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# Sabal minor

A BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS OF THE  
FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY



VOLUME 25, ISSUE # 4

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### In Memory



Photo by Lilly Anderson-Messec

FNPS relies on generous donations from our members and supporters.

**THANK YOU!**

Cy Spurlino

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## In Other News...

Winners of our member survey drawing

### SOCIETY NEWS



*Paynes Prairie Chapter members present the Florida Native Plant Month proclamation to the Alachua County Commission in 2018*

## 2023 Policy Update

*by Eugene Kelly, Policy & Legislation Chair*

We pay close attention to the Florida Legislative session as the laws passed there can substantially impact our native plants and ecosystems.

Colloquially, the Florida Legislative session is known as the 60 most dangerous days for Floridians and their property. I propose that we change that to Floridians and their environment.

This legislative session was particularly dramatic, even by Florida’s standards, with unexpected vetos, a back-of-the-bill budget addendum by a lawn care company, and the largest budget in Florida history.

*Summarized by Valerie Anderson*

Read More

## August is National Make-a-Will Month

With a legal will, you can approach the future with peace of mind by having a plan that communicates your wishes, provides for your loved ones, and sustains the causes you believe in. We’ve partnered with FreeWill to make it easier than ever to start your will and make your most important plan for the future.

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## 2023 FNPS Landscape Awards

There is still time to apply for the 2023 FNPS Landscape Awards.

With a deadline of August 31st, this year our Gardens of Excellence winners will receive a beautiful custom stained glass garden decoration, designed by artist RoseMarie Brown. Click [here](#) to find out more.

## Florida Native Plant Month 2023

FNPS has celebrated Florida Native Plant Month since the mid 90s. Since then we've had state officials proclaim October to be Florida Native Plant Month (FNPM) twice, most recently in 2019.

Local chapters seek proclamations for FNPM from their local cities and counties; last year six chapters were successful. Read about their efforts in the [Sabal minor Vol 24\(3\), p. 5-6.](#)

Chapters also plan larger events during FNPM, such as Conradina Chapter's Landscaping with Natives Garden Tour.

*Right: Then-Tarflower President Catherine Bowman speaks to a large crowd during the 2017 regional Central Florida Native Plant Month event.*



FEATURES

# Lessons & Challenges from Scrub Lupine's Reintroduction

*by Tom Palmer, Heartland Chapter*

Recovery plans may be one of the aspects of the Endangered Species Act that sometimes attract less public attention than the sometimes-heated battles over whether a species should be listed at all.



*Scrub Lupine / Lupinus aridorum. Photo by Tom Palmer*



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recovery plans are intended to guarantee that species don't vanish from the planet.

Scrub Lupine (*Lupinus aridorum*) is one the rarest plant species that grows on the vanishing prehistoric island ridges in Central Florida. It only occupies a handful of sites on what's left of the Winter Haven and Mt. Dora ridges in Orange and Polk County.

Scrub Lupine was listed as an endangered species by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 1987, although an aggressive recovery effort did not begin until 2008. State and federal biologists met with the staff at Bok Tower Gardens' Rare Plant Conservation Program. They had come up with a way to multiply seedlings to use in future recovery projects.

Working on techniques to germinate seeds for outplantings had been part of the recovery strategy, but absent that, the recovery strategy had consisted of collecting seeds, sowing them in appropriate habitat and hoping some of them would produce new plants. (USFWS 1999)

Peterson said the lupine seeds have a high germination rate, but the seeds need to land on relatively bare sand areas with no more than 20% midstory and canopy plant cover and 30% leaf litter.

However, although sometimes hundreds of seedlings can emerge from a single planting site, the survival rate is low because of a variety of factors such as drought, habitat quality and pathogens.

And there are more serious problems that appear to be unique to this species. Past studies suggest *Lupinus aridorum* requires specific soil bacteria to supply nitrogen to promote root growth.

Blue scrub, a 78-acre site on the Winter Haven Ridge near Auburndale in Polk County that is managed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. The initial planting, which occurred in December 2008, introduced 192 plants and 96 seeds, with additional outplantings continuing until 2021. The overall introduction consisted of 1,400 plants and 800 seeds.

In 2010, while I was roaming across another section of the preserve looking for butterflies, I encountered two small Scrub Lupine patches some distance west of the reintroduction sites. They were the result of the awakening of an old seed bank by mechanical clearing that occurred in 2008. This species had not been previously recorded on this site. This discovery occurred just weeks before the site's first landscape-wide prescribed burn was scheduled, so the newly discovered Scrub Lupine locations were marked to protect them from being burned.

