



The Nature Coastline

Newsletter of the Nature Coast Chapter of the
Florida Native Plant Society

A Message from the Vice President

Happy New Year everyone. I am super excited about the events already planned for 2022. Pat and Becky have been working closely with each other to have the programs and field trips enhance each other. Jonnie has new ideas for the State Fair display and our first plant sale is set for Saturday, April 2, 2022. Our in-person meetings will continue for those fully vaccinated.

While the cool weather continues now is a good time to tweak our gardens and get them ready for the glorious blooms that will soon come. It is so much fun to imagine how the garden will look when the seeds that last year's blooms have dropped start to send up their first leaves and then deliver their abundant beauty. I don't know about you but somehow it seems that the area that my turf grass occupies continues to shrink as natives show up to take up more space. I don't know how that happens. It is almost like magic.

With our first meeting just around the corner, I can't wait to see everyone again in 2022!

Molly Hays
Vice-President
Nature Coast Chapter of FNPS



The Mission of the Florida Native Plant Society is to promote the preservation, conservation, and restoration of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida.

Nature Coast Chapter meetings, field trips, and activities are open to FNPS members and the public alike.

Monthly meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m.

Location: Meetings are held at
Heritage Park Community Center
5401 Land O' Lakes Blvd
Land O' Lakes, FL 34639

"If you have not been fully vaccinated, wear a mask."

Email naturecoastfnps@gmail.com

Chapter website: pasconativeplants.org

Chapter E-mail: naturecoastfnps@gmail.com

Facebook Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/>

[PascoNativePlants/](https://www.facebook.com/PascoNativePlants/)

twitter.com/NatureCoastFNPS



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The Society fulfills its mission through:

- Support for conservation land acquisition
- Land management that enhances habitat suitability for native plants
- Education
- Public policies that protect our native flora, especially rare species
- Research on native plant species
- Encouragement of local landscaping practices and policies that preserve Florida's native plant heritage

To become a member go to FNPS.org and click on "Join/Support" at the upper right-hand corner of screen. Print form, complete, and mail form to FNPS, or call. You may also join at a chapter meeting.

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

Gold \$500
Patron \$250
Business \$150
Non-Profit \$150
Supporting \$100
Household \$50
Individual \$35
Full Time Student \$15

OR BOOST YOUR SUPPORT by renewing as a Sustaining Member -- easy \$10 monthly payments automatically and securely charged to your credit card. CREDIT CARD PAYMENT REQUIRED. No checks/invoicing. Sustaining membership remains in effect as long as you wish and your card number is valid.

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FNPS Nature Coast Chapter Facebook Group

**Message from Molly Hays,
Facebook Administrator**



Do you have a Facebook account?

Check out our new and exciting Nature Coast Chapter group page.

Here's how you can find the group on Facebook:

- 1) Go to facebook.com and log in.
- 2) In the search bar, type in the name "Nature Coast Chapter Florida Native Plant Society".
- 3) click on the JOIN button.

Here you will be treated to news and photos of NCC field trips and members sharing photos of their plants giving you ideas for your garden, photos of plants currently in bloom, information about native nurseries to see and to purchase just what you need to add to your garden, educational webinars demonstrating ideas such as how to design a native garden in your landscape, and links to purchase items such as informative books, and lovely calendars and note cards with beautiful photos of native plants.

We now have 128 members in our Facebook group. and always love welcoming new members.

Pre-order your FNPS license plate now at

<https://citrus.fnpsschapters.org/new-license-plate/>

**At least 3,000 plates must be sold in advance before any
will be produced**



Purchase Books, Calendars & Cards to Benefit the Nature Coast Chapter

A way to support the Nature Coast Chapter is to purchase beautiful 2021 calendars and note cards created by chapter member, Pat Kelly. To purchase calendars and/or cards go to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/PascoNativePlants/> and order with your credit card.

If you prefer to pay by check, send an email to Pat Kelly at patricia03@gmail.com

FNPS Nature Coast Chapter website <http://naturecoast.fnpsschapters.org/>

Mellissa Perkins does a great job as our Website Administrator. Stay current with all our chapter information about meetings and events plus photos and links to the FNPS website.

