

Sabal minor

A bi-monthly newsletter for the members of

THE FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY



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

Dear fellow FNPS members:

September and October have been very busy months for FNPS. **Florida Native Plant Month** was in full swing all over the state, with chapters and members participating in proclamations at city, county and even the state level. Especially notable is the signed proclamation by Governor Rick Scott. Visit fnps.org/news/plantmonth to view the proclamation. Thanks to our FNPS Native Plant Month Coordinator **Donna Bollenbach**, Development Director **Andy Taylor**, Bylaws Coordinator **Jan Allyn**, Membership Chair **Jonnie Spitzer**, and the countless others who participated and made October's Florida Native Plant Month successful for FNPS.

FNPS Board and Council of Chapters meetings. Both the BOD and COC had online meetings in September to conduct business. The main focus for both meetings was Florida Native Plant Month and the amazing chapter participation. For more details, please see Andy's report on page 2 of this issue. For up-to-date information, please visit fnps.org.

Board meeting reports for October are available on the Forum for all members at www.forum.fnps.org/index.php?topic=1136.0 and the council reports are posted at council.fnpschapters.org/index.php?id=meetings.

The **last BOD and COC meetings of 2015 will be held on Saturday, November 7** at the Forest Service Withlacoochee Training Center in Brooksville. All board members, chapter representatives and chapter officers are invited to participate in the day-long meetings. See the Society Calendar on the FNPS website for details. Contact FNPS Administrative Services at info@fnps.org for more information about attending this meeting and for lodging details.

Cuba botanical trips. The first FNPS trip to Cuba is scheduled for November 15-22, 2015. A second trip is planned for April 30-May 7, 2016. (Please note change of dates.) See article on page 3 of this issue for details. Contact **Devon Higginbotham** if you are interested.

FNPS Bylaws AdHoc. Revisions for 2016 are in progress and will be available on the Forum by the November 7 meeting.

Communications Committee (Chair: Shirley Denton, Suncoast Chapter).

- **Branding.** Business cards templates are available. Please contact **Donna Bollenbach** (donna.bollenbach@gmail.com) for more information.
- **Membership Database.** Shirley Denton and Cammie Donaldson are working on the transfer of files from CiviCRM to replace DPO in November.

Conference Committee (Chair: Marlene Rodak, Coccoloba Chapter). The 2016 conference will be held in Daytona Beach, May 18-22, 2016. The Pawpaw Chapter is working on field trips, venues and presentations to make this a memorable occasion. Mark your calendars now.

Conservation Committee (Chair: Juliet Rynear, Heartland Chapter). Proposed guidelines for the annual conservation grant applications were updated and approved at the September 24 board meeting. See page 2 of this issue for details.

The Conservation Committee also submitted a document entitled "FNPS Floristic Inventory and Plant Survey Guidance for Members" to the

board for approval. See page 2 of this issue for details.

Council of Chapters (Council Director: Dave Feagles, Serenoa Chapter). The council members were active in attending the Florida Native Plant Month proclamations and providing promotion materials to county and city commissioners. Congratulations to all chapters.

Director of Development (Andy Taylor, Suncoast Chapter). Andy has been working diligently with the Florida Native Plant Month team, securing proclamations all over the state, connecting with chapters and securing a proclamation from the governor's office. See Andy's report on page 2 of this issue.

Director at Large (Peter Rogers, Conradina Chapter). A draft presentation on increasing native plant availability at retail stores is posted on the Forum for the November 7 board meeting.

Education Committee (Chair: Debra Klein, Cocoplum Chapter). The film, *Walk in the Florida Dry Prairie*, is posted on the Education page of the FNPS web site (fnps.org/what-we-do/education).

Finance Committee (Chair: Devon Higginbotham, Suncoast Chapter). The AdHoc Committee posted a draft corporate donor policy. FNPS members are encouraged to respond to Devon with input.

Land Management Partners Committee (Chair: Danny Young, Pawpaw Chapter). The LMP schedule for 2015-2016 has been posted at fnps.org/participate/lmrs. Please contact **Kevin Love** at klove31@tampabay.rr.com for details as the reviewer names are not on the web page. Other information about LMRs is available at fnps.org/committee/partners. Reviewers are requested to take high resolution photos and write an article for the *Palmetto*. Please contact Marjorie Shropshire, *Palmetto* editor, at pucpuggy@bellsouth.net.

