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Palmetto



Butterfly Orchid • Florida Alicia • 2017 FNPS Conference



Palmetto

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Make a difference with FNPS

Your membership supports the preservation and restoration of wildlife habitats and biological diversity through the conservation of native plants. It also funds awards for leaders in native plant education, preservation and research.

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To provide funds that will enable us to protect Florida's native plant heritage, please join or renew at the highest level you can afford.

To become a member, contact your local Chapter Representative, call, write, or e-mail FNPS, or join online at www.fnps.org

The purpose of the Florida Native Plant Society

is to conserve, preserve, and restore the native plants and native plant communities of Florida.

Official definition of native plant:

For most purposes, the phrase Florida native plant refers to those species occurring within the state boundaries prior to European contact, according to the best available scientific and historical documentation. More specifically, it includes those species understood as indigenous, occurring in natural associations in habitats that existed prior to significant human impacts and alterations of the landscape.

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Features

4 Florida's So-Called 'Butterfly Orchid'

The most widespread epiphytic orchid in the southern half of the Florida Peninsula is *Encyclia tampensis*, the Butterfly Orchid. Why do we use this common name, which seems better suited to other, more "butterfly-like" species?

Article by Chuck McCartney.

8 Tricks of the Trade: Characteristics of Florida Alicia That Facilitate its Persistence in Florida Habitats

Walk through any scrub or sandhill in Florida between May and September and you'll notice the golden flowers atop tall swaying stems of Florida Alicia (*Chapmannia floridana*). Learn about the specific characteristics that allow it to persist in the habitats where it occurs.

Article by Jennifer Schafer.

12 Connections Above and Below: The 2017 FNPS Annual Conference

The FNPS annual conference is a premier event showcasing every aspect of native plant and plant community conservation in Florida. The 2017 conference at Westgate River Ranch provided something for every native plant enthusiast – from researchers and conservation professionals to landowners, gardeners, and citizen scientists.

Article by Juliet Rynear.

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Editorial Content

We welcome articles on native plant species and related conservation topics, as well as high-quality botanical illustrations and photographs. Contact the editor for guidelines, deadlines and other information.

ON THE COVER:

Encyclia tampensis is the most widespread epiphytic orchid in the southern half of the Florida Peninsula, where it has come to be known by the pretty but nonsensical name Butterfly Orchid, according to author Chuck McCartney. This specimen was photographed by Christopher Ohanian in busy suburban Broward County, Florida. See article on page 4.

2017 Annual Conference at Westgate River Ranch

CONNECTIONS ABOVE AND BELOW

by Juliet Rynear, FNPS Executive Assistant

If you have never attended an Annual Conference of the Florida Native Plant Society (FNPS) you have lost an opportunity to enjoy a premier event showcasing every aspect of native plant and plant community conservation in Florida. Over the past 37 years, FNPS has hosted an Annual Conference in every region of the state. The Conference attracts a diverse group of people including conservation professionals, researchers, public officials, businesses, land-owners, and citizen scientists. These four-day events feature world-class speakers, field trips, lectures, workshops, panel discussions, book signings, FNPS committee and annual membership meetings, exhibitors, a silent auction, a native plant sale, and three breakout tracks highlighting conservation and ecology, current issues, and research.

At each Conference, expertise is shared and ideas are born, flourish and grow thanks to a wealth of education and networking opportunities. Whether you are seeking knowledge, inspiration, support, input, collaboration, or collaborators for an idea or project, your attendance at the FNPS Annual Conference is essential if you live and work in Florida.

This year, the Conference was at Westgate River Ranch in the heart of the historic Everglades watershed. Four featured speakers outlined such topics as sea level rise and its effects on natural communities (Dr. Tonya Clayton), wildflowers of the

Kissimmee Valley (Roger Hammer), the roles of mycorrhizal fungi in ecosystems (Laura Super), and the history and current restoration efforts of the Everglades (Dr. Thomas Lodge).

This year's breakout tracks provided listeners with a wide choice of topics. To see a full list of the 34 presenters, visit our website at fnps.org and click on Events/Annual Conference. Special thanks go to volunteer speaker coordinator Theresa Lutz for contacting and organizing speakers. Nearly all of the presentations qualified for Continuing Education Credits (CEUs), and we thank Land Management Partners Committee Chair Ray Jarrett for his work securing the CEUs.

