

Sabal minor

A bi-monthly newsletter for the members of

THE FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY



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

2016 promises to be a great year for FNPS. We have numerous activities to be implemented in 2016 and we want our members to be involved and participate. Here is a brief list and more information is available in this issue of the *Sabal minor* and on the FNPS website (fnps.org).

The Florida legislature is in session and **action alerts** are posted on the FNPS website. Click on the red “Action Alert” button in the upper right corner (or go directly to fnps.org/news/alerts) for more details. FNPS lobbyist **Sue Mullins**, **Gene Kelly** and members of the **Policy and Legislation Committee** have been busy keeping our members informed of the activities this year. Check in for weekly or daily updates.

The **Nominating Committee**, chaired by **Director-at-Large Winnie Said**, is calling on members to fill board positions. More information on page 4 of this issue.

FNPS has hired **Juliet Rynear** for the position of executive assistant to help with the president, president-elect and Council of Chapters. Juliet Rynear has enjoyed a lifelong love of plants and the natural world. Since moving to Florida in 2008, she has worked to conserve Florida’s rare plant species and their habitats. Her work has involved the development of protocols for nursery propagation, introductions of new populations, and habitat restoration. Please welcome Juliet as our newest contractor.

FNPS is in the process of hiring a social media coordinator. We want to thank **Ginny Stibolt** for her many years of service coordinating the FNPS blog and Facebook pages. We appreciate Ginny promoting FNPS through her recent education presentations to chapters promoting her book *The Art of Maintaining a Native Florida Landscape*.

The board announces **Ina Crawford (Sweetbay Chapter)** as the vice president of administration. Ina became a lifetime member joining FNPS at her first annual conference in Tallahassee in 2004. After attending several conferences, a friend asked Ina, “What would it take to have a chapter in Bay County?” **Karina Veaudry**, former Landscape Committee chair and past executive director, visited the county in 2007 and the Sweetbay Chapter was born. Ina served as the chapter’s first treasurer and later became chapter representative, where she has served ever since. Ina is involved in chapter activities and sets up displays to provide education for the public at meetings and outings. Her favorite activities include enjoying field trips and growing natives. Ina will fill the VP of admin position until the conference in May.

Board and council members are being asked to use the FNPS Forum, not only to access meeting information and post reports, but to reply to topics and to post information under the appropriate headings. The Forum link is www.forum.fnps.org/index.php#e2. The use of the Forum will help cut down on emails and allow all members to access

up-to-date information. Instructions on Forum usage is at the top of the page. Thanks to all who are already using it.

Motion approvals by the board at the January 21 meeting were as follows:

- Approved Ina Crawford, Sweetbay Chapter, for the board position of vice president of administration.
- Recommendation from excom for Andy Taylor, development director, to be contact for all FNPS grants and funding opportunities
- Approved Winnie Said as Nominating Committee chair.
- Approved FNPS Conflict of Interest Policy. All voting board members must sign an annual certification of compliance with the conflict of interest policy
- Accepted the 2014 audit.
- Approved *Sabal minor* to go to all digital, no more mailing. See note on page 4 of this issue.
- Approved recommendation to pursue RFP to contract out social media coordinator.
- Approve designation of acting vice president of administration.
- Approved Juliet Rynear as the new executive assistant contractor.
- Add FNPS as a supporter of the Blue Sky legislative proposal.
- Approved future grant award for ethnobotany research provided the Conservation Committee will write criteria and procedures to be approved by the board for the “Dan Austin Award for Ethnobotany”
- Proceeded with the application for the Disney Conservation Fund grant, due on March 4, 2016 with the proposal titled “Engaging Communities in the Preservation, Conservation and Restoration of Scrub Habitat.”

Planning for the **2016 annual conference**, which will be held at the Daytona Beach Resort and Conference Center, May 18–22, is well underway, lead by **Conference Committee Chair Don Spence** of Pawpaw Chapter. Please check out the conference link on the FNPS website at fnps.org/conference for more information. Registration will open soon.

