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A bi-monthly newsletter for the members of

THE FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY



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## Message from the President

Your Board of Directors has been working tirelessly on accomplishing our mission and ensuring organizational strength. Below is a sample of some of the major activities we have accomplished recently.

- Our new Executive Director, Kellie Westervelt, has jumped in with both feet to help manage this year's conference, and is also working with our administrator, Cammie Donaldson, and website chair, Shirley Denton, in modernizing our database and moving it online. This will streamline our efforts, furthering our goals while protecting our resources.
- This year's 32nd FNPS Annual Conference looks amazing. I am especially impressed with its spectacular logo created by our *Palmetto* Editor Marjorie Shropshire with creative conception from FNPS member Cindy Liberton. Executive Director Kellie Westervelt is already assisting Troy Springer in managing the conference, although Troy has things well in hand with his outstanding team of volunteers. They are working extraordinarily hard to put out what looks to be one of our best on record. Online registration is now open.
- Our Policy and Legislation Committee is on top of some of the latest issues that threaten Florida's wild areas. With enormous help from Chair Gene Kelly, I have written letters to help thwart costly expansion of hunting on Southwest Florida Water Management District lands, as well as to negate any stoppages in controlling the invasive hydrilla (in order to "promote" largemouth bass fishing) at the restored Lake Apopka in Central Florida.
- Our Conservation Committee, led by Annie Schmidt, is in the process of reviewing conservation grant applications. Earlier this year, they helped write a letter to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, who is reviewing the wording of the Federal Endangered Species Act, ensuring protection for rare plant species with broad ranges.
- In efforts to support education of native plants to a greater audience, we have elected to financially support Urban Meadows education video to be used in schools across the nation (themedawproject.com).
- We have joined the Florida Conservation Coalition, a group founded by former Florida Governor and Senator Bob Graham, and dedicated to protecting Florida's resources.
- Our Land Management Partners Committee is as strong as ever, and now will be temporarily led by Danny Young as Anne Cox helps us create the 2011 Annual Report.
- The 2011 Annual Report Committee, led by Anne Cox and Jim McCuen, has provided a draft with the ambitious goal of having

it completed by the FNPS conference this May.

- FNPS Membership Committee Chair Shari Blissett-Clark, together with Executive Director Kellie Westervelt, are helping spearhead a lapsed member campaign, with the intention of contacting 1000 members who have not renewed in the past two years. Our plan is to assist chapters in this process.
- I am happy to announce that we have a new jolly blogger — and new member. Laurie Sheldon is assisting Ginny Stibolt while she travels out of town. She is doing a superb job, and I urge all of you to check out our blog and its many fine articles.
- The Website Committee is working hard at updating the look as well as the usability of our website. The FNPS forum already has a new look which Paul Rebman helped update.
- Last week I returned as trip leader for the FNPS fundraiser 10-day cruise to the Exumas in the Bahamas. This trip will have helped us raise over \$2200. All participants have reported having an awesome time — many didn't want it to end, and I must say it was an excellent group of people. Special thanks goes out to FNPS members, Captain John Rothchild and Patty Phares who helped make this trip work, and thanks to those on it, all of whom made it a pleasure to lead and for making a contribution to FNPS. Keep an eye out for an upcoming *Palmetto* article about our adventure.

I have always said that native plant folks are good people, and I very much am proud to be a member of such a fine organization.

Best Regards,

Steve Woodmansee

Visit the FNPS blog to read FNPS member Richard Brownscombe's *Diary of an Island Hopper*, a day-by-day account of the FNPS trip to the Exumas.



