

Sabal minor

A bi-monthly newsletter for the members of

THE FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY



Volume 17, Number 1 • January–February 2015

Message from the President

Dear fellow members,

The FNPS Board and Council of Chapters held joint meetings on November 15 at The Nature Conservancy's Disney Wilderness Preserve in Poinciana. **Russ Hoffman**, FNPS member and owner of Beautiful Ponds, lead a presentation on eco-psychology. The afternoon activities included the Board of Directors meeting and three Council of Chapters initiative workshops led by **Aimee Leteux**, **Mikki Renner** and **Richard Brownscombe**. Details of the day's program are well documented in **Laurie Sheldon's** December 1 entry on the FNPS blog (fnpsblog.blogspot.com), and in the board meeting minutes, which can be found on the FNPS Forum (www.forum.fnps.org/index.php?board=15.0). We also thank Laurie for her excellent "Org Chart" design (see page 3).

Several Ad Hoc committees were formed at the meeting: The **Retreat Committee** will organize programs and workshops for the February 7–8, 2015 retreat at Archbold Biological Station. More information about the weekend and reservation information follows in this issue. The **Request for Proposals (RFP) Committee** is responsible for helping review applicants for proposals for two new contracts: Outreach and Development. The **Nominating Committee** will be responsible for recruiting members to fill or renew Board and Council positions at the 2015 Conference. Several members agreed to head these committees, and we welcome other members to help.

Our committees are actively involved with promoting our mission. Please join us by volunteering to serve on a committee and get the word out that "we speak for the plants" in Florida. For more information on committee activities, please visit the FNPS Forum at www.forum.fnps.org. Under Society Resources, scroll down to find meeting notices, minutes of meetings and information related to committee activities. We are encouraging our committees and members to meet through an online meeting venue, GoToMeeting®, to strengthen the committees.

For those unfamiliar with our committees, here is a brief overview of current activities:

Council of Chapters: Three initiatives are in progress for the Council of Chapters and are outlined at council.fnpschapters.org.

Conservation Committee: **Juliet Rynear**, Conservation Committee Chair, leads the Committee to work on procedures for

plant salvages, and proposed policies for Conservation, Preservation, and Restoration (CPR) of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida.

Conference Committee: The 2015 Annual Conference will be held May 28–31 in Tallahassee. The theme will be "Born to Burn." (See ad on page 2 or visit www.fnps.org/conference.)

Communication Committee: The Publications Subcommittee, led by **Shirley Denton**, is being resurrected after several years of dormancy. Assisted by **Russ Hoffman**, enthusiastic members will compile information on native plants and plant communities and send to chapters for a new way to "speak to the media." FNPS members with excellent writing abilities, plus others that were "recruited" by Shirley, signed up at the board meeting.

Education Committee: A *Walk with the Wildflowers* video was filmed on November 1 at Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park with field guides **Roger Hammer** and **Craig Huegel**. Watch for this video, coming to your chapter soon.

Finance Committee: Several online meetings were held to update the draft Action Plan for Economic Development. **FNPS members are needed for this committee.** **Jonnie Spitler** of Nature Coast Chapter will chair the **Membership Subcommittee**, which will compile information on increasing membership and will provide information for the chapters and the society as a whole. Membership and donor categories are being discussed;

Land Management Partners Committee: This committee remains consistent in providing FNPS members for the FDEP Land Management Reviews and for 10-year reviews of management plans at the Management Advisory Groups. Learn more and sign up for a land review at fnps.org/participate/lmrs.

Landscape Committee: Chair **Karina Veaudry** submitted the call for applicants for the 2015 Landscape Awards. See page 3 for details.

Policy and Legislation Committee: Letters were sent in November to Senator Andy Gardiner and House of Representatives Speaker Andy Cristafulli supporting the Florida Springs and Aquifer Protection Act (SB 1576). For the past two years, FNPS has been actively involved in the campaign for Amendment 1, Florida's Water and Land Legacy. (It

passed with an overwhelming 75% of Florida voters supporting the conservation-related constitutional amendment.) We continue to work with conservation organizations in Florida to implement the plan.