The **annual membership meeting** will be held at the FNPS conference in Daytona on Saturday, May 21. Endowment grants, Palmetto awards, landscape awards and election of FNPS officers will be presented at this meeting.

Nominations for the annual **Palmetto Awards** are now being accepted. **Chapters, please announce these awards at your meetings and nominate individuals and chapters for their outstanding service to FNPS.** See details on page 3 of this issue.

Committees. Board meeting reports from the January 21, 2016 meeting are available on the Forum for all members at www.forum.fnps.org/index.php/topic.1170.0.html. *(continued on page 3)*

CHAPTER HAPPENINGS

Editor's note: Thank you to all the chapters who submitted Chapter Happenings. We did our best to include every entry, but due to space limitations, many were edited to fit into the available space. We apologize for any inadvertent omissions.

Conradina Chapter donated for the 2nd year, a one-year, single-person FNPS membership to the 19th Space Coast Birding and Wildlife Festival silent auction, along with a wild coffee plant in a ceramic great-horned owl planter and a bonus DVD of Margret Hames highlighting native plants at Malabar Scrub EELS. Reportedly, it was bid on many times! The chapter looks forward to learning the name of their new member. Thanks to **Carol Hebert** for doing this.

Cuplet Fern Chapter helped transform the landscape at Kids House of Seminole into a wildlife habitat. Working with Bonnie Rizzo, Kids House executive support manager, the chapter provided recommendations for native plants and helped develop a plan. The chapter donated \$100 donation for plants, and Eagle Scout Klayton Killough secured another \$200 from his troop. This amount covered all the necessary plants, which were provided by Green Isle Gardens. Chapter members, scouts, friends, parents and others helped with the installation. In just three hours, over 100 plants were installed. A grand opening celebration is planned for sometime in the spring. Kids House offers compassionate care and healing for child victims of abuse. The new wildlife habitat will provide an additional healing experience for the kids.

Hernando Chapter began the year with a planning meeting and online members survey conducted through Google Forms. Members were asked to give their top three reasons for belonging to FNPS, which programs and field trips they'd like to see, and how likely they were to participate in a range of activities. Survey results are still coming in, but it is clear that those who commented are primarily interested in meeting like-minded people and learning about ecosystems and conservation; some enjoy interacting with others (e.g. helping staff booths, greeting members, etc.), while others like digging in the dirt (e.g. volunteer workdays). Most said they were likely to attend field trips and meetings. There is certainly room for everybody!

On **March 5**, the chapter will participate in a **Hernando County Environmentally Sensitive Lands** workday by helping with cleanup and restoration of Cypress Lakes Preserve. A guided nature walk will be offered after the cleanup to showcase the preserve's diversity of sandhills, scrub and wetlands, and the effects of habitat current restoration. The chapter has been conducting a four-season plant survey at the Preserve that will be completed in 2016.

Mangrove Chapter will host its main event, **Plant Native Day** on **March 12** at Cedar Point Environmental Park in Englewood. Both nursery- and member-grown plants will be offered to the public. Laurel Schiller will speak on "alter-natives" (native alternatives to non-native plants in the home landscape), with live plants to illustrate her talk. Other activities include a table discussion presented by members who have converted or are converting their yards to native plants; tours through the butterfly and demonstration garden and rain garden; and a walk through the park's trails, including a look at the resident American bald eagles.

Other upcoming Mangrove Chapter events include the March 8 meeting with member **Jane Wallace** and Chris Parisi (guest), who will speak on "Native Milkweeds and Monarchs"; a March 26 field trip to Charlotte Flatwoods Environmental Park; a visit from FNPS President Anne Cox on April 12; and an April 30 field trip to Charlotte Harbor Preserve. Visit mangrove.fnpschapters.org for meeting and field trip times and locations.

