

**Mark your calendars**

**Dec 5**

Conservation Celebration. Annual joint holiday fundraiser with St. Pete Audubon Society. Pinellas County Extension, 12520 Ulmerton Rd, Largo. Start time **6:30 pm**

**Dec Field Trip**

There is no field trip scheduled for December.

**Dec Board Meeting**

There is no board meeting scheduled for December.

**Jan 2 Monthly Meeting 7:00 pm.** Moccasin Lake Nature Park.

Topic: "Florida's Native Fruit Plants".

Speaker: Charles Boning

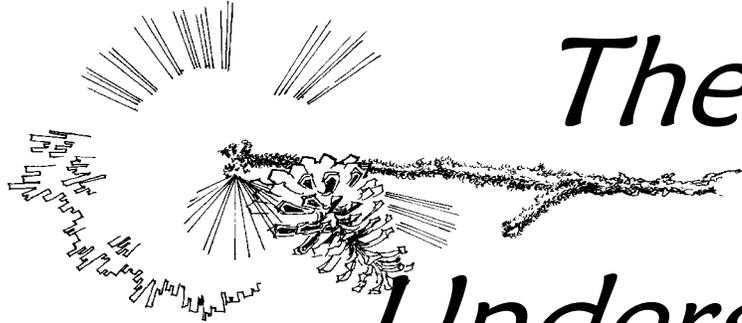
**Jan 5 Field Trip to Historic Bok Sanctuary, Lake Wales.**

Leader: Cindy Campbell. Contact: Erica Powell at [fieldtrip.pinellas@pinellas.org](mailto:fieldtrip.pinellas@pinellas.org)

**Jan 23 - Board Meeting** Clearwater Library 100 N Osceola Ave.

**6:30pm -8:30pm**

The mission of the Florida Native Plant Society is to promote the preservation, conservation, and restoration of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida.



# The Understory

## *New Officers and Board Members for 2008*

At the November members' meeting a new slate of chapter officers and board members for 2008 developed by the nominating committee was presented to the general membership and elected unanimously. They are:

Officers

President	Bill Bilodeau
Vice President	Cindy Peacock*
Secretary	Melody Staunton*
Treasurer	Jane Williams
Chapter Rep.	Debbie Chayet
Past President	Cathy Quindiagan

\*indicates new to the position

Board of Directors

New: Alexa Wilcox, Marie Hughes and Jim McGinity  
Returning: Bruce Turley, Lisa Curry, Ray Wunderlich

Thank you to the nominating committee comprised of Bruce Turley, Jan Allyn, and Joy Wharton for their successful efforts. The officers and board members look forward to serving the membership in the fulfillment of the mission of the Florida Native Plant Society.

**Deadline for the Feb/Mar Newsletter is Jan 1<sup>st</sup>**  
**Contact Lisa Curry with suggestions or story ideas at [lkcurry1@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:lkcurry1@tampabay.rr.com) or 727/698-3136**

**Do you need information about what can be recycled and where to recycle in your community? Try these handy links for locations and materials.**



<http://earth911.org/>  
<http://www.pinellascounty.org/utilities/departments/solid-waste.htm>

## *President's Message Holiday Reflections*

We will soon be entering the annual end of the year holidays of Thanksgiving and Christmas. These events with their emphasis on thankfulness and giving provide fine opportunities for reflection on our personal lives and on some of our community involvements. I would like to relate these themes to our native plant chapter activities.

We have much to be thankful for in the past year. There have been ample opportunities for involvement in conservation and restoration projects such as Little Bayou, the Clam Bayou house, Rainbow at Mars and others. With the arising of significant controversies around Brooker Creek Preserve and Shell Key, and issues about cypress mulch and plant conservation, there have been opportunities for advocacy, occasions for us to raise our voices. We have made many presentations of our outreach programs to people who are looking for some insight in how to landscape and garden in more environmentally friendly ways. These are just some of the highlights which reveal the endless opportunities that call us to carry out our mission to preserve, conserve, and restore the native plants and native plant communities of Florida. Instead of seeing the issues and engagements as problems, we can choose to be thankful for the opportunities to be engaged in significant and meaningful work. We can be thankful as well for a functioning board of directors which does a considerable amount of work to support the mission, much of it unseen.

