

Sabal minor

A bi-monthly newsletter for the members of

THE FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY



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Message from the President *by Anne Cox, FNPS President, 2014-2016*

Dear fellow FNPS members:

On November 7, FNPS held a meeting of the board, Council of Chapters and members from 21 chapters at the Florida Forestry Services (FFS) Training Center, north of Brooksville. The facilities at the FFS Center were excellent, with 44 FNPS members staying either one or two nights in the dormitory-style lodges. Meals were served by FFS staff all day Saturday and Sunday morning. The food and service was excellent.

The schedule for Saturday morning included numerous workshops for all attending the face-to face meeting, as well as a breakout session for small group discussion. The “Florida Native Plant Month” wrap-up report was given by Committee Chair Donna Bollenbach and Development Director Andy Taylor. Proclamations were presented in 45 municipalities and counties, including the State of Florida, signed by Governor Rick Scott. A presentation was provided on native plants and their retail availability by Director-at-Large Peter Rogers. FNPS Treasurer Kim Zarillo gave a workshop for chapter treasurers and handed out instructions for filing Florida chapter returns. FNPS Policy and Legislation Committee Chair Gene Kelly presented information on FNPS activism.

Saturday afternoon included the board of directors’ and Council of Chapters’ meetings. Both lasted approximately two hours, with discussions on FNPS’ year-end business and upcoming activities.

Motion approvals by the board included:

- 2016 budget;
- support funds for chapters from the 2015 conference;
- “Florida Native Plant Month” as an annual event;
- contracts for *The Palmetto* (2 years), the *Sabal minor* (2 years), lobbyist, conference registration, development director, and administrative services;
- distribution of RFPs for executive assistant and social media contractor (funds transferred from the Education Committee budget);
- acceptance of proposals for the November 2015 and April 2016 Cuba trips by the Florida Keys TREE institute
- and a recommendation that the Conservation Committee work with the Council of Chapters to pursue the establishment of a new Habitat Restoration Program

The Sunday morning field trip to nearby Withlacoochee State Forest was attended by numerous members.

Cuba botanical trip. The first annual FNPS trip to Cuba (November 15-22, 2015) was educational and successful. Thirty-four FNPS members from 10 chapters (plus friends or relatives from New



FNPS members and friends in Cuba, along with guides (front row, left to right) “Super Mario” from the National Botanic Garden of Cuba (Jardin Botanico Nacional); Renier Rodriguez, our guide for the trip; Oshmar, guide-in-training; Raul Verdecia, botanist at Las Tunas Botanical Garden; and Jackton, our bus driver for the trip. (Photo by Mike Knox, Paynes Prairie Chapter.)

Jersey, Georgia and Virginia) were participants on the eight-day trip. (See photo, above.) More information about the trip will be published in *The Palmetto*. The Tree Institute guide from Cuba, Renier Rodrigues, was amazing, giving us the history of the country and countryside as we traveled across Cuba. A second trip is planned for April 30-May 7, 2016. See details on page 4.

Mosaic field trip. On November 6, eleven FNPS members from several chapters accepted an invitation from the Mosaic Company to visit their headquarters in FishHawk as well as several restoration sites in Hillsborough County, including a 500-acre restored wetland and a recently restored stream across uplands. A powerpoint presentation was given showing an overview of the restoration on various sites.

Committees. Board meeting reports for November are available for all members at www.forum.fnps.org/index.php/topic.1149.0. Council reports are posted at www.forum.fnps.org/index.php/board.63.0.html.

Bylaws AdHoc Committee. Revisions for 2016 are in progress and will be made available on the Forum.

Communications Committee (Chair: Shirley Denton, Suncoast Chapter).

- **Branding.** Business cards templates are available. Contact **Donna Bollenbach** (donna.bollenbach@gmail.com).

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(Pres. message, cont. from pg 1)

- **Membership database.** Shirley Denton and Cammie Donaldson have transferred the FNPS files from the previous database, DPO to CiviCRMBranding.

