

Sabal minor

A bi-monthly newsletter for the members of
THE FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY



Volume 18, Number 4 • July–August 2016

Message from the president *by Catherine Bowman, FNPS President, 2016-2018*

I am honored to be the newly elected president of the Florida Native Plant Society (yes, that is really my photo — the only one I have without field clothes). It is humbling and overwhelming to be president of a diverse organization with an important mission. At the end of the day, everything we do is to serve the Society's mission: the preservation, conservation, and restoration of Florida's native plants and native plant communities.

I also want to thank now Past President **Anne Cox** for all she accomplished in her term and for helping me during my year as president-elect; I have tried to absorb as much of her information, stories of her experiences, passion for FNPS, and excited expectations for the Society's future as I could — you know, without my head exploding. I know that I have much more to learn. I also wish to thank past presidents **Kim Zarillo**, **Shirley Denton**, and **Ann Redmond**, our development director, Andy Taylor, and our new executive assistant, **Juliet Rynear**, for their many hours of advice, encouragement, and assistance as I begin to take on the work of being your president. I feel very fortunate to be stepping into this position at a time when I can work with many of you who have long histories with FNPS and amazing stamina to keep the momentum going, are keepers of much of our institutional knowledge, and are the teachers of how all of our components, contractors and use of technologies work together. It is also at a time when I am excited to meet and work with many of you who are relatively new to FNPS and are bringing fresh ideas, even more technological savvy, and are helping us to renew our strength and momentum as we identify our next goals and find creative ways to achieve them.

I was born in Valparaiso, Florida and spent much of my first 18 years exploring Cinco Bayou, Choctawhatchee Bay and the panhandle beaches. This was in the early 1950s. As I am sure is the case for many of you who are long time Floridians, it brings quick tears to my eyes to see how much of Florida's native plants and native plant communities have been lost or degraded since then. My family home was constructed under longleaf pines and turkey oaks, and the dry woods that surrounded supported pungently fragrant Florida rosemary and magical sundial lupine.

I studied botany in the early 1970's under Herbert Cash at the newly opened Niceville campus of Okaloosa-Walton Junior College (now Northwest Florida State College). It was during his passionate, fast-paced lectures and field trips to shallow tannic streams and pitcherplant bogs that my early excitement for and interest in plants was fueled. But you know how life is, and mine took some twists and turns for a while as I raised my sons and worked in non-plant-related jobs. In the late 1980s with the financial help of my great aunt and godmother, Nita Duffee, I was able to again focus on my plant passion and return to school, first at Brevard Community College in Titusville and then finishing up in 1995 as a member of the last class of botany majors to graduate from UCF. I joined FNPS (Tarflower Chapter) with a student membership while at UCF where



I was privileged to study under and work with some of the founding and early members of FNPS including Dr. H. A. Miller, Dr. Hank Whittier, Dr. Jack Stout, Bill Partington, Sam Hopkins, Dick Deuerling and Carol Lotspeich. Some of my early FNPS field trip experiences were day-long excursions led by such botanical greats as Sam Hopkins, Dick Deuerling and Dr. David Hall. I recall using my first rudimentary plant press, the outside of which I made from heavy exterior plywood, to put under truck tires to get a pickup load of us through the sugar sand at Bull Creek Wildlife Management Area.

I was fortunate to be able to work with some of you, on a team led by Jean McCollum, doing a couple of the initial years of vegetation monitoring at the Disney Wilderness Preserve. I have worked as an ecological consultant since 1993, when I started part-time at Lotspeich and Associates while finishing my degree. I served as the Tarflower president for seven years and the chapter VP of programs for a couple of years after that. In those positions, I began to learn what it takes to be a part of an effective volunteer organization, and I continue to be appreciative and in awe of the number of hours, the level of dedication and the amount of passion that FNPS members give to our Society and our mission.

