Apply for the 2013 FNPS Endowment Grant Research Awards & Conservation Grant Awards

**FNPS Endowment Research Grants** fund native plant research that forwards the mission of the Florida Native Plant Society to promote the preservation, conservation, and restoration of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida.

**FNPS Conservation Grants** support applied native plant conservation projects in Florida that promote the preservation, conservation, or restoration of rare or imperiled native plant taxa, and rare or imperiled native plant communities. Proposed projects must be sponsored by an FNPS Chapter.

- Grants are $1,500 or less, and are awarded for a 1-year period.
- For application guidelines visit the FNPS website, www.fnps.org, and click on ‘Participate/Grants and Awards’.
- Email questions regarding grants to info@fnps.org.
- Application deadline is March 1, 2013.
- Awards will be announced at the Conference. Awardees are not required to attend to receive an award.

**The purpose of the Florida Native Plant Society** is to preserve, conserve, 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.

**Organization:** Members are organized into regional chapters throughout Florida. Each chapter elects a Chapter Representative who serves as a voting member of the Board of Directors and is responsible for advocating the chapter’s needs and objectives.

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6 Spring Comes to North Florida – Dr. Francis E. “Jack” Putz
Yellow jessamine is common in a wide range of ecosystems and the large blooms contain a pharmacopoeia of toxins, some of which are passed on to insect visitors. Explore the plant strategies behind this spring beauty’s toxic nectar.

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ON THE COVER:
Brilliant yellow flowers grace Gelsemium sempervirens in the spring (photo by J. Richard Abbott).

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Palmetto seeks 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 at palmetto@fnps.org.

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Editorial Content: We have a continuing interest in articles on specific native plant species and related conservation topics, as well as high-quality botanical illustrations and photographs. Contact the editor for submittal guidelines, deadlines and other information.

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Pollinators & Corridors

Jaret C. Daniels, Ph.D.

Pollination is an essential ecosystem service. By conservative estimates, 75% of the earth’s flowering plants rely on animal pollinators, primarily insects such as bees, ants, flies, beetles, and wasps, to ensure reproduction (www.xerxes.org). This includes the vast majority of the fruit, vegetable, and seed crops that humans consume, as well as many other plants that provide fiber, animal forage, medicine, and fuel. Beyond the direct economic value to humans, insect pollination provides essential maintenance of the structure and function of a wide range of natural communities. It sustains native and introduced plants that control erosion, provides food and other resources for game and non-game wildlife, increases property values, and enhances the aesthetic, recreational, and cultural aspects of human activity.

Alarmingly, managed and wild insect pollinators have suffered declines in recent years prompting calls for proactive strategies to help bolster their populations. Continued declines could adversely affect agricultural systems, result in increased vulnerability of some plant species to extinction, and increase overall ecosystem disruption. Habitat degradation and loss are leading factors driving the downward trend of pollinator populations. While much recent attention has been placed on alternative management approaches in agricultural systems, it is clear that effective pollinator conservation must comprehensively be incorporated into the larger landscape, with overall efforts involving locales well outside of the basic farm margin.

Luckily, most insects require smaller remnants of available habitat to thrive compared to larger organisms. Roadsides, utility easements and canal margins, often overlooked as waste areas and seldom mentioned in the larger conservation conversation, offer many valuable resources for pollinators. They support a wide variety of flower-rich forage habitat for access to pollen and nectar; and unlike agricultural landscapes, remain unplowed, therefore providing potential nesting sites for ground nesting bees. These same areas offer food (nectar, pollen, host plants and/or prey) and cover for other beneficial insects such as predators and parasitoids, colorful butterflies and moths, and other wildlife including songbirds.

Across the state, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is responsible for management and care of some 186,000 acres or ½ of one percent (one of every 200 acres) of the entire land area of Florida. Unlike a contiguous parcel of land this size, state roadsides are a network of living edges, touching and linking nearly every natural and agricultural resource in the state – including some 9 million acres of farmlands responsible for contributing billions of dollars to the state’s economy each year. As a result, these extensive linear habitat strips also act as effective corridors facilitating local organism movements, population connectivity, and longer distance migration thereby effectively supporting the larger service of pollination.