<http://fnpsblog.blogspot.com/>

## Planned Giving

by Jim McCuen, FNPS Vice President of Finance

At the age of 24, it fell upon me to deal with some of the arrangements that had to be made when my great aunt succumbed to a long illness. At my age, I had little experience with the issues raised by the death of a family member, and even less with legal matters such as probate procedures. When my aunt's will was revealed to her few close family members, we were surprised by only one item: a large bequest to her local Humane Society. My aunt was not a wealthy woman. She had been very careful with her resources and had told me on more than one occasion, "Never spend your principle." She lived modestly, and when we learned of the five-figure gift to what we referred to as the pound, we realized just how important to her was the welfare of an abandoned, injured or neglected creature, vividly brought to life for her every day by the existence of her cute, loyal and always happy little dog, Missy. My aunt felt so strongly about the animals she could not directly help, that she made it her business to express her sympathy and compassion for them through a gift that would provide benefits for untold numbers of animals in distress.

And so may we express our sympathy for our environment, specifically the world of native plants, by making it our business to provide a gift, however large or small, when planning a last will and testament. For many of us, our family is uppermost in our minds when considering how best to distribute our assets. Children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews; even friends or those who have played a limited but special role in our lives are the potential recipients of what we have managed to accumulate across the years.

How much, and to whom one gives is a consideration of one's resources and feelings. Planned giving is not, however, a tool just for the wealthy, as the example above illustrates. Charitable bequests may be simple or complex and sophisticated, according to the objective of one's plans and the size and nature of one's assets. Your gift may be outright, or deferred. It may be absolute, come with strings attached, or be contingent upon certain events or benchmarks. Many planned gifts to charities and non-profits such as the Florida Native Plant Society consist of a predetermined sum of money. A bequest may also be in the form of a tangible asset, such as stocks and bonds. Gifts of tangible assets are generally for larger amounts and require a good deal of thought and preparation on the part of the giver and those who assist him or her in the execution of the bequest plan, such as an attorney, or estate planner.

It is also possible to designate an organization as the beneficiary of a life insurance policy. The designated recipient will receive the specified assets of the policy upon the death of the giver. Such bequests are flexible due to the fact that the recipient of the proceeds may be changed or expanded very easily simply by notifying the underwriter of the policy with a formal request.

If you already have a will, you may update it with a gift to the organization or institution of your choice through a simple codicil, without the need for executing a new will. A codicil is a commonly used method to add bequests to those already included in your will. You should seek the advice of your attorney before adding any desired codicils to your will. Deferred charitable bequests have a number of advantages including tax benefits. Example: Mr. DeLorme wishes to make a bequest as a means of memorializing his late wife's interest in conservation and native flora and fauna. His youngest brother, a disabled veteran, needs financial assistance. By setting up a trust in his will, he may ensure that at his death, his brother will receive a certain income for life, with the remainder interest to go to the organization as a deferred bequest. In addition, Mr. DeLorme's estate will receive an estate tax charitable deduction for the current value of the remainder interest.

There are many approaches for making a gift to an organization that you want to support. The Florida Native Plant Society depends upon your generosity through the time, energy and support you provide to your chapter and the parent organization. Please think about us when making plans for your estate, as a testament to the value you place upon the work of the Society. To learn more about how you may include the Society in your plans, please contact our Executive Director, Kellie Westervelt, at (352) 231-0005, or via email at [executivedirector@fnps.org](mailto:executivedirector@fnps.org).

## Chapter Happenings

- **Cocoloba Chapter** The Cocoloba Chapter will host their semi-annual plant sale on April 21. Free admission, free parking, expert advice. Thousands of plants plus a Butterfly House.

**Saturday, April 21**

**Rotary Park, Rose Garden Blvd.**

**Cape Coral, FL**

*For more information, call 239-543-9910*

- **Ixia Chapter** Since the spring of 2011, the Ixia chapter has been working on "Native Park," a small, city park in Jacksonville's Riverside-Avondale neighborhood. The park was established by the Avondale Garden Circle in 1923 for "the study of Florida plant life," and in December 2010, the city officially designated the Ixia chapter "Friends of Native Park," giving the chapter a role in its planning, development and caretaking. At that time, there were 35 native species; today, over 50 additional species have been added. In February, 2012, the park received the Riverside Avondale Preservation "River Friendly" award.

The Ixia chapter has also worked with the city of Jacksonville to sow native wildflower seeds on a highly visible acre along the main corridor to downtown where over 10,000 cars pass daily. Grant money for this planting was provided by the Florida Wildflower Foundation and supplemented by the Ixia chapter.

