

FronD Forum

Florida Native Plant Society
Cuplet Fern Chapter :: Seminole County

Volume 7, Number 4 :: October – December 2017

2017–18 Board

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Cuplet Fern Chapter

Florida Native Plant Society

PO Box 150021

Altamonte Springs, FL 32715

Meeting Location:

200 Fairmont Drive

Sanford, FL 32773

Celebrate
FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT MONTH
October 2017



Join the Florida Native Plant Society as we celebrate the 3rd annual Florida Native Plant Month in October 2017! We want to spread the word to our leaders, constituents, and the public about the importance of Florida's native plants and communities during Florida Native Plant month. Help us promote appreciation and conservation of our precious natural heritage. This is the third year of the program that generates publicity and membership for FNPS throughout the state.

Attend the October 3 program *Bring Biodiversity Back into the Urban Yard*. Please see page 7 for details.



Florida Wildflower Demonstration Garden

A new garden was added at the Orange County UF/IFAS Extension Exploration Gardens. The wildflower meadow was funded by the Florida Wildflower Foundation through the Viva Florida Grant received earlier this year. The 2700 square foot site was solarized for 3 months this summer to kill the existing vegetation and weed seeds. The site was then planted with over a thousand plants consisting of 25 different varieties of native wildflowers, groundcovers, and grasses. The goal for the site is to increase the biodiversity on the property by adding native plants in a meadow setting to attract and sustain native bees and butterflies, to provide habitat for birds and other wildlife, and to use the site for educational purposes. The plant palette and design for the wildflower



meadow was created by Andrea England, a local landscape designer specializing in meadows. The Extension demonstration gardens and new wildflower meadow is open to the public and can be viewed at any time. 6020 S Conway Road, Orlando.

Meet Marion Crim, Board Member at Large



Our family moved to Florida in 1952. As a teenager on the St. John's River near Osteen I explored the woods and prairies on horseback and delighted in the biodiversity of Old Florida. No matter which state I lived in, I have always gone to the woods, camping, hiking, whitewater rafting. I have seen magnificent trees, and wild flowers all along the mountain trails from north Georgia to Vermont. I want to help preserve our plants and animals which is why I am a member of the Nature Conservancy, Sierra Club, Audubon, NWF, WWF, and most recently the Native Plant Society. I have been a teacher, an Army officer, a business owner, and a USPS clerk. I have raised LaMancha dairy goats, polypay sheep, and chickens. At present I garden for birds, bees, and butterflies.

Oakland Nature Preserve Field Trip



Our August field trip was to Oakland Nature Preserve, a 128 acre preserve on the south shore of Lake Apopka. The preserve offers extensive education programs, including informing visitors how the extensive damage to Lake Apopka from pesticides and fertilizers is slowly being repaired. There are three trails, an upland trail, an oak hammock trail and the boardwalk to the lake. There are many volunteer programs, and we saw many people busy at work as we left the parking lot.

Seven attendees met with our trip leader Stacey Matrazzo, program manager for the Florida Wildflower Foundation. Our mission was to learn about tasty edible plants. We set off first through the butterfly garden near the Visitor and Education Center, where we were dazzled by the numerous butterflies on the firebushes.

Stacey first found American beautyberry, and offered each of us a ripe purple berry to taste. The leaves can be rubbed on the skin as an insect repellent. We also sampled the flowers of Spanish needles and spiderwort. All of the spiderwort plant is edible and useful in salads.

Continued on next page



Oakland Nature Preserve Field Trip—continued

We then set off down the boardwalk to Lake Apopka. First Stacey found us a smilax, and we tested the tender young shoot which is compared to asparagus, although this one was a little bitter!

Next were ripe Elderberries, which were much more to everyone's taste. Stacey explained how wax myrtle berries can be prepared for candle making, and grapevine leaves can be stuffed with rice and herbs. She explained that we seldom see grapes on wild muscadine vines as 90% are male. Also seen along the boardwalk was this beautiful scarlet hibiscus.

Nearer the lake we saw duck potato, pickerel weed and water hemlock, which was not for tasting!

