

# Sabal minor

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*

In celebration of Native Plant Month, I took myself on a virtual tour of all of your chapters to see what everyone was doing this month. I know how very busy we are within our own chapters, often not having any time to learn about what is going on at other chapters. When you have a little time, please take a few minutes to visit each other's websites and, when you can, attend other chapters' meetings. I had a wonderful time and learned so much from your websites and am inspired to think about new ways to carry out our mission. Thanks again to Development Director Andy Taylor and all the FNPS chapter folks who coordinated with officials throughout the state to proclaim Native Plant Month. I know how busy you all are with activities and volunteer time that you don't even have time to post on your webpage; I thank you for sharing what you do and applaud you for the amazing things you are involved in. I am sure that when you see all the projects, speakers and events that our society members are working on, you will want to reach out to your sister chapters to share ideas! I ask that chapters excuse my paraphrasing of text from their websites; and, I have deliberately not included their various speaker/presenter names in hopes that you will want to check each other's sites for this information. Here are some October activities of chapters, north to south, across the state that I enjoyed exploring on my virtual tour:

The **Longleaf Pine Chapter** had an October 29 Field Trip to Gulf Islands National Seashore, on the western end of Santa Rosa Island where they hiked portions of the Dune Nature Trail and the Blackbird Marsh Nature Trail. Expected highlights included *Uniola paniculata* (sea oats), *Lachnocaulon engleri* (black bogbutton), *Chrysopsis godfreyi* (Godfrey's goldenaster), *Iva imbricata* (seacoast marshelder), *Sesuvium portulacastrum* (sea purslane), *Typha domingensis* (Southern cattail), *Hibiscus grandiflorus* (swamp rosemallow), and *Ipomopsis rubra* (scarlet gilia).

**Sweetbay Chapter's** special October 22 event was the Annual Monarch Butterfly Tagging Festival held at the City of Panama City Beach's Conservation Park (established in cooperation with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Corp of Engineers and the Florida Department of Fish & Wildlife). Chapter members met at the park's pavilion to tag and release butterflies. What fun citizen science!

The **Magnolia Chapter** participated in field trips during the Society for Ecological Restoration's Regional Conference and was able to go to Tall Timbers or Apalachicola Bluffs and Ravines Preserve & Spring Canyon on October 21. On October 22, they had a booth at St Marks National Wildlife Refuge's Monarch Festival.

**Sarracenia Chapter's** October 18 meeting featured a program on the "Wildflowers of Tate's Hell." (I remember a past field trip there with Guy Anglin and have magical photos of morning sun glistening through a huge patch of threadleaf sundew.)

**Sparkelberry Chapter's** October 11 meeting program was entitled "Florida Forests over the Years" and covered the range of our 1,068,000 acres of state forests that are being managed by the Florida Forest Service to protect the biological diversity. On October 14, the chapter participated in a Tree Farm Nursery Tour for an inside look at their entire process, beginning with a look at their refrigerated seed storage facility, a visit to the growing fields, and ending with a walk through the packaging and shipping portion of their operation.

**Paynes Prairie Chapter's** October meeting program focused on "Restoration Efforts at Silver Springs State Park: Lower Maintenance, Higher Wildlife Value"; and, their October field trip was to Silver Springs State Park and Museum. The sandhills and the swamps along the spring-fed river are a particularly beautiful place to visit this time of year.

**Pawpaw Chapter's** October 10 meeting featured a program on the "Living Shorelines Project." On October 15, the chapter hosted a field trip to St. Augustine to visit the Sea Oats Chapter's new public garden project and plant sale.

**Lake Beautyberry's** October activities featured an October 1 plant sale at Green Isle Gardens in Groveland and a tour of owners Marc and Terry Godts' home gardens. What a great opportunity to share a love of native plants or learn more about their beauty and function!

**The Villages Chapter's** October 28 meeting featured a talk on the "Florida Wildflowers of Big Cypress Recreation Center."

**Citrus Chapter's** October calendar included an October 22 presentation called "Learn to Garden with Native Plants" that was presented by Color Country Nursery in Lancanto.

**Hernando Chapter's** October 3 meeting program was on "Native Trees of Hernando County" and was presented by their county forester to assist private forest landowners on implementing sustainable forestry principles.

On October 14 – 15, the **Cuplet Fern Chapter** participated in the annual Wings and Wildflower Festival at Lake County's Venetian Gardens in Leesburg, where they had a booth and sold native plants.

*(continued on page 2)*



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

On October 4, **Tarflower Chapter** joined with Orange Audubon, Sierra Club and Cuplet Fern Chapter to host a large audience of their members, guests from the general public and local government officials for a showing of the inspiring “Hometown Habitat” film. The City of Orlando’s Native Plant Month proclamation was read at the beginning of the meeting. On October 15, the chapter hosted its 4th annual Backyard Biodiversity Day at Mead Botanical Garden; and on the 22nd, took a field trip to the Seminole State Forest’s Warea Tract, a great place to see some much endangered wildflowers including clasping warea and Florida bonamia, plus lots of other fall-blooming wildflowers!

