

FronD Forum

Florida Native Plant Society
Cuplet Fern Chapter :: Seminole County

Volume 9, Number 2 :: April – June 2019

Elections in May

If you, or anyone you know is interested in being more active, please consider one of the positions below:

Director-At-Large: This position is an Ambassador for our chapter. Duties include participating in and facilitating ongoing projects as well as extending chapter goodwill in the region. The Director-At-Large contributes their time while making connections with other organizations and informing them of chapter programs, field trips, outreaches, and other activities. They also help at events and outreaches.

Secretary: This is an important position within the board and ideal for someone who likes to compile information. The secretary accrues monthly email discussions for the agenda, finalizes the minutes, and stores important documents (check-in sheets, field trip waivers, etc.) all on Google Drive which is a cloud-based storage system. If you do not have Google Drive experience, do not worry—we will show you the ropes. Standard computer skills and internet availability at home are required. Gmail experience is preferred. Christine Brown, our current secretary, will provide training for a 3-month period along with Mark Kateli, president. The secretary is also responsible for an end-of-month (EOM) email exclusively for chapter members for upcoming chapter activities and regional news, but the core of the secretary's duties centers around preserving board discussions and activities in a record format.

Vice President (VP) of Programs: This position works directly under, and will be trained by the president. The VP of programs curates and selects monthly presentations. There is a significant lead—until December—with program bookings so training for this position will be easy. This position requires you to continue publicity in the same format as determined (or with even more information) for complete details to the public. Strong communications skills as well as Instagram and Facebook knowledge is preferred as you will be publicizing your programs there. You will also need to publicize programs on our chapter website and MeetUp page. It is recommended that the VP Facebook Live or Instagram Live the monthly program announcements. The VP is central to attracting public attention and

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2018–19 Board

President:

Mark Kateli

Past President (advisory):

Neta Villalobos-Bell

Vice President:

Barbara Whittier

Secretary:

Christine Brown

Treasurer:

Susan Blount-Angermeier

Chapter Representative (interim):

Mark Kateli

Membership:

Christine Brown

Director-at-Large:

Marion Crim

2018–19 Committees

Website:

Mark Kateli

Website (advisory):

Ken Bell

Youth Eco Camp Ambassador:

Barbara Whittier

Newsletter:

Kathleen Poole

Cuplet Fern Chapter

Florida Native Plant Society

PO Box 150021

Altamonte Springs, FL 32715

Meeting Location:

200 Fairmont Drive

Sanford, FL 32773

Elections in May—continued

works closely with the publicity chair, the secretary, and the president. The VP's role is to keep the lead time in bookings—up to a year in advance—as programs and presenters give additional ideas on possible field trips and community collaborations.

All positions come with their own gmail account. All positions are 2-year terms.



**Seminole Expo
2019**



Photo credit: Mark Kateli

2019 Summer Adventure Eco Camp

The schedule for 2019 Summer Adventure Eco Camp is now up on the registration site! Register early, because the weeks fill up fast. See themes and dates below.

Please note: We have changed things up a bit. The first week of Summer Eco Camp will be our Biology Bootcamp for ages 13–15. I have had a lot of people ask if we have something for older kids, so here it is!!! Learn what it takes to be a biologist. This week is designed for those that want to further explore the sciences of wildlife biology.

At Summer Adventure Eco Camp you'll have fun while learning about the natural world! If your child enjoys being outdoors, this is the camp for him or her. Our week-long day camps offer hands-on creative programming including hiking, nature crafts, hands-on experience with plants and animals, projects, experiments, arts & crafts, plus lots of fun and games! Have fun getting to know the animals that live at the Nature Center and be prepared to see amazing wildlife on the trails! Each week has a new and exciting theme! Ages 7–12

Location: Ed Yarborough Nature Center
 3485 N County Road 426, Geneva 32732

Dates/Times: June 3–July 26, Monday–Friday 9AM–4PM
 (extended care available - drop off as early as 7:30AM and pick up as late as 5:30AM)

Cost: \$132 per week (\$15 per week additional for extended care)

Week 1	June 3–7	Biology Bootcamp (ages 13–15)
Week 2	June 10–14	I Spy! (ages 7–12)
Week 3	June 17–22	Art in Nature (ages 7–12)
Week 4	June 24–28	Water Week (ages 7–12)
Week 5	July 1–5 (no camp 4 th)	Furry Friends Week (ages 7–12)
Week 6	July 8–12	Nature's Builders (ages 7–12)
Week 7	July 15–19	Edible Adventures (ages 7–12)
Week 8	July 22–26	Make a Nature Movie! (ages 7–12)

Go to recreation.seminolecountyfl.gov to register.
 For more information call 407.665.2211.
 See you this summer!!!