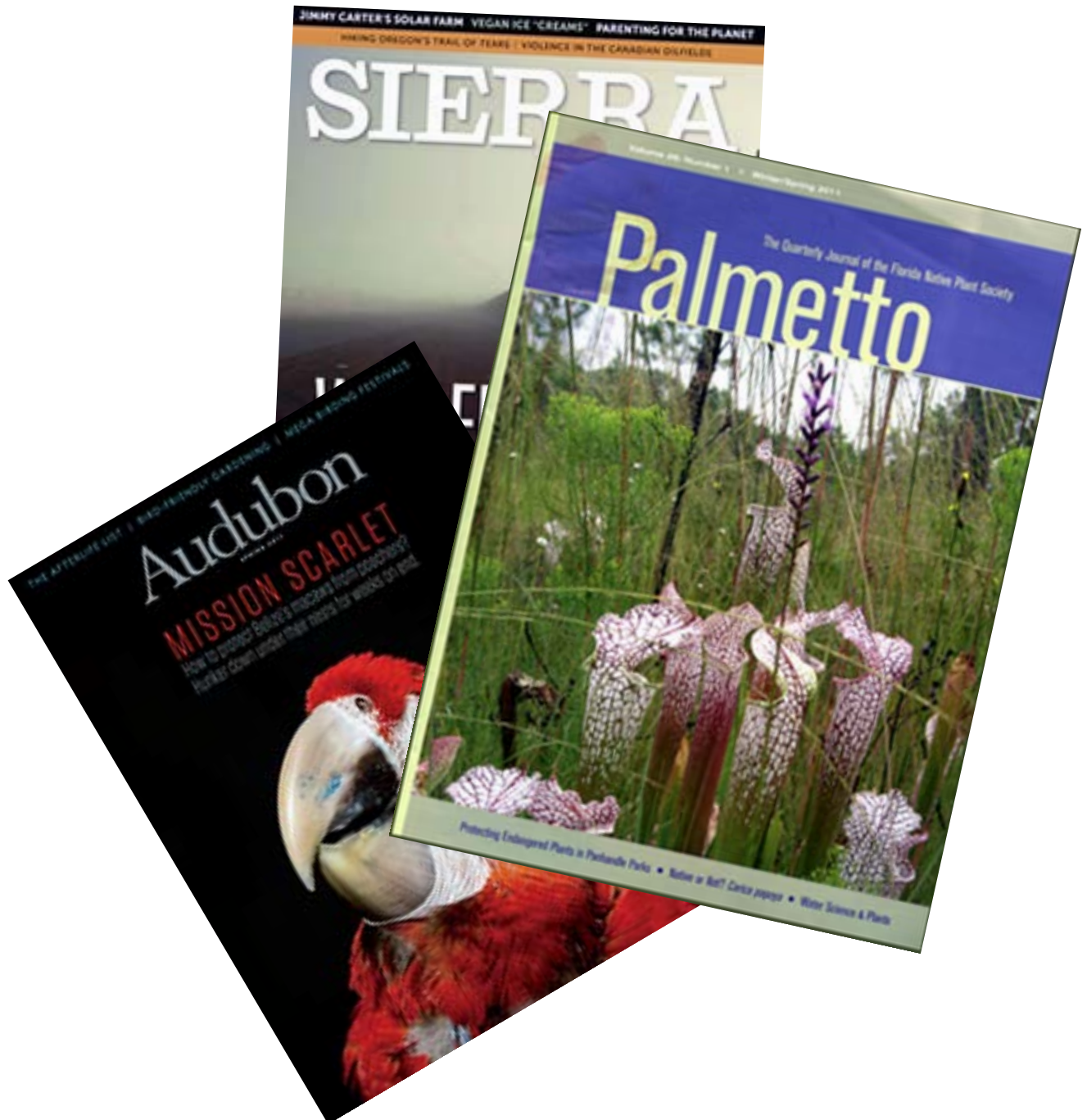
After a brief rest at the pavilion on the lake, we retraced our steps, and saw a baby alligator below the boardwalk.

We thanked Stacey for sharing her edible plant knowledge and for an interesting walk on a sunny morning.



Recycling at Its Best!

