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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 *by Catherine Bowman, FNPS President, 2016-2018*

I am writing this fresh from the August 13 board of directors meeting that was held at the FFA Training Center in Haines City, on the shore of beautiful Lake Hatchineha. The passing thunderstorms resulted in fascinating colorful sunsets and the lotus were flowering along the shore, surrounding the dock with their large pale-yellow flowers and rain-puddled leaves. During our morning general assembly, the 40 of us (board members, chapter representatives and general members) discussed ways in which we can build on our momentum and collective experience and passion for finding ways in which we can be a voice for Florida's native plants and native plant communities. As president, I must attend all board meetings and I know how challenging it can be to work these into a busy work and personal schedule. While these meetings do include a time for the state board to meet, discuss and vote on issues, the general session and the informal meetings that surround the structured time are invaluable in allowing time for idea exchange among many members who usually see each other only at annual conferences.

You would be amazed at all the projects, education, field work, and community involvement efforts that our chapters have devised to further our shared mission in their varied parts of Florida. How about these ideas from **Donna Bollenbach's** summary of the day?

- **Create a "good neighbor" program** to educate people who live adjacent to state parks and preserves so they are made aware of the problems with planting or disposing of invasive plants in or around a natural public land.
- **Create a native plant "starter pack"** with plants, care instructions and other materials, and to make it easy for people to pick and purchase a set of plants for a "butterfly garden," a "coastal area" or a "the edge of a pond."

And, as Donna also summarized: **Richard Brownscombe** mentioned that we should **market native plants as the "craft beers"**

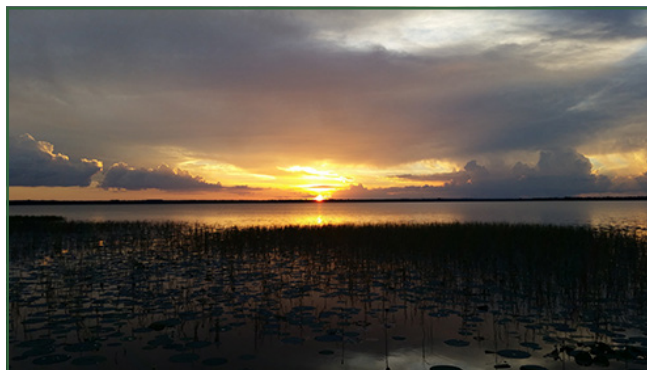
**of landscaping.** "Craft beers," he stated, "have taken a big share of the beer market and have traditional beer retailers and distributors jumping on the bandwagon." Craft beers did not do this by trying to be the same, but they achieved this status by being different, independent, and innovative. They take the traditional beer ingredients and add down-to-earth flavors such as pumpkin, spice, cocoa, fruit and nuts. They transformed beer from merely a happy hour drink to a social experience. People seem to feel better about themselves when they choose a craft beer from an independent brewery versus a mass-produced product. We want to make them feel the same way about native plants. We want to people to feel good about buying natives from our independent native nurseries.

Important topics presented, discussed, and clarified at the meeting included:

**FNPS policy committee** provided guidance on how and when to present our personal, chapter, or society positions on environmental issues to the public or to our governmental officials. It is vitally important for FNPS members to be aware of and address important issues; however, this can be tricky and we want to make sure we speak, write, or act in ways that are in keeping with our non-profit status. While we want our chapters to be aware of their local issues, it is important that we speak as private citizens or on behalf of our chapter in stating our FNPS mission and how a particular local issue may be contrary to it. We should typically not state that we are specifically representing FNPS as a whole. For further clarification,

there is guidance on the FNPS website under the "Policy" heading. This portion of the website includes "Types of Issues Addressed by FNPS" and "General areas considered not to be of statewide significance." We were also reminded that, as a 501(c)3 non-profit, FNPS and its chapters can discuss issues and policies, but we must not support or work against any particular legislative candidate.