FNPS now has 3,600 members along with 38 chapters. At the 2016 annual conference in Daytona, the board of directors approved the application for the Passionflower Chapter. Thank you to **Jon Pospisil** for helping to organize and guide the new chapter. Congratulations and thanks to **Dr. Don Spence** and the Pawpaw Chapter and to folks from the state, including **Kim Zarillo** and **Marlene Rodak**, who worked together to present another very fine conference. As with all of our conferences (even after attending more than 20 years of them), I had a difficult time choosing among the interesting and inspiring selection of speakers and field trips — these are the elements that let me know that the conference was a success. Having participated with a host chapter in 2004 and 2011, I am well aware that it is a huge production with all kinds of unexpected opportunities for last minute creativity. As an attendee, I am never aware of the majority of those opportunities. I admire the abilities you all have to work together to achieve our goals of educating ourselves and the public and sharing our growing wealth of knowledge about Florida native plant communities.

I hope that you will be able to arrange to attend the Society's in-person board meetings and retreats. The next one is on the weekend of August 13 (hey, that's my birthday weekend!) at the Florida FFA Training Center in Haines City. Please join me to build on Dr. Cox's presidency, which included the streamlining of the state board of directors, the formation of the council of chapters, the production of six regional native landscape brochures, the work on a much-needed sponsor policy, consideration of future state level programs, and strengthening our relationships between the state organization and our chapters. I would also like to work with you

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Annual membership meeting held at 2016 conference

The annual membership meeting was held on Saturday, May 21 at the 2016 conference in Daytona Beach. Following are announcements, election results and award recipients presented at the meeting.

General election

Following are the positions that were voted on at the meeting and the persons who were voted into the positions:

- President: **Catherine Bowman**
- Secretary: **Martha Steuart**
- Vice president for finance: **Devon Higginbotham**
- Vice president for administration: **Lassie Lee**
- Director-at-large: **Ina Crawford**
- Council of chapters assistant director: **Donna Bollenbach***
- Council of chapters secretary: **Nicole Zampieri***

**These positions were voted on by the council of chapters.*

New chapter announcement

FNPS welcomed the new Passionflower Chapter, which will serve the Lake County area. Thank you to **Jon Pospisil** for spearheading the organization of this chapter.

Bylaws revision passes

The proposed revision to simplify the bylaws was passed unanimously. For information on the change, see the May-June issue of the *Sabal minor* or visit the FNPS Forum to review the minutes from the meeting.

Palmetto Awards

Green Palmetto awards are given to members and chapters who make major contributions to the Society through service, education or conservation. The 2016 recipients are **Joel Jackson** and the **Palm Beach County Chapter**.

Silver Palmetto awards are given to FNPS members, usually board members, chosen by the FNPS president who make major contributions to the functioning of the Society. The 2016 recipients are **Devon Higginbotham**, **Marjorie Shropshire**, **Ginny Stibolt** and **Kim Zarillo**.

Land Management Partners Committee Recognitions

| | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| Aimee Leteux | Joel Jackson | Richard Brownscombe* |
| Al Squires* | Jon Pospisil | Rick Harty* |
| Beryn Harty* | Katy Roberts | Steve Dickman |
| Carol Sullivan | Kevin Love* | Tonya Clayton |
| David Roddenberry | Kodiak Brothers | Vince Lamb* |
| Deborah Fable* | Lavon Silvernell* | Walter Bryant* |
| Greg Hendricks* | Linda Demotropolis | <i>*Indicates multiple reviews and/or reported to chapter or publication</i> |
| Ina Crawford* | Lynn Sweetay* | |
| Jan Allyn* | Michael Bubb* | |
| Jim Rodwell | Nisse Goldberg | |
| Joan Bausch* | Patsy McDonald* | |

Endowment Research Grant Awards

Three applications were recommended for funding for the 2016 FNPS Endowment Research Grants and approved by the FNPS Board of Directors. Funding for these awards comes from earnings on the FNPS endowment and from donations from Chapters and individuals. In 2016 we received donations of \$1500 from the Tarflower Chapter in honor of Sam Hopkins and a donation of \$500 from the Sea Rocket Chapter. The 2016 awards of \$1500 each are going to:

“**Florida’s hammocks and the separation of generations in ferns.**”

Jerald Pinson, University of Florida, Department of Biology.

“**Improving analyses of diversity in the imperiled Pine Rockland plant community.**” Lauren Trotta, University of Florida, Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation.

“**Pesticides and pollination of imperiled plants of the Lower Florida Keys.**” Brittany Harris, Florida International University, Environmental Studies Program. This award was made possible by a donation from the Tarflower Chapter in honor of Sam Hopkins.

