

Sabal minor

A bi-monthly newsletter for the members of

THE FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY



Volume 17, Number 2 • March–April 2015

Message from the President by Anne Cox, FNPS President, 2014-2016

Dear fellow members,

The 2015 retreat at Archbold Biological Station on Feb 6-8, 2015 was a huge success. Approximately 60 FNPS leaders from the board, council of chapters, and chapters attended the retreat. We got great feedback on the retreat location of Archbold Biological Station, specifically its fantastic green facilities, good food and the excellent field trip with Mark Deyrup, entomologist at Archbold Biological Station. There was not enough on-the-ground time to enjoy the scrub, but note that chapters can make arrangements with Archbold for weekend field trips. There was also a general consensus that more time was needed to accomplish all of our goals. Is a three-day retreat in future plans?

The Saturday morning general assembly included introductions of board and council leaders, as well as recognition of Steve and Susan Turnipseed, president and secretary of the newest FNPS chapter in the Villages. The Turnipseeds were applauded for their work and for the turnout of 165 people for the inaugural meeting on January 30 (see article on page 5 of this issue). Anyone interested in helping or learning from the new chapter should contact Steve and Susan. Karina Veaudry, landscape committee chair and former executive director of FNPS, was commended for her assistance with the new Villages chapter. Thanks, Karina.

Two important programs were presented at the general assembly: the "Landscaping 101" brochure and a preview of the video on the Kissimmee Prairie. Council of chapters Landscape 101 initiative leader Richard Brownscombe, Coontie Chapter, handed out the draft brochures and Donna Bollenbach, Suncoast Chapter, showed the layout on the screen and the brochure format. Debra Klein presented the online video of the Kissimmee Prairie field trip, which was produced by Jennifer Brown. A lot of FNPS collaboration and involvement went into these two programs that were well received at the retreat. FNPS members were invited to submit comments on these two in-process programs to Richard Brownscombe and Debra Klein.

The third component of the general assembly included Jan Allyn, Pinellas Chapter, and Russ Hoffman, Serenoa Chapter, presenting information on "Where FNPS has been" and "Where FNPS is going." Jan presented an



FNPS members on field trip at Archbold Biological Station. The field trip was part of a 2-day board retreat.

overview of the FNPS strategic planning process from 2013–2014 along with the changes made as a result of a smaller board and a council of chapters. Russ Hoffman facilitated a session for all retreat participants with Winnie Said, Palm Beach Chapter, as the scribe, posting ideas and suggestions. Member interaction included over 20 ideas and recommendations for FNPS to consider moving forward. Each member had three "votes" (red dots) to cast their preferences for future FNPS goals. The information will be compiled and incorporated into a document for the newly formed Vision Sub-committee. More on this in the next *Sabal minor*.

After a delicious lunch with plenty of time for conversation and networking, Mark Deyrup led two one-hour field trips into the recently burned scrub habitat. In true native plant member fashion, we did not go far, as there were too many plants to talk and learn about along the way. Many FNPS members led their own field trips later in the day, hiking further into the scrub. Several members hiked out to a main trail and saw two families of scrub jays. Each family followed for a distance and watched, but did not sit on heads or try to collect hair for nesting materials.

Afternoon concurrent committee sessions were bustling with activity. Committee sessions included branding and web use led by Shirley Denton; conference and treasurers committee meetings, led by Marlene Rodak and Kim Zarillo; membership committee, led by Jonnie Spittle; and policy and legislation, led by Gene Kelly. The council of chapters activities included four sessions, with one session on standard operating

procedure updates and three sessions for the initiatives: land use and planning, Landscape 101 and educational field trips led by Miki Renner, Richard Brownscombe and Aimee Leteux respectively. Notes from many of these sessions may be available from the leaders and participants. The overwhelming remark about the sessions was that there was "not enough time," so FNPS is going to look into having more than 24 hours in a day so we can get more work done! Members are encouraged to get on these committees and help strengthen FNPS through activities that promote our mission.

Evening programs for Friday and Saturday nights included powerpoint presentations on the following:

- *Warea amplexifolia* presented by Juliet Rynear, Heartland Chapter
- Land Management Partners Committee
- Citrus Greening by Joe Cicero, entomologist, Paynes Prairie Chapter
- Poetry and Native Plants, presented by Donna Bollenbach, Suncoast Chapter
- Biodiversity Study in Haiti, presented by Kim Zarillo, Conradina Chapter

The Saturday night presentations were followed by a CD by Doug Tallamy on "Bringing Nature Home" from the 2009 FNPS Conference.