*(continued on page 5)*



## **FNPS CONFERENCE COMMITTEE: Working Together for a Better Future** *submitted by the conference committee*

For 36 years, the annual conference has been an important part of FNPS and a benefit to our membership. By organizing the conferences by committee at the Society level, we provide consistency from year to year. In addition to the science committee, we will have more input by the conservation, landscaping, advocacy, and land management review committees. The conference committee will also relieve the tremendous burden from a single “hosting chapter” by handling some of the most repetitious and tedious tasks. Finally, we will be able to plan conferences several years into the future.

The biggest change to the chapter involvement is that the conferences will be planned by regions instead of individual chapters. That means that several chapters will be involved and the tasks will be handled by the chapter or chapters that have the talent and ability to carry them out. By organizing this way, smaller chapters will now be able to participate in the process. In return, more chapters will benefit from the planning process and the chapter support or money.

These changes are based on input from FNPS members, and are a move in a positive direction to the way our annual conference is planned and organized.

**With that, we are delighted to announce the 2017 conference will be held on May 17–21 at Westgate River Ranch Resort & Rodeo in the central part of the state.** In 2018, we envision the conference moving south toward Miami, and in 2019, perhaps to the Panhandle.

### The process:

The conference committee and other FNPS chairs or contractors, will be handling a bulk of the preliminary work, such as communicating with the venue contacts, performing site visits, negotiating the contracts for meeting spaces, lodging, social events, food, printing services and vendors, soliciting sponsors, and contacting and scheduling speakers with input from the regional chapters.

After a venue is chosen, we will identify chapters in the region where the conference will be held and all regional chapters will be asked to assist us in creating a conference theme, identifying potential speakers and suggesting a source of artwork that supports the theme. These suggestions will go to a point person on the committee who will contact the speakers and the artist. Please note that this division of tasks is not set in stone. Certainly, where it makes sense, the best person for the tasks performs the task. In other words, if a member personally knows a speaker, it makes sense for that person to contact the speaker. However, there is one point person responsible for all speakers, so we need to communicate well.

Once a theme is established, tasks may be divided as follows:

- A chapter may be asked to provide volunteers for registration, coordinate speaker assistants to monitor the presentation rooms and introduce speakers.
- A chapter may be asked to solicit vendors and exhibitors or non-profits for the exhibit area, to supervise the chapter table or help with the plant sale.
- A chapter may be asked to plan activities, such as Native Plant Jeopardy, the plant ID contest, or conference workshops.
- A chapter may be asked to handle the silent auction or one of the social events.
- Several chapters in and around the vicinity of the venue will be asked to plan field trips.

- Chapters and members outside the region are free to contribute, too.

Furthermore, the conference committee will ensure each conference is held in different regions, allowing various chapters to assist with the conference.

### The details:

- Conference Chair Marlene Rodak has oversight over all the conference planning.
- Development Director Andy Taylor is ultimately responsible for finding sponsors, program advertisers and contacting local chamber officials, tourist and/or economic entities concerning the conference. Others coordinate through Andy.
- Social Media Director Donna Bollenbach is the point person for printed materials needed for the conference, including banners, art reproductions and t-shirts.
- Conference committee member Mark Kateli advises on food and beverage for social events.
- The conference chair appoints a program coordinator to contact and schedule speakers suggested by chapters and FNPS committees. Please contact Marlene if you are interested.
- The conference chair appoints a field trip coordinator to work with chapters in organizing and finalizing the field trip schedule. Again, please contact Marlene if you are interested.
- Science Chair Paul Schmalzer organizes and oversees the science track.
- Conservation Chair Juliet Rynear oversees conservation presentations.
- Landscape Chair or appointee (currently vacant) organizes the landscaping awards.
- Land Management Chair Danny Young assists with speakers for land management presentations.
- Policy Chair Gene Kelly assists with speakers of policy presentations.
- Committee chairs are responsible for scheduling their committee meetings at the conference.

Stay tuned to the FNPS website for more exciting news about our 37th Annual Conference, May 17-21, 2017.

