Gov. Rick Scott has said he will veto the funding. He has also said he will veto funding designed to clean the southernmost tributary of Indian River Lagoon, and $150,000 for an Indian River County pilot project using aquatic plants to remove pollution from waterways.

FNPS members are encouraged to pay close attention to actions in the legislature and to contact legislators regularly to express their support for bills that protect our natural resources.
Moccasin Lake Earth Day Event  
Saturday April 23  
9 AM to 6 PM  
Moccasin Lake Nature Park  
2750 Park Trail Lane, Clearwater

The intention of this free event is to bring people together to learn from one another and teach one another ways to be better stewards of the environment and our communities. There will be many displays and presentations throughout the day.  
For more info: [http://www.meetup.com/Moccasin-Lake-Environmental-Education-Center/events/227698593/](http://www.meetup.com/Moccasin-Lake-Environmental-Education-Center/events/227698593/)

2016 Lakes and Ponds Education Day  
Saturday, April 30, 2016  
9:00 AM to 12:30 PM  
Pinellas County Extension  
12520 Ulmerton Road, Largo

This free workshop is a great opportunity to learn about Best Management Practices in and around Florida lakes and ponds. The event will be held in trade show format with featured presentations and displays from government, environmental, and private organizations. They will give out free native aquatic plants, wildflowers and trees at the close of the event. For more info and reservations: [Lakes and Ponds Eventbrite](http://Lakes and Ponds Eventbrite)

Sustainable Floridians Program  
Explore green strategies and behaviors  
April 2 to May 14
Interested in making a difference in the community, exploring green practices and meeting people with similar interests? Pinellas County Extension is hosting a 7-week discussion-to-action course this spring on green strategies and behaviors. Registration is open until Friday, March 18. The program will be held at Weedon Island. The cost is $75. More information: [http://pinellas.ifas.ufl.edu](http://pinellas.ifas.ufl.edu)

Project WILD Curricula Training  
“Schoolyard WILDlife” and “Flying Wild”  
Moccasin Lake Nature Park  
2750 Park Trail Lane, Clearwater

Sensing Nature will be offering the Project WILD’s “Schoolyard WILDlife” and “Flying WILD” curricula trainings to formal and informal educators (K-6th) this summer. The trainings will be hosted at Moccasin Lake Nature Park in Clearwater.

There is no fee, unless the “Flying WILD” curriculum booklet is wanted – that can be ordered through the National Project WILD office for approximately $20. (Link to [Sensing Nature](http://Sensing Nature). The “Schoolyard WILDlife” curriculum book is included in training.

Link to [Sensing Nature Calendar page](http://Sensing Nature Calendar page) for more information and to register. Scroll to the calendar entry for July 21.

Green Thumb Festival  
Saturday and Sunday April 23 - 24  
9 AM to 4 PM  
Walter Fuller Recreation Center  
7891 26th Ave. N., St. Petersburg

The Green Thumb Festival is probably the largest annual plant-focused event in Pinellas County. There are well over a hundred environmental and horticultural exhibits and vendors with every kind of plant imaginable. Presentations are run throughout both days. The event is free, though there is much for sale. For more info: [http://www.stpeteparksrec.org/greenthumb/index.html](http://www.stpeteparksrec.org/greenthumb/index.html)

Right Plant, Right Place  
11 May 1 - 4 pm  
Florida IFAS Extension Pinellas  
12520 Ulmerton Road, Largo

Learn to reduce resource use and enhance function and wildlife support in your own yard with plant selection, installation and establishment. Watch Pinellas County Extension calendar for registration to open [http://pinellas.ifas.ufl.edu](http://pinellas.ifas.ufl.edu). For more information on Florida Friendly Landscaping™ visit [http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu](http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu)
Prescribed Fire at Boyd Hill
9 April 11:30 am
One more chance to attend a fire ecology hike at Boyd Hill Nature Preserve. Join staff to learn more about the purpose, methods, and results of prescribed burns at Boyd Hill. Call front desk at Boyd Hill for more information: 727-893-7326.

Annual Wholesale Trade Show
31 March to 1 April
Osceola Heritage Park Exhibition Building
Kissimmee, Florida
Seminars, trade show exhibitors, and Continuing Education Units (CEUs) sponsored by the Florida Association of Native Nurseries (FANN). Find the schedule of concurrent sessions and onsite courses at http://www.nativeplantshow.com

Take a Hike or a Class at Brooker Creek Preserve
Environmental Education Center
3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs
Take a Hike
Multiple Dates and Times
brookercreekpreserve.org/guided-tours.htm

Learn Wetland Wildflowers
Saturday April 23
10:30 - noon
Learn to identify wetland wildflowers without getting your feet wet. Sponsored by UF IFAS Pinellas County Extension
Wetland_Wildflowers Eventbrite

Identify Exotic Invasive Plants
Saturday May 7
10:30 - noon
Learn to identify and control invasive species. Sponsored by UF IFAS Pinellas County Extension
Identify Invasive Plants Eventbrite

“As the poet said, ‘Only God can make a tree.’ — Probably because it’s so hard to figure out how to get the bark on.”
~Woody Allen
Weedon Island Land Management Review

by Katy Roberts

March 21 was a cold, windy Monday. The Weedon Island Preserve Land Management Review Team met in the classroom at the Weedon Island Cultural and Natural History Center. We started with the cultural section by viewing the 40-foot salt water canoe found and restored by the staff and volunteers. We then climbed into vehicles and began touring the preserve. The first stop, a newly found midden area, was followed by a tour of the nonprofit AWIARE (Alliance for Weedon Island Archaeological Research and Education) station where artifacts are cataloged and stored.

