

Sabal minor

A bimonthly newsletter for the members of

THE FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY



VOLUME 10, NUMBER 5
October - November 2007

October

Use the cooler temperatures and winter rains to add native plants to your yard now- especially those that provide food for wildlife.

Watch for chimney swift migrations, as well as peregrine falcons.

Black bears are gathering food; in bear country, drive slow and be sure to bear-proof your garbage cans. Gray foxes are pairing this month. Flying squirrels are raising their second litters, gathering ripening nuts.

Flatwoods salamanders breed, if we get any heavy rains this month.

Look for the yellow starry rosinweed, *Silphium asteriscus*; the red berries of jack-in the pulpit, *Arisaema triphyllum*; blackeyed susan, *Rudbeckia hirta*; possibly some orange or butterfly milkplant, *Asclepias tuberosa*, and some late yellow star-grass, *Hypoxis juncea*.

November

Bald eagles begin their nesting season; look for spectacular aerial courtship displays.

This is the peak month for roadkills of black bears; don't add to this statistic! Florida manatees start to head south to warm water sites when temperatures drop, and seasonal manatee Speed Zones change on Florida's waterways.

Blooms to watch for include wild poinsettia, *Poinsettia cyathophora*; whipcord or scaleleaf aster, *Symphotrichum adnatum*; pineland heliotrope, *Heliotropium polyphyllum*; glades lobelia, *Lobelia glandulosa*; and sometimes scrub skullcap, *Scutellaria arenicola*, will have a late run of flowers.

Message from the Executive Director

Conservation/Preservation Policy Planning Project

The FNPS has recently obtained a \$10,000 grant to produce materials and resources for city and county governments to guide them through land use policy decisions and creating proper conservation/preservation programs that are science-based and integrated with the comprehensive planning process, land development regulations and future land-use planning. I will be developing the program guidelines during the next year in association with our Conservation and Education committees.

We know that many decisions regarding native plant community conservation and preservation are made without good plant science and effective, long-term conservation planning. As a result, the needs of unique plant communities are not considered. With the aid of volunteers from chapters, we can have an influence throughout the entire state on how these decisions are made. By targeting communities that do not have conservation/preservation programs, we can educate and provide resources to those towns, cities and counties that are willing to be more pro-active. Through our speaker's bureau program, we can train volunteers that will work with the planning process decision-makers. The volunteers will provide information and planning tools and act as a liaison and resource gathering aide until effective programs are implemented.

This is an action oriented goal that speaks to the root of our mission. During the past year, I have made strategic alliances with institutions and organizations so that we will not be "reinventing the wheel" and have data accessible to us. These partnerships will create a synergy that will increase our effectiveness statewide to conserve/preserve native plants and their communities.

'Serve to Preserve Florida' Program

The Florida legislature created the Governor's Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service in 1994 to administer federal grants to the Florida AmeriCorps. The mission mainly focused on citizen volunteerism and disaster preparedness. Governor Crist started an initiative that expands this program to include environmental concerns. The new "Serve to Preserve Florida" initiative will engage citizens in projects that involve preserving Florida's plant communities but with a primary focus on climate change issues. The organization will function like a clearing house for local and state activities and needs. The mission is to encourage all citizens to get involved and volunteer. This effort will help expand the environmental volunteer base in Florida and perhaps be a volunteer resource for FNPS chapter projects.

Climate Change Information Distribution List

If you would like to be on a distribution list to receive climate change policy and information, please contact me at executivedirector@fnps.org / (407) 895-8446.

Chapter Resources

As always, if I can be of assistance with a chapter issue, please let me know.

-Karina Veaudry

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Sabal minor is on-line at <http://www.fnps.org/sabalminor>. The on-line version has color photographs and other benefits. Enjoy!

Deadlines for *Sabal minor* submissions are: 1/15 for Feb-Mar issue; 3/15 for Apr-May; 5/15 for June-July; 7/15 for Aug-Sept; 9/15 for Oct-Nov; 11/15 for Dec-Jan

Species Spotlight

Rhynchospora colorata
CYPERACEAE

Starrush Whitetop

Rosalind Rowe

A while ago, I received a letter from one of our members, Diane Bender, asking if I thought we were losing our starrushes and for help in obtaining some for her yard.

"I used to see them growing wild on the edge of the roads," she said, "but frequent mowing has eradicated them." When she mentioned the photo on the inside cover of Walter Kingsley Taylor's *Florida Wildflowers in Their Natural Communities*, which shows how lovely they can be in profusion, it made me realize that I, too, used to have



frequent moments of enchantment with the sight of meadows full of this plant when I first moved to Florida in 1996. I have not seen such clusters in a long time. Does anyone know - are we losing them?