AmazonSmile <https://smile.amazon.com/gp/chpf/homepage?orig=%2F>

Shop at smile.amazon.com and we'll donate 0.5% of eligible purchases to your favorite charitable organization—no fees, no extra cost. Register and choose FNPS as your charitable organization.

Nature Coast Chapter Website

Administered by Melissa Perkins

Have you looked at our website lately?

Go to <http://naturecoast.fnpschapters.org> and check us out!

The website contains information about upcoming events and programs with the Nature Coast chapter. Even if you cannot find the latest edition of the Nature Coastline or you aren't a Facebook guru, you can find the same activities listed on our website. If you have trouble remembering the name of the website, that should not be a problem. We have made it easier to search for our website. If you search for Florida Native Plants and Nature Coast, or something similar, chances are the search engine on your computer will find our website address for you.

This is a trying time for all of us, and many of our events have either been postponed or cancelled. But, as we begin to reopen and start to bring back activities, check the website for updates. Things are changing weekly. Currently, we have a couple of outings planned for the near future and there is also a plant sale coming up as well. So, please, check out the website for information on upcoming events.

Also, I would like to invite all of you to give suggestions of what you would like to see on the website. Your feedback will help make our website a better and more informative place to visit. I encourage everyone to give suggestions. The website is a work in progress and especially right now, content will be changing. So, any ideas of something you think would be interesting topic to put in the website, please let me know.

My email address is melperk100@gmail.com. I'm looking for something that would be a recurring theme, such as the Plant Profile section that we have currently. I will take all ideas to the board of directors so decisions can be made about our future content.

Stay safe and I look forward to seeing everyone very soon!

Melissa Perkins- Webmaster

We have something New....on Youtube

Molly has created a YouTube video about our chapter.

**Go to <https://www.youtube.com/> and search on Nature Coast Chapter
You will find an Overview video. Click on link to view and listen.**

Monthly Native Plant Walks at Lettuce Lake Conservation Park



JOIN US FOR A

NATIVE PLANT WALK LETTUCE LAKE CONSERVATION PARK

6920 E FLETCHER AVE, TAMPA FL

Come discover the beauty of native plants on a guided tour with a representative of Suncoast Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society. The walk begins at 9 am behind the Visitor's Center. We will leave from the native plant garden to walk the park trails and boardwalk to see what grows naturally in the hardwood swamp and learn how native plants benefit wildlife.

The walk is free but there is a \$2 per vehicle fee to enter the park.



Saturday, January 8*, 9 am	No walks in July and August
Saturday, February 5, 9 am	September 3, 9 am
Saturday, March 5, 9 am	October 1, 9 am
Saturday, April 2, 9 am	November 5, 9 am
Saturday May 7, 9 am	No walk in December
Saturday, June 4, 9 am	Look for our 2023 schedule!

*second Saturday for January only

Lettuce Lake

**Native Plant
Walks**

2022

**Guided by
Suncoast Chapter
of
Florida Native
Plant Society**

**First Saturday of
each Month***

**No walks in July,
August or
December**

**Start 9 am at the
Native Plant
Garden**



Calendar of Events - Jan Meeting and Field Trip

Tuesday, Jan 11, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. Heritage Park Community Ctr

Title/Topic: <u>"The History of Lettuce Lake Park"</u>	Presenter : Joel Jackson
<p>The presentation will give us details on the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Background information on how the park's location relates to other land conservation areas to become the largest single conservation area in Hillsborough County and the county's most visited park.2. How the park's design followed three basic objectives3. Ongoing activities at the park to promote Florida native plants and ecological stewardship.	<p>Joel Jackson is a lifelong resident of the Tampa area, served in Africa as a Peace Corps Volunteer and graduated from USF with both Bachelor and Master's degrees. He was the first park and recreation planner for the City of Tampa and managed Hillsborough County's \$10 million park bond program to design and develop six nature parks for the county including Lettuce Lake Park. When he became the City of Tampa parks grounds manager he drafted the guidelines for a program to purchase environmental lands for Hillsborough County (ELAPP) which to date has acquired over 63,000 acres of conservations lands. His last position was Hillsborough County's manager for park planning, design, and development. Joel is a 41-year member of the Florida Native Plant Society, a member of Tampa Audubon Society and has received both the FNPS 2016 "Green Palmetto" award for public service and SWFWMD's 2020 "Water Wise" award for Pasco County. His hobbies are Photography and making Bluebird nesting boxes.</p>