Seminole Audubon Society, Seminole State College, And Cuplet Fern Native Plant Chapter Partner for Pollinators

Seminole Audubon Society (SAS) was initially contacted by Duke Energy Foundation in early December with a grant opportunity for a pollinator and bird garden. Phyllis Hall, SAS School Liaison, connected with Dr. Debra Socci, who completed the application and received the grant. Dr. Socci is a Biology Professor and advisor to the College Environmental Club. The Environmental Club students will implement this project. As part of the project, these students will work with community partners to learn and create habitats for pollinators on the Oviedo campus as an extension of their learning.

As a community partner, Neta Villalobos-Bell, Cuplet Fern Native Plant Chapter, presented “How It Happens – Plant Strategies to Attract Pollinators” to the students who were surprised to learn the diversity of Florida’s native pollinators, such as, beetles, bats, moths, flies, native bees, and more. And, they learned how plants actually developed strategies to entice the pollinators with color, patterns, scent, abundance of nectar, and more.

In addition, Neta presented this topic again, this time to over 50 students and faculty at the Seminole State College Lake Mary Campus Biology Colloquium February 22. Afterwards, Neta was presented with a gift t-shirt (Pollinator Power) designed by Janina Bagherzadeh, a Biology and Environmental Studies student, and President of the Oviedo Environmental Club at Seminole State College.



Photo: Janine Bagherzadeh, Seminole State College student; Neta Villalobos-Bell, Cuplet Fern Native Plant Chapter; Dr. Marisol de Jesus Berrios, Microbiology professor

FNPS Conference: Transitions



Original artwork used in this graphic courtesy of Leslie Neumann

May 16th through the 19th, May 18th is the core date for presentations

For the schedule of events and more information or to register, go to
<https://www.facebook.com/events/2148499758543076/>

For more information on the venue, go to <https://www.plantationoncrystalriver.com>

What is a Herbarium?

Members and friends had the opportunity to visit the UCF Herbarium, located off the UCF campus in the Pavilion building, Suite 305 on February 16th. Dr. Elizabeth Harris provided insight into the importance and role of the herbarium, methods of collecting and preservation for future studies. The role of the herbarium is to provide a location for the preservation of dried plant materials.



Herbaria may be found in botanical gardens, natural history museums,



and universities around the world. The collected materials provide a baseline on a particular habitat or ecological region and documents the health of plant populations.

Fieldwork consists of taking a herbarium press that will allow immediate pressing of the plant to insure quality of the plant in question. The plant is placed between newspapers, blotters to absorb moisture for later preparation. Once in the lab, the plant press is placed in a climate controlled drying rack. Once the plant is adequately dry, the plant is placed on a herbarium archival sheet, using Elmer glue to keep it on the sheet, with several leaves, stems to show both sides, flower if in season. Later each specimen will have a collection label that may have information such as: Scientific name, family name, location, GPS site, description of plant, growing conditions, color of flower if available, date, and

collector. The sheet will have a digital code which relates to field collection resource and identification label in the lower right side. Plants are placed in airtight shelved herbaria cabinets in alphabetical order based on families. Over time, some families have changed and as such the old names on cabinets remain with information of new name and location to other cabinets.

Scientists from around the world share herbarium specimens. This is all done through international guidelines for sharing and given specific time limits to return specimens. Through sharing and today's digital information, scientists and graduate students have a better way to determine the types of plant species that may be found in an area, comparison of various characteristic changes, biodiversity, comparative DNA/pigment differences, and improve on identification methods.

The UCF Herbarium is a window of past plant populations in Central Florida.

The facility is a teaching lab for plant taxonomy and ecology students comparing changes in the plant populations or the loss of plants within a natural community.