Conservation Grant Award

Pine Rocklands Restoration at Zoo Miami submitted by Dr. Frank Ridgley, \$5,000. The project is part of a multi-year pine rocklands restoration at Zoo Miami. The 2016 component will focus on native pine rocklands plants that were either historically extirpated from Zoo Miami’s pine rocklands, pine rockland endemic species with limited distributions within the Richmond Tract, or plants that provide habitat to imperiled species of butterflies.

Landscape Awards

Back-to-Basics at the Shores of Long Bayou Nature Reserve, St. Petersburg.

Designer: Ernie Franke
Category: Restoration.
Award of MERIT

Old Marsh Golf Club, Jog Road Extension,

Palm Beach Gardens
Designer: Old Marsh Golf Club staff
Category: Restoration.
Award of EXCELLENCE

Perico Preserve, Bradenton

Designer: Damon Moore
Category: Restoration.
Award of EXCELLENCE

Photos and stories

If you were unable to attend this year’s conference, be sure to check out the Society’s Flickr site (www.flickr.com/photos/fnps) for photos from the conference and field trips, and the FNPS blog (fnpsblog.blogspot.com) for a wonderful write-up of Sunday’s field trip to Mormon Branch by **Donna Bollenbach**. If you would like to share your conference photos or stories, contact Stacey Matrazzo at fnps.sabalminor@gmail.com.

Thank you to **Don Spence** and the **Pawpaw Chapter** for another wonderful conference.

2016 BOD and ExCom Meetings

- JUN 23 Board meeting, 7 p.m., teleconference
- JUL 28 Board meeting, 7 p.m., teleconference
- AUG 13 Board and council of chapters meeting, 9:30 a.m. (all day), FFA Leadership Training Center, Haines City. Pre-registration at fnps.org is required for overnight lodging and meals.
- SEP 22 Board meeting, 7 p.m., teleconference
- OCT 27 Board meeting, 7 p.m., teleconference
- NOV 5 Board and council of chapters meeting, 9:30 a.m. (all day), Cedar Point Environmental Park, Englewood

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

CHAPTER HAPPENINGS

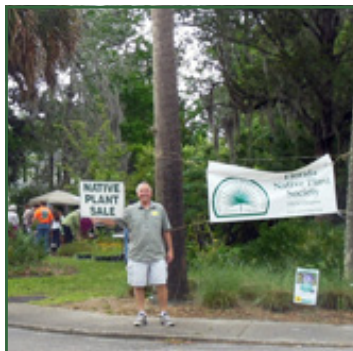
Conradina Chapter enjoyed a busy spring. In March, they participated in the Viera Wetlands Festival and partnered with Tarflower, Pine Lily, and Cuplet Fern chapters to sponsor the 4th annual Central Florida Native Plant Sale. This is a very successful fundraiser as well as a great way to interact with members of other chapters and to spread the FNPS message.

In April, the chapter held a field trip to Saint Sebastian River Preserve State Park, led by member and park ranger **Tracey Wright**. The trip followed the turpentine trail and stopped to observe native plants as well as red-cockaded woodpecker nests. Later that month, **Vince Lamb** was surprised at the 3rd annual Charlie Awards dinner where he received the prestigious award honoring Charlie Corbeil, a noted photographer and conservationist. The chapter also participated in the Palm Bay Earth Day celebration, where a live oak was planted in celebration of Arbor Day. Member **Carol Hebert** noticed they were going to use cypress mulch, so she educated them on the issue and the city agreed to switch to pine bark. Chalk one up for Carol!

In May, Vince led a scrub jay hike at the Cruickshank Sanctuary in conjunction with the 25th anniversary of the Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) program of Brevard County. **John Boltz** led a hike and plant walk in the Maritime Hammock sanctuary, another EEL property. John has become quite the specialist on barrier island plants. Members **Jane Higgins** and **Martha Steuart** (whose yards were featured in the chapter's annual native yard tour) were asked to participate in the Keep Brevard Beautiful yard tour. Chalk one up for the natives!

Thanks to Conradina members **Jim Baldwin, John Boltz, Laura Blackmon, Sharon and Brent Dolan, Marc and Debbie Grenier, Marsha Hall, Carol Hebert, Jane Higgins, Karen Melcher, Kathryn Merry, Karen Moser, Trevor Nimmons, Pete Rogers, Martha Steuart, and Suzanne Valencia** for helping out at the chapter's spring events.

