Our Chapter is going camping again!
This time, to Ocala National Forest from Friday-Sunday, 12-14 October and we have set aside a limited number of camping sites at the beautiful Juniper Springs campground. We hope that you can join us for a memorable expedition to one of Florida’s premier natural areas. Ocala National Forest is extra special in October and we will hike in one of its best managed sandhills on Friday afternoon and spend Saturday in the scrub. There is a very good chance of seeing red-cockaded woodpeckers and Florida fox squirrels in the former and we WILL see Florida scrub jays on Saturday - in addition to some amazing wildflowers. And, since we’ll be camping next to Juniper Springs, we can cool down in the water after each hike.

The trip will be led by Craig Huegel. If you wish to join us, you must make reservations. There are 1-2 sites that the Chapter has reserved and once these are gone, there are a few more you can make reservations for through the National Forest website, but don’t dawdle. Meals will be on your own each day, but we hope to get together in the evening to swap stories.

In conjunction with this trip, our meeting on October 3 will be presented by Craig and he will speak specifically about the ecology of the Florida Sandhill community.

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Upcoming Chapter Events:

The Pinellas Chapter holds monthly program meetings the first Wednesday of each month, 7:00 pm, at Moccasin Lake Nature Park, 2750 Park Trail Lane, Clearwater. We have announcements, a silent auction of plants and seed swap, and a featured speaker. Members are invited to bring refreshments to share. All meetings, field trips and other FNPS activities are free and open to all.

- **No meeting scheduled in August due to construction at Moccasin Lake Nature Park.**

- **Sept. 5 (Wed.) — Pinellas Chapter Meeting/Program,** 7:00 - 9:00 pm, at Moccasin Lake Nature Park. Program: Dr. Brandt Henningsen and Nancy Norten, SWFWMD. Rock Ponds Ecosystem Restoration Project is SWFWMD’s latest restoration project on the Tampa Bay. This is another amazing project reclaiming the natural ecosystem on the banks of Tampa Bay. These projects are being done mostly under the radar of public awareness. The project leaders will give us a program sharing their experience. This will be followed by an on site field trip on 9/8.

- **Sept. 8 (Sat.) — Field trip: Rock Ponds Ecosystem Restoration Project,** 8:30 - 11:30 am, led by Dr Brandt Henningsen and Nancy Norten.

  Carpool Information: Meet 7:45 a.m. at Publix parking lot at 3030 54th Ave South, St. Petersburg. Directions from carpool location to Rock Ponds site.

  Directions: Travel south on Interstate 275, crossing the Sunshine Skyway Bridge (toll). Take the US Highway 41 exit and go north. Travel north on US41 for 4.5 miles. Turn left onto County Line Road and drive about 0.1 to 0.2 miles to a gate on the right (north) side of County Line Road.

  There is a portable toilet, but no other restroom facilities at the site. You may want to stop en route at the Circle K on US41 and Bishop Harbor Road, which is about a mile north of the intersection of I-275 and US41. Bring sun protection, insect repellent, drinking water, snacks. Depending on the weather, the site may be wet or muddy. Optional lunch stop on the way home at The Sea Hut (aka Crab Trap 1), 5611 US-19, Palmetto.
• **Sept. 9 (Sun.) — 2019 Program/field trip planning**, 1:00 - 4:00 pm. The Pinellas Chapter of the FNPS will be having their 2019 Planning Meeting at Rebecca Wellborn's home, located in Dunedin. Pinellas Chapter FNPS Members are encouraged to attend with new ideas for meetings, field trips, speakers, etc. Come with your ideas and speaker contact information and help us fill in the calendar! Email pinellasfnps@gmail.com for meeting address.

• **Oct. 3 (Wed.) — Pinellas Chapter Meeting/Program**, 7:00 - 9:00 pm, at Moccasin Lake Nature Park. Program: Ecology of the Florida Sandhill community, presented by Craig Huegel, in conjunction with the Juniper Springs field trip.

• **Oct 12 -14 (Fri. - Sun.) — Field Trip/Camping**: Ocala National Forest and Juniper Springs State Recreation Area. For FNPS members only. We are planning a hike on Friday afternoon for those that can make it, and an extra hike Sunday morning for those who don't have to leave right away. Details will be forthcoming. We have reserved four adjacent camping spaces for chapter members. ONE IS STILL AVAILABLE. Each space can accommodate up to 5 people, with two cars, and two tents or a tent and a small RV. Site availability is on a first-come, first-served basis. Additional sites may be available directly from Recreation.gov. Prepayment of $42.60 for two nights (Fri. and Sat.) is required. Note: Our chapter’s insurance does not cover water activities, so we are not planning a group canoe trip. However, canoes available for those that wish to plan their own trip. To rent a canoe, call (352) 625-2808. Visit the chapter website for more details, and to reserve one of the sites. Or go to MeetUp.

