



# Sabal minor

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

## MAY – JUNE 2021 | VOLUME 23, NUMBER 3

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Do you enjoy getting the *Sabal minor* by email? Did you know we also offer *The Palmetto* by email, as well? [Email us](#) to switch over to save paper and to save us postage.

Chapters are encouraged to print copies of the newsletter to have on hand at their monthly meetings for members who would prefer a print version. If your chapter isn't holding in-person meetings, you may wish to print out the *Sabal minor* and mail it to your members.



## Message from the President | *Bonnie Basham*



Hello, I hope I will “see” you at the FNPS annual conference May 14 -16. We have an exciting lineup of speakers and you will be able to enjoy taking in the virtual presentations showcasing our chapters’ region of the state. You can still register at <https://www.fnps.org/conference/register> up until May 13<sup>th</sup> at midnight.

As I write this, there is some *good news coming out of Tallahassee!* The 2021 Legislative session will end April 30th and it appears the “roads to nowhere” disastrous highway construction plan, approved by the Legislature in 2019 will be repealed or modified so DOT will not destroy sensitive Florida native plant habitat. *[It ends the Southwest-Central/Heartland Parkway, would still allow the turnpike to be extended, and the Suncoast using improvements to US19. And stopping at I-10. And require using task force recommendations. And no longer includes deadlines, or bonding using Turnpike funds. -Ed.]*

Thanks to Gene Kelly, Policy chair; the FNPS policy committee: Joan Bausch (Martin County), Winnie Said (Palm Beach), David Perkey (Pinellas), Dave Feagles (Serenoa), Laura Reynolds (Palm Beach), Gene Kelly (Hernando) and Sue Mullins, FNPS lobbyist for your tireless efforts on behalf of Florida native plants, native plant habitats and native plant restoration.

And, thanks to *so many of you who* attended MCORES regional meetings, spoke against the roads and wrote government leaders urging them to protect our sensitive lands and plants. This is proof that your voice will be heard when you speak up on issues of critical importance.

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



Happy May everyone! And that means our 40th Annual Conference is only a week away. If you haven’t registered yet, I encourage you to register soon so that you can take full advantage of the virtual conference platform (Whova). Once you register, you will be emailed a link to download the Whova app on you cell phone **and/or** to login on a tablet, laptop or desktop computer. You can begin networking now! You can also enjoy the videos and other materials that are being posted or join a conversation.

And don’t worry if you can’t see all the presentations in the entire live conference—all registrants will have access to the recorded presentations and all other conference materials for 6 months after the conference! It’s a great deal for only \$35 for the entire conference!

New this year—an online **Silent Auction** using Bidding Owl! It’s open now so [check out the deals and place your bids](#).

The week after the conference is our **Annual Members Meeting** on Saturday, May 22nd at 1:00pm (online again this year). We will be announcing our Palmetto award winners and the recipients of this year’s Conservation and Research grant awards in addition to voting on new officers and directors.

All members will receive an email invitation with a code # that you will enter into the voting form.

We will be voting on the following candidates:

### **Nominated for President Elect: Mark Kateli**

*Currently serving as Cuplet Fern Chapter President and FNPS Director at Large*

Mark Kateli is celebrating his 11th year as a member of the Florida Native Plant Society. He is the president of the Cuplet Fern chapter that serves the north Orlando metropolitan area covering Seminole, West Volusia, and nearby areas. Creator of the popular Florida Native Plant Art Facebook group, he enjoys promoting a creative approach with art that goes beyond applications in gardening and natural areas. He is a believer of the native plant lifestyle - where native plants permeate our everyday lives from the kitchen counter, to wall hangings at home and the workplace, to listening about them while driving, special native plant events, and educating about them to future generations. An event-generating engine, he readily adapted to the COVID-19 pandemic facilitating numerous online experiences beginning 2 weeks after the nationwide shutdown. At present, Mark sits on an environmental impact study committee for the Central Florida Expressway Authority, a steering committee for Central Florida Central Florida Invasive Special Management Authority (CISMA), and an advisory committee for the Seminole Extension Services. As a certified Master Gardener, he created and developed additional native plant demonstration areas with the help of the community at the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) extensions in Seminole as well as Osceola counties. A certified Florida Master Naturalist Land Steward, he is working towards bringing the popular program to Seminole County later this year in collaboration with the Sanford Zoo and the Seminole Natural Lands program. He is currently developing a renewed FNPS presence in West Volusia county. Together with a

small group of participating chapters, he initiated the Inter-chapter Disaster Relief Initiative (IDRI) that aids affected chapters with money and resources to continue serving their community in times of natural disasters. He is an event planner by trade and enjoys the creative opportunities that come with it.

