



Sabal minor

A bi-monthly newsletter for the members of the Florida Native Plant Society

NOVEMBER – DECEMBER 2020 | VOLUME 22, NUMBER 6

Chapters are encouraged to print copies of the newsletter to have on hand at their monthly meetings for members who would prefer a print version.

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Message from the President | *Bonnie Basham*



GOOD NEWS! The Legislature and Governor have approved a unique license plate for your Florida Native Plant Society! The “Florida Native” plate is now available for pre-order. Please see the article on page 11 for more about your new plate.

More good news: soon you will be able to purchase a new edition of the 1993 “Florida’s Incredible Wild Edibles” which has been out of print for many years. It is a compilation of articles from our Palmetto publication (plus a few new chapters) and is a companion to Peggy Lantz’s Florida’s Edible Wild Plants

Even more good news: FNPS has a new grant fund that will support study of Florida’s native plants and habitats, particularly studies that are typically not supported by traditional funding sources. The Cornelia McNamara Grant is named in honor of a long term FNPS member who passed away last year. Importantly, this grant is made possible by a generous multi-year donation from Chris Calder, a Cuplet Fern member who wants to advance the knowledge of our native plant heritage.

I am pleased that with Chris’s support, FNPS will offer another grant opportunity. This grant will be administered in a manner similar to other FNPS grants, and I encourage FNPS members to submit proposals. Our goal will be to fund FNPS members or chapters to engage in these studies.

Check our website for more details and download the application from the [Awards and Grants page](#).

Message from the Executive Director | *Juliet Ryneear*



October Native Plant Month was a bright shining light in this year of Covid-19 restrictions and upheaval! Thank you all for sharing the beauty on social media! And a huge thank you to all the volunteers who helped with Covid-safe workdays, plant sales, and events (like Tarflower Chapter’s Backyard Biodiversity Day). By surrounding ourselves with great people and native plants, we will survive 2020 and be stronger and wiser once we get through this challenging year.

As we are wrapping up our Dicerandra and restoration monitoring for the year, the busy season for our TorreyaKeepers project is about to move into high gear. Winter is the best time for finding *Torreya taxifolia* once the deciduous trees in Torreya’s slope forest habitat lose their leaves. We will be doing a lot of surveying in hopes of finding trees on privately-owned land. When trees are located, a cutting will be collected (we have permits in place now) and sent to Atlanta Botanical Garden for propagation in their safeguarding facility.

The best part of the TorreyaKeepers project is that we get to meet so many great people who value the land in their care! They want to help conserve *Torreya taxifolia* and all the species that live on their properties. They are bright shining lights and we are grateful to be working with them.

We are very fortunate to have Lilly Anderson-Messec as our TorreyaKeepers Project Coordinator! Lilly is doing an amazing job and is also part of a great team of FNPS volunteers and staff from the Atlanta Botanical Garden (ABG). Lilly will be working closely with Ashlynn Smith, who is ABC’s Gulf Coast Coordinator and Research Scientist (and a member of our Longleaf Pine Chapter). Please help me thank our project sponsors and donors without whom this project would not be possible:

[Florida Forest Service](#)

[Jelks Family Foundation](#)

Many individual donors - thank you!

Additional support coming soon from a FEMA award through the US Fish and Wildlife Service.



Ashlynn Smith with a *T. taxifolia* tree found by Lilly Anderson-Messec.

[Donate to TorreyaKeepers](#)

Articles

Pollen-Packin' Mommas | John Lampkin, Nature Coast Chapter



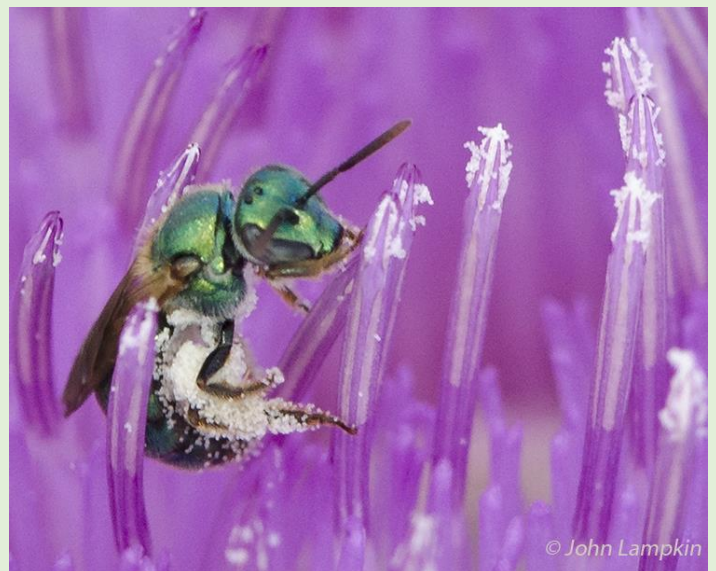
Florida is home to well over 300 bee species so understanding plant/bee ecology might seem like an enormous challenge—and it is! However, there are only six families and only three are common state-wide: Apidae, the honey, bumble, cuckoos and kin; Halictidae, the “sweat” bees and kin; and Megachilidae, the leaf-cutters and mason bees and kin. Thus, in terms of some very basic bee identification there is hope, even for the bumbling novice (so to speak).