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**Weekly on Wednesdays:** Regular weekly Pinellas Chapter work days at the Native Gardens, Pinellas County Extension/Florida Botanical Garden, 12520 Ulmerton Rd., Largo, FL. Volunteers needed at the Native Area of the Florida Botanical Garden meet every Wednesday from approximately 9 am to 1 pm.

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Visit our Calendar page for a current list of upcoming speakers, field trips and other events. [http://pinellas.fnpschapters.org/calendar/](http://pinellas.fnpschapters.org/calendar/)

To receive reminders/notifications of upcoming programs, field trips, and other activities, become a member of the Chapter's Meetup group. Visit the Subscribe page for more information and to sign up. [https://www.meetup.com/Pinellas-FNPS/](https://www.meetup.com/Pinellas-FNPS/)
Blooms & Brews Was a Crowd Pleaser (7/10/18)
By: Rebecca Wellborn

On July 10th, the Pinellas Chapter hosted a social event for members and the general public, at Caledonia Brewing in Dunedin. A casual evening for adults 21 and older, the event offered small batch craft brews, complimentary hors d'oeuvres and the opportunity to mix and mingle with native plant experts and novices. The event was promoted widely through local media, and attracted 45 guests, with over 20 nature & beer lovers who had never attended a chapter event, and knew little about Florida native plants. Several guests drove all the way from New Tampa and Pasco County, after reading about the event in the Tampa Bay Times. The event was supported by several chapter business members through donations of door prizes and prize money.

The highlight of the evening was the Plant ID contest, sponsored by Wilcox Nursery, and artfully orchestrated by Stefan Babjack, PCFNPS Board Member. Stefan collected and displayed over 30 Florida native cuttings and fruit, allowing guests an hour to complete their answer sheets. At the appointed time Stefan identified each specimen with interesting facts and anecdotes, which made for an entertaining educational presentation. At the conclusion, Wilcox Nursery gift certificates were awarded to the top three plant experts. First Place went to Jim McGinity.

Throughout the evening, door prizes donated by chapter business members were given away to lucky guests. Please thank these business members for their generous support of this event: Hawthorne Hill Native Wildflower Nursery, Hort and Soul Landscape, Rebecca Wellborn Realtor, Sunset House and Gardens, The Garden at Modern Relics and Wilcox Nursery and Landscape.

Will there be another Blooms & Brews? You tell us....

Congratulations to Jim Mcginity, the winner of "Blooms & Brews" plant ID contest, with 19 out of 34 correct!

Thanks to everybody who came out, to Rebecca Wellborn and Stefan Babjak for organizing the event, to our business members who donated door prizes and the plant ID contest prize, and to Caledonia Brewing for hosting! It was a lot of fun, and we plan to do it again.

ID table photo by Julia Herbst.
Photos above and right by Rebecca Wellborn.

Left, Stefan Babjack, announcing, and right, Jim McGinity, who won the plant ID contest. Photos by Alexa Huegel.
The photo below (thanks Rebecca Wellborn) shows some of the native plants in the plant ID contest from the Chapter’s Blooms and Brews social event. How many can you name? See page 10 for the answers.

Congratulations Wilcox Nursery and Stefan Babjack for recognition by Keep Pinellas Beautiful as “Outstanding Commercial Business Partner”!
Seeking “Renewal” in Palm Beach

By Jan Allyn

A summer road trip seemed like a good idea, so three chapter board members and a former chapter member who is now a Nature Coast ex-pat packed sunscreen and bathing suits and set out for a weekend adventure on Florida’s east coast. Mary Sanders, Sue Taylor, Annie Johnson (the ex-pat), and I had three destinations in mind, but the main draw was photographic.

The theme of this year’s FNPS Conference was “Renewal,” and one of its related activities was an exhibit at the Palm Beach Photographic Centre in West Palm that was devoted solely to native plants, with its opening reception around the time of the conference. The exhibit was primarily a project of the Palm Beach Chapter, with a number of sponsoring organizations. It featured 100 marvelous images of native Florida flora in all its glorious, colorful beauty. Large photos of wildflowers, shrubs, trees, wildlife, and natural landscapes were unframed and presented very simply, tacked up around the gallery. As you would expect, each had an accompanying card with the name of the plant and of the photographer; as a wonderful bonus, most also included a few sentences about the plant, information about wildlife interactions, ethnobotany, or other tidbits - great education for folks who are still learning about natives. Eighteen photographers from around the state contributed their talents, including two from our chapter, Craig Huegel and Christina Evans. The exhibit will be up until August 4th, and Palm Beach Chapter Prez Susan Lerner reports that they are producing a catalog of the exhibit. We’ll keep you posted about its availability.