**Nominated for Vice President of Finance: Ann Redmond**

*Tarflower Chapter*

Ann is an environmental professional in natural resource consulting and regulation specializing in strategic approaches to complex projects. She is an authority on environmental regulation spanning the areas of watershed-scale regulatory and planning solutions and specializes in managing complex projects, relying on consensus-building approaches to maximize the end results. She has served as an FNPS past president, VP for Administration, and Conservation Chair and has been a member since 2002.

**Nominated for Treasurer: Susan Carr, PhD**

*Paynes Prairie Chapter*

Susan was born and raised in Gainesville Florida. She is a past-president of FNPS and has 20 years of conservation experience including land management, ecology, and nonprofit operations. Susan earned two graduate degrees in plant ecology, specific to the study of the Southeastern Coastal Plain pine ecosystems. In addition, Susan held positions with the U.S. Forest Service, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, and The Nature Conservancy. Susan's passion for Florida's native landscapes and conservation is deeply held and inspired by her academic study and lifelong appreciation of Florida's wildlands.

**Nominated for Director at Large: Maryann (Mac) Camacho**

*Tarflower Chapter*

Mac works as a Native Plant Concierge at Green Isle Gardens and enjoys assisting clients in selection of their habitat plants. She understands the tremendous therapeutic and restorative power in being outdoors in nature, gardening and exploring wilderness. Originally from Puerto Rico, she grew up in Annapolis, MD. MAC is passionate in her involvement and commitment to the study of nature and the environment. A member of the Florida Native Plant Society, Tarflower Chapter and a long-standing member of the Florida Humanities Council, she enjoys Kayaking, Hiking, Flats fishing, and traveling. An avid photographer and mix media painter, she regularly contributes observations to iNaturalist and the UF Air Potato Patrol as a Citizen Scientist. Mac volunteers on a regular basis at the Oakland Nature Preserve assisting in restoration of habitat, plant surveys and education efforts as a Florida Master Naturalist and Blue-Hike leader, exploring Florida Waterways. Mac is a Rollins College Alum with a Degree in Psychology. She has proven expertise in Guest Services, and oversight management within Theme Parks and international tourism industry.

**Nominated for Director at Large: Susan Lerner**

*Currently serving as Palm Beach County Chapter Director at Large*

Susan is the Director of Horticulture for the Preservation Foundation of Palm Beach and manages Pan's Garden, which was established in 1994 to showcase Florida's indigenous plants and the wildlife they support. She is a past president of the FNPS Palm Beach County Chapter and has volunteered with FNPS for many years. Learn more about Susan and Pan's Garden in [this video](#) by the Preservation Foundation of Palm Beach.

**Nominated for Director at Large: John Benton**

*Currently serving as Lake Beautyberry Chapter President*

John recently completed a 35-year career with the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission as a fish biologist. John has been involved with conservation issues as a founding member of Lake County Conservation Council and served on the city commission of Eustis for 12 years. He has a deep connection with this unique part of Florida. He has been involved with the Lake Beautyberry Chapter for over 5 years, serving as Vice President for two years and President since January of 2020.

**Nominated for Director at Large: Gabriel Campbell, PhD**

*Currently serving as Longleaf Pine Chapter Representative*

Gabriel grew up near Tampa and became interested in ecology and plant science after taking an undergraduate botany class and assisting at a research greenhouse. He has a PhD and Masters in Environmental Horticulture from the University of Florida and currently works for Four Peaks Environmental Science & Data Solutions. His PhD dissertation was on the conservation, greenhouse production, and restoration outplantings of sandhill milkweed (*Asclepias humistrata*). He is also an administrator for the [Florida Native Plant Propagation Facebook group](#) and presented on his research to members during [the February 19, 2021 Lunch and Learn](#).

