

## Mark your calendars

**Oct 4** - Monthly Membership meeting. Moccasin Lake Nature Park 7:30 pm. Topic: The Spectacular Catesby Lily

**Oct TBA** - Field trip to Starkey Wilderness Park. Contact Bill Bilodeau 322-9695

**Oct 7** - Fall Plant Sale Brooker Creek Preserve 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

**Oct 25** - Board Meeting. Clearwater Library 6:30 pm -9:00 pm

**Nov 1** - Monthly Membership meeting. Moccasin Lake Nature Park 7:30 pm. Topic: Restoring Tampa Bays Coastal Habitats

**Nov 4** - Field trip to Clam Bayou. Contact Bill Bilodeau 322-9695

**Nov 29** - Board Meeting. Clearwater Library 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm

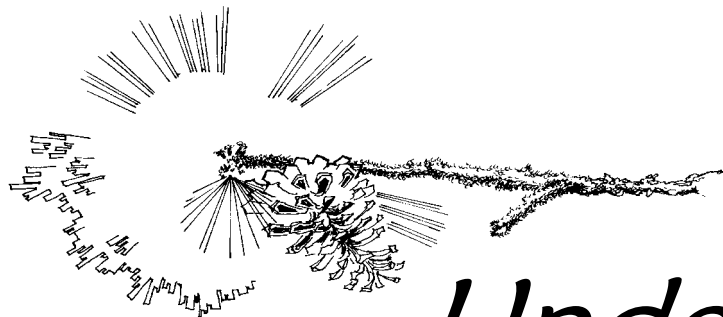
### Welcome New Members

**Vicki Jackson**

**Jeanne Johnson**

**Mathew Poling**

**Heather Wilson**



# The Understory

## Act Now!

Act now before it is too late! In the last newsletter we announced we would be converting to a paperless newsletter. The response has been exceptional. For those of you who have not expressed your desire to keep receiving your newsletter in hardcopy format, time is running out. This will be the last hardcopy newsletter you receive unless you contact us stating you prefer to receive

it in the printed format. If you do not receive this newsletter via email please contact us with your current email address and we will happily email future newsletters to you. Please send all requests, comments or questions to lkcurry1@tampabay.rr.com or call Lisa Curry at 727/595-2073.

Thank you all for your cooperation in making this transition successful.

## Nominations for Officers and Board Members for 2007

A vestige of the fall season, is our need to elect the board of directors and officers for the coming year. This election happens at our annual November members' meeting. The nominating committee for this year consists of Jan Allyn, Joy Wharton, and Bruce Turley. Chapter by-laws require the committee to consist of at least 2 board members (Jan and Bruce) and one non-board member (Joy).

Two other points in our by-laws are the requirement to publish the list of nominations in our newsletter, prior to the November election as well as the opportunity for members to nominate willing candidates for the board positions. Nominations can be made up to the time of the election at the

November meeting.

In keeping with the by-laws, the following is a list of the nominated officers and board members for 2007. Thank you to all the individuals willing to sacrifice their time for this important function of the organization!

President: Bill Bilodeau, Vice-President: Ray Wunderlich III, Secretary: Jan Allyn, Treasurer: Jane Williams, Chapter Representative: Debbie Chayet, Alternate Chapter Representative: Ray Wunderlich III, Past President: Cathy Quindiagon.

Board Members: Stephanie Cain, Lisa Curry, Melody Staunton, Nancy Smith, Elizabeth France, Cindy Peacock, Bruce Turley.

## *President's Message*

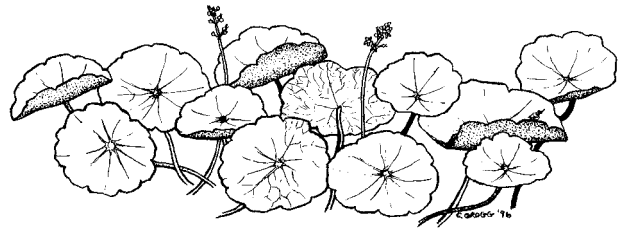
It's that time of the year again. Our Fall plant sale at Brooker Creek Nature Preserve is on Saturday, October 7th from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Last year was the first time we held our sale in the northern part of the county. We enjoyed it so much, we are back there again.

Brooker Creek Nature Preserve is the perfect setting for our Fall For Natives sale. Along with the plant sale we will have activities for every member of the family.

