

Sabal minor

A bi-monthly newsletter for the members of

THE FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY



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President's Message

Dear Fellow FNPS members,

One of my favorite things about being a member of FNPS is that many of our programs and chapter programs involve being outside in some of our best wild areas. Most of our chapters provide monthly field trips led by expert naturalists to parks and preserves, where ordinary folks can view and learn about a plethora of native plants and wildflowers, and perhaps a few critters here and there. These field trips are generally free and one of the many benefits of being an FNPS member. What makes these trips special and different from field trips of other groups is that they are typically laid back, slow paced and family friendly. Whereas "birders" get a running start out of the gate, we native plant folks often spend the first half hour looking at the "weeds" in the parking lot. Often if something is rare, or if an exotic plant infestation pops up, FNPS members will record the information and give it to the land managers of the park, so that they may better manage these lands.

Some chapters such as the Broward and Paw Paw Chapters have even documented these experiences online, posting educational YouTube videos of some of the field trips (e.g., <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eT0iWkn0oqw>). Other outdoor community outreach programs FNPS chapters participate in include: volunteering to restore natural areas by removing exotics, planting native plants, and installing native plant gardens in local schools and community areas.

FNPS state programs also promote the outdoors. Our Annual Conference offers 20+ field trips on Thursday and Sunday for registrants. These excursions visit the best natural area gems, home landscapes, or restoration areas in the region. Trips are led by the experts of the region, and open up new worlds to FNPS members who are unfamiliar with that area's native plants. FNPS's Land Management Partners Committee, led by Anne Cox and Danny Young, is a grassroots group of citizens who assist managers of publicly owned lands with evaluating and directing their management plans. Ann and Danny coordinate FNPS volunteers throughout the state, who visit these areas with their land



Dade Chapter Field Trip led by Woodmansee to Countyline Scrub in Miami-Dade County. (photo by FNPS member Jolynne Soden)



2010 Conference Field Trip at some pitcher plant bogs in Apalachicola State Forest (photo by Steve Woodmansee)

managers, document and impart their observations to pass along to the "higher ups," and help assure that the native plants and ecosystems have a voice. If you wish to be a part of the LMP committee, information can be found on our website (www.fnps.org).

It is really nice to get outside and see our Florida native plants and their habitats. No other state has such a variety of native plant communities, ranging from rocky subtropical dry forests one sees in the Caribbean, to temperate forests at the tail end of Appalachia, and all the unique and wonderful systems in between. We have rich ancient cypress swamps and endemic dry scrubby woodlands. There are wind-swept beaches and marvelous pine flatwoods. I am proud of how FNPS serves as a resource that promotes active outdoor learning and community participation. Please help us keep it going. If you haven't already, please give now to our Annual Fund campaign, so that we may continue our mission, and encourage other folks to get outside. You can donate online at www.fnps.org or use the donation card mailed to you with my Annual Fund request letter. If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact FNPS Administrative Services at info@fnps.org or (321) 271-6702.

Best Regards,

Conference Carbon Offset Program Benefits Oakland Nature Preserve

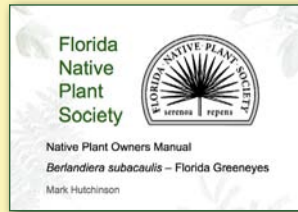
During the 2011 FNPS conference, attendees were asked to make a \$5 donation to help offset the amount of carbon they used driving to the conference, and for electricity used while in attendance. The funds were earmarked for the Oakland Nature Preserve to assist in their restoration of an old orange grove and slash pine farm back to the original sandhill and scrub ecosystems.

Funds raised allowed ONP to purchase two bluejack oaks, two myrtle oaks, two turkey oaks and three chapman oaks, from Green Isle Nursery, ranging in size from one to 30 gallons. The larger sizes were planted in an effort to offset carbon quicker than if purchased in smaller sizes. Interpretive signage will be added along the split rail fence so visitors to the Preserve can learn about the different oaks and to see their differences.



Native Plant Owners Manuals

A big thank you to Mark Hutchinson, Education and Outreach Committee member, for working so hard to provide us with the first installation in a series of “Native Plant Owners Manuals” which chapters can use to educate their members and the public on various native plants. These plant presentations are short and can be shown at the start of a meeting to introduce those in attendance to different native plants.



A handful of presentations are now available to download as a PDF document from the Education and Outreach Committee page at www.fnps.org. Mark is working on many more presentations and they will be added to the site as they become available.

A Discussion of List Servers — OR — Why you should belong to the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council (FLEPPC) and your local Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA)

by Kristina Serbesoff-King, Invasive Species Program Manager, The Nature Conservancy

The Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council (FLEPPC) (www.fleppc.org) has been around over 20 years and is focused on providing management information for invasive plants that threaten Florida’s natural areas. FLEPPC provides this exchange of scientific and best management information in many ways including our annual symposium, the FLEPPC website and listserv, the *Wildland Weeds* magazine and more. It is a great organization with a long tenure in Florida.