Picture 1 *Bombus* sp. Corbicula, fully loaded

Sweat bees (Halictidae), lack corbiculae but instead have scopae, packets of coarse branched hairs on hind legs and abdomen which become electrostatically charged in flight. A common sweat bee workflow is similar to the bumblebee. Here in pic 2, a bee is holding a moistened pollen clump with its midleg tarsus while the mouthparts and foreleg glean and ready the next clump. Look at that forest of white pollen in the thistle! The anthers without white caps have had the pollen harvested.

Many female members of these three families can be recognized in the field by the unique ways in which they gather and transport pollen to their nests to feed their offspring. Honeybees and bumblebees (Apidae) collect and often moisten pollen with a complex array of mouthparts, then pass it rearwards where it is crammed into expandable “baskets” called corbiculae on their hind leg tibias. Voila, Picture 1 saddlebags on a bumblebee.



Picture 2 Sweat Bee, *Auglochloa pura*, with scopae filled with pollen.

Here a different sweat bee species in pic 3 is making the transfer to the scopa with its midleg:



© John Lampkin

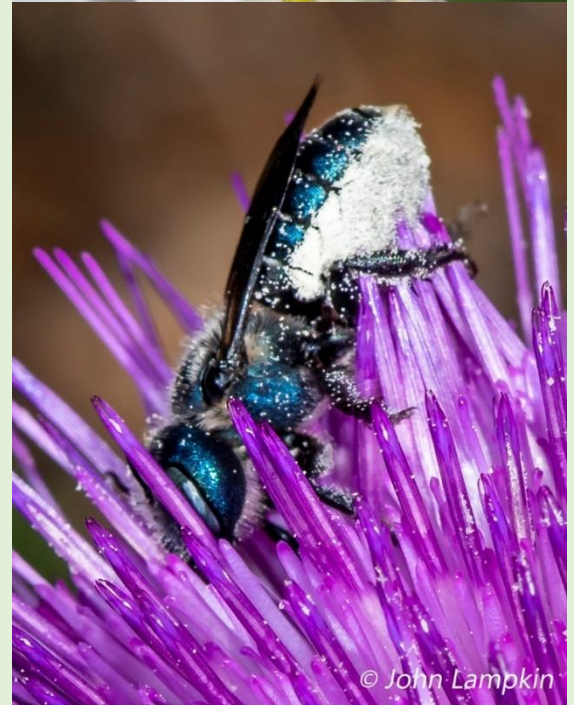
Picture 3 Sweat Bee, *Lasioglossum* sp., caught in the act of transferring pollen to her scopa.

Fully loaded, scopae resemble saddlebags, but they are on the femurs, not the tibia. This Brown-winged Striped-Sweat Bee in pic 4 is loaded and evidently probing for nectar refreshment:

For a nice video of a *Lassioglossum* sp. (sweat bee) making the transfer of grass pollen from mouth to foreleg to middle leg to scopa, watch [this](#), starting at about 16 seconds in. The coordinated move takes less than a second!

Some Megachilidae use a different method of gleaning pollen. The charged hairs for transport are on the abdomen, not the legs, and a “belly dance” against the anthers attracts and traps the pollen, sometimes giving the loaded bees a distinctive sway-backed posture as with this Megachile in pic 5.

You might think then that the Megachile gravitate towards composite flowers, the Asteraceae, and you would be right! A quick scan of the Megachile images page on BugGuide.net supports this. The anther-laden stamens grow closely together making for an easy harvest. Some bees take floral specialization to another level and exploit only a single plant genus. The adult stage of this mason bee, *Osmia chaybea* (Megachilidae), coincides with the March-May blooming of thistles. In my area, Hillsborough County, that means Purple Thistle, *Cirsium horridulum*, and Nuttall’s Thistle, *C. nutallii*. This tiny mason bee is fast, efficient, and a joy to watch! With head down, her hind legs bunch together a stand of thistle stamens and rub them against her abdomen as in pic 6. The pollen sticks to her electrostatically charged bristly hairs



With the direct transfer of pollen to hair the pollen doesn't change color, but it can if it's moistened with saliva and/or nectar first. Still, beekeepers can assess which plants their bees have visited by the subtle hues of pollen brought to the hive. A wet meadow full of our native Winged Loosestrife, *Lythrum alatum*, is a pistachio-green bonanza for our restless natives, as in pic 7. The pollen color is a distinctive tell for where this *Exmalopsis* sp. (Apidae) has visited.



What about bees lacking a visible pollen transport method? Those are likely males, like this Brown-winged Striped-Sweat Bee, *Agapostemon spendens*, in pic 8:

Kleptoparasitic species members like this Cuckoo Bee in pic 9, *Nomada fervida*, are sleek for sneaking in and out of their host's nest. They commandeer the pollen stores and larvae of other species as food for their own offspring, so they have no need for baskets, scopae or copious body hair.



But males and cuckoo bees present their own ID challenges, so for today we are content to salute the hard-working ladies who are so vital to the health of our native plant communities.

Retired musician and composer John Lampkin set for himself the goal of learning every plant and animal in Florida. So far, so good. His photographs grace the pages of many scientific journals, websites, blogs, and a field guide, and he just won the "American Butterflies" magazine 2020 photography contest. As a crossword constructor, he contributes to the New York Times, the Los Angeles Times and the Wall Street Journal. Despite his fascination with insects and native plants, he is completely harmless.



