



# Sabal minor

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

## **MARCH – APRIL 2021 | VOLUME 23, NUMBER 2**

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Do you enjoy getting the *Sabal minor* by email? Did you know we also offer *The Palmetto* by email, as well? [Email us](#) to switch over to save paper and to save us postage. 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. If your chapter isn't holding in-person meetings, you may wish to print out the *Sabal minor* and mail it to your members.

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## Support the FNPS mission with a purchase from our online store



Conference tee-shirts



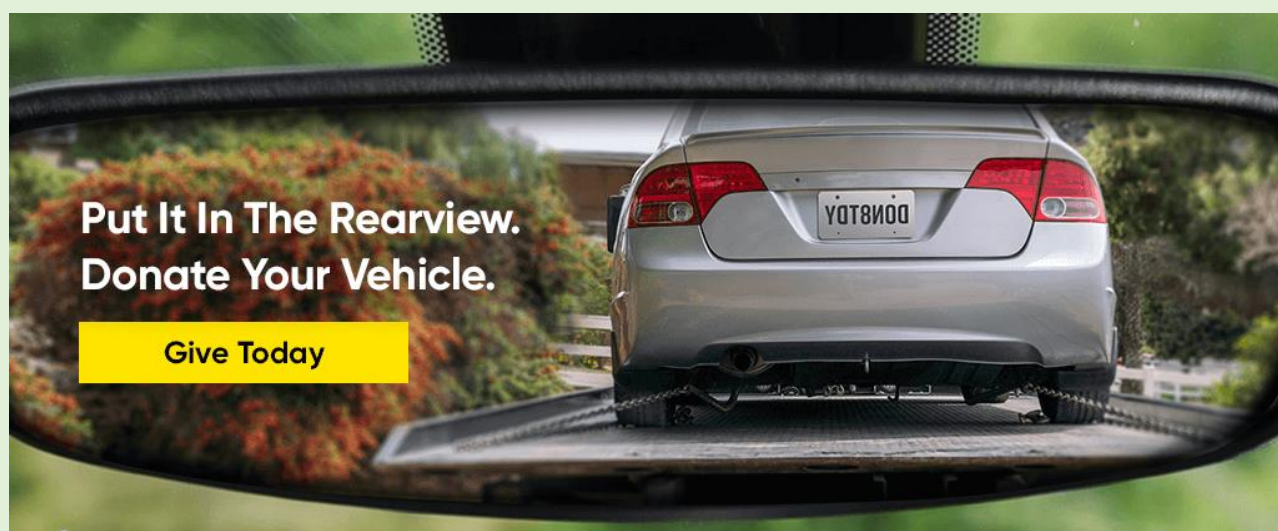
Past digital issues of *The Palmetto*



Glossy regional landscape posters

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*Do you have an unused vehicle taking up space? Donate it to support our mission work!*



### Message from the President | *Bonnie Basham*



Welcome to Spring! While most of you have been enjoying Spring-like weather for a while now, those of us in North Florida are just beginning to see our native plants peek their leaves and stems above the soil.

Recently, with the temperature hovering around 34, I was honored to represent your society at the dedication of Wakulla State Park's forest as Florida's first recognized Old Growth Forest. Members from the Magnolia chapter and my Sarracenia chapter, President David Roddenberry and Pam and Jim Pafford as well as the Florida Wildflower Foundation's representative Liz Sparks braved the cold to show support for this designation. A quilt of a representative leaf of one of the original 16 Champion Trees, made by Sarracenia member Jeannie Broadhead, was on display for the group. We were delighted to show the forest's many national and state champion trees to guests.

Your Society's chapters are continuing to raise the bar for conservation; I'm proud to report the Pinellas chapter worked diligently to help raise \$10 million to purchase the last remaining Rosemary Bald scrub in Pinellas county – a 44-acre tract known as the Gladys Douglas Hackworth property. Kudos to Rebecca Wellborn, Craig Huegel, Conservation Chair Jane Graham, Debbie Chayet and other Pinellas Chapter members, FNPS Director of Communications & Programming Valerie Anderson, Suncoast Sierra Club, Pinellas Community Foundation, Audubon, and the City of Dunedin for your diligent efforts. Recently, the City of Dunedin accepted the purchase agreement.

As Spring takes hold in your neck of our woods please remember to purchase your Florida Native license plate and register for our first virtual annual conference. Registration opens March 12. Check the News section below for more details.



## Message from the Executive Director | Juliet Ryneear



Happy Spring, everyone! We all have favorite native plants that remind us of the change in seasons. Some of my spring favorites are the Lupine species which flower this time of year. They are all short-lived perennials that usually only live a couple of years. The oldest plants that I have documented were 5 years old. In fact, about 95% of Lupine seedlings die before they are a year old. So, it's up to those few plants that do survive and reproduce to make lots of seeds. The seeds have a hard outer-shell which allows them to survive in the soil for many years. When you see a population of Lupines, it tells you that there is a large seedbank in the soil, just waiting for the right conditions to germinate.

Lupines have long taproots that make them nearly impossible to transplant. While the Florida Native Plant Society has successfully rescued seedlings, most don't make it to reproductive age. The best way to propagate these species is by scattering seeds on the ground in appropriate habitat.

I am fortunate to have *Lupinus cumulicola* growing in my back yard (below left photo), which is a remnant sandhill community on the Lake Wales Ridge. *Lupinus cumulicola* is a "sky blue Lupine" not to be confused with *Lupinus diffusus* (another "sky blue Lupine"). This is a great example of the problem with common names. More simply, this species is sometimes referred to as Sandhill Lupine.



Two Sky-Blue Lupines / *Lupinus cumulicola* (left and center) and *Lupinus diffusus* (right).

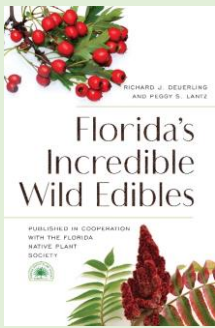
*Lupinus diffusus* is a similar species with the same flower color but it has a different form. *L. diffusus*, as the name suggests, is a prostrate plant compared to *L. cumulicola* which has an upright form. Deborah Curry, President of Marion Big Scrub Chapter is shown next to a gigantic *Lupinus diffusus*! This is an old Lupine!



And then there is the very rare *Lupinus aridorum* / Scrub Lupine which is endemic to only three counties in central Florida (and extirpated from one of them). The Florida Native Plant Society has been working with staff of the City of Orlando Parks Division to restore some of this Lupine's last remaining habitat found at Bill Frederick Park. The work has been a great success for the Lupine population and for the other rare plant and animal species found in the park!

