

# The Understory

Newsletter of the Pinellas Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society, Inc.

October - November 2012

## President's Message

by Jan Allyn

Finally, there is beginning to be a breath of fall in the air, a hint that maybe, just maybe, the stifling heat and humidity are about to let up. Soon our "snowbird" neighbors will be returning and fall fairs and festivals will fill the calendar. It's a busy time for our chapter, with some exciting things planned for the next few months. A photographic celebration of native orchids is on tap for our October meeting, followed by our Sixth Annual Native Plant Landscape Tour on October 6-7.

The landscape tour is one of the best things we do, in my opinion. There is no better way to introduce people to Florida native plants in the landscape, and we have attracted—and kept—many new chapter members who first learned about us by taking one of the tours. I hope you'll come and that you will invite family members, friends, and neighbors to accompany you. And after the landscape tour and your enthusiasm for natives has worked its magic on them, bring them to our Fall Plant Festival at Wilcox Nursery on November 10<sup>th</sup> to pick out some blooming beauties to replace their turfgrass!

In July we lost our most excellent chapter vice president, Mary Jackson, when she and her husband relocated to the Willamette Valley in Oregon. I am very grateful that Candace Arnold offered to step in and finish out Mary's term. Candy has been invaluable as conservation chair this year. She is extremely knowledgeable about plants and natural communities, as is Katy Roberts who she replaced; the two of them have teamed up to monitor the Southwest Florida Water Management District's "surplus lands" process on the chapter's behalf,

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attending SWFWMD meetings and reporting back to the board. Together they also attended the recent Land Management Conference that took place in Sarasota.

I'm happy to announce that, with this issue, we have a new newsletter designer. Ellen Raabe is stepping in to replace Cathy Vogelsong who has been serving a second term (she might call it a sentence) in that capacity and we have been lucky

## Welcome New Members

Christa Kirby, Alicia and Jay Marino,  
Nanette O'Hara, Mr. and Mrs. R.  
Packman, Jeff Shea, Eric Sipco, and  
Dara Vance

## President's Message cont.

to have her—both times. Cathy's also doing the Brooker Creek Friends' newsletter, so she'll still be busy! *The Understory* is the envy of other chapters, but it takes a lot of work to put together. When you see Ellen, please thank her for taking on this important task, and please consider contributing a story or photo. We'd love to have contributions from members, such as field trip reports and plant profiles, but also puzzles (page 7), or suggestions for plant combinations (page 9). Run across an item in another publication of interest to fellow chapter members? Send it to me, and perhaps we can get permission to reprint it.

Next month will be our annual meeting, where we elect new officers and directors for 2013. A slate of candidates has been proposed by the nominating committee and appears on page 10 of this newsletter. Additional nominations will be accepted from the floor at the annual meeting, prior to voting. As is our custom, we will share a Thanksgiving potluck dinner, and we will have a special treat... Live music! I won't spoil the surprise by identifying the entertainer, but I think he'll be a hit. Please come, bring a friend and a dish to share!

Speaking of elections, they're coming up. Please vote! Do your research ahead of time, and support candidates who are knowledgeable about environmental issues, and who support meaningful growth management, natural resource protection, full funding for environmental lands acquisition and who understand the value of conservation-oriented public land management. The preservation, conservation, and restoration of Florida's native plants and plant communities depend on it.

**Jan**

## **It's Time for the Goldenaster Annual Checkup!**

Each year around this time, volunteers gather to check in on two plantings of the federally endangered Florida goldenaster, *Chrysopsis floridana*, to see how they are faring. Both populations were started from seed by the



Endangered Plant Program at Bok Tower Gardens in Lake Wales and were installed by local volunteers, supervised by Pinellas County Parks and Bok Tower personnel. As part of research on the species, each plant received a numbered identification tag. The growth stage, height, and width of each plant are recorded annually, and new seedlings are noted and given ID numbers. Florida goldenaster is a beautiful wildflower with silvery foliage and bright yellow, lemon-scented flowers that are extremely attractive to pollinators. If you would like to help with this effort, which takes about 6 hours, please use the information below to sign up. A word of warning to those with bad backs: this job requires a lot of stooping and bending.

