

Sabal minor

A bi-monthly newsletter for the members of

THE FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY



Volume 17, Number 3 • May-June 2015

Message from the President by Anne Cox, FNPS President, 2014-2016

Dear fellow members,

Welcome to springtime and a different set of flowers in bloom. If you live in Central and north Florida, the oaks are pollinating profusely and the trees are putting out new leaves. For south Floridians, the cypress are leafing out and everything else is the same.

FNPS is in full gear preparing for the **35th Annual Conference** in Tallahassee. Make sure you have marked **May 28–31, 2015** on your calendar. *More information on page 4 of this issue and at www.fnps.org/conference.*

Also, don't forget to mark your calendars for **November 15–22, 2015** for the **FNPS Cuba Botanical Trip**. For more information, download the full itinerary and registration form at www.forum.fnps.org/index.php/topic,1045.15.html.

Below are summaries submitted from board committees. They are also available for all members to review on the Forum at www.forum.fnps.org/index.php/board,3.0.html.

Communications Committee, Publications Subcommittee: Russ Hoffman (Serenoa Chapter) is requesting good articles on Florida native plants for submitting to local newspapers. Subcommittee members will reformat and edit for consistency and send out to chapters to submit to local newspapers. Topics of interest may include but are not limited to: native plants—good and bad; what is blooming now; medicinal native plants, success stories in planting landscapes and small gardens. Please send articles to Russ at russ@beautifulponds.com.

Communications Committee, Branding Subcommittee: Shirley Denton (Suncoast Chapter) met with other committee members at the retreat in February and created a list of items that should be branded. Updating and standardizing the logo was given priority. A suggested color palate for major branded items is being developed, and proposed versions will be presented in April.

Internal group discussion site: This group (www.facebook.com/groups/FNPSdiscussions) continues to get little use. If we want it to work, we have to push it. **We also need someone to be an official contact.** Discussions are easy, but because it is a closed group, you must be invited to join. To join, just “friend” a member of the group (we suggest letting that person know) and the “friend” can send you an invitation. (If you don't already have a Facebook account, simply create one. It's free and you don't even have to put anything on the Facebook page if you don't want to use it otherwise).

Finance Committee: Devon Higginbotham (Suncoast Chapter) presented the draft Action Plan for Economic Development at the board meeting. It is available for review by members. Please contact Devon for a copy.

Land Management Partners Committee: Danny Young (Pawpaw Chapter) reported 100% participation in the 51 sites reviewed in the 2014–2015 FY of the DEP LMR process! Huge kudos to **Kevin Love** for the scheduling efforts. The final schedule is available in the LMP Report on the Forum (www.forum.fnps.org/index.php/topic,1054.0.html).

Landscape Committee: Karina Veudry (Tarflower Chapter) will present the landscape awards at the FNPS conference. The committee has a number of actions in progress including: HOA guidelines and landscape standards; a plan for Osceola County north ranch sector; “big box” store native plant sales and presentations using Marlene Rodak's model work with Lowe's store managers to help provide native plants and native plant education/advocacy to local residents; a radio program; and an Arbor Day Foundation letter and follow up (the majority of trees in the ADF program are non-native and some are invasive so the committee is requesting more native trees be used). Contact Karina Veudry to help with this committee.

Membership Committee: Jonnie Spitzer (Nature Coast) reported that the membership brochure and application will be rolled out at the conference. The committee is working on a membership drive, including a slogan, literature, contacts, expectations, suggestions. The goal is to reach 6000 members by the 2017 conference. Regional membership committee members will contact chapters on a regular basis. It is suggested that communication about membership needs to happen regularly among committees and council of chapters.

Policy and Legislation Committee: Eugene Kelly (Hernando Chapter) has posted the Initial Legislative Report. In coordination with FNPS lobbyist Sue Mullins, committee members have conducted three conference calls to track legislative actions and bills of relevance to FNPS. The committee will conduct regular weekly conference calls as needed until the 2015 session is completed, and will attempt to post updated legislative reports on at least a biweekly basis. The first report has also been posted to the FNPS blog with gracious assistance from **Laurie Sheldon**.