Science Committee: Chair **Paul Schmalzer** submitted the call for papers for the 2015 conference. See page 4 for details.

FNPS Members: To get involved with FNPS, please send an email and contact the society officers, directors, committee chairs and chapter representatives. For more information, visit the FNPS website (fnps.org) and Society Calendar of Events (fnps.org/events/events) to sign up for events, field trips, meetings, plant rescues, planting, workdays and more.

Anne C. Cox
FNPS President, 2014–2016

Who are we? Who is FNPS?

Questionnaires were available at the November 15 meeting for members to fill out and return at the meeting. A number of members submitted answers. Below is a sampling of responses:

- We are land stewards, scientists, homeowners, gardeners, concerned citizens, outdoor enthusiasts, community-activists, educators, plant lovers, nerds, and fun people.
- We are a mix of scientists and homeowners.
- We are interested in Florida native plants because we are native Floridians ourselves and have a pride of place; we work with native plants; we like native plants, and we like what native plants do for wildlife.
- We are the experts on Florida's native plants and ecosystems.
- We are advocates for native plant protection and conservation.
- We provide information on how to grow and maintain native plants.
- We are a resource to government and development.
- We are the people to educate others about Florida native plants.
- We want some of the real original Florida to be there for our children and grandchildren and our neighbors and newcomers.



Conference art by **Kara Driscoll**, *Magnolia Chapter member* (k.dreamflow@gmail.com). Our apologies to Kara Driscoll for omitting the credit for her artwork in the previous issue. We appreciate Kara's artwork for the May 28-31, 2015 conference.

Conservation Committee Report by *Juliet Rynear*

Conservation Committee members have been involved in a number of projects including a large-scale scrub community rescue and reintroduction in Orlando, and the Marion County land acquisition project.

In Orlando, a new housing development will be built on some of the last intact scrub habitat on the Mount Dora Ridge. Once covering tens of thousands of acres, there will only be a few hundred acres of this imperiled habitat remaining on the ridge after the new homes are built. From August through November, members of FNPS and Sierra Club, along with concerned citizens, rescued plants across the entire scrub community. In December, all plants were installed within protected scrub habitat at three sites near Orlando: Bill Frederick Park, Shadow Bay Park, and Oakland Nature Preserve.



FNPS Conservation Committee member **Jim Buckner** stands next to endangered *Warea amplexifolia* at a PLC site.

Committee members have been working with the Putnam Land Conservancy (PLC) to support conservation easements and acquisition of undeveloped sandhill properties in Marion County, which are home to many endangered species. To date, the PLC has been successful in obtaining land donations in eight Central Florida counties. Thanks to these efforts, two critically endangered plants, *Dicerandra cornutissima* (longspur balm) and *Warea amplexifolia* (clasping warea) will have a much better chance of surviving into the future.

Chapter Happenings

Coccoloba Chapter members planted over 100 native plants this summer at Estero Community Park. With the help of several area high school students, they also planted a street median in Cape Coral near Oasis High School. Florida Forest Service and Coccoloba members donated all plants for both projects.

The chapter is currently lending their expertise to build an outdoor classroom at Heights Elementary School, which is the largest public elementary school in Lee County. Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program (CHNEP) recently awarded a \$3,000 grant to the chapter to purchase and install educational signage for the classroom project, which will include rebuilding an old boardwalk in a wetlands area on the campus.

The chapter works with like-minded organizations to plan and execute outreach events such as the WetPlan Pond Management workshops (www.WetPlan.org), and volunteer workdays in various garden centers in Lee County promoting native plants.

Cocoplum Chapter members are busy expanding their outreach. They are collaborating with Ground Floor Farm, a vibrant new enterprise in downtown Stuart that describes itself as “part (sub)urban farm, part experimental kitchen workshop, part arts and events venue, part banquet hall, part open-source community space.”

The chapter also joined the Arts Council of Martin County and has been “scoping out” events like the new monthly Indiantown Green Market.

A new Martin County plant-of-the-month feature is taking shape under member **Linda Eastman**'s leadership and will appear in multiple formats for use in meetings, online and for outreach. **Greg Braun** again produced the well-loved print calendar of meeting and field trips. And membership coordinator **Regina Wood** continues to provide excellent monthly email updates directly to members.