January Field Trip Lettuce Lake County Conservation Park

Date and Time: Saturday, January 22, 9:00 a.m.

Location: 6920 E Fletcher Ave, Tampa FL 33637

Entrance Fee: \$2 per vehicle. Up to 8 people per vehicle

Leader: Joel Jackson

Our very own Joel Jackson will follow up his presentation at our January monthly meeting with a walk through Lettuce Lake Park. We will start at the native plant garden in back of the visitor's center and then tour the park's boardwalk and nature trails.

Lettuce Lake Conservation Park is one of Hillsborough County's most visited parks. More than half of the park's property lies in the natural floodplain of the Hillsborough River, consisting of a hardwood swamp forest. The remainder of the park consists of hardwood hammocks and pine flatwoods plant communities.

The park features wooded picnic areas and playgrounds, a 1.25-mile paved exercise trail and 3,500-foot boardwalk featuring an observation tower where visitors can view an expanse of the park and Hillsborough River and see abundant wildlife such as alligators, limpkins, roseate spoonbills, and barred owls. The park is wheelchair accessible except for the observation tower's upper levels.

Directions: From I75 travel south to Exit 266, Fletcher Ave and head west on Fletcher for about a mile and turn right at the entrance. Follow the signs to the visitor center where we will meet.

Questions? Contact Becky Clayton at raclayton01@yahoo.com 813-416-5672 with any questions.

Calendar of Events - Feb meeting and Field Trip

Tuesday, Feb 8, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. Heritage Park Community Ctr

Title/Topic: <u>Invasive Exotic Plants on Nature Lands</u>	Presenter : Michael Terry
This presentation will focus on the invasive plant species on the SWFWMD's Upper Hillsborough Tract - 6,978 acres that protects the upper reaches of the Hillsborough River. This river's floodplain provides natural storage of floodwaters, acts as a filtration system for runoff and serves as an important link in protecting wildlife habitat in the Hillsborough River greenway corridor. Mike will identify some of the invasive plant species on the property, describe the damage they cause and explain what is being done to remove these invasives from this property.	Michael Terry is the Senior Vegetation Management Specialist in the Operations and Land Management Bureau with the Southwest Florida Water Management District. Mike has been with the District for 37 years working with terrestrial and aquatic exotic vegetation. His duties include working with private contractors on SWFWMD lands to oversee their exotic treatment and helicopter surveys for Old World Climbing Fern. He also works control burns and wildfires as needed.

February Field Trip: Exotic Invasive Species on the Upper Hillsborough Tract

Date and Time: Saturday, February 12 , 9:30 a.m.

Location: Upper Hillsborough Tract, 41404 CR 54, Zephyrhills, FL 33540

Leader: Michael Terry, Southwest Florida Water Management District

We will follow up the Mike's presentation at February monthly meeting with a hike in SWFWMD's Upper Hillsborough Tract. We will look for and identify some or all of the following invasive plant species on the property: Cogon grass, Japanese Climbing fern, Old World Climbing fern, Coral Ardisia, Camphor trees, Chinaberry trees, Elephant Ears, Wedelia, & Skunk vine. We will also learn and see evidence of the controlled burns and exotic, invasive plant removal that are done on this property.

This SWFWMD property of 6,978 acres protects the upper reaches of the Hillsborough River, the river's floodplain provides natural storage of floodwaters and acts as a filtration system for runoff. The property also serves as an important link in protecting wildlife habitat in the Hillsborough River greenway corridor. The property's roads and trails meander through pine flatwoods, consisting of both slash and longleaf pine overstory, palmetto/gallberry understory and hydric hammock and swamp along the river. [Upper Hillsborough Tract Map](#)

Meet: at the Parking lot on the south side of Hwy 54 (see directions below)

Wear good hiking boots that you don't mind getting a little wet, bug repellent and sunscreen.