## Conservation and Research Grants

Please join us in thanking everyone who donated to our Conservation and Research Grants:

### Conservation Grants

Tarflower Chapter of FNPS in honor of Dick Deuerling  
Sea Rocket Chapter of FNPS  
Dade Chapter of FNPS in honor of Joyce and Don Gann  
Cammie Donaldson and Spence Guerin in honor of Joyce and Don Gann  
Lindsay Boehner in honor of Joyce and Don Gann  
Patty Phares in honor of Joyce and Don Gann  
Elizabeth Golden in honor of Joyce and Don Gann  
Sally Channon in honor of Joyce and Don Gann  
Carole Goodyear  
Jenn Bonaskiewich  
Samuel Woodworth

### Research Grants

Tarflower Chapter of FNPS in honor of Sam Hopkins  
Sea Rocket Chapter of FNPS

## Chapters – File your tax returns!



Chapter Leaders – don't forget to file your tax returns! Failure to file will result in a revocation of your chapter's charity status. When charity status is revoked, a chapter is unable to accept tax-deductible donations and must pay sales tax on any items purchased by the chapter.

Most of our chapters (chapters with less than \$25,000 per year in revenue) can file an online 990 postcard. It's very fast and easy but a very important item on your annual "to-do" list and shared calendars.



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# FNPS News and Notifications

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**David Hall, 1940-2021** | *Claudia Larsen, Paynes Prairie Chapter*



Anyone who knew David Hall is mourning the loss of a special person whose knowledge of plants surpassed most of us. I think I remember him

being at the first organization meeting the Paynes Prairie Florida Native Plant Society in the 1970's (?). I was a horticulture student at the University of Florida and sat in the back of the room in awe while prominent professors from the Botany and Horticulture Departments and local nurseryman discussed the importance of Florida ecosystems and their native plants. They discussed the necessity of introducing native plants from "the woods" into Florida landscapes and after that I was hooked on native plants.

David frequently attended those early FNPS meetings and although we couldn't talk him into being an officer, he was always supportive and encouraging of our programs and public outreach. (He had plenty of other responsibilities as the Director of UF Plant Identification and Information Services.) If David came along on a field trip you knew you would always learn the name of every plant you encountered. He also loved coming to the FNPS plant sales to see all the special native plants that had been grown. With his youthful good looks and quiet voice, he became friends with everyone.

David wrote 11 books and like me you might have some of them on your bookshelf; books like *Wildflowers of the Southeast*, *Grasses of Florida*, and *Illustrated Plants of Florida and the Coastal Plain*. He specialized in grasses and taught many workshops across Florida. In a surprising change of

course, after leaving UF Dave created an environmental consulting firm specializing in forensic botany. As an FNPS speaker he described going to the scene of crimes where he examined plant materials to help uncover clues and determine the timing of the crime. We all thought that was quirky, but he appeared as an expert witness in court trials and delivered the "real horticultural dirt on the criminals".

I was happy when David invited me to his home—he wanted me to dig up all the little seedlings under his Fringe tree and offer them at FNPS plant raffles. His northwest Gainesville home was at the end of a shaded cul-de-sac and I was thrilled to get a yard tour when I arrived. David was friends with the late Noel Lake, the UF campus landscape architect, who had given him many special specimens of shrubs and trees. He had put in a large pond and enjoyed planting it with wetland natives. I don't know why but I was also surprised to see a full tennis court. I learned David's wife was a professional tennis player and liked to give tennis lessons. My heart reaches out to her and their daughter. Farewell Dr. Hall, and thank you for sharing your time and wisdom with us!



David on a Paynes Prairie Chapter field trip. Photo by Mark Elliott



## Council of Chapter Transition | *Melanie Simon, Secretary*



With the election of a new Council Chair (Pat Burgos, please see her bio in the [Sabal minor 23\(2\)](#)), the Council of Chapters wishes to thank Kara Driscoll, who has served as Council Chair for the past four years. As Council Chair she also served on the FNPS Board of Directors during this period.