Whitetops are sedges, and there are two species of whitetop *Rhynchospora* in Florida -- *colorata* and *latifolia*. (When I first learned the names of these

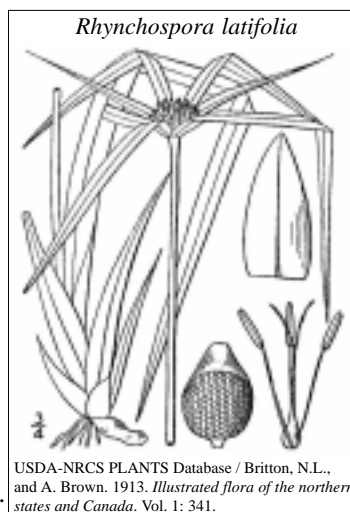
sedges, they were in the genus *Dichromena*.)

The showy white portion is actually made up of the inflorescence bracts. The bracts are usually two-toned, with the white near the flowers and the tips green. *R. latifolia*, giant or sandswamp whitetop, is the larger and stouter of the two. It has 7 or more bracts with larger white areas, but it is not as common as *R. colorata*, which generally has 6-7 bracts.

The stems are slender, can be up to 2 feet tall. The leaves are alternate, narrow, and may be flat or folded.

Diane also pointed out in her letter that whitetops "make a wonderful ground cover in areas where mowing is not important until the end of the flowering season." These are perennial sedges that do best in mesic pine flatwoods, wet prairies and other wet areas.

Please drop a note to the newsletter if you have more information to share about these lovely plants, especially if you have been able to grow them or if you have any information about where to get seed or plants.



Pearl Crescent

Linda Cooper

In the fall, the lavenders and purples of asters are rampant in the landscape.



These colorful plants are important to a single butterfly

species - Pearl Crescent (*Phyciodes tharos*). This small, highly-patterned orange and black butterfly depends on Rice Button Aster (*Symphotrichum dumosum*) (formerly *Aster dumosus*) for its host plant. It is also thought to use other members of this genus including Elliott's, Walter's, Climbing, and Eastern Silvery Aster. The asters also attract a lot of attention from many other butterflies for their nectar. Plant some of these and you will be rewarded with not only a show of fall color but also a show of colorful butterflies.

Ed. Note: To most of us, those lovely lavender or white composites are asters, but the genus *Aster* in Florida has been emptied, with many now assigned to the genus *Symphotrichum*.

Notes on Being a 501 (c) (3)

Rosalind Rowe

When people say, "we're a 501(c)(3) organization," they are referring to a specific section of the IRS tax code wherein is described how to be a nonprofit, charitable organization. We have special tax exemptions and we have special requirements with relation to the public. It will be helpful to all of us to become more familiar with these as we grow as an organization. The following are a few notes and excerpts from the Nonprofit Resource Center, not-for-profit.org.

Public Access to Financial Information: Public access must be provided promptly on request by allowing inspection of the documents at the organization's office or offices, and by providing copies of the documents promptly in response to any in-person request or within 30 days for a written request. Organizations do not have to provide copies if they make these materials widely available through publication on the Internet, or if the IRS determines that the organization is being subject to a harassment campaign, or if the IRS determines that such information may give away trade secrets or patents. The organization is permitted to require a payment in advance for actual postage costs incurred, and copying fees. Nonprofit organizational staff members who fail to comply with the new law and regulations are personally subject to fines and other penalties (i.e. the person refusing to provide public access gets fined, not the organization).

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FNPS 2008 Endowment Grant Research Awards

The Florida Native Plant Society maintains an Endowment Grant program for the purpose of funding research on native plants. These are grants in the amount of \$2500 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."

Application deadline is March 7, 2008, for the 2008 grant cycle. Grants will be awarded in Spring 2008 and announced at the 2008 Annual Conference in Palmetto, Florida.

Application instructions are on the FNPS Web site (www.fnps.org). Follow the links Programs/Awards & Grants/Endowment Fund Grants. For additional information, contact Paul A. Schmalzer paul.a.schmalzer@nasa.gov

Find an FNPS Native Plant Sale Near You!

Serenoa Chapter Fall Plant Sale is 3 days this year! October 5, 6, 7. Sales will be from Tropiflora Nursery, who is donating the space, and the sale is a joint project with the Sarasota Bay Estuary Program. Hours are 8am-5pm Friday and Saturday, 8am to 3pm Sunday. Tropiflora is located at 3530 Tallevast Road, Sarasota, Florida. For more information, call 941-794-8773.

Paynes Prairie Chapter Fall Plant Sale is October 19 & 20! Mark your calendar to attend the Fall Native Plant Sale at Morningside Nature Center, 3540 E. University Avenue, Gainesville, FL

FNPS Members get a preview sale on Friday night from 4:30-6:30pm and the sale is open to the public on Saturday morning from 8:30am-12:30pm. For details and contacts check the chapter Calendar at the www.FNPS.org website, clicking on North Florida, Paynes Prairie link. Remember cash and checks only - no credit/debit cards!

501 (c) (3) *continued*

Five reasons to publish this information online:

1. To demonstrate your organization's commitment to public accountability.
2. To illustrate your organization's fiscal responsibility.
3. To establish an atmosphere where honesty and openness is treasured.
4. To capitalize on a progressive means of communicating with your community.
5. To comply with anticipated IRS regulations for access to your records.

