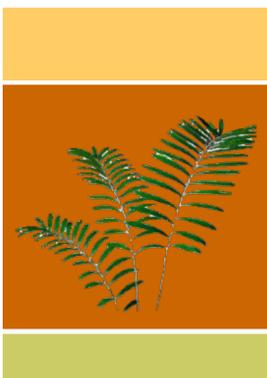


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# Broward Chapter Florida Native Plant Society



## Water, Plants, and Landscaping...

Wednesday, October 9th, 7 pm

### "Plants for Lake Quality & Florida Friendly Landscapes" Rose Bechard-Butman

Rose Bechard-Butman will talk about native and "Florida Friendly" plants that improve water quality and some new ideas for Florida Friendly landscaping that benefit our natural Florida environment. Rose works for Allstate Resource Management in Davie, to control weeds and algae in lakes, monitor water quality, stock native fish, remove debris, and help control aquatic pests in waterways.

2nd Wednesday, October 9, 7pm  
at the [Secret Woods Nature Center \(map\)](#)

### Water-loving Natives

Growing native plants teaches us the magic of plant life: light, water, and their habits. When we then see them in the wild, we get a fresh understanding of their preferences and beauty.



[Yellow Canna, \*Canna flaccida\*](#) (photo: Alan Cressler)

Even if you have a balcony, rental, or landlocked home, you can grow a few water-loving native plants. Something as simple as a flower pot and saucer or as sophisticated as a mist nozzle and timer can create a new wet or moist habitat for a few water-loving plants.



[Scarlet Hibiscus, \*Hibiscus coccineus\*](#)

How much moisture does this plant require? Which plants need usually moist, muddy soil, or a pond? Once again, we recommend you begin at the [Natives for Your Neighborhood](#) site. Look at the "Soils" and "Drought Tolerance" descriptions. "Moist, well drained" soil with "high" drought tolerance describes a plant that needs no irrigation after the first year or so. Water-loving plants are the ones described as requiring "wet," "poorly drained" soil with "low" drought tolerance.



[Swamp Lily, \*Crinum americanum\*](#) (photo: Alan Cressler)

### RUNOFF

The simplest locations for plants preferring moist soils are near downspouts, at the eave line (without gutters), where water runs off streets, driveways, patios and in swales. Because our winters can have long dry periods, these places are good for plants that can tolerate some dry periods, not the truly water-loving plants.



[Winged Loosestrife, \*Lythrum alatum lanceolatum\*](#) (Alan Cressler)

### POT & SAUCER

The gardener's rule to provide drainage and not to let plants sit in water should be broken for swamp plants. While the roots of many plants will rot in standing water, swamp plants are just the opposite; they love it. So put a saucer under a pot and fill the saucer frequently to keep it wet. If you have drip irrigation, have enough flow to fill the saucer each time the water comes on.



[Alligator Flag, \*Thalia geniculata\*](#)

### BURIED TUB

Bury a plastic tub in your yard, fill it with humus soil and install an irrigation head over the rim to keep it wet. If you bury it just below the soil line, no one will see the ugly tub. You may be surprised that even without drainage there is enough evaporation from the surface to keep the soil only moist, but not wet. For wet soil, irrigate more heavily or more often.



[American Waterlily, \*Nymphaea odorata\*](#) (Alan Cressler)

### BURIED POND LINER

A variation on the buried tub, dig an area one or two feet deep, line with rubbery pond liner (available at large garden shops) and fill with a mix of humus and sand soil. This need not be a complicated project. Just cut the liner off a half inch below the soil surface, so that it doesn't show. You need an irrigation head or faucet aimed into the hidden marsh pond. Water regularly. Adjust the flow to make the soil as moist or wet as the plants require.



[Lemon Bacopa, \*Bacopa caroliniana\*](#)

### AQUATIC PLANTS

Instead of filling a tub or liner with soil, fill with water and you have a pond for aquatic plants. Some, like the water lily, may have a required depth to give room for the floating leaves and beautiful flower. Plants can be in pots or in soil on the bottom. Some aquatic plants are free floating.

Small fish keep mosquitos from using your pond to breed.

A glazed pot and a few tiny fish, if the sun doesn't heat the water too much. A large pot will be easier to maintain.

*Note the local aquatic plants linked below.*

### DRIP IRRIGATION

Drip irrigation has the advantage of delivering water conservatively to the roots of newly planted natives and during their first year. It is also good for water-loving plants that never want to dry out, even after they become established.

For these marsh plants continue the drip irrigation indefinitely (unless you are lucky enough to have a natural wet place in your yard). Conserve water with the pot and saucer, buried tub, or pool liner, described above, otherwise the drip water will drain away in the sand.

*Send Corrections & Comments: [Richard@Brownscambe.net](mailto:Richard@Brownscambe.net)*

### Freshwater Aquatic Natives in Broward

\*Plants more likely of interest for contained urban ponds

[Azolla caroliniana](#), Carolina Mosquito Fern\*  
[Cabomba caroliniana](#), Carolina Fanwort  
[Ceratophyllum demersum](#), Coontail Hornwort\*  
[Luziola fluitans](#), Watergrass  
[Najas quadalupensis](#), Southern Waternymph (UF video)  
[Najas marina](#), Spiny Waternymph  
[Najas wrightiana](#), Wright's Waternymph  
[Nuphar lutea subsp. advena](#), Spatterdock\*  
[Nymphaea odorata](#), American White Waterlily\*  
[Nymphoides aquatica](#), Big Floatingheart\*  
[Pistia stratiotes](#), Water Lettuce (although extremely aggressive, re-listed by the IRC as native, DO NOT spread this plant)  
[Potamogeton illinoensis](#), Illinois Pondweed  
[Spirodela polyrhiza](#), Giant Duckweed (UF video) a tiny plant  
[Utricularia foliosa](#), Leafy Bladderwort\*  
[Utricularia purpurea](#), Eastern Purple Bladderwort\*  
[Vallisneria americana](#), American Eelgrass (Alan Cressler)

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Protecting & Growing Broward Native Plants