The next development occurred in February 2011 when the first Scrub Lupine seedlings began emerging as a result of the previous year's initial bloom. Cheryl Peterson explained studies done at Bok concluded that each raceme from the lupine flowers produces an average of 32 seeds.

One obvious question is whether revised management actions are needed before 2025 to avoid threatening the success of more than a decade of work here.

Stopping any further vehicle traffic adjacent to the planting area and reopening the canopy in the areas where Scrub Lupines are known to occur could improve opportunities for seed germination and the creation of a sustainable population of this extremely rare species.

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initial planting area was mechanically cleared, which over time has allowed the canopy consisting of various species of oaks (*Quercus* sp. ), Scrub Holly (*Ilex opaca* var. *arenicola*), Sand pine (*Pinus clausa*) and Garberia (*Garberia heterophylla*) to recolonize the site.

Additionally, Saw Palmetto (*Serenoa repens*) has returned to its former density. The combination has resulted in a significantly reduced area favorable to seedling emergence.

Finally, the current management plan for the Lake Wales Ridge Wildlife and Environmental Area, which includes Lake Blue Scrub, mentions the lupine planting area only in passing. (FWC 2015) The plan's appendix acknowledges that the management of the lupine recovery project area merits more attention and will be included in the next management plan that covers the period beyond 2025. Additionally, the plan incorrectly states the discovery of Scrub Lupine emerging from an old seed bank was the result of prescribed fire. It was the result of land disturbance. The sites where those plants were discovered have never been burned.



## REFERENCES

- US Fish and Wildlife Service, 1999 Five-year Review *Lupinus aridorum*
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2022 Scrub Lupine (*Lupinus aridorum*) Status Review Summary and Evaluation.
- Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, 2015, A Management Plan for the Lake Wales Ridge Wildlife and Environmental Area, 2015-2025.



## Tallahassee Field Days

by Lilly Anderson-Messec

FNPS Director of North Florida Programs

This was our first year with in-person conference events since the pandemic, so I was delighted to attend the Tallahassee Field Days weekend, one of our regional weekend events, as part of our 2023 'Adaptations' conference. Magnolia & Sarracenia Chapters organized two days of guided field trips, presentations, and delicious food.

I joined the field trip to Helen Roth's Spring Canyon property in Gadsden County. Helen has been

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We met and parked at a spot overlooking the lush new growth that has sprung up where the dammed pond once was and began hiking down the shady and very steep ravine slopes. As we crested the edge of the ravine slope, we saw an open and expansive vista of a recently burned longleaf pine Sandhill. Helen briefed us on the basics of fire ecology and why it's a critical component of her land management (she's a certified burn boss).

As we continued through the Sandhill, we overlooked the two adjoining properties, which are also in the restoration process and owned by FNPS members Annie Schmidt and Susan Carr. Susan and Annie were with us and talked about their restoration work and how they collaborated to manage and burn their properties. Conservation is collaborative!

We spotted Florida Calamint, *Clinopodium dentatum*, in full bloom - a regional endemic in the mint family with bright pink flowers with a minty fragrance.

A snake appeared as we continued on the trail and back down the ravine; a black racer whizzed across the scorched soil, and a causally meandering box turtle was poking around nearby. Wildlife had returned quickly after the burn. We returned to our cars and were treated to some tasty sandwiches and snacks from a local restaurant. As we picnicked in the shade, Annie, Helen, and Susan stuck around to answer questions. What a great day!

property by mechanically removing the overgrowth of woody plants in the uplands and using prescribed burns to maintain them. She has also removed the dam from her creek that a previous owner put in, restoring the natural creek flow.



On the second day of our 2023 FNPS Adaptations Conference Field Days in Tallahassee, we had the pleasure of taking a tour of the Apalachicola Lowlands Preserve, an 80-acre inholding in the Apalachicola National Forest that is owned and managed by the Coastal Plains Institute.



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Bruce's son, Ryan Means, is now the president of the Coastal Plains Institute and led us on our tour through wet prairies, pine flatwoods, seepage bogs, and savannas while discussing the importance of the seasonality of prescribed fire for these landscapes - May and June are ideal times for prescribed burns in this region. Ryan also discussed the various methods they have used to clear out the woody trees and shrubs that had become dominant due to fire suppression.

The views of recently burned wet prairies were undoubtedly a highlight! We saw so many regional endemics - and even an endemic snake subspecies, the Brown-chinned racer.

We then convened at Wright Lake campground to enjoy an fantastic meal catered by Pineapples AC2 from Wakulla County. A wonderful weekend in the Panhandle!

purchased this property in 1994, formerly in timber production. Then began the long project of restoring the diverse landscape, a vital aspect of which is prescribed fire.