Bring a hat, water and a snack.

Directions: From the intersection of SR54 and US301 in Zephyrhills travel about 3.5 miles east to the Upper Hillsborough parking lot on the south side of SR54, across the road from CR35A which is on the North side of SR54.

Questions? Contact Becky Clayton at raclayton01@yahoo.com 813-416-5672 with any questions.

Florida State Fair

February 10 to 21, 2022

4800 US Hwy. 301 North, Tampa FL 33610

Set up Tuesday, Feb 8th at 9:30am in the Living Center, the horticulture display area. If anyone is interested in helping to set up, feel free to show up and pitch in.

There will be paperwork and brochures for the public. Plants will be purchased from Sweet Bay Nursery the weekend before set up.

We need people willing to show up, refill paperwork and water plants and perhaps talk to the public. Jonnie Spitler will have tickets for fair entry for those helping.

Breakdown will be Wednesday Feb 23 at 9:30am.

Any questions, call Jonnie at 813-435-8143.



Photos by Velma Herrig and Karen Wright



Florida State Fair

Our Common Theme at the FNPS Exhibit from Prior Years

2017



First Place 2018

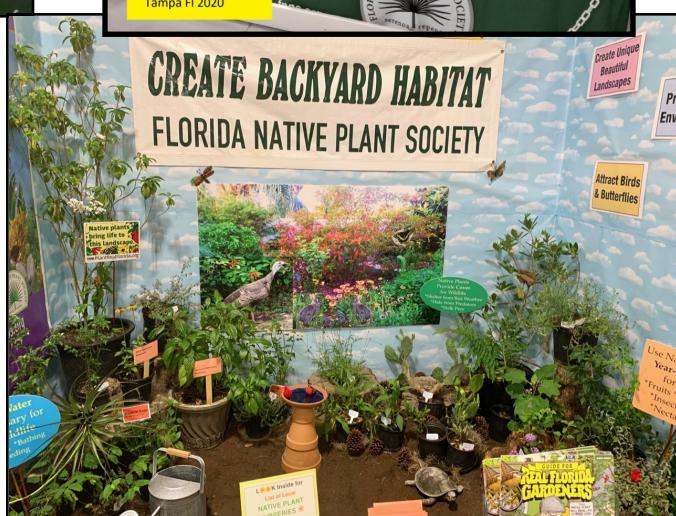


2020



2019

**Jonnie Spitler's Vision
for a Florida Native
Plant Society outreach
exhibit at the Florida
State Fair has resulted
in an award winning
consistent message to
the public.**



2021

Field Trip Bok Tower Garden



Cheryl Peterson has been the Manager of the Rare Plant Conservation Program at Bok Tower since 2002. She has a BA in Botany and Microbiology and a Master degree in Cell and Molecular Biology. Cheryl explained in great detail the process of searching for the rare plant, capturing the soil , and re-introducing the plant into the wild. More information about this fascinating program can be found at

<https://boktowergardens.org/rare-plant-conservation-program/>



National Collection Beds

Right: Savannas Mint (*Dicerandra immaculata* var. *savannarum*)

Below: Florida Ziziphus (*Ziziphus celata*)



Field Trip Bok Tower Garden



**Photos by
Velma
Herrig and
Karen
Wright**



**American beautyberry
(Callicarpa americana)**



**Elliott's aster
(Symphyotrichum elliottii)**



Rebecca Dance



**Pitcherplant
(Sarracenia)**

Featured Photographs from Bok Tower Garden

By John Lampkin



John Lampkin



John Lampkin

Green Lynx Spider eating Polistes wasp-fly waiting and Green Lynx Spider-egg sac



John Lampkin

Savannah Balm Dicerandra immaculate var. savannarum

Lessons from the Landscape

By Julie Wert

Recently, a new resident to our state told me she missed the fall color of her former home. It was hard for me to describe the beauty of the fall and winter color here since it's so much more subtle. It's best seen on a walk through the woods, several times over the cool months of fall and winter. So I took on the task, giving myself a great excuse to walk and observe, looking for reds, since it was the Christmas season. From my window, I can see two brilliant examples.

