

Sabal minor

A bi-monthly newsletter for the members of

THE FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY



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FNPS is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit corporation registered in Florida as a charitable organization (CH3021).

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Message from the Executive Director

Dear Members,

The Florida Native Plant Society plays a vital role in connecting local communities to the wonder of native plants and protecting native plants and natural communities throughout the state.

At the local level, we advocate native landscaping in our towns, cities and counties; provide information and resources on planting natives in our yards; and provide education through field trips, plant sales and speaker engagements at monthly meetings. Statewide, the Society provides programming through several committees. We keep an eye on state affairs impacting conservation and make policy recommendations to protect native habitats. The Society communicates with our membership and the general public through our publications, website, blog, Twitter and Facebook. We recognize outstanding contributions and advance the literature on native plant conservation through awards and grants, and produce an annual conference that encourages information exchange and participation by a broader audience. Whether it's at the local, regional or statewide scale, we continue to promote the preservation, conservation and restoration of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida.

The strength of the Society is in our relationships with one another at the individual member, chapter and state levels, and in our shared commitment to nature in Florida. Let's harness that energy and passion and broaden our base of support to be even more effective in 2013. We are counting on your participation, whether it's as a volunteer on state committees; attending local meetings, field trips and plant sales; inviting friends, colleagues, and acquaintances to join; or responding to periodic surveys and appeal campaigns.

In the coming months, the Florida Native Plant Society will be reaching out to you through phone calls, emails and social media. We want to improve our communications, keep you informed on important legislation, get your opinion on a variety of topics to help inform our programming, alert you to actions you can take to help protect Florida's natural heritage, and ask for your support.

We are counting on you, as an energized support base, to help us grow and strengthen our ability to protect Florida's unique variety of native plants and diverse array of natural communities.

Sincerely,

Kellie A. Westervelt, Executive Director

SOCIETY NEWS

Good News from our Florida Native Plant Partnership

The Florida Wildflower Foundation has taken the lead in initiating multiple studies on the benefits of native plants in the landscape. We hope that these studies will yield hard data that we can all use to promote the advantages of preserving and using our plants. Foundation initiatives include a study with the University of Florida to examine the wildlife habitat value of native landscapes a la the Doug Tallamy model. Another study would examine the economic advantages of using native plants on the roadside.

The Foundation approached the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), suggesting that this agency, which spends so much money on landscaping the state's roadsides, spend a tiny amount of their budget on research that will put monetary values on the environmental services provided by roadside landscapes (a good portion of which is native trees, shrubs and groundcover plants). The resulting data should help make better roadside planting decisions and, again, help us promote our plants. The Foundation seeded the project with \$2500 provided from Florida Wildflower license plate sales. FNPS, FANN and the Wildflower Seed Co-op provided letters of support. FDOT has contracted with the University of Florida to do the study. The Foundation's contribution will help to employ a sub-contract investigator for the project.

FNPS Admin Services Transition to New System

FNPS is making slow but steady progress in our transition to a new member database system, DonorPerfectOnline. For the next couple of months, we will be updating both the old and new systems until the full transition is complete. We appreciate your patience during the transition.

Water and Land Legacy Amendment

In case you haven't heard yet, FNPS has formally endorsed the Florida Water and Land Legacy amendment to the state constitution. The amendment would require that 33% of the documentary stamp taxes collected each year be dedicated to funding land and water conservation for a period of 20 years. Conservation funding would no longer be subject to approval by the legislature. Details about the amendment can be found at <http://floridawaterlandlegacy.org/pages/12/frequently-asked-questions/>.

Volunteers are now collecting the signatures required to place this amendment on the November 2014 ballot. Individual FNPS Chapters can also endorse this amendment—several already have. To view the endorsements, visit <http://floridawaterlandlegacy.org/pages/87/endorsements/>.