Finally, the Ixia chapter is planning a "Spring Into Native Plants" workshop. This free event, sponsored by the UNF Environmental Center, will offer presentations on native plants and will include a book and native plant sale to benefit the chapter.

**Spring Into Native Plants**

**Saturday, April 28, 10am-2pm**

**University of North Florida, Student Union Auditorium**

**One UNF Drive, Jacksonville, FL 32224**

*For more information, visit <http://ixia.fnpschapters.org/>.*

- **Pine Lily Chapter** The Pine Lily chapter recently worked with Discovery Intermediate School in Poinciana on a plant rescue at the site of the future Poinciana Medical Center. Students, teachers and Pine Lily members rescued about 100 plants including Carolina jessamine, St. John's wort, shiny blueberry, wax myrtle, elephant's foot, and more. These plants will go into the school's garden.

The Pine Lily chapter worked with Kissimmee Valley Audubon Society and Valencia Community College to plant 21 trees around Sunrise Elementary's retention pond to encourage wildlife in their outdoor classroom. At New Beginnings School, they installed five raised beds where students will grow a variety of vegetables and fruits. Students are already eating mulberries from the native mulberry tree planted in the fall.

Pine Lily members worked with the Forest Service to help ESE students plant native trees and shrubs at Celebration High School. They are working with Highlands Elementary to build a native butterfly garden. They also traded native plants for invasive Mexican petunias at two local schools where the invasive plants had been donated.

**Tell us what YOUR chapter is up to. Send your Chapter Happenings to [stacey@impactpress.com](mailto:stacey@impactpress.com).**

## Register Today! 32nd Annual FNPS Conference— Preserving the Natural Heart of Florida

*“The FNPS conference is the premier annual gathering for all native plant lovers. Folks of various backgrounds from the bluffs of the Apalachicola River to the subtropical archipelago of the Florida Keys and all parts in between have an opportunity to join in fellowship, share ideas, strategize, and learn about the “whys” and “how’s” of conserving and protecting Florida’s flora.” — Steve Woodmansee, FNPS President*

### Explore the Natural Heart of Florida

Each year, the Society’s annual conference brings us to a different area of the state to explore its unique character, and provides attendees with current information on topics of interest. This year’s conference is held east of the Tampa Bay area and just south of the Green Swamp.

“Suncoast is proud to be hosting the 2012 Conference,” says Shirley Denton, chapter president. “We are really proud of our local conservation areas, some of the best in the state, and looking forward to showing them off. We’re also enthusiastic about our venue — a really modern facility in an old Florida community. I’m really glad that we can bring to FNPS a strong local heritage, great nature and wonderful talks. We’re very much enjoying working with our co-hosts, the Hernando Chapter, and together we look forward to presenting one of the best conferences ever.”



*The Green Swamp includes the headwaters of the Hillsborough, Withlacoochee, Little Withlacoochee, Oklawaha and Peace Rivers. Three field trips explore different aspects of this vast system: sandhill restoration, wetlands, and wildflowers.  
Image by Jim Phillips, SWFWMD*

**Sessions** At the 2012 conference, we’ll address strategies for preservation of Florida’s irreplaceable landscapes. Tracks on conservation, current issues, native plant research, and landscaping will share what we’ve learned about the status of native plants in natural areas, on the roadsides, at home, and in your community. Whether

your interest is promoting the greenways, protecting the waterways or bringing a sense of place to your home landscape, you will leave with what you need to do, and how to get it done.

**Plenary Sessions** This year, we offer three different perspectives on preserving the Florida landscape. In our opening session, *St. Pete Times* columnist and author Jeff Klinkenberg has defined the “Real Florida” through the people who create its unique culture. On Saturday, FNPS favorite, author Doug Tallamy from the University of Delaware, expands upon his work to bring us “Your Role in Building Biological Corridors: Networks for Life.” We end the conference program on Saturday afternoon with Hillary Swain, Executive Director of Archbold Biological Station, with a prescription for “Saving the Physical, Liquid and Emotional Heart of Florida.”