CISMAs (Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas) (www.FloridaInvasives.org) are locally led partnerships that jointly focus on invasive species management issues in specific areas of Florida. To date, Florida has 18 CISMAs and all fall under another statewide group, the Florida Invasive Species Partnership (FISP). FISP primarily exists to foster the development of CISMAs and to bridge efforts between different types of landowners (private, public conservation, ROW, etc.). FISP/CISMAs also cover all taxa of invasives species: plants, animals, pest/pathogens.

As a statewide organization, FLEPPC serves a large constituency, including FISP and CISMAs. The FLEPPC listserv (www.fleppc.org/listserv.htm) is a great resource for any land manager. By sending an email with a question/comment/discussion to the listserv, you are reaching hundreds of natural area land managers, scientists and extension agents throughout Florida with years and years (and years...) of experience to help you find your answer. This is the listserv for the discussion of exotic pest plants in Florida including impacts, biology and management.

Regarding the CISMA listserv, this has been used predominantly to announce the monthly CISMA calls and to pass on and discuss information that would assist CISMAs in their partnerships including grant info, private land incentive programs, what other CISMAs are doing, what FISP is doing, etc. The CISMA listserv is an invaluable resource to find out more about locally led invasive species partnerships (www.floridainvasives.org/cismas.html).

If in doubt about which of these list servers to send your question do: send it both! Many of us are involved both in FLEPPC and in our local CISMAs and welcome the exchange of ideas.

Join and stay active in FLEPPC (www.fleppc.org/member.htm) and get involved in your local CISMA (www.floridainvasives.org/cismas.html). **Join now to get free monthly updates about conservation in Florida and around the world.**

New FNPS Standing Committee: Website Committee

by Shirley Denton

FNPS has long had a website—since the late 1990s. Initially, it was a one person effort. It was later handled by a one-person contractor. Since 2004, FNPS has had a Web Team. Responsibility for our web presence jumped from committee to committee with the most recent committee being the Communications Committee.

Our web presence has been constantly increasing and the associated skill and interest set have been increasing to go with it. Some of the things that have happened in the last several years include expanded capabilities on our website, the addition of social media (Facebook, FNPS Blog, Twitter), allowing credit card dues payments and donations, and the addition of a variety of tools to assist in FNPS management (ListServe, a Wiki, a standardized Conference subsite, secure online distribution of membership information to chapters and officers, etc.).

The new Website Committee will work closely with the Communications Committee (the heart of the blog, Facebook and Twitter are communications and outreach), Education Committee, Conference Committee, Policy Committee and FNPS Administrative Services. Goals of the Website Committee include

1. developing and maintaining a consistent “brand” across all sites and media;
2. modernizing our current web site;
3. bringing Membership Administration on-line;
4. adding new “media” such as a member-driven photo gallery (e.g. Flickr or Photobucket) and video library (e.g. YouTube) to track current web technologies;
5. maintaining a database of our web-tools (all the various logins, passwords, who is responsible, etc.).

Are you aware that we distribute the e-mail version of the *Sabal minor* via our web tools? Currently, we are in the process of doing a major redesign and modernization of our website.

Like most of our committees, we need members! Our existing Web Team members are all on this committee. Likewise, our social media administrators are logically members of both the Communications and Website committees.

We need people with a wide variety of skill sets:

- Web designers to work on branding and look
- Web programmers: specific skill sets needed include object-oriented php programming, javascript, css, xml expertise
- Mobile device expertise
- Content management: people with native plant growing expertise to populate plant descriptions for our popular “plants for your area” database
- Content management: work on the *Palmetto* archive to modernize the articles and bring in selected recent ones; skills needed include ability to work with PDF files and maybe to do some OCR work.
- Content management: adopt a section of the new site to keep it current; this means uploading content through a user interface (knowledge of the subject and very basic skills of web interaction needed)
- Social media: We need bloggers and tweeters. We also need administrators.
- A video “producer”: someone who can bring branding and site management to digital videos. It would be good to have someone with knowledge of a range of technologies and their distribution as some uses are best distributed via websites like Youtube, some work better as flash, and some belong in higher resolution media.

(note: some of these overlap into Communications)

We don’t expect anyone to have all of these skills or interests. I certainly don’t. If you would like to participate in any of these areas, please contact the following people:

For Website Committee, contact Shirley Denton at ecotypes@verizon.net or 813-625-5031.

For Social media, contact Ginny Stibolt at gstibolt@sky-bolt.com or 904-505-4367.