Conference Committee (Chair: Marlene Rodak, Coccoloba Chapter). The 2016 conference will be held at the Daytona Beach Resort and Conference Center, May 18–22, 2016. The Pawpaw Chapter is working on field trips, venues and presentations to make this a memorable occasion. Mark your calendars now.

Conservation Committee (Chair: Juliet Rynear, Heartland Chapter). Proposed guidelines for the annual conservation grant applications are due by March 4, 2016. See details on page 3.

FNPS is now accepting donations for a new grant award in memory and recognition of Dan Austin and his work in ethnobotany. The “Dan Austin Award” will be given to a student studying Florida ethnobotany. See details on this page.

Council of Chapters (Council Director: Dave Feagles, Serenoa Chapter). Congratulations to all chapters who participated in the 45 “Florida Native Plant Month” proclamations throughout the state. Chapters provided promotional materials to county and city commissioners.

A nominating committee is needed for council representative replacements. Please contact Dave Feagles (feaglesd@msn.com) if interested.

Director of Development (Andy Taylor, Suncoast Chapter). Andy worked diligently with the “Florida Native Plant Month” team. Forty-five proclamations were made all over the state, and a proclamation from the Governor’s office was also secured.

Director-at-Large (Peter Rogers, Conradina Chapter). “Increasing Native Plant Availability at Retail Stores” was presented at the November 7 board meeting.

Education Committee (Chair: Debra Klein, Cocoplum Chapter). See committee report on page 3 of this issue. The film, *Walk in the Florida Dry Prairie*, is now posted at fnpsblog.blogspot.com/2015/10/a-walk-in-florida-dry-prairie.html.

Finance Committee (Chair: Devon Higginbotham, Suncoast Chapter). The adhoc committee posted a draft donor policy. FNPS members are encouraged to respond to Devon with input.

Land Management Partners Committee (Chair: Danny Young, Pawpaw Chapter). The 2015–16 LMP schedule is posted at fnps.org/participate/lmrs. Please contact Kevin Love for scheduling of these reviews as the reviewer names are not on the web page. Other information about LMRs is available at fnps.org/committee/partners. Reviewers are requested to take high resolution photos and write an article for *The Palmetto*. Please contact Marjorie Shropshire, editor, at pucpuggy@bellsouth.net if you would like to submit an article.

Policy and Legislation Committee (Chair: Eugene Kelly, Hernando Chapter). The committee has begun discussions with our lobbyist about preparation for the 2016 session. Gene gave a presentation on activism at the November 7 meeting.

Science Advisory (Chair: Paul A. Schmalzer, PhD, Sea Rocket Chapter). The call for research track papers and posters for the 2016 annual conference has opened. The 2016 endowment research grant and conservation grant application windows have also opened. See article in this issue for details on all application processes.

Chapter Happenings

Conradina Chapter participated in Indian River Lagoon Day in November with the help of members Kathryn Merry, Eileen McGurk, and Pete Rogers who staffed the chapter booth. In December, the chapter was represented at the Ocean Reef Beach Festival by members Carol Hebert, Jim Baldwin, Kathryn Merry, Bo Platt, and Suzanne Valencia.

Conradina’s annual wreath decorating event was also in December; the chapter provides grapevine and native materials, along with ribbons, wire and more.

In January, Eileen McGurk, a member who spends time in Alaska every year, will present “Alaska Wildflowers in the Denali National Park.”



Conradina Chapter’s 2014 wreath-making event.

Mangrove Chapter has taken over the management of a retention pond in front of Cedar Point Environmental Center in Englewood. They have both planning and work committees, and have decided what plants to control or eliminate and what new ones to plant. The control work started the first part of December. One of the chapter’s dedicated members, Jack Lyons, passed away recently and part of the restoration of the pond will be in his memory. FNPS member Russ Hoffman of Beautiful Ponds will speak to the chapter in January to lend his expertise on our project.

March 12 is the chapter’s annual “Plant Native Day.” The theme this year is “Plant Real Florida — Choose ‘Alter-Natives.’” The program will include two speakers, sales of member-grown and native plant nursery-grown plants, a guided walk, and tour of our demonstration and rain gardens.