Just like with other conservation lands, the management of vegetation along roadsides and easements is a dynamic process. It needs to satisfy and integrate a variety of considerations including public safety, infrastructure preservation,
and basic vegetation control with protection and preservation of the natural environment and enhancement of scenic quality. Not surprisingly though, the impact of such management decisions extends far beyond the target zone, often for several hundred yards, and influences nearly twenty times that amount of land in the surrounding environment.

Despite the rapidly growing national attention on insect pollinator conservation, relatively little detailed information is available on best management practices appropriate for the Southeast; methods aimed at conserving, augmenting, restoring or creating pollinator habitat on both agricultural and environmental lands. This includes even basic knowledge about the flower preferences of many native bees and other flower-visiting insects.

The Florida Wildflower Foundation is working to help fill this gap by developing and sharing best practices for establishing native Florida wildflowers across our landscapes. They are also working with numerous partners including the Florida Department of Transportation to promote, protect and increase roadside wildflowers through measures like reduced mowing during peak bloom to enhance right-of-way beautification and facilitate seed set, as well as the publication of guides featuring specific viewing routes and wildflower destinations. FDOT and the University of Florida have also teamed up on a multiple year study to investigate how roadside vegetation management and wildflower augmentation effects native pollinator richness and abundance. The vast majority of directed pollinator research though is tied to agriculture with efforts to help growers enhance or restore habitat on their farms for native bees, while considering the economic and ecological benefits of such conservation buffers. UF is actively involved in several such research initiatives intended to evaluate regionally appropriate seed mixes and associated site preparation and maintenance activities for establishing pollinator habitat in commercial farm settings and determine the impact of such plantings for enhancing the pollination service to adjacent target crops. The lessons learned have broad application to agriculture, ecological restoration, integrated vegetation management, and even commercial and home landscaping.

While much remains to be learned, several important factors are somewhat universal when it comes to maintaining or establishing pollinator-friendly habitat. First, select a mix of plants that bloom throughout or in succession during the growing season, so that pollinators have consistent access to food resources and can readily build up their local populations. It is important to also include larval host plants if you want to attract and maintain butterflies. Second, provide a diversity of flower colors, shapes, and sizes in order to appeal to a wide range of different pollinators. Whenever possible, utilize native plants and source local or regional Florida ecotypes – especially important when purchasing seed. While this may seem obvious, it is not always easy. Current wildflower seed production in Florida falls far short of demand. Seed for native restoration and large scale naturalization or beautification projects often have to be purchased from major seed producing states such as Texas, North Carolina or Colorado. Next avoid tilling the soil during establishment or regular maintenance. Not only will this disturb the dormant seedbed and unleash a furry of noxious weed growth but it can destroy the nests of ground nesting native bees. Mowing is a great alternative to control vegetation or aesthetically clean up areas. Lastly, avoid extensive use of pesticides and herbicides. As most pollinators are insects, they are extremely sensitive to a variety of direct chemical applications and drift.

### Pollinator-Friendly Native Florida Wildflowers for Naturalizing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMMON NAME</th>
<th>SCIENTIFIC NAME</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spotted bee balm</td>
<td>Monarda punctata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partridge pea</td>
<td>Chamaecrista fasciculata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Firewheel</td>
<td>Gaillardia pulchella</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goldenmane tickseed</td>
<td>Coreopsis lanceolata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lanceleaf tickseed</td>
<td>Coreopsis bigelovii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White wild indigo</td>
<td>Baptisia alba</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butterflyweed</td>
<td>Asclepias tuberosa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blackeyed Susan</td>
<td>Rudbeckia hirta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Giant ironweed</td>
<td>Vernonia gigantea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swamp sunflower</td>
<td>Helianthus angustifolius</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Starry rosinweed</td>
<td>Siliophium perfoliatum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ohio spiderwort</td>
<td>Tradescantia ohiensis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Musky mint</td>
<td>Hyptis alata</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### About the Author

Jaret Daniels, Ph.D. is Associate Curator of Lepidoptera and Associate Professor of Entomology at the University of Florida, specializing in insect ecology and conservation. He is an avid nature photographer and author of numerous scientific papers, popular articles, and books dealing with butterflies, wildlife landscaping, and flowering plants.