FNPS Annual Fund Drive

It's that time of year — time to be thankful for all that the Florida Native Plant Society can accomplish with the energy, passion and yes, the financial support of our members. We are thankful for another year of preserving, conserving and restoring the native plants and native plant communities of Florida. And we are thankful for you, our members, and all that you do for the Society and for Florida's vital habitats.

Please consider including FNPS in your year-end giving plan. Annual Fund Drive contributions are additional donations above and beyond your annual membership dues and are tax deductible. To donate, visit www.fnps.org.

LMP Committee Report — The Beker Units *By Kevin Love, Land Management Partners Vice Chair – West*

2012 was another banner year for the Land Management Partners Committee, with 100% participation in state land management reviews (LMRs), and making good inroads into Water Management District LMRs as well. If you're interested in the management of our public land resources and haven't availed yourself of the opportunity to participate in the committee and attend an LMR, you're missing out on one of the best perks FNPS has to offer. It's an excellent chance to have a significant voice in how our preserves are managed. And there are some hidden gems out there waiting to be discovered as well. Case in point: the Beker Units of the Lake Manatee State Park in Manatee County.

This set of undersized yet nonetheless adorable fraternal twins are the Southfork (1124 acres) and Windgate Creek (614 acres) tracts. They were acquired in 1988 and made part of the Little Manatee State Park. Ironically, neither is connected to the park nor to each other. Each straddles its namesake stream and boasts examples of some of the finest quality scrub, scrubby flatwoods and mesic flats in the region.

Unfortunately, no management funding, staff or material resources were ever allocated to these tracts. But that hasn't stopped park service staff from doing the good work on the tracts. Manny Perez, Park Manager, Chris Becker, Park Biologist, and a host of regional management staff have pitched in to perform some excellent start-up fire management, scrub enhancement sand pine harvests, resource lists, and cultural resource protection actions — all stretching already thin park hours and dollars.

The lack of funding has precluded one aspect of management on the tracts, and that is the development recreational infrastructure. No money, no signage, no entrance, no trails. And no means of relating to the user public that these timid twins even exist. As a matter of fact, the Southfork tract is so remote from any decent public road that you can't get there by vehicle. One must hike several miles through the SWFWMD's adjacent tract off of

SR 62, also named after the South Fork of the Little Manatee River, cross a creek or two, and even then, you have no clue you have entered the park. So the result is very little visitation. And this has a big downside for the prospects of ever convincing the agency to fight for management funding for the tracts in Tallahassee: no public support...no money. The upside, albeit temporary, is if you are lucky enough to get to explore these tracts as I did on the LMR, you'll have it all to yourself. And make no mistake; these are day hiking destinations of the first order for native plant lovers or anyone who wants to experience highly productive natural systems in this otherwise agricultural setting.

So the LMR team's recommendations focused on creative strategies to leverage existing staff time to increase management and public use. Continuing to develop relationships and working agreements with the SWFWMD and FFCC to more closely align use amenities and management actions on adjacent public lands was one. Being more proactive in disseminating information at Lake Manatee State Park about the Beker tracts and scheduling led hiking and interpretive events (in their spare time) were others.

The Beker tracts are a perfect example of where an LMR and the recommendations of the team can be a huge catalyst for positive change. The recommendations made by the team are presented to the Acquisition and Restoration Council in Tallahassee and are addressed specifically in the unit management plan update. So again, LMRs are an extremely rare opportunity for individual members to have a meaningful say in how your public lands are managed. And getting a VIP, behind-the-scenes tour of our precious, and in the case of Beker, our hidden natural treasures, ain't too shabby!

If you haven't already done so, take a minute and check out your Land Management Partners Committee on the FNPS web site.



FNPS Calling Cards!
submitted by the Magnolia Chapter

Members of the Florida Native Plant Society, remember YOU have the power to Speak for the Flowers. Oaks rustle, palms shush and pines may whisper, but wildflowers' shouts are not heard. How can you speak for them? Although money may be the evil of all roots, it *can* talk. Magnolia Chapter members are letting our money speak for native plants by dropping one of our new "FNPS Calling Cards" at local businesses visited on our botanical rambles up-state.

