

Sabal minor

A bi-monthly newsletter for the members of

THE FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY



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President's Message

Dear Fellow Native Plant Society members,

As promised in the previous issue, this message is to report our progress from the most recent Strategic Planning Session. First let me say that all is well financially, and we continue to accomplish many of our mission-based activities. Still, there is so much more we can and should be doing. The results of our Session confirmed this and indicated a need for better coordinated action.

Several of us (FNPS leaders and members) wondered whether we are able to fully accomplish our mission, and whether some of our leadership format was hampering us. We gauged our functionality with regards to our mission and sought funds in order to conduct this assessment. We were awarded a grant to hire a Professional Planner who could give us an outside perspective and create a real Strategic Plan for the Society. Upon finding the right Planner, we formed a steering group, and conversed a great deal with our consultants. There were several steps of assessment, and I won't bore you with too many details, but it included the member survey (which was extremely successful with over 600 responders).

Your Board of Directors, members of the steering group, and most contractors met for three days in February in an attempt to go over the results of the surveys and the Planner's assessment and initiate the formation of a mission-based Strategic Plan. I am especially proud of our Board of Directors, as the vast majority attended and worked diligently at creating solutions to strengthen our society.

One thing we learned from our Planners is that we are at an inflection point, basically a point of stasis. Our suspicions were validated as they informed us that action is needed in order to grow, or we could go in the other direction. More details on this plan will be available, but we are still working on finalizing it, and before we can go further, an action on your part is necessary in order to continue. One of the actions that we deemed necessary was to reformat our governance structure.

When the Society started out in 1980, it was small group of passionate native plant advocates. In its first year, the Society had 150 members. The original Board had 22 members. There was one chapter. Over the next 20 or so years, the Society grew to include roughly 3,000 members in 37 chapters. With the growth in chapters, the Board expanded to over 60 positions. These numbers remain static today.

Our current Board of Directors includes duly elected officers and at-large positions, as well as representatives from each chapter elected locally, and all appointed committee chairs. This is a very large governing body. Frankly, it has become unwieldy and accounts for some of our stagnated growth. We need to streamline our operations and develop better mechanisms to engage chapters in our programs. To do this, we need the flexibility to make changes to our bylaws.

Our current leadership is dedicated to exploring ways to become more efficient and effective and will continue to examine our programs and seek ways to improve our communications. With that in mind, we will be introducing the following amendment to our bylaws during the May 2013 members meeting in Jacksonville:

Our current bylaws read: *Article 13.01 Method. These bylaws may be amended by an affirmative vote of three-fourths of the members present at any annual meeting or at any other meeting of members.*

The proposed amendment reads: *Article 13.01 Method. These bylaws may be amended by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Board of Directors present at any officially held meeting of the Board where a quorum exists.*

For a copy of our bylaws and voting procedures, please visit the following online address: <http://www.fnps.org/assets/docs/docs/fnpsbylaws2011.pdf>.

Although we've made some great steps toward re-focusing on our mission, we are not yet done, being only midway through strategic planning. This amendment will allow us to move forward in a timely manner.

Feel free to contact me at president@fnps.org if you have any questions or concerns. I hope to see you in Jacksonville in May.

Warm regards,

Steve Woodmansee
President

2013 FNPS Annual Conference: Celebrating La Florida, the Land of Flowers MAY 16–19, 2013 Jacksonville, FL

Exciting Silent Auction items added!

On May 18, at the conference conclusion, the drawing will be held for:

- an **Emotion Kayak Envy 1**, valued at \$500;
- a **2-night get-away** at the Ritz-Carlton, Amelia Island Luxury Resort, plus other get-away goodies, valued at \$900;
- and a **handmade 42" square quilt** featuring FNPS Chapter plant logos, which is priceless.

Another drawing will take place during the Saturday night social while dining and touring the St. Johns River on the Lady St. Johns River Boat. The lucky winner will receive a **50 gallon Ivy Rain Barrel**, designed to fit easily in the back seat of a mid-size sedan.

Tickets will be a very affordable \$5 each or 5 for \$20.

