



# Sabal minor

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

## **JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2021 | VOLUME 23, NUMBER 1**

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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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.

## Message from the President | *Bonnie Basham*



WELCOME to 2021! Thank each of you for your generous contributions to our “year-end” fundraising appeal. Your generosity will help us expand our outreach and mission work and for that your FNPS Board and I are incredibly grateful.

While we still are unable to meet in person, each month, we are able to enjoy virtual chapter meetings and socially distanced field trips. We also continue to have interesting topics discussed during our Friday Lunch and Learns. Members have access to all past and upcoming Lunch and Learns via Valerie’s weekly notification emails and the [Members-Only Facebook Group](#). Non-members have access to three of the thirty Lunch and Learns – [Karina Veaudry’s three-part Native Landscape Design Series](#). Please feel free to view and share the three videos. The final one, [Part 3 – Commercially-Available Natives](#), will be broadcast on January 8<sup>th</sup> at noon.

## Message from the Executive Director | *Juliet Ryneer*



Happy New Year everyone! I am so grateful to you for your devotion to our mission in 2020. Meeting with you on Zoom and at socially-distanced workdays this past year has definitely helped my mental health and kept me going through all the stress and turmoil. As

vaccines for Covid-19 are rolling out for health care workers and seniors, it looks like 2021 is shaping up to be a much better year.

My heart goes out to all of you who are working on the front lines of this pandemic! Thank you for all you do to take care of us! I hope that by the time you read this, you have been vaccinated. While this won’t completely lift the burden from your shoulders, it is surely a step in that direction.

The New Year also means that it is time to start thinking about our annual **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.

Speaking of our Annual Conference, it’s time to Save the Date on your calendar.

**Our Annual Conference will be VIRTUAL this year and will take place on May 14-16, 2021.**

### 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**



FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY  
40TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Our virtual conference platform will be Whova, which offers excellent networking capabilities. Registration will open in February and once you register you will be able to access the conference site and set up your own profile and begin interacting with others who have registered.

Vendors and sponsors will also have their own pages and profiles. Instead of the “chapter table” seen at our in-person conferences, any chapter can request their own vendor space to sell chapter items (chapters must have the ability to process payments – Square is an option used by many chapters).

The price will be greatly reduced compared to our in-person conferences. The cost for all 3 days will be \$35 per person. As always, fulltime students will be able to attend for free.

All chapters and sponsors from last year’s cancelled conference will be carried over for this year. To check if you or your chapter is already a sponsor check out the [Conference Sponsor page](#) on our website.

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## Articles

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### Save Florida’s Bromeliads Conservation Project Update | Martha Pessaro, Sea Rocket Chapter



The Mexican Bromeliad Weevils, *Metamasius callizona*, have taken no heed to the Pandemic and CDC recommendations while they continue to decimate the Enchanted Forest populations of *Tillandsia utriculata*, giant air plant.

\*\*\*

Martha and her team were awarded a 2019 Conservation Grant to create, establish, and implement a method to prevent the endangered Giant Airplant, *Tillandsia utriculata*, from going extinct while continuing to search for a way to control the weevil.

\*\*\*

Our work to continue the conservation leg of our research in the battle to protect the remaining plants in the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary in Titusville was greatly aided by the Conservation Grant Award from Florida Native Plant Society and NextEra Energy/FPL. With two new cages built and installed in the Forest, we began populating them with mature plants and at least seven that have a spiking inflorescence. We were on schedule with goals to conserve the larger, most vulnerable plants.

On March 17<sup>th</sup> we were instructed that the Forest would be on quarantine until further notice and access was halted at that time, due to the Pandemic. Work on the interpretive signage continued throughout the shutdown period and was greatly impacted by our sign company being on lockdown as well. With everyone learning to do their work from home, not the same software, and in sync with other life events, it was adaptation time and the learning curve taught us patience, humility, and a return to a kinder more humane environment living in grace and thankfulness.



Our sign designs were shared with Donna and Ernie Winn, Serenoa Chapter members, for potential use at the T. Mabry Carlton, Jr. Reserve near Venice, in Sarasota County.

The Enchanted Forest opened under restrictions in mid-May and our return to care for the plants was good. We missed being in the Forest through the shutdown, but nature herself has more to teach us as everything was vibrant and healthy within the Forest gardens and the conservation cages.

Our next adaptation came as we learned that Angie Howell would be moving out of Florida and we would not have her as a team member beside us at the Forest. Her energy, enthusiasm, and can-do attitude have led us through the fungus experiments with the Trail Plants and provided leadership through the entire project. The transition of the remaining Trail Plants into the conservation cages was completed, and we worked to finalize the collected data. We will miss Angie and wish her every success in her new endeavors, far away from hurricanes!

The Florida Native Plant Society Conservation Grant results would have been presented at the Annual Conference, and when that was cancelled, a series of Friday Brown Bag Lunches was created for virtual attendance. Members of the FNPS were treated to our Conservation Grant presentation on Friday, June 5th. I presented, and the entire video presentation is available to watch [here](#), on the [Florida Native Plant Society's YouTube Channel](#). Sea Rocket Chapter talks have also been cancelled due to the pandemic.

The Grant interpretive signs were in production and arrived in the Forest in late July. The larger panel was installed by the Environmentally Endangered Lands staff and Vince, EEL Volunteer and I installed the cage signs and fencing.

One of our major Conservation Project plans involved the impacts that the research encountered in previous year's hurricane seasons. The removal and replacement of the hanging garden structures from the remote locations to the screened patio area of the Enchanted Forest had always been an enormous manual effort and crisis time constraint with each called evacuation. Replacing the structures post hurricane always depended on safely cleared trails and reopening of the Sanctuary.