We hope you bring family, friends, and neighbors who have never experienced one of our plant sales and let us help them select something that will enhance their yard and contribute

to the habitats that shelter and feed our wildlife. While you are here buy a plant for a schoolyard that can be used as a learning lesson.

It will also give you a chance to show your support to the Friends of Brooker Creek who are working so hard to organize a campaign for the protection of the preserve. - Cathy Quindiagan



## *Penny for Pinellas* Public meeting notice

Mar 13th, 2007 voters will be asked to renew the Penny for Pinellas tax. Four meetings have been scheduled for you to hear about what this program has accomplished so far and for you to voice your opinion for future projects. For more information contact [www.pinellascounty.org/penny](http://www.pinellascounty.org/penny)

**Mon, Sept 18th**

**4:00 pm - 7:30 pm**

Indian Rocks Beach Civic Auditorium  
1507 Bay Palm Boulevard  
Indian Rocks Beach  
595-6889

**Tue, Sept 26th**

**4:00 pm – 7:30 pm**

Gulfport Casino  
5500 Shore Boulevard South  
Gulfport  
893-1070

**Wed, Sept 20th**

**4:00 pm- 7:30 pm**

Seminole Recreation Center  
9100 113th Street  
Seminole  
391-8345

**Wed, Sept 27th**

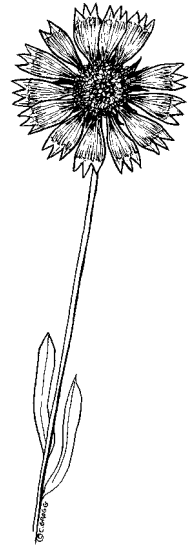
**4:00 pm – 7:30 pm**

Palm Harbor Community Activity Center  
1500 16th Street  
Palm Harbor  
771-6000

***Deadline for the Dec/Jan newsletter is Nov 1st***  
***Please feel free to submit early and send any story ideas to***  
***lkcurry1@tampabay.rr.com***

## *Clam Bayou Volunteers*

We wish to thank the many volunteers from the Pinellas Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society for their guidance, support and volunteer efforts on and before August 26, 2006 at the Clam Bayou Marine Education Center. During this installation of the restoration project, we planted the beginnings of a beautiful canopy stand with a glorious under story on the south side of the property. Included in the plant list were Gumbo Limbo, Black Ironwood, Pigeon Plum, Mastic, Willow Busic, Spicewood, Wild Lime, Hercules Club, Florida Thatch Palm, Maiden bush, Locust Berry, Biscayne Prickly Ash, Varnish Leaf, Blood Berry, Adam's Needle, White Indigo Berry, Red Berry and Spanish Stop-pers. We created a special prickly area for our thorny plants to help educate our young visitors.



This project has been enhanced immensely by the support of the Native Plant Society and its members. The presence of such knowledgeable and wonderful people during this project has enhanced the experience for everyone involved and we are truly grateful. It is our hope that this budding landscape will inspire many home and business owners' to utilize Florida native plants. Thank you again and we look forward to many years of partnership with our local Pinellas County Florida Native Plant Society. - Danie Cutler

## *Volunteers Needed*

**World Rivers Day Festival** is **Sept 30th** at **Brooker Creek Preserve**. Please contact Cathy Quindiangon at 327-7573. We need volunteers who can set up the chapter's informational display, take down the display after the event, and then bring it back to Brooker Creek the following Saturday for our fall plant sale.

**Fall Plant Sale** is **Oct 7th** at **Brooker Creek Preserve**. Contact Bruce Turley at 595-2073 to help with transporting plants. We need volunteers who can set up on Oct 6th and take down on Oct 7th at 3:00 pm.

We will need volunteers for both events who will distribute educational flyers and membership brochures, chat with attendees about native plants and their environmental benefits. You do not have to know everything there is to know about native plants. Just be friendly, share what you do know, and

direct people to books, our website, our informational flyers and other resources. Contact Joy Wharton at 522-8769 for both events.

**Shoreline Clean-Up Project at War Veterans' Memorial Park, Oct, 28th 8:00 am – 12:00 pm.** The Pinellas County Parks and Recreation Department and Keep Pinellas Beautiful are co-sponsoring this clean-up at 9600 Bay Pines Boulevard, St. Petersburg. Pick up sticks and trash bags will be provided. Contact 549-6165 for more information. For more information regarding the Keep Pinellas Beautiful program visit their website at <http://s106960635.onlinehome.us/kpb/mainhome.asp> or call 533-0402

“The work of volunteers impacts on all our lives, even if we are not aware of it.”