# Explore Native Park in Jacksonville, FL

*Ixia Chapter*



The park was maintained by the garden circle for years but then underwent many years of decline until the 1980's when Dr. Robert Ragland, a member of the Florida Native Plant Society, began caring for the park. He devoted over twenty post-retirement years to propagating, planting and maintaining native species. As Dr. Ragland aged and Mother Nature took its course, the park became a tangle of exotic invasives and overly vigorous natives. It was regularly mowed and so-called "maintained" by landscape crews with little regard for established plantings.

The Ixia Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society official adopted Native Park in 2010 as part of the city's "Friends of the Park" program with the intent of carrying out the original purpose of the park and to advance the mission of FNPS as an on-going project for the chapter. Members and volunteers spent many Saturday mornings weeding, pruning, removing invasives, adding new plants and returning the park to a neat and tidy look with lots of new native plants.

100 years ago, in 1923, the incredibly forward-thinking members of the Avondale Garden Circle began planting native species in a park that the City of Jacksonville set aside in the 1921 plat of the Avondale neighborhood. Their goal was to increase public awareness and the wisdom of landscaping with plants indigenous to northeast Florida.

Formally dedicated as Native Park in 1932 this half-acre park is now bordered on all sides by stately homes whose residents love having a small piece of nature just outside their front doors. In the center of Native Park is a brass plaque embedded in stone commemorating the two important dates. The plaque gives testament to the role that the founders intended for the park, namely "...the study of Florida Plant Life."



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only 37 native species were growing there. Today over 160 diverse native plant species grow in Native Park; 95% of the species are vouchered for northeast Florida. Many of the plants are identified with metallic labels providing the botanical and common names. A list of all the current plant species is posted in a kiosk along with a map that identifies their locations by zones.



Native Park is located at 3306 Park Street, Jacksonville, FL 32205.

You are welcome to visit the park, have lunch at the new picnic table built for the park by Eagle Scout Brennan Doherty and learn about native plants by touring the grounds and reading the material on the kiosk.

If you would like more information about Native Park, how to get involved or schedule a tour, contact the Ixia Chapter at [ixiachapter@gmail.com](mailto:ixiachapter@gmail.com).



Native Park has won numerous awards including Outstanding Park by the Riverside-Avondale Preservation Society and the St. Johns Riverkeeper, Certificate of Recognition by the City of Jacksonville Neighborhoods Department, the FNPS Landscaping Design Award of Excellence for a Publicly-Owned Property in 2016 and the 2022 Riverside-Avondale Preservation Society Landscape Award.

Today, Native Park is maintained by Ixia Chapter volunteers and Duval County Extension Master Gardener Volunteers.

Volunteers participate in workdays to perform routine maintenance, lead tours for garden clubs and other organizations, conduct an annual native plant sale, host educational events for various groups and look for additional ways the park can help educate the public about using native plants in an urban environment.





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## Aug 25, Virtual Lunch & Learn



Planting for the Future: Hear how our FNPS mentors are providing opportunities to our younger members.

[Register Here →](#)

## Sept 2, Tampa Nature Walk



Join the Suncoast Chapter on a nature walk at Lettuce Lake, an urban conservation park that also houses the Chapter's demonstration garden

[Learn More →](#)

## Sept 3, Estero Plant Sale & Work Day



Coccoloba River Oaks Preserve  
Plant Sale and Workday

[Learn More →](#)

## Sep 9, Geneva Native Plant Sale



Native plant sale at the Ed Yarbrough Nature Center with Seminole Leisure Services

[Find Out More →](#)

## Sep 16, Titusville Native Plant Sale



Sea Rocket Chapter Native  
Plant Sale

[Find Out More →](#)

## Sep 16, Elkton Field trip



Pawpaw Chapter guided walk  
at Saturiwa Conservation Area

[Learn More →](#)



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### Sept 16, Virtual USF Herbarium Visit



Join President, Mark Kateli - for a virtual visit to USF Herbarium

[Read now →](#)

### Sept 24, Virtual Council of Chapters



Council Representatives will receive an invitation link to the meeting via email.

### Oct 14, Satellite Beach Garden Tour



Conradina Chapter's 14th Annual Landscaping with Florida Natives Tour.

[Register here →](#)

#### IN MEMORY

## We celebrate the lives of our friends

**Warren Reynolds**  
Pawpaw Chapter member

**Georgia Tasker, 1944 - 2023**  
Dade Chapter member

**Cy Spurlino, 1935 - 2022**  
Suncoast Chapter member



#### IN OTHER NEWS



CONGRATULATIONS TO  
2023 FNPS Survey  
Drawing Winners

#1 Savannah Nease

#2 Hilda Dillman

#3 Stewart Weimar

#4 Avi Gardener

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