Photo of one our signs installed at the Forest in late July, 2020. This design has been shared with Serenoa Chapter members Donna and Ernie Winn for possible implementation at The Carlton Reserve in southwest Florida.



In front of the cages that Vince and I installed.



A brilliant idea was born to partner with the Sea Rocket Chapter of Native Plant Society to use a portion of the elevated nursery beds for placement of the garden structures. After coordinating, clearing and reconstruction of four of the abandoned beds, the garden structures were all moved from the remote locations. Our small team of volunteers were assisted by the Environmentally Endangered Lands staff and the use of their equipment to accomplish the relocation process. On Thursday, June 11th all the remaining research plants were in the nursery.

Having the plants close by has made the annual summer maintenance incredibly simple. No longer do we have the manual labor involved in trekking to the remote garden areas to work on the structures, carry water, clear trails. Our hopes are to attract more interest in the project and increase educational outreach as the plants are next to the Management and Education Facility. During summer-time, our volunteer crew goes down to one person (which was fine for COVID-19 Social Distancing). The Cuplet Fern Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society sent a Seminole State College intern, Natalie Harrison, to assist with the project over two weekends in July. Mark Kateli, Cuplet Fern Chapter President arranged the workdays and Natalie and Martha worked together.



Figure 1 Intern Natalie holds a very large Giant Airplant as we worked to place this plant in the new conservation cage in the nursery.

The plants are adapting to the new location and our first structure, FrankieFly001<sup>1</sup>, had six plants that grew to 18" and were taken to the Conservation cages in November after their processing. This historic moment was accomplished with our fall/winter team including Lora Losi and Martha. We look forward to more partnerships with FNPS, academia, government conservation teams, and our special group. Through sharing ideas and processes that work we can make great strides in conservation and efforts to Save Florida's Bromeliads.

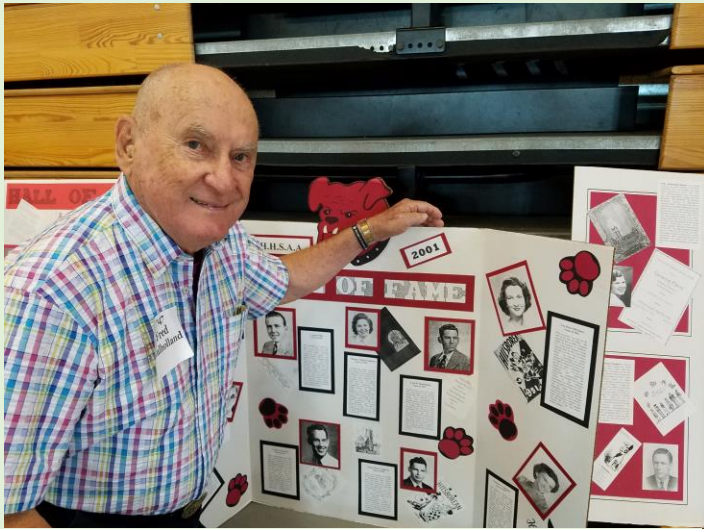
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*Martha Pessaro worked as the Central Region Education Coordinator for the Environmentally Endangered Lands Program at the Sams House at Pine Island Conservation Area in Brevard County, Florida. Her passion for the conservation and preservation of Native Florida, *Tillandsia utriculata* in particular, has been one focus of her volunteer time. As a founding member of the Friends of the Enchanted Forest (circa 1989), she worked with a small group of dedicated volunteers to save the important habitat of these special plants. The 393-acre Sanctuary was purchased and placed in the Environmentally Endangered Lands Program in 1991 and 1993. Her career at Kennedy Space Center program management for the Space Shuttle Solid Rockets spanned the life of the Shuttle program (35 years) and her volunteer work with the Friends of the Enchanted Forest paralleled that career and partnered with the current project working with Dr. Teresa Marie Cooper and a team of dedicated volunteers who have formed the Save Florida's Bromeliads Project. Love for the land and all living systems keeps her learning and directly working on projects to protect and preserve biological diversity through responsible stewardship and volunteer efforts.*

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<sup>1</sup> Editor's Note: Yes, this is the actual name of the structure. It's named after the 'Frankie fly' released by Dr. Howard Frank and Dr. Teresa Cooper as a potential biological control agent of the weevil. It did not work.





Fred with a poster of the activities that lead to his induction into the Hillsborough High School Hall of Fame.



Fred with one of his model airplanes.



Fred's 90th birthday party.

Fred was a long-time friend. The following information is provided so far as I know.

Fred was a Florida native. He turned 91 years old on July 20 and passed away on December 20, 2020.

Fred was one of the founders of the Florida Trails Association. He directed the buildings of many miles of nature hiking trails for the association.

He attended Hillsborough High School and later was award membership in the school's "Hall of Fame".

He retired from GT&E in management. Fred was in the Army National Guard for 21 years as a Green Beret and retired a Major.

Fred was a long-time member of the Tampa Bay Model Airplane Flyers and held the World Championship for antique model RC airplane flying for several years.

Fred was a member of the Florida Native Plant Society for over 30 years. Until recently, he was a continually active member of the Suncoast Chapter of the NPS and then transferred to the Nature Coast Chapter due to living nearer to that chapter's meeting location.

Fred and his wife Barbara maintained a native plant show place yard and received an FNPS landscape award in 2020.

They were well known for their annual May yard parties for members of both Hillsborough and Pasco County's native plant chapters.