Sunday morning dawned bright and early with the FNPS board meeting followed by the council of chapters meeting before a short session with both boards. A brief synopsis of the board and CoC meetings follows:

- Winnie Park-Said, Palm Beach Chapter, has filled the most recent director-at-large vacancy, having been appointed by the president and voted in at the board meeting.
- The Villages Chapter president Steve Turnipseed was recognized.
- The board agreed to consider having a president-elect position beginning at the May (Continued on page 2)

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The deadline for the May–June 2015 issue is April 1.

FNPS is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit corporation
registered in Florida as a charitable organization (CH3021).



Mark your calendar for May 28–31 and plan to be in downtown Tallahassee for the FNPS 35th annual conference, *Born to Burn*. The inventive and sedulous members of the Sarracenia and Magnolia chapters have assembled an enchanting selection of field trips through the kaleidoscopic Elysian fields of Florida's Panhandle, including:

- Apalachicola National Forest, where the Leon Sinks Geological Area offers a delightful introduction to karst topography
- Bradwell Bay Wilderness, where you may amble among yellow and parrot pitcher plants, purple bladderworts, *Calopogon*, redroot, *Lophiola*, and native irises
- Bear Creek Educational Forest at Lake Talquin State Forest, with its steep ravines, mature forests with diverse flora including beech-magnolia, basswood, Florida anise, and little brown jug
- Greenwood Plantation, which has 500 acres of old growth longleaf pine woodlands (in an area deemed "The Big Woods"), a rare jewel of the Southeastern Coastal Plain
- St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge, a 70,000-acre gem with over 1,400 vascular plants identified (and your guide will know them all!)
- Gasden Glades, Tate's Hell State Forest, Clay Gardens, Native Nurseries, and many other surprising locations!

The conference will be held in the Downtown Tallahassee Market area, and program days will be at the Aloft Hotel and the Challenger Learning Center. Speakers will delight you and present to you the latest and greatest of all things native and burn-worthy. Thursday's social on the 22nd floor of the Capitol Building will captivate you with spectacular views of the Tallahassee landscape. Friday at Wakulla Springs State Park, a National Natural Landmark, will take you on river tours and feature dinner in the historic lodge. Saturday evening at Tall Timbers Research Station and Land Conservancy, the home of the study of fire ecology, will feature dinner and tractor rides.

Registration will open soon at www.fnps.org conference. See you in downtown Tallahassee!

FNPS Announces 3 Requests for Proposals

RFPs for three contract part-time positions are posted on the FNPS webpage. They include a request for conference registration services; development, fundraising and grant services; and outreach and membership services. All have very quick deadlines for response as FNPS is eager to engage these services. Please visit www.fnps.org to view the details of each RFP.

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.

(*President, continue from page 1*)

- 28–31, 2015 conference in Tallahassee. The nomination committee, led by Karina Veaudry, will post the nominations in the next issue of the *Sabal minor* for a vote at the annual conference or an online vote.
- Wiki updates for all officers, committee chairs and directors-at-large are due at the next board meeting. Please send updates to Jan Allyn.
 - Volunteers are needed for an adhoc committee for the by-laws subcommittee led by Cindy Liberton.
 - Three requests for proposals were sent out by VP of Administration Debbie Chayet and volunteers are needed to review the proposals.
 - A vision committee was formed to set one-year, five-year and 10-year goals, led by Devon Higginbotham. Please contact the FNPS members above and volunteer to help on committees.
 - The November FNPS Cuba trip was announced by Kim Zarillo. Details are on page 6 of this issue.

The council of chapters meeting included:

- a welcome to Steve Turnipseed and the Villages Chapter
- a round table information sharing session with chapter representatives listing their current activities
- the formation of a committee to review the standard operating procedures that were established in 2014
- a discussion on term limits for council officers
- an update of chapter officers information to Cammie
- the creation of a nominating committee led by Richard Brownscombe and Jon Pospisil to present a new council chair at the annual conference in Tallahassee and post in the next *Sabal minor*
- the establishment of a schedule of online council meetings set for the third Sunday of each month for March through May
- discussions on initiative developments, increasing membership, leadership skills development, increasing communication, and utilizing the Forum. An annual review will be conducted in June 2015 for the three initiatives currently in progress by the council. A leadership workshop will be available in June after the new officers of the board and council are elected. A notice of time and location will be posted on the Forum and in the *Sabal minor*.