Where I stand with my camera- I can be on the sidelines of a football field observing a combination of 100 student-athletes and coaches practicing plays an hour before the game begins. I always try to do my best to capture all the players, especially on the defensive roster, because they rarely get any photographic attention during live plays.

Due to covid-19 restrictions, I am limited to the 10-yard line. The quarterback calls out the play as the center grips his fingers tighter around the ball, listening for that one word to handoff the ball to the quarterback. Once that handoff is initiated, eight players on the defensive unit battle for yardage control in this push-a-war combat. While the defensive line's cleats dig and scuff out the ground below them, I try my hardest to follow and even determine what the quarterback's play is going to be. Is he going handoff or pass the ball? I get lost more times than I would admit.

When I follow the ball, I have to make quick judgments when I press the shutter button. Less than two of those ten shots may constitute as a suitable shot, not perfect, not good, just suitable. I repeat this during every single play throughout the entire time I cover a game. I always think I need that action shot, and the level of stress and self-expectations begin to be overwhelming.

From time to time, I will preview my photos only to feel more disappointed and asking myself what is going on. Why am I not getting these shots? What am I doing wrong? Am I losing my passion for sports photography?

As I begin to walk off the field with my head held down, looking at the grass, sounds of the fans, people talking, laughing, and yelling begins to fade. I say "Good Night" to the officer and those at the gate. When I get into the car, I sit for a minute or two, just staring at the parking lights. I truly feel nothing.



Where I stand with my camera- I can stand at the edge of a field observing the tallest of longleaf pine trees towering over a field of saw palmettos embedded with splashes of purple and yellow wildflowers to remind me the Fall season is here.

I see, hear, and feel the peace and serenity that being outdoors brings to the soul. The variety of bird calls echo throughout the oak trees, and as I am standing in complete calmness, I am slightly startled by the sounds of shuffling leaves, only to see an armadillo who is oblivious I am there. I chuckle and say, "Well, Good Morning."

The sky is as blue as the sea, and a breeze sweeps across my face as it was a gentle touch from nature that whispered in my ear, "This is where you belong." Driving on the limestone roads, trying to avoid any millipedes or beetles dashing across the road- There...there in the distance is an open field. Tall groups of lopsided indiangrass (*Sorhastrum secundum*) sway in the breeze, blazing stars stand tall and proud with their fringed purple flowers. I see butterflies, bees, and skippers everywhere, just fluttering from one flower to the next. This place-this place that I see right now is unbelievably incredible.

I slide out of the SUV with a tight grasp on my camera. I take a couple of steps, and I stop. I have to remind myself to slow down. I am in no hurry. There are no expectations or requirements. Please just slow down. Just stop and look at what you are seeing. I mean, really look.

I take in a deep breath and look at everything that is surrounding me. Tears begin to fill my eyes as I look upon what nature provides, not for us but to us. It's an unconditional relationship that so many people do not understand. As much as nature has been torn, ripped, pulled, and divided, nature will always fight through what it can and still create an amazing bloom.

I shake my head so softly to think of how much my mom would have loved to see what I see now. My eyes again begin to fill with tears, and I try so hard to control them from dripping down my cheeks. I picture us standing side by side; she gently grabs my hand and squeezes. I turn to her, and I see her smile. I am sure she lost herself in thought. She is probably imagining herself being a young lady wearing her pretty little flower dress, picturing herself approaching every single flower to tell them how beautiful and special they are.

A quiet breeze swiftly moves over my shoulders, and I feel a type of awakening. I smile and move further into the middle of the field. I, too, begin to lose myself in this field. I do my best to identify all the butterflies, bees, and other plants I see. And the ones I do know, I have a great feeling of accomplishment.

I take a look beyond the field, and my creativeness sets in. I become excited and inspired. I start thinking of incredible stories to write. I begin illustrating ideas for nature photography projects and ways I can teach others. This view invites me to learn more and encourages me to continue educating myself, so I will be able to answer all those curious questions.

I stand at the edge of this field with my camera. I take a deep breath, and in my heart, I feel complete; this is the field I belong not on, but a field I belong to.



Update on M-CORES Toll Roads Project – Conclusion of Task Force Process and Submission of Final Reports | Eugene Kelly, Policy and Legislation Chair



The three task forces appointed to compile recommendations on how to construct more than 310 miles of new toll roads – one task force for each of the three proposed toll roads – have concluded their last round of meetings and their final reports are on track to be submitted to the Legislature and Governor by the November 15 deadline. The Multi-use Corridors of Regional Economic Significance (M-CORES) project side-stepped Florida's thoughtful and collaborative transportation planning process when the Florida Legislature created the project by statute in 2019, despite no previous finding of need for the roads or completing any determination of financial feasibility. The statute also directed that construction begin by December 31, 2022.

Each of the 3 reports, based on the drafts reviewed during the final task force meetings, provides a thoughtful compendium of guiding principles that should be employed during the planning and development of ANY large public works project with potentially significant impacts to state's natural resources and local communities. Each includes some guidance specific to the proposed road they were assigned to evaluate. For example, the report for the Southwest-Central Connector, which would cut a swath through Southwest Florida from Lakeland to Naples, places special emphasis on avoiding impacts to the Florida Panther and the Northern Turnpike Connector report acknowledges the importance of minimizing impacts to the Cross Florida Greenway. However, the reports are otherwise very similar and provide what could arguably be regarded as a generic playbook for avoiding or minimizing environmental impacts resulting from development of a NEEDED road or other linear corridor.