Send your “Chapter Happenings” to fnps.sabalminor@gmail.com. The deadline for the March–April, 2016 issue is February 1, 2015.

New Dan Austin Award for Ethnobotany

The Florida Native Plant Society is now accepting donations for a new grant award in memory and recognition of Dan Austin and his work in ethnobotany. The “Dan Austin Award” will be given to a student studying Florida ethnobotany.

Each year that funds are available and there is a submission that meets the criteria for ethnobotany, FNPS will award a grant of up to \$1,500 in honor of Dan Austin.

Please join us in building the reserve to offer this special award. If you, or your FNPS chapter would like to donate to the Dan Austin Award fund, please earmark your donation as “Dan Austin Conservation.”

Education Committee Report *submitted by Debra Klein, Committee Chair*

The Education Committee welcomed its newest member, **Amir Khoddamzadeh, PhD**, who teaches in the Department of Earth & Environment at Florida International University (FIU) in Miami. Some of his students have written articles on ethnobotany and Dan Austin. The FIU campus owns a fifty-acre native medicinal site that might make a wonderful field trip. We are collaborating to set up speaker and powerpoint presentations on these subjects.

The committee, along with Cocoplum Chapter, helped organize and set up “The Art of Maintaining a Florida Native Landscape” workshop presented by **Ginny Stibolt** at the Morgade Library in Martin County on October 10. Ginny gave an excellent presentation from her new and important book, which attracted many gardeners and nature lovers to the workshop, many whom were not FNPS members. The workshop included breakout sessions on “Butterflies and Neighborhood Wildlife Corridors” (led by the author of this report) and “Wetland Native Plant Buffers” (led by **Maggy Hurchalla** who stepped in for **Greg Braun**). The event was successful, with 62 attending and several new members signing up.

The “Butterflies...” presentation addressed which butterflies require what host plants (researched from *Florida Butterfly*

Caterpillars and Their Host Plants by Marc C. Minno, Jerry F. Butler and Donald W. Hall.) Sample host plant cuttings were displayed, including coontie (*Zamia pumila*) with hungry atala caterpillars. (Recently, atala butterflies were spotted gracing my yard!) During the workshop, the question was asked: “Who knows what the definition of a native plant is?” One of the lessons learned is to communicate the native plant definition as often as possible, putting native plants in the context of their habitats and ecosystems and answering the question of why they are important.

In her “Wetland...” presentation, according to member **Ellen Broderick** who attended, Maggy shared a brief but intimate history of Martin County’s natural wetlands, including why they’ve changed and how they have been protected. Using Greg Braun’s powerpoint and adding personal touches, she reviewed native trees, shrubs and groundcovers first for freshwater then for estuarine buffers.

The event was an opportunity to reach nature lovers of different stripes for education and friendly conversations. Our local chapter plans on holding this kind of event annually as a wonderful and informative educational outreach and our hope is that other chapters consider doing the same.

Society Happenings

- **FNPS President Anne Cox** is visiting all the chapters between 2015 and 2015. Chapters visited so far in 2015 include Palm Beach, Cocoplum, Pawpaw, Sparkleberry, Paynes Prairie, Suncoast, The Villages, Ixia and Tarflower. Andy Taylor gave a presentation to the Nature Coast Chapter. Chapters scheduled for 2016 include Citrus, Sea Rocket and Mangrove. Please contact Anne Cox to schedule a visit and give a powerpoint presentation about FNPS.
- Save the date for the annual FNPS retreat at Camp Weed, February 12–13. More information will be sent out later in January.
- **FNPS BOD positions available.** FNPS is currently looking to fill the vacant **VP of administration** position. For more information on duties and responsibilities, see fnpshandbook.wikispaces.com/FNPS+Officers+SOP. FNPS is also seeking a **nominating committee chair and two committee members**. Interested members should contact FNPS President **Anne Cox** at floridanativeplant@bellsouth.net.
- **FNPS COC nominating committee needed.** The Council of Chapters needs a couple people to serve as a nominating committee for the nomination of two council representatives. If interested, please contact **Dave Feagles** (feaglesd@msn.com) for more information.
- **Native landscape photos needed.** Photos of native plant landscapes are needed for use in FNPS’ forthcoming native landscape brochure. Please contact **Donna Bollenbach** if you have suitable photos and are willing to permit FNPS to use them.