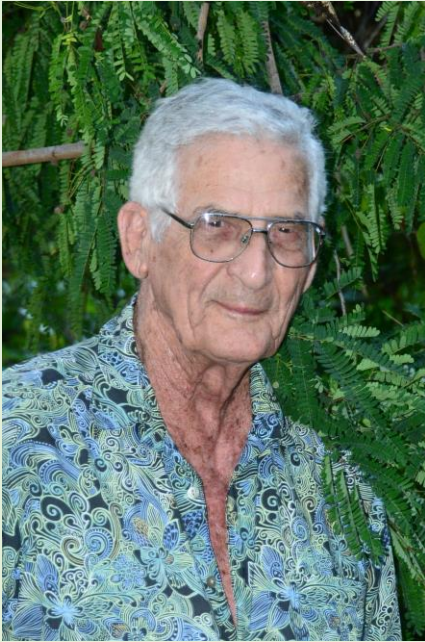
They could always be counted on to bring plants to chapter meetings for auction.

They had a big party to celebrate his 90th birthday party. Fred wanted to have the celebration while he was still alive.

Fred is survived by his loving wife Barbara who shared many of Fred's interests and hobbies for many years.

Fred is also survived by a son, Doug and daughter, Kathy and three grandchildren.





George Donald (Don) Gann Sr., founding member of FNPS, passed away on December 11 in Redland, Florida. Don and his wife, Joyce, who died in February, helped establish FNPS and the Dade Chapter. They were co-recipients of FNPS Green Palmetto and Mentor Awards as well as the Dade Chapter's Marjory Stoneman Douglas Award. (An [interview](#) published in the Palmetto spring 2000 issue tells of their experiences as founding members of FNPS.)

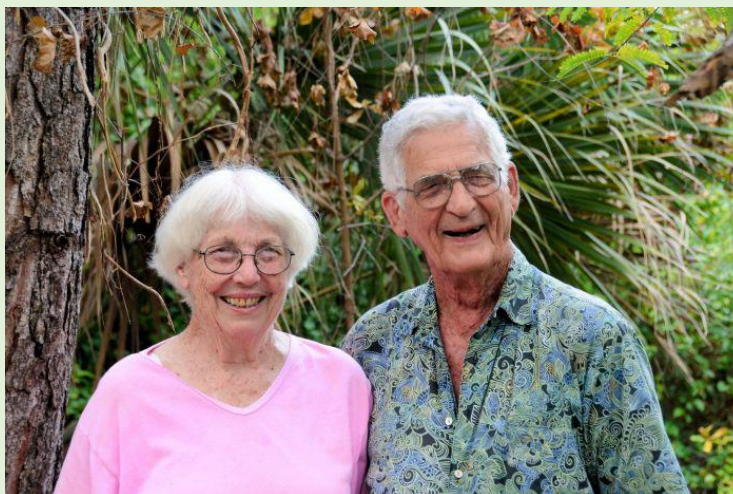
Don was born on June 11, 1931 in south Dade County. He and Joyce were high school sweethearts and raised their family in Perrine and then Redland, where they built a cutting-edge energy efficient home without air conditioning designed by Alfred Browning Parker.

Don teamed up with Joyce's father growing tomatoes for 30 years. He was a modifier and inventor of farm machinery, a skill in which he took great pride. Early conservationists, Don and Joyce began restoring the native forest on their property in the 1960s. They began attending the Dade Native Plant Workshop to better understand the nature around them. Ultimately Don joined the family enterprise Gann's Native Tropical Greenery, one of the first native plant businesses in Florida. In the 1980s he and Joyce helped establish FNPS and its Dade Chapter, The Institute for Regional Conservation, and the Florida Association of Native Nurseries. Don was a member of the Miami-Dade County Environmentally Endangered Lands Program's Land Acquisition Selection Committee from 1992 to 2019. He and Joyce jointly received numerous awards and acknowledgements from these and other organizations. Miami-Dade County proclaimed February 11, 2019, as "Don and Joyce Gann Day" in recognition of their many years of service and dedication to the protection and preservation of native plants and natural areas.

Don was a member of the Florida National Guard for a decade, a leader in both the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts, and a Red Cross Canoe Instructor. He valued his family and being a father above all, but was good to all people. He was an adventurer, traveling much of the Caribbean and Latin America, and hiking, camping, and whitewater canoeing.

He is survived by his sister, three children (including FNPS member George Gann), four grandchildren, one great grandson. A Celebration of Life will be held at a future date.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the [Florida Native Plant Society's Conservation Grants](#) are suggested. The Dade Chapter has contributed to the grants annually since 2013 in honor of the Ganns. To donate online, head [here](#). There's a [truly lovely interview of Donn and Joyce Gann](#) in the Palmetto Vol 20(1) by Diane Otis.





## Conservation, Greenhouse Production, and Restoration Outplanting of Sandhill Milkweed (*Asclepias humistrata*) work by Gabriel Campbell, PhD | Lizzy Jenny, Longleaf Pine Chapter



Coastal dunes serve vital roles in the ecosystem, act as buffers against severe weather, and support a variety of human activities along coastlines. Nonetheless, shoreline development, recreation, and natural weather patterns constantly jeopardize integrity of our coastal dunes. There is great need for coastal dune restoration worldwide, but most regional coastal dune systems are not well studied. Specifically, the unique coastal plant species that grow on various regional dune systems are understudied, and therefore, those unique regional plant characteristics are not commonly incorporated into dune restoration projects.