The Ixia Chapter is continuing to plan and improve the 2013 conference, guaranteeing you will not only have an opportunity to learn something new, but also enjoy the entire venue.



**Online registration is
open until May 4!**

To register and to view the
full conference schedule, visit
www.fnps.org/conference.

In Memoriam of Bob Egolf by Shirley Denton

It is with great regret that we announce the death of one of our most cherished leaders, Bob Egolf. Bob (full name Robert William Egolf) died on Friday April 5, 2013, after battling cancer for a year and a half. He was 71 years old. His wife Trish (Patricia), a brother, a son, two daughters, and seven grandchildren survive him.

Like many of us, Bob was a Florida import. Before moving to Sarasota, he lived in Pennsylvania, Ohio and North Carolina, eventually moving to Florida when transferred to Sarasota by his employer, Eaton Corporation. Despite all of the moving about the country he did in his life, it was the West Coast of Florida that truly became his home, and he lived in Sarasota for the last 32 years of his life. The preservation of the natural beauty, flora and fauna of the area became his passion.

Always an avid gardener, Bob was interested in native plants and xeriscaping prior to his retirement. Once retired, however, he became truly dedicated to spreading the gospel of native landscaping and natural resource preservation as he embarked on various gardening and horticultural certification and training programs.

Bob became a dedicated and devoted member of the Florida Native Plant Society, serving his chapter (Serenoa) and on the FNPS Board of Directors (as Serenoa Chapter Representative 2001, VP of Administration 2002-2004, Publications Chair 2006-2007, and President) for many years, culminating in a two-year term as our Society president (May 2004-May 2006). Bob received a Silver Palmetto award in 2008.

As President, Bob brought unique qualities and a methodical thinking process from his career as an engineer in combination with his love of native plants. He brought these qualities to his roles in the society, changing it and growing it as he did so. While VP of Administration and in conjunction with FNPS president Kim Zarillo, Bob led the first strategic planning process facilitated by an outside planning expert. It was held at Archbold Biological Station in February 2003, setting the stage for the February Board of Directors retreats that have followed. Facilitated by Dr. Russ Kitching, the retreat resulted in ideas to grow the Society in effectiveness and numbers. Bob constantly worked to increase FNPS' ability to forward our mission—the protection, conservation, and restoration of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida. While he was VP of Administration, we hired our first lobbyist, David Gluckman, who provided the Society with a newsletter with updates from the legislative sessions in Tallahassee. These beginnings have led to future planning sessions, hiring of a more active lobbyist, and several training programs intended to teach Society and chapter



leadership how to influence the political system to forward our mission (the first one was held during his presidency).

Bob also pushed for FNPS to hire an executive director. I think I can speak for all Society presidents and conference chairs who have followed Bob in expressing gratitude for his initiative in this area. While an all-volunteer society is a wonderful ideal, having professionals who can support the mission on a steady basis makes a huge difference. Having an executive director has made it easier for a broader array of environmental professionals to be able to handle the presidency and has eased the task of putting on our annual conference.

Bob also supported a planned giving program (spearheaded by Travis MacClendon), shifted the FNPS Publications Committee from selling books to providing sources of native plant information for other media, predominantly newspapers, and provided moral support and coaching for future FNPS presidents. Our Administrative Services contractor (Cammie Donaldson) remembers and appreciates Bob for his consideration, dedication, and attention to detail.

In his chapter, Bob served on the Serenoa Chapter Board of Directors for years and as president and Serenoa Chapter Representative in 2001.

His passion for gardening, preserving native landscapes and natural resources led Bob to be a continuous learner. He became certified as a Master Gardener in 2002 and later became a Master Naturalist. Through the Florida Extension Service's Horticulture Program, he volunteered every Friday for six hours a day, year after year, answering questions and helping to teach local gardeners about native plants, "Florida-Friendly" gardening and yard principles, and the importance of native landscaping to the greater natural world. He was a "yard advisor" to help recognize and designate "Florida Friendly Landscapes" and he started the Extension's Nature Hikes at the Rye Preserve. He was also a valuable member of the City of Bradenton's Tree and Land Preservation Board from 2005 to 2012 as the Extension Service's representative, and provided expertise in best management practices of trees and the City's urban forest.