YOU can too! Magnolia Chapter member and graphic artist Pamala Anderson can help customize calling cards for your FNPS Chapter. If your chapter is interested, have a representative contact Pamala at 850-643-2799 or banderson@nettally.com. (You'll want to have determined what text and plant your chapter would like on the card before you contact her.) Sounds like fun!

FNPS Joyce and Don Gann Conservation Grant

Please help us reach our goal by donating to the FNPS Conservation Grant Award sponsored by the Dade Chapter in honor of our founders, Joyce and Don Gann, who initiated FNPS and then also created DCFNPS. Send too: Dade Chapter FNPS, 6619 South Dixie Highway #181, Miami FL 33143-7919. Please make your check payable to DCFNPS and indicate that is for "Joyce and Don Gann Conservation Grant fund." DCFNPS will match the donations. Download a printable Conservation Donation Form from <http://dade.fnpschapters.org/documents/Conservation%20Donation%20Form.pdf>.

FLEPPC's Kathy Craddock Burks Education Grant

The FLEPPC Education Grant Committee is now soliciting proposals for the 2013 Education grant. The intent of this grant program is to provide funding to organizations or individuals who will educate Floridians about non-native invasive plants and their impacts on the natural areas and economy of Florida. Proposals will be accepted from individuals, public or private nonprofit organizations, and academic institutions. Winners will be announced during the business meeting at FLEPPC's annual symposium in spring 2013. The deadline is Feb 15, 2013. For more information visit <http://www.fleppc.org/edgrants.html>.

FNPS Request for Proposal For 2012 Auditing Services

The Florida Native Plant Society, also known as the FNPS, a Florida 501(c) (3), is seeking proposals for the auditing of its financial records and production of the Federal 990 filing. CPA firms with experience in the auditing of non-profit organizations are encouraged to submit a proposal. The RFP in its entirety with instructions may be obtained upon request from the Vice President for Finance, FNPS, Jim McCuen. Make the request via email at jimmccuen@yahoo.com. Completed proposals must be received by 3:00p.m. on January 31, 2013.

FNPS 2013 Endowment Grant Research Awards and Conservation Grant Awards

FNPS maintains an Endowment Research Grant program for the purpose of funding research on native plants. These are small grants (\$1500 or less) awarded for a 1-year period, and are intended to support research that forwards the mission of the Florida Native Plant Society which is “to promote the preservation, conservation, and restoration of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida.”

FNPS Conservation Grants support applied native plant conservation projects in Florida. These are small grants (\$1500 or less) awarded for a 1-year period. These projects promote the preservation, conservation, or restoration of rare or imperiled native plant taxa and rare or imperiled native plant communities. To qualify for a Conservation Grant, the proposed project must be sponsored by an FNPS Chapter.

Application guidelines and details are on the FNPS Web site, www.fnps.org, under “Participate/Grants and Awards.” Questions regarding the grant programs should be sent to info@fnps.org.

Application deadline for the 2013 Awards is March 1, 2013. Awards will be announced at the May 2013 Annual Conference in Jacksonville. Awardees do not have to be present to receive award.

Call for Research Track Papers and Poster Presentations for the FNPS 2013 Conference

The Research Track of the 2013 FNPS Annual Conference will include presented papers on Friday, May 17 and Saturday, May 18. The poster session will be on Saturday May 18.

Researchers are invited to submit abstracts on research related to native plants and plant communities of Florida including preservation, conservation, and restoration. Presentations are planned to be 20 minutes in total length (15 min. presentation, 5 min. questions).

Abstracts of not more than 200 words should be submitted as an MS Word file by email to Paul A. Schmalzer (paul.a.schmalzer@nasa.gov) by February 1, 2013. Include title, affiliation, and address. Indicate whether you will be presenting a paper or poster.