Call for Palmetto Award applications for 2015 FNPS Annual Conference

Each year, FNPS acknowledges the significant contributions of members who have gone “above and beyond” to help the Society achieve its mission by bestowing the following awards:

- **FNPS Green Palmetto Award** Any FNPS member is eligible to receive this award except for those currently serving on the Board of Directors. Nominations can be submitted by any FNPS member. This award typically is for recognition of regional or statewide contributions in one or more of the four following categories: Science; Education/Outreach; Information; and Service & Administration.
- **FNPS Silver Palmetto Award** Any FNPS Board of Directors member is eligible. This award is given to the BOD member(s) with outstanding and ‘beyond the call of duty’ service.
- **FNPS Public Service Award** Individuals working in the public sector who contribute significantly to advancing the FNPS mission are eligible. This award is not limited to FNPS members. Nominations can be submitted by FNPS members and non-FNPS members.
- **FNPS Chapter Achievement Award** Chapters that have excelled in promoting the FNPS mission are eligible. Chapters must submit a narrative listing of achievements and community action.
- **FNPS Mentor Award** This award recognizes individuals in FNPS who have made outstanding contributions to the science and/or practice of native plant preservation, conservation and restoration. The Mentor Award is the highest honor that FNPS can bestow and is not necessarily awarded every year.

Please take some time to help identify those individuals or chapters that merit recognition by submitting nominations. Nominations are due April 3, 2015 and the Board of Directors will vote online to select the award recipients during a two week period.

A full application and list of requirements can be downloaded via the FNPS forum at www.fnps.org/assets/userfiles/files/Nominations_for_Annual_Awards_2015.pdf.

After the nomination cycle closes on April 3, 2015, the Board of Directors will review all the nominations that have been submitted and make a final decision about award recipients by conducting an online vote. In a typical year, FNPS will bestow 3–5 Green Palmetto Awards and one Chapter Achievement Award. The others are not necessarily awarded every year.

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.

Top 10 Conservation Messaging Tips by Hillary Swain

In her recent blog written for the Cynthia and George Mitchell Foundation, Hilary Swain, Executive Director of Archbold Biological Station, begins with a basic, challenging question that stumps most public audiences: “Where does all the weight in this downed log come from?” Then, using experiential knowledge and links to additional reading that served to inspire her, Swain shares her personal top 10 tips to improve conservation messaging:

1. Provoke Emotion
2. Provoke Thought and Inquiry
3. Speak in Anecdotes. Share Epic Narratives
4. Know Your Audiences. Find Common Ground
5. Speak with Other Voices. Use Other Messengers
6. Think Globally. Translate Locally
7. Address Other Perspectives
8. Engage Artists and Writers
9. Don’t Create Paroxysms of Despair
10. Marketing to People Who Don’t Seem to Care About Nature.

She wishes she had realized these 30 years ago, but it’s never too late to try new approaches.

(This excerpt was reprinted with permission from the February 2015 “Archbold Update,” <http://www.archbold-station.org/html/events/news.html>. The full article can be found at <http://cgmf.org/blog-entry/142/Improving-the-conservation-narrative-What-we-say-vs.-what-the-public-hears.html>.)

Have you visited the FNPS blog lately?

Did you know you can receive updates from the FNPS blog right in your email inbox? Simply visit the FNPS blog at fnpsblog.blogspot.com and choose your delivery method on the righthand side of the webpage. Subscribe today to stay informed and inspired!

**Are you receiving FNPS’ Eco-Alert emails?
If you are not, and you would like to, please
send an email to info@fnps.org.**

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!**

Chapter Happenings

Cocoplum Chapter promoted their Champion Tree program by joining forces with Martin County Master Gardeners and Florida Yards & Neighborhoods for the annual educational tree giveaway event. Each Arbor Day, the Martin County UF/IFAS extension sponsors a tree giveaway. This year, the trees given to the public were Florida natives. Before choosing their tree, visitors first checked in with staffed displays, including the Cocoplum Champion Tree Program and Master Gardener and FYN educational booths. The Champion Tree program asks the public to help find and document the largest old native trees in the area. This year's candidates are loblolly bay (*Gordonia lasianthus*), mahogany (*Swietenia mahogany*), satinleaf (*Chrysophyllum oliviforme*), and hackberry (*Celtis laevigata*).

