

Sabal minor

A bi-monthly newsletter for the members of

THE FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY



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Message from the Executive Director

This is an exciting time of reflection and growth for the Florida Native Plant Society. As you know, the Society has been engaged in strategic planning since last fall. A Steering Committee was formed, comprised of past and current state and chapter leaders as well as members that have been active in the Society, some since its inception. Recently, the Steering Committee has been expanded to include all members of the Society's Executive Committee.

Ellen Bristol and Rebecca Staton-Reinstein from Bristol Strategy Group were retained to coordinate our planning process. The first phase of strategic planning involved assessing the organization. Interviews were conducted, the McKinsey Capacity Assessment was completed, and a membership survey was distributed and received an astounding 30% response rate. While the capacity assessment showed the Society is at the lower end of the spectrum, the impressive response from members showed how much potential we have with a broadly engaged and passionate support base.

This past February, the Society held a Planning Retreat facilitated by Bristol Strategy Group. The full Board of Directors, including Executive Committee members and Chapter Representatives, and members of the Steering Committee spent a day and a half reviewing our mission and vision and identifying ways to strengthen our programs. One of the results of the organizational assessment and input from the Board retreat was the realization that our existing operational structure was not as effective as it could be to advance our important mission and programs.

Our Consultants and Steering Committee have been examining other organizational approaches to determine the best model for the Society. The structure used by the California Native Plant Society seems to be a good fit. It maintains a membership-driven, grassroots culture while using a smaller statewide Board to oversee operations and a Council of Chapters to coordinate programming from the ground up. This comes very close to the vision that has been emerging for the Florida Native Plant Society. It would allow for monthly Board and quarterly Chapter Council meetings where the focus would be on programs, leadership development, training, and any other topic members and chapters would like to address. At the heart of this new form of governance would be engagement and empowerment of the Chapters in the Florida Native Plant Society programs while providing more focused oversight on operations.

There is still much work and investigation to be done. A bylaws sub-committee under the Steering Committee has been formed to review and revamp our most basic legal document and establish a policy and operations manual. The Steering Committee continues to meet and review reports and progress. Our goal is to have a set of recommendations to provide to the full Board of Directors at our next meeting, August 10–11. This day and a half meeting will again be facilitated by Bristol Strategy Group.

There are still many questions to be answered, details to be addressed, and research to be conducted, but there is also much to be excited about as we enter the final stages of strategic planning. We'll be sure to keep you posted!

Sincerely,

Kellie A. Westervelt
ExecutiveDirector@fnps.org

2013 BOD Meeting Schedule

July 27: FNPS ExCom, Oakland Nature Preserve, near Orlando

Aug. 10–11: FNPS BOD Meeting, Jonathan Dickinson State Park, Hobe Sound

*Meeting locations are subject to change.

FNPS Treasurer seeks volunteer Assistant Treasurer

by Kim Zarillo, FNPS Treasurer

I would like to continue the great idea that Past Treasurer Daphne Lambricht had to create a volunteer Assistant Treasurer who would help prepare budget updates and financial reports for the Society's Board of Directors (BOD). If you are experienced using spreadsheets, are comfortable working with numbers, and have an eye for detail, then this is for you. It is an excellent opportunity to apprentice the Treasurer's position. Please contact me at treasurer@fnps.org for more information.

Past Treasurer Daphne Lambricht established the volunteer Assistant Treasurer position to help prepare updates to the budget worksheet, other financial reports, and attend BOD meetings in her place. Both the Past Treasurer and Past Assistant Treasurer (Eve Reynolds) provided files and transitional information that was most helpful to me as the new FNPS Treasurer.

Roadside wildflowers turn a corner *submitted by Magnolia Chapter*

Hurray for the flower power of Jeff Caster and **Eleanor Dietrich of the Magnolia Chapter, Lisa Roberts, Executive Director of the Florida Wildflower Foundation (FWF) (and Tarflower Chapter member)**, and the Panhandle Wildflower Alliance in getting the ear of Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) in supporting roadside wildflowers. Their communication with FDOT leaders by way of meetings, phone calls and e-mails on the benefits of wildflowers neatly coincided with the splendid display of Coreopsis and other roadside wildflowers on I-10 and I-75 this spring. The natural traffic calming beauty that made so pleasant both the Mothers Day interstate drive and the following week's journey to the FNPS annual conference in Jacksonville, also drew significant attention within FDOT, getting the ear of Secretary Ananth Prasad and causing the Chief Engineer to remark to FDOT Landscape Architect Jeff Caster something like "Why can't we make it like that [roadside wildflowers] all the way to Pensacola."