All this, and along the way, Bob was a devoted husband, raised three children, was active in his church, and was a leader with United Way of Manatee County!

The family asks that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the Florida Native Plant Society or Tidewell Hospice.

Our gratitude to Bob's family for loaning him to FNPS for so many wonderful years. He will be missed.

La Florida Community Planting Grant now accepting applications

The La Florida, "Land of Flowers," Community Planting Grant program awards \$500 seed or plant vouchers with which to purchase Florida native wildflower seeds or plants for your project. Up to 15 grants are available.



FLORIDA
WILDFLOWER
FOUNDATION

This matching grant program is for Florida Native Plant Society chapters and government agencies. Applicants must function or be based within the 24 counties and two municipalities that have adopted wildflower resolutions. (View the resolutions here: <http://flwildflowers.org/resolution.php>). Other counties and municipalities may qualify by adopting and submitting an acceptable resolution prior to the May 10 grant application deadline. Submit resolutions to Lisa Roberts at LRoberts@FlaWildflowers.org.

Only online applications for the La Florida Community Planting Grant will be considered. **Applications will be accepted until 5 p.m. on May 10.** Funding will be awarded to projects meeting program goals and judged as having a high likelihood of success. Grant awardees will be notified the week of June 3.

To download the grant planning document, which has a link to the online application, visit <http://flwildflowers.org/resources/pdfs/2013/LaFloridaRFP2013.pdf>

Viva Florida!

2013 marks the 500th anniversary of Juan Ponce de Leon's arrival on Florida's east coast—as well as his naming it La Florida or "land of flowers." Viva Florida 500 is a statewide initiative led by the Florida Department of State to highlight the 500 years of historic people, places and events in present-day Florida since Ponce de León's arrival in 1513. Over 150 events are scheduled throughout the year with the goal of promoting 500 years of Florida's history—its people, places and cultural achievements—and this important milestone in American and Florida history. To see what Viva Florida events are happening where you live, visit www.vivafloida.org/Events.



John Moran: 500 Years in the Place of Flowers

Inspired by Florida's diverse and beautiful wildflowers, this stunning photography exhibit features the work of John Moran in 15 large-scale pieces that show off the beauty and intricacy of Florida's native wildflowers. The display, sponsored by the Florida Wildflower Foundation, is touring the state in 2013 and 2014. Visit <http://flwildflowers.org/vivafloida.php> for a tour schedule.



Chapter Happenings

Longleaf Pine Chapter members assembled on March 2 at the historic St. John's Cemetery (est. 1876) near downtown Pensacola to conduct the seventh annual survey of the population of *Botrychium lunarioides* (winter grapefern) which occurs there. The purpose of this endeavor was to assess the current status of this rare and unusual native plant by locating, flagging and counting every winter grapefern present. The final tally of winter grapeferns was 1523. This shows a decrease of 1067 individuals (41.2%) from the previous total of 2590 (noted in 2007), which obviously raises concern for the well-being and future of this rare fern's population. However, all winter grapefern observed during the survey appeared to be healthy and thriving, and the cause of decline may be entirely natural and, thus, no cause for alarm. At any rate, St. John Cemetery's population of winter grapeferns remains the second largest known population in Florida (exceeded only by the colony in Magnolia Cemetery, Defuniak Springs) and is still undoubtedly a noteworthy and outstanding botanical treasure.

Pawpaw Chapter passed out native plant information at the Native American Days at a South Daytona Park. In late April, they will be taking a walk through a preserve along Spruce Creek, and visiting a newly roller chopped and burned scrub area being managed for scrub jays.

On May 11, the Chapter will hold its 2nd annual Rugel's (Pawpaw) Roundup event where members and volunteers will perform a systematic survey of their mascot plant, the rare and endangered *Deeringothamnus rugelii*. Last year's roundup was successful in documenting some of the extremities of this rare plant's range, particularly to the south. This year the focus will be on the core of the range with the hope of finding previously unknown populations.

