



## ON THE VINE

### **May 16, 2019 In Person Meeting @ the 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in Crystal River**

In the General Meeting, President Susan Carr presented the attendees with much exciting news! FNPS has overhauled its accounting and financial reporting system. Our finances are looking good, with easy access financial and budget reports and up to date tax returns and audits.

Non-membership contributions including gifts and corporate donations are advancing our mission related projects with new revenue streams! We have many new and emerging partners helping with land protection, advocacy and species recovery. Please visit the FNPS website to follow some of these projects.

TorreyKeepers - recover of Florida's endangered tree in the wake of Hurricane Michael

Warea Area protection - acquisition of a small preserve to protect the endangered clasping warea and Florida sand skink.

Southeast Chapters Initiative for advocacy and community organization - outreach and coordination for FNPS to influence State and local policies to conserve Florida's native plants and habitats, and build on FNPS's already active policy and legislation advocacy efforts

Model Land Development Codes - an initiative to develop development codes for conservation and sustainable land uses, which can be adopted by municipalities throughout Florida

Land Management Partners - coordinated program to represent Florida native plants and habitat in ALL reviews of land management plans for Florida's public lands.

Monitoring of rare plant populations and demography - several projects to monitor population trends of imperiled plant species throughout Florida - special emphasis on endemic mint species.

Sandhill plant rescue - saving populations of Florida sandhill plants from extirpation in sites slated for development.

Membership is at an all-time high with over 4,300 FNPS members and almost all 35 chapters are active!

The board of Directors is almost fully populated and there will be three new faces in 2019. We have revised by-laws, which were voted on and passed at this conference. Work remains to be done on the by-laws in order to come into compliance with state regulations regarding charitable entities. Though it may seem to be an uphill trudge, chapters are becoming stronger through the meeting of legal and regulatory compliance standards.

FNPS has two full time staff, Executive Director and Director of Communications and Programming. They are doing an amazing job! The website is being updated and we have very active social media and data sharing platforms.

A 'Super Committee' meeting was held in an open round table format in order to discuss needs and possible initiatives. Members of the Education Committee are working to design and produce a brochure which inspires Florida citizens to be stewards of the land and water.

Check out our website (<https://www.fnps.org/conference/2019recordings>) for educational presentations from our 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, including:

- Audio files of many of the conference presentations
- A presentation for chapter field trip leaders on 'How to lead the best field trip ever'
- A presentation on the FNPS mission in action, "Mission Related Projects of the Florida Native Plant Society"
- The presentation "FNPS Seed Collection, Rescue and Restoration: An Overview"

Our enthusiastic Land Management Partners Committee aspires to get more FNPS members involved on various levels with the review of land management plans and the advisory groups associated with their development. Florida's native plants, plant communities and natural lands depend on great stewardship to ensure that they endure. Partnering more with other environmentally minded groups such as the Florida Association of Native Nurseries (FANN), Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council (FLEPPC), Florida Wildflower Foundation (FWF) and Audubon generates more energy.

The 2020 conference will be held in Jacksonville