### **2016 BOD AND EXCOM MEETINGS**

SEP 22	Board meeting, 7 p.m., teleconference
OCT 27	Board meeting, 7 p.m., teleconference
NOV 5	Board and council of chapters meeting, 9:30 a.m. (all day), Cedar Point Environmental Park, Englewood, FL
FEB 11-12	Annual retreat, board and council of chapters meeting, Mike Roess Gold Head Branch State Park, Keystone Heights, FL
MAY 17-21	Annual conference, Westgate River Ranch Resort & Rodeo, River Ranch, FL

*Check the Society calendar at [fnps.org/events/eventlist](http://fnps.org/events/eventlist) for details, updates, directions and meeting instructions. All dates subject to change.*



## WeDigFLPlants—Your Invitation to Innovative, Place-based Citizen Science *by Austin Mast, Magnolia Chapter and Joel Timyan, Pampano Chapter*

You can help reconstruct the historical what, when, and where of Florida's flora in this innovative partnership between the Florida Native Plant Society and the Southeast Regional Network of Expertise and Collections (SERNEC), an organization involving more than 100 herbaria from the southeastern United States. Herbaria are libraries of plant specimens (see photo, right) often associated with universities and museums. These specimens are flattened, dried, and mounted on archival paper with collection labels detailing the collecting event. WeDigFLPlants aims to help the herbarium community create a digital "card catalog" for these plant libraries, specifically for those specimens collected over the past 300 years in Florida. That important digital data will then be available for research, education, natural resource management, conservation, and policymaking.

The strategy of WeDigFLPlants is simple. SERNEC-affiliated herbaria, including six Florida herbaria, are digitally imaging their specimens, and WeDigFLPlants is packaging sets of the specimens for online label transcription at *Notes from Nature* ([www.notesfromnature.org](http://www.notesfromnature.org)). WeDigFLPlants has already organized several specimen sets focused on Florida's mints, laurels, St. John's worts, and rosegentians. *Notes from Nature* playfully calls these specimen sets "expeditions." WeDigFLPlants is likely to focus upcoming expeditions on each of the different ecoregions of Florida so that you can work on collections from your local chapter's backyard.

To contribute, go to [www.notesfromnature.org](http://www.notesfromnature.org), select the "Plants" group, and select the expedition to which you'd like to contribute. Watch for those with "WeDigFLPlants" in the title. Take five minutes to read through the brief tutorial. It explains where to find information like collection locality and habitat on the specimen label. Once you've transcribed label data from a few, tell your friends. Maybe tweet about it using #WeDigFLPlants, maybe just mention it in conversation. Many hands make light work!

You can contribute work to WeDigFLPlants at anytime from anywhere with an internet connection on *Notes from Nature*. But perhaps your local chapter would be interested in organizing a WeDigFLPlants party to bring people together to do it socially. If this is the case, contact us for resources and suggestions, including games. The online home for WeDigFLPlants is at <https://biospex.org/project/wedigflplants>. There you will find additional information, as well as visualizations of the progress made by the partnership.

Any time that you have to contribute to WeDigFLPlants will be greatly appreciated. For questions, contact Austin Mast at [amast@bio.fsu.edu](mailto:amast@bio.fsu.edu) or Joel Timyan at [jctimyan@gmail.com](mailto:jctimyan@gmail.com). Let Austin know if you contribute more than 50 transcriptions and he will send you a WeDigFLPlants fridge magnet (see photo, right). Thanks for considering this!



## CONSERVATION COMMITTEE NEWS *by Juliet Rynear, committee chair*

Committee members in Central Florida are working with numerous partners on habitat restoration projects near the city of Clermont in Lake County. We are contacting and establishing partnerships with land developers prior to construction for the purpose of collecting seeds, propagating plants for restoration projects, and coordinating the rescue of plants when development is imminent. We are also working with developers to recommend and encourage preservation of native habitat and use of natives (collected from the site) in their final landscape plans. Partners on this project include: Tarflower, Passionflower, and Heartland Chapters, Green Isle Gardens, Lake Louisa State Park, Lake County Water Authority, Lake County Parks and Trails, and St. John's River Water Management District; we are hoping to get Florida Forest Service on board as well.