Left: Scrub Lupine / *Lupinus aridorum*, right Sandhill Lupine / *Lupinus cumulicola* (photo by Brett Budach)





The new 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of Florida's Incredible Wild Edibles is available for purchase now! The new edition contains numerous updates and a new cover. Buy in stores or online. [Powell's](#) | [Amazon](#)



Ixia Chapter member Adam Arendell has made logo pins to raise funds for the Society. You can check them out on [Etsy](#)

**Palmetto Awards.** We are very fortunate to have so many amazing volunteers and we want them to be recognized at our Annual Members Meeting and awards ceremony (virtual again this year). Please consider nominating one or more of our outstanding members for a [Palmetto Award](#) for their volunteer work!

After the nomination cycle closes on **Monday, March 22, 2021**, the Board of Directors will review all the nominations that have been submitted and make a final decision about award recipients. Awardees will be announced at the Annual Members Meeting which will take place shortly after our virtual Annual Conference in May.

### **HOW TO SUBMIT A NOMINATION**

1. Identify the award for which you are submitting the nomination:
  - Service or education
  - Science
  - Outstanding chapter of the year
2. Provide the name of the individual or chapter that you wish to nominate.
3. In narrative format, provide an explanation of at least 150 words in length that explains what the individual or chapter has done to merit this important recognition.
4. E-mail the Word or Text document to: [executivedirector@fnps.org](mailto:executivedirector@fnps.org)

**Deadline: March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021**

## **FNPS News and Notifications**

### **Conference registration opens Friday, March 12<sup>th</sup>.**

Register early and start networking with speakers and other attendees! Our virtual platform (Whova) allows for robust networking opportunities both before and during the conference. Registration links will be on our Conference webpage:

<https://www.fnps.org/conference/register>

Registration cost is \$35 for all three days (free for fulltime students).

You will also be able to upload your photo and bio to the conference platform and let everyone know about your interests and background.





## John Sibley, 1950-2021 | *Marlene Rodak, Coccoloba Chapter and Cammie Donaldson, Conradina Chapter*



John Sibley was a long-time member of the Coccoloba Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society and served the Florida Association of Native Nurseries (FANN) as president & co-president for eight years. He also served as the Coccoloba Chapter President for ten years! He was introduced to FANN long ago at one of our Annual Conferences after he had moved from Connecticut to Florida to start a landscaping business and readily embraced native plants. He has been a force for nature in Lee County ever since, working with WCCU on a native plant landscaping documentary series, serving on county advisory boards for extension and roadways, being personally involved in hundreds of native plant sales and award-winning landscape and garden projects throughout Southwest Florida. He was awarded the 2020 Mike Kenton Award by FANN at their Annual Members Meeting in December 2020.

John was not only a great advocate for native plants, he was also a good friend to many of us. John had many great qualities but perhaps most admirable is his care and affection for his employees -- a phenomenal crew and the envy of any green operation. Thanks to John's leadership, All Native Garden Center & Plant Nursery's future is bright with Joaquin Herrera at the helm.



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# Articles

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## An Orchid Quest in the Panhandle | Kimberly Bremner, Longleaf Pine Chapter

Since late 2018, assisted by fellow Longleaf Pine Chapter member, James R. Burkhalter, botanist extraordinaire and curator of the University of West Florida (UWF) Michael I. Cousens Herbarium, I have been on a quest to locate and document native orchids in the Florida panhandle, primarily in Escambia, Santa Rosa, and west Okaloosa Counties. Three of our exciting winter findings: *Spiranthes odorata* (Lady's tresses or fragrant lady's tresses), *Tipularia discolor* (crippled crane fly or crane-fly orchid), and *Neottia bifolia* (southern twayblade or locally called "Valentine's Orchid") are shared below.

On October 31, 2020, our Longleaf Pine Chapter visited the Cotton Lake Recreation area in Escambia County to see *Spiranthes odorata*. The outing was a success, even after the hurricanes Sally & Zeta. The area is adjacent to the Escambia River and was flooded at the time of our field trip. We were able to find a few of the orchids in bloom in the water. On November 15<sup>th</sup> I went back to the site. The flood water had receded, and I found a little over 50 plants, most with the inflorescence diminished.



*Spiranthes odorata*, Photos by Kimberly Bremner

In January 2021, Jim and I returned to a large, previously visited colony of *Tipularia discolor* in Santa Rosa County. This orchid produces a single leaf in late autumn to early Spring. The leaf withers prior to producing the stalk and inflorescence in summer. We plan on leading a Longleaf Pine Chapter field trip to this site in July or August 2021 to see it in flower.



*Tipularia discolor*, Photos by Kimberly Bremner



In February 2021, we will host a trip to see the *Neottia bifolia* orchid (formerly *Listera australis*), commonly known as the southern twayblade, or locally known as the Valentine's Day orchid (SEINET Arizona - New Mexico Chapter, 2021). It is listed as threatened-endangered in Florida by the Atlas of Florida Plants although it appears abundant in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties in comparison to other orchids. *Neottia bifolia* primarily prefers rich, damp soil in densely wooded areas, but it has been found in dryer areas as well (Brown, 2004). The Department of Environmental Protection classifies it as a Facultative Wetland Plant (FACW), which means that it usually occurs in wetlands, but is occasionally found in non-wetlands. It was observed in both Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties in shaded swamp areas and damp woodlands, always adjacent to *Cliftonia monophylla* (Black Titi), and typically with sphagnum moss. The genus *Neottia* translates to "birds-nest" which refers to the root structure of this orchid, often matted and fibrous. *Bifolia* & "twayblade" refer to the two opposite, oval leaves which appear near the base, to midway on the stem (U.S.S.R., 1979). In rare instances it will produce a third leaf (trifolia). This orchid is minute and hard to see as it blends in with the decaying foliage of winter (Correll, 1950). The plant is erect with a purplish and green stem which I have observed at approximately 5 to 33 cm in height. The flowers appear in a terminal raceme and are typically various shades of burgundy and green. Occasionally the orchid will be entirely green and has been categorized as the forma *viridis*. Another characteristic of the flower is the lip which is split into two spikes or lobes ranging from 6 to 12 mm and is described by botanist C. Luer as "the forked tongue of a tiny snake". Once the orchid grows to maturity, it diminishes in a few weeks' time, until the following year (Luer, 1972). According to the Atlas of Florida Plants, *Neottia bifolia* is vouchered in approximately 19 counties, not inclusive of Santa Rosa County (Wunderlin, 2021).



A special thanks to Sharon Wombles and Grayson Sasser for findings in Santa Rosa County.

You could watch [a video](#) of FNPS leaders hunting for this orchid on YouTube. -Ed.