Kara is currently pursuing her Master's degree in environmental science at Florida Gulf Coast University, and is stepping back to finish her research and Master's Thesis on an endemic milkweed that is a candidate for state listing. Some of you may have seen Kara's informative Lunch & Learn program "[Liminal Spaces: The Biogeography of Florida 'Faerie' Milkweed, \*Asclepias feayi\*](#)".

While Kara may keep a low profile while she is finishing her thesis, she has a strong drive to serve and we're sure she will step up to take more active roles in the future. A native Floridian, Kara has been involved with FNPS for seven years. She served as field trip and program coordinator for the Magnolia Chapter and is currently the Naples chapter's Chapter Representative.

Thank you, Kara, for your service, leadership, and dedication. The Council of Chapter wishes you success with you research and future pursuits!

## Sign up now for the FNPS license plate | *Sue Mullins*



Pre-order your license plate now! We must secure 3,000 voucher sales before the state of Florida will begin printing the plates. FNPS will then receive \$25 for each plate sold.

You can order plates for yourself or as gifts for friends and loved-ones.

- You must complete a separate form for each voucher that you would like to order.
- Vouchers typically take 10 business days for processing from purchase to completion. However, they may take longer due to holidays or other circumstances.

[Click here to order online](#)

Or, you can order in person from your local County Tax Collector's office.

Questions? Email [FloridaNative@FNPS.org](mailto:FloridaNative@FNPS.org)





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# Articles

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## Connecting in Nature | Stephanie Dunn, Broward Chapter



The human instinct to connect is seemingly stronger than ever as people have experienced varying degrees of disconnect over the last year caused by the global pandemic. Since starting back up monthly field trips in October 2020, the Broward Chapter has continued to provide opportunities for members to enjoy each other's company out in nature. Safety measures were put in place, which adhered to local ordinances and minimized risks, such as requiring reservations, limiting group size to ten members, as well as requiring masks since we often are looking closely at fauna and flora found on our walks.

Experimenting with different platforms for which members can reserve their spot on field trips, we've had greater success of filling up field trip groups when reservations are requested via email rather than an app, such as Eventbrite. We also provided two field trip opportunities for the months of February and March to take advantage of the weather and to serve more members of our chapter. The field trips over the last eight months took our members to the far reaches of Broward and Palm Beach counties, as well as quick jaunts into Martin County.



Members surrounded by Silver Saw Palmetto (*Serenoa repens*) at Highlands Scrub Natural Area in Pompano Beach.

Netted Pawpaw (*Asimina reticulata*) blooms at Highlands Scrub Natural Area in Pompano Beach.

October – We walked the trails at Cypress Creek Natural Area in Jupiter to view the autumnal flora. Muhly Grass (*Muhlenbergia capillaris*) was in full inflorescence along the wetland edges, while bright Pine Lily (*Lilium catesbaei*) stood out in the pine flatwoods. The needles of Bald Cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) were turning russet and beginning to blanket the dry, swamp floor.

November - Rich Ackerman, President of Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society, led us on a tour of the Stunson Nature Trail. He showed us the native orchids that were cultivated by Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden's Million Orchid Project and installed in the landscape in partnership with the City of Oakland Park. In preparation of the trip, he provided an informative presentation about the efforts in South Florida being taken to reintroduce native orchids into urban landscapes.





Members are immersed in the landscape at Hillsboro Pineland Natural Area in Coconut Creek.



Members conferring together along the trail at Hillsboro Pineland Natural Area in Coconut Creek.

December - We ventured on a few of the trails at the 57-acre urban wilderness of Secret Woods Nature Center in Coconut Creek exploring swamp, hammock, and prairie habitats. Toothed Rein Orchid (*Habenaria floribunda*) was in bloom deep in the hammock, while along the edge of the prairie, the flowers of Jack-in-the-Bush (*Chromolaena odorata*) were covered with *Atala* butterflies.



Members take in the view from the top of the observation tower on the Hobe Mountain Trail at Jonathan Dickinson State Park in Hobe Sound.