**Sea Rocket Chapter** held a garden workday on October 8 to help maintain the butterfly garden at Enchanted Forest Sanctuary in Titusville. On October 15 during Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge week, Sea Rocket had a booth for outreach and information; and on October 19 at the Lunch with Nature Guest Speaker Series at the Enchanted Forest, members and guests brought a brown bag lunch and enjoyed a special presentation by the FWC District Wildlife Biologist entitled “Everything You’ve Ever Wanted to Know About Coyotes.” On October 22, the chapter participated in the Enchanted Forest’s first Harvest Festival, a fun family day including a sale of beautiful native plants. At their October 26 monthly meeting, the program was on promoting awareness of the hazards facing the Indian River Lagoon and how desperate the lagoon condition is.

**Pine Lily Chapter**’s October activities centered on the October 21 Osceola County Master Gardeners Plant Sale for which the chapter provides native plants for sale as a partner with the Master Gardeners.

At the **Nature Coast Chapter**’s October 11 meeting, the program was by Rainbow’s End Native Plants: “From Advocating for a NO Irrigation Landscape to a Native Plant Nursery Business.” The talk focused on how easy it is to create a beautiful landscape that requires no irrigation and discussed how to overcome some common problems such as making natives work on a wet piece of property, how to coexist with a large population of hungry deer, and evolving ideas on pesticide and herbicide use. On October 22, the chapter participated in the Fall Florida Native Plant Sale at the Land O’Lakes Community Center where they had a large selection of quality nursery-grown plants and books for sale. A plant profile is included for each plant purchased. The event included a Pasco Master Gardener information table, children’s activity table and a guest speaker on “Native Plant Landscaping for Florida Wildlife.”

**Pinellas County Chapter** celebrated Native Plant Month on October 22 at the Fall Native Plant Festival at Wilcox Nursery & Landscape. It was a fun-filled day of talks and native plants for sale. Wilcox Nursery donates a portion of the sales that day to the chapter.

The **Suncoast Chapter** monthly meeting on October 19 featured a presentation on “Florida Fungi” that included a look at some common fungi found in the Tampa area. The chapter’s Native Plant Month calendar also included a particularly fun-sounding event: a chapter camping trip on October 27 – 30 at Jonathan Dickinson State Park!

**Conradina Chapter**’s October 10 general meeting featured a “Florida Sandhills” presentation. On October 15, the chapter sponsored a free workshop at Maple Street Natives called “Landscape and Design With Florida Native Plants” followed by a “Landscaping with Florida Natives” tour.

**Serenoa Chapter** hosted a field trip on October 22 to the Little Manatee River South Fork Tract that included a walk through scrub featuring critically endangered Florida goldenaster (*Chrysopsis floridana*).

At the **Mangrove Chapter**’s October 11 meeting, the program was “Beneficial Organisms in the Yard.” On October 16, the chapter had a booth and lead a walk at the Myakka State Forest’s 30th Anniversary

Celebration. On October 20, members attended the Native Plant and Pollinator Garden Grand Opening at the Venice Golf and Country Club. (Great outreach!). On October 21, members presented at the Hazeltine Nursery Fall Festival; and on October 29, they will have a field trip to Little Manatee River State Park.

**Coccoloba Chapter** engaged in more of their hugely successful native plant sales throughout October at the Koreshan State Historic Site Native Plant Sale & Farmers Market. At the chapter’s monthly meeting on October 20, a UF Professor Emeritus presented “DIRTY Science” at Holton Eco-Preserve.

**Palm Beach County Chapter**’s Native Plant Month included their Annual Native Plant Garden Tour. This time the tour was of six private homes in Delray Beach. At the October 18 chapter meeting, the presentation was on “Endemic Wildflowers of Florida.”

**Naples Chapter**’s October 11 meeting presentation was “Nature Awareness, Tips to Get Acquainted with Plants” at Naples Botanical Garden Kapnick Center. On October 22, the chapter featured a field trip to Six Mile Cypress Slough. On October 29, the chapter hosted a special Native Plant Workshop followed by their annual picnic at Sudgeen Park in Naples.

**Coontie Chapter**’s October 12 meeting program was on an increasingly important topic. “Understanding the Impacts of Invasive Plant Species in Natural Areas”; the presenter reminded attendees that “Invasive plants are one of the most urgent problems for survival of critically imperiled species in South Florida natural areas.” On October 28-30, the chapter participated in a field trip organized by the neighboring Dade Chapter.