The Cocoplums will host Rick Schnellmann of Palm City Natives at the January 6 monthly meeting. Rick will share his insights on planning for native landscapes, followed by a visit to his nursery on January 10.

Conradina Chapter has joined the Brevard Public Schools as a Business Partner. This joint venture is focused on “working together collaboratively to benefit students, schools and the community.” The chapter continues to be involved and participated in a Business Partners Fair at the beginning of the school year. This all-day event enabled Conradina to have a booth and interact with the school coordinators.

In November, members tabled at an EcoLiving Festival put on by the Brevard County Parks and Rec Department and Keep Brevard Beautiful.

In December, their own Martha Steuart assisted in identifying native plants along a trail at a charter school in Palm Bay.

Pawpaw Chapter presented a Fall Landscape Tour in October, which featured five homes, and landscapes in both beach and mainland conditions. Homeowners were on hand to answer questions and point out the many advantages to their landscapes. Each homeowner was given a FANN PlantRealFlorida.org sign to advertise the natives growing in their yards. The tour was a fundraiser for the chapter, as people purchased tickets booklets to participate. The booklets were donated by Copytronics Printing.

In December, the chapter held their annual covered dish dinner and plant auction. After a delicious dinner, plants were offered for auction. Each plant was identified and auctioned by emcee Paul Rebmman while audience members had fun trying to outbid each other for the best plant they just had to include in their home landscapes! The auction is another fun way for the chapter to make money while educating the public about native plants.

Pinellas Chapter will present information on the USFSP Butterfly Garden on January 7, followed by a presentation on “The Soils of Florida” on February 4.

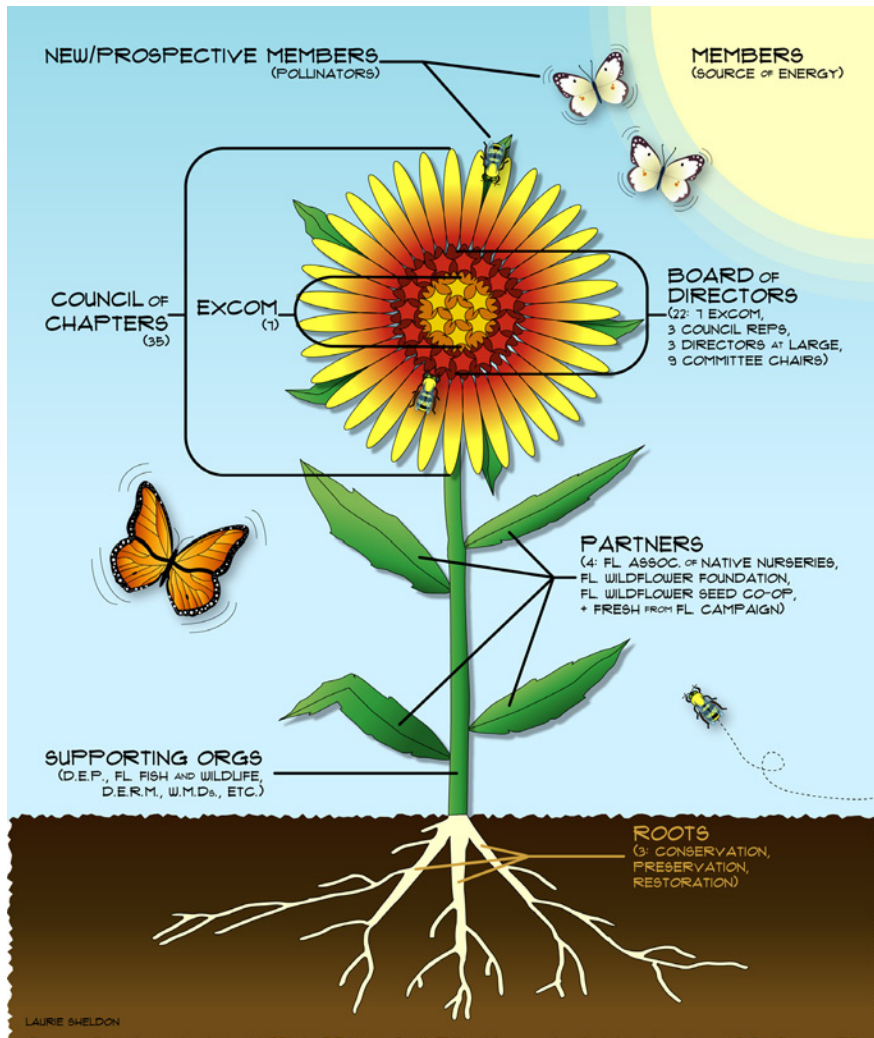
Florida Native Plant Society • P.O. Box 278, Melbourne, FL 32902-0278
 321-271-6702 • www.fnps.org • info@fnps.org
 FNPS is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit corporation registered in Florida as a charitable organization (CH3021).
 President: Anne Cox, email: president@fnps.org
Sabal minor editor, Stacey Matrazzo, email: sabalminor@fnps.org