Wildflowers grace the median of Hawthorne Road, near Gainesville, Florida (photo by Jaret Daniels).
yellow jessamine is worth considering as a spring indicator but has other reasons to attract our attention as we pack away our flamingo-skin mukluks and otherwise emerge from the depths of winter in Florida. Jessamine is common in a wide range of ecosystems, and its large yellow flowers glow brilliantly in hedgerows and swamp margins for several weeks every spring. The plant is a woody vine that twines to climb and propagates itself both with wind-dispersed seeds and by root suckering. Its capacity to sprout from widespread roots makes it easy to propagate but challenging to control in suburban landscapes, and the flowers are lovely, if treacherous.

Jessamine’s treachery derives from its pharmacopoeia of toxins, many of which find their way into its nectar. Our native bumblebees sup unscathed on the nectar of jessamine flowers, but woe to the honeybee that drinks too much of the alkaloid-laced brew. Apparently during the few centuries since their introduction by Europeans, honeybees have neither learned to avoid jessamine nor developed tolerance to its cocktail of 40-plus toxic compounds. Unfortunately for bee larvae and unaware bears, jessamine honey is also toxic. To me, the very idea of toxic nectar confuses the birds and bees story, but not without cause.

The phenomenon of toxic nectar is well known to api-culturalists and pollination biologists, and has stimulated a great deal of speculation and some science (Alder 2000). One explanation proposed for this trait is that the plants can’t help it — those that protect their leaves from herbivores and pathogens with alkaloids, glycosides, or phenolics can’t prevent the inclusion of these poisons in their nectar. Perhaps, but it’s more interesting to explore the possible
evolutionary advantages a species might derive from poisoning some of its flower visitors. And it is just some – as in the case of bumblebees and jessamine, co-evolved pollinators enjoy the same compounds that cause others to roll over and die. Maybe the selective toxins serve to reward the high fidelity of legitimate pollinators and to keep nectar robbers at bay. In some cases, drinkers of toxic nectar seem to get drunk, which might increase the likelihood of their flying off in a stupor and thus avoid visiting too many flowers on the same plant. Drunken bees also reportedly groom themselves less scrupulously, which leaves more pollen well-placed on their bodies to contact the next stigma. In other words, intoxicated flower visitors might be better cross-pollinators. I wonder if some of the alkaloids in yellow jessamine are addictive – bumblebees with a jessamine habit would certainly be high-fidelity flower visitors. Then again, the toxins that kill exotic bees also kill fungal spores and bacteria that might otherwise spoil batches of perfectly good nectar.

Yellow jessamine is also noteworthy because it produces two distinctly different types of flowers, both of which are perfect (i.e., hermaphroditic). If you look down the yellow throats of jessamine flowers you will notice that some plants have long pollen-bearing male organs (stamens) dangling out of the corolla tube, with the female reproductive parts recessed down below – such flowers are referred to as “thrum.” The other morph, called “pin” flowers, has the opposite arrangement – sticky stigmas exerted on elongated styles with recessed stamens. Only pollen from pins can fertilize the ovules of thums and vice-versa. Yellow jessamine benefits from this elaboration because it effectively prevents self-pollination.

Poisoning by yellow jessamine honey is unlikely in Florida because soon after it starts to flower, copious nectar producers including saw palmettos start with the spring thing. With on-going shifts in flowering seasons across the state, this pattern may also change (Von Holle et al. 2010). But insofar as jessamine now ushers in this flurry of flowering it seems like an appropriate indicator of the commencement of spring in our neck of the woods.

REFERENCES CITED


About the Author

Francis E. “Jack” Putz teaches ecology and conservation-related courses at the University of Florida. Through his research in the tropics and in Florida, he tries to build a solid ecological foundation for what he calls “conservation forestry.” He also tries to practice what he preaches on his own land outside of Gainesville.
2012 Landscape Awards

Each year at the FNPS Annual Conference, the use of native plants in restorative and traditional landscapes is recognized through the Design With Natives program, which gives amateur and professional designers an opportunity to share their efforts and be honored for their achievements.

To qualify for consideration, landscapes must consist of a minimum of 75% Florida native plant species, and be free of any plants listed as Category I and II invasives by the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council (FLEPPC). Judges also consider many other criteria including the fulfillment of specific goals, creation or maintenance of species diversity, on-site preservation of existing native plants, relationships to local native plant communities, creative solutions to significant obstacles, and the existence of an educational component that benefits those visiting the landscape.