Pan’s Garden also beckoned us. This lovely little walled garden is right in downtown Palm Beach. Its half-acre is snugged up against the headquarters of the Preservation Foundation of Palm Beach, which created it in 1994. A burbling fountain graces the entrance, with a statue of Pan playing his pipe there to greet you. A vine-covered arbor, small shaded pond, tree-covered mound, numerous benches, and a colorful tiled border wall make the garden a charming place to visit. Despite its relatively small size, it has great diversity and its winding paths make it fun to explore. Most, but not all, of the plants were labeled. According to the Foundation’s website: “The one-half acre garden features over 300 species of native trees, shrubs, grasses and wild flowers, many of which are...
endangered. These are incorporated into upland and wetland areas designed to display their naturally occurring relationships to one another." Plants we saw and admired included geiger tree (*Sebestena cordia*), pond apple (*Annona glabra*), torchwood (*Amyris elemifera*), and whisk fern (*Psilotum nudum*). The garden is located at 386 Hibiscus Avenue in Palm Beach and is open every day (except major holidays) from 9 am to 5 pm. Free parking is available on the street and the garden even has public restrooms. If you are in the area, do stop for a visit!

**List of plant species in Pan's Garden**

Our third destination was the Morikami Museum and Gardens, located to the south in Delray Beach. It is a wonderful place that we enjoyed immensely, but I will leave its description to Sue Taylor, whose appreciation for Japanese culture makes her much more qualified to write about it!

**Morikami Museum and Gardens**  
By Susan Taylor

There is an extensive collection of large Bonsai trees, many are Florida natives, some of which are hundreds of years old.  

![Morikami Garden polypody fern.](image)

Above the Hiraniwa Flat Garden Buddha. The flat garden visually incorporates outside elements in a design called “borrowed scenery”.

A virtual tour with Japanese interpretations through the entire garden can be accessed through www.morikami.org/tour
ASLA Survey: Demand High for Residential Landscapes with Sustainability

The 2018 Residential Landscape Architecture Trends Survey conducted by the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) is out, and Native plants, drought tolerant and low-maintenance landscapes topped the list of projects with the expected highest consumer demand. Landscape architects were asked to rate the expected popularity of a variety of residential outdoor design elements in 2018. The survey was fielded February 22 through March 8, 2018, with 808 responding.

ASLA revised the survey this year to include new types of outdoor amenities that appeal to both single-family and multi-family owners and residents. Residential design is the largest market sector for the landscape architecture profession. Most of that work consists of single-family homes but also includes multi-family and retirement communities.

Here are the top ten project types with the expected highest consumer demand:

- Native plants - 83.3%
- Native/adapted drought tolerant plants - 83.0%
- Low-maintenance landscapes - 80.0%
- Flexible use space (for yoga classes, movie night, etc.) - 74.2%
- Permeable paving - 74.0%
- Drip/water-efficient irrigation - 72.4%
- Rain gardens - 71.2%
- Reduced lawn area - 70.8%
- Food/vegetable gardens (including orchards, vineyards, etc.) - 70.5%
- Charging stations (mobile devices) - 70.0%

This lineup is virtually unchanged from 2017 except for the additions of flexible-use space and charging stations.

The top three most popular outdoor design elements include fire pits/ fireplaces (66.0 percent), lighting (65.4 percent) and seating/dining areas (64.0 percent). The top landscape and garden elements are expected to include native plants (83.3 percent), low-maintenance landscapes (80.0 percent) and rain gardens (71.2 percent). In 2017 the top three were native plants (81.6 percent), low-maintenance landscapes (79.3 percent) and food/vegetable gardens (76.5 percent).

The hottest sustainable design elements include native/adapted drought tolerant plants (83.0 percent), permeable paving (74.0 percent) and drip/water-efficient irrigation (72.4 percent).
last year's top three in this category were almost the same: native/adapted drought tolerant plants (82.3 percent), permeable paving (76.3 percent) and reduced lawn area (72.7 percent).

Here is the link to the full article: ASLA Survey

From left, pipevine swallowtail on white beardtongue, Sherman's fox squirrel, and silver aster (*Symphyotrichum concolor*), all species found in Florida's sandhill community. See Oct. 3 Chapter program, p. 3. Photos by Craig Huegel.

Our monthly meetings include a seed swap. Bring some, take some, expand your native plant repertoire!

Do you have extra "volunteer" plants? Support the Chapter by donating them for our silent auction.