Longleaf Pine Chapter member, Gabriel Campbell, sought to fill some of this void in Northwest Florida with the recent completion of his PhD research. Using insights from his research he described greenhouse production and restoration outplanting protocols for *Asclepias humistrata* (sandhill milkweed) in coastal dunes of the Florida panhandle.

Native to the southeastern United States, *Asclepias humistrata* is an herbaceous perennial with tuberous roots that grows in dry soil and full sun. It has ornamental and restoration value, but it is most notable as a larval host for monarch butterflies and is especially significant for migrating monarchs along the gulf coastlines.



Throughout 2018, Gabriel identified and observed *Asclepias humistrata* at six different sites (two barrier islands and mainland locations). Growth and phenology were observed for later comparisons to study in the greenhouse and restoration outplantings.



*Asclepias humistrata* (sandhill milkweed) dune outplantings

A series of experiments followed, including direct seeding into coastal dunes, greenhouse production, and restoration outplantings. Direct seeding experiments tested locations: scrub canopy, edge, and open sandy soils; as well as soil covers including sand, leaf litter, and protection using PVC pipes with and without mesh. Greenhouse experiments tested production using standard fertilization rates, container sizes and shapes, traditional horticultural substrates, and alternative, environmentally friendly substrates. Restoration outplanting experiments tested the effects of production systems and water holding gels that are commonly used in restoration outplantings in the panhandle.



Ultimately, Gabriel saw success with germination within coastal dunes along the scrub edges or in open areas, with a preference for sand as the soil cover. Seeds sown in the summer, coinciding with natural seed dispersal, emerged the next spring and remained small (~1cm tall) one year after seeding. Greenhouse production experiments were successful, and sandhill milkweed can be grown across a range of fertilization rates, substrates, and container types with mature, flowering plants possible from seed in less than three months. Restoration experiments were also successful during spring and summer outplantings using plants grown in 4-inch containers or tree tubes. Water holding gels did not improve outplanting performance.

With the completion of Gabriel's research, there is potential for this species to be used more commonly in future coastal restoration projects, thereby increasing the biodiversity and ecological impacts of such efforts.



*Asclepias humistrata* (sandhill milkweed) substrate experiments



*Asclepias humistrata* (sandhill milkweed) greenhouse production experiments



Gabriel's presentation of his final exit seminar can be viewed on the UF Milton YouTube Channel [here](#). For more information on Gabriel's work, he can be contacted at [camp5595@gmail.com](mailto:camp5595@gmail.com).



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# Chapter News, Events, and Programs

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## Lake Beautyberry Chapter Update | *John Benton, President*



Lake Beautyberry began 2020 with such good energy. We celebrated our 20th year as a chapter of FNPS in January with a brief retrospective of our chapter's accomplishments and acknowledgement of the contributions of our founding members. We asked our members to try something new with a fun banquet of homemade plant-based dishes and a theme of "A Taste of the Future". We left the meeting feeling upbeat and ready for new challenges and our next in-person meeting in March.

That March meeting never took place and the balance of 2020 has presented us and every other chapter with a different set of problems to solve. We had planned to focus on three objectives for the year:

1. Supporting FNPS in the acquisition and maintenance of sensitive lands with funding
2. Supporting Student travel to the annual FNPS conference
3. Supporting the Seminole State Forest staff with their efforts to protect and improve the Warea Tract near Clermont

Not having in-person meetings has affected our personal connections, our education and outreach operations, and finances. We owe a huge thank you to Mark Kateli of the Cuplet Fern chapter who orchestrated a Zoom subscription for several chapters to share. We have been able to use it for our board meetings and we will use it for our annual meeting and elections in January. In advance of that, we are calling all of our membership to personally invite them on that date.

We have been able to maintain a regular series of field trips and work days for smaller groups in local conservation areas. Members participated in census work on the Warea Tract and the Little Italy property of the St. Johns River Water Management District on Lake Apopka's north shore. We were able to make a new connection with the staff and students of Lake Sumter State College for invasive plant species removal on a natural area of the college campus. Another event strengthened our alliance with Lake County Parks and Trails resulted in a workshop on fern identification which we amplified with a publicly advertised (and socially distanced) fern scavenger hunt. We have another potential partnership with the Florida Forest Service on the new Good Neighbor Trail in Hernando County. Green Isle Gardens generously supported a members-only plant sale that was a welcome boost to lost income from regular chapter fundraising methods. Facebook has also been a key to broader public engagement and we have improved our reach with more frequent and more curated content.

To sum it up, this year has forced us to scramble and find new ways of interacting with our members and other groups. Our sister chapters and the FNPS leadership have been very supportive. The educational opportunities and content that they have developed and made available have been wonderful. We look forward to the time in the next year when we can restart our in-person meetings. There simply is no substitute for those. We miss our members and the delightful interactions that happen at those events.



Lake Beautyberry Chapter Fern Identification workshop was both an indoor and outdoor experience at Ellis Acres Reserve, Paisley, Lake County.



## Ixia Chapter Update | Valerie Anderson, FNPS staff



Ixia Chapter [won recognition](#) from the City of Jacksonville for the incredible urban oasis that is Native Park. Ixia members Teryn and Larry Romaine were the devoted Native Park caretakers for a few years. They deserve most of the credit why the park looks so worthy of recognition. They recently moved out of state and will be missed immensely, but Vice President Adam Arendell was able to reach them for this quote: "We are very honored to receive this award, but the ultimate focus is on bringing the concept of native gardening into the broader community, through providing them something to look at, and by allowing them to participate in its (less labor intensive) maintenance." The Jacksonville-based Ixia Chapter won the inaugural Cleanup Award for the Urban Core neighborhood. The Ixia Chapter serves Duval and Nassau Counties.