Conradina Chapter sponsored and tabled at the annual Ocean-Reef-Beach Festival on December 6 put on by Space Coast Surfriders Foundation. This event is regularly attended by hundreds of kindred spirits. The chapter passed out their new business cards, which helped to draw folks to their general meeting. In December, they donated \$350 for native plants for the Saint Sebastian River Preserve State Park Visitors Center. On April 10–11, Conradina, Tarflower, Cuplet Fern, and Pine Lily Chapters will sponsor the third annual Central Florida Native Plant Sale following the Florida Association of Native Nurseries trade show.

Dade Chapter is once again holding its annual Native Plant Day on March 28 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at A.D. Barnes Park Natural Area in Miami. The event, which will be their 20th Native Plant Day, is co-sponsored by DCFNPS and Miami Dade County Parks and is a FREE day of outreach and education, with activities for all ages: walks, programs, plants for sale, raffles, vendors and more.

Hernando Chapter will highlight the Florida Yards and Neighborhoods program at their March meeting. The presentation will explain the nine principles of Florida-friendly landscaping.

The chapter will have an information table at the 21st Weeki Wachee Swamp Fest, March 6–8, at Weeki Wachee Springs State Park. The Swamp Fest has grown from a small local community fundraising festival to a statewide annual event attracting thousands of fun seekers and featuring more than 140 arts and craft vendors.

Also on March 6, Hernando and Nature Coast chapters will host a joint field trip to explore the 80-acre parcel recently acquired by the Gulf Coast Conservancy (GCC). The property has a mosaic of unusual physical features including springs, a spring run, a natural sand ridge with elevations approaching 40 feet, along with freshwater swamps that support the adjoining saltwater estuary of Hammock Creek. The trip will be led by Julie Wert and Richard Stauffer of GCC. Join them! Meet at 9:30 at the parking lot of Aripeka Baptist Church, 18731 Aripeka Road in Hudson.

On April 25, the chapter will hold its annual Spring Native Plant Sale from 9 a.m.–1 p.m. at 22495 Chinsegut Hill Road in Brooksville. This is a fabulous opportunity to learn about and purchase some great natives for your home landscape! There will be four native plant vendors, plant and history exhibits by community partners, and an opportunity to visit the restored historic Chinsegut Hill Manor House and tour its extensive grounds on one of the highest peaks in Central Florida.

Ixia Chapter will hold a Native Park tour and plant sale as part of Riverside Avondale Preservation's annual Home and Outdoor Spaces Tour on April 25–26. This is a major event in Jacksonville's renowned historic district and attracts thousands of people. The plant sale will be held at Native Park, located in Riverside Avondale, on April 25. Native Park is a City of Jacksonville park and was adopted by Ixia five years ago. Ixia members will pot and sell plants from Native Park that have outgrown their boundaries, and proceeds will be used to purchase other plants and for

educational purposes. Two local native nurseries owned by Ixia members will also participate in the plant sale. In addition, an Outstanding River-Friendly Yard award will be presented to a Riverside Avondale homeowner who is also an Ixia Chapter member. The award, sponsored by RAP/Ixia and St. Johns Riverkeeper, is given for yards whose owners use Florida-friendly landscaping and other environmentally sustainable practices, which includes the use of native plants.

Magnolia Chapter members helped ready the trails at Wolf Creek Trout Lily Preserve in Grady County, GA, in time for the trout lily bloom in mid-February. This was a break from their usual monthly invasive removal workdays, where they focus on Chinese privet, Japanese climbing fern, Japanese honeysuckle, coral ardisia and nandina.

Members also participate in monthly invasive removal workdays at Maclay State Gardens, on county and city-owned land in Tallahassee, and at Gholson Nature Park in Chattahoochee, where workdays are scheduled for March 14, April 11, May 2 and possibly June 6, for those interested in participating.

Scott Davis and Kara Driscoll, along with other volunteers from Magnolia Chapter and FSU, participated in a Tree Challenge, where they located and identified large, historic trees. Read more about their contribution to this ongoing project at www.tallahassee.com/story/news/2015/01/31/winners-announced-tree-challenge/22663425/.

Mangrove Chapter will present their annual "Plant Native Day" on March 14 from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Cedar Point Environmental Park in Englewood. More information is available at mangrove.fnpschapters.org. Their April field trip is a return to Babcock-Webb WMA in Punta Gorda, where they will once again go in search of the pretty false pawpaw (*Deeringothamnus rugelii* var. *pluchellus*). They have found the plants and now want to see the blossoms. All field trips start at 9:00 a.m.