Many of us are probably members of other environmental organizations—The Nature Conservancy, Sierra Club, Audubon Society, and many more. As members, we receive their regularly published magazines. Richard Poole, one of our chapter members, puts those publications to good use by recycling them at doctor's offices whenever he has a scheduled visit. Each visit is an opportunity to share environmental information with others who may not otherwise be exposed. Can you think of other places to spread the word?



Native Plants Grown by Members / Donations to Chapter

All proceeds go to sponsor Seminole County youth to attend Seminole County Adventure Eco Camp at Yarborough Nature Center at Geneva Wilderness Area

Members: Email Barbara Whittier (whittierh@bellsouth.net) to schedule pick up.

Trees (1 gal. \$4, 2–3 gal. \$6–8)

- 3 Beauty Berry, 2 gal., 3–4'
- 1 Cherry Laurel, 2 gal., 5'
- 1 Eastern Hophornbeam, 1 gal., 2–3'
- 2 Florida Elm, 3 gal.
- 1 Forestiera/Swamp Privet, 2 gal., 3–5'
- 1 Hackberry, 3 gal., 4–5'
- 2 Red Bays, 2 gal., 4–5'
- 3 Red Buckey, 3 gal., 3'
- 1 Red Cedar, 2 gal., 3–4'
- 1 Red Maple, 3 gal., 4–6'
- 2 Scrub Hickory, 2 gal., 3'
- 3 Simpson Stopper, 2 gal., 4–5'
- 3 Sweet Gum tree, 1–3 gal.
- 1 White Stopper, 2 gal., 6'
- 2 Winged Elm, 2 gal., 3–4'
- Wax Myrtle, 6"

Flowering Plants

- 4 Blue Flag Iris, wetland/ponds, 1 gal. (\$2–3)
- Seaside Goldenrod, 6"

Grasses

- Fackahatchee Grass, 6"

Shrubs (small trees 1 gal. \$3, 2–3 gal. \$4–7)

- 3 Elderberry, 1 gal. 4'
- 2 Elderberry, 6"
- 2 Firebush, 2 gal., 2–3'
- Firebush, 6"
- 2 Florida Privet, 6"
- 3 Fringetree, 2–3 gal., 2–4'
- 2 Hercules Club, 1 gal., 2'
- 2 Highbush Blueberry, 3 gal. 2–3'
- 3 Necklace Pod, 1–2 gal., 2'
- 2 Sweet Shrub, 1 gal., 1–2'
- 3 Walter's Viburnum, 3 gal., 2–3'
- 2 Wild Coffee, 3 gal., 3–4'
- 1 Yaupon Holly, 3 gal., 6"

Vines (1 gal. \$3–6, based on size)

- 4 Coral Honeysuckle, 1 gal., 3 on small trellis, bushy with red orange flowers
- 3–4 Corkystem Passion Flower, 1 gal.

Cycads

- 4 Zamia pumilia, 1 gal.
- 2 Zamia pumilia, 2–3 gal.
- Sabal minor, 6"

To order:

1. Email Barbara and she will respond to availability
2. Pick up will be at a monthly meeting before program
3. Payment to Chapter based on quality and size of plant



All donations go to help support Seminole Natural Lands Eco Camp Scholarships.

updated: 9/27/2017

Upcoming Meetings—All meetings are free and open to the public. Florida Native Plants are available at all meetings for a donation.

Celebrate Florida Native Plant Month

October 3, 2017, 7PM 407-302-7616

Joint meeting with Tarflower Chapter
Harry P. Leu Botanical Gardens, 1920 N Forest Ave, Orlando
Join in observance and celebration of Florida Native Plant Month with Dr. Patrick Bohlen, University of Central Florida's Biology Department and Director Landscape and Natural Resources (LNR) and Arboretum. He will present 'Bringing Biodiversity Back into Urban Yards'. Learn about how valuable your own green space is in the larger picture of nature and positive change. Light refreshments available.

Adding Beauty, Increased Water Quality, and Wildlife with Lake Restoration

November 13, 2017, 7PM 407-302-7616

Elizabeth Stephens will describe the process to increase water quality in polluted lakes to restore their natural beauty and increase beneficial wildlife. Through her volunteer organization, SERV, and homeowners, many lakes have already been restored.

Holiday Potluck

December 11, 2017, 6:30PM 407-302-7616

End of year Holiday Party. Bring a covered dish to share, and invite your friends and family. The Chapter will provide the main entrée and activities.



