

Sabal minor

A bimonthly newsletter for the members of

THE FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY



VOLUME 12, NUMBER 5

December 2009 - January 2010

The *Sabal minor* is now distributed electronically by email. All members without an email address will receive a paper copy. If a member with an email address wants to receive a paper copy, notify us at info@fnps.org or call 321-271-6702.

Where Are the Wildflowers?

The Florida Wildflower Foundation is making surveys of naturally occurring wildflowers around the state. They started along the five-county St. Johns-to-the-Sea Loop trail, which will soon become the state's first Wildflower Trail.

The surveys will identify showy areas of native wildflowers in order to document species and suggest management practices, information which also will help us promote Florida's native wildflowers as economic and intrinsic community assets.

Volunteer to help find wildflower sites throughout the state!

Send information to the Foundation at wildflower.research@gmail.com.

They'll need to know:

-The scientific or common name of the plant species and the flowering plants' characteristics (i.e., color, height, growth habit, etc.). Include digital photo if possible.

-Location information, such as road name, with nearby intersections or other landmarks that will help us locate the site; property ownership, if known; geographic region and the city and/or county in which the site occurs.

Other information will be needed, too, such as date, description of habitat, so go to the website to learn all:

<http://floridawildflowercouncil.org>

The Florida Native Plant Society's 30th Annual Conference

Rooted in History, Forever Blooming

May 20-23, 2010

DoubleTree Hotel
101 South Adams Street
Tallahassee, Florida

Join us in Tallahassee when the Magnolia Chapter hosts the 2010 Annual Conference. This will be a special 30th anniversary conference that honors our Florida Native Plant Society history. Over 400 people are expected to attend the 4-day conference. Celebrate the plants, people and places of Tallahassee and the Big Bend Region.

PLANTS: Choose from a variety of field trips, tours and workshops on Thursday and Sunday. Discover unique native plants of upland glades, ravines, karst, savanna and other plant communities on field trips led by expert local guides. Take workshops on plant identification, propagation and maintenance. Attend presentations on the latest in native plant science, landscaping and other topics.

PEOPLE: Friday and Saturday enjoy keynote speakers and educational sessions at the Leon County Civic Center. Featured are: Dr. Betty Smocovitis, internationally-known botanical historian from University of Florida; Landscape Architect Darryl Morrison, on uses of fire and other natural processes in nationally recognized native plant designs; and June Bailey White, writer and National Public Radio commentator from southern Georgia. Get reacquainted with Bill Partington and the people who started the first gathering of native plant enthusiasts in 1980.

PLACES AND EVENTS: Experience special places, including the 22nd floor of the Florida Capitol, with its fantastic 360° views, Goodwood Plantation and Tall Timbers Research Station. Celebrate the annual FNPS Landscape Awards. Participate in the silent auction, FNPS Jeopardy, and enjoy the musical entertainment by local bands, The Weeds and the Mayhaws. Famous local authors will be on hand for book signings. Special programs are being planned for youth as well.

For more conference details see <http://www.fnps.org/pages/conference/>

Join us in May 2010 for the FNPS 30th Anniversary!



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Sabal minor is on-line at <http://www.fnps.org/sabalminor>. The on-line version has color photographs and other benefits. Enjoy!

Deadlines for *Sabal minor* submissions: 1/15 for Feb-Mar issue; 3/15 for Apr-May; 5/15 for June-July; 7/15 for Aug-Sept; 9/15 for Oct-Nov; 11/15 for Dec-Jan

Species Spotlight

Carya alba
JUGLANDACEAE

Mockernut

E.K. Sommer

Pecans (*Carya illinoensis*) are the stars for the autumn holiday, but in northern Florida we have the opportunity to also savor *C. alba*, or mockernut. While the mockernut is not as user friendly as the pecan, native people and settlers made liberal use of it for food and sometimes for medicine.

The shell is tough, and the name “mockernut” is derived from the Dutch, “moker-noot,” which literally means “heavy-hammer nut.”

You will absolutely need to get out your hammer to crack these nuts. Although, the meat is sweet, it is unfortunately tiny, and even squirrels ignore these nuts in favor of those that are easier to open.

According to Austin, members of the de Soto expedition first saw hickory nuts in an area southwest of Gainesville in 1539. While ethnobotanical information on the *Carya* species is not abundant, pecan shells were found at prehistoric site in the Ozark Mountains, so they have clearly been used as food for a long time.