Let's Get Growing

Are you in this garden scenario with me? We love being outside, pondering a new garden design or just observing every insect or bird that comes our way. We think about trying something new or once again growing a plant that was previously unsuccessful — but “we just don’t have any luck with such-and-such”, end of story. Well, don’t give up! I’d like to share some tips with you to increase the chances of success this year.

Persistence:

- If the plant is known to grow in your growing zone, try it again in a different spot.
- Try planting in an area with more or less sun and use less water.

Clean culture:

- Get rid of annual weeds. Replacing weeds with compost, either your own or purchased bagged compost, will enrich the soil with needed micronutrients and fungi to help soil decompose and provide organic nutrition for plants.
- Applying a leaf mulch or a bagged Eucalyptus mulch from the box stores will retain moisture, add nutrients, reduce the heat load, and protect from frost. Mulch truly gives the gift of less work at the end of the day.
- Discard all trimmings, branches, old flowers, etc., into the compost pile or garbage can as you go. Short on time? Just make sure all is picked up and discarded at the end of the day. Starting with a clean slate eliminates the feeling of being overwhelmed and allows for better time management.



- Sweep off your work space when you’ve finished potting.
- Designate a separate area for pots that need rinsing at a later time. As pots are rinsed, place them in the sun to dry.

Don't overwater:

- Don’t overwater. It’s not a good feeling knowing that your garden is dry, but it is better to be on the dry side than too wet. When weather is hot, the stomata (openings in the leaves and stems that permit gas exchange) close so that the plant conserves water; this gives the droopy appearance. Plants are protecting themselves, not heading towards death.

- Make a note or set that timer to water well in the morning time.

Document!

- I was Queen of thinking, “I’ll remember doing this...” but I didn’t. It takes a while to hone in

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Let's Get Growing—continued

on this skill, too. Physically documenting what you've done will increase success much sooner, and you won't repeat the unnecessary.

- Keep notes short so you'll *want* to look at them again.
- Use a format that is of interest to you (Excel or a spiral notebook?). You *will* be glad that you noted the exact name of a new soil or the date that you planted a new variety of Rudbeckia.

Most of all, *Keep it fun!* Sign up for field trips and visit other landscapes or land parcels with groups, such as your local Audubon or other Native Plant Society chapters. There you will find knowledgeable naturalists and experts who are willing to share important information. It's a great way to make new friends with like-minded people.

Dottie Hanna is the owner of Twinflower Nursery, our closest primarily-native nursery. You can find her at several plant sale events in our region.



Upcoming Meetings—All meetings are held at the Sanford Garden Club, 200 Fairmont, Sanford and are free and open to the public. Florida Native Plants are available at all meetings for a donation to our camp scholarships. We are a casual group. Pull up a chair, enjoy the program, and support kids with a donation! For updates or clarifications closer to the time, visit our website, check out our Facebook page, or call us at (352)658-3677 for more information.

Florida Edible Native Plants

April 8, 2019, 7PM

Speakers: Don Philpott, Gabby Milch or Sharon Lynn
Pre-program discussion: Gabby Milch or Sharon Lynn from the League of Women Voters of Seminole County will discuss the solar co-op program.

Main program: Don Philpott is a lead instructor with the University of Florida's Florida Master Naturalist program, a Florida Master Gardener and a Certified Interpretive Guide and member of the National Association for Interpretation. As

a member of the Wekiva Wildness Trust and a volunteer at Wekiwa Springs State Park, he helps run interpretive programs and guided walks and regularly conducts edible Florida and basic survival classes. He is executive director of the Florida State Parks Foundation. Foraging food for free can be fun if you want to add some interesting and nutritious ingredients to your meals or need a handy trail-side snack. Knowing what to forage for is a skill that will enhance your appreciation of and enjoyment in the

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Upcoming Meetings—continued

countryside and is something you can do as a family. Bring extra cash this month as Don will be selling the last 30 copies of his book *A Beginners Guide to Edible Floirda*. Check or cash only.