## POLITICS! *by Shirley Denton, communications committee chair*

We are in the midst of an election year, and we know that there are issues of major concern to members. We have people running for federal and state offices who vary dramatically in their opinions on conservation and nature.

FNPS is a 501(c)(3), which means that we are exempt from federal income taxes so long as we follow specific rules. High among those rules is that the Society needs to stay completely silent on elections. We cannot endorse candidates. Chapters are part of FNPS, and regardless of whether the chapter is in the FNPS GEL or not, the 501(c)(3) status of FNPS would be at risk if federal regulations are ignored. **Please do not endorse, recommend, etc. any political candidates, at any level of government.**

FNPS can support our mission in other ways. If there are ballot items that affect the fulfillment of our mission, we can support (or not support) and make recommendations on how to vote on those ballot items.

Individual members and chapters cannot speak on behalf of FNPS without approval from the FNPS policy committee (and potentially the board of directors). Individual members need the approval of their chapter leaders to speak on behalf of chapters.

Please support the preservation, conservation, and restoration of the native plants and native plant communities in Florida!

## Message from the MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

by Jonnie Spitzer, committee chair

Yes! Yes! Yes! We have over 3700 members as of this printing! Let us make that 4,000 by year end. Can we do it? Without a doubt. This is the busiest time of year for the Florida Native Plant Society. Chapters have plant sales, resolutions and proclamations making October Florida Native Plant Month, workshops, meetings that bring in snowbirds, great programs, garden tours and field trips, to name a few activities. What more could we possibly need to attract NEW members?

Remember, JUST ASK. That means ask at every event and meeting. And after you ask and someone says “I would love to!” then produce the brochure, have the person fill out the form and take their money. Your treasurer can send it to the FNPS address listed on the brochure.

We know that people believe in our cause. We know that conservation, preservation and restoration is necessary in this most unique and beautiful state of Florida. So bring the people in. New members bring so much to our organization:

- IDEAS. New members, including youthful members, have new ideas on fulfilling our mission.
- EXPERTISE. New members have skills that we need in every area, including technology, administration, conservation.
- MONEY. We do need money to support restoration, government influence and administration.

And do not forget to use PUBLICITY. Every chapter should have a person with a list of newspapers, other similar organizations and a huge email list to send notices, your newsletter and flyers about your events. A list of places to put brochures and flyers is also important. If people do not know we exist, they cannot join us.

We are doing very well, and we can do even better. **Motivate! Motivate! Motivate! And you will bring the people in!**

**HELP WANTED.** Are you passionate about the environment? Do enjoy working out in nature? Then come grow with us!!

**Beautiful Ponds** has an excellent opportunity for a field supervisor with project management, quality assurance and customer service experience. Help coach and develop a team. This role could lead to cutting edge environmental research projects and publishing of academic articles. We offer a lot of room for growth, benefits and competitive pay!

Requirements:

- lake/wetland management or landscaping experience
- supervisory or management experience
- project management experience
- customer service skills
- organization skills
- bilingual preferred
- valid driver's license

If you're looking for a fun and meaningful place to work, send your resume today! For more information, contact [Russ@BeautifulPonds.com](mailto:Russ@BeautifulPonds.com) or 941-488-1942. (Office is located in Sarasota.)

## Making the most of Social Media, Part II: The FNPS Blog

by Donna Bollenbach, social media director

Two issues ago, I introduced myself as the social media director for FNPS. I also wrote a brief description of our social media resources and described how we use Facebook. Thanks to help from Ginny Stibolt, Marjorie Shropshire, and others, the Facebook page is kept up to date with the latest news on your chapters, state news and events, the environment, science breakthroughs, and more. And more so, I want to thank YOU for sharing our posts.

As I mentioned in Part I, “interaction” is the goal when it comes to effective social media, and your posting, sharing and promoting our Facebook page brings it to the attention of others and allows our message to spread beyond the FNPS community and be embraced by the public and other environmental organizations and societies.

