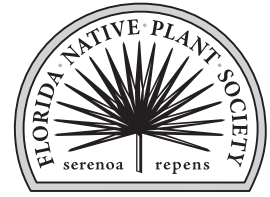


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A bi-monthly newsletter for the members of

THE FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY



Volume, 13 Number 5
October / November 2011

Florida Native Plant Society • P.O. Box 278, Melbourne, FL 32902-0278 • 321-271-6702 • Fax: 815-361-9166

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www.fnps.org • info@fnps.org • President: Steve Woodmansee, email: president@fnps.org

President's Message

Dear Fellow FNPS members,

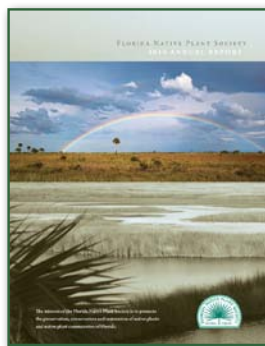
Change is a constant we can rely upon. Change is what keeps things fresh, opening us up to new perspectives and increasing our room to grow; but change can be challenging, if not unsettling. As most of you are aware, this year our Executive Director, Karina Veaudry, has elected to not apply for a continuance of her contract ending in December. Karina has been an essential component of our organization and has facilitated many of our accomplishments including: furthering Chapter development, FNPS conferences, Board of Director (BOD) meetings and functions; education and outreach; institution building with like-minded organizations; and much more. We on the FNPS BOD wish Karina much success in her future endeavors and look forward to our relationship with her as a dedicated member once again.

Preparedness has helped us thwart the difficulties of such change, and our search for a new Executive Director is underway. We have learned much these last five years and have honed the job requirements of the contract position to areas that are most needed. Society and Outreach, as well as Conference Planning are still major components of this position, however Fundraising and Membership Recruitment duties have been increased. We have already received several applications for the contract and will keep everyone posted on the BOD's decisions.

As one of my duties as VP for Finance, not long ago, I asked a fortunate friend and colleague of mine who had never heard of FNPS to consider donating to FNPS. He replied: What do you guys do and why should I donate? It was a simple yet daunting question that cut to the bone. I gave him my best "elevator speech," but it didn't seem enough. It occurred to me how it would be handy to have a flashy informative document highlighting our most recent accomplishments that I could then thrust into his hand. It would be so impressive that he (and others) couldn't possibly say no.

We now have such a document, as FNPS volunteers have recently completed the **2010 FNPS Annual Report**. Kudos go to our Communications Chair, Sue Dingwell, who handled the information gathering for the components of the report, as well as our *Palmetto* editor, Marjorie Shropshire, who volunteered her efforts to design and create the final product. A PDF version of our Annual Report may be found on our website at www.fnps.org. I encourage everyone to read it; it will make you proud and ecstatic to belong to such a fine organization. And of course, please use it.

Best regards,



How To Contribute to the FNPS Annual Report

by Sue Dingwell

After working on the first-ever Annual Report for our society, I discovered that there are two big things that chapters could do to help make the NEXT report an even better summary of the fantastic projects that are being carried out by FNPS all over the state. They are surprisingly easy to do; the hardest part is just getting them on your to-do list.

Photographs. A picture really is worth at least a thousand words, and a good annual report includes MANY pictures. Each chapter should do its utmost to appoint a photographer for every event, especially for events where members are working with plants. After all, plant people, what kinds of pictures do YOU like to look at? Exactly! Plant pictures. But we need pictures that show people in action. Show your members on field trips, planting things, weeding, selling plants, teaching about plants, etc. Maybe appointing a photographer could be a routine part of your secretary's job. Or each committee head could do it for their event. Think about it ahead of time and ask someone to take pictures.