The Current Events track of the Conference focused on restoration projects in the Kissimmee River Valley, comprehensive Everglades restoration, the history of land conservation in Florida, the Peninsular Florida Landscape Conservation Cooperative, and programs for preserving natural lands and connective corridors. Five of the speakers in this track participated in the panel discussion "Conservation Connections in Florida," which was moderated by FNPS Past President Dr. Anne Cox. Dr. Cox is also the force of nature that put together the theme and speaker list for the Current Events track. Thank you, Dr. Cox, for your boundless energy and dedication to the FNPS mission.

Several FNPS committees also participated in the Current Events track by hosting workshops that shared important tools



Above: Featured speaker Dr. Tonya Clayton kicked off the Conference with a presentation on sea level rise and its effect on Florida's natural areas. Photo by Vince Lamb.



Above: Conference plant sale vendors Sweet Bay Nursery, Martin County Growers, and Natural Treasures Farm and Nursery were on hand to assist customers in choosing the best plants for their specific sites.



Above: Carter Creek field trip leader Eric Menges (2nd from left), a Senior Research Biologist at Archbold Biological Station, showed off some of Archbold's rare plant conservation work (inside the cage beneath the tree). Photo by Joan Bausch.



and knowledge to empower citizens to help protect public lands (Land Management Partners), promote conservation education (Education), and to train citizens to become advocates for good environmental policy (Policy & Legislation). We are indebted to committee chairs Nicole Cribbs, Patricia Burgos, Wendy Poag, Eugene Kelly, and Sue Mullins for making the workshops a success.

The Science track highlighted important research on Florida's rare and endemic plants, soil crusts, soil microbes, pollinator/plant interactions, pesticide/pollination issues, biotic and abiotic stressors of black mangroves, and the effects of time-since-fire on flower visitor networks. Once again, FNPS Science Advisory Chair Dr. Paul Schmalzer organized a fantastic Science track.

The Conservation and Ecology track focused on fire and fire-adapted landscapes, impacts of climate change on natural communities, plants and the species they support, fungi, assessment of non-native species, plant conservation, and ecological landscape design. The FNPS Conservation Committee reviewed successes and challenges in plant conservation and habitat restoration while highlighting the crucial need for citizen support and the important contributions of citizen science. Several committee members also spoke at the conference: Dr. Alan Franck, Scott Davis, Chris Lockhart, and Dr. Susan Carr. FNPS is fortunate and grateful for their dedication to conservation.

Twenty field trips (11 on Thursday and 9 on Sunday) were led by botanists and conservation professionals. FNPS field trips create unique opportunities for participants to enjoy natural lands with entertaining and informative leaders like Dr. Walter Kingsley Taylor. Many thanks are due to volunteer Field Trip Coordinator Dr. Shirley Denton, whose organizational skills and hard work made the trips possible.



Top right: Interior native plant displays were provided by Sweet Bay Nursery, Martin County Growers, and Natural Treasures Farm and Nursery.

Above: The Kisida Garden, winner of the Landscape Award of Merit.

The northernmost field trip was to Lake Marion Creek Wildlife Management Area, a 7,035-acre expanse of public lands located in the headwaters of the Kissimmee River and the Everglades. The property includes floodplain forests, seepage slopes, pine flatwoods, and scrub. The trip was led by author and land steward Tom Palmer and botanist Steve Dickman.

Dickman also won the Plant ID contest in the expert category.

The southernmost field trip was a Kissimmee River Eco-Tour led by Loisa Kerwin, Florida Atlantic University's Assistant Director of the Riverwoods Field Lab. Attendees learned about the world's largest river restoration project and how it illustrates the interdisciplinary nature of environmental science and management.

Other field trips visited the Arbuckle Tract of the Lake Wales Ridge State Forest, the Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park, Lake Kissimmee State Park (where land management review training took place), SUMICA, Disney Wilderness Preserve, Carter Creek, Tiger Creek, the Adams Ranch, Highlands Hammock State Park, and the dry prairie portion of Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area. More choices were provided by trips to Saddle Blanket Preserve, Forever Florida, Ft. Drum Marsh Conservation Area, Camp Lonesome Conservation Area, and Crooked Lake Prairie Preserve. In addition, two trips visited Bok Tower Gardens to view the native plant and pollinator gardens and see a sandhill community restoration project.