All three reports will apparently include the following among their findings: 1) that a “no-build” alternative should be clearly recognized; 2) a concession that they were unable to identify any need for the road(s) or determine whether they would be financially feasible, despite that being part of their charge; 3) the recommendation that an evaluation of need and financial feasibility should be completed before the “PD&E” (Project Development and Environmental Study) phase begins; 4) a preference for the roads to be “co-located” along existing road corridors rather than along new “greenfield” alignments; and 5) a recommendation that the legislature extend or remove altogether the aggressive timeline proposed by the enabling legislation.

Nearly every conservation organization in Florida, including FNPS, has come to support a simple “no-build” recommendation. While the task force reports stop well short of that recommendation, they certainly do not qualify as full-throated endorsements of the proposed roads. The conservation community was well represented on the task forces by 1000 Friends of Florida, Florida Defenders of Wildlife, The Nature Conservancy, Audubon Florida, Florida Wildlife Corridor and the Everglades Foundation. Active and consistent engagement by their representatives played a major role in forming the consensus recommendations summarized above.

Thousands of public comments were submitted to FDOT over the past 15 months, and many others were shared directly with task force members during their meetings. Comments were submitted on behalf of FNPS at nearly every task force meeting. The content of the comments did not reveal any ground-swell of public support for construction of the roads. Quite the opposite! The No Roads to Ruin Coalition, which is comprised of dozens of organizations and was spearheaded by Sierra Club, Florida Conservation Voters, the Center for Biological Diversity and others, served as a catalyst and organizing force for public opposition.

In addition to the clear displays of public opposition, compelling evaluations of financial infeasibility and the likely scope of environmental impacts were submitted by Florida Tax Watch, 1000 Friends of Florida, Sierra Club, FNPS and others. We submitted a [data-rich summary](#) of prescribed fire needs for each of the three study areas, in recognition of the critical role fire plays in maintaining habitat values for native plants and wildlife, and the productivity of potentially affected ranches, commercial forests and other agricultural lands.

You can download copies of the draft report, and other documents related to task force deliberations, from the [M-CORES website](#). The final report should be available very soon. The next stage in our efforts to stop these unnecessary and unaffordable roads will come with the 2021 legislative session. The Legislature must be pressed to put the brakes on this runaway train by, at the very least, extending or eliminating the deadlines set forth in 338.2278(6), F.S. This would provide FDOT with sufficient time to thoroughly evaluate the questions of need and financial feasibility, and to adequately address the environmental commitments charted by the guiding principles outlined in the reports.

You may wish to listen to [my comments](#) addressed to the Suncoast Corridor Task Force Meeting #9, which are available on our [YouTube Channel](#).

Our opposition to the roads as a member of the No Roads to Ruin Coalition has been recently noted by [several media outlets](#).

YOUR FNPS Florida Native License Plate is on Sale NOW | Eugene Kelly, Policy and Legislation Chair and Sue Mullins, Lobbyist



We are THRILLED to announce Governor DeSantis has signed our bill creating a Florida Native license plate, and the final artwork for the plate has been approved by the Florida Department of Motor Vehicles. So now we are officially in pursuit of the “pre-sales” required for the plate to go into actual production and then be available for distribution to the public. The bottom line for FNPS, quite literally, is that we will receive \$25 for every plate sold, and annually thereafter for every plate that is renewed. Reaching this milestone is a big step forward for FNPS and could provide a meaningful source of continuing income in support of our mission.

To submit your own commitment to buy a Florida Native tag, contact Sue Mullins at: bsuemullins@outlook.com for directions. You can also choose to do it in person at the offices of your county’s Tax Collector. By prior agreement with the State of Florida, the St. Johns County license tag agency will be fulfilling all requests regardless of where you live.

The legislation that allowed creation of the plate requires that it include at least five plant species native to Florida, conform to a “camouflage” theme, and include the words “Florida” at the top and “Native” at the bottom. The final mock-up, pictured below, meets those criteria and actually includes six native plant species – longleaf pine, slash pine, live oak, Spanish moss, the green-fly orchid, and – of course! – a saw palmetto frond placed front-and-center. The plate lettering will appear to the left and right of the palmetto.



Now back to the matter of the all-important pre-sales. At least 3,000 plates must be sold in advance before any will be produced, and if we are unable to reach that threshold within 2 years the plate will be forever deauthorized. That means we are encouraging FNPS members to step up to the plate and express your support for our organization by committing \$33. IN ADVANCE – the sooner the better, because plates will be produced only after 3,000 plates have been sold. If we fall short of the 3,000 minimum in pre-sales, anybody who “purchased” one can choose to either receive a refund of their purchase price, or ask that their money be applied to future motor vehicle registration charges.