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## An Unexpected Discovery | Linda Eastman, President, Martin County Chapter

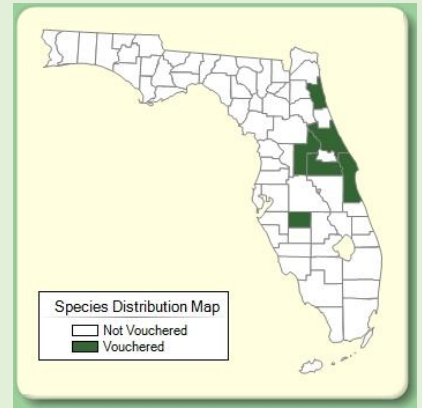


I was walking alone along a well-traveled trail in Seabrook Preserve State Park in December and I saw something interesting blooming that I hadn't noticed before. I took some photos and came back the next day with botanist Anne Cox, PhD who keyed it out to the endemic Florida Nailwort, *Paronychia discoveryi*. I also posted my photos to Florida Flora and Ecosystematics which generated [a great discussion](#). We already have Whitlow-wort / *Paronychia americana* vouchered in Martin County, in Johnathan Dickinson Preserve.<sup>1</sup>

This uncommon species was described by Chris DeLaney in 2010 and named in honor of the Discovery space shuttle and crew, inspired by a population of *P. discoveryi* near the Kennedy Space Center launch pads.<sup>2</sup> This species is only vouchered in Brevard County and north so far, so it would be a good idea to submit this to an herbarium as a pressed specimen.

However, I've only seen one individual, so I don't feel comfortable collecting a sample to officially voucher it as a new county record. I've talked with the park ranger about collecting a sample for vouchering once we find more individuals.

How did it get down here? Has it been in the park for years with no one noticing? Could it have come in on some hiker or a bicycle tire, who knows?



I enjoyed finding and observing this species. I've been able to watch it flower, fruit, and decline. When I first spotted it, it was up against a grey log and it looked like confetti. Do you know how you're walking along and your eye is tuned into the plants that you would normally see in a particular habitat? I was seeing the saw palmettos, pityopsis and goldenasters and then this little sprawling red thing caught my eye. There's no basal growth. There's just this little stem coming out of the soil for about 1/4" and then it splits right in two. Right where that split is it's like someone stepped on it because it's scarred over, but it still flowered after that as far as I can tell. This experience has left one major impression on me: It's important that we are all out in the natural areas looking for, and documenting the different species that add to the diversity of our local conservation areas.

[Clockwise from top left] This individual Florida Nailwort's journey from discovery by Linda on December 28, 2020, to growth and full flowering on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021, further growth through January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021, seeding and declining on January 31<sup>st</sup>, and still flowering and seeding on February 20<sup>th</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Woodbury, Roy and Roberts, Richard. 1987. *Paronychia americana*. Jonathan Dickinson State Park Herbarium. USF Atlas of Florida Vascular Plants. <https://cdn.plantatlas.org/img/specimens/USF/258356.jpg>.

<sup>2</sup> Hammer, Roger. 2016. Post in Florida Flora and Ecosystematics. Accessed 2021-02-18. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/852741131463538/permalink/1240274796043501>





The Florida Torreya, *Torreya taxifolia*, is one of the world's most endangered conifers. It is endemic to the unique ravines along the Apalachicola River in the Florida Panhandle, with a few populations occurring just north of the state line in southwest Georgia. Once a major canopy component of these ravines, the species has been in catastrophic decline since the 1950s, with virtually no mature, sexually reproductive individuals remaining in the wild. The few trees that do persist in the wild are all young sprouts or saplings regenerated from surviving rootstock.

The reasons for its decline have been hotly debated - though habitat degradation due to development, silviculture, climate changes and other human interferences have all contributed to its decline. The trees are also susceptible to damage by deer rubbing.



Survey volunteer Annie Schmidt with a tree she found.

The primary culprit for the death and decline of this species is due to another reason: *Fusarium torreyae*. This fungal pathogen was recently identified and described by Jason Smith at UF, and his lab is continuing to research this newly described species. Jason suspects it evolved in Asia along with relatives of *Torreya taxifolia* native to that region (members of the Taxaceae family), and was probably introduced through the import of those non-native species for horticultural uses (though more work will be needed to know for sure).

When the trees are stressed, the fungus causes leaf blight and stem cankers, ultimately killing it back down to the roots or killing the plant entirely. The tree may resprout, but remains infected. Trees can be infected without showing any signs of disease, but may begin to show signs if stressed. No *Torreya taxifolia* have been proven to be uninfected once tested, so even if they don't show signs of disease it is probable that all plant material is infected. The *Fusarium* has also been proven to infect other unrelated hardwood tree species, and for this reason it is NOT recommended to plant *Torreya taxifolia* outside of its narrow native range to avoid the unforeseen consequences of spreading this fungal pathogen.

To add insult to injury, Hurricane Michael brought devastation to the Torreya's entire range in 2018, crushing some trees and drastically changing the slope habitats. The future of this species is in great peril and more research on the *Fusarium* must continue in order to find a treatment for the blight.

The Florida Native Plant Society's TorreyaKeepers Project is working in collaboration with the Atlanta Botanical Garden to survey private and public lands for remaining trees. We collect data on the trees we find, as well as tissue samples for genetic testing and cuttings which are then grown by ABG to preserve the genetic diversity of the tree ex-situ (outside of its natural range). We also collect canker samples to provide for research at UF.

This year we have worked with many wonderful private landowners and land managers in the area and have found over 40 new trees! This project is funded by both grants and donations from FNPS members and other conservation enthusiasts - donations are always welcome (link below). We also rely on volunteers to help with surveying for the trees, which can be extremely difficult work in these steep ravines damaged by Hurricane Michael. I am very grateful for all of the hard-working volunteers who have assisted us this year!



## Council of Chapters Election and April Outreach Workshop | *Melanie Simon, CoC Secretary*



The Council of Chapters has been working hard for you this year. We have an election coming up, open to all Chapter Representatives. We're planning an outreach workshop open to three people from each chapter.

### Council of Chapters Election

The 2021 Council of Chapters Nominating committee is pleased to present the following Council of Chapters Officer candidate for election to a two-year term beginning in mid-May.

#### *Patricia Burgos, Council Chair*



Pat has been an FNPS member for over 15 years as part of the Lake Beautyberry Chapter. With degrees in biology and planning, and over 25 years of experience as an environmental professional, she has drawn on her professional training and experience to participate as an active member of her chapter. Pat served as President of Lake Beautyberry for two terms and has been serving as the chapter's representative to the Council of Chapters for the past four years.

As a candidate for Council Chair, Pat's goals include strengthening the communications between the state board and chapters, focusing Council projects to advance the FNPS mission, and supporting struggling chapters.

On March 15 the Nominating Committee will send an official email to all then-registered\* Chapter Representatives to announce the opening the Council's Forum online vote (under the Forum headings: Council of Chapters, Voting) and the closing of this online vote at midnight on March 30.