Membership Committee (Chair: Jonnie Spitzer, Nature Coast Chapter). Membership brochures were ordered again and distributed for Florida Native Plant Month. Great job, Jonnie and your committee, for getting these out to the chapters! See page 4 of this issue for a membership campaign update.

Policy and Legislation Committee (Chair: Eugene Kelly, Hernando Chapter). The committee has begun discussions with our lobbyist about preparation for the 2016 session. The session will begin earlier than usual (January 12) and committee meetings will begin in September and run through November. We expect Amendment 1 spending and water issues to again be of primary concern in 2016.

Science Advisory Committee (Chair: Paul A. Schmalzer, PhD, Sea Rocket Chapter). The call for research track papers and posters for the 2016 annual conference has opened. The 2016 endowment research grant and conservation grant application windows have also opened. See page 2 in this issue for details on all application processes.

Correction: In the last *Sabal minor*, we were in error by stating that The Tree Institute was associated with the Key West Tropical Forest and Botanical Garden. We apologize for the incorrectly published statement.

Florida Native Plant Month Celebrations *by Andy Taylor, FNPS Development Director*

FNPS started a new initiative this fall in Florida Native Plant Month. This campaign allows us to do a coordinated outreach and membership campaign to drive home the point about the importance of native plants. October is already one of our busiest months of the year as all chapters are up and running after a summer break. The proclamations allow members to be in front of their elected officials and talk about the important work done by FNPS.

As of this writing, we have 43 proclamations around the state, including one for the state of Florida signed by the governor. This is a big deal for a first year event. We have seen some other great developments throughout the month including:

- St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners Chairwoman Rachael Bennett said, “My backyard, much to the dismay of my HOA, looks very much like a natural Florida environment.” It was a nice touch from the Sea Oats members in attendance to give a loud round of applause after that line!
- Media attention, including a column from Tom Palmer at the *Lakeland Ledger* and a story in the *Wakulla News* about the Sarracenia Chapter after the Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners proclamation.

There are many more articles and highlights to come! You can find out the latest Florida Native Plant Month happenings online at fnps.org/news/plantmonth.

FNPS 2016 Endowment Grant Research Awards and Conservation Grant Awards

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.”

FNPS conservation grants support applied native plant conservation projects in Florida. These grants (\$5000 or less) are awarded for a 1-year period. These projects promote the preservation, conservation, or restoration of rare or imperiled native plant taxa and rare or imperiled native plant communities. To qualify for a conservation grant, the proposed project must be sponsored by an FNPS chapter.

Application guidelines and details can be found on the FNPS website at fnps.org/participate/awards. Questions regarding the grant programs should be sent to info@fnps.org.

Application deadline for the 2016 awards is March 4, 2016. Awards will be announced at the May 2016 annual conference in Tallahassee. Awardees do not have to be present at the conference to receive award.

Call for Research Track Papers and Poster Presentations for 2016 FNPS Conference

The 2016 Florida Native Plant Society Annual Conference will be held in Daytona Beach, Florida, May 18-22, 2016. The Research Track of the conference will include presented papers and a poster session on Friday May 20 and Saturday May 21.

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

Abstracts of not more than 200 words should be submitted as a MS Word file by email to Paul A. Schmalzer at paul.a.schmalzer@nasa.gov by February 1, 2016. Include title, affiliation, and address. Indicate whether you will be presenting a paper or poster.

Conservation Committee News *submitted by Juliet Rynear, Conservation Committee Chair*

The Conservation and Land Management Partners Committees recently completed work on a set of guidelines to assist members with plant surveys and floristic inventories. A link to a copy of “FNPS Floristic Inventory and Plant Survey Guidance for Members” can be found on the website at fnps.org/committee/conservation, in the Handbook Wiki, or in chapter support documents.

Society Happenings

FNPS President, Anne Cox, is visiting all chapters in the coming year. Chapters visited so far include Palm Beach, Cocoplum, Pawpaw, Sparkleberry, Paynes Prairie, Suncoast, The Villages, and Ixia. Chapters scheduled include Nature Coast, Tarflower, Citrus and Mangrove. Please contact Anne Cox to schedule a visit and give a powerpoint presentation about the Society.

The Florida Wildflower Symposium, held in September at Leu Gardens in Orlando, was a two-day event to promote native Florida wildflowers. The symposium had excellent presentations and activities and was well attended by FNPS members.