Moths

May 13, 2019, 7PM

Speaker: Taylor Jones

Mr. Jones has had a lifelong interest in the natural world, especially with regards to insects and birds. Fifteen years ago, while living in Staten Island, Taylor began breeding giant silk moths (Saturniids) and rearing their larvae. He has continued to do so in Florida. He has been an active participant in the WLSS online community (Worlds Largest Saturniidae Site), supplying the organization with local data and observations on giant silk moths, along with photos, and occasionally supplying egg and cocoon stock. Professionally, Taylor Jones is a syndicated editorial cartoonist and caricaturist whose work has been published worldwide in newspapers and magazines. Whenever possible, Taylor enjoys combining nature with his cartooning. In 2013, he created a series of humorous illustrations celebrating the return of the 17-year periodical cicada (Brood II) for the Staten Island Museum. More recently, Taylor produced a series of bird cartoons he titled “Faux Audubon”, with verse for each species. Taylor lives in Mount Dora, where he draws cartoons at night, and maniacally tends to his butterfly garden by day.

Long Leaf Pine Restoration and Teaching Landscape at Stetson University

June 10, 2019, 7PM

Speakers: Cynthia Bennington, Karen Cole

The Volusia Sandhill Ecosystem Teaching Landscape, an ongoing, small-scale (1 acre) restoration of the historic long leaf pine forests of central Florida, was established in 2011 on the perimeter of

Stetson University’s campus and adjacent to the university’s earth science museum. Recognizing that the site is far too small to be considered a true ecological restoration, it is nevertheless perfectly suited to extend the educational outreach of the Gillespie Museum and provide space for undergraduate research projects related to the ecological restoration of degraded urban spaces. With a current emphasis on the role of this urban fragment as a refuge for insect pollinators, we are working to increase the diversity of the understory and to create educational materials describing the importance of native insect species to native plant reproduction. We will share progress we have made, challenges met along the way, and our optimism for the future.

The Seminole County Fertilizer Ordinance—How You Can Help

July 8, 2019, 7PM

Speaker: Dr. Terrence Fullerton

Dr. Fullerton is the Fertilizer Educator for the Florida-Friendly Landscaping Program at Seminole County IFAS Extension. This program is a shortened version of their fertilizer workshop, but will still emphasize how the audience can help spread the word and provide the most accurate info to the community. Terrence holds a PhD in Soil Science from the University of West Indies. He has conducted over 200 training sessions and seminars related to plant nutrition in different parts of the world. His focus is on efficient and environmentally sound plant nutrient management practices.

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Members report volunteer hours. Seminole IFAS Master Gardener’s Program continuing education hours eligible!

Upcoming Meetings—continued

Garden Party—Native Plant Experiences with Cuplet Fern Members

August 12, 2019, 7PM

This is a unique program with at least four Cuplet Fern members (Neta Villalobos-Bell, Michael Kirchner, Joey Myers, and Mark Kateli) discussing their progress,

perspective, and hands-on experiences using native plants. Questions are encouraged. This will be an open-style discussion so we all can learn as we pursue expertise in landscaping with native plants. This is also a time to enjoy a potluck-style social. Please bring an appetizer and drink to share.

Upcoming Field Trips and Activities—Most field trips are free and open to the public. Please call (352)658-3677 for reservations in case we need to change the schedule or location. Also, some venues have limits on the number of people that may be accommodated.

Gentle Rejuvenating Yoga with Native Plant Exchange

April 27, 2019, 11:45AM

Point of Contact: Mark Kateli

Location: Serenity Now Yoga, 1200 W State Road 434, #212, Longwood, FL 32750—parking is available in the front and back of the building. The yoga studio is located on the second floor.

\$12 per person—each ticket covers the cost of the class and a proceed to Cuplet Fern! Both businesses are local to Seminole County and promote health and a better lifestyle.

Come join us for yoga and a native plant exchange. The class lasts roughly an hour. Yoga mats are included for your convenience—all you have to do is show up with a native plant for our plant exchange at the end of the class. This event is easy and relaxing. Guests are welcome. To purchase tickets go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/gentle-rejuvenating-yoga-with-native-plant-exchange-tickets-54857112099>

Comprehensive Tour of Split Oak Forest

May 4, 2019

Join us for a detailed tour of Split Oak Forest highlighting its beauty and ecological value. The tour will be split into 4 sections: a photography class, a birding class, a naturalist class (environment

and ecology interpretation), and a guided botany walk. These 4 classes will be held in different areas around the property and you will enjoy a buggy ride from one location to the other while you take in the scenery. Tickets will be on sale soon through our website and social media channels—so be on the lookout as it will fill up quickly! Proceeds will benefit our chapter and Friends of Split Oak forest.