Science Advisory Committee: Paul A. Schmalzer, Ph.D (Sea Rocket Chapter) received abstracts for 11 presented papers and one poster. Eleven application proposals were received for research awards. The Sea Rocket Chapter has approved a donation of \$500 towards a research award; they are also donating \$500 towards a conservation grant award. Funding for up to three awards at \$1500 each (\$4500 total) should be available. The total includes earnings on the endowment (ca. \$2300), a donation from the Tarflower Chapter of \$1500 in honor of Sam Hopkins, a donation of \$500 from the Paynes Prairie Chapter, and a donation of \$500 from the Sea Rocket Chapter.

Nomination Committee: Committee members **Carol Sullivan, Don Spence** and **Karina Veudry** recommended the following slate of officers, to be voted on by the FNPS membership at the 2015 conference:

- Treasurer—**Kim Zarillo**
- Vice President of Administration—**Debbie Chayet**

Both are currently serving in these positions and have committed to serving a second term.

Updates from the Conference, Education and Conservation committees and the Council of Chapters, as well as Society Happenings, can be found on pages 2 and 3 of this issue.

Council to elect its second leader *submitted by Richard Brownscombe*

Almost a year ago, FNPS general membership approved new bylaws to set into motion a restructuring of the society. Importantly, about 30 chapter representatives were removed from the unwieldy board. The bylaws provided for these chapter representatives to found a new body, the Council of Chapters, and elect three board representatives from among the council. **Julie Becker** (who had already worked for a year to help form the new council) was elected as chair. **Neta Villalobos** and **Scott Davis** were elected vice-chair and secretary. Because Julie had already worked the prior year, the position of chair was set to expire its two-year term in May 2015. The other two positions will expire in May 2016.

This year of conception and first year of life for the council has demanded all the attention of a newborn. Babies don't come with a handbook and neither did the new council. Procedures were written, meetings were scheduled, and perhaps most challenging of all, effective ways for the representatives to meet online and communicate were invented and tested. A website was created: www.council.fnpschapters.org.

Now is a good moment to reflect on how much the new council has learned and grown. Thank you, Julie Becker, for all the work and worry that went into parenting. Neta and Scott, too, provided wonderful support for a job that will always be too big without the support of all. Support came from many corners of the state from representatives who contributed actively and thoughtfully through many difficult decisions and moments.

A nominating committee of the council (**Jon Popisil**, **Linda Schneider** and **Richard Brownscombe**) called many and found only one among the chapter representatives willing to serve the next two-year term as chair of the council—**Dave Feagles**. Between March 15 and 22, an email to all representatives sought any additional candidates among the representatives to run for the office of chair, but no other representative stepped forward to run. Therefore, we are pleased to announce Dave Feagles as THE official candidate running for chair of the Council of Chapters. Following is a statement from Dave outlining his interests and concerns for the council and its leadership:

If we imagine the Florida Native Plant Society as a body, my vision for the council of chapters... is as the network of nerves throughout that body. The FNPS board of directors being its head provides direction and many other important functions. The chapters,

where most of the hands-on and footwork are accomplished, are the arms and legs. In other words, the chapters accomplish the... mission as conceived by the board ... and assures communication between the head and the body. This is, of course, an oversimplification. The point is: over 3000 members of FNPS working effectively to promote our mission is what will make the whole thing work.

Your board of directors works long and hard to conceive many very important programs, but without chapter representatives to carry that information throughout the FNPS, the body is effectively paralyzed. Similarly, without chapter reps to relay information about problems and successes to our board, they are blind... The inter-chapter communication is the source of that vitality. This is why the chapter representatives are so essential to FNPS' success. Florida is immense and diverse. It's about 850 miles from Key West to Pensacola. In some places, it is solid coral rock; in others, deep sandy soils; and in the north, rich loamy forests. Different regions with different problems need different solutions. The two-way communication between the board and chapters, plus networking between the chapters, is what will bring the dream of a sustainable natural Florida to vibrant life...

I would like to help make this happen, so I'm throwing my hat in the ring, but I have limitations. I have no idea how to work with GoToMeeting. I can learn. I am terrible at remembering names and faces. I watched as Julie called the chapter reps by name. I wish I could do that. I'm still running a landscaping business [and] I don't check my emails every day. I will try very hard to keep up my end, but I really will need your help. I have the vision, but I worry if I have all the necessary skills... The Florida Native Plant Society is at a crossroads and in the next couple of years, we will make an important contribution or we may founder. It's up to us.