In order for the Florida Native plate to be successful, we must look beyond our FNPS membership. Of course, we would like ALL our members to express their support and pride in FNPS by sporting a Florida Native plate on their cars and trucks – or boat trailers. But with fewer than 5,000 members, we recognize we must appeal to a larger audience to be successful in the long-term. We also want to minimize “competition” with our fellow conservation organizations that might already depend on their own specialty plate as a funding source. So we want to grow the pie, rather than simply take our own slice out of a finite pie that is already being shared by other deserving conservation organizations. Thus – the Florida Native plate, which we hope will appeal to a broader slice of our fellow Floridians – including especially those who are proud to be Florida natives themselves.

You might already have a specialty plate that you find very attractive, and/or that supports a cause or organization you believe in and want to continue supporting. We don't want to pressure you to abandon your support of a good cause. But keep in mind that you can also choose to purchase a specialty plate for your boat trailer, your second vehicle or as a gift for relatives! And encourage your friends and neighbors, especially any who are proud Florida natives, to consider purchasing one. You can best help us take advantage of this opportunity by signing up for a pre-sale yourself at <https://www.floridanativelicenseplate.com/fnps/>.

Science Committee | FNPS 2021 Endowment Grant Research Awards, Conservation Grant Awards and the Dan Austin Award for Ethnobotany | *Paul Schmalzer, PhD, Science Committee Chair*



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.

The **Dan Austin Award for Ethnobotany** will provide up to \$1500 to graduate or undergraduate students who are studying Florida ethnobotany – i.e., the study of the relationship between peoples or cultures with plants native to Florida or Florida ecosystems. These can be current uses or historic uses.

Application guidelines and details are on the [FNPS Website](#), click on 'What We Do/Awards and Grants'. Questions regarding the grant programs should be sent to info@fnps.org.

Application deadline for the 2021 Awards is March 5, 2021. Awards will be announced at the May 2021 Annual Conference. Awardees do not have to be present at the Conference to receive award.

Chapter News, Events, and Programs

Serenoa Chapter | Ann Seidenkranz



It is with great sadness that we share the news that Ann passed away over the weekend. She had heart surgery in January and had recently been diagnosed with lung cancer. Ann had been an active member of the Serenoa Chapter for 28 years. An avid native plant enthusiast, impressive with her knowledge of the scientific names and characteristics of Florida native plants, she rarely missed a field trip. Ann was also an avid birder and always had binoculars around her neck.

If you have ever been on a field trip with Ann, you know what a bright light shone from her very being. She will be greatly missed. Our hearts go out to her husband Tim, also an active Serenoa Chapter member. There will be no public memorial service and Tim requests that donations in her name be made to the Serenoa Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society.



If you would like to visit an outstanding native plant garden, look no further than the recently opened St. Pete Pier. The original site of a deteriorating concrete structure with a few surviving palm trees, the pier has been revitalized to include a marina, restaurants and stores, outdoor art, play areas for children, and the Tampa Bay Watch Discovery Center. Of special interest for any plant enthusiast, however, are the extensive and innovatively designed garden areas showcasing many of our native plant species.

The new pier was a multi-year project with several firms from New York City, Tampa, and St. Petersburg collaborating on the engineering and overall design, and with project oversight from the City of St. Petersburg. As plans moved ahead, two local firms were chosen to complete and implement the landscape and planting plans.

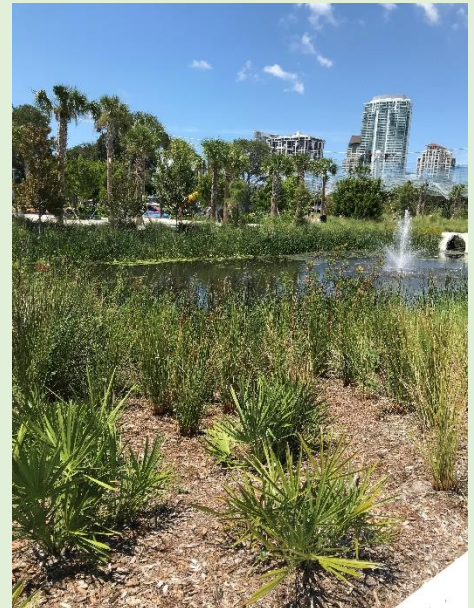
Kimley-Horn and Associates of St. Petersburg designed the plantings for the pier approach, a 23-acre area that includes the Family Park and Playground, a large pond, and multiple locations adjacent to visitor parking. While plant choices were, by necessity, driven by what was available locally, the focus was on choosing hardy and beautiful Florida-friendly plants with the inclusion of as many native species as possible.

Jennifer Daoulas, Landscape Architect at Kimley-Horn, says, “Because it is a city garden, plants had to require little maintenance, have low water requirements, and be able to handle salt spray.” Native plant gardeners will recognize many of their favorites, including Oaks (*Quercus* spp.), pines (*Pinus* spp.), Coontie (*Zamia integrifolia*), Fakahatchee Grass (*Tripsacum dactyloides*), Beach Sunflower (*Helianthus debilis*), and Firebush (*Hamelia patens* var. *patens*)—to name a few. The taller plants provide shade and a pleasing backdrop, while the shorter selections add color and interest.

The pond and “bioswale” areas, which help to collect water and control erosion, needed plants that were also capable of tolerating wet feet. Bald Cypress (*Taxodium distichum*), Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*), Sand Cordgrass (*Spartina bakeri*), and a beautiful Scarlet Marsh Hibiscus (*Hibiscus coccineus*) were among the native plants enlisted for the job.