We can also be most thankful that there is now significant movement in society as a whole and

locally as well towards a more sustainable future. Green has gone mainstream. The demand for residential native plant landscaping is on the rise. The cities of St. Petersburg and Clearwater are underway in programs intended to achieve "Green Cities" designations. The guidelines of this program require changing many of the old ways of doing things. The global warming issue is forcing all of us to re-examine and change our personal lifestyles. We can be thankful to live in these exciting and challenging times as we transition into an era of greater sustainability and harmony with natural processes.

Giving, the theme of Christmas, can have great implications for chapter members as well. This virtue reveals a stepping outside of oneself to support another or others. It is an act of creating community. With all the opportunities for engagement mentioned above, if a member fails to give of their time and effort to chapter activities, he or she is really depriving the community of support. If native plants are a love of yours, please share it with the larger community by being engaged in chapter activities and helping us to spread the message. Our chapter could be stronger through a more generous participation of its general membership. To those of you, who are engaged, thank you for your acts of giving. Your support makes a difference and is highly appreciated.

It is my hope that all of you enjoy the holidays and that you put aside some time for meaningful reflection.

-Bill Bilodeau

### **Pinellas County Utilities Mobile Collection Service at East Lake High School**

**Sat, Jan. 26th 9:00am to 2:00pm**

#### **What to bring:**

**Chemicals: automotive fluids, cleaners, fertilizers, fluorescent bulbs and other mercury containing devices, fungicides, herbicides, household batteries, paint (latex or oil), paint remover and thinner, pesticides, pool chemicals, solvents, wood preservatives.**

**Electronics: TVs, VCRs, cell phones, computers, copiers, digital cameras, fax machines, microwave ovens, monitors, printers, printer cartridges, stereo equipment, telephones, etc.**

**DO NOT BRING: appliances, biological or infectious waste, empty paint cans, explosives, fire extinguishers, garbage, propane tanks, smoke detectors, vehicle batteries.**

## *Volunteers “FALL” Into Place*

Fall weather was a little too slow to arrive for the chapter’s fall fund raiser / native plant sale on October 6. In spite of the persistent heat, the ever dependable volunteers fell into place to help us move plants to the Brooker Creek Preserve Education Center on Friday and greet the public on Saturday. Additionally, much volunteer work was involved with the break down of the event and the transport of plants and chapter materials late on Saturday afternoon.

Thank you chapter volunteer coordinator, Joy Wharton, for making many phone calls to round up the full numbers of people needed to help.

A special hug to Hilary Edenfield and Lisa Curry for taking the “lion’s share” load of work off of me by preparing for this sale (those plants don’t line up with reams of printed tags by themselves)!

A round of applause is in order for those that provided the day’s educational programs. This includes Cindy Peacock with the children’s program of planting wildflower seeds in pots to take home, Craig Huegel with his program on gardening for butterflies, Bill Bilodeau and Jan Allyn for presenting the two “In Harmony with Nature” outreach programs produced by this chapter and the St. Petersburg Audubon Society.



Thank you for the generosity of those that used their vehicles (and fuel) to move plants the long distance from the nursery to the preserve and then back again. In addition, the work involved makes this a special level of help. Thank you one and all for this indispensable service.

Kudos to all the great people that worked the sale event. Thank you for helping the public learn about native plants and make their choices.

Here goes the list of all involved. Please don’t let lightning strike me if I have missed anyone. I apologize for anyone mistakenly omitted!

Jan Anschuetz, Sharon Kane, Bob Funari, Alexa Wilcox-Huegel, Rose Taylor, Evelyn Motry, Marie Hughes, Pat O’Meara, Cindy Peacock, Larry Sousa, Bill Bilodeau, Melody Staunton, Cathy Quindiagon, Katy Roberts, Jan Allyn, Lisa Curry, Bonnie Jenks, Karen Richey, Janet Martin, Laurie Bowen, Hilary Edenfield and Jim McGinity.

