

Sabal minor

A bi-monthly newsletter for the members of

THE FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY



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President's Message

Dear Fellow Members,

It's been a year since you elected me to serve you in a two-year term as President of FNPS. It's been a busy and an incredibly rewarding year, as well as a whirlwind — a big change from my first board meeting several years ago as your new VP of Administration.

We accomplished a lot this year. I'll talk about this in more detail at our annual meeting on May 21 in Maitland. I'm hoping to see you there! Here's sneak peek:

2010 may have been a year of shrinking economy for our nation, but it was a year filled with expanding opportunities for the Florida Native Plant Society.

- FNPS Past President Gene Kelly initiated a coalition that included native plant societies in Florida and seven other states to form the first ever Southeastern Native Plant Society Summit.
- 2010 marked the anniversary of our 30th year of service to the state of Florida, recognized by our Governor and Cabinet with a proclamation and special ceremony in Tallahassee.
- We added three new chapters, plus our first-ever university chapter at the University of Central Florida, bringing the count to 37 chapters.
- We partnered with more than 60 organizations to achieve shared goals for enhancing the quality of life for all Floridians by upholding our mission statement for native plants.
- The Land Management Partners Committee participated in 87% of the state's land management reviews in 2009-10 and are pushing 100% in 2010-11.
- We funded two research grants and provided a forum for the presentation of 14 scientific papers and 13 posters related to our mission. An FNPS-sponsored research project was reported on in the American Journal of Botany.
- Three conservation grants were awarded to fund endangered species reintroduction and invasive species control projects throughout Florida.
- Social media has been an incredibly successful venture for us. Our Facebook page, launched just one year ago, has about 1100 Fans and gets tons of visits. Our blog went from 51 to 2100 visits from May to November and has been linked by a number of reputable Bloggers.



Sarracenia Chapter collects wiregrass and other native seeds at Ochlockonee River State Park. Photo by Jeannie Brodhead.

- Our chapters have been incredibly active with native seed collection for restoration project replanting; a native garden planted specifically to support pollinators; rescued plants; education via meetings, in schools and on field trips — all over the state!

- Our Chapters have granted money to local parks, local conservation and school projects. Our plant sales are legendary.

As the only organization in Florida focused specifically and uniquely upon preserving, conserving and restoring the native plants and native plant

communities of our state, our mission was carried out by active and knowledgeable volunteers. Our members worked in the halls of lawmakers, neighborhoods, schools, park lands and natural areas—the places where it mattered. This activism continues to help ensure the ecological and economic future of our beautiful state.

However, it was with sadness that I must resign as President at this time. As many of you know, I am an environmental consultant and I was recently offered a position in Louisiana that was such a wonderful opportunity, I just couldn't turn it down. I am working with the state of Louisiana on their coastal restoration and protection program—pretty much a perfect opportunity for my skills and interests. As I write this, I am sitting in a hotel room in Baton Rouge, waiting for our permanent home to become available. (Ron's still in Tallahassee getting our house ready for renting.)

The Nominating and Executive Committees have discussed this at length and consulted the by-laws regarding officer vacancies. In their deliberations, they spoke with VP of Administration Jackie Rolly and VP of Finance Steve Woodmansee about their willingness to step into the Presidency for the remainder of my term. While Jackie felt the timing wasn't right for her to step in, fortunately, Steve has accepted the nomination. Steve brings a wealth of experience and a wonderful depth of understanding to the position. In accordance with our by-laws, the Board of Directors must vote on this and will do so at their May meeting.

The transition for us has been bittersweet. Ron and I love Florida so much and have invested so much of our lives and souls there. However, Louisiana has welcomed us with open arms and we've just begun to explore its natural (continued on page 2)

(President's Letter from page 1) and cultural riches. There are many similarities between Tallahassee and Baton Rouge, with virtually identical climate stats, habitats and so on.

As always, thank you for being a member of FNPS and an ardent supporter of our mission to promote the preservation, conservation and restoration of native plants and native plant communities of Florida. It's been a great privilege and pleasure serving you and our collective mission.

With warm regards,

Ann

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

FNPS is looking for individuals to assist in the following capacities:

- Fundraising / Development Committee members
- FNPS Historian
- Chapter Liaison

For job description information, please contact Karina Veaudry at executivedirector@fnps.org or 321-388-4781

FNPS' Online Shoppe Success!

We are happy to report that the success of FNPS' on-line store continues. Reaping profits since its February launch, the site has proven to not only to be a way for Chapters to make their products, like tees and totes, available to the interested public on a year-round basis without cost, but it is also providing artists and craftsmen alike the same opportunity. This has quickly made the on-line store the destination for those looking to do a double dose of good: support FNPS and its artist members. In all, the on-line store has raised, in just over 3 months of operation, more that \$600 for FNPS via sales of FNPS-owned products and commissions paid by the artists from the on-line sales of their goods. And we feel we've only just begun to realize the site's potential.