**Dade Chapter**’s October 18 Native Plant Workshop meeting focused on the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council’s Listed Category I Invasive Plants and their Native Plant Look-alikes.” On October 28 – 30, the chapter arranged a field trip to the ever-intriguing and welcoming Archbold Biological Station, with tours, talks, and an opportunity to stay and meet in the LEED Platinum Frances Archbold Hufty Learning Center and Adrian Archbold Lodge.

## 2017 CONFERENCE — SAVE THE DATE!

Join us on a safari to wild Florida at the **37th Annual Florida Native Plant Society Conference, May 18-21, 2017**. You will see plants and plant communities found nowhere else in the world! Retreat to an ancient landscape of old beach ridges, wild prairies, panther habitat, and islands of subtropical trees in central-south Florida.

Our theme is “**Connections: Above and Below**” and our venue is located in the heart of the historic Everglades watershed. We are in negotiations with world-class speakers. Amazing field trips will be offered within the Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge, including Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park, Lake Wales Ridge State Forest, Disney Wilderness Preserve, Lake Kissimmee State Park, KICCO Wildlife Management Area, and many more!

**Reserve your lodging, RV and camping spots soon!** There is a limited number of each room type available, so make sure you get the accommodations you prefer and make your room registrations now. For the complete details and hotel contact information, visit our 2017 Conference website: [www.fnps.org/conference/2017](http://www.fnps.org/conference/2017).

For questions, please contact Juliet Rynear at [julietrynear@yahoo.com](mailto:julietrynear@yahoo.com).

## MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR PUBLIC LANDS *by Patricia Burgos, Lake Beautyberry Chapter*

Identifying opportunities to make an impact locally with the management of public lands, especially the protection of listed plants and associated communities is of utmost importance to our society's long-term environmental success. Individual members make an impact, and collectively the impact is magnified throughout the state. That impact started when Danny Young began leading the FNPS Land Management Partners Committee and cajoled and inspired FNPS members to participate in local five-year land management review committees for state parks, water management district lands and wildlife management areas. FNPS members were able to get a "seat at the table" on these review committees to support the continued management of our public lands in an environmentally responsible manner.

The FNPS Land Management Partners Committee is now taking the next step to inspire participation by our members on the advisory groups for 10-year resource management plan updates for our public lands. Taking this two-prong approach by having members participate in the five-year reviews and then again in the 10-year plan development advisory committees allows us to shape the future of land management as it pertains to our native plants and natural communities. We can be there as public shareholders to speak up for appropriate uses and against

inappropriate uses, encourage species management (rare, native and exotic), acknowledge resource conditions, fight for optimal boundaries, shape carrying capacities and help balance recreational demands and future objectives. Participants who have a seat especially on the 10-year advisory group can suggest modifications to the existing plan that governs public lands. That is why we are seeking conservation-minded individuals to share in furthering the mission of FNPS on the advisory groups.

What can be done?

First, chapter presidents are encouraged to find individuals that have participated on the five-year review committees and are willing to participate on the 10-year advisory committees. Second, those FNPS members within their chapter interested in participating should be identified. The names and contact information should be sent to Wendy Poag at [skyarabians@gmail.com](mailto:skyarabians@gmail.com) and/or Patricia Burgos at [patriciab@lcwa.org](mailto:patriciab@lcwa.org). Wendy and Patricia are currently working on developing a presentation to entice members at the local chapters to participate and also a workshop that will be given at the annual conference to provide information on how to be an effective advisory committee member.

More information can be found at [fnps.org/committee/partners](http://fnps.org/committee/partners).

## FNPS 2017 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 1-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) are awarded for a 1-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 Web site ([www.fnps.org](http://www.fnps.org)), click on 'Participate/Grants and Awards'. Questions regarding the grant programs should be sent to [info@fnps.org](mailto:info@fnps.org).

Application deadline for the 2017 Awards is March 3, 2017. Awards will be announced at the May 2017 Annual Conference at the Westgate River Ranch Resort, River Ranch, Florida. Awardees do not have to be present at the Conference to receive award.

## CALL FOR RESEARCH TRACK PAPERS AND POSTER PRESENTATIONS

The Florida Native Plant Society Annual Conference will be held at the Westgate River Ranch Resort, River Ranch, Florida, May 17-21, 2017. The Research Track of the conference will include presented papers and a poster session on Friday, May 19 and Saturday, May 20.

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 (15 min. presentation, 5 min. questions).

Abstracts of not more than 200 words should be submitted as a MS Word file by email to Paul A. Schmalzer at [paul.a.schmalzer@nasa.gov](mailto:paul.a.schmalzer@nasa.gov) by February 1, 2017. Include title, affiliation, and address. Indicate whether you will be presenting a paper or poster.