Voting results will be announced on April 8.

*\*Name, Chapter Representative status, contact information, and email registered with the Society Administration (at [info@fnps.org](mailto:info@fnps.org)) and correctly displayed on the [FNPS.org](https://fnps.org) Chapter Representative Contact webpage. Chapter Representatives must know their Chapter ID and password to view this Society Contact information. Chapter Representatives must have an individual Forum ID and password to access the Forum to vote.*

Send process questions to [council.secretary@fnps.org](mailto:council.secretary@fnps.org).

### Council Outreach Workshop Planned for April

Outreach is a large part of what all FNPS Chapters do and is vital for growing our organization and fulfilling our mission. The challenge is knowing how to effectively open people's eyes to appreciate "The Real Florida" so they will want to join and support FNPS.

The Council of Chapters will host an Outreach Workshop with Ginny Stibolt in April to address this challenge. Ginny will do a short presentation about how we can more effectively communicate with people who have no idea about why natives are important. This will be a continuation of [Ginny's Lunch & Learn](#) on this topic, not a repeat, so anyone attending will be expected to watch that presentation BEFORE attending this workshop. A round-table discussion of outreach ideas following the presentation will be a chance to share ideas and experiences. The objective is for participants to come away with lots of useable ideas to make each chapter, and the Society as a whole, more successful in attracting and keeping new members. Participants will also be encouraged to discuss how they can collaborate on a regional level to increase the effectiveness of outreach efforts.

Participation will be limited to three people per chapter. Suggested participants are people doing outreach of any type - writing emails and newsletters, posting to social media sites, updating the chapter website, managing membership, and managing outreach events. A recording of the workshop will be available afterwards so the presentation and discussions can be shared with additional members and volunteers and used as a tool for formulating more effective chapter outreach strategies.

The workshop is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, April 17 from 2 to 4 PM. Date/time confirmation and invitations to register will be sent out to Chapter Representatives and Presidents in mid-March along with [a link](#) to Ginny's June 2020 Chapter Outreach Lunch & Learn presentation, a foundation for this workshop and a must-watch for all participants.





When COVID-19 first arrived, it seemed like the entire world shut down. We got different, sometimes conflicting, messages on what it takes to stay safe. For a while, there were almost no FNPS events. Currently, most chapters have on-line meetings, and we are enjoying the opportunity to share the expertise of people who may not live in our immediate areas, expanding the expertise available to us.

The CDC publishes [general guidance](#) for safety. These are based on scientific studies which are not mentioned in the guidance. I've read a number of them, and I've used those studies to expand on the CDC guidance as it applies to events that FNPS chapters are holding. General CDC guidance is provided in bold and followed by comments expanding upon the guidance in relation to FNPS events.

1. **Remember that many people who have COVID-19 are asymptomatic** and do not know if they have it.
2. **Likelihood of catching the virus increases with concentration of droplets** (both larger ones and aerosols) in the air. It also increases with increased time of exposure. We can take advantage of this to minimize exposure and leverage the bolded recommendations to help keep us as safe as possible.
3. **Stay home if you are sick.** While this applies to COVID-19 avoidance, we should always do this.
4. **Prefer the out-of-doors and avoid indoor places especially if crowded or which have poor ventilation.** For FNPS events, I'd suggest that we continue to restrict events to out-of-doors, with social distancing. If doing a picnic or outdoor meeting, keep at least 6 feet between seats and wear masks. If you are holding a plant sale or plant swap, keep it outside, and keep lots of distance between plant "stations".
5. **Social distance by staying 6 ft or more apart, if you can't, wear a mask.** The 6-ft recommendation is based on the distance where droplets are likely to drop, but this number did not include aerosols (very tiny droplets that can remain suspended in the air). Safety can be improved by adding more distance and wearing masks even if socially distanced. Wash your mask regularly. On a field trip, don't gather tightly around a plant of interest. At a plant sale, social distance while in line waiting to pay. If you are manning the pay station, you could have increased exposure, so stay back to the extent possible and consider double masking.
6. **Wind is your friend.** This is not on anyone's list, but air movements around people walking have been modelled, and air movements both from walking and from wind will help get the miasma of droplets to disperse. For field trips, this is not a good time to carpool, but if you must do it, consider having the windows rolled down.
7. **Wash your hands frequently and for at least 20 seconds.** This is apparently less important than originally anticipated. I personally keep hand sanitizer in the car and use it when I get in.
8. **Remember that the vaccine is here (or coming).** Also remember that both available vaccines require time to build up immunity, and that no one knows if the vaccine will halt transmission by those non-symptomatic people who may have gotten a vaccine.

I think all of us are looking forward to the day when we can forget all of this!



A Suncoast Chapter member wears a hat and mask on our December field trip.

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## Chapter News, Events, and Programs

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### Save the GDP Benefit concert raises over \$25K | *Rebecca Wellborn, Pinellas Chapter*



We are proud to announce that the SaveTheGDP benefit concert and fundraiser has raised over \$25,000 for the Fund to Preserve the Gladys Douglas Property! Our goal was to raise \$15,000 then match it with \$5,000 from the chapter, but we easily surpassed that.

The benefit concert at Woodwright Brewing Company on January 27<sup>th</sup> was a raving, if slightly damp, success. We sold out and the enthusiastic (socially distanced) crowd stuck with us through a brief shower until the end. The event featured the world premiere of the documentary film Instructions for Conserving An Ecosystem, by filmmakers Devin Waitt and Carlton Ward Jr. A special thanks to our partners in the event Blue-Green Connections, Suncoast Sierra Club, Activist Nichole Mattheus, Pinellas Community Foundation, Dunedin Boat Club and Dunedin International Film Festival. FNPS Director of Communications & Programming Valerie Anderson pulled off the YouTube livestream and originated the concept of the fundraiser.

Thank you to Craig Huegel for serving as our MC, to Woodwright Brewing Company and The Duneatery for providing the venue, food and drinks, Peter Gallagher for organizing the Florida Boys, Treble Hook, Wendy Barmore and Aimee Trachtenberg to perform. City of Dunedin Florida - Government for co-streaming on Facebook and to the City and County elected officials and staff for coming out to support the event.



I would like to extend a huge thank you to the Pinellas Chapter FNPS team of volunteers who did an amazing job of soliciting donations, setting up and running the event. Rebecca Wellborn, Jan Allyn, Ginger Brengle, Sari Wood, Joanne Kliesh and Nicole Jones.