- Anthony Worrall-Thompson



To volunteer your time and energy for upcoming events please contact Joy Wharton at 522-8769 to add your name to the list. Without the dedication and hard work of our volunteers we wouldn't accomplish our goals.

## *Environmental Science Forum Addresses Park & Preserve Issues*

The Environmental Science Forum (ESF) was created in June by Pinellas County Administrator Steve Spratt as a venue for debate on the management of our parks and preserves. It's catalyst was the public outrage generated by the planned reactivation of a dormant well field within Brooker Creek Preserve in order to irrigate the East Lake Woodlands Golf Course, but other issues will be addressed by the ESF as well. Forum members were chosen by county staff and include members of local environmental advocacy groups and environmental professionals. Ray Wunderlich III and Bruce Turley are the Pinellas Chapter's representatives on the forum; Jan Allyn serves as Bruce Turley's alternate. Darden Rice and Holly Greening are the co-chairs.

The first two meetings of the ESF were largely unproductive and concerned themselves with organizational and housekeeping matters. Among other details, it was decided that in order that they may freely communicate with each other about issues before the ESF in any venue at any time, forum members will not conform to Florida's Sunshine Law. As a "Non-Sunshine Body," the ESF will be a fact-finding body only and legally cannot make recommendations to county staff.

The third meeting on September 7th at Weedon Island Preserve was the first to address environmental issues. The focus was Brooker Creek Preserve. After an introductory presentation by Environmental Lands Director Dr. Bruce Rinker, the Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve proposed making changes to the land use and zoning of the various parcels of property that fall within the preserve boundary, so that all will be either preserve or preserve/management areas, and to remove from the preserve those parcels that currently have non-preservation uses. A working group was created to examine this proposal to assess its feasibility. Environmental Management Director Will Davis announced that the Therapeutic Horseback Riding Facility will be located in Walsingham Park, not in Brooker Creek Preserve, which was welcome news.

In response to a question from Pinellas Chapter Lorraine Margeson, County Utilities Director Pick Talley stated that Utilities will continue to pursue the pumping permit that will allow re-activation of well(s) within Brooker Creek Preserve for the purpose of East Lake Woodlands Golf Course Irrigation. Utilities must submit additional environmental impact statements and other information to the Southwest Florida Water Management District by the first week in November.

Another contentious issue that did not receive adequate discussion at the September meeting is the County's 30-year recreational lease of 38 acres of land within Brooker Creek Preserve to the East Lake Youth Sports Association. The property is now planted in pine trees, which the County plans to harvest in early November of this year. County recreational grants will then fund the construction of a soccer field and supporting structures on the site. The pine plantation is the last known nesting area for blue grosbeaks within the county, and the area is also used by turkeys and other wildlife. This use is not "passive recreation" and as such is incompatible with the Brooker Creek Management Plan.

Upcoming issues for discussion include Keystone Road floodplain compensation and wetland mitigation within Brooker Creek Preserve, the proposed canopy walkway at Brooker Creek, updating the Brooker Creek management plan, the proposed Hillsborough County beltway, and aquifer storage and recovery wells at John Chestnut Park. If you would like to propose topics for the ESF members' consideration, please contact one of the Pinellas Chapter ESF members with your suggestions.

All Pinellas Chapter members are encouraged to attend. The next ESF meeting is Oct. 5th at Brooker Creek Preserve. For detailed information about the ESF and its activities, visit on the web [pinellascounty.org/scienceforum](http://pinellascounty.org/scienceforum).

- Jan Allyn

## Weedon Island Preserve

### **Real Florida Landscapes - Workshop and Sale Sat, Sept 23rd, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm**

Pinellas County Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society. An informative workshop about landscaping and gardening with Florida native plants for your yard. Landscaping with environmentally-friendly native plants conserves water, decreases maintenance, and limits the need for pesticides. Bruce Turley will also present an identification and information session about special native plants that will be offered for sale by the Society.