The projects featured here are the winners of the 2012 Design With Natives Awards. Each of these landscapes faced significant challenges, from lack of species diversity to misuse and invasive plant infestation. These challenges were met by designers, owners and installers, who worked to improve the landscapes for both visitors and wildlife.

We congratulate the 2012 winners and honor their dedication to the use of native plants to revive and restore Florida’s yards, communities and native habitats.

We encourage you to participate in the 2013 Design With Natives program. An application is available online at www.fnps.org. Click on ‘Participate/Grants and Awards’.

For more information, contact Karina Veaudry at kveaudry@nativefloridaconsulting.com. The application deadline for the 2013 awards program is March 1, 2013.

2012 Landscape Awards

Back Dune Restoration Project at White Sands Cabana Club

Before restoration, the beach dune at White Sands Cabana Club was seriously degraded by a large tree canopy of invasive exotic species including Australian pine (Casuarina equisetifolia), Brazilian pepper (Schinus terebinthifolius) and carrotwood (Cupaniopsis anacardioides). Native understory plants were smothered by a dense layer of Australian pine needles carpeting the ground. Only a few hardy native sabal palms and sea grapes persisted beneath the exotic canopy, accompanied by sparse patches of Florida privet (Forestiera segregata) and nickerbean (Caesalpinia bonduc) in the more open areas.

The restoration process began with removal of all exotic plants listed on Sarasota County’s invasive plant list. Heavy equipment could not be used on the back dune, so trees were cut and lifted off using a large crane and disposed of offsite. Next, a water-efficient irrigation system was installed to provide a temporary water source for hundreds of soon-to-be-planted native species.

During the restoration, 85 trees were planted, including sabal palms (Sabal palmetto), sea grapes (Coccoloba uvifera), and red cedars (Juniperus virginiana). A small front-end loader was used to transport the palms. All other plants were installed by hand to minimize disturbance to the dune, including 600 pots of muhly grass (Muhlenbergia capillaris), and 450 sea oats (Uniola paniculata). Additionally, 100 assorted dune wildflowers and vines were planted, including dune sunflower (Helianthus debilis), firewheel (Gaillardia pulchella) and railroad vine (Ipomoea pes-caprae).

This twelve-year cooperative effort of private and public entities resulted in the restoration of one of the last, large back dune ecosystems remaining on Siesta Key.

Haisley Lynch Park

A few years back, the City of Gainesville Community Redevelopment Agency identified Haisley Lynch Park as an area in need of revitalization. The 1.4 acre parcel was a dark, misused, highly visible downtown public space, covered with trash. Although the park had an existing canopy of oak, sweetgum, magnolia, elm, dogwood, redbud, pine and cherry laurel trees, understory plants and flowers had been disturbed or removed.

Revitalization began with the removal of diseased trees, and canopy trees were pruned to open and brighten the area. Steps were taken to create an ecosystem that mimics nature in the urban environment. Plants that appear together in nature were selected for the site, creating a direct relationship to local plant communities. The plant selection also took into consideration what plants would have been on the site historically, as well as the local climate, soil types, and orientation to the sun. The landscape plan incorporated 100% native plants, and species were chosen for their pleasing foliage color and texture, drought tolerance, and ease of maintenance.

One of the goals of the project was to enhance the park’s aesthetic qualities with a high-quality design that would attract patrons to enjoy social activities throughout the day. A dog park was created within the larger space to encourage visitors to use the park regularly, and within a short time, it attracted a large number of new patrons. A native plant garden and plaza were also added, creating a social gather-
ing place with welcoming seating. The plaza was connected to the dog park, an adjacent neighborhood, and Gainesville’s South Main Street area, forming an inviting open space that beckons visitors to enter and enjoy the outdoors.

End of the Road Ranch

This 10-acre property located near Fort Myers was once a slash pine and saw palmetto flatwood. By the 1990’s, the site was heavily populated by a mosaic of invasive plants including Brazilian pepper, casuarina, melaleuca, dwarf papyrus, Caesar weed, cogon and torpedo grasses and exotic aquatic weeds.