Ixia Chapter held their 2nd Annual Native Plant Sale on April 16 in Native Park. The sale was highly successful, bringing in more than double of last year's sale both financially and in attendance. A variety of flowers, shrubs, trees, vines and groundcovers were donated by members inspired by a potting demonstration at an earlier monthly meeting. The University of North Florida also provided natives grown for research purposes that were no longer needed.



Two local nurseries, Reflections of Nature and Native and Uncommon Plants, were invited to participate in the sale. Both owners are Ixia members and also enjoyed a tremendous sales experience, selling out of most of their plants. But everyone involved agreed that the most important success of the day was the "Plant Native" message offered by our chapter and received by the crowds who dropped by, asked questions, admired the park, and carted away native plants that will find a home in Jacksonville yards.

The event was again included in the Riverside Avondale Preservation (RAP) Spring Tour of Homes and is in partnership with the St. Johns Riverkeeper. All money raised will be used to support future plans for Native Park. It was adopted by Ixia in 2010 as part of Jacksonville's Friends of the Park program to carry out the original purpose of "the study of Florida plant life." It was the first City of Jacksonville Park to receive the outstanding park award presented by the Riverside Avondale Preservation Society and St. John's Riverkeeper.

Tarflower Chapter will host **Jackie Rolly** on July 5. She will present "Restoring Florida's Rare Plants, One Acre at a Time, and Other Activities at Oakland Nature Preserve." On August 2, **Craig Huegel** will speak on his new book, *Botany for Gardeners*.

Suncoast Native Plant Society: Open Mic Night (No, not karaoke, but it could be)

submitted by Donna Bollenbach, Suncoast Chapter

Every year in May, the Suncoast Chapter has an open mic meeting. An open mic meeting is easy to plan; there's no speaker to find because the members are the speakers. We tell members: This is your time to brag about your native garden, talk about native plant-related topics, show pretty pictures, and ask garden questions of our highly knowledgeable members. They may let us know if they plan to speak, but we do not require it, and our rules are simple: Be nice, no advertising and no politics. Each participant has 10-15 minutes to give a powerpoint or to just talk.

This year's open mic night was a big success. We had five presentations and a question and answer session. First, **Susan Watson** thanked SNPS members for donating plants and other materials to her Friends of the Seffner-Mango Library Earth Day event. The event was a big success and raised \$800 to fund children's science programs at the library.

Next, **Louise Raterman** showed images of Lettuce Lake Park, starting with pretty natives and scenery, then moving on to show images that illustrate the problem with invasive water hyacinth clogging the Hillsborough River. Louise proposed that this problem is due to the use of fertilizers by homeowners during the summer, when heavy rains wash the nitrogen mix into the river and canals. She is working on a proposal to limit the use of fertilizers by homeowners during the summer.

Meichelle Long, from Terrace Community Middle School, spoke next. She is the contact person in our partnership with TCMS' outdoor classroom. Last year we gave them a grant and she was there to show us how they spent the money. First she showed us the Channel 8 newscast featuring TCMS students in the restoration area. There was a big applause when the newscasters mentioned "Suncoast Native Plant Society" as one of the partners. She also showed us how the school put the \$500 grant to work. Much of the grant went to purchasing tools for the students to remove invasives and plant natives. There were lots of great images of the students at work planting native trees and wildflowers. She described their accomplishments thus far and how they plan to continue the project.

Shirley Denton, who lives part of the year in New York, gave a wonderful presentation on "Exploring with the Finger Lakes Native Plant Society" in Ithaca, New York. The three areas she visited are Mulhulland Wildflower Preserve, Buttermilk Falls State Park and Chicago Bog. Despite the cool climate, there were many native wildflowers in bloom like the Dutchman's breeches, yellow bellflower, bluebell, red trillium, and a field of leatherleaf. The photographs were stunning!

The last presenter was me, **Donna Bollenbach**. I read one of my newest poems on Cayo Costa: The Native Coast. I am working on a book of native plant poetry. It's slow going with everything else I do, but I enjoy it.

After the presentation, a few people had questions about native plant gardening and plants that were suitable for their habitat, which were answered by the membership.