### **Contacts and Dates for Goldenaster Annual Checkup**

- McKay Creek Greenway Natural Area (near Pinellas County Extension) – November 3<sup>rd</sup>  
8 am to 2 pm. Contact Debbie Chayet  
[dchayet@pinellascounty.org](mailto:dchayet@pinellascounty.org) or (727) 582-2521
- Weedon Island Preserve – November 10<sup>th</sup>  
8 am to 2 pm. Contact Pam Leasure  
[pleasure@pinellascounty.org](mailto:pleasure@pinellascounty.org) or (727) 453-6505

## Jelk's Preserve Field Trip

by Jason Sharp

Jelk's Preserve is approximately 614 acres adjacent to the Myakka River in Southern Sarasota County. The Preserve features several habitats that are common riverside including oak hammocks, pine flatwoods, and seasonal wetlands. The property was purchased in 1999 by a combination of public and private funds with the intention to save the property from development. This information and more on the Preserve can be found on the Sarasota County website. The web address is: <https://www.scgov.net/>



Young gopher tortoise on Jelk's Preserve (Photo courtesy of Tom Funari)

[NaturalLands/Pages/JelksPreserve.aspx](#).

Several members of the Pinellas chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society met on the morning of September 8, 2012. Just an hour from south St. Petersburg, we were the only visitors ready to explore Jelk's Preserve that morning. We decided that we would traverse the 3-mile loop and visit the river overlooks along the way. The humid summer morning let off a bit of mist for us as we meandered towards the first and northern-most Myakka overlook. The trails were wide enough to offer a good view of the road ahead and the grass height was decent in most places considering the time of year and location. Speaking of grasses, there were many native species present such as several *Andropogon* species (bluestems), *Eragrostis* sp. (lovegrass),

*Spartina* sp. (cordgrass), and *Tripsacum dactyloides* (gama grass) among many others. We also observed quite a few sedges (Cyperaceae family), but we were not able to identify them. Among the live oak (*Quercus virginiana*), slash pine (*Pinus elliottii*), sabal palm (*Sabal palmetto*), and saw palmetto (*Serenoa repens*) we noticed a few members of the Heath family (Ericaceae) including *Lyonia fruticosa* and several species of *Vaccinium*.

Near the first river overlook the oak canopy took hold and the trail became darker and damper. We began to notice that the oaks and sabal palms were covered in ferns and air-plants. The collection of ferns included the expected resurrection fern (*Pleopeltis polypodioides* var. *michaixiana*) along with plenty of golden polypody (*Phlebodium aureum*) and shoestring fern (*Vittaria lineata*). The genus *Tillandsia* was well represented in the canopy with many species including giant wild pine (*Tillandsia utriculata*), a favorite of mine.



Live oak bearing an abundance of epiphytes, ferns and air plants (Photo courtesy of Jason Sharp)

## Jelk's Preserve Field Trip cont.

And who could forget the few Florida butterfly orchids (*Encyclia tampensis*) that we saw. The competition for real estate was so fierce that even vine stems were covered. These were by far the largest collection of epiphytes that I have seen in recent memory and well worth the hike to view. The view at this river overlook and the others were nice, but with the high river waters we may have had less access than normal.



A wet glade of sabal palm and marsh along the lower Myakka River (Photo courtesy of Jason Sharp)

As we traveled between river overlooks we encountered several species of birds, dragonflies, and frogs. Some of the wildflowers we encountered included Florida ironweed (*Vernonia blodgettii*), rose-rush (*Lysimachia aphylla*), multiple *Hypericum* species, meadow beauties (*Rhexia* sp.), procession flower (*Polygala incarnata*), tall elephant's foot (*Elephantopus elatus*), musky mint (*Hyptis alata*),

giant orchid (*Pteroglossaspis ecristata*), and American bluehearts (*Buchnera Americana*) among many others. Some of the shrubs we encountered included beautyberry (*Callicarpa Americana*), gallberry (*Ilex glabra*), Walter's viburnum (*Viburnum obovatum*), wax myrtle (*Myrica cerifera*), Sulzner's wild coffee (*Psychotria sulzneri*), and a smattering of coontie (*Zamia pumila*).