How to Identify an Invasive Plant

January 8, 2018, 7PM 407-302-7616

Do you know what's lurking in your yard? Those invasive plants whose seeds are ready to sprout and have stems spreading underground just waiting to wreck havoc in your yard and in our natural lands. Sherry Williams will help us learn to identify these invaders and how to control them.

Moths Are Awesome

February 12, 2018, 7PM 407-302-7616

Butterflies are beautiful but moths are awesome and overlooked. Taryn Sudol shows us some of the more spectacular moths found in Florida and how we can provide for them.

Christmas/Savage Creek Restoration

March 12, 2018, 7PM 407-302-7616

Beth Jackson will be speaking.

Isolated Wetlands, Fluctuating Water Levels, and Breeding Frogs

April 9, 2018, 7PM 407-302-7616

Jay Exum will be speaking.

Exploring Florida Native Plants at Central Florida Zoo & Botanical Gardens

May 14, 2018, 7PM 407-302-7616

Erin Miceli, Horticulture Manger at Central Florida Zoo & Botanic Garden, will share the work, installation and maintenance, and progress made to integrate Florida Native Plants into the main areas and exhibits.

Hummingbirds and the Native Plants They Love

June 11, 2018, 7PM 407-302-7616

Lavon Silvernell will be speaking.

Upcoming Field Trips and Activities

The Bug Closet at UCF

October 14, 2017, TBD 407-302-7616

Trip Leader: Shawn Kelly
4000 Central Florida Blvd, Bldg. 20, BIO301, Orlando
The UCF Bug Closet is one of the largest completely databased collections in the world with over 560,000 specimen records for insects and other arthropods, with more being added daily. It started in 1993 when Stuart Fullerton, a research associate, decided to create a more formal research collection. Along with many undergraduate volunteers they began collecting insects on UCF campus focusing on major micro eco-zones defined by vegetation representative of native Central Florida ecosystems. Collections Manger, Shawn Kelly, will lead us through this amazing world of local insects.

Walk the Watershed

November 18, 2017, 9AM 407-302-7616

Trip Leader: Elizabeth Stephens
Kewanee Park, 1505 Kewanee Trail, Casselberry
We will “walk the watershed” by doing a brief walking tour of Seminole County’s Lake Jesus Stormwater project by Kewanee Park. Features will include Kewanee Lake, the Regional Stormwater Facility (RSF), and Cassel Creek, as well as the adjacent educational trail. Native shoreline plants have been installed to remove nutrients from the water before it enters the RSF, and volunteers have helped to remove invasive plants from the waterway. Free, but reservations required.

Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive

December 9, 2017, 9AM 407-302-7616

Trip Leader: Beth Jackson
Meet at Magnolia Park, 2929 S Binion Road, Apopka
We will caravan along the Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive, a one-way 11-mile drive beginning at Lust Road and ending on Jones Road. We will stop along

the way into “pull over” areas to observe and discuss what we see. The former farmlands that make up the Lake Apopka North Shore includes marsh and floodplain restoration and the creation of a marsh flow-way that filters Lake Apopka’s waters by circulating lake water through restored wetlands, returning cleaner water to the lake. The wildlife drive is along a portion of the former farm fields. After our drive, we can return to picnic at Magnolia Park. Free, but reservations required.

Remove Invasive Plants Event

January 2018 407-302-7616

Date and location to be determined
747 Machette Trail, Oakland, Oakland Nature Preserve
Join in this community activity to make a difference in our natural lands. Free.

TBD

February 17, 2018 407-302-7616

Christmas/Savage Creek

March 17, 2018 407-302-7616

Trip Leader: Beth Jackson

TBD

April 14, 2018 407-302-7616

Central Florida Zoo

May 19, 2018, 9AM 407-302-7616

Trip Leader: Erin Miceli
3755 NW Hwy 17-92, Sanford
This guided walking tour will focus on Florida native plants in the stops at destination gardens and themed plantings. The destination gardens include the Butterfly Garden, the Health & Wellness Garden, The Channel 13 children’s garden, The Wildflower Garden, The Browse Garden, and The Spiny Garden. Free, but reservations required.