



ZAMIA

The Naples Chapter Newsletter
Florida Native Plant Society

March 2017

Upcoming Zamia Events:

Friday, April 7 – Field Trip Inside the Picayune Pump Station - Meet at 9:30 A.M. at PSSF Ranger Station located at 2121 52nd Ave. SE, Naples, FL, 34117.

Picayune Strand State Forest is in southwest Florida in eastern Collier County, approximately 2 miles east of Naples. The forest can be accessed via Everglades Boulevard from the north, Jane's Scenic Drive from the east, and Sabal Palm Road from the west. The pump station is a part of the ongoing habitat and hydrologic restoration project.

Tuesday, April 11, 7 P.M.

Presentation: Milkweeds for Monarchs

Location: Naples Botanical Garden Kapnick Center. 4820 Bayshore Drive.

Presenter: Scott Davis (botanist).

Join us for snacks at 6:30pm!

Saturday, April 15, 5 -7:30 P.M. - Casual Dinner and Garden Preview

Join us at Patsy McDonald's residence for a casual dinner and visit to a garden in transition based off this year's theme of attracting birds, bees, and butterflies through native landscaping. Mediterranean supper & wine to be served.

Suggested donation of \$25. [Please RSVP to naplesnativeplants@gmail.com](mailto:naplesnativeplants@gmail.com)

Board:

President – Patsy McDonald;

patsymcfeld@gmail.com

Vice President – Karyn Allman;

yarn42@gmail.com

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paintedpony175@aol.com

Director at Large- Chad Washburn;

cwashburn@naplesgarden.org

Director at Large – Brian Bovard

bbovard@fgcu.edu

Logo: Elizabeth Smith

Our mission: To promote the preservation, conservation, and restoration of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida.

For more info visit our website:

naples.fnpschapters.org

Follow us on Facebook!

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Naples-Chapter-of-the-Florida-Native-Plant-Society/165459220146254>

A Message from the President

The peak of Naples season is upon us, just as the vernal equinox is about to occur. This is a good time to contemplate land management and the need to restore the native plant communities. Here in Collier County, we have a particular reason to focus on the natural ecosystem in the wake of the Lee Williams Road Fire that burned approximately 7,500 acres, closed I - 75 & Collier Boulevard, created vast smoke clouds and necessitated the evacuation of residential areas and hundreds of horses (including my horse, Jack. He's fine).

The reason the fire burned so hot, fast and consumed so many acres were a combination of high winds, an unnaturally large accumulation of undergrowth and a system deprived of its natural sheet flow of water. The high winds were obviously a natural occurrence but the accumulation of undergrowth and lack of water are the result of human mismanagement and interference. Fire is and always has been part of the SW Florida ecosystem. The native plants are adapted to regular cycle of burning. Unfortunately, fire has been suppressed too long and invasive species, such as melaleuca trees, create a fire hazard to the native systems.

Regular, carefully controlled prescribed burns prevent raging wildfires like the Lee Williams Road fire. Too often, neighbors complain about the smoke from a prescribed burn. We now know in a very personal way that the smoke from an uncontrolled fire is far worse. Hopefully, in the future, people will remember this lesson and be more supportive of prescribed burns. We as members of FNPS can help educate our neighbors.

In addition, it is imperative that more water reaches South Florida and the Everglades rather than being diverted from Lake Okeechobee east to the St. Lucie River and west to the Caloosahatchee River. It is critical to contact your state senators and delegates and urge them to support SB 10 & HB 761 which will fund the purchase of land to create a reservoir south of Lake Okeechobee to facilitate the restoration of the flow of water to South Florida. This would help reestablish the natural plant communities and reduce the threat of uncontrolled wildfires.

As members of Naples Native Plants, we have a unique opportunity to participate in restoring the native plant communities thru the Land Management Review process. I would encourage all members to inquire about this process. FNPS has produced a slide show to describe this process. We are planning on

having some workshops to screen this slide show and allow discussion groups. In addition, we are teaming with the Forest Service to do community outreach in the areas of Naples and Collier County most affected by the fire. Please follow us @fnps.naples for updates.