Tell us what YOUR chapter is up to.
Send your “Chapter Happenings” to Sabalminor@fnps.org.
The deadline for the March–April, 2015 issue is February 1, 2015.

Indigenam societatum ssp. floridanum by Laurie Sheldon

I cannot take all of the credit for this graphic. One afternoon, shortly before the November 15 meeting at the Disney Wilderness Preserve, Anne Cox shared with me her idea for an organizational chart shaped like a composite flower with a centralized Board of Directors and Executive Committee surrounded by the Council of Chapters. Then she admitted that her artistic abilities began and ended with stick figures. “Can you draw it?” she asked. “You can take full creative license.” I agreed to give it a shot, and requested a list of how many people were in each of the Board, Excom and Council.

What I envisioned was similar to a botanical illustration. I drew my idea by hand on a sheet of poster board and brought it to the meeting, where it was very well received. Shirley Denton asked if she could have a scanned version of it for the website, so I set about creating the polished digital version seen here.

**Explanation:**

- **Disk florets:** 22 total (all are members of the board)
 - 7 yellow (central): members of the excom (elected officers and past president)
 - 15 red (peripheral): members of the board who are not part of the excom (3 council representatives, 3 directors at large, and 9 committee chairs)
- **Ray florets:** 35 total (all chapters are members of the FNPS Council of Chapters)
- **Sun:** members (source of FNPS' energy; a life force)
- **Pollinators:** new and prospective members (source of fresh perspectives and vector of new ideas)
- **Leaves:** partner organizations (FANN, Florida Wildflower Foundation, Florida Wildflower Seed Co-op, and the “Fresh from Florida” program)
- **Stem:** supporting local, county, regional and state organizations (whose laws FNPS must abide by)
- **Primary Roots:** “Conservation, Preservation, and Restoration” (the foundational tenets of FNPS)

Save the Date: 2015 Trip to Cuba

The Florida Native Plant Society in partnership with the Florida Keys TREE Institute present

**The Plants of Central and Northwest Cuba
8 days, 7 nights in Mid-November 2015**

Raul Verdecia Perez, lead scientist and botanist at Las Tunas Botanical Garden, is one of Cuba's leading authorities on plants and will lead this trip. Raul is responsible for naming a new species of palm (*Coccothrinax torrid*) in 2006 and is currently working on confirming yet another new palm species. He co-authored the February 2014 update on the “Flora of Cuba.”

Cuba has over 6,000 species of plants, with about half being endemic to Cuba. Raul will lead participants to see plants in the wild. There will also be local specialists involved along this magnificent journey to some of Cuba's richest plant communities.

Watch the *Sabal minor* and the FNPS website for more information on this once-in-a-lifetime trip.

RAISE MONEY FOR FNPS WITH

- Search the Internet with GoodSearch and earn a penny for FNPS for nearly all searches.
- Shop online with GoodShop and a percentage of what you spend will be donated to FNPS.
- Download the free GoodShop app for iPhone or iPad for deals and coupons, and earn a percentage for FNPS every time you shop.
- Install the GoodShop To-Go Button and Goodsearch Plug-ins and earn donations for FNPS even when you forget to visit Goodsearch or GoodShop first!