So, that's Facebook. What about the FNPS blog?

The FNPS blog is for longer (but not too long) write-ups about a specific topic or event. Blogs are usually written from a personal perspective and are as entertaining as they are informative.

While some blog articles certainly convey a message and encourage action, such as my article on “Do the Right Thing.” Others teach more by example, or even from someone else's trial and error, such as Devon Higginbotham's “The Not So Tidy Yard.”

The blog may also be used to encourage people to attend the FNPS conference, or pique their interest in a field trip or event, such as “Is the Florida Native Plant Society Conference for Me?” by Sande Habali, or “My First FNPS Retreat” by Mark Kateli.

Some of the favorite blog posts are the photo essays and poetry, or those that describe a personal quest, such as Janet Bowers, “A Quest for Milkweeds” or Carmel van Hoek's “Where have All the Pygmy Pipes Gone?” Other well-read articles are more informative, such as “A Pine Can Have Scars” by Cecilia Catron, or “Biocontrol” by Megan Weeks.

The point is, the blog is as varied as the people who write the articles, and variety is what keeps the blog interesting and alive. While I am thankful for the few articles that have been submitted to me unsolicited, most of the time I have to scour the chapter newsletters, websites and other on-line resources to find blog material. My goal is to publish once a week; sometimes I meet that goal, sometimes it is three a month. I could use your help.

If you attended a field trip you would like to write about, or would like to write about your experience on a land management review, do a plant profile, or simply submit photos of your favorite native plants and describe why they are your favorites, it could be an article on our blog. Even if you do not feel you are a writer, please submit your images and words, and I will make it look good, while retaining your personal message.

The last thing I would like to say about the blog is, when you read something you like or have something to add, please leave your comments. Not on Facebook, but at the end of each post on the actual blog website ([fnpsblog.blogspot.com](http://fnpsblog.blogspot.com)), click comments and leave a message. These messages are moderated, but unless it is offensive or pure solicitation, they will be published.

So, I look forward to your blog submissions, your continued participation on Facebook and your images for our Facebook banner. Send your submissions to [donna.bollenbach@gmail.com](mailto:donna.bollenbach@gmail.com).

*(President's message, continued from page 1)*

We should, however, (as Donna also nicely summarized for the board) be active in seeking to influence policy on the state and local level by participating in county hearings, both as an individual and a member of your chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society. **Gene Kelly**, policy committee chair, stated that while you want to encourage as many members as possible to speak at these hearings, only one person should state that they represent the FNPS chapter (**always state the chapter by name, not just FNPS**) because if everyone says they are representing the chapter, the commissioners may assume that as one opinion, rather than several individual voices. If it is a state issue, rather than a local issue, FNPS will send out an action alert and will provide talking points for the hearings. Gene says your influence is greatest as a constituent of your elected official and “we want our membership to have relationships with our legislatures” so when they need an opinion on a related issue they contact FNPS.

The conference committee representative presented the new state conference committee members and a new planning process that will remove the large burdens from the chapters while allowing them to participate with those aspects of conferences that make them special and focus on local chapters' knowledge. We have had 30 years of great conferences and our participating chapters have always stepped up to the challenges and hosted memorable events; we want to continue to look to them to personalize the conferences as well as enjoy attending them.

The **membership committee's Jonnie Spitler** (also president of the Nature Coast Chapter) presented the design for postcards that will go to joining and renewing members and will have a detachable FNPS membership card. The Nature Coast Chapter donated the money to have these cards printed — thank you, Nature Coast Chapter! FNPS membership is currently approximately 3700 individual members strong; Jonnie has set a goal of attaining 4000 members by January of 2017. If chapters average just two additional memberships per month in September, October, November, and December, we would meet that goal. To further strengthen our

organization, we might all want to consider being sustaining members who contribute \$10 a month through an automatic payment by credit card. Chapters should be talking about membership at every meeting, field trip, and event.