An FNPS gathering was hosted by the Sparkleberry Chapter on October 2–3 in O’Brien, Florida. In attendance were Ixia, Magnolia, Sarracenia, Paynes Prairie, Sparkleberry and Cocoplum Chapter members. Ideas generated include:

- provide an information packet to new members that explains the structure of FNPS, what committees do, how new members can get involved with board, council, and chapters (many chapters may already do this);
- revise the Forum to be more user friendly;
- look at chapter activities and spread the word to other chapters (e.g. Sarracenia gives away seed packets to new members, Ixia has brochure of “Alter-natives,” etc.);
- add QR codes to the “Landscape 101” brochure;
- create a smartphone application for native plants of Florida;
- look into ways to get more young people involved—through encouraging native gardens at schools, universities and colleges, promoting field trips, ethnobotany, invasive species removal, environmental service projects, and certification;
- provide native plant certification for homeowners, businesses, universities and local technical schools;
- promote less mowing on the highways and more wildflowers;
- provide visual aids (as compared with electronic) at meetings (e.g. Sarracenia provides posters on what’s blooming each month, posters with native flowers and information, photo contests, etc.);
- promote FNPS with stickers, patches, pins;
- promote a “Speakers Bureau” for chapters;
- provide education programs on “sustainability” of native plant landscapes for homeowners and institutions;
- increase communication between chapters and board/council;
- encourage chapters to get together locally to brainstorm new ideas and help chapters with new ideas for growth;
- get more people to read the *Sabal minor*—it is a wonderful publication that lets our members know what is going on in FNPS;
- get more FNPS members involved with the Board and Council.

NOTE: We have had two FNPS gatherings since July in different parts of Florida (near Tampa and near Tallahassee) with members from local chapters. At each one of these “gatherings” come numerous ideas to help chapters and individuals communicate about native plants and plant communities. These informal gatherings help strengthen relationships between chapter members and chapters as well as to inform, educate and help grow FNPS. All chapters and individual members are encouraged to schedule informal “gatherings” throughout the state.

Chapter Happenings

Conradina Chapter is off and running after a slow summer. They held elections at their September 14 general meeting and welcomed **John Boltz** as a returning board member and **Jim Baldwin** and **Bo Platt** as brand new board members.

Also in September, chapter members **Carol Hebert** and **Suzanne Valencia** tabled at the Electric Vehicle event; Suzanne gave a program on “The Beauty and Benefits of Butterfly Gardening” to the congregation of the United Universalist Church; and **Jane Higgins** and Suzanne manned an exhibit at the Keep Brevard Beautiful Riverfest in Cocoa.

On October 10, the chapter held its **5th annual native yard tour**. This year, six homes were featured. The tour gives people a chance to see native plants in use, which is better than just looking at pictures in a book or at meetings! Two volunteers and the homeowner were on hand at each site to answer questions. Tickets for the tour were a modest \$6.

Naples Chapter will conduct a **native plant bioblitz of a privately owned nature preserve on Saturday, November 14 from 9a.m. until noon**. The site is a relic, coastal scrub ecosystem. The property owner has generously given permission for the chapter to explore and evaluate the preserve for its extant biodiversity. (Florida scrub is a critically imperiled habitat, as much of Florida’s original scrub ecosystems have been converted into orange groves and human development, largely due to their well-drained upland soils.) **FNPS members are encouraged to join the chapter for this event**. For more information, visit the chapter website at naplesfnpschapters.org or contact **Aimee Leteux** at 850-510-0391 or piejack369@gmail.com.

Pawpaw Chapter held its **annual plant swap** in August at Shell Bluff Park. After the swap, members walked the shaded trails and discovered green dragons (*Arisaema dracontium*), angle pod milkvine (*Gonolobus suberosus*), and some early blooming green-fly orchids (*Epidendrum comopseum*). They also helped prepare a plant list for Flagler County, and removed three bags of invasive exotic caesarweed (*Urena lobata*) and one bag of the dreaded Japanese climbing fern (*Lygodium japonicum*).