The Conference also offered several popular workshops. Budding photographers took part in "Florida Wildflower Photography" taught by Vince Lamb at Lake Kissimmee State Park. Lamb is a former chairman of the Florida Wildflower Foundation as well as a Florida Master Naturalist. He has led numerous photography classes and workshops featuring wildflowers and other natural subjects. "An Introduction to Plant Identification" was taught by James Stevenson, who is an Extension Specialist in Pinellas County. The workshop examined the basics of plant identification, from using simple keys to identifying critical characteristics to help any would-be botanist in the field. An emphasis was placed on flowering plants, but ferns were included as well. "Nature Journaling, On and Off the Trail" was taught by Marjorie Shropshire, who is a member of the Guild of Natural Science Illustrators and is the editor of the Florida Native Plant Society's magazine, *Palmetto*. Shropshire helped students discover details of Florida's ecosystems by encouraging them to use drawing as a method to focus and sharpen their observational skills.

At the 2017 Annual Members Meeting on Saturday morning, President Catherine Bowman recognized FNPS founding members in attendance: Loran Anderson (Magnolia Chapter), Linda Duever (Paynes Prairie Chapter), Don Gann (Dade Chapter), Joyce Gann (Dade Chapter), and Peggy Lantz (Tarflower Chapter). Please join us in thanking them for their foresight, leadership, and dedication to our mission.

Each year at the Conference, the FNPS Research and Conservation grant awards are announced. Research Grants promote vitally important research and have helped support the projects of many graduate students and Ph.D. candidates. Conservation Grants have supported applied plant conservation projects throughout Florida. To date, more than 45 peer-reviewed journal articles have been published as a result of projects funded by these grant programs. Together, they have provided more than \$100,000 for research and conservation in Florida.

This year's Research Grants fund projects that will gather badly needed data for restoration efforts throughout Florida. While development and land conversion are intensifying in our state, FNPS is racing to conserve the remaining genetic diversity that is represented within intact natural communities and plant populations before they are destroyed. All seeds and cuttings that are collected and all plant populations that are rescued are used for restoration projects on publicly protected lands. FNPS relies on research covering species biology (e.g., ploidy, population genetics, reproduction, habitat, pollinators) so that restored populations and communities will succeed in the long term. Without good research and applied plant conservation, these species and assemblages will soon be lost forever.

The 2017 Research Grants awarded \$1,500 each to three recipients: Iwan E. Molgo (University of Florida, Department of Biology) – "Determining the origin of two recently discovered Florida endemics: Tetraploid and hexaploid *Callisia ornata* (Commelinaceae)"; Andre Naranjo (University of Florida, Florida Museum of Natural History) – "Understanding the evolution of narrow endemics for conservation"; and Lydia M. Cuni (Florida International University, Department of Earth and Environment) – "Drivers of species composition and diversity in pine rockland-hardwood hammock ecosystem transitional gradients: Implications for restoration efforts of fragmented communities."

FNPS Conservation Grants support applied plant conservation projects that conserve Florida's rare or imperiled native plant taxa and native plant communities. This is where native plant research is applied to on-the-ground conservation and restoration projects. For more information on previous grant recipients visit fnps.org and click on What We Do/Grants and Awards. The 2017 Conservation Grant (\$5,000) was awarded to Dr. Gary Knox and Gardening Friends of the Big Bend, Inc. for "Exploration into the biology and ecology of the Florida-endangered *Magnolia ashei* (Ashe's magnolia)."

Each year FNPS recognizes native plant landscapes in the categories of single-family residential, multi-family residential, commercial, institutional, transportation, restoration, mitigation, and wildflower/butterfly garden. Awards are granted as follows: Award of Excellence (1st), Award of Honor (2nd), or Award of Merit (3rd). Each awardee receives a customized plaque, local and statewide media exposure, features in FNPS media, and recognition and complimentary registration at the Annual Conference. We thank the FNPS Landscape Committee – Ron Blair, Steve Turnipseed, and Marc Godts – for their work organizing the awards. The awards for 2017 are: Award of Honor, Residential Single Family – Courtyard Villa, The Villages, Georgette Gerry (The Villages Chapter) and Award of Merit, Residential Single Family – Kisida Garden, Norma and Kenneth Kisida (Serenoa Chapter).