During the afternoon's board of directors meeting, there were two prominent discussions and decisions. The donor/sponsor policy that has been in the works for almost two years, having recently been reviewed and extensively revised by an attorney, was approved by the board. The policy will be posted on the website. **The board also approved the venue for the 2017 conference: it is being planned for May 17-21, 2017 at the Westgate River Ranch Resort & Rodeo.** This location, just south of SR60 and on the west bank of the Kissimmee River, offers great proximity to many potential field trip locations including portions of the Kissimmee River Restoration area, Avon Park Bombing Range, Kissimmee Prairie and Ft. Drum Marsh Conservation Area, just to name a few! Because this is an out-of-the-way location that offers lots of different activities that families can enjoy, we thought you would like to save the date.

I invite you to attend future meetings, participate in society discussions, and get to know some amazing, talented, and knowledgeable people! The next in-person board of directors meeting with a general session open to members will be the weekend of November 5, 2016 at the Cedar Point Environmental Park in Englewood. During the weekend of February 10, 2017, there will be a board of directors meeting and annual members' retreat at Gold Head Branch State Park, about 20 minutes northeast of Gainesville. We already have some cabins and meeting space reserved. In addition to some CCC historic cabins and some newer, larger cabins, there are also tent sites and separate RV sites in the lovely longleaf pine/turkey oak habitat. If you plan to attend and camp, you will likely want to get a site reserved as soon as possible. (The cabins are reserved, but we did not know who may want to camp.) This is one of my top three personal favorite Florida state parks for camping. Come join the conversations around the campfires!

## Florida Master Naturalist Program, Uplands Module

Trout Lake Nature Center (TLNC) in Eustis will sponsor an Uplands Systems module of the Florida Master Naturalist Program (FMNP), September 19-October 24, 2016. This 40-hour course provides instruction about upland ecosystems, plant communities, animals, the role of humans in the environment, and environmental interpretation. The class will run Mondays from 9am to 4pm and consists of classroom, special guest lecturers, and field trips. Registration for the course is open now.

FMNP is a University of Florida/IFAS Extension adult environmental education program that provides training for anyone interested in learning more about Florida ecosystems. Three modules are offered: Upland Habitats, Freshwater Systems, and Coastal Systems. Each module costs \$230; a portion of the fee will go to support Trout Lake Nature Center. To register or for additional information about the program, visit [www.MasterNaturalist.org](http://www.MasterNaturalist.org) or call 352-392-5920. For information about TLNC, visit [www.troutlakenaturecenter.com](http://www.troutlakenaturecenter.com) or call 352-357-7536.



## EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT NEWS

*by Juliet Rynear, executive assistant*

The November in-person meeting of the board of directors and council of chapters will be held at Cedar Point Environmental Park on Saturday, November 5. Overnight accommodations are available at nearby motels/hotels. Cedar Point is one of Charlotte County's unique parks with 115 acres of pine flatwoods, salt marsh, mangrove fringe and hammock areas. Situated on Lemon Bay, a long, narrow estuary, Cedar Point is a great place to see beautiful wading birds that visit the mangrove fringe and adjacent seagrasses. The pine flatwoods are home to a pair of bald eagles, as well as gopher tortoises and a myriad of native plants. For more information on Cedar Point Environmental Park, visit [www.charlottecountyfl.com/CommunityServices/NaturalResources/EnvironmentalLands/EnvironmentalParks/CedarPoint/](http://www.charlottecountyfl.com/CommunityServices/NaturalResources/EnvironmentalLands/EnvironmentalParks/CedarPoint/).



## CHAPTER HAPPENINGS

**Hernando Chapter** will hold its **annual fall plant sale on September 24 at Chinsegut Hill Manor House**. The chapter will have an information table for native plants and problem exotics and will offer guided walks through this beautiful landscape — and the highest point in Hernando County.

The chapter's September 12 speaker will be FNPS star **Scott Davis**, who will present a program on foraging and ethnobotany, accompanied by a field trip to a local property on the preceding Sunday.