Booth Design Group of St. Petersburg co-led the planting design of the pier head, which includes the Cultural Grove and the Coastal Thicket, in partnership with New York landscape architect Ken Smith of Ken Smith Workshop. Jamie Beatty, Principal at Booth Design says, “We wanted plants that were low maintenance with good salt and wind tolerance. Native plants were the obvious choice.” In preparation for the planting plan, Booth Design staff traveled to Weedon Island to study coastal native species, visited several native plant nurseries, and collaborated with the University of Florida and the University of Central Florida to gather advice on plant requirements and soil amendments.

The Cultural Grove is a 10,500-square-foot garden that helps to transition visitors from the recreational areas to the over-the-water portion of the pier. It includes Oaks (*Quercus* spp.), Cabbage Palm (*Sabal palmetto*), Spanish bayonet





(*Yucca aloifolia*), blanket flower (*Gaillardia pulchella*), and several native grasses, which provide relief from the expanse of concrete and will ultimately cast welcome shade.

The Coastal Thicket is the dramatic, 23,000-square-foot, over-the-water deck section running along the north side of the pier. Beatty explains that its layout involved a unique challenge because plantings needed to fit into the 20-foot grid spaces between the support pilings for the old pier but still appear natural. The result is a series of lush gardens connected by a zigzag boardwalk that immerses visitors in the coastal landscape and showcases a palette of native trees, shrubs, and grasses. Among them are buttonwood (*Conocarpus erectus*), necklace pod (*Sophora tomentosa* var. *truncata*), cabbage palm (*Sabal palmetto*), muhly grass (*Muhlenbergia capillaris*), wax myrtle (*Myrica cerifera*), seaside goldenrod (*Solidago sempervirens*), and silver saw palmetto (*Serenoa repens*).

At the St. Pete Pier, no railings obstruct the view of the gardens, and plants are situated at a level where they can easily be seen and touched. Beatty says, “We wanted to provide an opportunity for visitors to interact with the plants.” Education is a key emphasis of all the gardens, and signage identifies individual species so visitors can gather ideas for inclusion in their own landscapes.

Sharon Heal-Eichler, Professional Landscape Architect for the City of St. Petersburg, sums up the project, “The goal was to create safe, sustainable, durable, and cost-efficient public spaces at the St. Pete Pier. Florida native plants were the right choice to achieve that goal.”

About three years ago, when the landscape planning for the gardens was underway, a committee met with the designers to provide input to the process. One of our Pinellas Chapter NPS members, Ray Wunderlich, founder of Wunderfarms community gardens in St. Petersburg, was among them. The committee members helped to educate the designers on the value of native species, suggested plants for possible inclusion in the gardens, and directed the designers to local preserves (including Boyd Hill Nature Preserve, Weedon Island Preserve, Little Bayou Park, and Ft. DeSoto Park) where they could see mature native plants and learn more. The inclusion of so many native plants in the gardens at the St. Pete Pier is a testament to these early efforts.

For more information or to plan your visit, go to the [St. Pete Pier website](#).

Debora has a Bachelor of Technology in Plant Science from the State University of New York at Cobleskill and was a Senior Extension Educator with Cornell Cooperative Extension in Schenectady County, New York. She has written for Fine Gardening magazine and Green Scene, the journal of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society. Now happily retired, she lives and gardens in Dunedin.

Passionflower Chapter | Chapter Update | *Melanie Simon, President*



Passionflower did not take our usual summer break this year. We continued socially distanced activities – monthly online educational programs (thanks to the Zoom software we purchased in collaboration with 3 other chapters), monthly work in the native plant garden at Lake Louisa State Park, and occasional plant rescues and conservation work. At Lake Louisa we help maintain the “butterfly garden” area, and this summer we started completing the “habitat garden” area. We are almost finished with the sandhill habitat and will move on to one of the 3 other habitats this winter. When done it will be a great educational resource for the park.



Denise and Donna standing in the restored sandhill at Lake Louisa State Park



Feeling the need to get out from behind our computers and see our fellow native plant enthusiasts (even if in a parking lot and masked), we had a Trunk or Treat Plant Adoption event for Native Plant Month. Over 100 plants grown by our members were given away free to help members and supporters keep busy in their gardens without impacting their budgets.

Sparkleberry Chapter | Sparkleberry Happenings | *Jenny Welch, President*



Sparkleberry Chapter received a generous donation of over 50 native milkweed plants from the Monarch Milkweed Initiative for Fanning Springs State Park and planted them in their native plant garden. The donated native milkweed has been attracting lots of monarch and queen butterflies. We collaborated with the Tri-county Garden Club to plant the donated milkweed.

We also went on a field trip to Little River Wild Life Management Area (with social distancing protocol and mask wearing) and enjoyed many of Florida’s native Fall wildflowers in full bloom.

Some members of Sparkleberry Chapter attended M-MCORES meetings and open houses supporting the No Build alternative as well as giving input in case the road does get built asking FDOT to do an actual native plant inventory not a generalized native plant inventory, to re-plant with native plants/wildflowers not exotic or invasive plants, to work with FNPS to rescue to native plants along the route, asked for wildlife crossings, among other items.

Sparkleberry Chapter has contacted the owner of a new campground to be built in Gilchrist county to ask that the lot not be clear cut- it is not designed to be clear cut. Sparkleberry chapter asked that native plants be used in the landscape design. The owner and conservationist for the project are very interested in working with the chapter on using native plants in their design.