This fundraiser, and the success of the Pinellas Community Foundation's fundraising efforts, is a testament to what can be accomplished when a community comes together behind a common goal. Few businesses or individuals said no when asked to donate to the silent auction or make a cash contribution. My neighbors all gave me checks. I spoke to one yesterday who said she is so excited that the full amount was raised. She realizes her donation of \$100 was small in relation to the \$10 million, but she feels like she made a difference and can't wait to visit the park she helped create. That sense of ownership by the community will transform itself into a vibrant friends organization that will support the preserve and park for years to come.



## The Good Neighbor Trail, Brooksville to Croom, Maintenance | *Lavon Silvernell, Passionflower Chapter*



Last Fall I bicycled the new Good Neighbor Trail from the Withlacoochee State Trail to Brooksville. It was glorious with wildflowers, especially the section in the Croom Tract of the Withlacoochee State Forest. Lavender Indian Paintbrush / *Carphephorus corymbosus* and Blazing Star / *Liatris* spp., pink False Foxgloves / *Agalinis* spp.; yellow Honeycombhead / *Balduina angustifolia*, Partridge Pea / *Chamaecrista fasciculata*, Goldenrod / *Solidago* sp., White-Topped Aster / *Seriocarpus tortifolius* and more, despite it being hard to ID roadside plants while pedaling. This abundance may be due to the recent disturbance to build the trail, which allowed light to reach the ground and seeds to sprout.



The intersection of Twin Pond Road (FR 7) and the Good Neighbor Trail in the Croom Tract of the Withlacoochee State Forest

Unfortunately, the disturbance also introduced or allowed the germination of Natalgrass / *Melinis repens*, Hairy Indigo / *Indigofera hirsuta*, and Tropical Soda Apple / *Solanum viarum*. At this point there are relatively small numbers of these invasive exotic plants. I have watched this cycle of change many times and I fear I know what will happen next. Now that the bike trail has opened this area of the forest and introduced these more aggressive plants they will take over the space out competing the wildflowers.

I have reached out to the US Forest Service and Hernando County. While they see the value of treating the invasives, it is just one of many needs on their list, and money and staff time are limited. Heather Sharkey, Chapter Representative for Hernando Chapter, is a Park Ranger on the Croom Tract of the Withlacoochee State Forest. She joined us for the February 25<sup>th</sup> workday and commented: "Having volunteers that can consistently treat and area for invasives is a luxury we don't often have." FNPS Executive Director Juliet Rynear was helpful in getting permission to plan the three past workdays with USFS.



John Benton of Lake Beautyberry Chapter carries a substantial bag of invasive plants out of the Forest.

Upcoming Workday: March 20th, 2021

Time 9:00am – 12:00

Meeting point: *Tucker Hill Parking*, 26416 Croom Road, Brooksville, FL 34601. Lat/Long: 28.59353551780518, -82.29626493602017 [Google | GaiaGPS] If you cannot find the directions online, send your address and I will search for directions for you.

Bring water, food, sunscreen, gloves, insect repellent, dress for the woods. There are no restrooms where we will be working, but lots of trees. There are restrooms at the parking area. No specific plant ID skills are needed, we will teach you what you need to know.

To sign up to participate, [LavonSilvernell@gmail.com](mailto:LavonSilvernell@gmail.com) with your name, cell phone #, and questions.



## Cracker Creek Camping Trip | Mandy Morgan, Tarflower Chapter & Sonya Guidry, Pawpaw Chapter



On the last weekend of January, 16 Tarflower members gathered at Cracker Creek in Port Orange, Florida for our first overnight field trip! The field trip started off with an hour-long pontoon boat tour up Spruce Creek, where we passed by beautiful draping century old live oaks full of orchids and Tillandsias, many wading birds, the fly-in community of Port Orange and plenty of wild Florida. During the day we also enjoyed a private tour of the historic Gamble Place, once occupied by James Gamble of the Proctor and Gamble Company and his family in the late 1800's to early 1900's. It is always intriguing to learn about early settlers of Florida, see their living spaces and how they are so different from our own today. The grounds also included a citrus packing house, a winter retreat house and a beautiful log home that was inspired by Snow White and the Seven Dwarves. Complete with an evil witch's hut and seven small bed posts for each of the dwarves. The Cracker Creek property also includes many acres of a pine upland/ scrub area which features cat faced pines used during the peak of the turpentine industry. The Cracker Creek tours were all lead by Cracker Creek co-owner, Jill Williams, who did a fantastic job with her historically rich stories, catering to our native plant interests when possible. Jill has worked closely with members of the Pawpaw Chapter to learn as much as she can about protecting and managing the pine uplands on the property.

Of the sixteen Tarflowers who joined us for the day tours, eleven of us camped out for the evening. We had a catered dinner in an open pavilion, with some Plant themed trivia and prizes. Sonya Guidry of the Pawpaw chapter joined us for the evening, and was actually part of the winning trivia team, and told us what to expect for Sunday morning field trip, which would be led by Pawpaw Chapter leaders.

The Pawpaw Chapter Field Trip Committee hosted ten Tarflower Chapter members on a trail walk excursion at Doris Leeper Spruce Creek Preserve off Martin Dairy Road. At the outset, copies of Warren's wintertime plant list were well received.

The walk took them on an old wagon road out toward the famed oxbow overlook. As usual, FNPS folks were much like kids in a (native-plant) candy shop. They tasted a few lingering sparkle berries, recognized rusty Lyonia, the three scrub oak species, and wild olive. Though the wooded area is an overgrown, fire-suppressed xeric hammock, they were delighted with the native plant diversity.

A side spur trail led the Tarflower group to a recently prescribed 95-acre scrub burn site... apparently another form of eye candy! Who knew it would be so difficult to lure avid habitat restoration minded folks away from a burn site so we could move on toward our featured landmark, the 40' bluff overlooking Spruce Creek?



A Tarflower Chapter member marvels at the Butterfly Orchid / *Encyclia tampensis* in the zeric hammock of Doris Leeper



Our group couldn't resist the fresh burn.

Back on track, the group finally had to pass a virtual wall of thorny Hog Plum / *Prunus umbellata* before walking out to the great vista of the 40' bluff overlook. The view of a marshy oxbow island way down below spread with black needle rush and a scattering of cabbage palms did not disappoint.

Just a (botanizing) five-minute walk northward brought the group to the historic indigenous Spruce Creek ceremonial mound site. Though much was over grown with trees and shrubs it was plain to see where great scoops of soil had been excavated on either side of mound to increase its height to about 35 feet. That early people chose this great bluff site to build a mound is not surprising, given the strategic views granted to them both up and down Spruce Creek. Botanizing in close proximity to the mound we found Coontie / *Zamia* sp., Simpson Stopper / *Myrcianthes fragrans*, Yaupon / *Ilex vomitoria* and Soapberry / *Sapindus saponaria*. It makes you wonder how much of this botanical supermarket ecosystem was intentional.