If you haven't visited the site recently, please click on by at <http://floridanativeplantsociety.mybigcommerce.com/>. New goods are added on nearly a weekly basis.

And if you're an artist wondering if our storefront could be for you, call Greg at 888-480-1881, or email him at The.FNPS.Shop@gmail.com and he'll be happy to answer all of your questions.

Brazilian Skipper (*Calpododes ethlius*) by Linda Cooper

One of the most obvious skippers is Brazilian Skipper (*Calpododes ethlius*) simply because it is large (for a skipper) and its caterpillar host plant is canna, a plant found in many gardens. Yes, those 'worms' cutting and folding the leaves of your canna plants are not actually worms at all—they are caterpillars.

What is the difference between a worm and a caterpillar? I'm glad you asked that question! Worms have no lofty ambitions—they are destined to be forever bound to earth; they can only look longingly at the sky. Caterpillars, on the other hand, have very lofty ambitions—they are destined for bigger and better things. During metamorphosis, they will grow wings and one day will soar with eagles!



It is much easier to find the Brazilian Skipper caterpillars than the adults. They are not choosy about which

canna species they munch on—the native Golden/Yellow Canna (*Canna flaccida*) or non-native canna species such as *C. indica* and *C. x generalis*. They also eat the native Alligatorflag or Fireflag (*Thalia geniculata*) in the Arrowroot family. Brazilian Skipper is easily spread by the transportation of host plants in the nursery trade. It is not easy to tell whether its range extensions are because of the movement of nursery stock or migratory movements of the adults.

If you find your Canna or Thalia leaves cut and folded, open them gently and you will find a transparent caterpillar. It is



a wonderful way to learn the structure of a caterpillar. It has a brownish/orangish head with a black spot on the face and more black around the eyes. It often appears greenish because of the contents of its gut. If a male, the testes are visible. The dark line down its back is the heart. The respiratory system appears as 'webbing' along its length. Now, fold the leaf back over and the caterpillar will 'sew' it back together with silk.

The chrysalis is green with a tapering tubular shape with short tails at each end. The eggs are grayish and laid singly on a leaf. It is our largest skipper. The adult is reddish brown that fades to paler brown. It usually sits with its wings folded. Translucent 'square' spots are visible on the hindwings. If sunning and the wings are open, more translucent spots are visible on the forewings. The proboscis is very long, allowing it access to large flowers and those with long tubular throats. They are also known to 'trap-line' during the day, following a set pattern between nectaring spots.



It has many broods in Florida and ranges over the entire state though this subtropical species cannot tolerate freezing temperatures. It is found in any area with cannas or thalia including gardens, marshes and wet prairies. Remember, the next time you find a 'worm' munching your leaves, it isn't one at all. Its lofty ambitions will have it soon soaring with eagles.

Conference Fees: What's Different this Year?

Several members, particularly long-time conference attendees, have complained about having to “pay for field trips” at this year’s conference. But attendees have always had to pay for field trips; it just wasn’t effective, obvious, or particularly helpful to FNPS’ bottom line. Conference registrants have always paid for the “day,” which enabled them to attend field trips or workshops on that day.

This year, FNPS raised and restructured conference fees after taking several factors into account, including economic challenges the society is facing, changing conference attendance patterns, and a desire to reduce the perplexing number of choices that registrants face online.

2010 Conference attendees registering early for all four days at the conference would have paid \$161.00 for the “all inclusive” rate, or \$186 a la carte, including:

- \$25 for Thursday
- \$68 for Friday
- \$68 for Saturday
- \$25 for Sunday

2011 Conference attendees registering early for a Thursday field trip, Friday and Saturday programs, and Sunday field trip, would pay \$220, or about \$60 more. Attendees registering after the early discount date would pay \$270 (vs. \$186) or about \$85 more. And this year, lunch is included every day, including field trips, so there are no additional lunch fees.

So, yes, the price went up. Instead of paying \$25 to participate in a field trip, an attendee pays \$35. Instead of paying \$68 to go to Friday or Saturday programs, an attendee pays \$75 (or \$100, if the early registration discount is missed).

No discount is provided to those who register for all four days. Over the past several years, that number has been dropping as few people have the money or time to get away for very long. Long term, it appears that making it easy for people to participate for one or two days may be more important than rewarding those who have the ability to come for all four days.

Some trips cost more than \$35. These are trips that have special outfitting equipment or entry fees – necessities for which attendees have always been charged additional fees.

FNPS’ conference is rich with options – registrants actually select from over 100 different choices. The very economical but functionally limited online registration software we use forces us to present all possible choices in a single list. Thus, keeping the online registration visually simple is difficult, if not impossible. Unfortunately, having member and non-member rates – in particular, for field trips – forces us to list each choice twice, with different rates. So, having member and non-member rates for 23 field trips results in a list of 46 choices.