The Creek people of Georgia, according to Bartram, pounded the nuts into pieces, boiled them, passed them through a sieve, and preserved the oily liquid which resembled cream. This, according to Bartram, was called “hiccory milk,” and was an ingredient in many of the foods prepared by the Creek, especially hominy and corn cakes.

The tree is known to have a variety of traditional medicinal uses. The Choctaw people used the leaves of *C. alba* (*C. tomentosa* is a synonym for this plant) to deter fleas, and the Iroquois mixed the nut meat with bear oil to repel mosquitoes (although I imagine the bear oil alone



Photos: W.D. Brush @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database



White Peacock

Linda Cooper

Easily seen in most wetland areas is one of our loveliest butterflies, the White Peacock, *Anatia jatrophae*. It occurs over most of peninsular Florida and in summer and fall will



colonize farther north along the coasts. A tropical species it does not tolerate cold conditions nor do its host plants *Bacopa monnieri*, Smooth Water Hyssop, and *Phyla nodiflora*, Turkey Tangle Fogfruit.

This is a very easy butterfly to identify. It is a

medium-sized, mostly white with orange markings and several “eyes” on the wings. It also has very small stubby tails. The summer form has a richer orange color than the whiter winter form. It is usually easily found in most roadside ditches and swales and along lake and pond edges and will visit home gardens also.

The caterpillar is dark with small white spots and rows of branched spines. Its head has a pair of long horns with knobby tips. The caterpillars hide during the day close to the ground of the host plant. There are three broods in Florida so White Peacock can be found nearly year-round.

Mockernut, continued

would repel most anything!). The Cherokee used the bark for cuts and chewed it for sore mouth.

The sap, which can be tapped in the spring, was used by native people as a sweet drink. The bark of another cousin of the pecan, shagbark hickory (*C. ovata*), has become the source for a cottage business that sells a syrup based on a 200-year old recipe that many say is a good as maple syrup. An Indiana couple (www.hickoryworks.com) received the recipe from an elderly gentleman who said his great-grandmother made the syrup. Although they are not revealing the secret process, this shouldn't stop anyone from experimenting with our local hickories! Of course it would probably have to be following a cold winter, which seem few and far between these days.

Always cross-check with several references for the identity of plants before using them. If you are at all unsure, consult with experienced foragers and herbalists before eating or using plants from the wild. Another hickory in north Florida is *C. glabra*; its' twigs and buds are smooth, where *C. alba*'s are hairy to fuzzy. (Ellie has website at www.myherbalnotebook.com.)

Nominations Are Open for *Palmetto Awards*

Any FNPS member can submit a nomination for one of the Society's annual awards. Simply prepare a one-page summary including: (1) the type of award; (2) name of the individual or chapter that you wish to nominate; and (3) an explanation of why your candidate merits this recognition.

Green Palmetto Awards - This award typically is for recognition of regional or statewide contributions. The categories are: Science, Education & Outreach, Information, Service and Administration. Any FNPS member is eligible to receive this award except for those currently serving on the Board of Directors.

FNPS Public Service Award - Individuals working in the public sector who contribute significantly to advancing the FNPS mission are eligible. This award is *not limited to FNPS members*.

FNPS Chapter Achievement Award - Chapters that have excelled in promoting the FNPS mission.

FNPS Mentor Award - This award recognizes individuals in FNPS who have made outstanding contributions to the science and/or practice of native plant preservation, conservation and restoration. The Mentor Award is the highest honor that FNPS can bestow and is not necessarily awarded every year.

After the nomination cycle closes on March 30, the Board of Directors will review all the nominations that have been submitted and make a final decision about award recipients by conducting a vote. In a typical year, FNPS will bestow 3-5 Green Palmetto Awards and one Chapter Achievement Award. The others are not necessarily awarded every year. To see a list of award recipients from previous years, please go to the Awards and Grants page on the FNPS website.

Nominations should be sent to Executive Director Karina Veaudry executivedirector@fnps.org

Education Committee Provides New Resources

The FNPS Education Committee is building a directory of resources on Florida native plants categorized for the homeowner, teacher, planner, government official, student, industry worker, or other interested person. Check to see what they've compiled, and support their efforts with suggestions for other high-quality resources. They have also compiled a useful list of Florida's gardens that feature natives in a variety of settings. Go to fnps.org, Publications and select "Downloadable Docs" to see these items.

Give a Gift of Memories

Your annual gift to the Society can memorialize someone important in your life. When you give your tax-deductible donation, indicate the person you would like to honor, and any comments. Your memorial will be recognized in upcoming Society publications.