Chapter Tips & Tricks

Ed. Note: Thought I'd use this space this time to talk about our Chapter awards...

Dade and Hernando Chapters Receive Green Palmetto Awards

Cindy Liberton

In 2007, the Green Palmetto Awards for Outstanding Chapters were resurrected, and two very different Chapters were recognized. The Dade Chapter, a mature chapter with about 300 members, serves Dade and Monroe County in South Florida, including Miami and the Keys. Hernando, serving the mostly rural Hernando County, was founded in 1999, and has around 65 members.

Dade Chapter reflects the FNPS mission through a broad program of education, community involvement, restoration and science. One of Dade's most notable accomplishments is their annual Native Plant Day. This year, for the 13th, over 500 people attended. In addition to this large event, Dade chapter participates at events and plant sales at Fairchild Tropical Botanical Garden and other parks throughout the year. They also boast involvement with professors at three major colleges. Patty Phares, a long-time leader for Dade says, "We are a resource for students and professors of local colleges, who attend many meetings, and sometimes participate in other activities." They do not neglect young learners, however; Dade also sponsors an Annual Science Fair award. Their educational efforts are rounded out by the information-packed chapter web site and monthly newsletter, the Tillandsia.

In addition to an astonishing number of field trips, Dade gets outdoors for community service. Dade's restoration project at the Everglades Visitors Center has been underway since 2001, and this year won the Society's 1st place Landscape Award for restoration. Since 1999 they have added meetings and field trips in the Keys in addition to the monthly activities in Dade County. Dade Chapter faces unique challenges in promoting native plants to a population with few roots in Florida and the United States, however, as Patty says, "the chapter maintains its place in the community and volunteers keep supporting us." They also claim to have the best refreshments in the state, and boast of their monthly themed table décor.

What Hernando lacks in size and history, it makes up in enthusiasm, expertise and a wealth of public lands. Attendance at its monthly program rivals much larger Chapters in the state (and Hernando also claims to have the best refreshments). Since its inception in 1999, Chapter members have been intensely involved in projects to benefit the Society and their county. Three members currently serve on the county's sensitive lands committee, and the Chapter was instrumental in helping craft the county's original landscape ordinance. They have infiltrated the Master Gardeners program, and in their day jobs, many state agencies. Hernando has conducted plant surveys for the county's Greenways and Trails program and other properties, and is a faithful partner for the local Chinsegut Nature Center. The Chapter's public education booth is a familiar

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site at all county events, and they have installed landscapes for a local natural foods supermarket and other community sites.

Hernando Chapter's hallmark, however, may be contribution to the workings of the Society. The Chapter sends a large boisterous contingent to the annual conference, and members are frequently on the agenda as speakers. Hernando is also home to a disproportionate number of leaders. Represented on the FNPS Executive Committee since 2002, three Hernando members currently serve as committee chairs. Cindy Liberton, Hernando VP for Admin says, "In Hernando, we play well with others, and that makes us successful."

**Call for Scientific Papers
and Poster Presentations
Florida Native Plant Society
2008 Conference**

The 2008 Annual Conference of the Florida Native Plant Society will be held at the Manatee Convention Center in Palmetto, Florida May 15-18, 2008. The Science Track of the Conference will include presented papers on Friday, May 16 and Saturday, May 17.

There will be a poster session on Friday.

Researchers are invited to submit abstracts on research related to native plants and plant communities of Florida; topics can include preservation, conservation, and restoration.

Presentations are planned to be 20 minutes in total length (15 minutes presentation, 5 minutes questions).

Deadline for abstracts is **February 1, 2008.**

Abstracts should be kept to 200 words or less, and be submitted as a Microsoft Word file by email to Paul A. Schmalzer paul.a.schmalzer@nasa.gov.

Indicate whether you will be presenting a paper or poster. Make sure to include title, affiliation, and address.

Amazon Jungle Safari

The Florida Native Plant Society will be sponsoring a trip to the Peruvian Amazon. This is a fund raising trip for the FNPS.



We will stay in several different jungle lodges located deep in forest reserves where great flora and fauna viewing is the most abundant during this rainforest adventure. These areas contain the highest diversity of tree and bird species in the world and we will have the opportunity to view the rainforest from 115 feet up on the world's longest Treetop Canopy Walkway!

The trip will leave from Miami on October 19th and return on the 28th.

An optional 4 day extension is available which includes the Paracas National Reserve with its "Little Galapagos Islands" and a tour of the incredible Nazca Lines.

The cost for this nature trip is \$2,795.00. The extension cost is \$575.00.

Talk to folks who have gone on these trips before and you'll discover that they are fun, friendly, and educational. This trip will be hosted by Jo Anne Trebatoski, fellow FNPS member.

For more details and to register for the trip, please view the information and links on the FNPS website or email Jo Anne at plantnative@earthlink.net or call 800-466-9660.

Silent Auction – 2008 Conference

Keep those items coming!

Contact Christine Holyland, Silent Auction Committee Chair
christineholyland@comcast.net or (941) 964-2491
if you have any questions or items to donate.

Thank you !

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