### 2016–17 BOD AND EXCOM MEETINGS

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|-----------|---|
| 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.*

**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.



## CHAPTER HAPPENINGS

**Mangrove Chapter** will hold their second meeting of the season on November 8 with a presentation from Genny Bedard-Plumb and Rachel Nellis of the Peace River Butterfly Society. They will talk about general rearing techniques and differences encountered when raising monarchs, giant swallowtails, gold rim swallowtails, and cloudless sulphurs with commentary on the host plants for each of these butterflies.

**Florida Native Plant Month** For the second year in a row, municipalities, cities and counties throughout Florida issued proclamations declaring October as Florida Native Plant Month. FNPS chose the month of October because, while many states have stunning displays of spring flowers, Florida's climate provides for a spectacular showcase of native flowers and grasses in the fall as well.

Proclamations by local and state elected officials provide recognition to the FNPS conservation mission statewide. FNPS members have already accepted proclamations in several counties. On September 27, Al Squires, former Mangrove Chapter president, accepted a copy of the proclamation from Bill Truex, Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners of Charlotte County.

Several members from the Mangrove Chapter attended the presentation ceremony. Pictured below, left to right, are Gail Finney, Denny Girard, Judith Timyan, David Delgado, Dale Wallace, Jane Wallace, and Al Squires.



**Naples Chapter** will host Eric Foht of Naples Botanical Gardens and Brian Bovard of Florida Gulf Coast University who will present “Up on the Rooftop Ecosystems Grow: Native Species and Green Roof Design in Southwest Florida” on November 8 at Naples Botanical Gardens Kapnick Center.

**Pinellas Chapter's** November 2 meeting will feature Julie Miller, on the subject of ethnobotany, a fascinating topic about how people interact with and use plants, including both modern and ancient pharmacology and medicine, agriculture, clothing, rituals, cosmetics, construction, and esthetics.

Send your “Chapter Happenings” to [fnps.sabalminor@gmail.com](mailto:fnps.sabalminor@gmail.com). The deadline for the Jan-Feb, 2017 issue is December 1, 2016.

## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS submitted by Jonnie

*Spitler, committee member*

**Exciting news!** We now have over 3700 members. Only 300 more and we will make our goal of 4000 by the end of this year! And we will accomplish this easily with your help. Here is one way to reach our goal:

**Give a gift membership.** Holiday time is upon us and we are all thinking of gifts to give to family, friends, neighbors and coworkers. What better gift than a membership to FNPS, the organization near and dear to our hearts with an important mission. So your whole family lives in Michigan or New York or California—what a fun and worthwhile gift. I have given the gift of membership to my daughter and family living in Rhode Island. They love to get the chapter newsletter and the *Palmetto* to find out what is happening in our great state.

Every chapter can give a gift of membership to someone. It can be to a person who shows up all the time but cannot afford a membership, or to a lucky visitor at your next meeting, or to a government official or employee of the parks, forestry or other agency that has given their time to lead a field trip or help out in some way. You will be making a friend and adding to our membership roster.

Reach out, reach out, reach out! Keep brochures or chapter advertising information in your glove compartment, purse or office. Talk about your chapter and our mission. Give your extra plants to neighbors and include a brochure. Every library should have brochures. Talk about membership at every chapter meeting and encourage membership. Be positive about our mission and FNPS, and look for opportunities to talk about the Florida Native Plant Society.

**4000 members by year end!** Thank you for all you do.

## CONSERVATION COMMITTEE NEWS by Juliet Ryneer,

*committee chair*

Thank you, **Pinellas Chapter**, for donating to the 2017 Conservation Grant awards! We are about halfway to our \$5,000 award amount. Please consider an individual or chapter donation to help conserve Florida's threatened and endangered plant species and plant communities. The deadline for grant applications is March 3, 2017. For guidelines and to apply, visit [www.fnps.org/assets/pdf/awards/conservation\\_grant\\_application\\_guidelines\\_2017.pdf](http://www.fnps.org/assets/pdf/awards/conservation_grant_application_guidelines_2017.pdf).

Committee members in Central Florida have been busy! In addition to collecting seeds from 29 sandhill plant species for restoration projects, they planted 243 rescued plants at a restoration site at Lake Louisa State Park on September 15. A huge thank you to Park Ranger Edward Boyd for all of his support and hard work on this project!

Two test plantings of rescued *Polygala lewtonii* plants (federally endangered) were performed at properties managed by Lake County Water Authority and St. Johns River Water Management District. Thank you for your support Rosi Mulholland, Terry Godts, Patricia Burgos, Ben Gugliotti and Tracy Hauserman!

Members also helped survey endangered species at the Seminole State Forest Warea Tract on September 21 and 22, where a record-breaking 8,793 *Warea amplexifolia* plants (federally endangered) were recorded. By comparison, the previous high was 2,249. The Florida Forest Service's management (prescribed fire and invasive species removal) is making a huge difference and we thank them for their dedication!