Chapter members have been hooked on locating Florida’s milkweeds! FANN’s **Chris Waltz** spoke to the chapter about the **Florida Milkweed Project** in September (see page 4 for info on the project). New member, **Warren Reynolds**, located a small population *Asclepias tuberosa* (butterflyweed) along a new multi-use trail in New Smyrna, with one plant bearing a nice big seed pod. Just 50 feet away on the ditch-side of the trail, *Asclepias incarnata* (swamp milkweed) was found. Within a month, more species were found: *Asclepias verticillata* (whorled milkweed) in the Ocala National Forest, *Asclepias tomentosa* (velvet-leaf milkweed) on an old dune at Canaveral National Seashore, and finally a late-blooming *Asclepias pedicillata* (savannah milkweed) in the parking area of Longleaf Pine Preserve. (Sadly, the latter was lost, along with a late-flowering Rugel’s pawpaw, due to recent rains and fun-loving 4-wheel drivers carving up what was just one week prior a mini-prairie.)

Pawpaw Chapter newsletter editor, **Doug Hunt**, sent a friendly email with photos of two milkweeds to all the New Smyrna Councilmen inviting them to attend the September meeting and learn more about the Milkweed Project. Councilman Jake Sachs actually attended. He must have been impressed as he recognized FNPS for its contribution to the community at the October New Smyrna Beach City Council meeting.

In conjunction with Florida Native Plant Month, the chapter hosted **Ginny Stibolt**, who presented “The Art of Maintaining a Native Landscape” on October 12. The chapter also offered three weekends of activities including a field trip to Mala Compra Greenway Trails on October 10, and outreach at Gamble Rogers State Park’s native plant day program on October 17 and at Tomoka State Park’s TomokaFest on October 24.

Chapter members have been working quietly behind the scenes to line up speakers, field trips, socials and venues for the upcoming 2016 FNPS conference to be held at the family-friendly Daytona Beach Resort. Each unit will have its own living room, bedroom and kitchen arrangement—all the comforts of home while overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. Many of the chapter’s recent and upcoming field trips have been to areas that may

be considered for the 2016 conference. September took them to the Ocala National Forest’s Clearwater Lake area with plant ecologist, **Dr. Susan Carr**, to see the diversity of the sandhill’s longleaf pine understory and learn how fire management maintains the historic plant diversity. In October, local Florida Master Naturalist, **Mark Wheeler**, led a trip to Mala Compra Greenway Trail, which was open to all, and was offered as a Florida Native Plant Month activity. November’s field trip will be led chapter member **Paul Rebmann** who will lead a hike through the wet pine flatwoods of Volusia County’s Longleaf Pine Preserve to search for carnivorous plants and fall wildflowers. In December, Pawpaw and Lyonia Chapters will share a field trip excursion on the St. Johns’ River Cruises ecotour boat out of Blue Spring State Park.

Sea Rocket Chapter participated in two state lands reviews recently: the 7,805-acre Salt Lake Wildlife Management Area and the 21,956-acre St. Sebastian River Preserve State Park, both located in Brevard County. Sea Rocket member and Florida Master Naturalist **Greg Hendricks** joined representatives from state and county agencies and other conservation groups in evaluating land management treatments and overall ecological status of these state lands. Both sites were found to be in excellent condition, devoid of invasive plant species and under excellent management.

National Public Lands Day, held on September 26 at the Enchanted Forest in Titusville, provided an outstanding opportunity to “kick-off” October’s Florida Native Plant Month. Sea Rocket members promoted the event and sold native plants. Brevard County Commissioners proclaimed October Florida Native Plant Month on October 6; chapter representatives led by Sea Rocket President Lois Harris were on-hand to celebrate.

Thank you to all the chapters who continue to submit to “Chapter Happenings.” If your chapter has not contributed, please consider doing so. It is a great way to help other chapters come up with ideas for activating members and interacting with the community, as well as give them ideas for programs, field trips and outreach opportunities. Send your “Chapter Happenings” to fnps.sabalmminor@gmail.com. The deadline for the January–February, 2016 issue is December 1, 2015.

FNPS seeks VP of Admin

FNPS is currently looking to fill the vacant VP of Administration position. Interested members should contact FNPS President Anne Cox at floridanativeplant@bellsouth.net.

The Gardens and Plants of Northern Cuba with Dr. Marc Minno, April 30–May 7, 2016

FNPS is once again partnering with the Florida Keys TREE Institute for a trip to experience Cuba’s natural wonders. The trip in November is sold out and has a long waiting list, so the FK TREE Institute has put together a second trip and has arranged for Dr. Marc Minno, entomologist, zoologist, and renowned butterfly and moth expert, to accompany our group.