Nature Coast Chapter will host its **Spring Florida Native Plant Sale on Saturday, March 26** at the Land O'Lakes Community Center. They will have a large selection of quality nursery-grown plants for sale,

each with its own plant profile. Books for sale and free literature will also be available. For more information, contact **Peggy Gretchen** at herculesmpg@hotmail.com or visit www.pasconativeplants.org.

Paynes Prairie Chapter along with Friends of Nature Parks and the City of Gainesville Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Department, will host their **Spring Native Plant Sale** on Saturday, April 23 at Morningside Nature Center in Gainesville. The sale will be open for FNPS and Friends of Nature Parks members only on Friday, April 22, 4:30–6:30p.m.

Sea Rocket Chapter members will be at the **Enchanted Forest Sanctuary** in Titusville on March 12 & 26 and April 9 & 23 from 9:30a.m.–noon. They will be working in the native butterfly garden, providing guidance and answering questions. Join them and get firsthand experience in maintaining a functional native butterfly garden. Bring water, gloves, a hat, and hand tools. **April 23** is also the Sanctuary's **Earth Day Festival**. Chapter members will sell plants. Other activities include hikes, presentations, wild animals, hands-on children's activities, and educational activities for young and old alike.

On **March 19**, the chapter will celebrate the arrival of spring at the **Nature Center Spring Festival**, to be held at The Great Outdoors in Titusville. They will offer native plants for sale to enhance and revitalize your native gardens.

Suncoast Chapter along with other local environmental organizations gave a grant of \$500 to Terrace Community Middle School (TCMS) toward an outdoor learning center wetlands restoration project. The school is removing invasives and restoring native plants on adjacent property. Chapter members helped identify the non-native plants. They were very impressed with the enthusiasm and energy of the students, teachers and parents. In a few hours, they cleared several paths and removed piles of caesarweed, Japanese climbing fern, non-native nightshade and more. The chapter looks forward to helping TCMS continue to develop this area.

On January 16, to commemorate Florida Arbor Day, the chapter, along with TCMS students, gave away nearly 400 longleaf pine saplings. The school, located next to a popular flea market, proved to be a great location for the "drive-by" tree give-away. Students enthusiastically held "Free Trees" signs, and educated people on the significance of Arbor Day and the longleaf pines. Donations nearly covered their cost of this event.

The chapter is taking over the maintenance of the native plant garden at Lettuce Lake Regional Park. Longtime chapter member **Joel Jackson** started and maintained the garden with the support of the chapter, Audubon and Hillsborough County. He will continue to provide expertise. The chapter will add more native plants and offer monthly plant walks to the public. TCMS students will assist in maintenance of the garden.

Chapter members have held several workdays at Sweetwater Organic Farms to remove non-natives, clear a pathway and plant natives. Last year, the chapter provided a grant to buy native plants. This year, they will continue helping maintain the area and plant a native butterfly garden. The workdays are rewarding and fun; afterwards, volunteers convene at the market to buy fresh vegetables, listen to music, and eat great food.

Suncoast chapter has scheduled its **annual spring and fall camping**



trips. The spring trip will be held **April 1–3 at Cayo Costa State Park**, a barrier island located off Charlotte Harbor that is accessible only by ferry, private boat or helicopter. There are only a few bunks remaining in the three primitive cabins that have been reserved, but the campground also offers tent camping; boaters may dock at the park and sleep on deck. The cost for two nights in the cabin is \$30/person plus the ferry ride, which runs about \$45/person round-trip. The park offers a small gift shop with nature exhibits and items for sale such as ice, sun lotion and bug spray. The park also rents bikes.

The fall trip is scheduled for **October 27–29 at Jonathan Dickinson State Park in Martin County**. Pull out your travel trailer, tent or join us in one of the three reserved cabins (each with kitchen and bath) for \$109/person. Bring your canoe, kayak or bike and spend some time paddling the waterways or peddling the paths.

If interested in either or both trips or for more information, contact Devon Higginbotham at archiveproperties@gmail.com, or reserve your own site at reserveamerica.com.