*For our annual banquet, we will journey to Crystal Springs Preserve for an enchanting May evening waterside. Crystal Springs is a Second Magnitude spring, discharging 40 million gallons a day.  
Image by Mark Hutchinson.*

**Field trips** Field trips have been selected to immerse attendees in the natural heritage of the region. Trips are led by plant experts and local hosts, scheduled for both Thursday, May 17 and Sunday, May 20. The 20+ field trips are diverse in focus and

difficulty, from strolling to paddling to pounding over tough terrain. Both full- and half-day excursions are offered. These trips fill quickly — sign up today to reserve your space!

**Social events and extras** Our socials are designed for conversation. At the fun and whimsical Gigi’s Country Garden, you can create new collaborations and get reacquainted with old friends. Your hosts are also thrilled to introduce participants to Crystal Springs Preserve for our gala banquet. The beauty of the surroundings is sure to inspire.

And of course, there will be lots of shopping: native plants for central Florida landscapes, arts and crafts, books, and the fabulous silent auction. You can team up to compete in the annual plant ID contest, and meet your favorite authors, who will personalize your volume.



### How to Register

Register online at [fnps.org/conference/](http://fnps.org/conference/)

**before April 17** for Early Bird Rates.

Online registration ends May 4.

Lunches are provided with advance registration only.

### Conference Lodging

Special rates have been arranged at the following facilities. Please mention FNPS when registering. Continental breakfast is included.

#### Conference Hotel

**Red Rose Inn — \$69 conference room rate!**

2011 North Wheeler Street, Plant City, FL 33563

Reservations: 813-752-3141

<http://www.redroseinnandsuites.com/>

#### Secondary Conference Hotel

**Holiday Inn Express**

2102 North Park Road, Plant City, FL 33563

Reservations: 813-719-3800

<http://www.hiexpress.com/hotels/us/en/plant-city/plcfl/hoteldetail>

*Hosted by the Hernando and Suncoast Chapters*

The non-profit Florida Wildflower Foundation (FWF) is requesting information from interested counties, cities, businesses, organizations and individuals that may desire to bring this growing organization to their Central or North Central Florida community.



FLORIDA  
WILDFLOWER  
FOUNDATION

FWF conducts research, planting and education projects statewide. It also provides grants for school and community plantings and demonstration gardens with funds from the State Wildflower license plate.

To learn more about the Foundation and its work, visit [www.FlaWildflowers.org](http://www.FlaWildflowers.org).

For inquiries, contact Lisa Roberts, Executive Director, at [LRoberts@FlaWildflowers.org](mailto:LRoberts@FlaWildflowers.org) or 407-353-6164



**REGISTRATION  
IS NOW OPEN!**

**MAY 17-20, 2012**

John R. Trinkle Center, Plant City

Preserving the  
Natural Heart of

**FLORIDA**  
FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY  
32nd Annual Conference

**SESSIONS FOR ALL**

Conservation & Ecology,  
Native Plants in the  
Landscape, Current  
Issues, Native Plant  
Research, and FNPS  
Initiatives.

Field Trips in the  
Heart of Florida  
Social Events & Entertainment  
Florida Native Plant Sale  
Vendors & Exhibitors  
Plant ID Contest  
Authors' Book Signing  
Silent Auction  
Landscape Awards



Register online  
[www.fnps.org/conference](http://www.fnps.org/conference)

**Want your publications in digital form?**

**We hear you!** FNPS has responded to our members' desire to get their publications in digital form 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 request otherwise.

We would eventually like to offer a digital option for the *Palmetto* and we are exploring ways to provide it in print and online in a quality format. While we're not yet ready to implement this option, we'd like to hear from members who would be interested in a digital option.

Let us know your preference by sending an email to [info@fnps.org](mailto: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**

2012 FNPS Annual Conference  
May 17th, 5pm-7pm  
Red Rose Inn, Twelve Oaks Room

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