**Tell us what YOUR chapter is up to.
Send your Chapter Happenings to Sabalminor@fnps.org.**

Combined Chapter Plant Sale success! by Sharon Dolan

Florida Native Plants are now distributed to great customers who waited patiently for the volunteers of Tarflower, Conradina, Cuplet Fern, and Pine Lily Chapters to bring plants out of the FANN trade show to be sold at the first combined chapters native plant sale in central Florida.

It was like being at an Eric Clapton concert—the fence came down and the crowd mobbed the stage but stopped just before to gaze at the beautiful Florida native plants they were about to purchase. We had over 200 sales on Friday afternoon and a great day on Saturday, with just a few disappointed customers that did not get the choice selection that you can only get on the first day of any sale.

We would like to thank all the FANN vendors from the fabulous Native Plant Show for their donations and wish them much success for the upcoming year with Florida native plant sales beyond their expectations. Please visit and support all the www.PlantRealFlorida.org nurseries and help push the demand for native plants and support the FANN nurseries that support FNPS.

Thank you to the Central Florida Native Plant Sale committee, all the chapter volunteers, our sponsors and nurseries, and FNPS members Sandy and Martha, Cammie Donaldson (awesome promoter), Spence Guerin (graphics/ mailing), Ginny Stibolt (presentations and book sales) and Adam Connors. What a great event we experienced!

Conservation Committee report by Juliet Rynear

Grant proposals were received from six applicants for the 2013 Conservation Grant. Six committee members volunteered to review the applications. The award will be announced in May at the annual conference in Jacksonville.

A telephone conference was held to discuss how we might involve more FNPS members at the chapter level in surveys of rare plant populations. Many land managers could use assistance in collecting annual data on rare plant populations and members could also help update Element Occurrence Records (EORs) for the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI). EOR updates would be shared with FNAI and at the annual meeting of the Endangered Plant Advisory Council (EPAC).

EPAC is responsible for reviewing plants listed on Florida's Regulated Plant Index to determine whether a plant "should be removed from the list, transferred from one category to another category on the list, or added to an appropriate category on the list" as well as reviewing records of native plants that have been proposed for inclusion on the Index. For more information on EPAC, see the Florida Statutes at <http://www.flsenate.gov/laws/statutes/2010/581.186>.

Land Management Review Committee report— Charlotte Harbor Preserve State Park by Jenny Evans

Back in January, I had the pleasure of participating as the FNPS representative on the land management review of Charlotte Harbor Preserve State Park. The sheer magnitude of this park, at 42,463 acres, presents a special set of challenges, particularly given that it can take over two hours to drive from one end of the park to the other! Spanning an area from Cape Coral in the south northward to Port Charlotte, the park also includes portions of Cape Haze, Rotonda, Pine Island, Punta Gorda and all of Little Pine Island. As you can imagine, a diversity of habitats are present, including mangrove, pine flatwoods, scrub and hardwood hammock.



With a staff of only three, management of the park proves to be a challenge, but the staff is achieving a great deal given their limited resources. Partnerships with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission have been beneficial to cover more territory, including patrolling much of the property that is only accessible by water. The park staff has been working diligently to control invasive exotic plants, particularly *Melaleuca*, and also maintains a rigorous prescribed burning plan. Two rare and endemic plants occur in the park: the federally endangered *Deeringothamnus rugelii* var. *pulchellus* (false pawpaw), and *Harrisia aboriginum* (prickly apple), which is currently a candidate for becoming federally endangered (it is currently listed as endangered by the State of Florida).



Harrisia aboriginum (prickly apple)

Visitors may access the park at Little Pine Island (guided walks are held there seasonally), off of Burnt Store Road in Cape Coral, or off of Burnt Store Road in Punta Gorda. Call the park office at (941)575-5861 for further directions.

Florida Wildlife Corridor Expedition film now on PBS

The documentary film, *Florida Wildlife Corridor Expedition: Everglades to Okefenokee*, produced by Elam Stoltzfus, is now appearing on PBS stations throughout Florida. The Florida Wildlife Corridor project is a collaborative vision to connect remaining natural lands, waters, working farms, forests and ranches from the Everglades to Georgia, protecting a functional ecological corridor for the health of people, wildlife and watersheds. Visit <http://www.floridawildlifecorridor.org> to view the broadcast schedule.