It can be done—through the power of the flower, and through efforts by FNPS, the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs and others. Ten years of research and education programs sponsored by FWF, spring roadside wildflowers like most of us have never seen before, the eagerness of the Panhandle Wildflower Alliance to be a helpful and supporting partner, and especially the gentle urging and cajoling of Eleanor Dietrich have helped awaken and enlighten FDOT. For the first time in a long time, there is genuine excitement, pride, and widespread acceptance that Florida's roadside wildflowers are a valuable asset. The word is also spreading that FDOT leaders want employees to take responsibility for wildflower management and care. Beginning in June, Dr. Jeff Norcini of Oecohort, Inc. will be advising FDOT on development of best practices to increase the abundance of naturally occurring wildflowers along Florida's state roads.

Magnolia Chapter members thank Secretary Prasad for his outspoken enthusiasm and leadership on behalf of Florida's natural resources and scenic beauty. To help show your support for this and other roadside wildflower initiatives, consider buying a wildflower license plate!



FDOT interstate median planting of goldenmane tickseed (*Coreopsis basalis*) and annual garden phlox (*Phlox drummondii*) (native to Texas). Although the plantings are not entirely native, native wildflowers such as Southern fleabane (*Erigeron quercifolius*) and Carolina woollywhite (*Hymenopappus scabiosaesus*) also find friendship there. (Photo by Jeff Caster)

NEW changes to chapter support check procedures

by Kim Zarillo, FNPS Treasurer

During the May 17, 2013 Board of Directors (BOD) meeting, Directors agreed to credit Chapter Support checks not cashed within 120 days to the Society Operating Fund. The BOD also agreed to change the payment schedule of Chapter Support checks. Chapter Support is based on 26% of the membership dues with exemptions for the categories of library and student. The Chapter Support system is a BOD policy directed decades ago. These policy changes will save FNPS volunteers and contractors, time and money.

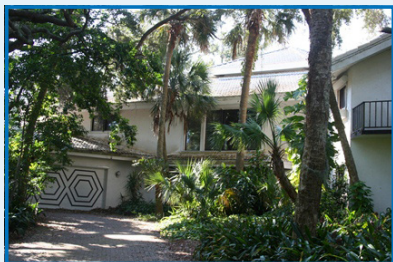
Since the FNPS BOD set the policy to distribute Chapter Support checks, checks of relatively small amounts have not been cashed, and no amount of pleading by the Treasurer, and/or administrative contractor resulted in getting some Chapters to cash them. At times, the cost to the Society for reissuing checks or fees incurred to stop payment exceeded the amount of the Chapter check. The policy to redirect un-cashed funds from Chapter Support checks to the Society operating fund after 120 days will go into effect in the next distribution period July 2013.

The second approved policy adjustment affects the timing of Chapter Support checks. Check amounts can vary from less than \$100 to over \$500 dollars. Historically, checks were issued quarterly. In another cost-saving measure, the BOD decided to issue checks semi-annually beginning July 2014. The BOD set the starting date to allow Chapters time to plan their budgets according to the new schedule. Chapter Support for the first and second quarters of 2014 will be paid in July 2014 and support funds of the 2014 third and fourth quarters will be paid January 2015.

Native plant-landscaped homes for sale

John and Nancy Henkelman's 2011 FNPS Landscape Award winning home in the Grant/Valkaria area is up for sale. This is a large, custom built, 4 bedroom, 2 bath home nestled on almost 3 acres. Bring your boat and toys — there is a boat ramp and two boat docks to enjoy on your own 20-acre lake in the back yard! This is native, tropical Florida at its best! The Henkelmans would prefer that their home go to someone who will appreciate and maintain its amazing native landscape. Call Shari Ayers at Waterman Real Estate (321-537-9359) or visit www.watermanrealestate.net for more information.

Longtime FNPS members **Margaret and Bill Broussard** are selling their home in the Indialantic area. It sits on 1.54 acres of coastal hammock, with *Sabal* palms, coonties, 400-year-old live oaks, and a butterfly garden around a wetland/swamp filled with huge Eastern gamagrass (*Fakahatcheegrass*) clumps, centuries-old royal ferns on 2½-foot pedestals, and two 30'-tall cypress trees that Bill planted at least 30 years ago.



Margaret says, "As much as I'll miss this house, I'll miss my woods even more, as it's been my playground for 35 years... We would be much, much happier if someone who values those woods takes over, rather than somebody who wants to clear it and put in a lawn!" For more information, contact Cheryl Alyea of Atlantis Real Estate via www.homesandland.com/For-Sale/INDIALANTIC/3660_N_Riverside_Dr/22689539.html.

2013 Palmetto Awards

Each year, FNPS honors those members who have given special service to FNPS with Palmetto awards. This year's Palmetto Awards, as presented at the annual conference, are:

Green Palmetto Awards for Service

Danny Young, Kristi Moyer, Ginie Stibolt and David Niemi

Green Palmetto Award for Chapter

Suncoast Chapter

Silver Palmetto Award

Dave Feagles

Mentor Award

Nancy Bissett

Conservation Committee report by Juliet Rynear

We are pleased to be able to award two FNPS Conservation Grants this year. Please join us in thanking members of the Dade and Sea Rocket Chapters for making these two awards possible.