The Virginia creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*) is turning scarlet red before it drops its leaves. It's sporadic but impossible to miss against the green background. Austin's *Florida Ethnobotany* tells me it was mentioned by Captain John Smith in 1624. The internet tells me it's grown and sold for its brilliant fall color. Photos show whole walls covered with scarlet, yellow and variegated foliage, depending on the variety.



The other plant I can see from my window is Winged Sumac, (*Rhus copallina*), turning magenta red, contrasting with the green woods.

Our FNPS website, <https://www.fnps.org/plant/rhus-copallinum>, said it's noted for fall color, showy flowers and fruits, eaten by birds and deer. The bark is nibbled on by rabbits. It's a larval plant for the red-banded hairstreak caterpillar and the Luna moth. Not just a pretty face!



In the sunny low spots, the maples and sweetgums are beginning to turn color, orange-red to maroons. Red maple, (*Acer rubrum*) will go on to show conspicuous, bright-red, winged samaras, which remain on trees for several weeks, then float their beauty everywhere. It's not just a pretty tree but is the larval host plant for several moths. Sweet-gum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) leaves can be yellow to red to burgundy and is also used as a larval plant for the Luna moth. Watch out for the spiny fruit capsules on the ground if you like to go barefoot!

A walk around the yard found red berries looking like Christmas wreath material. The wild coffee (*Psychotria nervosa*) in its favored places in the shade shows red fruit against the clear green of the leaves, a ready snack for the birds. The yaupon holly (*Ilex vomitoria*), East Palatka Holly (*Ilex attenuata*) and Sand holly (*Ilex ambigua*) all had red fruit waiting for birds to snack on them, especially when the robins visit for a few days in January.

The ubiquitous Scarlet or Tropical sage, (*Salvia coccinea*), a perennial that reseeds readily, displays tubular red flowers almost all year and provides nectar for many insects when other blooms are taking a winter break. Migrating hummingbirds are happy to see it in the winter. December brings stores full of Christmas poinsettia, but our native poinsettia, or Paintedleaf, (*Euphorbia cyathophora*) is also in bloom. The colorful bracts surround the bloom head that provides nectar and pollen for bees, butterflies and moths.

A drive through any sandy wooded road reminds you of the season when the turkey oaks (*Quercus laevis*) flash their brilliant orange-reds. Color is all around us in the fall and winter, better viewed in a walk than in a drive by and a lot more fun. I'm looking forward to the hickories in January, when they turn a brilliant golden color. Our season of color lasts for months!

Holiday Picnic at Starkey Wilderness Park



Rick Buckman, retired Pasco County Parks and Recreation Director and Program Supervisor led our hike on the nature trail to the Pithlachascotee River.



Wild Coffee (*Psychotria nervosa*)



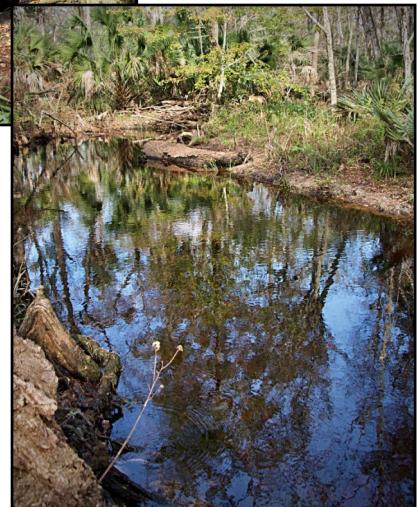
Green Fly Orchid (*Epidendrum magnoliae*)