According to the bylaws, only a chapter representative can vote for their leadership. At the time this newsletter goes to press, the voting process will be under way via the FNPS Forum under “of Chapters.” It requires an individual Forum login (contact Richard@Brownscombe.net if one is needed). With only one candidate, it might be tempting to “forget” to vote. But it is, as Dave says, up to us working together. Let's demonstrate our ability to work together with “A VOTE FROM EVERY REP” across the state. Online voting will close at midnight on April 29.

Education Committee report *submitted by Debra Klein*

The film *Walk in the Florida Dry Prairie* is finished and the downloaded product has been sent to Communications Chair **Shirley Denton** for placement on the FNPS website and all available social media. It will be embedded with a counter to determine how many people watch it. The Education Committee will prepare a short survey with the objective of obtaining feedback from viewers, hopefully to steer viewers in participating on field trips and learning more about native plants and their communities. The committee will also make it available to CPALMS, a clearinghouse website that can be used as a teaching tool throughout the Florida public school system. The chair is in the process of writing a blog article on the project.

Future projects for the committee include a collaboration with other like-minded organizations and individuals for a possible project on the native plant communities of the Kissimmee, Okeechobee and Everglades (KOE) ecosystem. The initial idea encompasses filming a series of shorts (Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park being the first) that travel down the KOE ecosystem, filming field trips with historical auditory and visual descriptions that can then be incorporated into one longer (+/-90m) film for distribution. Each short could be incorporated into a single lesson plan and then the long film would provide a “big picture” view. The scholastic elements would include literature and history, as well as many facets of science. If awarded, funding would be provided by an EPA environmental educational grant and other donations.

Conservation Committee report *submitted by Juliet Rynear*

Eight proposals were received for the 2015 Conservation Grants application cycle. The Conservation Committee will review each proposal and select one or more that best meet the award criteria and further the mission of the FNPS. The proposals received this year are:

1. Control burn of one acre of sandhill community at Oakland Nature Preserve
2. Study the impact of microhabitat variables on the survival and growth of reintroduced cigar orchids (*Cyrtopodium punctatum*) at Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park
3. Using species distribution modeling to promote recovery of an endangered plant endemic to the Florida panhandle, *Magnolia ashei* Weatherby (*Magnolia macrophylla* Michx. var. *ashei*)
4. Phase II of Native Groundcover Restoration on a Dry Prairie Habitat – Reintroduction of Native Shrub Species
5. Fire and Florida's Last Old Trees: Using tree-ring evidence to help guide restoration and management of native plant communities and rare and imperiled plant taxa on the Lake Wales Ridge
6. Pine Rockland Post-Burn Restoration and Community Education, FIU Nature Preserve
7. Restoration of native groundcover vegetation of xeric longleaf pine sandhills in the Florida Panhandle: A quantitative assessment of restoration efficacy
8. Conservation genetics and genetically informed restoration of the endangered Florida endemic Okeechobee gourd, a wild relative of cultivated pumpkin.

Chapter Happenings

Conradina Chapter wishes to thank all its members who helped staff a booth at FIT's Botanical Fest on March 7. In the midst of all those exotic plants, it is especially important to get the word out about the benefits of using native plants.

Tim Harrison has begun his first project through Brevard School's Business Partner program. Conradina donated \$195 for his first two plantings at Turner Elementary School.

The chapter also donated up to \$350 for native plants to beautify the Visitor Center at St. Sebastian River Preserve State Park. **Tracey Wright** was in charge of that project.

Carol Hebert has been awarded the 2015 scholarship (\$225) to attend the coastal section of the Florida Master Naturalist Program.

Terry Mott is helping an Eagle Scout on his "Go Native Brevard 500 Project" as part of Xavier Cortada's statewide program to commemorate Florida's 500 years. Conradina has agreed to help fund at the level of \$250.

Twelve Conradina members made the trip to Bok Tower Gardens in Lake Wales for a tour led by Glen Bupp, Rare Plant Curator. Members were privileged to get a "behind the scenes" tour and learned how Bok is a nationally important plant research center.

