

Sabal minor

A bi-monthly newsletter for the members of

THE FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY



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Message from the President

Dear fellow members,

This has been a busy summer. Both the new Board of Directors and the newly established Council of Chapters had teleconference meetings in June and July and a joint meeting and workshop on August 16 at Horseshoe Lake Park, north of Ocala. The Society officers and committees have also been busy establishing work plans and priorities for the coming year. Chapter members have been promoting the FNPS mission at various locations around the state. Recent meetings and brief accounts of activities, events and issues over the summer include the following:

- Our Council of Chapters is collaborating with the Landscape Committee on a Native Plant Gardening 101 project, one of three initiatives chosen from the strategic planning process. A landscape workshop was presented at the August 16 meeting to kickstart this program.
- The Magnolia and Sarracenia Chapters have set **May 28-31, 2015** dates for the **2015 Annual Conference** to be held in Tallahassee and neighboring areas. The Conference Committee has held several meetings with the Society Conference Committee to work out the details to make the 2015 conference memorable and exciting for FNPS.
- An Internet Radio Show Podcast is scheduled under the leadership of Landscape Committee. Chair Karina Veaudry. Volunteers are stepping forward to contribute talk time and materials for this pilot program. Stay tuned.
- The Education Committee, led by Debra Klein, is coordinating a pilot video filming project on field trips with Roger Hammer at Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park. See the Education Committee Report in this issue for more information. The Communications Committee is assisting with the coordination.
- Land Management Partners have posted the 2014-2015 Land Management Reviews on the LMP map at fnps.org/participate/lmrs. Danny Young is the current chair and Kevin Love, with the Pinellas County Chapter, is coordinating FNPS participation on the FDEP land reviews. Check out the web page and contact Kevin to participate. Reviews are filling up quickly.
- New Director-at-Large Dave Feagles is working

with the Policy and Legislation Committee to encourage FNPS members to vote for the Florida Water and Land Conservation Initiative (Amendment 1) on the November 4, 2014 ballot. Get out and vote.

- FNPS Green Brochures will be available for the chapters soon. The Florida Department of Transportation will be printing these for FNPS. Thanks, FDOT!
- Our FNPS social media, website, blog and Facebook contributors have been extremely active promoting FNPS this summer. The main web page (fnps.org) is loaded with conservation news about Florida Forever, 1000 Friends of Florida, Water Management District rules, FDEP public notices, ACOE public announcements and more. Laurie Sheldon and the Jolly Bloggers at the FNPS Blog (fnpsblog.blogspot.com) posted detailed news related to FNPS activities throughout the state. Thanks to Ginny Stibolt for her diligence in keeping FNPS members updated on Facebook (www.facebook.com/FNPSfans) with has new posts daily and links to the activities of chapters as well as state and local conservation news.
- Local news related to the proposed development in Miami-Dade of endangered pine-rocklands, the Crosstown Parkway Bridge through the Savannas Preserve State Park near Port St. Lucie, and the proposed road through the 12-Mile Swamp near St. Augustine, was posted on all FNPS social media platforms, alerting members of conservation concerns and public hearings. Keep up to date with FNPS social media.

This list, along with the Chapter Happenings section (page 3), summarizes some of the many FNPS member, chapter, and committee summertime activities. Join your fellow FNPS members in some of the numerous opportunities throughout the year to get involved with native plants and plant communities. I encourage all our members to check out the FNPS website and calendar and get involved. Promote the mission of FNPS—the preservation, conservation, and restoration of native plants and native plant communities of Florida.

Anne C. Cox
FNPS President, 2014-2016



LMR at Shell Key Preserve in Pinellas County, June 2014

Get Involved — Join a Land Management Review team

Land management reviews (LMRs) provide wonderful opportunities to meet land managers from a variety of state lands and assist with management goals, assuring that our state lands are being managed for the purpose for which they were purchased. The Land Management Partners Committee works with FDEP's Division of State Lands on state mandated land management reviews. FNPS volunteers participate as team members in the conservation position, and provide ecological expertise with regard to how the lands are being or should be managed.