January- Inspired by a new year and new opportunities for our own gardens following a presentation about landscape design from Cadence, a Fort Lauderdale landscape architecture firm, we visited Mounts Botanical Garden to see the mature landscape of the Clay E. Hutcheson Complex. It is a prime example of landscape design utilizing Florida native plants. Throughout the landscape there are large specimens, as well as plant tags, both of which are truly helpful to native plant enthusiasts learning plant identification, size, and growing habits.



Members enjoying the Kitching Creek Nature Trail at Jonathan Dickinson State Park in Hobe Sound.



Members walking the trail along the pine flatwoods at Jonathan Dickinson State Park in Hobe Sound.

February - We held field trip opportunities at two different Broward County natural areas. Hillsboro Pinelands Natural Area in Coconut Creek provided a bounty of insect sightings. Highlands Scrub Natural Area in Pompano Beach brimmed with Netted Pawpaw (*Asimina reticulata*).

March - While the weather was cool, we held another two field trip opportunities. We meandered on the sunny boardwalk at the Chapel Trail Nature Preserve in Pembroke Pines, observing all the bird activity in the wetlands. The other trip to Yamato Scrub Natural Area in Boca Raton yielded spring botanical finds such as Prickly Pear (*Opuntia humifusa*) and Skyblue Lupine (*Lupinus diffusus*) along the sandy trails.

April - We toured Jonathan Dickinson State Park in Martin County. The nearly 11,500-acre park features sixteen distinct natural communities and is an impressive place to botanize. We walked on trails through scrub, wet flatwoods, and sandhill. The spring wildflowers were abundant throughout all habitats. The most exciting botanical find of the day was blooming Snakemouth Orchid (*Pogonia ophioglossoides*). Due to the overwhelming response of members that were interested in attending, we are visiting the park again for the month of May.

Our cooperative, enthusiastic, and nature-loving members have made these field trips a joy to be a part of. Each time we'd gather to begin our walks, there'd be a flurry of exchanges as we all caught up with one another. It is clear to see how much our members yearn to have meaningful experiences with like-minded individuals, while reveling in the beauty nature. We look forward to continuing field trips, as they are our greatest tool to feel connected with each other and nature, adding tremendous benefits to our lives.

## Prepare for Fire | *Melanie Simon, Passionflower Chapter*



Acquiring property with important biodiversity and endangered native plants is just the beginning . . . managing the property is the real work. Prescribed fire is a key—and necessary—management tool. Without fire, which the habitat requires to rejuvenate, this property has become overgrown and the important plant populations decline in number and density.

Prescribed fires require prep work. Mike Jenkins (Seminole State Forest) and I worked at the Warea Tract in March in anticipation of a prescribed burn this spring. The Warea Tract in Clermont is a small (113 acre) parcel with incredible botanical diversity. One of the few remaining intact sandhill communities at the north end of the Central Florida Ridge, the tract contains many rare, threatened and endangered species. The



Lewton's Polygala (*Polygala lewtonii*) at the Warea Tract





Overgrowth of the undergrowth at the Warea Tract

task for the day was to help protect the large longleaf pine trees, a key species of the habitat, since the last burn was many years ago and the property is very overgrown. The leaf litter, pine cones, dead branches, and vegetation were removed within 5' around the base of the mature trees. This will lower the intensity of the fire at the base of the trees (heat and length of burn) to give these trees a better chance of survival.

While working on the pines, Mike and I admired the Lewton's Milkwort or Lewton's Polygala (*Polygala lewtonii*), some barely visible, that are blooming this time of year. According to a report by the U.S. Wildlife Service, fire helps this plant by removing competing plants and the buildup of ground litter and lichens, lowering its age of reproductive maturity, and increasing the density of the plants. Although the plant is burned in fires, its seedlings sprout in large numbers in the seasons after a large fire, increasing the population by at least one order of magnitude and in one case by 800%. It is thought that smoke may trigger or foster germination of seeds in the soil seed bank.

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



After passing an empty display center at the Port Orange library in Volusia County, we asked if we could display some articles about the Florida Native Plant Society and native plants in general. The display took place during the entire month of March. As a result of this display we accepted an invitation from the library to consent to an interview, which would be part of the library's YouTube collection. The librarian interviewed Doug Hunt, past

Pawpaw president in our demonstration garden in South Daytona. The video will be made available on the Volusia County website.