This exceptional program will include a visit to the Biospheres of Vinales, Pinar del Rio, Zapata Swamp and Havana. Don’t miss this incredible opportunity to see Cuba before the world rushes in!

The price per person (double occupancy) is \$3,999 and the group is limited to 28 participants. The package includes: a complimentary conference call briefing four weeks prior to departure, special travel visa, approved license, hotel in Miami the night before, medical insurance while in Cuba, round-trip non-stop charter air service direct from Miami to Havana, private air-conditioned motor coach, hotels, luggage handling, transfers, permits, entry fees, English-speaking guide, bottled water daily, tips and meals for those on the itinerary (7 breakfasts, 5 lunches and 4 dinners). You will travel on a US Treasury-approved license and visa.

To put your name on the waiting list or simply ask questions, contact Carolann at the FK TREE Institute at info@fktreeinstitute.org.

Florida Milkweed Project

The Florida Wildflower Foundation, University of Florida—Florida Museum of Natural History, and FANN are partnered in a long-term effort to expand the availability and use of healthy native ecotype milkweed.

Phase 1 of the project was launched in July 2015 with two objectives. The first and crucial objective is to identify sites where native *Asclepias* naturally occur and where seed can be collected with proper permission. The second objective is to build up an army of volunteers from around the state that have knowledge of *Asclepias* species and are willing to help collect the seed.

If you know of native *Asclepias* plants occurring on a natural (non-landscape) site where permission can be obtained to collect, and/or you would like to volunteer to collect seed, please contact **Chris Waltz**, Florida Milkweed Project Coordinator, at 407-738-6372 or FANNisonline@gmail.com. More information can be found at www.FloridaMilkweedProject.org.



2015 BOD and ExCom Meetings

NOV 7 FNPS board and council meeting, 9:30 a.m.–5p.m., Florida Forestry Training Center, Brooksville

2016 BOD and ExCom Meetings

JAN 21 FNPS board meeting, 7 p.m., teleconference
FEB 13–14 FNPS board and council annual retreat & strategic planning session, Camp Weed & Cerveny Conference Center, Live Oak

MAR 17 FNPS board meeting, 7 p.m., teleconference

APR 21 FNPS board meeting, 7 p.m., teleconference

MAY 19 FNPS board meeting at conference venue in Daytona Beach

MAY 21 FNPS annual members meeting at conference venue in Daytona Beach

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

Florida Native Plant Society
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“Plant Roots With Us” membership campaign—Keep the momentum going! *submitted by Jonnie Spittler, Membership Chair*

- Be sure to have membership brochures at every event and ASK people to join.
- Put your chapter label somewhere on the brochure to identify your chapter and provide contact information
- The online membership is still not working so people must send in their forms. We suggest YOU take the completed form and money and send it in for them.
- Prepare talking points for your volunteers at all events with information about FNPS and the good it does and review it with them. The more people we have that show pride in our organization, the more people will join.

The following are a few ideas from the Regina Wood, Cocoplum Chapter Membership Chair, for community outreach and membership engagement:

- **Relationships/partnerships with other community organizations.** Cocoplum Chapter partnered with the Martin County library system to present a workshop at one of the libraries. The local master gardeners promoted the workshop to their members as a way of earning educational credits for their program. As a result of this developing relationship, the chapter was invited and participated in a visioning workshop for the county IFAS extension office. The chapter also sent announcements of events from

other organizations to members and friends. Those organizations, in turn, began notifying their members of Cocoplum meetings and programs. Board members belonging to other organizations post chapter events to “Friends of...” and Master Naturalist Facebook pages and in newsletters for regional conservation organizations.

- **Assess your membership demographics.** With limited time and resources, it is important to be strategic about your membership outreach. Instead of trying to appeal to everyone, assess your members and your community and choose those people and groups who are most likely to be interested and join (i.e. people in similar organizations, middle-aged people whose children have grown and they now have more time for community activity, science teachers, students if you live in a college town, etc.).
- **Membership Involvement.** To get members to support membership efforts within the chapter, let them know that by increasing membership, your chapter can broaden knowledge about the importance of preserving native plants and native plant communities, as well as increase FNPS resources and influence.

And let’s face it, listening to knowledgeable speakers on topics we care about, going on interesting field trips, and talking to fellow native plant lovers is just plain fun! Let’s share the joy.