Support Governor Scott's recommendation to restore \$75 million in funding to Florida Forever

Florida Forever, Florida's conservation land acquisition program, finally has an opportunity to receive a restoration of meaningful funding for 2013 if the legislature will act during the current session. Governor Scott has already recommended that \$75 million be allocated for the next year.

Please act now by contacting your state Representative and Senator, as well as Speaker Weatherford, and telling them you want the budget allocation to include \$75 million for Florida Forever. Contact information for your state legislators can be found at <http://www.flsenate.gov/Senators/Find>.

Be sure to let them know you do not want the funds to come with any strings attached that would require the funds to be generated by surplussing lands already in conservation. It is time for the State of Florida to again be a national leader in land and water conservation.

UPCOMING EVENTS

FNPS 2013 ANNUAL CONFERENCE: CELEBRATING LA FLORIDA, THE LAND OF FLOWERS MAY 16–19, 2013 Jacksonville, FL

This year's conference theme commemorates Ponce de Leon's naming of the greater Florida region when he landed here 500 years ago.

Join us for exciting field trips, inspiring keynote speakers, educational sessions, workshops and the best plant sale featuring growers from around the state. The 2013 conference will be held at the University of North Florida in Jacksonville.

Check out www.fnps.org/conference for details. **Online registration is now open!** Don't miss this unique "Real Florida" celebration!

2013 FLEPPC/SE-EPPC JOINT ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM: PLANT WARS: THE EPPCS STRIKE BACK

MAY 21–23, 2013 Edgewater Beach Resort, Panama City Beach, FL

The mission of the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council is to support the management of invasive exotic plants in Florida's natural areas by providing a forum for the exchange of scientific, educational and technical information. For more information and to register, visit www.fleppc.org/Symposium/2013/.

Florida Native Plant Society
P.O. Box 278
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Get Involved with FNPS!

There are many ways to get involved with the Florida Native Plant Society:

Serve Your Chapter. Chapters are the heart of FNPS. Participate in chapter initiatives such as plant sales or community events. Help with the chapter newsletter. Serve on a committee. Volunteer to lead a committee. Serve as an officer. Volunteer to speak. Contact an officer in your chapter to volunteer.

Serve on an FNPS Committee. FNPS has standing committees that always need assistance: Education, Science, Conservation, Land Management Partners, Policy, Membership, Finance, Communications, Website, Landscape Awards and Conference Committees. For details on what each committee does, visit www.fnps.org/participate/volunteer. To volunteer, contact our Executive Director at executivedirector@fnps.org.

Be an FNPS Officer. FNPS elects half of the officers annually. If you would like to serve as an officer, please contact the FNPS president at president@fnps.org.

Special Needs. FNPS always has special projects that require volunteers with special skills such as communications, public relations, accounting, legal and policy skills and/or interest — and just plain enthusiasm. We'll find a spot for you! If you have any of these skills, please contact the FNPS Executive Director at executivedirector@fnps.org.

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It's really easy! It's free and turns simple everyday actions into a way to support FNPS. Please sign up today!

Want your publications in digital form?

We hear you! FNPS has responded to our members' desire to get their publications in digital form by encouraging chapters to go green with their newsletters (and many do) and by providing our *Sabal minor* in digital form. By default, if we have an email address for you, the *Sabal minor* is emailed unless you specify that you request otherwise.

We would eventually like to offer a digital option for the *Palmetto* and we are exploring ways to provide it in print and online in a quality format. While we're not yet ready to implement this option, we'd like to hear from members who would be interested in a digital option.

Let us know your preference by sending an email to info@fnps.org, or if you prefer, call FNPS Administrative Services at 321-271-6702. Remember to clarify which publications you wish to receive by email (chapter newsletter, *Sabal minor* and/or *Palmetto*). **Thank you for helping us serve you better.**

2013 BOD Meeting Schedule

May 16: Board Meeting, Jacksonville (at the Annual Conference)

**Meeting locations are subject to change.*