Restoring a Sandhill—Research and Outreach in an Urban Habitat Fragment

June 15, 2019

Trip Leader: Dr. Cynthia Bennington

Location: Stetson University, 234 E Michigan Avenue, DeLand, FL 32724-3539—ample campus garage parking is available over the weekend

The fieldtrip is free.

Join us and Stetson University's biology professor Dr. Cynthia Bennington as we tour natural areas around campus. We will visit the Volusia Sandhill Ecosystem Teaching Landscape established in 2011 on the perimeter of Stetson University's campus and adjacent to the university's earth science museum. It is an ongoing, small-scale (1 acre) restoration of the historic long leaf pine forests of central Florida. Bring water to drink, a bagged lunch, hat, sunscreen, insect repellent, and ample curiosity!

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Upcoming Field Trips and Activities—continued

Private Tour of Wilson's Landing Park

July 20, 2019, 10AM

Trip Leader: Tina McIntyre

Location: Wilson's Landing Park, 387 Malekean Trail, Sanford, FL 32771—ample parking is available

Free, but reservations are required

Please join FNPS member and Seminole County Florida Friendly Landscaping agent Tina McIntyre as we have a short field trip at Wilson's Landing Park. The county has been working to make native plant enhancements there and they should be growing nicely by then. Tina will talk about the watershed within the property as well. Members of Tarflower Chapter, our sister chapter, may be joining us. Bring water to drink, a bagged lunch, hat, sunscreen, insect repellent, and ample curiosity! We will take a short break at the pavilion.

Alexander Springs with Cuplet Fern and Lake Beautyberry Chapters

August 17, 2019, 8AM

Point of Contact: April McClain, David Rakes, Mark Kateli

Location: Alexander Springs, 49525 County Road 445 (39.19 mi), Altoona, FL 32702—ample parking is available, but is frequently crowded on warm weekends. Carpooling is encouraged. We'll meet at the concession area near the restrooms.

\$5.50 per person, reservations are required

Please join April McClain from Lake Beautyberry chapter and naturalist David Rakes as we enjoy a joint field trip on the trails surrounding Alexander Springs. There are only 27 first-magnitude springs in Florida (flows of greater than 100 cubic feet per second). Of them, Alexander Springs is the easiest to access. Join author of *Botanizing with Birds* David Rakes on the Timucuan Trail surrounding Alexander Springs. It is 0.9 miles with an 'easy' on the difficulty rating. This short trail has it all from hydric hammocks to sand pine scrub; from buttressed cypress, climbing vine and ruby crowned

kinglets to sand pines, saw palmetto and hermit thrush. Habitat diversity means plant and insect and bird diversity, too. As you walk with David, you will learn about the interconnections from a naturalist point of view. Bring water to drink, hat, binoculars (if you have them), sunscreen, insect repellent, and ample curiosity! If you'd like, you can jump into the spring to cool off after the walk! Afterwards, we will have lunch and network with one another at a well-known establishment—Tony's Pizza at 2760 E Orange Avenue, Eustis, FL 32726—where we will pair good food with good company.

Rare Plant Count in Sulphur Springs

September 21, 2019

Point of Contact: Ralph Risch, Mark Kateli

Location: Sulphur Springs, Boy Scout Road, Paisley, FL 32767—We'll likely meet at the forest's south entrance near Bear Pond off SR46, but this all depends on the Wekiva beltway construction. If we need to meet at the north entrance off Brantley Branch Road near SR44, we'll do that.

Free, but reservations are required

Join Florida Forestry Service's Ralph Risch as we trek through Sulphur Run in search of a rare plant. Details of this rare plant will be given upon an RSVP. The target plant is quite easy to spot once you've seen one. As this is a seepage slope area, it will be wet with lots of mud. Ralph will provide any tally sheets needed, though he has not yet decided if we are doing a count only or if we'll be collecting other data. There is another undisclosed plant that has not yet been vouchered for Lake County—finding it along Sulphur Run would be a real treat! Folks doing the count will be familiarized with the look of both plants so if they spot one, we can document it. There are a number of good places to break for lunch which we will do after this exciting and interesting field trip. Bring water to drink, a bagged lunch, hat, sunscreen, insect repellent, and ample curiosity! Wear boots that can get wet or won't get sucked off by the muck!