We visited an area where mosquito ditches are being blocked off to slow runoff into the bay and another area where spoil mounds are being hydro-blasted and exotic invasive plants are being removed. I have not crawled through mangroves in a long time and I felt like a kid again. We also visited several saltern mitigation areas on both sides of the Gandy Bridge.

After lunch the tour continued to the scrub areas. One stop was to view the introduced endangered Florida golden aster, Chrysopsis floridana. Impressive! The asters are doing very well and spreading — a great success story.

On Tuesday we met with a review Committee of state and local land managers and filled out the Management Review Checklist. The checklist had two parts: a plan review and a field review with seven sections - biological resources, listed species, natural resources survey, forest management, non-native invasive and problem species, hydrological/geologic function, resource protections, adjacent property concerns and the last section of Management Review Determination.

The group was knowledgeable, made suggestions and recommended resources. Managing our natural resources is an important task, and I commend the dedication of the Pinellas County land managers who continue to protect and manage our natural lands in a time when staff, resources, and funding have been cut. View the Weedon Island Management Plan

FNPS participates in FDEP’s Division of State Lands land management reviews. This year Pinellas County reviews were conducted at Weedon Island and Anclote Key with cooperation from Pinellas Chapter FNPS. If you would like to know more or participate in the future, go to http://fnps.org/committee/partners

So Many Opportunities

Do you enjoy the outdoors? Enjoy good company and get some fresh air while you’re at it. Several volunteer opportunities exist around the County.

Regular workdays at:
Native Plant Workday at County Extension
Wednesdays 9 am to 3 pm
Pinellas County Extension/Florida Botanical Garden Native Area
Work all or part of day

Friends of Moccasin Lake
Help keep the park open
Sundays Noon - 4 pm
Moccasin Lake Nature Park
Contact email

Volunteer for the Florida Native Plant Society - see page 13 for vacancies

Volunteer at Boyd Hill Nature Park -
for a schedule of volunteer orientations call 727-893-7326

Volunteers needed for Gopher Tortoise Burrow Survey with Heinrich
Ecological Services April and May
Gopher Tortoise Survey

Or volunteer for a Friends Group at a Park or Preserve near you.
For instance:

Hammock in Dunedin needs volunteers for invasive plant removal and donations for a boardwalk through fern habitat “50 for Fern”
Friends of the Hammock, Inc.
or
Friends of Boyd Hill
Friends of Boyd Hill
Do You Want More?

*Here are some ideas, media resources, useful links, and planning documents that you might enjoy.*

**Is Your Landscape Florida Friendly?**

Consider applying for recognition of your home landscape. Use the checklist to see what changes you can easily make to satisfy requirements for Florida Friendly status. Submit your landscape for recognition as Florida-Friendly: [http://ffl.ifas.ufl.edu/homeowners/recognitions.htm](http://ffl.ifas.ufl.edu/homeowners/recognitions.htm)

**Florida Kissimmee Prairie Wildflower Walk**

This lovely little film is presented by the Florida Native Plant Society. The video was produced by the FNPS Education Committee and features Roger Hammer and Craig Huegel leading a wildflower walk at one of Florida's natural prairies, the Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park. [https://vimeo.com/133270247](https://vimeo.com/133270247)

**FloraGator**

Use this handy online key to help identify native plants. [http://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/floragator/key.html](http://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/floragator/key.html)

**“Diggin’ Florida Dirt”**

Tampa Bay Times Correspondent, Penny Carnathan wrote a great little piece on “Diggin' Florida Dirt: If you feed them, they will come” featuring our own Cindy Smith’s landscape and the wild visitors. Published February 19, 2016 [http://www.tampabay.com/features/homeandgarden/diggin-florida-dirt-if-you-feed-them-they-will-come/2266033](http://www.tampabay.com/features/homeandgarden/diggin-florida-dirt-if-you-feed-them-they-will-come/2266033)

**Sustainability**

Are you interested in landscape guidelines that reduce water, fertilizer, and energy use in your community? Understand how landscaping and maintenance plans can be designed to suit the soils, topography, hydrology, and climate of a site by using native plants and best landscaping practices. Read the FNPS Model Landscape Ordinance Handbook for ideas and instructions. [http://www.fnps.org/resources/pubs](http://www.fnps.org/resources/pubs)