The Dade Chapter collected and donated funds in commemoration of FNPS founding members Don and Joyce Gann. Don and Joyce were founders of the Dade Chapter and have been lifelong advocates for our native plants.

The Sea Rocket Chapter put a line-item in their budget to help fund both the FNPS Science and Conservation Grants.

This year, the following projects will be funded:

- **Chase Mason**, for his proposal, "Genetically-Informed Prioritization of Populations for Conservation in Two Imperiled Endemic Florida Sunflowers (*Helianthus carnosus* and *Phoebanthus tenuifolius*)."
Mason's preliminary "research indicates the likely local extirpation of several of the known populations for both species, and historical herbarium records indicate somewhat broader ranges and more numerous populations relative to what is currently extant. Both of these species appear to be exhibiting declines, most drastically for *H. carnosus*." Mason will provide genetic information about existing populations to land managers so that they may prioritize conservation of the most genetically diverse and distinct populations of both these species.
- **Thomas Greene**, for his proposal, "Mapping Wet Prairies and Rare Species of Point Washington State Forest." According to Greene, "Point Washington State Forest, at 15,179 acres, is the largest tract of conservation land in south Walton County. [It] contains numerous wetland and upland habitats of good to excellent quality including numerous wet prairies, an imperiled community. It also has populations of at least nine rare or imperiled plant species, including *Asclepias viridula*, *Calamovilfa curtisii*, *Drosera intermedia*, *Hymenocallis henryae*, *Lupinus westianus*, *Polygonella macrophylla*, *Sarracenia leucophylla*, *Verbesina chapmanii* and *Xyris scabrifolia*. Most known rare or imperiled plant species locations were last visited in the 1990s when the tract was acquired by the state. When natural communities on this tract were mapped by FNAI, wet prairies were omitted. Wet prairies are the primary habitat for at least 3 of the rare or imperiled plant species."

Endowment Research Grant awards by Paul Schmalzer

The Florida Native Plant Society 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 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." These grants are funded in part by interest and dividends from the FNPS Endowment and also by donations from FNPS chapters and individuals. This year, the Tarflower Chapter donated \$1500 to support a research award in honor of Sam Hopkins, and the Sea Rocket Chapter donated \$500 toward a research award. Together with earnings on the endowment and carry-over money from last year, there were funds to support three awards.

We received and reviewed 17 proposals for the 2013 Research Awards. The reviewers this year were: Dr. Richard Wunderlin, Dr. Joyce Maschinski, Dr. Jon Moore, Ms. Kim Zarillo, and Dr. Paul Schmalzer. Applicants were associated with five Florida universities, the Florida Wildflower Foundation, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The review committee assessed the proposals based on scientific merit, relevance to the mission of FNPS, quality of the methods, and appropriateness of the budget. Three proposals were recommended to and approved by the Board of Directors for funding:

- **Ryan Moraski**, University of Florida, Gainesville and Florida Museum of Natural History, "Species delimitation of the endangered Fuchs bromeliad (*Guzmania monostachia* L.): Integrating environmental niche modeling and next-generation phylogenetics."
- **Matthew Richardson**, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agriculture Research Service, "Determining ploidal diversity in two varieties of *Dicerandra immaculata* and the influence on spatial distribution."
- **Jason A. Smith**, University of Florida, School of Forest Resources and Conservation. "Propagation and testing of putatively canker-resistant Florida torrey (*Torreya taxifolia*), a critically endangered conifer of the Apalachicola River region."

We look forward to hearing about this research at future FNPS conferences.

Searching for rare butterflies and a little yellow flower *by Joan Kramer, Sea Oats Chapter*

The 2013 FNPS Conference offered a field trip I couldn't pass up—a field trip to Ralph Simmons State Forest with Bill Berthet and the hope of viewing rare and endangered butterflies. Imagine: iridescent, gossamer fluttering over a field of glowing wildflowers in a remote, serene setting seldom seen by others. I was so ready.

Well, this excursion was everything I had hoped for and more. Bill Berthet, aka the Butterfly Hunter, knew every part of the forest, right down to the very five square meters we stood on, where he would find the certain-something rare butterfly in just that one spot at only a particular time of year. Thrilled, we contemplated how this shy and modest creature would grace the world with its ephemeral presence. Sorry folks, this wasn't the right time of year.

Nevermind, we trudged on in search of whatever delights Mother Nature would provide us. We saw the changes in ecological terrain as we hiked, and in a muddy area was where another unusual butterfly would drink. We were between brood cycles, but this is the mud that it likes to drink from. Cool.