Being so close to the river we did run into water on the trail on a few occasions as well as a few seasonal streams. We managed to circumnavigate the water several times before we decided to just get our feet wet. I would recommend to any future hikers to come prepared to deal with wet feet, regardless of the season, in whatever way suits them. The most surprising twist of the hike occurred as we began to cross a small stream and a blue crab scurried away from the shore into the watery shadows. Looking at a map now it is easy to see how close we were to Charlotte Harbor and brackish water. As we closed in on the end of the three-hour hike we had a few more surprises in order. First was a false foxglove (*Agalinis* sp.) that was in full bloom right next to the trail. The large, pink flowers were a final wildflower farewell for our hike. Then we noticed a gopher tortoise shell on the path from what must have been a recent tortoise death. We were saddened by this discovery as we had seen some burrows, but no live tortoises. However, just a small distance from the parking lot and the end of our hike we spotted a very young gopher tortoise munching away on some grass in the shade. What a great way to end the hike.

## Next field trip January 2013

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**Serving Pinellas County & Surrounding Areas**

# Sixth Annual

## Native Plant Landscape Tour

Saturday, October 6th, 2012 9:00 am – 3:00 pm (South)

Sunday, October 7th, 2012 9:00 am – 3:00 pm (North)

See what is possible when conventionally landscaped yards are transformed into native plant habitats that are environmentally and wildlife friendly. These yards have reduced or zero lawn areas and use less water, fertilizer and pesticides. The educational and recreational value of watching wild creatures feed, bathe, and nest in your own landscape is immense. Talk to the homeowners and learn what inspired them and how they accomplished the creative changes to their yards.

Two tours highlight landscapes throughout Pinellas County:

- South county tour showcases 6 homes and 2 public landscapes in St. Petersburg.
- North county tour begins with the Countryside Library's native landscape, and continues to 6 homes in Palm Harbor, Ozona, and Dunedin

Purchase tickets until the day before the tour at these locations:

- Boyd Hill Nature Preserve, St. Petersburg (727) 893-7326
- Painted Fish Gallery, Dunedin (727) 734-5060
- Twigs & Leaves Florida Garden Center, St. Petersburg (727) 822-5400
- Wilcox Nursery & Landscape, Largo (727) 595-2073
- Online via PayPal at [PinellasNativePlants.org/nativetour](http://PinellasNativePlants.org/nativetour)
- At the Oct. 3rd meeting of Pinellas FNPS, 7 p.m. at Pinellas County Extension

Day-of-event registration available 8:30 a.m.-10 a.m. at these locations:

- South, Oct. 6 – Boyd Hill Nature Preserve, 1101 Country Club Way S, St. Petersburg
- North, Oct. 7 – Countryside Library, 2741 State Road 580, Clearwater

Admission fee:  
Pre-registration: \$5/person/tour  
Day-of-event registration: \$8/person/tour  
Children under 12: Free admission

*A tour booklet including maps and lists of properties with addresses will be provided at time of registration*

Event Sponsor:

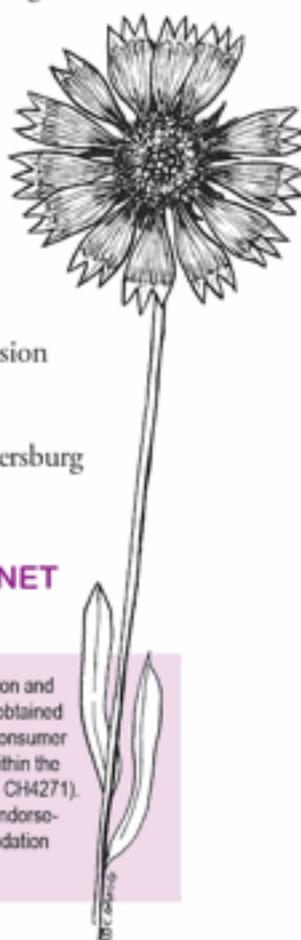
**Pinellas Chapter**  
**Florida Native Plant Society**



**\$AVE GAS  
\$AVE THE PLANET  
CARPOOL**

A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Florida Division of Consumer Services by calling toll-free within the state (800-435-7352, reg. no. CH4271). Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the state.

