

The Quarterly Journal of the Florida Native Plant Society

Palmetto





The purpose of the Florida Native Plant Society is to preserve, conserve, and restore the native plants and native plant communities of Florida.

2009 Conservation Grants Awarded

Each year, the Florida Native Plant Society provides a limited number of conservation grants to fund native plant conservation projects. Grant recipients agree to provide a presentation to an FNPS chapter, present their research at the FNPS annual conference, or provide a written summary for an FNPS publication. The 2009 Conservation Grants have been awarded to the following three projects:

Population Monitoring and Ex Situ Conservation of *Linum arenicola* (Small)

The Key West Tropical Forest and Botanical Garden (KWBG) proposes to monitor the 4 known populations of *Linum arenicola* in Monroe County.

This rare endemic is a candidate for listing and is known from only from 5 sites in Miami-Dade and 4 sites in the Keys. It was last surveyed in 2005 just before the Keys were subjected to the storm surge generated by Hurricane Wilma. This follow-up survey will gauge the impacts of the storm on the 4 island populations and identify locations where seed can be collected to establish an ex situ conservation site at KWBG. Funding to create the ex situ site will be provided through a separate grant awarded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation *Nature of Learning* program. The project will comply with the guidelines established by the Center for Plant Conservation. This project is sponsored by the Dade Chapter.

Big Sweetwater Creek Botanical Survey

This project consists of an in-depth botanical survey of the biologically rich Big Sweetwater Creek basin, in Torreya State Park, Liberty County.

The survey area encompasses roughly 2,000 acres of the unique ravine and slope

forest habitat characteristic of Torreya State Park. It is a recent addition to the Park and has never been subjected to a comprehensive survey. The list of rare plants that could potentially be documented is extensive. The occurrences of all plant species of conservation interest, and all sightings of invasive plant species (EPPC Category 1 and 2 species), will be documented using GPS. The data on native species will be submitted to the Florida Natural Areas Inventory for inclusion in their database. The Florida Park Service has endorsed the project, will provide in-kind services, and will use the information to guide their future protection and management of the Park. This proposal is sponsored by the Magnolia Chapter.

Mariposa Key Restoration

Removal of litter and invasive exotic species, including Brazilian pepper, carrotwood, Australian pine and others, will be concentrated on 1.5 acres of coastal berm habitat on 6-acre Marioposa Key, which is located in the Terra Ceia Preserve State Park and Terra Ceia Aquatic Preserve in Manatee County. Many native species will benefit. Rare plant species that may be present include mock vervain (*Glandularia* spp.) and wild cotton (*Gossypium hirsutum*). Consulting firm WilsonMiller will match the FNPS grant funds by providing labor, and the Florida Park Service will provide equipment and other support. The Florida Park Service has acknowledged that budget constraints would preclude their implementation of this project without the support of FNPS. WilsonMiller will issue a press release announcing the project and identifying FNPS as the source of funding. The project is sponsored by the Serenoa Chapter and will be coordinated by two ecologists employed at WilsonMiller. ☀

Official definition of native plant: For most purposes, the phrase Florida native plant refers to those species occurring within the state boundaries prior to European contact, according to the best available scientific and historical documentation. More specifically, it includes those species understood as indigenous, occurring in natural associations in habitats that existed prior to significant human impacts and alterations of the landscape.

Organization: Members are organized into regional chapters throughout Florida. Each chapter elects a Chapter Representative who serves as a voting member of the Board of Directors and is responsible for advocating the chapter's needs and objectives. See www.fnps.org.

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The Palmetto

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We welcome articles on native plant species and related conservation topics, as well as high-quality botanical illustrations and photographs. Contact the editor for guidelines, deadlines and other information.

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