The Pawpaw Chapter has slowly begun, under CDC guidelines, some outreach programs. We began with having a table at the Florida Wildflower Festival in Deland this March. Members handed out information and collected signatures of people interested in learning more about our chapter. Then we participated in the Flagler County Garden Club event in April, where we also handed out information and collected signatures. We continue to meet by Zoom, but hope to offer both in-person and virtual meetings soon.

In November of 2020, Volusia County residents voted to continue funding the Volusia Forever and Echo grants programs. Both programs coincide with the FNPS mission to Preserve, Restore, and Conserve our environment. The Pawpaw Chapter donated funds to assure these programs would pass the vote. Now that they have been reinstated, the Chapter is committed to assure the funds are being used appropriately.





## FNPS “Excellent Landscape” Awarded to Lake Beautyberry Chapter Members | *Neta Villaloboos-Bell*



Gina and Ken Skillings, Lake Beautyberry Chapter members, received the Florida Native Plant Society's highest achievement Landscape Award, “Excellent” in 2020.

The Skillings relocated from South Florida to Lake County in 2016 and within four short years transformed their barren lot into a nature lovers paradise. As they walk their yard every day brings unexpected and rewarding sightings of new seedlings that have popped up, flowers that have bloomed, a flock of cedar waxwings swooping in, bluebirds checking for a nesting sight, and many more joyful experiences.



How did this happen? The Skillings' sense of place and environmental awareness awakened while in South Florida when they first learned about the invasive Australian pine. They wanted to learn more and as they became aware of what many more of these invasive plants were, they realized they had some in their yard as well as in neighboring yards. This was the start of their research for more environmental options and the discovery of native plants' benefits. After moving to Lake County, they wanted to replicate their experience but were not familiar with native plants in this region. With persistence and word of mouth, they were able to find

a Native Landscape Designer to draw a plan, a Home Builder Landscape Contractor willing to work with them to install larger trees and shrubs, and a Native Plant Nursery who installed the meadow perennial flowers, and native grasses, and additional shrubs and trees. Obviously, this project evolved gradually through different phases, resulting in the final product. Quite an accomplishment.

More traditional landscapes are static, but Florida native plant yards are dynamic. They change seasonally and sometimes even daily, if you watch closely. They move, and sing, and buzz. Native clump grasses wave in the wind. Naturally pruned shrubs provide nesting sites for birds. Blooming flowers attract numerous pollinators. After pollination, the seeds feed more birds. Their yard is full of life. These pollinators and birds have a refuge from encroaching sterile and barren development leaving less and less space for our native wildlife.

The Skillings have a purpose and goal, not only to enjoy their own yard and its inhabitants, but to promote what other people can do too, that is, provide a more environmental and sustainable landscape with Florida native plants.

In addition to the Florida Native Plant Society Award, in 2019 they received a University of Florida/IFAS “Florida-Friendly” Landscape Recognition Award.

You may be wondering about maintenance. Yes, there is maintenance. And depending on how you choose plants, it can make a difference. According to the Skillings, trees and shrubs need less or no fertilizer once established, don't need water except during drought, and little or no pruning except to control stray stems or branches. Many native grasses need pruning every one

or two years. Perennials, flowers, require more work. These are for the true gardeners, those who work in the yard themselves. Although, the flowers may spread, reseed, or need to be deadheaded, they are worth it for the reward of color and bountiful pollinators.

Gina and Ken are those gardeners who immerse themselves whether working in the yard, capturing its beauty through photography, blogging about it, and taking a few quiet moments sitting on a park bench in the garden under a shade tree, or on their patio looking out towards the backyard as birds soar overhead.



Lake Beautyberry Chapter congratulates and is proud of our members, Gina and Ken Skillings, not just for their award, but for their ongoing dedication and commitment to better our environment.