### **Florida 's Lost Tribes – Special Opening**

**Sat, Oct 14th, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm**

**Running through Nov 26th, during normal**

**center hours.** A celebration of Native American culture culminating in the opening of a special exhibit by Theodore Morris whose paintings depict the life of Florida 's original inhabitants.

Native flute playing, storytelling and a “Living History” re-enactment of a Native American village will be included. An artistic expression of ancient masks by Native American artist Delores Purdy Corcoran, will be featured in the Center's Gift Shop.

### **Hall Gallery Artist**

**Wed, Oct 31st, – Sun, Jan 2nd**

**10:00 am – 4:00 pm**

Artist Angela Kendall specializes in photographing listed species of birds and other wildlife found on the state's published list of *Florida 's Endangered Species, Threatened Species, and Species of Special Concern* . In this exhibit, Angela's stunning photography captures the beauty and mystery of Florida 's diverse bird life.

Contact Weedon Island Preserve Cultural and Natural History Center (727) 453-6500 to learn more about these exciting upcoming programs and to register.

## Brooker Creek Preserve

### **Fall Migration Bird Hikes**

**Thurs, Oct 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th**

**8:00 am – 9:30 am**

Join us every Thursday morning in October for a bird hike on the Preserve. We will search for migratory birds as these feathered marathon flyers travel towards the tropics. Bring your own binoculars or borrow a pair of ours. Closed-toe comfortable shoes are a must and water and a hat are recommended for this hike. Pre-registration is required.

### **Fall for Florida Native Plants - Native Plant Sale**

**Sat, Oct 7th, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm**

A variety of native plants that can add beauty and attract wildlife to your landscape will be available at this popular plant sale. Attend workshops throughout the day on healthy landscapes, landscaping with native plants, butterfly gardening, and special activities for children. Then stop by the Pinellas County Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society sale to spice up your fall landscaping with native plants.

### **Meet the Artist - "In My Own Backyard: Finding Florida in the Suburbs"**

**Sat, Oct 7th, 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm**

**Running through Dec 31st, during normal center hours**

Artist Christina Evans combines her passion for Florida native plants and nature photography into an intriguing exhibit. Visit her “In My Own Backyard - Finding Florida in the Suburbs” presentation to learn more about her experience with Florida native plants that attract wildlife and how it inspired her photography.

Brooker Creek Preserve is located at 3940 Keystone Rd., Tarpon Springs, in northeast Pinellas County. To pre-register for events or upcoming sessions, call the Environmental Education Center at (727) 453-6800. Learn more about Brooker Creek Preserve at [www.pinellascounty.org/environment](http://www.pinellascounty.org/environment).

**Members of the Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve receive a discount on admission fees.**

**Learn how to become a Friend of Brooker Creek at <http://www.friendsofbrookercreekpreserve.org/>**

## Places to Go, Things to Do

### “Landscaping for Gopher Tortoises”

**Sat, Sept 23rd, 8:00 am to 3:00 pm**

Instructors: Field biologist George L Heinrich and horticulturist Steve DeCresie. This workshop will explore methods of creating native landscapes for gopher tortoises and other upland species. Habitat management techniques addressing soil, hydrology, fire and non-native invasive plant species will be discussed.

Pre-registration required.

Contact Boyd Hill Nature Preserve 893-7326

### Florida Butterfly Festival

**Sat, Oct 14th and Sun, Oct 15th**



The Florida Museum of Natural History will be the host of the Florida Butterfly Festival which will feature lectures by world-renowned naturalists, expertly guided field trips, specialty vendors and a photography contest. Don't forget to take advantage of the cultural and natural beauties of Alachua County located in the heart of North Central Florida while visiting the area. For more information visit [www.flmnh.ufl.edu/butterflyfest](http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/butterflyfest) or call (352) 846-2000 ext. 200

### The 33rd Annual Conference on Ecosystems Restoration and Creation

**Thurs, Nov 2nd and Fri, Nov 3rd**

Hillsborough Community College's Environmental & Technical Programs Department in Plant City at the Trinkle Building located on the Plant City Campus of Hillsborough Community College. This Conference provides a forum for the latest scientific research on restoration, creation, and management of not only freshwater and coastal wetland systems but total ecosystems including upland and transitional areas. For more information visit [www.hccfl.edu/depts/detp/ecoconf.html](http://www.hccfl.edu/depts/detp/ecoconf.html) or call (813) 253-7523.