Esteemed native plant expert and author Dick Workman visited the ranch and coached the owner about the need to remove exotic vegetation and restore Florida native plants to the overgrown property. Inspired by his visit, she began the restoration process with eradication of invasive species on the entire ranch – a huge and costly undertaking.

Replanting focused on a rustic, Japanese-inspired landscape concept surrounding the developed areas, some 2.5 acres where the owner’s home and three man-made ponds are located. This area features Florida native landscaping with mulched beds and mown firebreaks. Plants were chosen to increase the variety of natural habitat for wildlife as well as to enhance the property’s visual appeal.

The remaining 7.5 acres of the property contains slash pines, saw palmettos, native understory plants, grasses and numerous wildflowers. Approximately 95% of the vegetation on the ranch is a mixture of pre-existing or recently planted Florida natives.

Each year, the owner hosts numerous landscape tours, hayrides, parties and lawn concerts. Over the years, she has used the ranch to educate visitors about Florida native plants, their benefits to wildlife, and landscape planning with natives.

Waldo Road Greenway

The Waldo Road Greenway is a multi-use 2.5 mile paved path that features landscape plants native to Florida, including 850 trees, 1,500 shrubs, and 7,750 wildflowers.

The project site was an abandoned railway which contained no trees or desirable plants. The soil was highly compacted and needed to be amended before planting could take place.

A multi-use path was built, followed by the installation of large trees, understory trees, shrubs, and wildflowers. The project transformed an unsightly and abandoned rail corridor into an attractive feature that enhances the east side of Gainesville and provides local residents with a greater sense of pride in their community. The Greenway is also used as an educational resource for Master Gardener programs, and to demonstrate proper use of pruning techniques and landscaping with native plants.

To see additional photographs of the award-winning designs, visit www.fnps.org and click on ‘What We Do > Landscaping’.

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Call for Research Papers and Poster Presentations

The 2013 Florida Native Plant Society Annual Conference will be held at University Center, University of North Florida, Jacksonville, May 16-19, 2013

The Research Track of the FNPS Annual Conference will include presented papers on May 17-18, 2013. A poster session will be held on May 18.

Researchers are invited to submit abstracts on research related to native plants and plant communities of Florida including preservation, conservation, and restoration. Presentations are 20 minutes in length (15 minutes is provided for the presentation, followed by a 5 minute question and answer period).

Abstracts of not more than 200 words should be submitted as an MS Word file, by email, to Paul A. Schmalzer at: paul.a.schmalzer@nasa.gov

Include title, affiliation, and address. Indicate whether you will be presenting a paper or poster.

Deadline for submitting abstracts is February 1, 2013.
The FNPS Annual Conference will be held for the first time in Northeast Florida to recognize the 500th Anniversary of the founding of Florida by Spanish explorer Juan Ponce de Leon. It is believed he came ashore in northern St. Johns County, between St. Augustine and Ponte Vedra Beach, very near the Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve. Ponce de Leon was so struck by the natural beauty of the area, he called his discovery *La Florida*, or “the flower.”

The conference will be held at University Center, University of North Florida (UNF). This award-winning campus is an outstanding example of environmentally sensitive building, which contains many Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certified buildings.

UNF’s landscape plan incorporates native plants throughout the campus, and also includes a 382-acre natural area known as the Sawmill Slough Preserve. Both the campus landscape and the Sawmill Slough Preserve will provide conference field trip locations.

Additional field trips include visiting the Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve by kayak or hiking on its many miles of trails. The Okefenokee Swamp in southern Georgia and a multitude of northeast Florida’s state forests create

*Please join us and “Celebrate *La Florida, The Land of Flowers.”*

*By Barbara Jackson-Lewis*

*2013 Conference Chair and President, Ixia Chapter*
many trip locations for participants to choose from. Activities are varied – search for the endangered Bartram’s ixia (*Calydorea caelestina*) in Clay County’s Jennings State Forest, or head for a potential butterfly bonanza in Nassau County’s Simmons State Forest. Marvel at Jacksonville’s urban park system, the largest in the United States, or visit the vast Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve, which includes historic Kingsley Plantation, salt marshes, miles of trails and plenty of native wildlife. Other field trips savor the Jacksonville Arboretum and Gardens and the privately owned St. Johns County Saturiwa Conservation Area.