LMRs are just one of the many ways that FNPS promotes the preservation and conservation of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida. **If you're looking to get involved and are interested in visiting some of Florida's unique and beautiful habitats, consider volunteering on an upcoming LMR in your area.** A full list of upcoming review dates and locations can be found at fnps.org/participate/lmrs. To see examples of previously submitted LMR Volunteer Reporting Forms, visit the FNPS forum (www.forum.fnps.org) and click on "Land Management Partners" under "FNPS Committees."

Volunteering is easy. Just go to www.fnps.org/committee/partners and sign up!

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Communications Committee Report

by Shirley Denton, PhD, Chair


The websites have been moved! We moved FNPS.org, forum.FNPS.org, and all of the chapter websites to a web host based in Orlando. We have all of them on what is called a “virtual server.” What this means is that we share a larger part of a server than we did in the past—and we control it.

The sites are all working well, and speed has noticeably increased. (Our former host penalized us for having a large number of files by slowing the site down to a crawl.) We now control more of our destiny.

We are having challenges with email where some email services, notably AOL, ATT, and Bellsouth have been rejecting our emails. We are working on that issue, and we know that if you use one of these ISPs, it helps greatly if you ask them to let our mail through! This mostly affects our committee chairs and officers who greatly need to reliably get their FNPS email.

During the July board meeting, the suggestion was made that we post environmental news relevant to native plants on our website. Our website was designed to do this, but we do not have anyone to do the posting. Posting can also be touchy, since we need to be sure that the facts are correct and we cannot post copyrighted text or images. I have begun posting articles, mostly from local papers, by providing a brief summary and a link to the article. This news ranges from very grim to very positive. If you are an FNPS member and you would like to take on managing or contributing to this news, please contact me at communications@fnps.org.

Florida Native Plant Society Blog



While space is often limited in the *Sabal minor*, the FNPS blog is the perfect place to find longer format articles written by, for and about FNPS members. Check out some of the recently posted articles:

- “Groundpounders: Magnolia Chapter Gets College Students ‘Hooked’ on FNPS” by Scott Davis, Magnolia Chapter
Read one chapter’s creative approach to recruit and engage young members.
fnpsblog.blogspot.com/2014/08/magnolia-chapter-gets-college-students.html
- “Victory at Wakulla Springs” by Gail Fishman, Magnolia Chapter
See how chapter members are standing up for the environment.
fnpsblog.blogspot.com/2014/08/victory-for-wakulla-springs.html
- “Conservation, Preservation and Restoration” by Jackie Rolly, Tarflower Chapter, and edited by Juliet Rynear, Conservation Committee Chair
Consider some thoughts on what native really means.
fnpsblog.blogspot.com/2014/08/conservation-preservation-and.html
- “Reaching Out and Digging In for Native Pines,” Cocoloba Chapter
Read how a chapter partners with a local high school to plant pines.
fnpsblog.blogspot.com/2014/07/reaching-out-and-digging-in-for-native.html
- “Cocoloba Chapter @ Lowes,” Cocoloba Chapter
Be inspired by this chapter’s successful community outreach efforts.
fnpsblog.blogspot.com/2014/07/cocoloba-chapter-lowes.html

Did you know you can receive updates from the FNPS blog right in your email inbox? Simply visit the FNPS blog at fnpsblog.blogspot.com and choose your delivery method on the righthand side of the webpage. Subscribe today to stay informed and inspired!

Chapter Happenings

Cocoloba Chapter members are partnering with the UF/IFAS Extension Master Gardeners members on another **Native Plant Day** with the Estero and Gladiolus Lowe’s Garden Centers during the **Labor Day weekend**. These educational workshops address questions about the Lee County Fertilizer Ordinance, and educate the public about the importance of native plants. “Florida Native Plant” labels are being placed on the native plants in the stores for easy identification by customers and Lowe’s staff. Look for FNPS Florida Native Plant labels to be available soon!