Chuck McCartney passed away on Sunday, October 11. He was a fourth-generation South Floridian and life-long orchid enthusiast. Through his longtime membership in the Florida Native Plant Society in the Dade and Broward chapters, he also became interested in Florida's wildflowers. Chuck earned a bachelor's degree in English education from Florida State University. However, except for a short stint as a high school English teacher in Miami, he was a journalist and editor, working for newspapers in his native Homestead as well as in Hollywood, Florida, where he lived. He retired in 2009 after nearly 19 years as a copy editor with The Miami Herald's Broward Edition serving the Fort Lauderdale area. In the mid-1980s, he worked as an editor for the American Orchid Society and wrote numerous articles on orchids for AOS publications as well as for California's *Orchid Digest*, England's *Orchid Review* and publications of Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden and the FNPS *Palmetto* magazine and chapter newsletters. His special interest was the wild orchids and other wildflowers of his native South Florida as well as the Southern Appalachians, and he spoke on these subjects to orchid societies, native plant groups, garden clubs and natural history organizations. Chuck led many chapter field trips freely sharing his considerable knowledge and love of wildflowers with all of us. A longtime friend put it this way, "Chuck was an unapologetic punster. Over any length of time, he would bring forth at least one groan from whomever was sharing the conversation, and he never failed to slip at least one joke slide into his presentations. He was my favorite curmudgeon, with a heart of gold covered by a gruff exterior."

Marjorie Shropshire, the editor of our *Palmetto* magazine laments: "I'll miss working with him on *Palmetto* and getting a Christmas card from him with one of his beautiful photos on it."

Chuck was also memorialized in the [Cherokee Scout newspaper](#) in North Carolina.

Sarracenia Chapter Update | *David Roddenberry, President*



Sarracenia has been working to keep our members active and informed while keeping them safe during this difficult time. We've gone over to meeting on Zoom, and so far it is working well.

Sarracenia's last three chapter meetings have been by Zoom, the September meeting featuring Dr. Austin Mast on FSU's Godfrey Herbarium, which he directs. The chapter broke its COVID-induced field trip drought in late September, holding a socially distanced fall wildflower walk in St. Marks NWR. The wildflower star of the outing was a Florida endemic we like to tout as endemic to the Sarracenia Chapter—Godfrey's blazing star (*Liatris provincialis*), whose range is only 30 miles through Franklin and Wakulla Counties. Under a stated limit of 12, ten members came out with species forecast list in hand and enthused over the flush of wildflowers produced by a burn. The occasion was rich for the photographers among us.



A beautiful patch of Godfrey's Blazing Star (*Liatris provincialis*) at St. Mark's NWR

Our October meeting featured Panhandle botanist and rare-plant explorer Floyd Griffith and his great photography on—what else—Rare Plants of the Panhandle. The Zoom link was a pretty hot ticket as the date drew near. Our November 17th ZOOM meeting will feature Andrea Naccarato of the Naples Botanical Garden (and Naples Chapter) with Wildflowers Gone Viral. We're excited to say that we've also recently filmed a wildflower day in Apalachicola National Forest that can be the heart of a virtual chapter meeting to come.

Quite a few of our members volunteer at the Sopchoppy Depot Park with its major, living exhibit of Florida native plants of this area. Our volunteers have been involved in the planning and the labor from the beginning in 2018. Planting days both of the first two Saturdays of November are on the schedule.



A closeup of the inflorescence of Godfrey's Blazing Star (*Liatris provincialis*).

Heartland Chapter | First Workday Since the Pandemic | *Gregory Thomas, Chapter Representative*

We've had to curtail most of our chapter activities due to the pandemic, though we've picked back up with virtual zoom meetings. This is our first workday since the pandemic. If you care to join us, here are the details:

Where: [Circle B Bar Reserve](#), 4399 Winter Lake Road, Lakeland, FL, 33803 @ the Polk Nature Discovery Center parking lot.

When: Dec. 5, 2020 from 9:00 a.m. to noon.

Detail: We will be weeding and planting—bring gardening clothes, hat, gloves, hand-tools (shovels, pruners if you have them) and cooler (suggested: drinks, lunch). Bathroom facilities are available nearby. Other things to do afterward on your own—there are upland and wetland walking trails (no pets allowed).