Pawpaw Chapter recently noticed the efforts made by the Flagler Beach Library to make their area into a native sanctuary. Ruth Young, director of the library told the chapter, "With funds from our annual book sale, and the help of two special people, a local man who likes not to be recognized, Art Woosley, and a local landscape business owner, now deceased, Mary Lou Baiata, this vision became a reality... This was definitely a project of lots of labor and love. Please stop in if you are in the area sometime." Be sure to see the Betty Stefflick Memorial Walkway that leads directly from the library to a greenway along the Intracoastal Waterway. This is a natural area. Thanks to Joan Bausch from Cocoplum Chapter for spotting this landscape!

Sumter County Spiderwort Chapter participated in the Sumter County Fair by putting on a native plant display. The chapter has been contributing their display (pictured right), complete with informative identification cards, for 9 years.



Sarracenia Chapter is finishing up a wildflower guide for the Ochlockonee Bay Bike Trail. Five miles of the trail go through the St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge, where many chapter members spend a lot of time hiking and bicycling. The guide will introduce the plants along the trail and describe interesting places to stop.

Recently, members were surprised to find an extensive patch of sundial lupens (*Lupinus perennis*, pictured right) not far from one of the refuge roads. In April, the chapter lead a field trip for members to see them while they were blooming. They try to go out weekly to check out the areas that burned during previous seasons. It's amazing what pops up after a burn. They will be out looking for little orchids, pitcher plants and meadow beauties in the near future.



The Villages Chapter has been very busy since its establishment only a few months ago, having held several meetings, field trips to the Ocala National Forest and Green Isle Gardens, and a workshop on "How to Create a Florida-Friendly Landscape Using Native Plants." They are working on an "Easy Native" initiative to help build natives into the local horticultural industry. And they recently submitted their goals for 2015, which include: 100 paid memberships by year end; a commitment of 10 monthly presentations, two "how-to" workshops and six field trips; the conversion of 10 residential lawns to native plant landscape per year; local media coverage of native plants six times per year (their March meeting was covered in *Villages-News*); three entries per year in the FNPS Residential Native Plant Landscape competition (The Villages has two in the 2015 competition).

Tell us what YOUR chapter is up to.

Send your "Chapter Happenings" to fnps.sabalmminor@gmail.com.

The deadline for the July–August, 2015 issue is June 1, 2015.

Society Happenings

All FNPS members are invited to the general assembly meeting at the 2015 conference in Tallahassee on Saturday afternoon, May 30. Registration for the conference is not required to attend this meeting. Registration is required for field trips and all day sessions on Friday and Saturday May 29 and 30. *See information in this issue on the 2015 conference.*

2015 Palmetto Awards will be presented at the general assembly meeting at the 2015 conference in Tallahassee on Saturday afternoon, May 30.

2015 board nominations include VP Admin, Treasurer, and Assistant Treasurer, and will be voted on at the general assembly meeting at the 2015 conference. *See nomination announcement in President's message.*

FNPS has CDs available for chapter use. Contact Cammie Donaldson at info@fnps.org to request.

FNPS President Anne Cox is visiting all chapters in the coming year. Chapters visited so far in 2015 include Palm Beach, Cocoplum, Pawpaw, Sparkleberry and Paynes Prairie. Visits are scheduled for Suncoast (April 15) and The Villages (April 24). **Please contact Anne Cox to schedule a visit and give a powerpoint presentation about FNPS.**

FNPS board and Council of Chapters are updating the Handbook Wiki, our policy handbook on the FNPS web site (fnps handbook.wikispaces.com). All policies and updates will need board approval before posting. All members can access the Handbook Wiki to read the policies. Please note that the policies on the website under "Downloadable Resources" are white paper/organizational stands, not operational policy, and are available to all FNPS members and guests that surf the FNPS website.

FNPS is scheduling all meetings for BOD, Council of Chapters, retreats, and conferences through 2016 and posting on the FNPS calendar. The schedule is complete through August 2015. *See schedule on page 4 of this issue.*

FNPS subscribes to GoToMeeting[®], an online meeting program. The board, council and committee chairs are encouraged to schedule these online meetings to save travel and time. Training sessions are available and instructions are on Forum under "General Information" (www.forum.fnps.org/index.php/topic,1031.0.html).