Nature Coast Chapter will host its annual Spring Florida Native Plant Sale on Saturday, March 28 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Harvester United Methodist Church, 2432 Collier Parkway (N. of SR54) in Pasco County. They will have a variety of Florida native plants and books for sale, as well as a Pasco Master Gardener information table. For more information, visit www.pasconativeplants.org or contact Peggy Gretchen at herculesmpg@hotmail.com.

Pawpaw Chapter wishes to thank Jon Pospisil for his interesting presentation on vines, groundcoverings, and more! Their March 9 meeting will feature Mike Parsons who will speak on native orchids. The chapter's April 13 meeting will feature their own Paul Rebmann who will showcase a brand new program featuring his famous photography and videos. Join them! Also look for them at the Volusia County Master Gardeners' Faire on April 11 and again in Ormond Beach on April 23 for Earth Day celebrations.

Paynes Prairie Chapter will hold its annual Spring Native Plant Sale at Morningside Nature Center on Saturday, April 4 from 8:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m., with a special preview sale for FNPS members on Friday, April 3 from 4:30–7 p.m. Multiple vendors will provide a huge variety of trees, shrubs and wildflowers, all native to north central Florida. The chapter now accepts cash, checks and credit cards. For directions visit www.natureoperations.org. For information about the sale, including vendor information, contact Jennifer Staiger at jsstaig@gmail.com.

Pine Lily Chapter has once again been invited to participate in EPCOT's Flower and Garden Show as an exhibitor. Many local Florida residents visit the festival, and each year Pine Lily has participated, they speak with and reach a few hundred people. **This year, EPCOT is asking for volunteers**

Chapter Happenings *(continued)*

to host an exhibit every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday during the festival, which runs March 4 through May 17, 2015. There are too many weekends for Pine Lily to staff with volunteers, so please **if anyone in your chapter is interested in volunteering, please contact Jenny Welch with Pine Lily Chapter at mwelch@cfl.rr.com or 407-847-2488 home or 407-319-2488 cell.**

Tarflower Chapter continues to hold monthly workdays at Mead Botanical Garden in Winter Park. Members have created several pockets of native habitat and demonstration landscapes in the park, including an area surrounding an active gopher tortoise burrow, and a monarch waystation. Chapter members are also actively salvaging plants from Kerina Parkside, a scrub site slated for development. The salvaged plants are then planted at nearby Bill Fredericks Turkey Lake Park and Shadow Bay Park.

On April 10–11, Tarflower Chapter, along with Conradina, Cuplet Fern and Pine Lily chapters, will co-sponsor the Central Florida Native Plant Sale in conjunction with the Florida Association of Native Nurseries' 3rd Annual Native Plant Show at the Osceola Heritage Park. For more information about this event, visit www.nativeplantsale.com. Plant sale information can be found at www.facebook.com/CentralFloridaNativePlantSale.

Also on April 11, the chapter will co-sponsor a garden tour with Orange Audubon Society.

Tarflower members have begun planning their 3rd annual Backyard Biodiversity Day, which will be held on October 24 at Mead Botanical Garden.

Tell us what YOUR chapter is up to.

Send your "Chapter Happenings" to Sabalminor@fnps.org.

The deadline for the May–June, 2015 issue is April 1, 2015.

Communications Committee *by Shirley Denton*

The Communications Committee is seeking volunteers. Put your skills to work and learn new ones.

1. Publications Subcommittee: Writers and artists are needed to help create content for media (newspapers, etc.).
2. Blog: Join the blogging team.
3. Website content: Post content for chapters and committee chairs. Advanced web skills are not needed, but they are appreciated. Volunteer to assist chapters with their websites.
4. Publicity: Identify publications that are interested in native plant events and content, get contact information, and provide them with content.
5. Design: Work with the branding team updating the FNPS brand.
6. Web design and web programming
7. Web server assistance
8. Other -- if you see a specific need, volunteer to fill it.

If you are interested, send an email to communications@fnps.org.

Grants for school wildflower gardens

Schoolteachers throughout Florida are eligible for the Florida Wildflower Foundation's Seeds for Schools grants. Grants include native wildflower seeds for campus gardens, classroom resources, expert consultations and a garden sign. Read more about the program and how to apply at www.flawildflowers.org/seedsforschools.php. Applications will be accepted until 5 p.m. March 31.