Go to GoodSearch.com for more information and start raising money for FNPS today!

FNPS to Draft HOA Guidelines

The FNPS Landscape committee, in conjunction with the Audubon Society and the University of Florida Resource Efficient Communities Program, are compiling information and data to write Homeowner's Association Landscape Guidelines.

We are seeking good examples and recommended language to incorporate from other HOAs around the state. If you have information to contribute, please send it to landscape@fnps.org.

Call for Landscape Award applications for 2015 FNPS Annual Conference

Each year at the annual conference, FNPS gives awards for high quality native plant landscapes in the categories of residential, commercial, institutional, transportation, preservation, restoration, mitigation and wildflower/butterfly garden.

The application can be downloaded at www.fnps.org/assets/pdf/awards/fnps_landscape_awards_application_2015.pdf. The application deadline is March 6, 2015. For more information, contact Karina Veaudry at landscape@fnps.org. Indicate whether you will be presenting a paper or poster.

Budget Report *by Kim Zarillo*

The Florida Native Plant Society (FNPS) celebrates 36 years of striving to protect and educate Floridians about the state's unique native plants and native plant communities. In 2014, FNPS members adopted organizational structural changes to the member's representation and duties. The 2015 budget reflects new and ongoing services (initiatives, programs and activities) and operations stemming from the new governance structure. Chapter representatives on the Council of Chapters (COC) organized to develop three initiatives, two of which have budgeted for activities in 2015:

1. The COC's *Gardening 101* is under development to communicate easy methods for planting natives in commercial and residential settings. An amount of \$1000 is budgeted under the Landscape Committee function for printing a brochure and for materials for creating an audio visual presentation of the program.
2. Under the function of Education, \$750 is budgeted in support of travel and office supply expenses to organize field trips across Florida in cooperation with local chapters.

Other new budget items include mini films of field trips to special Florida places, begun by the Education Committee in 2014 and scheduled for completion in 2015. The Society Board of Directors also approved a trip to Cuba organized by the nonprofit Florida Keys TREE Institute to visit Cuba's natural plant communities and some of Florida's lost endemics.

Florida Native Plant Society
P.O. Box 278
Melbourne, FL 32902-0278

2014–2015 BOD and ExCom Meetings

**JAN 22, 2015 FNPS Board Meeting
Teleconference, 7p.m.**

**FEB 7–8, 2015 Annual Board Retreat
Archbold Biological Station, Venus, FL**

The retreat will be full of Society, Council and committee meetings and workshops, plant identification, plant walks, and learning more about Florida's native plants and plant communities. All members are invited.

**MAY 28–31, 2015 FNPS Annual Conference
Tallahassee, FL**

**All dates subject to change.
Check the Society Calendar at
fnps.org/events/eventlist for details and updates.**

FNPS 2015 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 one-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 grants (\$5000 or less) awarded for a one-year period. These projects promote the preservation, conservation, or restoration of rare or imperiled native plant taxa and rare or imperiled native plant communities. 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 at www.fnps.org; click on "Grants and Awards" under the "Participate" menu tab. Questions regarding the grant programs should be sent to info@fnps.org.

Application deadline for the 2015 Awards is March 6, 2015. Awards will be announced at the 2015 FNPS Annual Conference in Tallahassee in May. Awardees do not have to be present at the conference to receive award.

Call for Research Track Papers and Poster Presentations for 2015 FNPS Annual Conference

The Florida Native Plant Society Annual Conference will be held in Tallahassee, Florida, May 28-31, 2015. The research track of the conference will include presented papers on Saturday, May 30. The poster session will be on Friday, May 29.

Researchers are invited to submit abstracts on research related to native plants and plant communities of Florida including preservation, conservation, and restoration. Presentations are planned to be 20 minutes in total length (a 15 minute presentation with 5 minutes for questions).

Abstracts of not more than 200 words should be submitted as an MS Word file by email to Paul A. Schmalzer at paul.a.schmalzer@nasa.gov by February 1, 2015. Include title, affiliation, and address. Indicate whether you will be presenting a paper or poster.