FNPS has requests for proposals out for membership and outreach contractor, and development, fundraising and grant services. The applicants for these contract RFPs are being reviewed and the announcements may be available at the conference.

The Outreach Subcommittee will be working with the Membership and Education committees after the membership outreach contractor is under contract in early spring.

FNPS is organizing a training workshop for all officers in late June or early July, following the 2015 annual conference. Recommendations and volunteers to help with are welcome.

FROM OUR PARTNERS

Important request from FANN

Our correct name is Florida Association of Native Nurseries, and our acronym is pronounced just like a fan you use to cool yourself. FANN's wholesale & association website is FloridaNativeNurseries.org. **PLEASE CEASE & DESIST FROM USING AFNN.ORG.** FANN's retail website is PlantRealFlorida.org.

We have just used our savings to get FANN.org away from someone else. We will not be able to afford to use it as our primary domain for a while but will hope to redirect sometime in the near future.

FLORIDANATIVENURSERIES.ORG remains the primary domain for our associate website. Please use it! Thank you.

From the Florida Wildflower Foundation

A database holding thousands of research literature records collected by the Florida Wildflower Foundation during the past five years has been transferred to the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center to be hosted on its website, www.wildflower.org.

The database includes white and gray literature on more than 290 Florida native wildflower species, many of which also occur in the Southeast and West. Read more at www.flawildflowers.org/news.php#90.

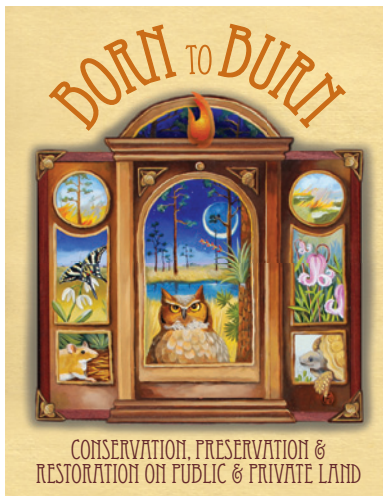
2015 BOD and ExCom Meetings

- MAY 28–31 FNPS Annual Conference, Tallahassee
- MAY 28 FNPS Board Meeting, Aloft Hotel, Time TBD, Tallahassee
- MAY 30 FNPS Annual Membership Meeting (at annual conference), 3p.m. (tentative), Tallahassee
- JUN 25 FNPS Board Meeting, 7.p.m., Teleconference
- JUL 23 FNPS Board Meeting, 7.p.m., Teleconference
- AUG 15 FNPS Board & Council of Chapters Meeting, Turkey Lake Park, Orlando (tentative)

All dates subject to change.

Check the Society Calendar at fnps.org/events/eventlist for details and updates.

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



The Florida Native Plant Society *Born to Burn* conference will be in downtown Tallahassee Thursday, May 28 through Sunday, May 31, 2015. Dr. Bruce Means, who is the co-author of six books, has earned three degrees from Florida State University, is past director of Tall Timbers Research Station (1976–1984), and more, will be our distinguished speaker. His books will be for sale, along with other authors such as Dr. Walter Kingsley Taylor.

There is a very exciting line up of field trips including a trip through a bog restoration with Dr. Means, kayaking the Wakulla River, and taking a big tree walk at Wakulla. Bradwell Bay Wilderness might suit you, or perhaps a yard tour. There are too many to list here.

Don't miss out on the socials. On Thursday, the welcome social will be on the 22nd floor of the capitol building with sunset views of the city! On Friday evening, join us at Edward Ball Wakulla Springs State Park, home of the classic movie *Creature from the Black Lagoon*. Join us on Saturday for dinner and a wagon ride at Tall Timbers Research Center.

Registration is now open at www.fnps.org/conference!

Hurry to get your spot in the best field trips. For questions, call 321-271-6702 or 239-273-8945.

**FNPS and the Florida Keys
TREE Institute present**

**The Plants of
Central and
Northwest Cuba
NOV 15–22, 2015**

\$3499.00 per person double
occupancy. Limited rooms
available.

**For more information,
download the full itinerary
and registration form at
[www.forum.fnps.org/index.
php/topic,1045.15.html](http://www.forum.fnps.org/index.php/topic,1045.15.html).**