Maybe next year someone could karaoke John Denver's "Plant a Tree for Tomorrow."

Send your "Chapter Happenings" to fnps.sabalminor@gmail.com. The deadline for the Sep-Oct, 2016 issue is August 1, 2016.

New tools for volunteers: Ask your chapter representative or president for details

by Donna Bollenbach, Suncoast Chapter

Two new chapter tools are available for us to capture the thousands of hours of volunteer work that our members are doing each year and we are asking all FNPS members to work with their chapter representative or assigned individual to collect these hours. We didn't create these tools to make more work for our volunteers, but knowing how many hours our members dedicate to our organization and its mission is important on many levels:

1. Reporting volunteer hours is essential in securing grants and other funding. Funders and donors want to know that your current resources, including volunteers, support your mission.
2. Volunteer time can also help you meet the requirements for matching funds. Some grants require that the nonprofits match a percentage of the grant funds in money or value of volunteer hours.
3. Volunteers appreciate recognition. Tracking volunteer time allows the organization to recognize the work of their volunteers. Recognition is important to keeping volunteers and attracting new ones.

The two new tools we will use to begin tracking our volunteer hours are as follows:

1. A spreadsheet will be available to individuals or an event coordinator to track their time or the time of multiple volunteers at a single

event. Time should be recorded on the spreadsheet as soon as possible after the activity so they will not be forgotten.

2. The spreadsheets can then be forwarded to a designated volunteer coordinator or person assigned to keep track of the hours for your chapter, on a monthly, bi-monthly or quarterly basis, to be determined by each chapter. **The volunteer coordinator will then log the hours for FNPS using an online data entry program developed specifically for our reporting needs.**

Your chapter representative and chapter president have been sent a copy of the spreadsheet and a link to the online data entry program. They should be forwarding the spreadsheet to each of the chapter members and providing instructions on how to use it in the next few weeks. If you have any questions or suggestions to improve the process, please contact your chapter representative, president, or send them directly to council of chapter's director, Dave Feagles.

A last note: Nearly every volunteer organization has a way to keep track of volunteer hours, and many of the highly successful nonprofits require their volunteers to submit hours at least quarterly. We feel this is a big step in the right direction of growing FNPS and allowing us to seek funds to do more of the great things we are already doing to preserve, conserve and restore native plants and native plant communities in Florida.

The *Sabal minor* has gone all-digital

In an effort to reduce costs and waste, the *Sabal minor* will now be delivered via email only. Chapters are encouraged to print copies to have on hand at monthly meetings.

(President's message, continued from page 1)

to enhance our relationships with other critical organizations such as the Florida Association of Native Nurseries, Florida Wildflower Foundation and the groups that make up the Florida Invasive Species Partnership.

Our Society runs on the efforts of our volunteers. I urge you to get involved: volunteer for a committee, help review and edit documents, plan an event. I expect that in the next two years I will not get to personally meet all 3,600 of you, but I will keep you in mind as we serve the mission of the Florida Native Plant Society. I hope that you will contact me freely to offer suggestions or voice concerns. Thank you for your confidence in me to serve the Florida Native Plant Society.

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LEED-type standards for sustainable landscaping known as SITES

submitted by Richard Brownscombe, Coontie Chapter

Very few of our FNPS members and friends are aware of the relatively new SITES standards for landscaping that encourage the use of native species. SITES also includes a wide spectrum of landscape issues including reduced water use, storm run-off, reduced energy and light pollution, creation of habitat, and many more things you might not have thought about. The American Society of Landscape Architects, The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center at The University of Texas at Austin, and the United States Botanic Garden are among those who participated in developing these standards and the rating system.

On June 10, 2015, the US Green Building Council announced this sustainable landscape rating system (<http://www.usgbc.org/articles/gbci-launches-sites-its-newly-acquired-rating-system-sustainable-landscapes>). It is very similar in approach to the LEED system for buildings.

You can download the rating forms and take an online tutorial for free if you register on the Green Building Council site (<http://www.sustainablesites.org>). This system covers a lot of the sustainable issues we care about and is a sensible complement to requirements for a percentage of native species in new construction landscapes. You may need to poke around the website a bit to appreciate all that is there and its potential for actualizing sustainable development with native species.