Chapter members have been working overtime and in the heat this summer. On August 2, the chapter worked with Lee County Parks and Recreation, Florida Forest Service and other donors and volunteers to plant 40 slash pines, over a dozen red maple trees and many other native plants at Lee County P&R’s Estero Community Park. Chapter members and Deep South Native Nursery (Rick and Cheryl Joyce) also contributed native plants to add diversity to the 55-acre park, the largest in Lee County. Xavier Cortada-style native flags, which were created by the park’s summer camp kids, were staked at the various planting sites.

For more Cocoloba updates, be sure to check out the FNPS blog at fnpsblog.blogspot.com.

Cocoplum Chapter kicks off their 2014–2015 season on October 7 with speaker Jon Moore, FNPS director-at-large and professor of biology at Florida Atlantic University’s Wilkes Honors College in Jupiter, who will speak on the subject

of scrub plants along the Atlantic Coastal Ridge. A field trip to Harbor Branch Oceanographic scrub dunes will follow on October 11. Future speakers will present on the theme of “natives in the landscape.”

FNPS Conservation Committee Chair Joan Bausch reported that the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission has given Bird Island off the coast of Martin County the designation of Critical Wildlife Area, which provides a buffer for the island, the breakwater and surrounding waters prohibiting human contact between 30 to 150 feet. The island is a spoil island also known as MC2. Some years ago, Cocoplum Chapter volunteers planted natives on the island under the leadership of ecologist Greg Braun.

Conradina Chapter will host their **5th annual Native Plant Garden Tour on October 11**. Five to six homeowners, whose yards are landscaped with 80 to 100% native plants, volunteer to allow a few hundred visitors to tour their yards. Several yards have been on the tour a few times to show how they mature and are maintained. Both mainland and beachside yards are featured. Please join them for the tour. Tickets in the form of a brochure are only \$5 each. Check their website (conradina.fnpschapters.org) or visit Maple Street Natives plant nursery in West Melbourne to purchase tickets.

The chapter has joined the Brevard County Public Schools as a business partner. The joint venture is focused on “Working together collaboratively to benefit students, schools and the community.”

The chapter also helped landscape a house that was purchased by the city of Palm Bay in order to rehabilitate it for a wounded veteran. With donations and labor from the chapter, the front yard was landscaped with all Florida natives, and a native American elm was planted in the back yard. Several members also helped with painting the house and general yard clean-up. A second house is already in the pipeline and the chapter will be engaged in that as well.

Hernando Chapter will host Jim King, Hernando County Conservation Lands Specialist, on September 8. He will discuss the results of a plant survey conducted at Cypress Lakes Preserve, part of the Hernando County Environmentally Sensitive Lands Program that includes a hardwood hammock and cypress swamp. Chapter members assisted King in updating the plant list and also pulled and marked invasive plants when found. The team found surprisingly few exotics in this preserve, which is maintained by its small staff. Good management!

Naples Chapter opens its season with a **potluck dinner and boardwalk tour at the Naples Preserve on Wednesday, September 24** from 5p.m. to 8p.m. Non-members, family and friends are welcome. Everyone should bring a dish to share and a beverage for personal consumption. The Naples Preserve protects two unique Florida upland habitats: pine flatwoods and oak-rosemary scrubs. It also offers one of the best opportunities in Southwest Florida to

Giving at the Office *by Kellie Westervelt, Executive Director*

Workplace giving is a great way to support your favorite charity, and if you're reading this message, I hope that means your favorite is the Florida Native Plant Society. As you know, the Society is very active in the conservation of nature in Florida. Of course, our focus is on native plants and natural communities, but as they are the very building blocks of Florida's ecosystems, your support of the Society is support for nature. And there is no easier way to show your support than donating to the Society at the office.

As a member of the EarthShare federation, FNPS participates in multiple workplace giving campaigns throughout the state. If you work for the state of Florida or for a company that offers payroll deduction options, you can choose to enroll in your employer's workplace giving program. A pledge of just a dollar or two per paycheck can have a huge impact on the Society's work to protect Florida's natural heritage without it taking a heavy toll on your wallet.