Suddenly, poof! A teensy butterfly emissary dropped straight out of the tree canopy and landed on the Butterfly Hunter's hat, officially blessing him for the rest of our field trip! You can never plan enchantment.

So on we went with our companions, the several other rangers who took a workday to come play with us, er, guide us along and keep us safe from wildfires and bears. One ranger, Mike, aka the Plant Guy, would frequently drop down onto the ground and say, "I can look up this flower in my book, if you want." Of course, we wanted. Poor Mr. Berthet was often kept waiting for us to catch up, so he could show us where another butterfly had been when he was there before.

Eventually, our guides brought us to the magical place we sought—an open field under electric power lines where the most exquisite community of rare flowering plants and their butterflies lived.

All I can tell you is that their combined beauty was breathtaking—delicate rosy-pink orchids, tall elegant yellow spires, and blue kissable faces were sprinkled throughout patches of bug-eating pitcher plants with their upside-down green flowers. The effect was gorgeous beyond compare. "There's lots more over here," Mike regaled us, as he hopped down the swale into the bog with his rubber waders. We followed him into the mud with our clean sneakers.

Just as we were in the thick of gasping, pointing and furious picture-taking, we

heard "Here's a skipper!" from our tenacious and ever-alert Butterfly Hunter on the other side of the field. "Ooh, where?" we squealed, grunting frenziedly up one side of the swale and racing recklessly down the other. He had found the only skipper of that particular species for miles, nectaring on a thistle. "Is it rare?" I asked. "No, it's very common," Mr Berthet informed us seriously.

All in all, we saw a half dozen species of skippers, each the sole example of its kind and no bigger than a smidgeon of an inch, all skillfully found by our Butterfly Hunter and patiently pointed out to us, complete with scientific names, descriptions and interesting facts. After seeing each one, I would ask, "Is it rare?" and after each one he would answer, "No, it is rather common."

A few members of our merry band were beginning to wilt in the sun after their exertions, but when the Plant Guy said, "I know where there is a little yellow flower. Do you want to see it?" we became a row of human bobble-heads, nodding up and down. He said the flower's botanical name while turning his head, and it was whisked away by the wind. We eagerly followed him like the Pied Piper into the forest in search of the little yellow flower. At first there was a faint path, but this soon disappeared into a wayfinding mission, crashing through swiping branches and crunching over fallen logs and vines.

Half a mile or so later, straight into nowhere in particular, the Plant Guy started zigzagging. "I know it's around here someplace." Hunting fruitlessly, he muttered, "Darn, I knew I should have brought my GPS." He then had to leave us in the wilderness, while he went all the way back for his GPS. So we went on helpful alert, roaming around in overlapping circles. Where was the little yellow flower? It's a native. It's yellow. It's somewhere.

And while in this quasi-state of knowing and not-knowing exactly where we were or where we were supposed to be, I had my transformational experience, the soul-enriching experience I had come for. I found myself in a large patch of sparkleberry blooming full on. Their fragrance carried me straight up to heaven, and I left all mundane matters behind and became me again, the lover of flowers, both lost and found.

I thank my wonderful guides for bringing me there, and my quirky fellow native plant lovers who share the same passion, and the FNPS for making such adventures possible. I never did see a rare butterfly or find the little yellow flower, but I came home with one tick, seven chigger bites and the best memory ever.

FNPS recognized by Florida Division of State Lands as leading conservation organization on Land Management Reviews *by Anne Cox, Land Management Partners Committee*

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Director of State Lands, Susan Grandin, presented an award to the Society in appreciation for the FNPS members who served on the FDEP Land Management Review teams. The award recognizes the tireless volunteer efforts and their contributions to ensuring the appropriate management of Florida's valuable conservation lands. Awards were also presented to the Land Management Partners (LMP) Committee Chairs, **Anne Cox, Danny Young and Kevin Love**, and to long-time reviewers **Annie Schmidt and Jack Stites** of the FNPS Magnolia Chapter.

Individual certificates were presented from the LMR Committee to seven additional FNPS members who served as conservation team members for many years or on multiple reviews during the year. Included were **Ron Blair and Catherine Bowman, Tarflower Chapter; Vince Lamb, Conradina Chapter; David Martin, Eugenia Chapter; Peter Moeller and Jon Pospisil, Lake Beauty Berry Chapter; and Dick Workman, Coccoloba Chapter.**

FNPS members who serve on the FDEP Land Management Reviews (LMRs) volunteer many hours of their time to the process, reading management plans and previous reviews, looking over numerous maps and photos before participating on the eight member review team for a full day in the field and a half-day evaluation. The on-site field review consists of a short overview by the managing agency (FFS, FDEP, or FWC) and a tour of the diverse plant communities. Stops at various locations provide group discussions among team members about the current management, prescribed fire, hydrology, geology, listed species diversity, invasive species, monitoring,

adjacent property, public access, and more. The half-day evaluation consists of a checklist that assists in determining if the site is managed according to the acquisition purpose and in compliance with the management plan. These evaluations are then compiled, sent back to the land manager and the final results are sent to Tallahassee to the Acquisition and Restoration Council and then to the Florida Board

of Trustees. Because of FNPS member participation and expertise, FNPS is high on the list of influential organizations that make the decisions concerning state land management in Florida.