Tarflower Chapter will be selling native plants at **Leu Gardens' Annual Spring Plant Sale, March 12–13**. In April, the chapter will participate in an Osceola County native plant sale (April 1–2); Winter Park Earth Day (April 10); a native yard tour of Seminole County (April 16); and an Earth Day clean-up at Mead Garden (April 23). For more information about Tarflower events, contact Amanda Martin, chapter president, at ajm.fnps@gmail.com.

Send your "Chapter Happenings" to
fnps.sabalminor@gmail.com. The deadline for the
May–June, 2016 issue is April 1, 2016.

Call for Palmetto Award applications for 2016 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 Awards. The Society generally awards one Green Palmetto Award for: service or education; science; and outstanding chapter of the year.

FNPS board members are not eligible for this award category. Contributions can be of regional or statewide significance. Any member can make Green Palmetto Award nominations by contacting their chapter director or the FNPS president.

FNPS Silver Palmetto Awards. The Silver Palmetto Award is made by the FNPS president to the board member who has been of the greatest assistance during the past year.

FNPS Mentor Award. Created in 1995, the Mentor Award recognizes distinguished individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the science and practice of native plant preservation, conservation and restoration. This award is the highest honor the Society can bestow and is reserved for lifelong or career-long contributions. Selection of award winner is by a vote of the FNPS Board of Directors.

Details on how to submit a nomination are available at fnps.org/news/society-news/florida-native-plant-society-annual-awards. Nominations for these prestigious awards must be received by March 31, 2016. They will be posted for voting on the Forum at www.forum.fnps.org/index.php/board.79.0.html after March 31.

(Pres. message, cont. from pg 1)

Bylaws Committee. The 2016 bylaws, revised as of January 24, are posted on the Forum at www.forum.fnps.org/index.php/topic.1176.0.html. Please review and post your revisions to the Forum. Members who are unable to post on the Forum, please send to a board member and your comments will be posted. Changes made and approved by the board at the March 13 meeting will be posted on the Forum and in the next issue of the *Sabal minor*, to be voted on at the annual members meeting on May 21, 2016.

Communications (Chair: Shirley Denton, Suncoast Chapter).

- **Branding.** Business card templates are available. Please contact **Donna Bollenbach**.
- **Membership database.** The new database is complete. Board members and chapter member managers can easily access membership lists from the website. Please contact **Shirley Denton** if you need assistance.

Council of Chapters (Director: Dave Feagles, Serenoa Chapter). Council meetings are posted on the FNPS calendar and GoToMeeting information will be on the Forum a week before meetings.

Director of Development: Andy Taylor, Suncoast Chapter. Andy is working with Don Spence to obtain sponsors and donations for the annual conference. Please contact Andy or Don for more information.

Finance Committee (Chair: Devon Higginbotham, Suncoast Chapter). A draft corporate donor policy is posted on the Forum at www.forum.fnps.org/index.php/topic.1175.0.html. Board members are encouraged to respond on the Forum. A short presentation will be made at the March 13 board meeting, and a vote will be taken.

Land Management Partners (Chair: Danny Young, Pawpaw Chapter). The LMP schedule for 2016 is posted at fnps.org/participate/lmrs. Please contact Kevin Love for the scheduling of these reviews as the reviewer names are not on the Web page. Other information about LMRs is available at fnps.org/committee/partners. Reviewers are requested to take high resolution photos and write an article for the Palmetto. Please contact Marjorie, the Palmetto editor at pucpuggy@bellsouth.net

Landscape Committee. The **2016 Landscape Awards** criteria and application are available on the blog at fnpsblog.blogspot.com/2016/01/who-will-be-star-chapter.html.