Very Old Oak Tree

Holiday Picnic at Starkey Wilderness Park



**Photos by
Velma Herrig
and Karen
Wright**



Award recognition for the Garden Girls and other members of NCC were given Pollinator Pathway signs made by Jared Stevens with his 3D printer. Jared is a strong advocate for inclusion, of people with disabilities, in all aspects of life. His Facebook page is:

<https://www.facebook.com/JaredStevensUSA>



Couple of Tree Huggers

FRINGED BLUESTAR

By Peggy A. Gretchen FNPS Member Pasco Master Gardener Volunteer

Botanical Name: *Amsonia ciliata*

Common Name: Fringed Bluestar, Blue Dogbane, Threadleaf Bluestar

Family: Apocynaceae (Dogbane or Milkweed)



Type of Plant: Native clump-forming deciduous perennial wildflower. It is a member of the same family as the milkweeds, but it is not a true milkweed. They do usually produce a milky, latex-like sap, evident when the leaves and stems are cut or bruised; however, they are not known to be a larval host plant for the Monarch butterfly or any of the other milkweed butterflies (Queen, Soldier). Dormant in winter. Dies back to the ground and reappears each spring as a whorl of soft, narrow, needle-like or grass-like leaves.

Height: usually 1.5-2 ft., up to 3 ft. Width: 2-3 ft.

How to Identify:

Leaves: Alternate, simple, entire. Linear to narrowly lanceolate, about 2-3 inches long and 1/8-1/2 inches wide. Multiple stems emerge from a thick, underground tuber and covered with leaves, with the upper leaves being sessile.

Milky sap. Deciduous. Dark yellow to orange fall foliage.

Flowers: Numerous, showy, light blue to whitish blue, 1/2 inch across, tubular opening into five petal-like lobes with a white center giving an overall star-shaped

appearance. Borne in terminal panicles (clusters) held above the foliage.

Flowering Time: Spring to summer to fall. Primarily blooms in late spring April.

Fruit: Long, narrow, erect, brown seed pods or follicles, which are usually paired and appear in the fall.

Habitat: Scrub, sandhills, and dry pine flatwoods.

Distribution: Western Panhandle and North Florida to the west Central peninsular Florida south to Highlands Co., including Pasco Co. Southeastern

United States from Texas to North Carolina. Hardiness Zones: 5-9B.

Landscape Use / Wildlife Benefit: This attractive Florida native perennial wildflower is very adaptable to the home landscape. With its showy spring blooms over several weeks or more, bright green foliage, and fall color, Fringed Bluestar makes an unusual addition to any mixed wildflower or pollinator-friendly garden, if you have an open, sunny, well-drained site. Plant in groups of at least 3-5 and 2-3 ft. apart for best visual impact and to best attract the pollinators. Use it near walkways or the front of a bed or border. Attracts a variety of long-tongued insect pollinators, including native carpenter bees, hummingbird moths, and especially butterflies for nectar, as well as ruby-throated hummingbirds.

Cultivation:

- **Soil:** Sandy, well-drained. Needs excellent drainage. Any soil pH.
- **Light:** Full Sun – Partial light shade. Needs 4 hours of direct sun to bloom well. May be shaded out by taller plant neighbors.
- **Water:** Moderately dry to average to somewhat moist, but very well-drained. Drought-tolerant once established. Does not tolerate wet sites or standing water, even for short periods.
- **Miscellaneous:** Once established, requires little maintenance. May prune to about 10 inches after flowering to maintain shape and a more compact, bushy habit. Not salt-tolerant. Disease and pest resistant. Resistant to mammalian herbivores, including deer. Dies to ground each winter; reappears each spring. Does not sucker or tend to spread readily by seed in the garden.

• **Propagation:** By fresh seed or root division. Seedlings flower the second year.

• **Availability:** See www.plantrealflorida.org! Native plant sales and nurseries.

• Green Isle Gardens in Groveland. For seeds, Florida Wildflower Seed & Plant Growers Association: www.floridawildflowers.com.

• **Comment:** The other Florida native *Amsonia* species is *Amsonia tabernaemontana* or Eastern Bluestar which is found in the floodplain swamps, wet hammocks, and stream banks of the Panhandle and North Florida.