## Conradina Chapter Update | Carole Hebert, President



The Conradina Chapter is wishing everyone a safe and healthy New Year!

We have loaded our monthly general meetings with wonderful speakers highlighting native plants in home landscapes. October was our 11th annual "Landscaping With Natives" garden tour and even though we had to present it online it was a success! Our November meeting featured Brendan "Skip" Healy who owns Change of Greenery and his talk was about "Turf Replacement". December's meeting highlighted Nichole Perna's personal yard beachside. Nichole is an EELS Program Assistant Land Management Specialist at the Barrier Island Sanctuary with Brevard County in Melbourne Beach. Nichole also owns a native plant garden business called Go Native Landscaping. Please check our [website](#). All of our meetings and Garden Tours are on our [YouTube Channel](#).

In every newsletter I highlight a native plant under "Carol's Corner". In December I highlighted Slash Pine, *Pinus elliottii*. I showed it as a seed and how it develops. Our Conradina Chapter encourages everyone to plant a native tree for the new year. Plant Native!



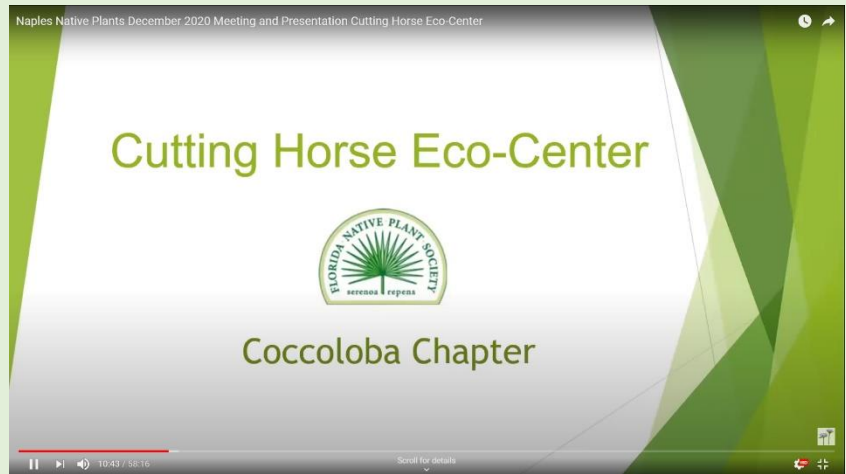
## Naples Chapter Update | *Andee Naccarato, President*



One great thing about all the online meetings happening these days is the relative ease of meeting "face to face" with members from other chapters. The Naples Chapter (Collier County) has recently enjoyed collaborating with other chapters, both near and far. On December 2nd, three members of the Coccoloba Chapter (Lee County), Tony

Mauriello, Marlene Rodak, and Cassie Valenti, were guest speakers in the Naples Chapter's online meeting to present "The History and Development of Cutting Horse Eco-Center," their chapter's native plant nursery and demonstration gardens. Since the Naples Chapter and Coccoloba Chapter are neighboring counties, many Naples members took the opportunity to check out Cutting Horse Eco-Center in person the following Saturday (following social distancing guidelines, of course).

On November 17th, the Naples Chapter made use of virtual technology to connect with a chapter much farther away. Andee Naccarato shared her presentation, "Wildflowers Gone Viral" with the Sarracenia Chapter (Wakulla County\*) by invitation from Bonnie Basham and David Roddenberry. Back in the "old days" before online meetings became common within FNPS, Andee would have needed to drive over 6.5 hours to be a guest speaker for the Sarracenia Chapter! The Naples Chapter highly recommends the inter-chapter experience as an excellent way to meet fellow native plant enthusiasts from across the state.



## Suncoast Chapter Update | *Virginia Overstreet, Vice President*



The University of South Florida Botanical Garden holds two major plant festivals each year in April and October. Normally, these two-day festivals have 60 vendors and draw up to 3000 attendees. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, these plant festivals were cancelled this year. Normally, the Suncoast Chapter has a booth at these sales, selling plants, books, and T-shirts. We use these funds to provide grants to schools for native plant gardens. The Botanical Garden staff contacted the Suncoast Chapter and offered us the use of the garden for a special native plant sale. Entrance fees were waived for the day and we enjoyed selling plants, while practicing social distancing and wearing masks. Our customers must have been really happy to see us because we sold 224 1-gallon plants in less than 2 hours! We are keeping our fingers crossed that the spring festival scheduled for April 9-10, 2021 will not get cancelled, but if it does, we will have our own native plant sale with enough plants to last through the intended period of the sale!



Photo by Niki Cribbs





Tarflower Chapter's annual event, Backyard Biodiversity Day (BBD), was exceptional this year in spite of COVID-19. The event was held, as routine, at Mead Botanical Garden in Winter Park, FL, on Saturday, October 17, 2020 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Guests had access to the gardening products, services, training and PLANTS needed to harmonize their homesteads with Central Florida ecosystems.

Fortunately, the weather was sunny, warm, breezy and dry. The atmosphere was filled with the sounds of Run Raquel performing live and the aromas from food trucks Irie Cuisine, The Naked Cupcake and Talisman Café.

Planning for the event began in January 2020 prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. The City of Winter Park, owner of Mead Botanical Garden, received the required paperwork to establish the event date shortly after Tarflower Chapter's first planning meeting. The Tarflower Chapter expected many exhibitors, vendors, hike leaders and speakers from the five prior BBD events to return in 2020.