Conservation Committee News

by Juliet Rynear, Conservation Committee Chair

In support of our mission, the Conservation Committee has updated the requirements for our annual Conservation Grants. Because so many of our native plants and their natural communities are rare or imperiled, the Committee saw an urgent need to focus our conservation mission and bring attention to the plight of our natural communities so that we may help conserve them for future generations of Floridians. Many of our natural communities are threatened and desperately need our attention. From beach dunes and floodplain marshes to sandhill, scrub and scrubby flatwoods, these communities support the genetic diversity required by our native plant populations for their long-term survival.

Beginning in 2013, the Conservation Grants will focus on conserving Florida native plants and communities that are either state or globally ranked 1, 2, or 3 (G1, G2, G3, S1, S2, or S3) or listed as federally threatened or endangered. Essentially, these ranks mean that there are fewer than 21-100 occurrences or less than 10,000 individual plants remaining in Florida as documented by the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI).

To learn more about plant conservation or the annual Conservation Grants, please take a look at the Conservation page on our website by clicking on “Participate,” “Volunteer Opportunities,” and then “Conservation Committee.”

Chapter Happenings

Dade Chapter will join with the Miami Blue Chapter of the North American Butterfly Association, TREEmendous Miami, and Tropical Audubon Society to hold their 8th Annual Holiday Potluck Picnic. Bring family, nature-loving friends and your favorite dish!

When: Sunday, Dec. 2, 2013, 12:30–3:30pm

Rain or shine!

Where: Bill Sadowski Park

17555 SW 79 Ave, Palmetto Bay,

1/2 mile west of Old Cutler Rd on SW 176 St

Save the date! Dade Chapter will also host their 18th Annual Native Plant Day on Saturday March 23, 2013. This is an all-day mini conference with walks, talks, games, food, raffle, sales and fun!

Lake Beautyberry Chapter members help educate the public by maintaining a small native plant garden in the Discovery Garden at the Lake County Extension Service in Tavares. Members meet monthly at the garden to plant, prune, weed and water the forty or so species of native plants. Barbara Grigg, winner of the FNPS Education award last May, chairs this activity and makes sure that the right plants are put in the right places and that no “good” plants are pulled. This is a terrific way for new members to learn more about native plants. All the plants are labeled so visitors to the Discovery Garden can learn which plants are native to Florida. There is also an onsite mailbox for dispensing information about native plants as well as FNPS membership brochures. The box is well stocked and needs refilling each month, indicating many people visit the garden.

Chapter members will be taking on the maintenance of a wildflower garden in the Discovery Garden as well. They invite you to visit the Discovery Garden in Tavares on Woodlea Road the next time you are in Lake County. It is open Monday through Friday.

Magnolia Chapter participated in the first in a series of events to help hikers identify and eradicate invasive species took place Veteran’s Day, November 11th, at Phipps Park, managed by the City of Tallahassee and the Northwest Florida Water Management District. Hikers brought tools (can you say “Root Jack?”) to eradicate coral ardisia, an invasive shrub, in a “giving back” effort sponsored by the Florida Trail Association and Florida Native Plant Society. The events will continue in 2013.

Magnolia Chapter member and retired U.S. Forest Service Botanist Guy Anglin was honored with the 2012 Jackson County Tree Farmer of the Year. Congratulations, Guy!

Naples Chapter will host their annual banquet on Friday, February 22, 2013, which will feature “The Illustrated Computerized Synthesis of the Vascular Flora of North America,” presented by Dr. John Kartesz, world-renowned plant taxonomist and founder of the Biota of North America Program. Tickets and RSVP are required. For more information, visit www.naplesfnps.org.

Paynes Prairie Chapter will begin 2013 with Saturday field trips visiting properties managed by Alachua Conservation Trust: Barr Hammock, a 5600 acre preserve near Micanopy; Turkey Creek Hammock, east of San Felasco Hammock Preserve State Park; and Balu Forest, an area with nice sandhill and flatwoods communities. ACT’s mission is to protect historic, scenic and recreational resources in and around Alachua County. Trips will be lead by ACT land managers. Details on meeting times and locations are posted at www.paynesprairie.fnpschapters.org.