- Bruce Turley
- Photo courtesy Laurie Bowen

# HOLIDAY CONSERVATION CELEBRATION

*Featured Program:*  
**Terry Tomalin**  
Outdoors Editor  
St. Petersburg Times

**Wednesday, December 5, 2007**

*Pinellas County Extension, 12520 Ulmerton Road, Largo*  
*Free admission ~ Public invited!*



*"A Paddle and a Prayer"*

*25 years on the wild waterways of Florida*

*Times Outdoors Editor: Terry Tomalin talks about  
paddling the state's rivers, coasts and blue water in  
everything from sea kayaks and dugouts to ocean-going  
canoes*



**Annual Joint Meeting & Fundraiser for:**



**6:30- 8:00 p.m.:** Mix & Mingle – Refreshments – Environmental Exhibits  
Silent Auction of books, plants, craft and holiday gift items

**8:00- 8:30 p.m.:** Welcome – Announcements - Awards

**8:30- 9:30 p.m.:** "A Paddle and a Prayer" Terry Tomalin

**9:30 p.m.:** Claim Auction Items & Door Prizes



*For information call the Pinellas FNPS Info Line 727-544-7341 or visit:*  
[www.pinellasnativeplants.org](http://www.pinellasnativeplants.org)      [www.stpeteaudubon.org](http://www.stpeteaudubon.org)

**2008 FNPS Conference**  
**Help Needed**

**Florida Native Plant Society**  
**28th Annual Conference**  
**May 15-18, 2008**  
*Co-hosted by the Mangrove, Pinellas, Serenoa & Suncoast Chapters*

As part of the planning process, we need to contact potential vendors, sponsors, and silent auction donors. This is a very important task that urgently needs attention. We have a list of good prospects and need help making telephone calls. If you'd be willing to take part in this endeavor, please contact conference co-chair Ray Wunderlich at 727-577-4344 or rayrunner@yahoo.com for more information

Field trip leaders, trip assistants and lunch coordinators needed. Contact Lisa Curry at 727-698-3136 or lkurry1@tampabay.rr.com

**To volunteer your time and energy for upcoming events. Please contact Joy Wharton at 522-8769 to add your name to the volunteer list.**

**Bald Cypress**  
*Taxodium distichum*

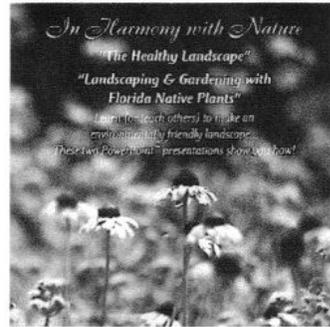
Taylor Lake Park  
 Photo courtesy:  
 Lisa Curry



**New Educational Tool!**

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*In Harmony with Nature*



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**Mail to:** Pinellas Chapter Florida Native Plant Society, PO Box 1661, Pinellas Park, FL 33780-1661

**For more information:** please contact Bill Bilodeau (727) 322-9695 -or- billbilodeau@earthlink.net

## Saltbush

By Craig Huegel

Reprinted from The Understory, Dec.-Jan. 2003

Saltbush (*Baccharis* spp.) is a very visible element of our fall flora here in Florida. As many of our fall-blooming wildflowers begin to fade, the silvery white tassels of this common woody aster become even more noticeable. What many of us fail to notice, however, is that this shrub is actually three distinct species, each having distinctly different male and female flowers on separate plants. Look closely and you will begin to see the differences between them.

Although each is unique, the three saltbushes share many of the same traits. All are tardily deciduous shrubs that rarely exceed 12 feet in height. Their many branches are rather weak and have an open appearance. The leaves also are generally small in size and sparse. Few would plant any of the saltbushes strictly as a foliage plant.