The entire trip was a blast, everything took place outdoors, everyone was respectful of social distancing and wearing masks in close proximity to others. If you have never been to Cracker Creek, it is a hidden gem of Florida and I highly recommend making a trip out for the day for their tours.

Tarflower is looking forward to planning more overnight camping trips in the near future and we hope that more will join us!



## Talking with... Sue Egloff | *Michael Salerno, The Villages Daily Sun Senior Writer*

*Originally published in the physical Villages Daily Sun in early February*

The Florida Native Plant Society's chapter in The Villages has a new president. Sue Egloff, of the Village of St. Charles, was elected as the new chapter president at its Jan. 22 meeting. Egloff, who succeeded the chapter's 2020 president Nini Conner, is a native plant gardener with a longtime interest in gardening nurtured by her family. She spoke with the Daily Sun about why she wished to get involved.

### **Why did you wish to serve the chapter as president?**

Serving ... is my way of giving back to the community and making an impact on our ecosystem, minimizing the voracious water demands of turf and minimizing chemical fertilizers, herbicides and insecticides for our gardens. The chapter had discussions of dissolution due to lack of board members and I decided that was something I would make an effort to avoid for its 100-plus members. We continue to look for a vice president and secretary. (Anyone interested in serving in those roles may email [fnpsthevillages@gmail.com](mailto:fnpsthevillages@gmail.com) for more information.)



The Villages Chapter President Sue Egloff

### **What will be your priorities?**

My main goal is to increase The Villages homeowners' awareness of Florida native plants in The Villages (and) how they can reduce water consumption, provide a welcoming habitat for birds and butterflies, maintain Florida native plants and increase the number of attractive Florida native plant gardens in our community. The board has several objectives: Developing a brochure showing the different Florida native plants for incorporation into individual landscapes, working with the builders to offer attractive Florida native gardens on their new construction or rebuilt home sites, possibly having the homeowner documents designate one of the new villages as a Florida native plant community, encourage the developer to install Florida native plants in medians and continue to be a resource of Florida native plant information.

### **Why is a passion for native plant landscaping important to keep the local chapter alive?**

In the Villages, there are so many activities to capture one's attention. There needs to be an enthusiastic advocate to capture the homeowners' attention in creating their gardens that will help our ecosystem use less water and minimizing pollutants. If a person is doing landscaping and wants a noteworthy garden, why not make it with natives? Once established, it will use much less water than turf and does not need to be cut weekly. Most people do resist change and it is up to the chapter to allay those fears and give the gardener many options in accomplishing his/her native garden objective. We must keep the local chapter alive to share the knowledge of Florida natives. The Villages is No. 1 in so many areas. Let's be No. 1 in the number of Florida native gardens. Come join us to make it happen.

## **Pawpaw Chapter Update** | *Sande Habali, Chapter Representative*



Pawpaw Chapter continues to hold field trips and meet according to CDC guidelines. Our field trips are limited to small groups. They require advanced reservations, masks and social distancing. Our chapter meetings continue on the Zoom platforms. Meetings are recorded and available for all to view on our chapter webpage. They include the speaker and the Plant of the Month. This year's theme is Hedge your Bets: plants for privacy. As an extra bonus, you can participate in a yard tour during the virtual meeting. Members are submitting photos of their landscapes or landscapes in progress, or even "troubled issues" they may want advice on!

Recently, our chapter received an invitation from Mandy Morgan of Tarflower to join them on their January weekend trip to Port Orange's Cracker Creek, situated on the Spruce Creek waterway. Four of our members led a field trip through nearby Doris Leeper Spruce Creek Preserve to explore the xeric hammock and observe the 40-foot bluff that overlooks Spruce Creek's marshy island vista. A recent 95-acre prescribed burn of the scrub added to the interest. Both chapters enjoyed the opportunity to share experiences with like-minded folks and look forward to other joint ventures. (Full article on page 14)

Pawpaw members continue to reach out to our communities:

- Member, Danny Young represented us in the recent Tomoka Regional Science Fair. This year the fair was held virtually. We presented a budding scientist whose project was an experiment with plants and lights with a cash prize, membership, and a native plant book.
- A group of dedicated folks maintains a stretch of Highway 40 in Ormond Beach, while cataloging blooming plants over the course of a year. Our Petal Pushers are improving and sharing their propagating skills. As a result of many activities being cancelled, we have a surplus of carefully stored seeds. If you are interested in some seeds, contact [pawpaw@fnps.org](mailto:pawpaw@fnps.org) and arrangements can be made for you to obtain some. Hopefully, the committee will have a variety of plants available to sell by spring.
- We also maintain membership in the Environmental Council of Volusia and Flagler Counties to keep abreast of current environmental issues.
- We worked with Dr. Karen Cole's Stetson University students to propagate Velvetleaf Milkweed / *Asclepias tomentosa* seeds for the University's Adopt-A-Wildflower program and their Volusia Sandhill Ecosystem Restoration project.



A group of university students at Stetson's Values Day plant Velvetleaf Milkweed / *Asclepias tomentosa*

## Cuplet Fern Update | *Cali Adams, Director at Large*



The Cuplet Fern Chapter has stayed active throughout the pandemic to provide our members and social media followers with plenty of informative online content. We have teamed up with various professionals and environment advocates to create live-recorded webinars for viewers to watch and learn, participate in discussions, and ask questions. Some of the topics we have presented include gardening for certain habitats, insects, or wildlife; plant identification and information; community advocacy and awareness; special presentations from experts; and more! Our chapter president Mark Kateli and the team of directors have been busy working on webinars for members!

Some of our online outreach has garnered quite a bit of attention; Most recently, in January, our live-video presentation with Jennifer Possley from the Fairchild Tropical Botanic Gardens [Fern Basics & Ferns of Florida](#), was featured in the New York Times *Things to do at Home* for January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

Another webinar that received a lot of attention was our [Geneva Land Development panel](#). We hosted a panel-style discussion and slideshow December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020 with local experts and advocates, to inform the community of a potentially destructive development plan that would have excavated approximately 30 acres of scrub and flatwoods in rural Seminole county. Ultimately the order was stopped, for now, when the county commissioners agreed with the citizens and rejected the staff-approved development order.

During the week of Thanksgiving, we ran a social media campaign to highlight artists within our native plant and environment-minded communities. With great success, our members were shown lots of unique artwork to gift their loved ones (or themselves) for the holidays. We featured a variety of prints, paintings, jewelry, and other nature inspired art.

We haven't only been online though, after many months of dormancy, our Garden Team has begun to work in our environmental study area native gardens again while following good health and safety guidelines. Joining us are several student interns from local colleges to receive on-the-job training and credits applied towards their coursework this semester.