The Land Management Partners Committee coordinates FNPS member involvement with FDEP on these teams. In June of each year, FNPS receives a list of 30–35 lands that will be reviewed in the upcoming year. These sites are entered on the interactive map found

on the FNPS LMP web page (fnps.org/lmrs). Orange flags indicate location and provide site information; zooming in will pinpoint the site. There is a link below the "Join Us!" on the left hand side of the map to contact the LMP committee to sign up.

These land reviews are great opportunities to get on our state conservation lands and get actively involved in the protection of rare native plants and plant communities. FNPS members who have not served as a team member have an opportunity to serve as an "observer" on a land review, being mentored by an experienced FNPS team member. This opportunity will provide a comfort level and knowledge necessary to represent FNPS on a land review. **Get involved, visit out of the way places on our state lands and participate as a team member in this important process to assist our state lands.**



Annie Schmidt accepting award from Susan Grandin. (Photo by Vince Lamb)



Anne Cox presents award to Dick Workman (Photo by Vince Lamb)

Notes from the 2013 FNPS Conference *by Sid Taylor, Hernando Chapter*

In his keynote address, “Pascua de Florida and Planting in Harmony,” artist Jim Draper shared the name of Ponce de Leon’s 1513 ship’s epitaph: *The Virgin’s Apologies*. Rather apropos. He showed us slides from his exhibition, “Feast of Flowers,” that recently ran at the Cummer Museum of Art. (For those of you who saw Draper’s lecture, be advised that the projector distorted the colors.)

Bob Chabot, Director of Horticulture and Facilities, took us on a virtual tour of the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens in his breakout session entitled “Using Native Plants in Ornamental Gardens at the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens.” The Zoo is north of Jacksonville, west of I-95 on Fl 17. It is easy to visit without going into the city and features Florida-friendly plants.

Xavier Cortada, director and artist-in-residence of FIU’s College of Architecture + The Arts’ Office of Engaged Creativity, shared “FLOR 500,” a participatory art, nature and history project that commemorates Florida’s quinquennial in 2013; the project will invite 500 Floridians to depict 500 native wildflowers selected by a team of scientists — the same ones that grew in our state when Ponce de Leon landed in 1513 and named it “La Florida.” The artwork, along with information about each flower, will be posted online. Students from 500 schools across the state will then plant 500 wildflower gardens, each dedicated to one of 500 important Floridians selected by a team of historians. For more information, visit www.flor500.org.

Richard Workman had 25 folks in his workshop on how to weave a Palmetto frond basket. One participant remarked that the baskets are perfect for holding bottles of wine. Personal preference, I suspect.

Jaret Daniels spoke on native pollinators, particularly native bees. Of all the world’s plants, 75% require pollination, and 35% of those are agriculture crops, the bulk of which are pollinated by insects. In the U.S., over 100 crop species benefit from pollinators. **One of every three bites of food we take needs a pollinator.** This is 10% of the global agricultural production. With the epidemic of Colony Collapse Disorder in the European honeybee population, we need to be ever more diligent in the protection of the native species. For more information, visit www.pollinatorpartnership.org.

Ann Johnson and Wilson Baker introduced us to the flora of calcareous glades in Gadsden and Jackson Counties and compared them (less than 2 hectares each) to other sites in the southeast as far north as Tennessee. They are encouraging further study and hope for protection where they buffer lands already in public holdings.

Larry Figart of Duval County’s IFAS Extension shared his presentation on “The Habits and Habitats of Florida’s Flowering Trees.” He did a good job about telling how to deal with overgrown root balls when planting trees. His presentation can be viewed at <http://duval.ifas.ufl.edu/documents/nativeplantsocietypowerpoint.pdf>.

And that was just the Friday line-up! Friday night, the St. John’s River Dinner Cruise was a weekend highlight for many of us. Lisa Rinamen, the St. Johns Riverkeeper, shared her organization’s efforts and challenges. Learn more about their work at <http://www.stjohnsriverkeeper.org>.