FNPS 2012 Endowment Grant Research Awards & 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 grants of \$1500 or less, awarded for a 1-year period and intended to support research that forwards the FNPS mission “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 grants of \$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 grant programs should be sent to info@fnps.org.

Call for Research Papers & Poster Presentations for 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 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

Everglades Conference—Jan. 5–8

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

The theme this year is “Everglades Restoration: Worth Every Penny” and will include field trips to the Indian River Lagoon and St. Lucie estuary. The conference will be hosted by Earth Justice. Visit www.evergladescoalition.org for more information, including the conference brochure, sponsorship information, and to register. Visit the FNPS Forum page for Everglades restoration issues addressed by the Coalition.

Thanks to the Cocoplum chapter for their “Sawgrass Roots” sponsorship. Cocoplum volunteers will have an exhibit table to promote FNPS and Martin County’s native habitats.

Everglades Water Supply Summit—Jan. 17–18

The **Everglades Foundation** will host the first ever Everglades Water Supply Summit in Tallahassee, Florida on January 17–18, 2012. The summit will be filled with informative, thought-provoking events designed to build momentum toward the restoration of a national treasure and to secure Florida’s water supply.

For more information, visit www.evergladessummit.org.

Future Generations Conference—Feb. 3

The **Center for Earth Jurisprudence** will sponsor its third annual Future Generations Conference on Friday, February 3, 2012. The topic is “The Color of Money: True Wealth in a Green World,” and will explore legal and economic models for creating sustainable businesses, food systems, wellness, micro-lending, “green” economy/energy jobs, slow food and other initiatives that support creating true wealth and transformed ways of living in today’s world.

The mission of the Center for Earth Jurisprudence is to advance laws and governance that reflect humans’ interdependent relationship with the natural world. It is located at the Barry University School of Law in Orlando, Florida. For more information, visit www.earthjuris.org.

Question Mark (*Polygonia interrogationis*) by Linda Cooper

Question Mark (*Polygonia interrogationis*) is the only anglewing butterfly commonly found in Florida. Its common name and species name reflect the silvery “punctuation” mark seen on the ventral hindwing. It is actually a “comma” followed by an offset “period” or “dot,” so you have to use your imagination to make it into a question mark.

Its sharply angled wing margins combined with the brown and gray cryptic markings on the ventral wings have a camouflage effect, making this large butterfly hard to spot unless it flashes its dorsal wings.

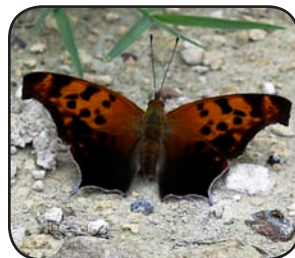
It has two forms: the summer orange and black form and the winter orange form. It is wide-ranging — from central Florida west through Texas and north to the upper midwest, but adults regularly stray to the Florida Keys and into Canada.

Question Mark prefers tree sap, rotting fruit, mud, scat and carrion instead of flower nectar. Its host plants include elm (*Ulmus* spp.), hackberry (*Celtis* spp.) and false nettle

(*Boehmaria cylindrica*) in Florida. The female lays green eggs, usually in a chain on the underside of a leaf. The caterpillar is mottled brown and yellow with fleshy yellow or orange tubercles that appear to be able to sting a predator or unsuspecting person handling the caterpillar but are actually soft and do not sting. In fact, no U.S. butterfly caterpillar stings. The head and legs are dark red to reddish-brown. The chrysalis looks like a folded leaf and is usually attached to a twig.

Question Mark hibernates as an adult but will occasionally fly on warm winter days. Look for Question Mark in shady woodlands and swampy areas, especially where hackberry (*Celtis* spp.) grows. They are also found in city parks and home gardens. We usually find them sitting on tree trunks or large leaves in shaded areas. We have seen a female lay eggs on (*Boehmaria cylindrica*) and also found caterpillars on this plant. You may

be able to attract Question Mark by putting out rotting fruit in a hanging basket. It is worth a try.



HOLIDAY SHOPPING THAT HELPS FNPS!



As we approach the holidays, many of us will be shopping online for gifts. **Goodshop.com** is a **free and easy** way to make the same purchases you'd make anyway and also raise funds for the Florida Native Plant Society.

GoodShop.com works with more than 2,500 stores (including Amazon, Target, Gap, Best Buy, eBay, Macy's, Barnes & Noble, Apple, PetSmart etc...). Every time you purchase something using GoodShop.com, a percentage will be donated to FNPS!

Make sure you select or enter "Florida Native Plant Society – Melbourne" in the "Favorite Cause" field. Then simply choose the online store you want and start shopping!

GoodSearch & GoodShop

visit www.goodsearch.com
to find out more

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.**

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



Next Board of Directors Meeting

2-Day Retreat and Planning Session

February 10-12, 2012

Canterbury Retreat
and Conference Center
Oviedo, FL

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