NATIVE PLANT OF THE MONTH



<http://www.fnps.org/plants/plant/ipomoea-alba>

Moonflower (*Ipomoea alba*)

There's often one member of the family who strives to be different. In a plant family whose flowers open every morning, there's one member that insists on flowering after sunset. This family is the morning glories and the unusual species is moonflower.

This native vine with heart-shaped leaves may go unnoticed until its blooms coincide with a

moonlit night. Its white petals are fused together and open as flat as a pancake. The final look is reminiscent of the full moon in both shape and color.

Why would moonflower break the mold and bloom in the dark? To take advantage of pollinators who specialize in doing their work at night. When blooming, moonflower emits a strong scent to advertise its presence to pollinators, especially sphinx moths. When they come within sight of the bloom, moonflower's glowing white expanse attracts the moths like sharp-angled paper airplanes to a target.

With this vine's ability to bloom year-round in a variety of habitats, every night is a fresh opportunity to observe miniature moons shining in the trees. Even early morning walkers may still be rewarded with moonflower sightings. As the sun climbs in the sky, moonflowers appear to melt in the heat while the other morning glories invigorate. But, like any family with a quirky cousin, the morning glories become especially intriguing because of the night-blooming moonflower.

- Andee Naccarato, Conservation Chair
- Previously published by the Fort Myers News-Press

Consumer Alert For Native Milkweed

Fox 13 in the Tampa Bay area recently featured a Consumer Alert informing people to make sure they buy the correct, native milkweed to help support monarchs. FNPS members Scott Davis, Louie Castillo and Bruce Turley of Wilcox Nursery are interviewed.

Link to Fox 13 Tampa Bay, Monarch Mistake: How You Could Be Accidentally Harming Butterflies:

<http://www.fox13news.com/consumer/242755824-story>

REGISTRATION FOR THE FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY 37th ANNUAL CONFERENCE IS OPEN!



The 37th Annual Conference of the Florida Native Plant Society will be held in the heart of Florida, and central to the largest river restoration project in the world! The Kissimmee

River restoration, a joint project by the US Army Corps of Engineers and the South Florida Water Management District, is designed to restore the complex relationships between land, wildlife, water and climate that were torn apart when the river was channelized in 1962. Before channelization, the river was a haven for native plants and wildlife, but afterwards many species of birds, fish and plants were lost, creating havoc on our economy and our environment. The restoration project to restore the river to its natural path is nearly half complete, and already much of the original flora and fauna have returned and the water quality is improving.

This year's conference addresses those connections that are so important to the Kissimmee River Basin and beyond. What can we learn from the negative impact of the channelization, and the surprisingly quick recovery that has followed the restoration? What more needs to be done? How can the lessons learned in the Kissimmee River Basin be applied to other areas of Florida, the country and the world?

For online registration information, go to www.fnps.org.

New Membership Form

Renewals should be made via notices sent out by FNPS. This is done automatically. This membership blank is for new members only. Mail to FNPS/PO Box 278/ Melbourne FL 32902-0278, or go to www.fnps.org/

Name_____

Address_____

City, State, Zip_____

Phone_____

E-mail_____

Business_____

Chapter_____

Membership Types

Student_____ \$15

Individual_____ \$35

Family/Household_____ \$50

Contributing_____ \$75
(\$25 to Endowment)

Business_____ \$125

Non-Profit_____ \$50

Supporting_____ \$100

Donor_____ \$250

Lifetime_____ \$1000

Library (public/non-profit; subscription
to *Palmetto* only)_____ \$15

FNPS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Your dues payment is tax deductible. To provide funds that will enable us to protect Florida's native plant heritage, please consider joining or renewing at the highest level you can afford.

The Florida Native Plant Society is registered as a charitable organization in Florida (Reg No. CH3021).