Landscape Committee updates *by Karina Veaudry*

FNPS Landscape Awards The 2013 FNPS Landscape Award were announced at the annual conference in May. Winners are:

- FNPS Landscape Award of Merit: **Page Field Aviation Terminal**, Lee County
- FNPS Landscape Award of Merit: **Cowie Residence**, Brevard County
- FNPS Landscape Award of Excellence: **Beaupre-Heitzman Residence**, Pinellas County
- FNPS Landscape Award of Excellence: **Royal Grove, Residence of David & Louise King**, Dade County

Highlights and photos can be viewed at the FNPS blog (fnpsblog.blogspot.com/2013/05/fnps-2013-landscape-award-winners.html) and in the next issue of the *Palmetto*. At this year’s Landscape Awards presentation during the conference, the last 20 minutes were spent having an informal discussion moderated by Don Spence. Good information was exchanged between the landscape award winners and the attendees. Expanding on this impromptu idea, Don will be working with 2014 Conference Chair, Marlene Rodak, to incorporate two landscape design workshops directly following the award presentations. One will focus on basics for homeowners and the other will be geared toward professional landscape designers.

FNPS Model Landscape Ordinance Landscape Committee members Don Spence, Jim Helmers, Jimette Cook, Kathryn Pordeli, Alice Bard and Norm Isbell have been compiling a draft model landscape ordinance for cities and counties. We are using excerpts from existing, successful documents as a starting point. So far, we

Saturday, Roger Hammer shared Florida endemic plants, especially those on his home turf, the pine rocklands near Homestead where he was the Dade-Miami County plant guru for many years. He encouraged us to go outside and share our plant knowledge with kids to make sure none “get left inside.” Hammer has contributed to our sense of place literature with *Florida Icons: Fifty Classic Views of the Sunshine State* (2011). Plan your next Florida driving trip with it in hand.



Roger Hammer emulates Ponce de Leon’s last “look.” (Photo by Vince Lamb)

Craig Huegel’s presentation, “The Ecological Significance in Development Landscape,” compelled us to see the big picture in the Florida landscape, as the biological role of native plants needs to do more than provide the U.S. with aesthetic relief. The right plant in the right place is only a start; our goal needs to be to provide biodiversity. But don’t think you have to cover every square foot with plants. Native bees need bare patches on the ground for nesting areas. “Teach others to pay attention,” Craig said. “Kids need opportunities to explore instead of just telling them what is important.” Visit him and his wife, Alexa at Hawthorne Hill Native Wildflower Nursery.

Bill Berthel, photographer and butterfly expert introduced us to the “Rare, Declining and Seldom Seen Butterflies in Clay, Duval and Nassau Counties in their Natural Habitat,” specifically the skippers around Jacksonville, with emphasis on their host plants. View some of his photos at www.butterfliesandmoths.org/photographers/Bill-Berthel.

The conference was held on the University of North Florida campus. Of its more than 800 acres, 382 are natural and preserved areas. Chuck Hubbuch, UNF Assistant Director of Physical Facilities, Landscape and Grounds Curator, came from Fairchild Tropical Botanical Garden in Coral Gables to manage the school’s landscaping. This lucky man has a staff of 50 and a budget! He spoke to conference-goers about finding local native germ plasma so the plants are already climatically adapted to the landscape you plant them into.

Saturday’s plenary speaker was Tom Hctor of the Florida Wildlife Corridor. He took us on the virtual 100 day, 1000 mile trek, and discussed the history of efforts to identify and protect a connected network of public and private lands across Florida. Watch your local PBS listings for the completed documentary, *Florida Wildlife Corridor Expedition* or visit www.floridawildlifecorridor.org for more information.

I made no secret that the only reason I signed up for the conference was to visit the Kingsley Plantation with Jono Miller’s group on Sunday. It didn’t disappoint! The biology on *Sabal palmetto* was quite intriguing. Watch for Jono’s future book on this subject. A cabbage palm was documented as a witness tree back in 1860. (A “witness” tree can be any tree of considerable age overlooking a particular historic area and events surrounding it.) The palm was re-found in 1999 to settle a sovereign lands argument and killed by lightning soon after. It lived over 139 years. For more on why the Kingsley site is significant, read Daniel Schafer’s *Anna Madgigine Jai Kingsley: African Princess, Florida Slave, Plantation Slaveowner*.

Now you know I didn’t skip any sessions! I will leave you with the Florida Wildflower Foundation’s bumper sticker thought: “My Wilflowers Kick Grass!”

will be using language from the FNPS Landscape Ordinance Guidelines, the St. John’s River Water Management District Water Conservation Landscape Guidelines, the Sustainable Sites Initiative, the Jacksonville Arbor Ordinance, and the Sarasota landscape ordinance. Once this document is adopted by FNPS, there are future plans to work with select municipalities to implement the ordinance. If any FNPS member would like to be a part of this team, or if any member who has experience with ordinance writing would like to provide additional support, please contact landscape@fnps.org.