## Job Postings

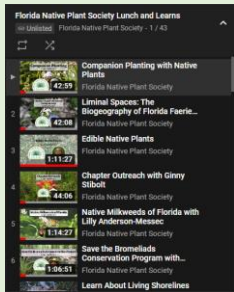
### Restoration Technician—Theresa Blanchard

compensation: \$15/hr | term: temporary | schedule: part time on mainly weekends | start date: ASAP | closing date: n/a | location: Riverview | FNPS chapter: Suncoast

Earn money helping me restore my pond and woods to their native state!  
Heavy yard work, weeding, use power tools like weed whacker, trimmers, etc.

Riverview area on Hidden Valley Lane.  
Please text (313) 910-2627 if interested, thanks.

### Et cetera



We now have 44 Lunch and Learns available to members of the Florida Native Plant Society—they're collected in an easy-to browse [YouTube playlist](#).

If you'd like to share our Lunch and Learns with friends or family, please share the [public YouTube playlist](#), which consists of eight videos.

Did you miss our two FNPS After Hours presentations? These are monthly informal evening programs, our first was on a Wednesday evening and our second was on a Saturday evening. They're public, so share them at will! [Here's the playlist](#).

Ixia Chapter is now sending out an excellent Conservation Newsletter about every week. Authored by Chadd Scott, the newsletter covers local and statewide conservation issues and non-policy-related chapter notes. It's written in a clear, friendly, and personal style and anyone can subscribe [on Ixia's website](#).



Our member Jenny Evans from the Coccoloba Chapter was interviewed by reporter Theresa Vazquez of the Santiva Chronicle after her presentation at the CROW's Speaker Series Lectures. Jenny is the manager of the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundations' Native Landscapes & Garden Center and the Native Landscapes & Adult Education Director. Great job, Jenny! [Link](#).

We now have eighteen chapters with their own YouTube Channels! Check out the chapters, watch some videos, and subscribe:

[Citrus](#) - [Conradina](#) - [Cuplet Fern](#) - [Dade](#) - [Ixia](#) - [Mangrove](#) - [Marion Big Scrub](#) - [Martin County](#) - [Naples](#) - [Pine Lily](#) - [Passionflower](#) - [Pinellas](#) - [Sarracenia](#) - [Serenoa](#) - [Suncoast](#) - [Sweetbay](#) - [Tarflower](#) - [The Villages](#)

Don't have a YouTube Channel? I can help you get set up, just [email me](#) and we'll get started. I can help you upload meeting recordings or field trip videos as well.

If your chapter already has a YouTube Channel with some videos uploaded but want to get more watch hours, may I suggest that for your Chapter meetings you add *chapters* to the videos to make them easier to navigate for your viewers? For example, you can but a marker when the presenter stats talking after your chapter business is done.

Here is the [YouTube how-to page](#) on chaptering your videos. I chaptered Tom Diggs' *Summer-farewell: The evolutionary & biogeographic history of the Southeastern Dalea species* Lunch and Learn if you would like to see an example.

Marion Big Scrub Chapter was featured in the Ocala Star Banner on April 4<sup>th</sup> for their hard work on their native restoration of the Historic Tuskawilla Art Park in the City of Ocala. They, along with the Pioneer Garden Club, Marion Audubon Society, Marion Daylily Society, and the City of Ocala were awarded a National Garden Club grant. Read more [here](#).



Are you looking for a sign? A sign that shows that your yard is gopher tortoise friendly? The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) recently launched the Gopher Tortoise Friendly Yard Recognition Program which requires you to have three types of high to very high-level native forage plants that tortoises like to eat to qualify for a sign. Check out the criteria, application information, and apply for your sign [here](#).

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Cassi Valenti of Cocoloba Chapter has created a solid video for her Florida Gulf Coast University Service Learning Project about the Cutting Horse Eco-Center. This impressive garden also hosts the Chapter's main nursery. It's definitely worth a visit if you're looking to do some native plant tourism. Watch the video [here](#).

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Susan Lerner, board member of the Palm Beach County Chapter and nominee for the FNPS board, was a judge for the “Wildly Exquisite: Florida’s Native Plants” botanical art show, a juried art exhibition held at the Preservation Foundation of Palm Beach’s Pan’s Garden. The exhibition ran from January 18 through April 30. [Article in the Coastal Star](#) by Deborah S. Hartz-Seeley and [webpage](#).



###

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).