Make sure that your photos are being taken in a high resolution - low resolution is fine for online use, but if a photo goes to the printer for hard copy, it must be high resolution. Last year, we had to cut one of our favorite photos from the printed report because it wasn't in high resolution. Remember, for printed copies:

- set your digital camera to shoot the highest resolution possible
- do not try to increase the resolution with a photo editing application
- do not use cell phone cameras
- send photos as JPEGs
- include caption for each photo and credit the photographer

Quotes and Thank You's. These really make the report come alive. Quotes from the public as they interact with you at your events can be priceless—just remember to write them down!

Here is a true quote-story example for you. I was watching a lady reading our display board at a public outreach event last year. I deemed the time right for a verbal invitation: "We are here today to talk with people about native plants." Curious look from lady: "Florida has native plants?"

Now, this is serious. We really need to do a better job of actively seeking acknowledgement for our accomplishments. After you put in a garden, do garden maintenance, help the school/library/public park with any kind of assistance or contribution, don't sit back and wait for a "Thank you." ASK for one!! Tell them, "I need it for our records, or our annual report." Believe me, they will understand, and they routinely write these kinds of letters. If a letter seems too formal or cumbersome for a certain situation, ask for a verbal "thank you" that you may quote. Just do it!

Chapters, you are doing a truly awesome job. Each of you has a unique vision and a special way of contributing to our cause. I was so humbled to see the extent of your efforts, the depth of your generosity, and your passion for native plants that was exhibited in such inspiring ways. Please keep up the good work. And please help us tell the world about it—with photos and quotes!!

FNPS 2012 Endowment Grant Research Awards and Conservation Grant Awards

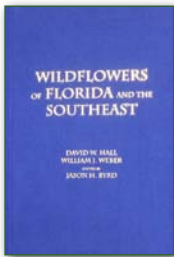
The Florida Native Plant Society maintains an Endowment Research Grant program for the purpose of funding research on native plants. These are small grants (\$1500 or less) awarded for a 1-year period and intended to support research that forwards the mission of the Florida Native Plant Society, which 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 are small grants (\$1500 or less) awarded for a 1-year period. Examples of projects that this grant supports are on-the-ground native plant community restoration, land acquisition, and habitat enhancement. To qualify for a Conservation Grant, the proposed project must be sponsored by an FNPS Chapter.

Application guidelines and details are on the FNPS website (www.fnps.org) under 'Awards and Grants.' Application deadline for the 2012 Awards is March 2, 2012. Awards will be announced at the May 2012 Annual Conference in Plant City. Awardees do not have to be present at the Conference to receive award.

Questions regarding the grant programs should be sent to info@fnps.org.

NEW BOOK: *Wildflowers of Florida and the Southeast* by David W. Hall, PhD & William J. Weber, DVM



This new regional wildflower book is 819 pages, and features full color photographs throughout. Each species included is accompanied by at least one photograph of the plant and a concise description of its flowering season, geographic range, leaf shape and type. Scientific names are listed along with the most frequently used common names known to the authors. Plants are arranged by color, and those that have multiple flower colors

have been included in each of their corresponding color sections. A short discussion following each plant describes the uses and/or associated problems, such as weediness.

Wildflowers of Florida and the Southeast was written by Dr. David Hall, who previously ran the Plant Identification and Information Services at the University of Florida, and Dr. William Weber, a well-known wildlife photographer. The book sells for \$40 and can be purchased by credit card at Amazon.com or for cash/check from the author. For more information, contact David Hall at 352-375-1370.

The New and Wonderful FNPS Handbook

Have you taken advantage of the new web-based FNPS Handbook? Thanks to the prodigious and creative innovator, Cindy Liberton, the new handbook is a living document that can be changed easily to reflect new information and developments. It is available to everyone who needs it, instantly, with no trees or printing costs wasted!

Located under 'Society Resources' on the left side of the FNPS homepage (www.FNPS.org), the new handbook contains a wealth of information with a search bar, live links, and answers to the questions that have had you scratching your head for years. It is a fully public document; we have nothing to hide and everything to share related to our society!

Take a look at the FNPS Handbook and make use of the many tips and suggestions for chapter programs, membership and field trips. Learn about the Conference, see how the Society's governance is set up, download materials you can use at your chapter meetings and more. It's a handy thing!