2016 BOD and ExCom Meetings

- MAR 11–13 Annual retreat & strategic planning session, Camp Kuluqua, High Springs (NOTE: NEW DATE & LOCATION)
- APR 21 Board meeting, 7 p.m., teleconference
- MAY 19 Board meeting, conference venue
- MAY 19 Council of Chapters meeting
- MAY 21 Annual members meeting, conference venue
- JUL 28 Board meeting, 7 p.m., teleconference
- AUG 13 Board and Council of Chapters meeting, 9:30 a.m. (all day), FFA Leadership Training Center, Haines City (tentative location)

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



On behalf of the Suncoast Chapter and the entire FNPS family, **congratulations to Troy Springer on his upcoming marriage to Dottie Jarvis** this March. Troy is a long-time FNPS member and the 2012 Conference Chair. We are very excited for them both!

Ideas for Increasing Membership *by Gail Taylor, Citrus Chapter*

- Have FNPS make up a series of simple “Native Plant Event” signs that each chapter could purchase and use on the day of their meetings, plant sales, or other events. This sign would feature the FNPS logo and would call attention to an event that passersby may be interested in attending.
- Entice authors with newly published books to do a tour similar to what Ginny Stibolt has done around the state. Have an event open to the public. This could be a chapter “outreach” and a great way to bring new folks in to learn about native plants.
- Chapters should share their PowerPoint presentations with other chapters. These could also be used for outreach in the community to expose the community to native plants.
- Consider broader topics for outreach programs, such as “best native trees for our county”; do the same with scrubs and herbaceous plants.
- Make sure to have a sign-up sheet for anyone who is at an outreach event for the first time. Ask for their name, email address and phone number (in case their email address is not readable). Add them to your chapter’s email list and send them an email thanking them for attending and inviting them to the next chapter meeting. Once at your meeting, offer a raffle ticket for a gift, a native plant or some other thank you gift for attending their first meeting.

We started 2016 with over 3,600 members! Let’s keep going!

Florida Native Plant Society
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The *Sabal minor* is going all-digital

In an effort to reduce costs and waste, FNPS has decided to go to digital-only delivery of the *Sabal minor* newsletter. **This is the last issue that will be printed and mailed.**

If you currently receive a printed and mailed copy and would like to continue receiving the *Sabal minor*, please contact FNPS Administrative Services at 321-271-6702 or info@fnps.org and provide them with a current email address.

Chapters are encouraged to print copies of the newsletter to have on hand at their monthly meetings for members who do not have email addresses.

Notice of Officer Election

According to FNPS Bylaws, we will be electing officers at our annual meeting in May for those positions whose terms expire on an even calendar year. This includes the positions of president, vice president of finance, and secretary. Two additional positions will be on the slate due to vacancies: vice president of administration and a director-at-large.

Our **president-elect, Catherine Bowman**, and current **VP of finance, Devon Higginbotham**, will be on the slate for president and VP of finance, respectively. **The Nominating Committee is actively seeking volunteers from our membership for the secretary, director-at-large, and VP of administration positions.**

Please contact Anne Cox, president (annecox@bellsouth.net) or Winnie Said, Nominating Committee chair, (winsaid@gmail.com) if you would like to recommend a member for a position, or if you are interested in the opportunity to serve on the board.

Society Happenings

The 2016 Annual Retreat will be held March 11–13 at Camp Kulaqua in High Springs. NOTE: The date and location were changed from February. All board and council members, support teams, chapter officers and directors, and any members interested in FNPS leadership are invited to attend. Overnight lodging and meals on site were only available until Feb 24, but interested members can attend all sessions and make overnight lodging arrangements nearby in High Springs. The schedule is posted at www.forum.fnps.org/index.php/board.80.0.html. Agendas for the Sunday council and board meetings will be posted on the Forum a week or more before the meetings.

FNPS President Anne Cox is visiting all the chapters between 2015 and 2016. Chapters visited so far in 2015 include Palm Beach, Cocoplum, Pawpaw, Sparkleberry, Paynes Prairie, Suncoast, The Villages, Ixia and Tarflower. Chapters scheduled for 2016 include Sea Rocket, Beautyberry and Mangrove. Please contact Anne Cox to schedule a visit and give a powerpoint presentation about FNPS.