As the pandemic escalated in the Spring, replacements for many cancelling former participants were required. Thankfully, 34 excellent entities and individuals comprised the 2020 slate. They included O-town Compost, Yaupon Brothers Tea, Piante Design, Orange Audubon Society, City of Orlando Office of Sustainability, and more. Please visit [our website](#) for the full list.

A throng of mostly UCF volunteers made the day the best it could be for both guests and participants. Dozens of students from the Honors College and VolunteerUCF helped. Additional students independent of a specific college organization who signed up through VolunteerMatch.org also were there. Some volunteers handed out masks provided by the office of Orange County Commissioner Emily Bonilla to guests without them. Some circulated amongst guests and offered printed maps and speech/workshop/hike schedules to those looking to make the most of the day. Prior to the event, some volunteers delivered handbills to nearby businesses for distribution, created event signage in the event Director's garage, and researched alternatives to bottled water for guests and volunteers. Tasks also included setup, breakdown, and parking directions. Two very important volunteers acted as Exhibit Ambassadors who ensured entities and individuals participating had the assistance needed throughout the day to ensure their success.



UCF Honors College volunteers on the left and VolunteerUCF volunteers on the right

Honor Society students from University High School earned community service hours for helping out as well. They were very flexible with their assignments and even helped to pick up trash or clean tables between diners when other needs did not require their attention.





Chris and his mother manning the DRMP tent

Hopefully plans for the 2021 event will not require social distancing and masks. In spite of that challenge, Tarflower Chapter welcomed over 1,200 guests during the 6-hour event, a significant increase over typical turnouts of ~500.

Questionnaires sent to participants via SurveyMonkey requesting post-event feedback included comments like this, so we hope to welcome many back next year:

“Super organized”

“Great vendors”

“...liked the way the tents/booths were spaced around to allow visitors to wander in the garden”

“Loved that it was a family friendly educational event”

Generous sponsors helped offset the cost of the event. Bowman & Blair, E-Sciences, and Orange Audubon Society contributed significantly. Guests who attended select workshops or speaker talks had the opportunity to win a \$25 Ethos Vegan Restaurant gift card if their number was drawn. These and several smaller supporters helped Tarflower Chapter raise nearly \$3,500 for ongoing sandhill restoration efforts at the Garden.

One of the most frequently visited exhibitors featured animal ambassadors. Chris Stalder, an Environmental Scientist for DRMP, Inc. educated guests about snakes. He brought live coachwhip, corn, pine, rat and king snakes. Mr. Stalder is also a herpetologist, FWC venomous reptile and gopher tortoise licensee, and beekeeper. A sweet feature to his exhibit were local honey products from his beekeeping.

Tarflower members organized the plant sale. The carefully planned inventory from Green Isle Gardens was just right because sales were brisk and many species sold out as shown by the stakes behind the members below. Over 1,000 plants went home with guests looking to include natives in their garden and landscape plans.



Tarflower members in front old sold out plant stakes.



Sandhill restoration area at Mead Botanical Garden





Pawpaw Chapter has been having their meetings on Zoom during the Pandemic and have been realizing 25-30 or more participants; many new, since we started doing it this way. We upload our Zoom meeting recordings directly to [our website](#). Here are some of our recent meetings: September's program was a [program on a homeowner's waterfront restoration](#), presented by Danny Young of Young Bear Environmental Consulting. October's program was [A Florida Naturalist's Glimpse of Cuba](#), photos and presentation by Paul Rebmann. November's program was [Plant Native, Grow Native](#) with before and after pictures of local landscapes by Katie Tripp. Each meeting also features a plant of the month, which followed the theme *Caterpillar Cafes and Butterfly Buffets*. Next year's theme will be *Hedge your Bets*. Various members choose a plant to present to the group to tell how that plant can be used in the home landscape and also fits with the year's theme.

The December meeting was our annual auction/holiday event (but without the food), held in person at the Marine Discovery Center in New Smyrna Beach. We were outdoors with plenty of space for social distancing. About 35 or more people attended, all in masks. Plants were donated by members or purchased from Green Isle, Lindley's Garden Center, and Katie Tripp's Natural Beauty Native Florida Landscapes business. We also sold tickets and had drawings for non-plant items such as books and jellies. Our business meeting consisted of the election of officers. We voted on Katie Tripp for President, Samantha West for Vice President/Program Chair, Rob Bird to continue on as Secretary, and Karen Walter to continue on as Treasurer.



Figure 2 December Pawpaw Chapter meeting at the Marine Discovery Center in New Smyrna Beach



Our group walks on the trail during our field trip to the Lake Harney Wilderness Area in Geneva, Seminole County. Photo by Luis Villalon

Field trips are through reservations to keep the numbers appropriate and masks are required. We have had trips to Longleaf Pine Preserve, Hickory Bluff in Osteen, Bicentennial Park in Ormond, and Lake Harney Wilderness in Geneva. In addition to our field trips, we also work to keep Route 40 in Ormond free from trash, while identifying wildflowers that are blooming throughout the year.

We continue to maintain our demonstration garden in South Daytona as is our agreement with the City. We hope to return to their community center soon with in-person meetings.

Our Lunch and Learns are for members of the Florida Native Plant Society. We've chosen to make a few of the Lunch and Learns public. They're bolded in the list below. Please feel free to share these with people you feel might be interested.