Call for Research Track Papers and Poster Presentations for FNPS 2012 Conference

The FNPS annual conference will be held at the John R. Trinkle Center, Hillsborough Community College Plant City Campus, Plant City, Florida on May 17-20, 2012. The Research Track will include presented papers on Friday, May 18 and Saturday, May 19. Posters will be on display on Friday and Saturday and the poster session will be on Saturday afternoon.

Researchers are invited to submit abstracts on research related to native plants and plant communities of Florida including preservation, conservation and restoration. Presentations are 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 Word file by email to Paul A. Schmalzer (paul.a.schmalzer@nasa.gov) by February 1, 2011. Include title, affiliation and address and indicate whether you will be presenting a paper or poster.

Upcoming Events

Wildflower Symposium—Oct. 15

The Florida Wildflower Foundation's annual **Wildflower Symposium and membership meeting** will be held on Oct. 15 at the Wekiwa Springs State Park Youth Camp in Apopka. This year, the symposium will adopt a hands-on format that lets participants choose from a variety of workshops and presentations.

The event, to be held at the Wekiwa Springs State Park Youth Camp in Apopka, begins with a 9am membership meeting, followed by morning presentations about wildflower trails and the Atlas of Florida Vascular Plants website (www.florida.plantatlas.usf.edu).

Afternoon workshops and presentations include:

- Native Landscaping for Fall
- Wildflower Propagation for Home Gardeners
- Selecting and Preparing Herbarium Specimens
- Wildflower and Nature Photography
- Wildflower Walk
- Prescribed Fire



FLORIDA
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A social from 3-5 pm will feature refreshments, a silent auction, door prizes and an awards ceremony. Native plants and seeds will be for sale throughout the day.

The cost is \$20 for Foundation members and \$30 for non-members, including lunch and refreshments. Admission to the state park is free for participants. Space is limited to 150; pre-registration only. Visit www.flawildflowers.org to view the full schedule and to register.

To check the status of your FWF annual membership, email Lisa Roberts at lroberts@flawildflowers.org or call 407-353-6164. You can also renew or purchase a membership when registering.

FWF members and friends are also invited to paddle Rock Springs Run on Sunday, Oct. 16, with Lars Andersen of Adventure Outpost. This trip is being offered at a reduced rate of \$39 or \$29 with your own canoe or kayak. Reservations only. Contact Adventure Outpost at 386-454-0611 or riverguide2000@yahoo.com.

Everglades Conference—Jan. 5-8

FNPS members are invited to the **27th Annual Everglades Conference**, January 5-8, 2012 at the Hutchinson Island Marriot in Stuart, FL.

FNPS representative Joan Bausch says, "This is a great opportunity to learn the latest news, listen to experts on the subject of Everglades Restoration, and enter into discussions with decision-makers."

The theme this year is "Everglades Restoration: Worth Every Penny." The conference will be hosted by Earth Justice. Visit www.evergladescoalition.org for more information. Visit the FNPS Forum page for Everglades restoration issues addressed by the Coalition.

The FNPS Online Store has moved!

Check our new and easy to remember location:

www.thefnpsshop.com

Be sure to visit often as new goods are added on nearly a weekly basis!

Want to sell your wares and help support the Florida Native Plant Society? Call Greg at 888-480-1881 or email him at The.FNPS.Shop@gmail.com and he'll be happy to help you get set up.

Picture: Stained Glass Garden Stake by Angelika Traylor, Conradina Chapter



Cassius Blue (*Leptotes cassius*) by Linda Cooper

Cassius Blue (*Leptotes cassius*) is the second most likely blue butterfly to be encountered in Florida. It ranges over most of Florida, except for the panhandle. In warm years, it expands its range to fill in that gap, extending it up into south Georgia and extreme southern South Carolina.