For more information, please visit [PinellasNativePlants.org](http://PinellasNativePlants.org) or contact Jan Allyn at (727) 244-0312.



## Upcoming Meetings

### October Program: Wed., October 3, 2012. 7 pm

Prem Subrahmanyam will speak on **Orchids in Our Backyard: Florida's Wild Orchids** at Pinellas County Extension, 12520 Ulmerton Road, Largo, FL. Award-winning photographer and orchid expert Prem Subrahmanyam will share his highly acclaimed presentation, "Orchids in Our Backyard: Florida's Wild Orchids.". Free and open to the public, the event is organized by the Pinellas Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society.



Prem will have hand-signed and numbered limited edition photographic prints of some of the more spectacular native orchids, as well as t-shirts and greeting cards. Presentation will be followed by a question-and-answer session.

### November Program: November 7, 2012, 7 pm

Annual membership and election meeting. Members and guests are invited to share a Thanksgiving potluck dinner. Chapter will provide turkey, stuffing and gravy, drinks, plates, cutlery, napkins, etc. Bring a friend and a dish to share! We will vote on the slate of officers printed elsewhere in this newsletter. Nominations will be accepted from the floor. We also will have a special treat, live music from south Florida musician Grant Livingston.

### December Program: December 5, 2012, 7 pm

Our annual Holiday Conservation Celebration with a special guest speaker, environmental exhibits, holiday refreshments, door prizes and raffle items, and a silent auction of giftable, nature-themed items. Members are invited to bring holiday sweets and treats to share. We are pleased that Kevin Love, former manager of land resources for the Southwest Florida Water Management, will be our speaker. Mr. Love is extremely knowledgeable about conservation land management and is passionate about the protection of our natural resources. Public invited! Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

## Chapter Events

### Sixth Annual Native Landscape Tour

Landscapes will be available for your inspection and enjoyment from 9am until 3pm.

**South Pinellas County October 6, 2012 9 am**

**North Pinellas County October 7, 2012 9 am**

This has become one of our most popular events! Choose the Saturday tour or the Sunday tour. Each has sites selected to showcase the beauty of native plants and provide landscaping examples.



For more details and information refer to the flyer on page 5 of this newsletter or visit this link:

<http://pinellas.fnpchapters.org/nativetour/>

### Fall Native Plant Festival

**Saturday, November 10 at Wilcox Nursery**

November is the start of a great garden season in Florida! Volunteers and nursery personnel will be on hand to help you select locally-suitable native plants. From 9 am to 4 pm at Wilcox Nursery, 12501 Indian Rocks Road in Largo.

**Wilcox Nursery & LANDSCAPE**  
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12501 Indian Rocks Road, Largo, Florida 33774  
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[www.WilcoxNursery.com](http://www.WilcoxNursery.com)  
*Let us help you Plant Real Florida!*

## **Fun Fall Festivals**

### **First Annual Permie Extravaganza**

#### **October 14<sup>th</sup> at Sunny Spot Gardens in Tampa**

All-day (10am-8pm) gathering of permaculturists at Sunny Spot Gardens, 9509 Dartmouth Avenue, Tampa. Potluck—bring drinks, snacks, etc. “Well-behaved kid-friendly” event. Free, but donations accepted. Speakers throughout the day on topics including: “Life through Permaculture,” “Going Zero Waste in the Home,” “Using Herbs as Medicine,” “Least Toxic Pest Control,” and by our own Andy Karpinski, “Introduction to Florida Native Edibles and their Importance in Permaculture.” Also, a “Wild Foods Nature Walk,” music, and a plant swap. Attendees are asked to bring their own chairs. For more information contact Brittany at [bjaukett@gmail.com](mailto:bjaukett@gmail.com) (preferred), call (727) 254-3757, or visit <http://organic-gardening-adventures.blogspot.com>