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. Edible Native Plants with Valerie Anderson, May 15 \*recording not yet available\*
4. [Chapter Outreach](#) with Ginny Stibolt, May 22, 2020
5. [Florida's Native Milkweeds](#) with Lilly Anderson-Messec, TorreyaKeepers Coordinator, May 29, 2020
6. **[Saving Florida's Bromeliads Conservation Program with Martha Pessaro, June 5, 2020](#)**
7. [Learn About Living Shorelines](#) with Marjorie Shropshire, June 12, 2020
8. [Native Landscaping on Former South Florida Scrub](#) with Christopher McVoy, June 26, 2020
9. [Native Plants and Stormwater](#) Chad Washburn of Naples Botanical Garden, July 3, 2020
10. [Florida's Native Palms](#) with Patti Anderson, PhD, of FDACS-DPI, July 10, 2020
11. [The Truth about Pollinator Gardens](#) with Craig Huegel, PhD, July 17, 2020
12. [Shifting Landscaping Behaviors through Regulatory and Social Marketing Tools](#) with Stacie Greco, Alachua County EPD, July 24, 2020
13. [Fire Seasonality and Dogfennel](#) with Gage LaPierre, UF NATL, July 31, 2020
14. [Insect Visitors to Tarflower \(\*Bejaria racemosa\*\)](#) with Lily Fulton, Archbold Biological Station Intern, August 7, 2020
15. [Lethal Bronzing Disease of Palms](#) with Dr. Brian Bahder, UF/IFAS-FREC, August 14, 2020
16. [Alachua County's Turf SWAP Program](#) with Hollie Greer, Alachua County EPD, August 21, 2020
17. [The North Florida Heritage Garden Project](#) with Richard Tate, Ethnobotany Award winner 2019 August 28
18. [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
19. [The Historic Plants of Northlawn Cemetery, an African American Cemetery, in Fort Lauderdale](#) with Roberto Fernández III - September 11, 2020
20. [Incorporating Nature into the Built Environment](#) with Erin Largo-Wight, PhD, UNF Department of Public Health, September 18, 2020
21. [Climate Change Communication](#) with Karen Majdiak Willey September 25, 2020
22. [Lake Blue Scrub: An Oasis Saved](#) with Tom Palmer, Environmental Writer for the Lakeland Ledger, October 2, 2020
23. [DIY Historical Ecology: Part 1 - Data Availability, Intro to GIS, and Intro to Georeferencing](#) with Valerie Anderson, Director of Communications, October 9, 2020
24. [Sea Level Rise](#) with Eugene Kelly, Policy and Legislation Chair, October 16, 2020
25. [Vascular Plant Extinction in the Continental United States and Canada](#) with Wesley Knapp, North Carolina Natural Heritage Program, October 23, 2020
26. [The Restoration of Little Italy](#) with Rosi Mulholland, former Land Manager, SJRWMD, October 30, 2020
27. [Using Genomics to Learn More About Mints: Focus on \*Callicarpa\*](#) with Pam Soltis, Doug Soltis, Alex Abair, Grant Godden, and Allie Bordini of the Soltis Lab at the University of Florida, November 6, 2020
28. [Butterflies and Birds in Your Yard](#) with Diane Goldberg of Port St. Lucie, November 13, 2020
29. [Dark Sky in Florida](#) with Madelline Mathis of the International Dark Sky Association Central Florida Chapter, December 4, 2020
30. **[Native Florida Landscape Design Part 1 - Why Go Native](#)** with Karina Veaudry, December 11, 2020
31. **[Native Florida Landscape Design Part 2 - Design Techniques](#)** with Karina Veaudry, December 18, 2020



## Job Postings

### Conservation Land Steward - Heartwood Preserve Conservation Cemetery

4100 Starkey Boulevard, Trinity, FL in Pasco County (Nature Coast Chapter)

Heartwood Preserve Conservation Cemetery is a 41-acre nature preserve with a natural ('green') cemetery on a portion of the property. The land is a combination of Longleaf pine flatwoods and cypress wetlands and has been historically managed with prescribed fire. Fire management continues, now balancing it with the challenges of the wildland-urban interface. Heartwood Preserve is a small, innovative business with a strong environmental and social ethic. We care deeply about natural burial, Florida's natural habitats, and the families we serve.

The Land Steward is responsible for the maintenance, care and overall ecological health of Heartwood Preserve's cemetery and preserve areas, working with the Executive Director to develop and implement the Conservation Management Plan. The ideal candidate is positive, friendly, hard-working, and self-motivated. This person must have knowledge & experience in the field of natural resources & land management in Florida ecosystems. To review the full posting or to apply, contact us at [info@heartwoodpreserve.com](mailto:info@heartwoodpreserve.com).

### Restoration Technician - Florida Chapter of the Nature Conservancy

Apalachicola National Forest (USFS) and Apalachicola Bluffs and Ravines Preserve (TNC) (Sarracenia and Magnolia Chapters)

The ideal candidate will like independent field work on ANF and TNC lands doing bio survey work, spraying weeds, groundcover restoration (tractor operator experience a plus) and assisting the fire team (\$130/190 completed by hire time, at a minimum). Full time with benefits, secure funding for position, housing included. Full position description is [here](#).

### Botanist - Florida Natural Areas Inventory

1018 Thomasville Road Suite 200-C, Tallahassee, FL in Leon County (Magnolia Chapter) – mandatory remote work temporarily

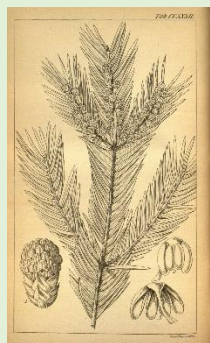
The Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) at Florida State University is looking for an experienced botanist who will work, under the direction of FNAI's Senior Botanist, on projects related to assessing the conservation status of rare and listed plants. This will be a long-term position in which the selected candidate, driven by a personal interest in botany, will develop broad expertise in the rare flora of Florida. Although some limited fieldwork will be required, this position will be largely office based. It would be ideal for this position to work out of FNAI's office in Tallahassee, but we will consider remote work from a location within Florida for strong candidates. Full position description is [here](#).