Speaker’s Bureau Ron Chicone and Brent McCallister, who have been giving “Native Plant Landscape Design,” “Plant Identification,” and “The Importance of Trees” PowerPoint presentations for several years, are leading the Landscape Committee’s efforts to create an FNPS Speaker’s Bureau, produce presentations with scripts for chapter use, and host a public speaking training session at the 2014 conference for those FNPS members that want to utilize the presentations for their chapters. Anyone interested in joining the Speaker’s Bureau should email landscape@fnps.org.

Native Plant Demonstration Areas Jim Helmers is heading up a project to continue Kari Ruder’s work on listing and updating information about the native plant demonstration areas throughout the state. He will also be adding an interactive map and information about public building landscapes that are native plant-oriented, as well as coordinating a plant labeling program for those sites.

Chapter Happenings

Dade Chapter

Dade Chapter member and FNPS President Steve Woodmansee hosts the Dade Native Plant Workshop every 3rd Tuesday at 7pm at the MDC Kendall Campus Landscape Technology Center. These workshops are free and are intended for beginners, old hands, and any “enthusiastic folks who wish to learn how to identify South Florida’s wild plants.” Check out nativeplantworkshop.ning.com to learn more.

Hernando Chapter

In April, Hernando Chapter members returned to Nature Coast Botanical Gardens to install new species in the Gardens’ wetlands area. This will continue the work the Chapter began in 2012 to help improve the Gardens’ native plant areas. Plants were donated by Hernando members and native nursery owners Rita Grant (Carr Creek Nursery) and Rick McDonnoll (Hickory Hill Nursery), as well as purchased at the FANN native plant trade show.

At an Earth Day event in the Gardens, Chapter members talked with the Spring Hill Garden Club about collaborating on grant opportunities, educational events, signage and publicity. Future plans include finishing the wetlands area planting, continued maintenance, educational signage and compilation of a master list and labeling of all identified native species. Members continue regular workdays on the Saturday morning after each general meeting.

In May, the Chapter sponsored a hands-on plant identification workshop with local botany experts. Participants with user-friendly plant keys learned how to identify everything from Florida pines and oaks to wildflowers.

Hernando Chapter continues to offer interesting field trips, including their first ever weekday field trip to the Croom Tract of the Withlacoochee State Forest to see spring wildflowers.

Lake Beautyberry Chapter

The Lake Beautyberry Chapter in cooperation with the PEAR Association held its annual Native Plant Sale at PEAR Park near Leesburg on April 13. With several vendors supplying plants and many plants grown by Beautyberry members, more than 300 native wildflowers, shrubs and trees went out into the surrounding communities. Attendance was good and Chapter members were on hand to provide information on growing native plants and address other questions. The sale involved months of planning by a committee of Beautyberry members but could not have happened without the willing help of many PEAR Association volunteers. It was a busy but fun day for all, and was really made worthwhile when one shopper said, “I’ve waited all year for this sale.” Proceeds from the event benefitted PEAR Park and will be used to purchase trees.

Tell us what YOUR chapter is up to.

Send your Chapter Happenings to Sabalminor@fnps.org.

Magnolia Chapter

The Magnolia Chapter Calendar Committee has selected the most special plants of Florida’s Big Bend and Panhandle as the focus of the **2014 Notes from the Field Calendar**, the endemic plants that are found only in the region. This will be the 10th edition of the beautifully arranged and botanically correct wall calendar, the Magnolia Chapter’s major fundraiser supporting roadside wildflowers, native plant research grants, exotic plant eradication education and more! The committee is currently compiling submittals of compelling photographs, which will be sorted, described and laid out this summer. **Contact Pat Stampe** (patriciastampe@netscape.net) or **Amy Jenkins** (fnpsmagnoliach@gmail.com) to help with this project, or if you think your chapter would be interested in a box of calendars next fall. They make excellent Christmas presents to friends and family, even that hard to shop for person who has everything and can only stand so many pinup shots of grey wolf puppies and polar bear cubs!



Harper's Beauty (Harperocallis flava) is a rare endemic species, occurring in only a small area of the Florida panhandle. A federally listed endangered species, it has been protected by reduced mowing schedules along State Road 65 through the Apalachicola National Forest in Liberty County. (Photo by Eleanor Dietrich.)

Pawpaw Chapter

The Pawpaw Chapter has implemented a “Plant of the Month” feature in their monthly meetings. Members sign up at the beginning of the year to research a native plant and present it briefly at one of the meetings. Usually, the plant is available for raffle at the same meeting. This is a great way to engage members, raise a few dollars and promote native plants in the landscape.

The Chapter continues to host innovative speakers such as Appalachian Trail thru-hiker, Tom Colvin, who shared a pictorial journey of the flora and fauna encountered during his arduous seven month trek in 2012.

Pawpaw members have been participating in many outreach events including the annual Volusia County Master Gardener event, Cracker Creek’s Cracker Day event, as well as setting up a month-long exhibit at the Ormond Beach Public Library. On June 2, they hosted their Native Plant Sale, which also featured free seminars, a free mini-tour of a native plant installation, and a book sale.