### **Fall Wildflower Festival**

#### **Oct. 22 Brooker Creek Preserve, Tarpon Springs**

This year’s event includes a honey beehive exhibit, wildflower scavenger hunt, wildflower presentations, and wildflowers for sale. Pinellas Chapter FNPS members, Katy Roberts and Craig Huegel, will be presenters. Also, get up-close and personal with butterflies in the huge butterfly tent. Great for both children and adults. This event is sponsored by The Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve. Free admission.

### **Art Arbor at Boyd Hill Nature Preserve**

#### **November 3-4, St. Petersburg**

This much-anticipated annual event has something for everybody in the family: arts & crafts vendors, food court, live music, a library book sale, stage presentations, wildlife demonstrations, environmental exhibitors, children’s activities, a 5K “Raccoon Run & Fun Walk,” photo contest and pre-juried art show. Don’t miss the fun! For information visit the Boyd Hill Friends’ website: <http://www.friendsofboydhill.org/ArtArborFestival.html>

### **Discover the Island at Egmont Key**

#### **Nov. 10-11 Ferry departing from Fort De Soto**

Historical presentations, natural history experts, Civil War re-enactors, silent auction, kids’ games, artists, music, souvenirs. Day passes to the island include ferry to/from the island, departing from Fort De Soto County Park. Proceeds support the Egmont Key Alliance. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit <http://www.EgmontKey.info>

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Find a Flower Puzzler**

Use the clues in Common Name list to find the plant’s latin Genus name in the chart. The latin name can be forward, backward, or diagonal.

#### **Clue (Common Name)**

Blue sage	Climbing aster
Florida paintbrush	Frostweed
Gayfeather	Goldenrod
Horsemint	Ironweed
October-flower	Palafox
Saltbush	Silkgrass
Summer-farewell	

A	I	X	O	F	A	L	A	P	T	E	N	X	C
L	A	V	S	O	I	R	D	N	A	L	S	I	A
L	N	E	O	I	E	U	R	B	G	I	V	S	R
E	I	R	L	A	S	Q	A	L	S	A	Q	I	P
N	S	N	I	F	E	P	N	P	O	T	L	R	H
O	E	O	D	J	W	D	O	A	K	R	B	A	E
G	B	N	A	E	H	S	M	Y	X	I	W	H	P
Y	R	I	G	S	Y	I	W	N	T	S	X	C	H
L	E	A	O	R	A	E	L	A	D	I	A	C	O
O	V	R	H	N	R	M	Z	D	C	E	P	A	R
P	L	C	A	I	V	L	A	S	I	R	O	B	U
M	U	H	C	I	R	T	O	Y	H	P	M	Y	S

**Answers:** common and genus names on page 10

## Other News

### A Natural Defense against the Invasive Air Potato

The USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS) Invasive Plant Research Laboratory (IPRL) recently presented “Meet and Release the Beetles,” a program in Broward County to introduce the lab’s newest biocontrol agent, the air potato leaf beetle *Lilioceris cheni*. The large, red, leaf-beetle is host-specific and an environmentally-friendly way to combat air potato vine, *Dioscorea bulbifera*. The vine is an invasive exotic plant found throughout Florida. The “air potato” refers to an aerial potato-shaped structure, weighing up to two pounds, and produced during late summer.



The invasive air potato vine (*Dioscorea bulbifera*)  
(Photo courtesy of *Atlas of Florida Vascular Plants*)

As part of the program, Broward County students released the beetles in an area infested by air potato vine and visited a beetle establishment-site to

observe the beneficial impact of the biocontrol program. (Adapted from ARS news release)

More information about the air potato leaf beetle is available on this fact sheet, kindly provided in draft form by ARS Research Leader Ted D. Center:

<http://pinellas.fnpchapters.org/pdfs/Lilioceris-info-sheet.pdf>

### Pinellas Chapter FNPS T-shirts Available

Back by popular demand--our coontie and atala butterfly t-shirt with beautiful art by Cathy Vogelsong. Show your support for the Florida Native Plant Society in style! Shirts will be sold at upcoming meetings. Ladies' shirts are available in white (sizes M-XXL). Men's shirts are available in white or natural (sizes S-XXL). The cost is \$15 each, tax included (graphic design below).