As you can imagine, the Florida State Employee Charitable Campaign is the largest campaign for the Society. This year, it runs from September 2 through November 7. If you are a state worker and haven't enrolled in payroll

deduction yet, please visit www.givingnexus.org/fsecc2014/ to make a pledge. From the main menu, you can use the Charity Look-Up Tool and click on EarthShare. Scroll down through the organizations within the EarthShare federation and you will find the Florida Native Plant Society. It's an easy way to show your support for Florida's diverse array of native plants and natural communities and it truly does make a big difference!

We're also involved in campaigns at Ameriprise Financial; JPMorgan Chase; Accenture; UnitedHealth Group; Natural Body Spa and Shoppe; Entercom; the City of Orlando; and, Walmart. Some employers, like American Express and UnitedHealth Group, also match gifts, doubling the bang for your buck. Even if your place of employment only offers United Way campaigns or other payroll deduction programs that do not include EarthShare, you still can designate a gift to the Florida Native Plant Society using the write-in option.

Please consider designating the Florida Native Plant Society as your charity of choice in workplace giving and know that "giving at the office" is truly meaningful to nature protection in Florida.

Education Committee Report

by Debra Klein, Chair

The Education Committee is focused on producing films on Florida native plant communities. The first proposed project is "Walk with the Wildflowers," to be filmed by Jennifer Brown of Into Nature Films (www.intonaturefilms.org/) with field guide Roger Hammer at Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park. The intent is to stream the film on social media sites and work towards expanded films for the likes of PBS. Anyone interested in working on the above project should contact Debra Klein at greenmansion@comcast.net.

Native Plants of South Florida: A FREE Online Course

This introductory course provides 16 habitat-based lessons focusing primarily on South Florida species. **Enrollment is open anytime to anyone.**

For more information, visit www.fnps.org/news/society-news/free-plant-identification-class.

Chapter Happenings

see gopher tortoises in their natural habitat, along with native wildflowers, trees, birds, butterflies, rabbits and more. The peak months for viewing wildflowers and butterflies are between August and September. If you have questions, call Chapter President Jean Roche at 239-597-7222.

Nature Coast Chapter will host its **Fall Florida Native Plant Sale on Saturday, October 18** from 10a.m. to 2p.m. at Harvester United Methodist Church in Pasco County. For more information, visit www.PascoNativePlants.org.



swamp rosemallow (*Hibiscus grandiflorus*)

Pawpaw Chapter had a booth at the Daytona Beach Home Show August 22–24, where one of their newest members was a speaker each day.

Pawpaw chapter members are promoting their **October 25 Landscape Tour** to be held in northern Volusia County. The tour will showcase

homes along the coast as well as in a hammock setting. Tickets will be available at the chapter meeting and are \$5.

On July 20, members participated in a Native Plant Swap at a local park.

That same weekend, two members participated in a two-day land management review of Caravelle Ranch Wildlife Management Area, just south of Palatka. The first day was a field tour day, followed by the site evaluation, directed by Keith Singleton of FDEP. One of the volunteers spotted a gorgeous swamp rosemallow (*Hibiscus grandiflorus*) in bloom—payment in full for the volunteer labor!

Pinellas Chapter will have a **landscape tour of local gardens on September 27**. It will feature native plantings and attractive natural landscaping.

They have a **campout and field trip at Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park on October 25**. The chapter will also participate in the "Walk With The Wildflowers" filming that will take place there on November 1 as part of the FNPS Education Committee's project with Into Nature Films.

The Seminole campus of St. Petersburg College is developing a native plant habitat on their property which includes diverse habitats, and a butterfly garden. The chapter is working on a suggested plant list.

Suncoast Chapter has scheduled a **camping trip to Mike Roess Gold Head Branch State**

Park, November 7–9. We would love to have the local chapters join us for day hikes or the entire weekend. Most of us are camping in the campground by the lake and there are plenty of remaining sites for those who want to camp.

