



FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

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<https://www.fnps.org>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Florida Native Plant Society Conference Registration Opens

CRYSTAL RIVER, CITRUS COUNTY, FL, March 8th, 2019

Are you concerned about the environmental challenges our state is facing? Come to the conference where you learn how to make a difference. Gardeners, land managers, volunteers, ecologists, and botanists all come together once a year to learn from each other at the Florida Native Plant Society's annual conference, now in its 39th year. Featured speakers will include well known and highly respected ecologists.

Dr. Jack Putz will be presenting his research on ecosystem adaptations to climate change and leading a companion field trip around Levy and Citrus Counties. Dr. Tom Hoctor will be discussing regional landscape conservation and the opportunities Florida has to save what's left. Dr. Reed Noss will lead us through an exploration of Florida's unique ecosystems, answering the question: 'Why is Florida so rich in biodiversity?'

Workshops and sessions cover topics such as landscaping for pollinators and managing the habitat of the red-cockaded woodpecker in Florida. You can experience natural Florida by attending any of 20 field trips ranging from backcountry kayak tours to leisurely orchid drive-bys. There's even a chance to ride on horseback over the Marjorie Harris Carr I-75 Land Bridge.

The theme this year is **Transitions** and it pertains to the Nature Coast region of Florida in a number of ways - sea level rise, migrations of ecosystems due to climate change, and the transition zone between north and south Florida. In this region you can explore karst topography including sinkholes, caves, and springs. You will see clear blue spring flows transitioning to tannic (tea colored) as they flow through swamps. The region also has a large diversity of plant communities and the transitions between uplands and wetlands are common, dramatic and highly visible – a great place to learn about Florida's diverse natural communities..

The conference runs from May 16-19th, 2019 at Plantation on Crystal River. More information is available on our website, <https://fnps.org/conference/2019>, and registration is open now.

The Florida Native Plant Society (FNPS) preserves, conserves and restores the native plants and native plant communities of Florida. Since the 1980s, this organization has been advocating for increased protection for threatened and endangered plants and plant communities. FNPS encourages the planting of native plants in home, commercial, and institutional landscapes. It is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit membership organization with over 4200 members in 35 chapters statewide.

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