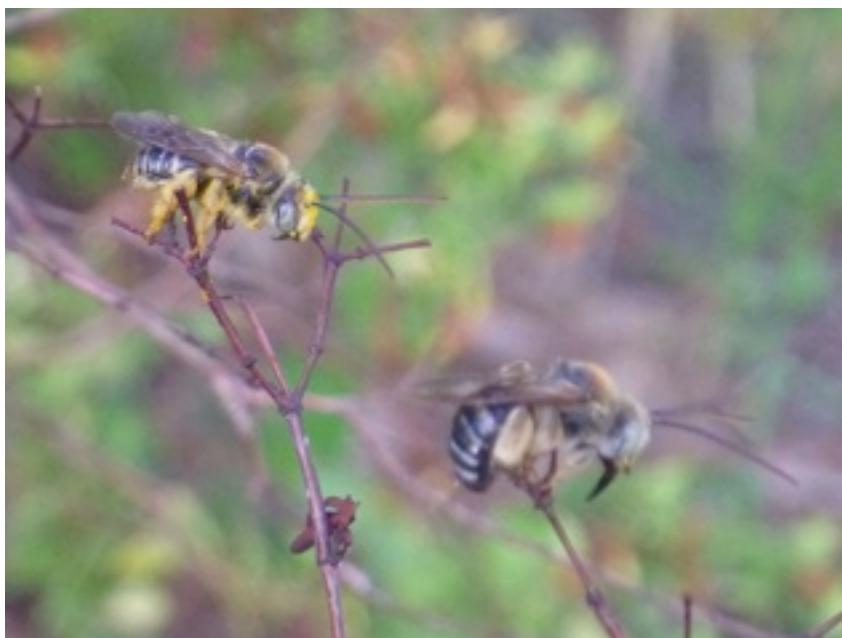
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There will be no field trips in October or November. Monthly field trips are replaced by the landscape tours (October 6-7) and the Fall Plant Festival at Wilcox Nursery (November 10). See page 6.

## Even Bees Need Rest

by **Ellen Raabe**

Of the native plants in my garden, one of my favorites is four-petal St. John's-wort (*Hypericum tetrapetalum*). It is a lanky little bush with smooth reddish-brown bark, small bright green leaves, and four-petaled yellow flowers. This spring, half the plant died, leaving several barren branches. Fortunately it reseeds itself. My intention was to cut back the dead stems, but the task was forgotten until something else caught my eye in July: little bodies clinging to the tiniest of the dead branchlets. On close inspection, the bodies turned out to be sleeping bees. Checking a few days later, a dozen or so bees were resting there again. After being disturbed, the little bees circle back to find a perch, clean, stretch, and curl up to nap on the tips of the dead branch. They don't seem to use live stems for the same purpose and they are not there in the early morning. But when the afternoon sun beats down on that corner of the garden, the bees settle in for a nap.



A mix of long-horn and digger bees sleeping on four-petal St. John's-wort (Photo courtesy of Ellen Raabe)

I'm familiar with the concept that native bees and other insects are important for commercial and backyard crops, for pollinating wildflowers, and as part of the complex web of life. For those reasons, my garden has a variety of habitats, shade and sun, grass and shrub, flowers in different seasons, and some dead material, but the dead material is usually clipped and off to the side, composting. Last winter I reached up to snap a dead twig off a shrub and noticed a dragonfly on the very same twig. Perhaps leaving a few dead branches or twigs in the garden might be warranted, not by the front door where visitors would notice, but off to the side where insects can find a place to rest.