**Mangrove Chapter** has been holding plant walks throughout the summer. The **September 24 walk will be at the Alligator Creek site of Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center** in Punta Gorda.

October begins the chapter's 2016–2017 season. The October meeting will be held at Lemon Bay Park in Englewood and will feature **Ralph Mithcell**, Charlotte County Extension agent, who will speak on "Beneficial Organisms in your Yard." The meeting will begin with a social time, followed by a chapter business meeting and then the speaker.

The **October walk will be at Little Manatee River State Park** in Wimauma. Everyone is invited to join both our meetings and walks. For more information, call Al Squires at 941-769-3633.

**Nature Coast Chapter** will hold its **fall Florida native plant sale on October 22 at the Land O'Lakes Community Center**. They will have a large selection of quality nursery-grown plants and books for sale, as well as free literature. Plant profiles will be included with each plant purchased. Pasco Master Gardeners will have an information table. Guest speaker **Craig Huegel** will present "Native Plant Landscaping for Florida Wildlife." For more information, contact **Peggy Gretchen** at [herculesmpg@hotmail.com](mailto:herculesmpg@hotmail.com) or visit [www.pasconativeplants.org](http://www.pasconativeplants.org).

**Sea Rocket Chapter** will host a **native plant sale on September 24 at the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary** in Titusville in conjunction with National Public Lands Day.

On **October 22**, the chapter will host a **plant sale at the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary's first Harvest Festival**. The free, family-friendly event will feature hands-on activities, games for children, music, vendors, hikes, and food.

**Tarflower Chapter** has been busy planning for their fall events in Orange County. On **October 4**, the chapter will partner with **Cuplet Fern Chapter**, Orange Audubon Society and Sierra Club for a screening of *Hometown Habitat: Stories of Bringing Nature Back Home*, a new film from The Meadow Project. The film features Doug Tallamy and will be shown at Leu Gardens in Orlando as part of the chapter's monthly meeting, which will begin at 6:45pm. Entry is free.

The chapter will sell member-grown plants at the **Master Gardener Plant and Garden Festival on October 8**.

On **October 15**, Tarflower will hold its **4th annual Backyard Biodiversity Day at Mead Botanical Garden**. This free event will feature multiple vendors and exhibitors; workshops; guided hikes; live music; and food vendors. Children's activities will be provided for the little ones, and a host of volunteers will be available to help you pick out native plants from Green Isle Gardens. All proceeds from the event will be go toward enhancing the native plant communities within Mead Garden. The chapter continues to support Mead Garden by participating in their Growvember event on November 8. Tarflower volunteers will be available to assist the community in selecting the right native plant for their landscape.

Send your "Chapter Happenings" to [fnps.sabalminor@gmail.com](mailto:fnps.sabalminor@gmail.com). The deadline for the Nov-Dec, 2016 issue is October 1, 2016.

## A RETURN TO PARADISE

FNPS seeks two enthusiastic people to lead the landscape and education committees. These positions entail encouraging the use of native plants in neighborhoods, schools, public facilities, retail and wholesale stores, as well as other venues. Literature, including starter information packets for non-native nurseries, innovative projects and encouraging access to native plant nurseries would be some of the committee's opportunities to advance our mission.

Email **Juliet Rynear** ([julietrynear@yahoo.com](mailto:julietrynear@yahoo.com)) or **Catherine Bowman** ([garberia08@gmail.com](mailto:garberia08@gmail.com)) to discuss your interest in one of these committee.

FNPS has standing committees that always need assistance. If you are interested in volunteering, visit [www.fnps.org/participate/volunteer](http://www.fnps.org/participate/volunteer) for more information on committees and how you can get involved.

## Want to know what's going on with FNPS?

Find us online at [www.FNPS.org](http://www.FNPS.org) or follow us at



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**The *Sabal minor* has gone all-digital.** In an effort to reduce costs and waste, the *Sabal minor* is now delivered via email only. If you are not receiving the *Sabal minor* via email, please contact FNPS Administrative Services at 321-271-6702 or [info@fnps.org](mailto: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.