In January we followed the guidance of our chapter Vice President Barbara Whittier as we worked to clean up some overgrowth in the garden at the Ed Yarborough Nature Center in Geneva, FL. The team trimmed the Wax Myrtles / *Morella cerifera* and Firebush / *Hamelia patens* var. *patens*, transplanted a young pine tree that volunteered in an odd spot, cleared out a lot of gone-to-seed plants like Bluecurls / *Trichostema setaceae* and Spotted Bee Balm / *Monarda punctata*, and planted new seeds donated from a member who lives close-by in a similar Sand Pine Scrub habitat. Three juvenile gopher tortoises had found the garden and made it their home in the time since the pandemic drew us all indoors and left the gardens to fend for themselves. Nature seemed to enjoy the peace.



In early February we visited the native garden at the Seminole County UF/IFAS office in Sanford, where we found the Scorpion Tail / *Heliotropium angiospermum* had taken over a portion of the garden, and many other species had gone to seed and been eaten up by birds and insects. We worked for a few hours clearing out the overgrowth and trimming plants. Seeds and cuttings were also collected to propagate for our upcoming plant sale in March!





## Middleton High School Native Plant Garden in Tampa | *Virginia Overstreet, Suncoast Chapter*



The Suncoast Chapter provides grants to Hillsborough County schools to fund native plant gardens. In July 2020 we received a grant request from Kenny Gil, the Agriscience teacher at Middleton High School. After visiting the school and reviewing Kenny's site plan, our board voted to provide the grant. He wanted to establish a native garden in an area used by the entire student body and faculty to showcase the importance of using native plants in the landscape. Under Kenny's guidance, the students prepared the site, installed the plants, and installed micro-irrigation. Many of these students had never gardened and didn't understand the relationship between plants and wildlife. One of Kenny's students was amazed and excited to learn that she could go to school to learn more about plants. Other students enjoyed the challenge of installing the micro-irrigation system. Students and faculty throughout the school have enjoyed watching the progress of the garden and the many pollinators who visit it.



## Job Postings

### Social Media Intern—Miami Waterkeeper

compensation: unpaid | term: n/a | schedule: n/a | start date: n/a | closing date: n/a | location: n/a | FNPS chapter: Dade

Miami Waterkeeper's (MWK) mission is to defend, protect, and preserve South Florida's watershed through citizen engagement and community action rooted in sound science and research. MWK works to ensure swimmable, drinkable, fishable water for all. Miami Waterkeeper is seeking an unpaid social media intern who will Assist in developing content for social media while remaining on brand and open to feedback. The candidate must have a strong knowledge of Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, and other social media platforms as needed. The intern will monitor social media platforms and respond to comments and messages. Full position description is [here](#). Please contact Mary Crider at [mcrider@wpb.org](mailto:mcrider@wpb.org) for an application.

### Environmental Education Intern—Grassy Waters Preserve

Grassy Waters Preserve is seeking a current (or recent) graduate or undergraduate student with a >3.0 GPA for a rigorous outdoor educational internship. The intern will receive certifications for environmental education and will work closely with Grassy Waters Preserve staff. Full position description is [here](#).

### Program and Administrative Coordinator—Florida Wildlife Corridor

compensation: n/a | term: 6 months | schedule: full-time | start date: n/a | closing date: n/a | location: n/a | FNPS chapter: Pinellas



The Florida Wildlife Corridor organization champions the public and partner support needed to permanently connect, protect and restore the Florida Wildlife Corridor—a statewide network of lands and waters that supports wildlife and people. The Program and Administrative Coordinator will work as part of the Florida Wildlife Corridor team coordinating tasks related to one or more functional activities, such as administrative support, operations support, internal communications, procurement, meetings management, and special events. The Coordinator provides high-level administrative oversight and project management support to the Team. Full position description is [here](#).

### **Environmental Scientist / Aquatic Ecologist— Howard T. Odum Florida Springs Institute**

compensation: n/a | term: 6 months | schedule: part or full time | start date: n/a | closing date: n/a | location: High Springs |  
FNPS chapter: Paynes Prairie

The Howard T. Odum Florida Springs Institute is seeking an entry to advanced level Environmental Scientist/Aquatic Ecologist to conduct spring ecological health assessments. The selected Environmental Scientist/Aquatic Ecologist will work with FSI's Environmental Scientist(s) and provide assistance with all aspects of FSI's monitoring and assessment of the ecological health of Florida's artesian springs. Typical tasks include instrument and equipment maintenance and calibration, field data and sample collection, data entry and database management, literature review and summarization, report preparation, educational presentation preparation and delivery, and intern training and supervision. Full position description is [here](#).

### **Administrative Assistant— Howard T. Odum Florida Springs Institute**

compensation: n/a | term: 6 months | schedule: part or full time | start date: n/a | closing date: n/a | location: High Springs |  
FNPS chapter: Paynes Prairie

The Howard T. Odum Florida Springs Institute is seeking an Administrative Assistant to assist the Executive Director and staff in leading the organization's operations while developing sustainable streams of revenue through fundraising. The Administrative Assistant will work under the supervision of the Executive Director and will provide general assistance with all aspects of the management and operations of FSI, including office administration, financial and insurance, project and program management and budgeting, event planning, volunteer management, fund raising, and mission execution. Part or Full time employment will be considered Full position description is [here](#).

### **Florida Chapter Director— Sierra Club**

compensation: n/a | term: n/a | schedule: n/a | start date: n/a | closing date: n/a | location: flexible

The Florida Chapter of the Sierra Club seeks a chapter director to provide organizational leadership and to work in conjunction with its volunteer leaders to carry out the Chapter's policies, programs and operations. The Chapter encompasses the State of Florida (67 counties). The Florida Chapter has about 36,000 members, each of whom belongs to one of 16 groups. The Chapter Director plays a critical role in ensuring the successful implementation of all programs, policies and initiatives for the Chapter. Full position description is [here](#).

### **Director of Conservation— Save the Manatee Club**

compensation: n/a | term: n/a | schedule: n/a | start date: n/a | closing date: n/a | location: Maitland | FNPS chapter: Tarflower

Save the Manatee Club is an award-winning national nonprofit 501(c)(3) and membership-based organization established in 1981 by renowned singer/songwriter, Jimmy Buffett, and former U.S. Senator, Bob Graham, when he was governor of Florida. The Director of Conservation reports directly to the Executive Director and is responsible for all issues relevant to that department as defined by the Executive Director and manages other employees and volunteers/interns in that department. This Director also supports the Executive Director in any other tasks deemed necessary and works in coordination with the other directors on education and outreach projects. Emphasis should be given to establishing and nurturing professional relationships with key staff members of the USFWS, FWC, DEP etc. so as to influence the best practices for manatee and ecosystem protections within these respective agencies. Full position description is [here](#).