**Don't feel like going out? Feel like a rainy day at home? Try surfing these sites.**

Have you seen all the changes to our website lately? Jan Allyn has been working diligently to keep everyone updated with articles, upcoming events, useful links to help find much needed information as well as brochures and publications to help us understand our environment. Kudos to Jan for all of her hard work! Don't forget to bookmark our chapter site. <http://pinellas.fnpschapters.org/index.html>

Help USF St. Pete with ongoing research by filling out an online survey regarding how you make decisions for your landscape. Go to <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=858102391354>



**Beautyberry, *Callicarpa americana*.** - Lisa Curry

## *Zion National Park Visitor Center*

### *A Lesson in Environmental Sustainability*

My wife and I took a trip this summer to Zion National Park in southwest Utah where we learned of quite a progressive, sustainable park and one that more parks should emulate.

About four years ago Zion had the overload of tourists that is commonplace amongst most of our national and state parks. Too many autos and RVs coupled with out of control people, severe landscape/plant distress and general gridlock in the park demanded positive, proactive changes. The Zion Park System, before the harsh cutbacks in its budget by the Bush administration, earmarked a sustainable track in its modernization and has created an impressive, workable, environmentally sustainable design in its visitor center and transportation network.

The visitor center, about 4000 square feet, is nestled amongst native trees and thoughtfully landscaped with native shrubs. The center features modern educational signs smartly sectioned throughout the outdoor area featuring bright, color-perfect information about trails, flora, fauna, park history, advisories about park hazards, and ranger information. It also featured the design of the sustainable engineering of the building. The building is 100% off the grid and often sells energy back to the power company by using a “Swamp” air conditioning system and like heating philosophy.

The “Swamp” system at Zion utilizes two large chimney-like structures, three stories tall with large open vents at the top. These vents take in the dry, ambient air. Periodically, cool, misted water is sprayed on hidden baffles in this “chimney”. This cool air then sinks, due to its heavier nature, down the chimney. This cooler air is then emitted through large hearth-like openings, thereby cooling the air throughout the building. No electricity is used.

When heat is needed in the Center during the winter, the building calls on its photovoltaic panels on its roof, and takes maximum benefit of the sun with its

south-facing alignment. These features are enough to heat the Center during its very cold winter season and not have to rely on outside sources if the power should fail, as it often does.

The last feature that shows sustainable thinking occurs in the transportation of the visitors. The park stopped all individual, vehicular traffic in the park about the same time it built the visitor center. The only exception was if you were staying in the park lodge. It then implemented an impressive network of free transportation by propane-powered buses that cycle every 10-15 minutes. Within two weeks of using these buses, the exhaust was lowered dramatically and the park’s plants sprung back to their vigorous nature. The rangers were impressed.

Thus, these changes in Zion National Park show that we can better live in environmental harmony and see our great national wonders using proactive, sustainable engineering that is available today. Let us all try to keep in mind these types of earth-friendly ideas and practice them as much as we can in our own lives.

- Ray Wunderlich III

*Would you like to share your experiences with us? Would you like your yard or some portion featured in our newsletter? Would you like to tell us what planting natives has done to enhance your outdoor experience? Have you seen examples of earth friendly landscapes?*

*Please contact Lisa Curry at  
lkcurry1@tampabay.rr.com  
or call 727/595-2073*

### OFFICERS

President: Cathy Quindiagan 327-7573

Vice-President: Bill Bilodeau 322-9695

Secretary: Jan Allyn 399-1022/525-6609

Treasurer: Jane Williams 447-7394

Chapter Rep: Deborah Chayet

dchayet@verizon.net

Alternate Chapter Rep: Ray Wunderlich

Past President: Alexa Wilcox 595-4714

-Special Events/Festivals: Jan Allyn

Field Trips: Bill Bilodeau 322-9695

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

Cindy Peacock, Bruce Turley, Ray Wunderlich,  
Nancy Smith, Melody Staunton, Elizabeth France

### STANDING COMMITTEES

Conservation: Ray Wunderlich 525-1689

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

***Pinellas Chapter of the Florida  
Native Plant Society  
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Pinellas Park, FL 33780-1661***

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*Chapter web address:  
<http://pinellas.fnpschapters.org>*

*FNPS Bulletin Board:  
<http://fnps.org/phpBB>*

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FOR THE PAPERLESS  
NEWSLETTER**



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