Chapter members continue to volunteer at South Daytona’s Park of Honor, helping with weeding, planting and general up-keep of the landscape in exchange for free monthly meeting room use.

Why go to conference? by Stacey Matrazzo

We all have our reasons for attending the FNPS annual conference. For some, it might be the exceptional workshops and expert speakers, or the field trips to new and sometimes inaccessible locations. For others, it might be the unique social events, or the great native plant sale the Society puts on every year.

I don’t know about you, but I look forward to the FNPS annual conference all year long. Each one has contributed plenty of information to us as professionals, educators, and plant and nature enthusiasts that we can take home and apply in our various capacities. But for me, the conferences are also wonderful opportunities to forge new relationships with like-minded people, to reconnect with members who live beyond my day-to-day reach, and most of all, to remind me of the reasons that I continue to participate in the sometimes challenging world of environmental advocacy.

Although the theme of this year’s conference was “Celebrating La Florida, the Land of Flowers,” I felt a different theme running through many of the presentations I saw. From Jim Draper to Philip Juras, from Roger Hammer to Tom Hocht, and so many in between, I heard an underlying message: We are all connected—to each other and to the land and all its members.

In his conference-opening keynote address, Jim Draper evoked the environmental philosopher, Aldo Leopold, reminding us that we are as much a part of the natural world as the plants, trees, soils, and water; we are participants and members, not managers of our ecosystems. When we take the time to closely and patiently observe



Thursday field trip: kayaking through the Okefenokee Swamp

the natural world, it becomes impossible to overlook just how deep our connection runs.

It is that connection, I believe, that brings so many of us together each month at our chapter meetings and field trips, and each year at the annual conference. We come together to share knowledge, enthusiasm, amusement and adventure. In this arena, we can convene and converge on common ground, no matter (and sometimes even in spite of) our personal outlook. In FNPS, as in nature, we are all members and participants. We are a motley crew, full of personality and vigor, and that is what makes the conference so much fun!

Just as friendships are formed and reaffirmed at these conferences, so, too, are our personal commitments to the natural world. These experiences—of seeing a landscape or wildflower for the first time, learning of others’ work and research, or hearing again just how important our collective work is—can reinvigorate our spirits and recharge our devotion to the land.

The conference experience reminds us, too, that nature’s intrinsic value far outweighs its value as a commodity, and it is our responsibility to continually challenge the common notion that land is merely an economic end. As Draper stated, it is our main charge as Floridians—and I would add as FNPS members—to do better to restore what was here before. “We know better.”

For me, the annual FNPS conference is truly a celebration of fellowship—with FNPS members and with all members of the biotic community. I wouldn’t miss it for anything in the world.

UPCOMING EVENTS

2ND ANNUAL WINGS AND WILDFLOWERS FESTIVAL

OCT 4-6, 2013 Tavares, FL

Fall in love with Lake County's birds, wildflowers and natural areas! The festival will welcome back James Currie, host of the popular NBC Sports show, Nikon's Birding Adventures, along with acclaimed birder, Jeffrey Gordon, president of the American Birding Association, and Florida wildflower expert, Walter Taylor.



With Lake County's reputation as a premier birding location, it is the goal of this festival to enhance awareness and appreciation of Lake County's quality of life, and support environmental initiatives on behalf of citizens and visitors alike.

For more information about the festival, visit www.WingsAndWildflowers.com, call 352-742-3918 or find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/WingsandWildflowers.

Want to know what's going on with FNPS?

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It's really easy! It's free and turns simple everyday actions into a way to support FNPS. Please sign up today!

Get Involved with FNPS!

There are many ways to get involved with the Florida Native Plant Society:

Serve Your Chapter. Chapters are the heart of FNPS. Participate in chapter initiatives such as plant sales or community events. Help with the chapter newsletter. Serve on a committee. Volunteer to lead a committee. Serve as an officer. Volunteer to speak. Contact an officer in your chapter to volunteer.

Serve on an FNPS Committee. FNPS has standing committees that always need assistance: Education, Science, Conservation, Land Management Partners, Policy, Membership, Finance, Communications, Website, Landscape Awards and Conference Committees. For details on what each committee does, visit www.fnps.org/participate/volunteer. To volunteer, contact our Executive Director at executivedirector@fnps.org.

Be an FNPS Officer. FNPS elects half of the officers annually. If you would like to serve as an officer, please contact the FNPS president at president@fnps.org.

Special Needs. FNPS always has special projects that require volunteers with special skills such as communications, public relations, accounting, legal and policy skills and/or interest — and just plain enthusiasm. We'll find a spot for you! If you have any of these skills, please contact the FNPS Executive Director at executivedirector@fnps.org.