**Tell us what YOUR chapter is up to.
Send your Chapter Happenings to Sabalminor@fnps.org.**

UPCOMING EVENTS

EVERGLADES COALITION 28th ANNUAL CONFERENCE

JAN 10–13, 2013 Coral Gables, FL 33134

The 28th Annual Conference on Everglades Restoration will take place January 10-13, 2013. The conference is organized by the Everglades Coalition, an alliance of 57 local, state, and national conservation and environmental organizations dedicated to the full restoration of the greater Everglades ecosystem. It is the largest annual forum for Everglades conservation and restoration. **FNPS members are encouraged to take part.** Visit <http://www.evergladescoalition.org/Conference.htm> for details. For additional information, contact the FNPS rep, Joan Bausch, at 772-219-8285 or jclb@gate.net.

NATIVE PLANT SHOW

APR 4–5, 2013 Kissimmee, FL

Florida's first all native plant industry tradeshow will take place Thursday and Friday, April 4-5, 2013. Hosted by the Florida Association of Native Nurseries (FANN), the show will feature native plant growers from across the state and showcase the diversity of Florida's native flora in cultivation. At the show, FANN will offer professional CEU courses for landscape architects, designers, installers, maintenance professionals and arborists both days. Demonstration landscapes will be installed on, selected from award-winning native landscape designs. The deadline for design submittals is February 1, 2013. More information about the design competition, CEU courses and the Native Plant Show can be found at www.nativeplantshow.com.

FNPS 2013 ANNUAL CONFERENCE:

CELEBRATING LA FLORIDA, THE LAND OF FLOWERS

MAY 16–19, 2013 Jacksonville, FL

This year's conference theme commemorates Ponce de Leon's naming of the greater Florida region when he landed here 500 years ago.

Join us for exciting field trips, inspiring keynote speakers, educational sessions, workshops and the best plant sale featuring growers from around the state.

The 2013 conference will be held at the University of North Florida in Jacksonville. Check out www.FNPS.org and click on "Events" for details. Online registration will begin in January 2013.

Don't miss this unique "Real Florida" celebration!



Passiflora incarnata, Large Passion by Jim Draper (Jacksonville, Florida), oil on canvas, 48 by 60 inches. Use of this image generously donated to FNPS for the 2013 Conference by Jim Draper.

2013 BOD Meeting Schedule

JAN 19: Executive Committee Meeting, Teleconference

FEB 08–10: Save the date! FNPS ANNUAL RETREAT (Meeting: Feb 9)

FFA Training Center, Haines City

This is an excellent opportunity for Board Members, Chapter Representatives and FNPS members to focus on the FNPS Mission and identify strategies to move the organization forward.

APR 13: Executive Committee Meeting, Teleconference

May 16: Board Meeting, Jacksonville (at the Annual Conference)

**Meeting locations are subject to change.*

Want your publications in digital form?

We hear you! FNPS has responded to our members' desire to get their publications in digital form by encouraging chapters to go green with their newsletters (and many do) and by providing our *Sabal minor* in digital form. By default, if we have an email address for you, the *Sabal minor* is emailed unless you specify that you request otherwise.

We would eventually like to offer a digital option for the *Palmetto* and we are exploring ways to provide it in print and online in a quality format. While we're not yet ready to implement this option, we'd like to hear from members who would be interested in a digital option.

Let us know your preference by sending an email to info@fnps.org, or if you prefer, call FNPS Administrative Services at 321-271-6702. Remember to clarify which publications you wish to receive by email (chapter newsletter, *Sabal minor* and/or *Palmetto*). **Thank you for helping us serve you better.**

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

There are many opportunities to get involved in the Society, from working at the chapter level to serving on one of our statewide committees. Positions are available on Education, Policy, and Communications committees. Please consider volunteering with us to help make the Society the best it can be by contacting ExecutiveDirector@FNPS.org.

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