FNPS was not sure we could wait until next year to raise fees, and other changes were desired at the same time. So, several changes were made at once and will undoubtedly be improved next year, based on this year’s experience.

No one, including our board members, likes to raise fees. However, most felt that the increase was not too high, considering the tremendous value the conference delivers. We hope you’ll agree, but even if you do not – and perhaps especially if you do not – FNPS welcomes your input. Please send your comments to info@fnps.org.

Rainforest and Cloud Forest — FNPS Plant Expedition to Nicaragua

This trip is especially designed for Florida Native Plant Society Members. Experience the Unesco Biosphere Preserve, covering 3,442,000 acres, and the Bosawas Preserve, considered the heart of the Mesoamerican Bio-corridor. Bosawas represents the largest protected complex of tropical mountain moist forest north of the Amazon basin. Visit www.fnps.org to find out more details, download the itinerary and reservation form.



Travel dates are Nov. 25 – Dec. 5, 2011. Cost of \$2,995 includes all airfare (one internal flight) meals, tips, lodging and entrance into preserves. Space is limited — **only 4 spots remain!** Contact Elston Chavarria at aventurasnaturales@gmail.com or 954-662-1539 for questions and information. Visit www.fnps.org to download the itinerary and registration form.

Nominate a Champion Tree

In 1940, the American Forests organization created the Champion Tree Program to recognize the largest known tree of each species in the United States. In 1975, the Florida Department of Forestry began keeping a state register, which now contains hundreds of trees, including national champions like Dade County’s strangler fig, measuring 360 inches in circumference and 63 feet tall with a crown spread of 72 feet.

Florida now has the most national champions of any state. But there are still 95 species native to Florida that currently do not have champion representatives including the Florida anise-tree (*Illicium floridanum*), Eastern red cedar, (*Juniperus virginiana*), swamp bay (*Persea palustris*) and red mangrove (*Rhizophora mangle*).

The Florida Native Plant Society encourages its members to look for and nominate trees to the register. All native and non-invasive naturalized tree species are eligible. Anyone can nominate a tree. And any tree is eligible, whether it is on public or private land. For more information and instructions for nominating a tree, as well as to view the current Florida Champion Trees list and the list of trees still needing champions, visit www.fl-dof.com/forest_management/champion_trees.html.

Nominate a tree today! Don’t be dissuaded to nominate a common tree just because you think there may be a bigger specimen somewhere else. And don’t be discouraged by the smaller species. You may not think a tree of small stature could be the largest of its kind in Florida (or nationwide), but you never know!

Membership Recruitment Idea: When advertising for field trips, mention that FNPS membership is required to participate.

Chapter Happenings



- **Dade Chapter:** Starting April 16th, Ted Shaffer, President of the Dade Chapter, began a radio call-in segment, “Ted Shaffer & The Natives” on “The Garden Show” hosted by Mark Benson on 880 AM Radio. Ted will answer gardening and native plant questions. “The Garden Show” airs from 7am to 9am on Sunday mornings; “Ted Shaffer & The Natives” begins the 8 o’clock hour.
- **Pine Lily Chapter:** Osceola County Commissioner Michael Harford presented a proclamation declaring April 18–24, 2011 as Earth Week in Osceola County to Pine Lily Chapter President, Jenny Welch.
- The Pine Lily Chapter also sent out program information to over 250 community leaders, organizations, TV stations, newspapers, community papers, retirement communities, Homeowner associations, city commissioners and County commissioners.

**Tell us what YOUR chapter is up to!
Send your Chapter Happenings to
stacey@impactpress.com.**

Next Board of Directors Meeting

August 13, 2011
10:00am
Location to be announced

5 Ways to Fundraise for FNPS

1. If you or someone you know is a state employee, sign up with the Florida State Employees’ Charitable Campaign (FSECC) and select the Florida Native Plant Society as your charitable organization of choice. Please forward this information to state employees you know.
2. Public agency employees whose employers offer Earthshare can also select FNPS as their charitable organization. FNPS is seeking an Earthshare Coordinator; if interested, please contact VP of Finance Steve Woodmansee at smwood@bellsouth.net.
3. Search the web using GoodSearch and raise funds for FNPS. Just go to www.goodsearch.com, choose or enter Florida Native Plant Society—Melbourne and complete your internet searches  as you would from any other search engine. GoodSearch will donate 1 cent per search to FNPS and you’ll be helping FNPS financially without spending a penny.
4. Shop online with GoodShop, a portal featuring hundreds of  great retailers. Goodshop donates up to 20% of each purchase to FNPS. Visit www.goodshop.com, select Florida Native Plant Society—Melbourne, make purchases you’d normally make and GoodShop will donate to FNPS.
5. Download the GoodSearch–Florida Native Plant Society–Melbourne toolbar and earn money for FNPS every time you shop and search online—even if you forget to go to GoodShop or GoodSearch first! Add the FNPS toolbar at www.goodsearch.com/toolbar/florida-native-plant-society-melbourne.

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