References:

- Florida Native Plant Society website: FNPS.org.
- Florida Wildflower Foundation: flawildflowers.org.
- UF/IFAS Gardening Solutions: Wildflowers For All Seasons.
- Huegel, Craig N., Native Wildflowers and Other Groundcovers for Florida Landscapes, Gainesville, Florida, University Press of Florida, 2012.
- Nelson, Gil, Best Native Plants for Southern Gardens, Gainesville, Florida, University Press of Florida, 2010.
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Garden fairies come at dawn,
bless the flowers &
then they're gone.



Hi everyone!

Welcome back to the garden Girls newsletter.

As the weather gets cooler you might see some changes in places like your garden or back yard.

Maybe the trees look dead, flowers don't have their usual bright colors, and you see less Hummingbirds and other animals like frogs. There is a reason for all of that. Trees go through many stages throughout the seasons such as in the spring bright emerald leaves are painted on the tree, in the summer, there are pinecones and flowers, in fall you'll see a variety of colors such as red-orange and yellow on the leaves and trees go dormant in the winter. Dormant means a plant or a bud is not actively growing. That is just like when bears hibernate. Trees may look dead because the tree is not actively producing energy because it's sleeping. That is the same with flowers but don't worry all the beautiful, bright, vibrant colors we love will be back soon.

The reason why the birds and frogs are not around so much is completely normal. Birds migrate to an even warmer part of Florida or they go towards the Southern country such as Mexico and central America. The majestic birds we love to look at will be back in mid-January.

About the frogs most of them didn't even leave. This might sound crazy but they could be right under your feet when you garden. Frogs love to hibernate in wet gooey places. If you guessed the mud, you are correct. The reason why is frogs need to stay warm because they have such tiny bodies. They might also be in sand, rock structures and hollowed out wood.

Hopefully if you had any questions about your garden changing it was answered in this letter.

Violet and Lily ,

The Garden Girls

Show your support for FNPS

Buy a voucher (\$34) for our license plate



FNPS is officially in pursuit of the "pre-sales" required for the plate to go into actual production and then be available for distribution to the public. The bottom line for FNPS, quite literally, is that we will receive \$25 for every plate sold, and annually thereafter for every plate that is renewed. Reaching this milestone is a big step forward for FNPS and could provide a meaningful source of continuing income in support of our mission.

The mission of the Florida Native Plant Society is to promote the preservation, conservation, and restoration of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida.

Your financial support helps fund:

- Support for conservation land acquisition
- Participation in land management that enhances habitat suitability for native plants, wildlife, and beneficial insects.
- Education about our native species and landscapes
- Public policies that protect our native flora, especially rare species
- Supporting legislation to protect our natural lands and native plants.
- Research on native plant species
- Encouragement of local landscaping practices and policies that preserve Florida's native plant heritage

The legislation that allowed creation of the plate requires that it include at least five plant species native to Florida, conform to a "camouflage" theme, and include the words "Florida" at the top and "Native" at the bottom. The final mock-up, pictured below, meets those criteria and actually includes six native plant species-longleaf pine, slash pine, live oak, Spanish moss, the green- fly orchid, and-of course!-a saw palmetto frond placed front-and-center. The plate lettering will appear to the left and right of the palmetto.

At least 3,000 plates must be sold in advance before any will be produced, and if we are unable to reach that threshold within 2 years the plate will be forever deauthorized. That means we are encouraging FNPS members to step up to the plate and express your support for our organization by committing \$33. IN ADVANCE - the sooner the better, because plates will be produced only after 3,000 plates have been sold. If we fall short of the 3,000 minimum in pre-sales, anybody who "purchased" one can choose to either receive a refund of their purchase price, or ask that their money be applied to future motor vehicle registration charges.

You can best help us take advantage of this opportunity by signing up for a pre-sale yourself at

<https://www.fnps.org/support/license>

You can also choose to do it in person at the offices of your county's Tax Collector. By prior agreement with the State of Florida, the St. Johns County license tag agency will be fulfilling all requests regardless of where you live.