### **Scientist 3— South Florida Water Management District**

compensation: \$48,987.20-55,848.00 | term: n/a | schedule: n/a | start date: n/a | closing date: n/a | location: Dupuis Reserve | FNPS chapter: Martin County

The St. Johns River Water Management District is an environmental regulatory agency of the state of Florida whose work is focused on ensuring a long-term supply of drinking water, and to protect and restore the health of water bodies in the district's 18 counties in northeast and east-central Florida. While the district works closely with utilities on water supply issues, the district is not a water supplier.

This scientist position participates in programs administered by the Land Stewardship Section and performs a variety of land management functions to assure District-owned lands are properly managed for recreational and ecological purposes. This position conducts a wide range of technical and complex land management activities requiring a working knowledge of various ecological principles as well as expertise acquired through a combination of past work experience and formal educational training.

Specific duties include planning and conducting prescribed burns, managing exotic plant control contracts, performing and managing contracted mechanical vegetation control activities, participating in public use/recreation management activities, vegetation and wildlife monitoring, monitoring agricultural leases, and developing and implementing hydrologic and vegetative restoration projects. Incumbent utilizes GIS to track resource management projects and successes and shall have the ability to operate field equipment including swamp buggies, farm tractors and implements, and all-terrain vehicles to complete assigned field activities. Incumbent writes, initiates, and implements statements of work for contracted land management activities, supervises contractors, and plans and coordinates habitat restoration projects. Full position description is [here](#).

### **OPS Park Ranger** – Florida Forest Service, Cooperative Outdoor Burning and Resource Assistance (COBRA Team)

compensation: \$23,649.60/yr | term: grant funding through June 2022 | schedule: full-time | start date: n/a | closing date: March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021 | location: Brooksville Forestry Worksite | FNPS chapter: Hernando

The Florida Forest Service (FFS) Cooperative Outdoor Burning and Resource Assistance (COBRA) Team has a pair of openings for Other Personnel Services (OPS) Park Rangers to work on the COBRA Team. These are 40 hour per week positions starting at \$11.37/hr. These Park Ranger openings will be the crew members of the COBRA Team and will assist with tasks including; heavy equipment operation, operating a brush truck, participating in prescribed burning and other duties to assist the public and land managers in managing upland sites with prescribed fire. These positions will report to the Brooksville Forestry Worksite, just south of the FFS Withlacoochee Forestry Center HQ at 15019 Broad Street, Brooksville, FL 34601. These are grant funded positions that have secured funding through June of 2022, but may receive continuing funding in the future. Previous experience in heavy equipment operation, prescribed fire, or land management activities is preferred. Personal protective equipment and required training (S-130/190) will be provided. This position requires applicants to have a High School Diploma or equivalent, and be at least 18 years of age. Successful applicants must be eligible to obtain a Class B Commercial Driver's License after they receive training from the FFS. If interested please, send your resume to: [John.Kern@FDACS.gov](mailto:John.Kern@FDACS.gov) No later than March 5, 2021.

Contact John Kern, Deputy Chief, Region 3, Florida Forest Service for more information.

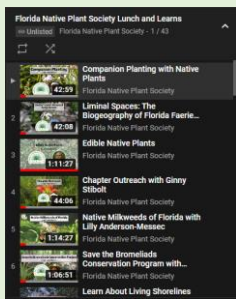
[John.Kern@FDACS.gov](mailto:John.Kern@FDACS.gov) Or Jason Hooker [Jason.Hooker@FDACS.gov](mailto:Jason.Hooker@FDACS.gov)

### **Land Steward** – Conservation Foundation of the Gulf Coast

compensation: n/a | term: permanent | schedule: full-time | start date: n/a | closing date: March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021 | location: Osprey | FNPS chapter: Serenoa

Conservation Foundation of the Gulf Coast is currently accepting applications for the position of Land Steward. A successful candidate will be responsible for implementing land management best practices on land owned by Conservation Foundation and for monitoring and enforcing conservation easements. Salary commensurate with experience. Benefits include PTO, medical, 401k, and optional dental, vision, and supplemental insurance. [More information.](#) [Full job description.](#)





Our Lunch and Learns are produced primarily for members of the Florida Native Plant Society.

Have a curious non-member friend, a warm HOA boardmember, or a native-plant-friendly city councilmember? You can easily share all of the seven public Lunch and Learns with them by sending them public Lunch and Learn playlist: [linked here](#).

In this issue, rather than listing all of the forty-three Lunch and Learns in chronological order, I'll just refer you to the full [YouTube playlist](#), which is easy to navigate on most devices and browsers.

Congratulations to the Magnolia Chapter for their logo redesign starring Ashe Magnolia / *Magnolia ashei*, a State Endangered endemic tree with a gorgeous flower. The logo was designed by Amanda Roop and Jesse Taylor.



The Florida Bromeliad Group has released their [2020 update](#) which includes some cool information on taxonomy (Florida may have its own separate species of Giant Airplant!) Our members Donna Day, Ernie Winn, Sherm Stratton, and Linda Lovallo from our Serenoa Chapter are mentioned in this update. Ernie networked with Martha Pessaro after her Lunch and Learn last June and they were able to adapt her informational posters from the Enchanted Forest and print and display them at the T. Mabry Carlton Preserve.

We now have eighteen chapters with their own YouTube Channels! Since December Suncoast, Mangrove, and Passionflower Chapters have joined us on YouTube! Check out the chapters, watch some videos, and subscribe: [Citrus](#) - [Conradina](#) - [Cuplet Fern](#) - [Dade](#) - [Ixia](#) - [Mangrove](#) - [Marion Big Scrub](#) - [Martin County](#) - [Naples](#) - [Pine Lily](#) - [Passionflower](#) - [Pinellas](#) - [Sarracenia](#) - [Serenoa](#) - [Suncoast](#) - [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 videos as well.

[Tri-Ology Volume 59, Number 4](#) has been released! This is a bimonthly journal published by FDACS-DPI. The botany section, by Patti J. Anderson, PhD and Alex de la Paz, B.S. features two non-native plants that have recently been submitted to DPI as samples – Burmann's Basketgrass / *Oplismenus burmanii* and Miracle Fruit / *Synsepalum dulcificum*. Burmann's basketgrass is a common groundcover in shady lawns throughout Central Florida and is in the same genus to our widely-distributed native Basketgrass / *Oplismenus setarius*. Miracle Fruit, a member of the Sapodilla family, *Sapotaceae*, has red fruits which, when chewed and applied to one's taste buds, makes sour foods eaten within a few minutes taste sweet.



Do you like surveys? Student Shelley Pierce would like you to take hers on your views on Ethnobotany. Here's [the link](#).

###

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](mailto:sabalminor@fnps.org).