As their name implies, saltbushes are common in coastal areas and have a high tolerance of salt. But, they are not restricted to these types of environments and may occur in a wide variety of disturbed, open and moist soil habitats. In fact, they are likely to be seen in all but the driest, most well-drained areas. Salt bushes are dioecious. This means that each individual is either a male or a female. Only the females produce the fluffy silvery white flowers late in the fall. Male flowers are greenish in distinctly rounded spheres.

The three species of saltbushes have many similar traits. Differences are most apparent in their vegetation. Following are brief descriptions of the three species.



*Baccharis angustifolia*: This species occurs in near coastal areas from North Carolina south, throughout Florida. As the scientific name implies this species has narrow, needle-shaped leaves. The leaves also are attached directly to the stem without a leaf stalk. The leaf shape is the easiest way to distinguish this species from the others.

*B. glomerulifolia*: This species also occurs throughout the southeastern coastal plain from North Carolina throughout Florida. As its scientific name implies, this species has decidedly rounded flower heads. The uniqueness of these flowers, however, is that they are attached directly to the branches without a flower stalk. This is not true for the other two species, and is the best way to distinguish this one from the following species, which has similar foliage.

*B. halimifolia*: This is the common, almost weedy species found through out the Southeast, north to Massachusetts and south to the West Indies. It also is the most likely saltbush to be found in inland settings. The leaves often are rather diamond-shaped and most display distinct teeth along the outer margin. Most often the foliage is a rather gray-green. Foliage can be variable, however, and some leaves may be elliptical.

## Weedon Island Preserve

**Give the Gift of Nature**  
**Saturday, Dec 8 11:00 am – 12:00 pm**

What if you could replace hectic holiday traffic and last-minute shopping with walks outdoors and time with your family? If this sounds like a welcome change to your holiday routine, then this is the program for you. Using common household materials and natural objects, you can create beautiful, personal, and one-of-a-kind gifts for friends and relatives. Participants in this free workshop will be able to create up to three different nature crafts.

**Pre-registration is required.**  
**Ages 5 and up**

**“Visions of Florida ”**

**Jason Hahn,**  
**Professional Nature Photographer.**

“Visions of Florida ” is a detailed study of various Florida ecosystems from the Everglades to the Myakka River . This visual journey groups together photographs of each location around a major theme, exploring the essence of that environment. Fine art prints, note cards, and calendars from Hahn's collection will make great holiday gifts.

**This exhibit is free and open to the public during normal Center hours through Sun, Dec 30.**

Contact Weedon Island Preserve Cultural and Natural History Center at (727) 453-6500 or visit [www.pinellascounty.org/Environment/pagesHTML/se10.html](http://www.pinellascounty.org/Environment/pagesHTML/se10.html) to learn more about these and upcoming programs. Learn about the history of the Preserve by visiting their homepage at [www.weedonislandcenter.org](http://www.weedonislandcenter.org)

## Brooker Creek Preserve

**Cypress Swamp Café – Climate Change: A Primer on Carbon Offsets and Trading**  
**Wed, Dec 12 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm**  
**and 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm**

Terms like carbon offsets and carbon trading appear often in news about climate change. Learn how governments, businesses and individuals are using carbon offsets and trading to impact climate change positively. Join us for either the mid-afternoon or early evening presentation. Cypress Swamp Café is a monthly series that explores ways you can live a more sustainable lifestyle.

**Pre-registration is required.**

**“John Moran's Florida: One State, Many Worlds”**

John Moran's work celebrates the enchantment of the Florida landscape born of water and blessed with beauty beyond measure. His portfolio of landscape and wildlife photography ranges from the Gulf of Mexico to the Atlantic Ocean with an emphasis on Florida waters: the rivers, lakes, coasts, swamps, and springs and the creatures that inhabit them.