This is a sun-loving butterfly. In south Florida, if you see a blue butterfly flying in the top of a tree, it is going to be this one. It appears pale blue in flight, and when sitting quietly on a bush, its ventral wings are white with tan/gray bands. It has

two prominent blue eye-spots with orange borders along the hind-wing edge. Males are more intensely colored than females but still paler than Ceraunus Blue, the only butterfly it is likely to be confused with. Ceraunus Blue is a low-flying butterfly compared to Cassius Blue.

Cassius Blue has at least three generations in Florida. It uses a wide variety of plants in the pea family including Miami lead plant (*Amorpha herbacea*), Florida hammock milkpea (*Galactia striata*), downy milkpea (*Galactia volubilis*), false tamarind (*Lysiloma latisiliquum*), Florida



Keys blackbead (*Pithecellobium keyense*), hairypod cowpea (*Vigna luteola*), and the non-native cape leadwort (*Plumbago auriculata*). Cape leadwort is the one favored in our garden. We have the native *Plumbago scandens* planted also but it prefers shady spots and Cassius Blue has never used it in our yard. Flying around one of its host plants, it appears more like a moth than a butterfly.



The eggs of Cassius Blue are pale green and laid singly on the flower buds. The tiny slug-like caterpillars feed on the buds and immature seeds and are extremely difficult to find. The caterpillars are tended by ants. Until we planted *Plumbago* in our garden, we had never seen one of these in our

yard. Now they are one of our most common garden butterflies.

As I finished up this article, the news broke that FINALLY the Miami Blue butterfly received an emergency listing as "endangered" under the Endangered Species Act. The US Fish and Wildlife Service also listed Ceraunus, Cassius and Nickerbean Blues as "threatened" throughout their natural range due to their similarity of appearance to Miami Blue. The listings protects these butterflies for 240 days as the service works on a permanent rule.

FNPS Land Management Partners Committee

Following are the Initiatives and Activities of the Land Management Partners Committee (LMP) for 2011–12:

Land Management Review Teams: LMP continues to target 100% involvement in FDEP land management reviews and is seeking participants for the FDEP Land Management Review Teams for the following sites and dates:

- Payne's Prairie Preserve State Park:
Oct. 24 (all day) & Oct. 25 (8am-12pm)
- St. Lucie Inlet Preserve State Park:
Nov. 17 (all day) & Nov. 18 (8am-12pm)
- Blue Springs/Twin Rivers State Forest:
Dec. 13 (1-5pm) & Dec. 14 (all day)
- Suwannee River State Park:
Dec. 15 (all day) & Dec. 16 (8am-12pm)

The full schedule is listed on the [LMP page of the FNPS website](#).

Water Management Districts: LMP seeks involvement in land management reviews with all five water management districts. St John's River Water Management District (SJRWMD) reviews are not on the FNPS website but notices are sent out to FNPS members who are interested in participating. Contact Danny Young thewavemongoose@gmail.com to get on Danny's list for the SJRWMD.

Build Partnerships: LMP strives to develop and implement partnerships between local chapters and their local public and private lands, including developing plant lists and monitoring/surveying for rare and protected plant species. FNPS Chapters and individuals are encouraged to build partnerships with state and local officials to educate them about native plants and native plant communities.

All our state lands agencies—FDEP, FWCC, FDOF and Water Management Districts—are interested in getting more people on the lands and building strong partnerships. Please call the Agency in the vicinity of your Chapter and invite speakers to your meetings, set up field trips and attending stakeholders groups. **Get involved.**