FNPS 2016 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 can be found on the FNPS website at fnps.org/participate/awards. Questions regarding the grant programs should be sent to info@fnps.org.

Application deadline for the 2016 awards is March 4, 2016. Awards will be announced at the May 2016 annual conference in Tallahassee. Awardees do not have to be present at the conference to receive an award.

Giving Tuesday Recap

The Florida Native Plant Society was happy to participate in the 2015 #GivingTuesday! What is #GivingTuesday you ask? It is a global initiative of giving back following Thanksgiving, Black Friday and Cyber Monday. You can read more about #GivingTuesday at www.givingtuesday.org/about/.

FNPS participated by using our social media pages to look back on some of the work we have done and opportunities to give, either financially or as a volunteer. Visit our blog (fnpsblog.blogspot.com/2015/12/giving-tuesday-recap.html) to read more.

Call for Research Track Papers and Poster Presentations for 2016 FNPS Conference

The 2016 Florida Native Plant Society Annual Conference will be held in Daytona Beach, Florida, May 18-22, 2016. The Research Track of the conference will include presented papers and a poster session on Friday May 20 and Saturday May 21.

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 by February 1, 2016. Include title, affiliation, and address. Indicate whether you will be presenting a paper or poster.

Florida Native Plant Society
P.O. Box 278
Melbourne, FL 32902-0278

2016 BOD and ExCom Meetings

- JAN 21 FNPS board meeting, 7 p.m., teleconference
- FEB 13–14 FNPS board and council annual retreat & strategic planning session, Camp Weed & Cerveny Conference Center, Live Oak
- MAR 17 FNPS board meeting, 7 p.m., teleconference
- APR 21 FNPS board meeting, 7 p.m., teleconference
- MAY 19 FNPS board meeting, Daytona Beach Resort and Conference Center (annual conference venue)
- MAY 21 FNPS annual members meeting at conference venue

Check the Society Calendar at fnps.org/events/eventlist for details, updates, directions and meeting instructions. All dates subject to change.

The Gardens and Plants of Northern Cuba with Dr. Marc Minno, April 30–May 7, 2016

FNPS is once again partnering with the Florida Keys TREE Institute for a trip to experience the natural wonders of Cuba. Join Marc Minno, entomologist, zoologist, and renowned butterfly and moth expert, and Douglas Fernandez-Hernandez, one of Cuba's distinguished authorities on entomology, and experience a true "People to People" exchange of culture and the environment.

This exceptional program will include a visit to the magical UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) Biospheres of Vinales, Pinar del Rio, Zapata Swamp, and

remarkable Havana. While there, you will learn about the gardens, environment, art, music, architecture, and the people living in these historical areas while having an opportunity to personally interface with the people of this region.

The price per person (double occupancy) is \$3,999 and the group is limited to 28 participants. The package includes: a complimentary conference call briefing four weeks prior to departure, special travel visa, approved license, hotel in Miami the night before, medical insurance while in Cuba, round-trip non-stop charter air service direct from Miami

to Havana, private air-conditioned motor coach, hotels, luggage handling, transfers, permits, entry fees, English-speaking guide, bottled water daily, tips and meals for those on the itinerary (7 breakfasts, 5 lunches and 4 dinners). You will travel on a US Treasury-approved license and visa.

If you have not had the opportunity to participate in one of these FNPS-sponsored trips, now is the time! Don't miss this incredible opportunity to see Cuba before the world rushes in!

The final schedule and application are available at fnps.org/assets/userfiles/files/FNPS_Apr30-May7-2016Cuba_final.pdf.