**Visitors can enjoy this free exhibit during normal Center hours through December 31.**

**Contact Brooker Creek Preserve Environmental Education Center at (727) 453-6800 or visit [www.pinellascounty.org/Environment/pagesHTML/se10.html](http://www.pinellascounty.org/Environment/pagesHTML/se10.html)**

**Learn how to become a Friend of Brooker Creek at <http://www.friendsofbrookercreekpreserve.org/> Members of the Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve receive a discount on admission fees.**

## *Pinellas County Cautious in Creating Fort DeSoto Development Plan*

On October 18, Pinellas County conducted a stakeholders' meeting as a preliminary step toward developing a Fort DeSoto development plan. The "community planning and design" consulting firm Glatting Jackson Kercher Anglin has a contract to produce the plan and conducted the meeting. Those invited to participate represented Pinellas County, environmental organizations (including FNPS, Tampa Bay Estuary Program and St. Petersburg Audubon), recreation clubs, recreation-oriented businesses, the film industry, the park's Friends group, and Isla del Sol chamber of commerce. The consensus of those assembled could fairly be summarized as "Don't build a bunch of stuff in the park and mess it up. Its value is in its uncluttered beach vistas and unspoiled nature. Protect what's there already."

The meeting had a positive tone with many good suggestions, including but not limited to: Create better/more consistent interpretive and way-finding signs that include more information on the history of the park, keep removing the exotics, allow native vegetation to grow closer to the roadway to minimize maintenance and give a more natural appearance, investigate carrying capacity, enforce existing rules consistently. One creative idea was to provide guided interpretive talks as podcasts on the County's website.

Pinellas County plans to close a stretch of beach between the dog park and North Beach to all human visitors in order to give sea turtles and shorebirds some breathing space; this was in the plan prior to the meeting. Also, Penny for Pinellas funds will be used to build beach "walkovers" to keep people off the dune vegetation. Australian pine removal will continue, and mature trees (native species) will replace them where they are providing shade. Prescribed burns are being done on a 3-year cycle.

There will be further meetings with stakeholders as GJKA comes up with its "development plan" for Ft. DeSoto, and the completed plan will ultimately need to be approved by Commissioners. The purpose of the first meeting was to gather information for the benefit of the GJKA. Advocacy by FNPS members may be needed as the plan emerges. In its proposals for Wall Springs and Lake Seminole County Parks, GJKA tended to crowd in amenities at the expense of natural systems, a situation that is clearly unwanted at Fort DeSoto. However, the county is particularly sensitive about the plans for this park given the previous public outcry when unwanted development was proposed.