Chapter Happenings

- **Paynes Prairie Chapter:** The Paynes Prairie Chapter will hold its 2011 Fall Native Plant Sale on Oct. 7–8 at the Morningside Nature Center in Gainesville, FL. Friday evening, Oct. 7, will be a preview sale for FNPS and Friends of Nature Parks members only. The sale will offer native trees, shrubs, grasses and wildflowers suited for the north-central area of Florida, as well as educational booths and vendors selling books and wildflower seed. For more information, contact Morningside Nature Center at 352-334-2170 or www.natureoperations.org. For vendor inquiries and volunteer information, contact Howard & Lisa Jelks, jelkslg@ufl.edu.
- **Dade Chapter:** The Dade Chapter will proudly celebrate its 30 year anniversary, honoring founders Joyce and Don Gann with parties, fun for all and birthday cake at their January meeting. Come join the festivities on Tuesday, Jan. 24 at 7:30pm at Pincrest Gardens. The Dade Chapter is also holding their famous one day mini-conference on Saturday, Mar. 10. It is open to the public. On Aug. 7, Dade Chapter member Roger Hammer was honored for his lifetime contributions to Nature by local conservation groups NABA, TAS, DCFNPS at his Castello Hammock home.

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

PlantRealFlorida.org: New Tool for Real Florida Gardeners

Whatever you need for your sustainable native garden—whether it's native plants, professional help or local advice and assistance—you can find it on PlantRealFlorida.org, a new native plant and service locator serving retail customers. Developed by the Florida Association of Native Nurseries (FANN) with funding from USDA and assistance from the Florida Department of Agriculture, PlantRealFlorida.org enables you to:

- learn about soils, drainage conditions and plants naturally found in Real Florida's [native plant communities](#);
- discover which Florida native plants might work for you, based on historical native plant communities in your area and site conditions;
- find out who carries the plant, mulch, fertilizer, etc. that you want;
- learn more about using native plants in your home garden with informative articles and online references;
- search for plants by common or botanical name (including synonyms), plant community, wildlife usage, plant type and hardiness zones
- locate garden centers, retail nurseries, landscape pros and more by county or zip code;
- subscribe for FREE to the *Guide for Real Florida Gardeners*

FANN is particularly interested in enhancing the site's ability to guide the design process with plant community information. The site's plant lists, based on the 1991 Xeric Landscaping with Florida Native Plants, include plants that have been grown commercially, roughly correspond to historical plant community composition and will work in the conditions specified. FANN is loading photos and some plant information but for most detailed plant information, plans to integrate with the many excellent websites already in existence.

PlantRealFlorida.org will continue to be enhanced over the next year, primarily through the addition of photos and modification of plant definitions and lists. FANN is eager for user feedback, particularly criticisms that can lead to future functionality enhancements and fixes.

The site is being promoted through Spring 2011 by a televised public service announcement produced by the Florida Dept. of Agriculture and viewable on the site and at YouTube.

FANN is a proud member of the Florida Native Plant Partnership and the Florida Department of Agriculture's Fresh from Florida campaign.

Nonprofit supporters, such as FNPS chapters and others, are also linked on the site as local community resources. Complimentary advertising has been posted for the Florida Wildflower License Plate, the FNPS Conference and Tracy McCommon's Naturewise TV.

Want your publications in digital form?

We hear you! Each year a few more members request the option to go green and get their publications in digital form. So far, FNPS has responded to this desire by encouraging chapters to go green with their newsletters (and many do) and by providing our *Sabal minor* in digital form. By default, if we have an email address for you, the *Sabal minor* is emailed unless you specify that you wish to have it mailed.

We would eventually like to offer a digital option for the *Palmetto* as well, and we are exploring ways to provide the *Palmetto* in print and online in a quality format valued by members. While we're not ready to implement any options today, we're interested in hearing from members who would be interested in a digital option.

FNPS is now actively collecting responses from members who wish to receive any of their publications in digital form via email, rather than mailed paper. You can now specify whether you want to receive your chapter newsletter, your *Sabal minor* and/or your *Palmetto* in digital form. Just let us know by sending an email to info@fnps.org, or if you prefer, call FNPS Administrative Services at 321-271-6702. Remember to clarify which publications you wish to receive by email (chapter newsletter, *Sabal minor* and/or *Palmetto*). **Thank you for helping us serve you better.**

Next Board of Directors Meeting

November 19, 2011
10:00am

Orange County IFAS Extension Building
6021 South Conway Road
Orlando, FL 32812

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