Answers from page 6
18 Carolina Aster
20 Weeping Yaupon
21 Seaside Ambrosia
22 Beauty Berry
23 Simpson Stopper
24 Soft Leaf Cofee
25 Indigo Berry
26 Pickerwell Weed
27 Fiddlewood
28 False Rosemary
29 Salt and Pepper
30 Paradise Tree
31 Tropical Sage
32 Gum Bumelia
33 Gallairdia
34 Beach creeper

How many plants could you name?
Save The Date – FANN’s 6th Annual The Native Plant Show  - Oct. 18 – 19

By popular demand, the Florida Association of Native Nurseries (FANN) Native Plant Show will be expanding its educational offerings to include classes designed for ecologically minded gardeners and private property owners seeking sustainability solutions. For the first five years, the Native Plant Show served a primarily industry professional audience. This year the show, held at the Bradenton Area Convention Center, will expand to serve both a professional and amateur audience. The theme of this year’s show is “Making Native Plants Your New Norm”.

The Native Plant Show is an education event with exhibits featuring native plants and select green products and services. Continuing education classes are provided for horticulture, landscape and environmental professionals as well as concerned property owners and ecologically minded gardeners. Growers and green professionals from throughout Florida and the Southeastern U.S. are invited to exhibit and provide classes or demonstrations related to native plants. Meet experts that know how to use these plants in a variety of settings, and even score some great native plant buys.

Attendees include landscape architects, designers, installers, maintenance professionals, environmental consultants, municipalities, arborists and other professionals interested in native plant production, sustainable landscaping and wetland and upland restoration. Twenty percent of attendees are registered landscape architects.

Native plant enthusiasts, master gardeners and conservation gardeners should mark their calendars, save the date, and watch for registration to open in the late summer 2018. For more information visit www.nativeplantshow.com.

Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ means using low-maintenance plants and environmentally sustainable practices. Each county has a Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ program. To find out more about Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ in Pinellas County, contact FFL Extension Agent Brian Niemann at (727) 453-6524 or FFL Community Outreach Coordinator Doris Heitzman at (727) 582-2422.
Coneflowers  By: Craig Huegel

A quick look at a list of common names of Florida native plants would result in a rather long list of “coneflowers”. A total of seven “black-eyed susans” are also called coneflowers as is clasping coneflower, *Dracopis amplexicauli*, of the Florida Panhandle. In my mind, however, the “real” coneflowers are either yellow or purple. They are both common members of the Midwestern prairie states where I grew up and they are both extremely rare and limited in their Florida distribution. That does not mean, however, that they are not widely sold in the trade here.

I suspect that most of the yellow and purple coneflower (*Ratibida pinnata* and *Echinacea purpurea*, respectively) sold in the trade, both in native plant nurseries and in more traditional ones, originate from northern plants and not from Florida stock. I have no way to prove that, but the fact that most plants do not seem to persist in most Florida landscapes south of our most northern counties tells me that these are not from our ecotype. Ecotype is important for many of our natives and especially so with these two species. Even then, our growing conditions here in west-central Florida are markedly different from those where these two species naturally occur.

Quite a few years ago, I had the privilege of seeing these in situ during a field trip at the State FNPS Conference based in Tallahassee. This was a limestone glade on private land in Gadsden County. Here, the soils are relatively thin and limestone juts out of the ground nearly everywhere you look. Yellow and purple coneflower occur with other wildflowers and grasses in wooded openings between the larger patches of woods. In such a setting, they have to be drought- and lime-soil-tolerant and they do not get full sun all day. Purple coneflower only grows in these Gadsden County glades while yellow coneflower also occurs in these conditions in nearby Jackson and Madison Counties.

From my gardening experience, neither of these two species are especially picky about soil pH. Putting them in slightly acidic soil does not seem to make a difference. They prefer slightly above-average soil moisture, but are quite drought tolerant once established. Given too much sun or too little, however, is usually fatal. If you wish to use these species, give them about four hours of sun and then part sun for the remainder of the day.
Purple and yellow coneflower are excellent pollinator plants. Of the two, purple coneflower wins the prize. Butterflies and bees, in nearly equal numbers, visit the blooms and flowers can be present for much of the late spring until early fall. In the Midwestern prairie states, robust flower stalks up to five feet tall are common. Here, it is rare that they stand above three. Flower heads are produced in succession above the rosette of basal leaves. They are deciduous species and will generally die to the ground from November until February. Leave the spent flower stalks, however, for the long-horned bees. They are as equally cool as the coneflowers.

Other Events of Interest:

**Nov. 3 — Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park Fall Wildflower Walk,** led by Roger Hammer and Craig Huegel. Registration for this popular annual event will be opening soon. Friends of Kissimmee Prairie Preserve members get early notification and a discount on registration fees. If you aren’t a member yet, please join us!

UF/IFAS Extension, Urban Horticulture classes. Pinellas County Extension’s Urban Horticulture folks have some great classes coming up to help you manage your landscape more sustainably! Go to EventBrite.com

Blowing Rock and black sand on Juniper Beach. Photo by Susan Taylor. See road trip article page 7.
Thank you to our Business Sponsors. They support us. Please support them.
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.

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