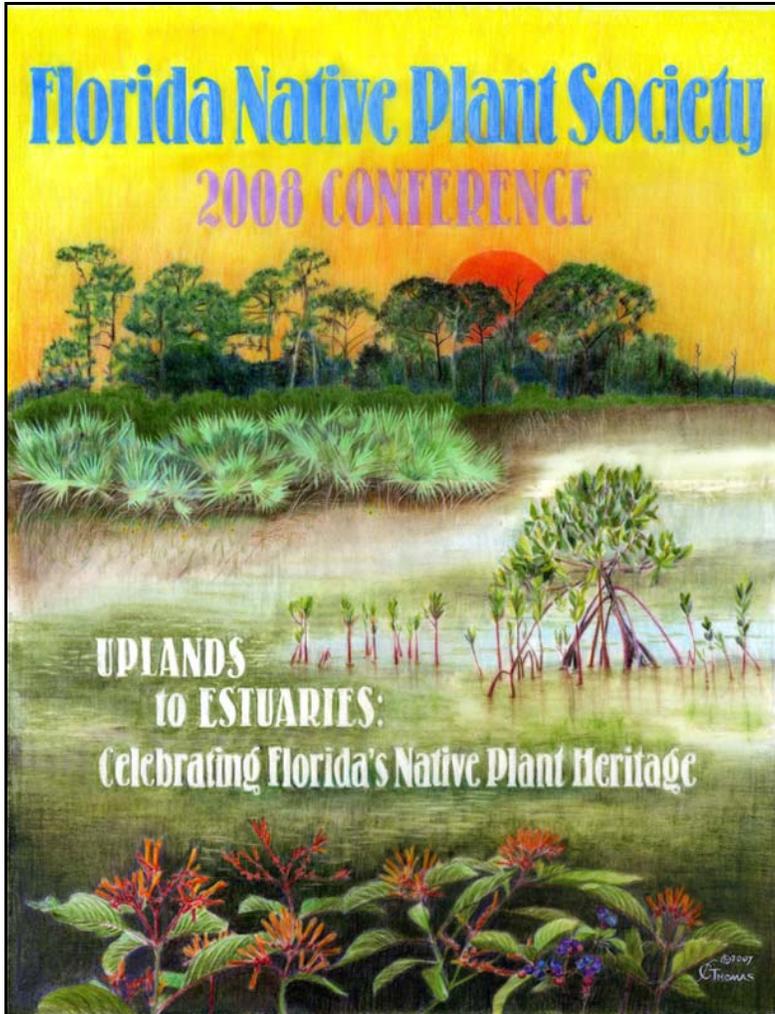
- Jan Allyn

### *Plant 1000 Trees Before you Die*

Join Dr. Forbes as he supports the environment  
by giving back to Mother Earth.

In 2007 Dr. Forbes will fund the purchase of 4000 trees in the continuing effort to support the environment. This year's event will be held at the **New Port Richey Public Library**,  
5939 Main Street, on **Fri, Dec 7**.

Trees will be available from **12:00 pm to 4:00 pm** and are FREE! Press conference at 2:00 PM.  
The trees are 1st generation Longleaf Pine Tree seedlings, 10 - 16 inches when delivered.



## **28th Annual Conference**

May 15-18, 2008

Manatee Convention Center

Palmetto, Florida

*Hosted by the Mangrove, Pinellas,  
Serenoa & Suncoast Chapters*

### Purpose of Conference:

To provide educational programs to FNPS members and the general public about the planting, preservation, conservation and restoration of Florida native plants and their associated plant communities.

For registration information visit  
[www.fnps.org](http://www.fnps.org)

### **Notable conference activities:**

- Field trips to over 20 locations highlighting native plant communities, native trees, shrubs and wildflowers led by botanists and local plant specialists.
- Native plant sale providing locally grown trees, shrubs and wildflowers throughout the event. Hundreds of new native plants for home landscapes!
- Educational exhibit tables; many vendors.
- The latest news in conservation, preservation and restoration of Florida native plant communities.
- Workshops for landscape design, making plant specimens, nature photography, scientific information regarding the "Real Florida" and much more.
- Social and networking events.

### **For information about sponsorship opportunities and benefits, please contact:**

Karina Veaudry (executivedirector@fnps.org / 407.895.8446) or

Ray Wunderlich (rayrunner@yahoo.com / 727.577.4344)

## OFFICERS

President: Bill Bilodeau 322-9695

Vice-President: Cindy Peacock

Secretary: Melody Staunton

Treasurer: Jane Williams 447-7394

Chapter Rep: Deborah Chayet

dchayet@verizon.net

Alternate Chapter Rep: Ray Wunderlich

Past President: Cathy Quindiagan 327-7573

-Special Events/Festivals: Jan Allyn

Field Trips: Craig Huegel

Membership: Cindy Peacock

Newsletter Editor: Lisa Curry 698-3136

Program Coordinator: Cathy Quindiagan

Publicity: Lorraine Margeson 525-6627

Sales-Merchandising: Rose Taylor 821-8267

-Plants: Bruce Turley 595-2073

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lisa Curry, Alexa Huegel, Marie Hughes, James McGinity and Bruce Turley

## STANDING COMMITTEES

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Education-Displays: Marie Hughes 521-1261

-Scholarships: Cindy Peacock 787-4031

## COORDINATORS

Budget: Jane Williams 447-7394

Newsletter Reporter: Jan Allyn 399-1022

Refreshments: Hilary Edenfield

Volunteer Coordinator: Joy Wharton 522-8769

Web Master: Jan Allyn

Illustrations: Cathy Vogelsong

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*Chapter web address:  
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