Dr. Patti Anderson, Botanist with FDACS DPI, has written and released a new circular on our state tree, the Sabal Palm (*Sabal palmetto*) called: **'Sabal palmetto, Our State Tree: Is It a Tree?'** This circular will explain the different definitions of a tree and provide additional information about Sabal palms in Florida, but deciding whether a palm is a tree might still be up to the beholder.

The circular includes a key to adult Sabals in Florida, some botany, a mite of plant physiology, a little taxonomy and systematics, and a little humor.

Really into Sabal palms? You may be interested in Patti's Lunch and Learn recording: [Florida's Native Palms](#) and our upcoming presentation on March 5<sup>th</sup>: [People and Cabbage Palms](#) with past New College professor Jono Miller.



Grace Constantino, the outreach manager for the Biodiversity Heritage Library, wrote an [excellent article](#) on the history of the Florida Torrey, *Torreya taxifolia*, also known as Florida nutmeg. The FNPS board just voted in December expand our position for TorreyaKeeper Project Coordinator to full-time which will allow Lilly Anderson-Messec to do more with TorreyaKeepers and to take on project management for other FNPS projects in Northwest Florida. We're taking the conservation of this species very seriously.

The Villages Chapter was noted for their efforts to provide habitat for pollinators in an article by Bill Mitchell in The Villages Daily Sun. Jaret Daniels, an entomology professor at the University of Florida is quoted. ['Protecting our Pollinators' 2020-11-04](#)

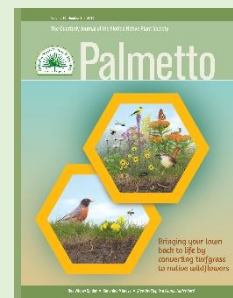
We now have fourteen chapters with their own YouTube Channels! Since September, Conradina, Marion Big Scrub, and Pinellas Chapter have joined us on YouTube and uploaded content. Check out the chapters, watch some videos, and subscribe:

[Citrus](#) - [Conradina](#) - [Cuplet Fern](#) - [Dade](#) - [Ixia](#) - [Marion Big Scrub](#) – [Martin County](#) - [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(3), has been published with loads of excellent articles:

- *Latrodectus bishopi*: The Red Widow by Cayley Buckner
- Bringing Your Lawn Back to Life by Converting Turfgrass to Native Wildflowers by Amanda Mikyska & Nash Turley
- The Art of Native Ferns by Sydney Kenney
- Book Review by Jan Allyn—A Step-by-Step Guide to a Florida Native Yard
- Plant Profile—*Mimosa strigillosa*, Sunshine Mimosa by Marjorie Shropshire



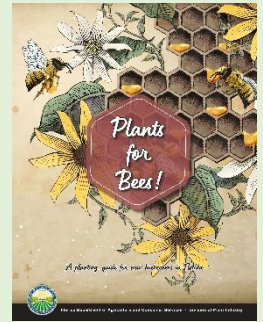
Paynes Prairie Chapter member Rachel Mallinger published [an article](#) in the Ecological Society of America's open access Ecosphere journal on how flower and nectar qualities of buckwheat (*Fagopyrum esculentum*) were changed under drought stress. She and her team found that the flowers emitted different volatile compounds and reduced their floral rewards under drought stress, which resulted in lower pollinator activity and lower seed set. This research was conducted on Common Buckwheat (*F. esculentum*), which is a common agricultural cover crop worldwide. Common Buckwheat is in the Subfamily Polygonoideae with our native Jointweeds, Smartweeds, Wireweeds, and Knotweeds (*Polygonella* sp. & *Persicaria* sp.).



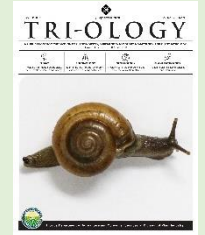


Tarflower VP Mandy Morgan provides a mouth-watering cactus salsa recipe in which you can use (an ethically-harvested) native *Opuntia austrina*, Florida Prickly Pear cactus pads. This recipe was published in the [December 2020 Tarpaper](#).

FDACS DPI published an amazing new brochure, '[Plants for Bees](#)' that recommends native plants for new beekeepers! Florida has long needed a guide to native plants that should be planted for honeybees.



[Tri-Ology Volume 59, Number 3](#) has been released! This is a bimonthly journal published by FDACS-DPI. The botany section, by Patti J. Anderson, PhD and Alex de la Pas, B.S. features two non-native plants that have recently been submitted to DPI in counties they were previously not documented in. Both are found in South Florida, and one has expanded its range into Lake County: *Cissus verticillata* (seasonvine, possum grape, false Virginia creeper, and *Ruellia ciliatiflora* (hairyflower wild petunia)



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

Have you heard of the Gladys Douglas Hackworth property in Dunedin that has the last Rosemary Bald in Pinellas County? Our local chapter, the Pinellas Chapter, is on this issue like white on rice. [Here](#), their Conservation Chair, Jane Graham speaks on the issue before the Pinellas County BCC. And [here's](#) the latest update in the Tampa Bay Times.

Neta Villalobos-Bell is holding an inspirational gardening class fundraiser for Cuplet Fern Chapter over zoom on January 9<sup>th</sup> called "Plan for a New Garden in the New Year". [Registration](#) is via Eventbrite and the class will be held over Zoom.



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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).