Gold Head Branch State park consists of 2,300 acres of natural areas and is one of the oldest state parks in Florida. The park has been diligent in maintaining native populations with controlled burns. The plan is to explore the park during the day with hikes led by local experts, visit some of the natural areas and botanize. During the evenings, there will be group dinners and grand discussions around the campfire. Join Suncoast Chapter in November by reserving your site at www.reserveamerica.com.

If your chapter has not utilized Meetup.com to attract participants to meetings and field trips, you might want to give it a try. Suncoast has been posting events for about a year and at every event, new people show up that say they learned about them on Meetup. The cost is \$72 for six months (more if you pay monthly). The site allows chapters to send pictures of events and send notices of future events to all followers. To see the Suncoast Meetup site, go on Meetup.com and look up Suncoast Native Plant Society.

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

The deadline for the November–December issue is October 1, 2014.

2014–2015 BOD and Ex-Comm Meetings

SEP 25, 2014	FNPS Board Meeting Teleconference, 7p.m.
OCT 23, 2014	FNPS Board Meeting Teleconference, 7p.m.
NOV 15, 2014	FNPS Board and Council Meeting, Disney Wilderness Preserve, 10a.m.–3p.m.
JAN 15, 2015	FNPS Board Meeting Teleconference, 7p.m.
FEB 7–8, 2015	Annual Board Retreat Archbold Biological Station, Venus, FL

The retreat will be full of workshops, plant identification, plant walks, land management, and learning more about Florida's native plants and plant communities. Lots of fun in Florida's native scrub plant community. All members are invited. The more, the merrier!

All dates subject to change. Check the Society Calendar at fnps.org/events/eventlist for details and updates.

FNPS THIRTY FIFTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE • CHALLENGER LEARNING CENTER • TALLAHASSEE, FL • 28-31 MAY 2015

"BORN TO BURN"

CONSERVATION RESTORATION

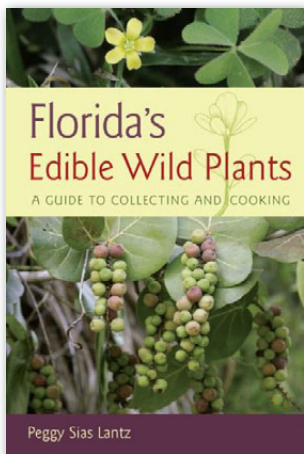


PRESERVATION
ON PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LAND

Hosted by the Magnolia & Sarracenia Chapters

Florida Native Plant Society
P.O. Box 278
Melbourne, FL 32902-0278

Florida's Edible Wild Plants: A Guide to Collecting and Cooking



In her new book, Peggy Lantz describes 60 of Florida's native and edible "weeds" that grow right in our own backyards. Originally published in 1993 as *Florida's Incredible Wild Edibles* by Dick Deuerling and Peggy Lantz, this new and expanded book covers many more plants and in much greater detail, with drawings by FNPS member Elizabeth Smith and color photos by Mike Brinkley. The book also includes fun stories, as well as recipes and tips on preparing the plants. Dr. Richard Wunderlin, FNPS past-president and professor emeritus at the University of South Florida in Tampa, reviewed all botanical information for accuracy.

Published by University Press of Florida's newly acquired publishing house, Seaside Publishing, *Florida's Edible Wild Plants* debuted at the 34th FNPS conference in Ft. Myers last May. The book retails for \$16.95, and may be ordered by individuals, or chapters for resale (at a discount), directly from UPF at orders@upf.com. Autographed copies may be ordered through Lantz's website, www.peggyviaslantz.com.

Peggy Lantz was the first editor of *The Palmetto* and served for 15 years, receiving awards twice for service to FNPS. She is available for presentations on edible wild plants and can be reached through her website.

IMPORTANT NEWS FOR CHAPTERS

Effective January 2015, FNPS Administrative Services will no longer produce monthly chapter membership reports. All chapters must begin to obtain member contact information from the FNPS website, using online "Chapter Membership Tools" available upon login with chapter credentials. All chapters should immediately begin to transition their preparation of mailing labels, email lists, and other member contact information based upon website access and download. For additional information, please contact info@fnps.org.