Chapter Tips & Tricks

Use your signature line for good: In official Chapter email correspondence, consider including a link to GoodSearch or GoodShop in your signature, as well as a "Join FNPS" link. This serves both as a reminder and a direct line to contribute. Find out how to add GoodSearch to your signature at <http://www.goodsearch.com/getinvolved.aspx>

Fly Your Company's Banner

Business owners, please consider upgrading your membership to the business or corporate level (\$125). Not only will this increase provide greatly needed funds for the work of the Society, but will advertise your company within the membership ranks.

New Seminole County Chapter Schedules Its First Meeting

The first meeting of the new Seminole County Chapter will be held at the Environmental Studies Center in Longwood, on Wednesday January 13, 2010, 6:30pm. The Center is located at 2985 Osprey Trail. For more information, contact Sherry Williams, 407.349.0551, or email swilliams02@seminolecountyfl.gov.

FLEPPC Accepting Proposals for Kathy Craddock Burks Education Grants

The Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council is soliciting grant proposals for non-native invasive plant education and outreach projects in Florida. The intent of these grants is to provide funding to organizations or individuals who will educate Floridians about non-native invasive plants and their influences on the environment and economy of Florida. Proposals will be accepted from individuals, public or private nonprofit organizations, and academic institutions.

Requests for funding should not exceed \$1,000.00 and all funds awarded are to be used within one year of receipt. The deadline for proposal submission is 5 PM on February 1, 2010. The FLEPPC Education Committee will review all applications. Winners will be announced in April 2010 at FLEPPC's annual conference, held this year in Crystal River, FL.

Applicant/organization must present a summary of results at the FLEPPC annual meeting (poster or presentation) or provide a summary article for possible inclusion in Wildland Weeds magazine. The FLEPPC Education Grant Committee reserves the right to review all publications resulting from its funding (prior to printing or distribution) for accuracy.

Application instructions and further information may be found on the FLEPPC website (www.fleppc.org).

FNPS to Join Florida Invasive Plant Partnership

The FNPS Board of Directors has voted to join the ranks of the Florida Invasive Species Partnership. This collaborative endeavor provides a clearinghouse of available technical and financial assistance programs to prevent or control invasive exotic species problems.

As a partner, the Society can participate in developing and sharing resources to further our efforts in this area. Visit <http://www.floridainvasives.org/> to see the important work already underway, and follow its progress. The site also has wonderful links to plant identification tools and other resources for the savvy Florida gardener.

FNPS Travel Survey Results

Thank you everyone who made the time, and overcame the challenges, to respond to this survey. There were 15 replies received, and not everyone answered every item.

Budget: 4 @ 1500; 2 @ \$2500; 2 @ \$3000; 1 @ \$3500; 2 @ 4000.

Time Away: 1 @ 5 days; 1 @ 7; 2 @ 10; 3 @ 14.

Travel Season: Most said "any"; 1 for summer only; 1 for winter & spring only.

Politics: Most said they would rely on US State Department Travel Website reports.

Preferences:

Nicaragua -3

Venezuela - 6

British Guyana - 2

Panama -1

Costa Rica - 4

Euro Mediterranean -5

US Field Trips -7; several US areas were suggested, including the Florida Panhandle and Alaska.

One had no preferences, except that the trip must have a good plant component! One stated that shared bathrooms were not acceptable.

Habitat Steward Training

Habitat Steward Volunteers are individuals with a keen interest in the environment, and a willingness to volunteer their time and expertise to help others create or restore wildlife habitat. Habitat Stewards need to be able to commit to providing 30 hours of service to the National Wildlife Federation within a year of completing their training.

Examples of some volunteer opportunities include:

- Consulting with neighbors about filling habitat needs in their backyard
- Speaking at civic association meetings or clubs about the importance of wildlife habitat
- Writing articles for local newspapers or magazines
- Distributing habitat information at local festivals
- Helping create Schoolyard Habitats
- Certifying either 3 homes or 1 school, business, or place of worship

Habitat Steward Training includes field trips, expert speakers, and materials. Applicants must attend entire training.

For more information on the National Wildlife Federation, please visit: <http://www.nwf.org>

Raise money for FNPS by using the Internet search engine **GoodSearch**. From GoodSearch.com, just select FNPS, Melbourne from the pull down menu and complete your Internet search. Each time you search, a penny is donated to FNPS!

Also, when purchasing office supplies, gifts, household goods, please use **GoodShop**. From GoodShop.com, first select FNPS before you shop online; a percentage of the purchase price goes to FNPS. All brand name stores are a

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