**Make a Newspaper Plant Pot**

Follow this link to learn how to make small starter pots for plants using PVC pipe and newspaper. [https://simplyflagstaff.wordpress.com/2011/02/05/3-newspaper-pot-maker/](https://simplyflagstaff.wordpress.com/2011/02/05/3-newspaper-pot-maker/)

**Become a Master Naturalist**

[http://pinellasmasternaturalists.org](http://pinellasmasternaturalists.org)

[http://www.masternaturalist.ifas.ufl.edu](http://www.masternaturalist.ifas.ufl.edu)

**Become a Master Gardener**

[http://gardeningolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/mastergardener/index.html](http://gardeningolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/mastergardener/index.html)

**Hawthorn Hill Blog**

[http://hawthornhillwildflowers.blogspot.com](http://hawthornhillwildflowers.blogspot.com)

**FNPS Blog**

[http://fnpsblog.blogspot.com](http://fnpsblog.blogspot.com)

**An Overview of Native Plants**

[http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep297](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep297)

**Pinellas County Comprehensive Plan**

[https://www.pinellascounty.org/Plan/comprehensive_plan.htm](https://www.pinellascounty.org/Plan/comprehensive_plan.htm)

**Pinellas County Parks Master Plan**


**Did you know**

that many native plants have been used for food, fiber, fishing, hunting, shelter, and medicine?

Fiber from the *Sabal palmetto* or cabbage palm was used for brooms, brushes and baskets well into the 20th century. Fronds were and still are used for shelter in a chickee — a pole and palm thatch hut. The terminal bud of the palm is edible and tastes similar to cabbage (thus the name) — the main ingredient in Heart of Palm Salad. Harvest of the terminal bud kills the tree.

*that Yaupon holly branches were used for arrows?*

The straight branches of Yaupon holly, or *Ilex vomitoria*, were ideal for arrow shafts. The high caffeine content of the leaves made a stimulating drink for ceremonies and the bark of the tree was also used medicinally.

*****

For more information:

*University of Florida IFAS Extension: “50 Common Native Plants Important in Florida's Ethnobotanical History” [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/uw152](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/uw152)*

*Seminole Tribe Chickee*

*Encyclopedia of Life Sabal Palmetto*
COMMUNITY SUPPORT

FNPS is a nonprofit organization whose mission is the preservation, conservation, and restoration of native plants and native plant communities of Florida. All meetings, field trips and other FNPS activities are free and open to all.

Pinellas Chapter of FNPS plays an active role in community outreach. If you are interested in participating, please visit our website Pinellas Chapter FNPS or contact the Chapter via email: pinellas@fnpschapters.org.

Our volunteers are the best. Thank you to our members, new and old and for the many hours you volunteer for FNPS.

Thank you to our Business Sponsors. They support us. Please support them.

This is your newsletter. As always, please feel free to contribute. Understory Editor, Ellen Raabe

SILENT PLANT AUCTION

Do you have native plants volunteering in your garden? Please put them up and bring to a monthly program (see Page 2). A silent auction of donated plants 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!

WE SUPPORT

The Pinellas Chapter supports efforts around the County and the State that express intention, take action, and show results in harmony with the mission of the Florida Plant Society. If you are aware of a community project, Friends Group, local ordinance initiative, municipal effort, or issue that deserves this Chapter’s encouragement or support, please contact a member of the Board (page 13). Here are a few of the parks and projects we have supported through advocacy, volunteers, or funds:

- Moccasin Lake Nature Park Butterfly Garden (City of Clearwater)
- Boyd Hill Environmental Education Center (City of St. Petersburg)
- Naturemania Camp (City of Largo)
- Dunedin Nature Center (City of Dunedin)
- Brooker Creek Nature Camps (George Heinrich)
- Weedon Island Fishing Camps (Sensing Nature LLC)
- Nature’s Academy (Garden at Fort de Soto)
- The Hammock: 50 for Fern and Invasive Removal Project (City of Dunedin and Friends of the Hammock)
- Friends of Pinellas Master Naturalists : Jerry Shrewsbury Award
- FNPS Conservation Grants Program (State level)
- Honeymoon Island Native Garden
- Pinellas County Extension/Florida Botanic Gardens, Largo
- Outreach events including Drive Electric Tampa Bay, Green Thumb, Lakes and Ponds Day, and Earth Day events
Chapter Directory

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Artist: Cathy Vogelsong
Events/Displays: Andy Karpinski
Field Trip Coordinator: Vacant
Spring and Fall Plant Festival Coordinator: Mary McCahon
Hospitality: Lisbet Thiron-Thome
Membership Coordinator: Nancy Bickner
Native Plant Demonstration Garden Liaison: Lisa Boing
Program Coordinator: Belinda Lambert
Publicity: Carlton Rowell
Sales/Merchandise: Vacant
Social Media: Katy Roberts and Donna Trott
Understory Editor: Ellen Raabe
Volunteer Coordinator: Vacant
Web Master: Jan Allyn

“Treat the earth well, It was not given to you by your parents,
It was loaned to you by your children”
~American Indian Proverb
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 of the Florida Native Plant Society

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