## Do You Have Something to Share?

### New “From our Members” section

We invite our members to submit brief (150-300 words) ideas from their own experiences with native plants and habitats. On the first go round we want to hear ideas on your favorite plant combination using native plants (2-5 maximum). Describe the selected plants, whether the combination does well in landscape pots or in a particular habitat, and why you believe this to be an ideal combination. Tell us if it is a seasonal or year round attraction, if the plants provide support for each other, exhibit complimentary color or structure, or if the combination is visually striking or attractive to wildlife. A photo or other illustration is nice but not necessary. You will receive credit, if your idea is used in a newsletter.

## **Native Garden “Caretakers” Needed**

The native garden and pond area at Pinellas County Extension are a treasure trove of native species. Their purpose is not to provide an example of “how to landscape” with natives so much as it is a collection of plants that people might otherwise never encounter. You can criss-cross our entire County—or live here for decades—and never see most of our native plant species, unless perhaps you get out and hike the trails at our preserves. Even though it’s not intended or expected to be a manicured example of horticultural perfection, the native garden does need to be kept presentable, pruned, and weeded, with spent or dead plants regularly groomed or replaced. To that end, I would like to form a “Native Garden Caretaking Committee” of 3-4 people whose duties would be:

- To organize volunteer workdays once per quarter for routine maintenance and installation of new plants in the garden or pond area
- To act as liaisons with other volunteer groups at Extension (Florida Botanical Gardens Foundation, Master Gardeners, etc.) and represent the Chapter at their meetings
- To keep the Chapter board apprised of needs and issues related to the native garden

This committee’s existence and activity is necessary if we are to keep the native garden a going concern. We may see the beauty in the garden, but not all staff and volunteers appreciate it the way we do, and it is incumbent on us to nurture it and keep it tidy so that it can continue to educate visitors for many years to come. If you can take part in this important project, please contact Jan Allyn ([jallyn@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:jallyn@tampabay.rr.com), 727-244-0312).

## **Find a Flower Puzzler - Answers**

### **Clue (common name)**

Blue sage

Climbing aster

Florida paintbrush

Frostweed

Gayfeather

Goldenrod

### **Answer (Genus)**

*Salvia*

*Symphyotrichum*

*Carphephorus*

*Verbesina*

*Liatris*

*Chrysopsis*

## **Election Slate for November 7, 2012**

Below is the slate of officers proposed by the Nominating Committee for the Pinellas Chapter's 2013 Board of Directors, in accordance with the Bylaws of the Chapter.

### **Officers**

President - Jan Allyn

Vice President - open

Treasurer - Cindy Smith

Secretary - Monica Pinnell

Chapter Representative - Debbie Chayet

### **Board of Directors**

Mary Ann Beekman

Andy Karpinski

Katy Roberts

Candace Arnold

John Pinnell

Suggestions for nominations of Officers and Directors may be submitted to the Nominating Committee (Mary Ann Beekman, Carmela Castle, and Elizabeth France) by any member of the Chapter. To do so, contact Mary Ann Beekman ([mbeekman@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:mbeekman@tampabay.rr.com)). There are no nominations at this time for the position of vice president. Nominations for all positions will be accepted from the floor at the Chapter's Annual Meeting on November 7th. If more than one candidate is nominated for a position, the candidate receiving the greatest number of votes at the November membership meeting shall be elected.

(Puzzle on page 7)

Horsemint

Ironweed

October-flower

Palafox

Saltbush

Silkgrass

Summer-farewell

*Monarda*

*Vernonia*

*Polygonella*

*Palafoxia*

*Baccharis*

*Pityopsis*

*Dalea*

## **Constitutional Amendment Would Provide Conservation Land Funding**

The nonprofit group, Florida Water & Land Legacy Campaign, is a coalition of environmental groups that is gathering signatures to place a constitutional amendment on the November 2014 ballot that, for 20 years, would guarantee a stable source of money for environmental protection. The founding organizations include the Trust for Public Land, Audubon of Florida, the Florida Wildlife Federation, Sierra Club, and 1000 Friends of Florida, among others. The amendment would stipulate that, beginning in July 2015, and continuing for 20 years afterward, one-third of the revenue from “doc stamps” (the excise tax on real estate transactions) would go to revive the Florida Forever program by acquiring and managing environmental lands, including:

- Land, water areas, and related property interests and resources for conservation lands including wetlands, forests, and fish and wildlife habitat;
- Lands that protect significant water resources and drinking water sources, including lands protecting the water quality and quantity of rivers, lakes, streams, watersheds, and lands providing recharge for groundwater and aquifer systems;
- Lands in the Everglades Agricultural Area and the Everglades Protection Area, as defined in Section 7(b) of Article II of the Florida Constitution;
- Beaches and shores; outdoor recreation lands, including recreational trails, parks, and urban open space; rural landscapes; historic, archaeological, or geologic sites as well as management of lands acquired;
- Restoration of natural systems related to the enhancement of public access and recreational enjoyment; and
- Payment of the debt service on bonds issued pursuant to Article VII, Section 11(e) of the Florida Constitution.

Since 2009, legislators have cut funding for the state's Florida Forever program by 97.5 percent to \$23 million for land management and ecological

restoration, including the Everglades. This year, the Legislature reduced water protection and conservation funds dropped to \$8.5 million.



The Chapter will acquire copies of the petitions and make them available to members at our meetings. While it should not take a constitutional amendment to get the State to allocate adequate funding to manage existing lands and to acquire environmentally sensitive land, it may be the only way to make it happen. To learn more about the campaign, visit the website: <http://floridawaterlandlegacy.org/>

### **Chapter Directory**

Jan Allyn, President [jallyn@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:jallyn@tampabay.rr.com)  
727-244-0312

Candace Arnold, Vice President  
[candacearnold@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:candacearnold@tampabay.rr.com)

Alexa Wilcox-Huegel, Secretary  
[alexa776@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:alexa776@tampabay.rr.com) 727-422-4792

Cindy Smith, Treasurer  
[csmith55@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:csmith55@tampabay.rr.com)

Debbie Chayet, Chapter Representative  
[dchayet@verizon.net](mailto:dchayet@verizon.net)

Mary Ann Beekman, Board Member  
[mbeekman@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:mbeekman@tampabay.rr.com)

Tiffany Custer, Board Member  
[salteegrl@yahoo.com](mailto:salteegrl@yahoo.com) 727-244-1909

Andrew Karpinski, Board Member  
[ak@stonemarmot.com](mailto:ak@stonemarmot.com)

Shreeram Krishnaswami, Board Member  
[kshreeram@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:kshreeram@tampabay.rr.com)

John Pinnell, Board Member  
[corsa65@msn.com](mailto:corsa65@msn.com)

Monica Pinnell, Board Member  
[corsa65@msn.com](mailto:corsa65@msn.com)

Katy Roberts, Board Member [kroberts@ij.net](mailto:kroberts@ij.net)  
727-726-1455

## **Committee Chairs and Coordinators**

Advocacy/Conservation: Candace Arnold

Artist: Cathy Vogelsong

December Conservation Celebration: Cindy Peacock

Events/Displays: Andy Karpinski

Hospitality: Andy Karpinski

Membership: Ellen Clayton

Newsletter: Ellen Raabe

Programs/ Field Trips: Alexa Wilcox-Huegel

Publicity/Social Media: Shreeram Krishnaswami

Refreshment Coordinator: Mary Ann Beekman

Sales/Merchandise: Jane Williams & Jan Allyn

Scholarships: Cindy Peacock

Social Media: Shreeram Krishnaswami

Volunteer Coordinator: Mary Ann Beekman

Web Master: Monica Pinnell

Interim Committees:

Budget Committee: Cindy Smith

Plants Sales: Tiffany Custer and Bruce Turley

Landscape Tour: Monica Pinnell and Jan Allyn



**See Directory of phone numbers and e-mail addresses on page 11**



P.O. Box 1661 Pinellas Park, FL  
33780-1661

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

**FNPS Blog**  
<http://fnpsblog.blogspot.org/>