No Conference would be a success without good food and enjoyable socials. A new game, "Plant Pictionary", was designed by volunteer Donna Bollenbach for the Thursday night social. We were also fortunate to have volunteer Mark Kateli plan each of the menus this year so that everyone who attended could



Above: Courtyard Villa at The Villages, winner of the Landscape Award of Honor.

enjoy satisfying meals. Each healthy menu was designed to accommodate a wide range of dietary needs: omnivore, vegetarian, vegan, gluten-free, and celiac-friendly. The socials also provided an opportunity for participants to meet other like-minded individuals and network. Dining and chatting with authors such as Roger Hammer, Dr. Walter Taylor, Ginny Stibolt, Peggy Lantz, Dr. Craig Huegel and others was a real treat.

During lunch on Friday and Saturday, authors were available to autograph their books for attendees: Dr. Tonya Clayton, Roger Hammer, Dr. Craig Huegel, Peggy Lantz, Thomas E. Lodge, Ginny Stibolt, Dr. Walter Kingsley Taylor, and Larry Weaner. We thank Volunteer Coordinator Winnie Said for organizing this event and assisting the authors.

The plant sale vendors were Sweet Bay Nursery, Martin County Growers, and Natural Treasures Farm and Nursery. Staff and owners from each nursery were on hand to assist buyers in choosing the best plants for their specific sites. The nurseries also provided plant displays in each of the speaker rooms. Sweet Bay Nursery created the display in the Longhorn Center (Current Issues track and featured speakers), Martin County Growers made the displays in the main hall (Conservation and Ecology track), and Natural Treasures Farm and Nursery made the display for the Morgan Room (Research track). Please help us thank volunteers Jenny Welch (Plant Sale Coordinator) and Sandy Webb for their work organizing the plant sale.

We had a wonderful room for vendors and exhibitors at the Conference, and their displays were amazing. Thanks are due to Vendor/Exhibitor Coordinator Sondra Driscoll, who organized this part of the conference. Onsite this year were: Florida Association of Native Nurseries, Florida Wildflower Foundation, Heartwood Preserve, Indigo Travel Company, Lark Label, Made by Randee, Native Plant

Horticulture Foundation, Roger Hammer, Earthborne Face and Body, University Press of Florida, and Sticky Steve's Honey.

So many people donated to the silent auction this year that the volunteers who organized the auction, Jenny Welch and Sandy Webb, had to use all of their creative talents to display each of the items.

Please help us thank all of the FNPS Conference Committee volunteers who made the 2017 annual conference possible. Conference Chair Marlene Rodak was our fearless leader and cheerleader. Thank you, Marlene, and thanks to your "crew" – Dr. Anne Cox, Jenny Welch, Dr. Susan Carr, Sondra Driscoll, Theresa Lutz, Mark Kateli, Donna Bollenbach, Dr. Shirley Denton, Winnie Said, and Kim Zarillo. A huge thank-you goes out to FNPS President Catherine Bowman for her endless support and generosity. Of course, pulling everything together and working tirelessly was Juliet Rynear, whose attention to detail and organization skills were critical to the success of the Conference.

Last, but certainly not least, a conference of this stature could never be accomplished without the support of our sponsors: Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program, Coccoloba Chapter of FNPS, Conradina Chapter of FNPS, Cemex Inc., Ecolo-G Inc., Family Lands Remembered, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Power and Light, Florida Wildflower Foundation, Indigo Travel Company, Lake Beautyberry Chapter of FNPS, Lark Label, Mangrove Chapter of FNPS, Mosaic, Paynes Prairie Chapter of FNPS, Suncoast Chapter of FNPS, and the University of Central Florida Arboretum.

FNPS is already hard at work planning the 2018 Annual Conference. As the year progresses, look for upcoming details on the FNPS website, fnps.org, at the Events/Annual Conference link. We hope you'll join us in 2018.



Above: Enjoying lunch under the oaks at River Ranch.