1. [Companion planting and Florida's Natural Communities](#) with Juliet Rynear, Executive Director, April 24, 2020
2. [Liminal Spaces- The Biogeography of Florida "Faerie" Milkweed](#) with Kara Driscoll, Council of Chapters Chair, May 1, 2020
3. Native Landscape Design with Karina Veaudry, May 8 *recording not yet available*
4. Edible Native Plants with Valerie Anderson, May 15 *recording not yet available*
5. [Chapter Outreach](#) with Ginny Stibolt, May 22, 2020
6. [Florida's Native Milkweeds](#) with Lilly Anderson-Messec, TorreyaKeepers Coordinator, May 29, 2020
7. [Saving Florida's Bromeliads Conservation Program](#) with Martha Pessaro, June 5, 2020
8. [Learn About Living Shorelines](#) with Marjorie Shropshire, June 12, 2020
9. [Native Landscaping on Former South Florida Scrub](#) with Christopher McVoy, June 26, 2020
10. [Native Plants and Stormwater](#) Chad Washburn of Naples Botanical Garden, July 3, 2020
11. [Florida's Native Palms](#) with Patti Anderson, PhD, of FDACS-DPI, July 10, 2020
12. [The Truth about Pollinator Gardens](#) with [Craig Huegel](#), PhD, July 17, 2020
13. [Shifting Landscaping Behaviors through Regulatory and Social Marketing Tools](#) with Stacie Greco, Alachua County EPD, July 24, 2020
14. [Fire Seasonality and Dogfennel](#) with Gage LaPierre, UF NATL, July 31, 2020
15. [Insect Visitors to Tarflower \(*Bejaria racemosa*\)](#) with Lily Fulton, Archbold Biological Station Intern, August 7, 2020
16. [Lethal Bronzing Disease of Palms](#) with Dr. Brian Bahder, UF/IFAS-FREC, August 14, 2020
17. [Alachua County's Turf SWAP Program](#) with Hollie Greer, Alachua County EPD, August 21, 2020
18. [The North Florida Heritage Garden Project](#) with Richard Tate, Ethnobotany Award winner 2019 August 28
19. [Ecological Restoration Inspires Humility: Mistakes Made in the Process of Trying to Restore a Longleaf Pine Savanna](#) with Jack Putz, PhD, UF Department of Biology, September 4, 2020
20. [The Historic Plants of Northlawn Cemetery, an African American Cemetery, in Fort Lauderdale](#) with Roberto Fernández III - September 11, 2020
21. [Incorporating Nature into the Built Environment](#) with Erin Largo-Wight, PhD, UNF Department of Public Health, September 18, 2020
22. [Climate Change Communication](#) with Karen Majdiak Willey September 25, 2020
23. [Lake Blue Scrub: An Oasis Saved](#) with Tom Palmer, Environmental Writer for the Lakeland Ledger, October 2, 2020
24. [DIY Historical Ecology: Part 1 - Data Availability, Intro to GIS, and Intro to Georeferencing](#) with Valerie Anderson, Director of Communications, October 9, 2020
25. [Sea Level Rise](#) with Eugene Kelly, Policy and Legislation Chair, October 16, 2020
26. [Vascular Plant Extinction in the Continental United States and Canada](#) with Wesley Knapp, North Carolina Natural Heritage Program, October 23, 2020
27. [The Restoration of Little Italy](#) with Rosi Mulholland, former Land Manager, SJRWMD, October 30, 2020

Et cetera



Jan Allyn, Chapter Representative for the Pinellas Chapter was quoted in The Gabber about ditching tropicals for natives. You go, Jan! <https://thegabber.com/ditch-the-tropicals-and-go-native/>



Dr. Pamela Solits, a Pawpaw Chapter member, released an article in GigaScience on sequencing the Beautyberry genome. We have recruited her and her team to speak on the beautyberry genome for our [Lunch and Learn on November 6th, 2020](#).



Alice Mary Herden of Hernando Chapter wrote a series on Mangroves: [Part I](#) and [Part II](#). She's a freelance photographer and writer. You can view her gallery and purchase photos and prints [here](#).

Last month we showed off Dade Chapter member Joseph Montes de Oca's YouTube videos about documenting plant/pollinator interaction and he's posted an excellent Halloween video recently on native wasps/their parasites and iNaturalist. Check it out [here](#).

We now have thirteen chapters with their own YouTube Channels! Since September, Conradina, Marion Big Scrub, and Pinellas Chapter have joined us on YouTube and uploaded content. Check out the chapters, watch some videos, and subscribe:

[Citrus](#) - [Conradina](#) - [Cuplet Fern](#) - [Dade](#) - [Ixia](#) - [Marion Big Scrub](#) - [Naples](#) - [Pine Lily](#) - [Pinellas](#) - [Serenoa](#) - [Sweetbay](#) - [Tarflower](#) - [The Villages](#)

Don't have a YouTube Channel? I can help you get set up, just [email me](#) and we'll get started. I can help you upload meeting recordings or field trip video as well.

Our quarterly magazine, *The Palmetto* 36(2), has been published with loads of excellent articles:

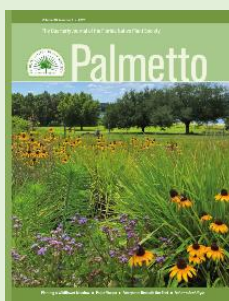
Cover photo by Andrea England of My Florida Meadow Company

Planting a Wildflower Meadow by Craig Huegel

Paper Wasps as Pollinators' by George Rogers

Soil: The Ecosystem Beneath our Feet by Ginny Stibolt

Book Review of "Nature's Best Hope" by Sue Dingwell



Tarflower's October issue of their newsletter, [The Tarpaper](#), was spectacular this month, with a great example of instructions for recruiting volunteers including preparing volunteers to weed with an easy to follow section on identification of common weeds with photos and a map.

The Convention on Biological Diversity released their Global Biodiversity Outlook, and it's not bright for plants. You can watch their press conference [here](#). You can go in depth on their Plant Conservation Report [here](#).

###

Past issues are available on [our website](#). Please consider submitting an article to the Sabal Minor - email the editor to discuss your story ideas— sabalminor@fnps.org.