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# Palmetto



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# October is Florida Native Plant Month

By Andy Taylor

The Florida Native Plant Society is gearing up for 2018 Florida Native Plant Month by building on the success of past years. The program began in 2015 as a publicity and membership campaign for FNPS, as well as a way to bring members together to share the importance of native plants with their local governments.

Last year's event brought recognition from 41 cities and counties across Florida, including first time Florida Native Plant Month proclamations by Sumter County, the City of Miami Beach and the City of Punta Gorda. Among the many local governments who issued proclamations in previous years and participated again in 2017 were Hillsborough County, Lake County, Pinellas County, the City of Naples and the City of Tallahassee.

Proclamations provide an opportunity for FNPS chapters and their partners to share accomplishments with local leaders. Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program (CHNEP) Deputy Director Liz Donley attended the 2017 City of Punta Gorda's proclamation and

encouraged FNPS to discuss the partnerships and programs the two organizations have collaborated on in the past.

Florida Native Plant Month also generates media attention at the local level. In 2017, the initiative was featured in the Suwannee County Democrat as well as other weekly papers throughout the state.

FNPS would like to thank the Hillsborough County Soil and Water Conservation District for being a Platinum Sponsor of the 2017 Florida Native Plant Month, and the NAUI Green Diver Initiative for sponsoring all three years of the program. Thanks also to FNPS members Anne Cox and Andy Taylor for coordinating the proclamations and ensuring membership brochures were available for the event. For more photos of the 2017 event, visit <https://fnps.org/news/plantmonth/2017>.

To download a poster for 2018 Florida Native Plant Month, visit <https://fnps.org/news/plantmonth>.



**Above, from left:** Hillsborough County: Betty Jo Tompkins, Commissioner Al Higginbotham, Mary McCahon, Andy Taylor, Bill Guglielmi, Devon Higginbotham.



**Above, from left:** Citrus County: Donna Suresch, Ruth Ditmar, Theresa Waldron, Sue Wasserman, Jodi Lanier, Deb Daniels, Gail Taylor, Ben Berauer.



**Above, from left:** City of Tallahassee: Mayor Andrew Gillum, Louie Castillo, Gail Fishman, Commissioner Nancy Miller, Dara Miles.



**Above, from left:** City of Punta Gorda: Liz Donley (CHNEP), Al Squires, Andy Taylor.



**Above, from left:** Brevard County: Carol Herbert, Commissioner Curt Smith, and Susan Valencia.