Each trip is led by friendly and knowledgeable guides who can identify the multitude of native plants to be seen and provide information on the various ecosystems that contain them. With 10-12 different field trips scheduled for Thursday and Sunday, there is something to satisfy every interest and activity level.

Friday and Saturday will feature fascinating speakers and interactive sessions led by national, regional and local experts in the native plant world. Artist Jim Draper will open the conference.

Known nationally for his impeccably researched and detailed oil paintings of native plants and wild Florida scenes, Jim has just completed the *Pasqua Florida* or “Feast of Flowers” project. His knowledge of Florida’s native plants and the history of the Spanish arrival 500 years ago will inform a provocative consideration of the ‘feast’ – of and on – Florida, from Ponce de Leon to the present. Additionally, Jim generously donated the use of an image of his painting *Large Passion* for our 2013 Conference materials.

FNPS legend, Roger Hammer will open the conference on Saturday morning. Roger is an award-winning professional naturalist, author, botanist and photographer. Widely recognized as an expert on native wildflowers, he is passionate about Florida’s native orchids. Roger’s depth of knowledge and wit will inform what promises to be an engaging homage to our native flora. Next, breakout speakers will address wildflowers, butterflies, conservation issues, native flowering trees, artist-botanist William Bartram, current research and FNPS administrative issues.

For a more hands-on experience, the conference offers four workshops, including a two-hour presentation on Saturday afternoon geared toward the native plant novice who wants to learn how to incorporate the right plant in the right location in the home landscape. Workshop participants can also learn to weave baskets from palmetto leaves, or discover their creative side with the art of nature journaling.

Environmental planner, Dr. Tom Hoctor of the University of Florida, will close the conference on Saturday afternoon. Dr. Hoctor’s research interests are focused on applying landscape ecology and conservation biology to regional planning, greenway and wildlife corridor design. He has been instrumental in initiatives such as a wildlife corridor that would connect and conserve native habitat throughout Florida and serve as a vital pathway for native animals, particularly the Black Bear. He will provide valuable insight and inspiration about the future of native Florida, providing a fitting conclusion to this year’s consideration of *La Florida*.

The Sheraton Jacksonville serves as our conference hotel and is a mere five-minute drive to UNF’s University Center. The Sheraton is also located within a few short blocks of the well-known Jacksonville Town Center, which is full of restaurants and top retail shops. This is a perfect destination for spouses or older children who may not be attending the conference.

The 2013 Conference will feature a fantastic native plant sale, which will be open to the public. Vendors will provide an opportunity to shop for some of those hard-to-find natives that you dream of. Inside exhibitors will offer an array of unique goods, and conference sponsors will display...
information about their businesses, which support our organization. Stop by the Chapter Booth Sale, and purchase items that support FNPS chapters. Do not forget the silent auction, and take a look at some of the art from well-known photographer Clyde Butcher, and local naturalist Craig O’Neal, plus a selection of other “must have” items.

Two author book signings will take place during the lunch break on Friday and Saturday. You will have the opportunity to converse with the authors, purchase their books, and receive a personal dedication.

Finally, plan to attend the wonderful social events. The opening reception will be held on the deck of the University Center, and will feature a delicious buffet and time to visit with friends from other chapters. The Friday evening affair will showcase the mighty St. Johns River. We will dine at River City Brewing, and hear Lisa Rinaman, the St. Johns Riverkeeper, speak about current issues affecting the river and its tributaries. At the time of the writing of this article, we are attempting to arrange a river cruise prior to our meal. The concluding social on Saturday evening will be held at Jacksonville’s Katherine Abbey Hanna Park, in the Dolphin Plaza. This lovely building sits among sand dunes, directly on the Atlantic Ocean. You will find it easy to take a lazy stroll on the beach. Dinner includes an oyster bar and a low-country boil with vegetarian and vegan options. We will also enjoy an a cappella musical performance from Bella Voce, a talented threesome who will perform songs from both 16th century Spain and old Florida.

The 2013 Ixia Chapter Conference Planning committee welcomes you to Northeast Florida! Keep checking the FNPS Conference website for updates and for the opening of registration. Save the date, and join us for the conference when we gather to “Celebrate la Florida, The Land of Flowers.”
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Volunteer needed for Okaloosa/Walton County area.

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