FNPS welcomes The Villages Chapter *by Karina Veaudry*

On January 30, Steve Turnipseed led the inaugural meeting of The Villages Chapter as their first president (pictured below). Having advertised the meeting through website and newspaper ads, he was expecting Steve had signed up interested persons through website and newspaper publicity ads and we were expecting 30 to 40 people. By the start of the meeting, 162 people had filed in and we scrambled to set up enough chairs. It was standing room only! Within the first 15 minutes, a VP of programs, VP of field trips, secretary, treasurer and chapter representative were confirmed. Steve is a strong leader with excellent communication skills. He has already given tasks and they are on their way to opening a bank account, etc. — and they have the next four months speakers recommended and are lining them up. This chapter will be very successful.



Amendment 1 implementation comments requested

In November 2014, Florida voters approved an amendment to the state constitution which requires one third of documentary stamp revenue to be placed into the Land Acquisition Trust Fund and spent on a variety of environmental programs and initiatives.

The Florida Senate has launched a web page regarding Amendment 1 and its intent. Your comments are needed to keep implementation of this amendment consistent with its intent. Please visit www.flsenate.gov/media/topics/wlc and let your voice be heard!

Camping anyone?

The **Suncoast Chapter** is going camping once again this spring. Suwannee River State Park in Suwannee County is their destination on March 26–29 to explore the flora and fauna of this beautiful area.

The chapter especially wants to invite all the Pineywoods, Sparkleberry, Magnolia and Sarracenia chapter members as well as any other FNPS members that are interested in a long weekend of hiking and socializing with other native plant-heads.

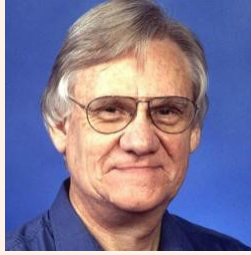
The chapter has reserved one cabin, so they have kitchen facilities and a gathering area. Join them by reserving your tent or RV site on reserveamerica.com. The plan is to arrive on Thursday afternoon and spend Friday and Saturday hiking Suwannee and Peacock Spring State Parks.

Plan for potluck dinners in the evening and socializing around the campfire. Any questions, contact Devon Higginbotham at archiveproperties@gmail.com or 813-478-1183.



In Memoriam: Dan Austin

It is with sadness that we share the news of the passing of our friend, founding FNPS member, and ethnobotanist extraordinaire, Dan Austin. Dan was one of the first directors of FNPS and was well-known in Florida for his knowledge of Florida plants and ecosystems. He was also known for his special ability to share that knowledge in a way that touched many of his students at Florida Atlantic University, where he taught for many years before retiring to Arizona in 2001. His contributions to science were many, including the publication of *Florida Ethnobotany* (winner of the Mary W. Klinger Book Award for 2005), and his work as an internationally acclaimed expert on the evolution and phylogeny of the morning glory family (Convolvulaceae). His wit and wisdom will very much be missed, however his legacy will live on through the seeds of thought he planted in a generation of minds inspired by the natural sciences. FNPS is fortunate to have had a founding member and friend like Dan Austin.



2015 BOD and ExCom Meetings

**MAR 26, 2015 FNPS Board Meeting,
Teleconference, 7p.m.**

**APR 23, 2015 FNPS Board Meeting,
Teleconference, 7p.m.**

**MAY 28, 2015 FNPS Board Meeting,
Aloft Hotel, Tallahassee, Time TBD**

**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.**

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

FNPS in partnership with the Florida Keys TREE Institute present

The Plants of Central and Northwest Cuba November 15–22, 2015

\$3499.00 per person double occupancy* Limited rooms available

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.

**Download the full itinerary and registration form via the FNPS forum at
www.forum.fnps.org/index.php/topic,1045.15.html.**



**The package includes: a complimentary conference call briefing 4 weeks prior to the journey, special travel visa, approved license, round trip non-stop charter air service direct Miami-Havana, private air-conditioned motor coach, medical insurance, hotels, luggage handling, transfers, permits, entry fees, English speaking guide, bottled water daily, tips and meals for those stated on the itinerary. We take care of obtaining all of your documents, travel plans and guide you through the whole process! We travel on a US Department of Treasury approved license. Add \$300.00 for single supplemental. Not included: some meals, tips for guide and driver, Cuba departure tax of \$30.00 & baggage fees charged in Miami.*