



Sabal minor

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

July – August 2018 | Volume 20, Number 4



Message from President Susan Carr

Summer is here! Warm, muggy days and frequent rain bring summer wildflowers like the native Phlox (photo below) in a recently burned longleaf pine sandhill. I hope everyone gets a chance to get out and enjoy our summer flowers!

The FNPS annual conference in Miami last May was a great success. It brought together hundreds of enthusiasts to learn about South Florida native plants and habitats. I extend a big thank you to the Conference Committee led by Marlene



Rodak and Juliet Rynear. A group of dedicated volunteers made it happen: Patty Phares, Richard Brownscombe, Shirley Denton, Jenny Welch, Winnie Said, Stephanie Dunn, Dorothy Rodwell, Jim Rodwell, Maran Hilgendorf and Lydia Cuni. *Thank you all!*

FNPS chapters, committees and volunteers are doing all sorts of exciting projects as we continue to implement our mission to promote the preservation, conservation, and

restoration of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida. Our projects are too numerous to list here (and I am still learning about the important work that you do!). In short,

- We are the advocates and champions for our native flora.
- We are the citizen scientists monitoring population trends of imperiled plants.
- We are advocates and educators for native landscaping in our public and private spaces.
- We are the rescuers of native plants in advance of bulldozers.
- We advocate for management of our public lands for the health of native plant communities.
- And, we represent native plants and habitats as policy advocates and voters. Plants don't vote, but we do!

As FNPS grows I want to focus on strengthening communications and collaboration, both internal and external. As I've talked with many of you, the need for better communication emerges as one of our top needs. To this end, we have renewed vigor in our Membership committee and Council of Chapters which will improve information exchange and Chapter communications. And I am optimistic that our communications and marketing will improve as we welcome new staff members to our organization, which brings me to exciting news. We hired an Executive Director! This full-time staff member will serve as the face of FNPS and is in charge of implementing the FNPS mission. Please join me in congratulating Juliet Rynear as our new Executive Director. Many of you already know Juliet and have worked with her in her previous position as Executive Assistant. And there is more good news. One of Juliet's first tasks is hiring a second staff person who will help promote Society programs and communications. I'm sure you will hear from our new staff as they take the reins of FNPS operations.

Thank you to all FNPS chapters, committees, boards and volunteers for your dedication and work. We have such an important mission and a great organization, and I am excited about our future.

Florida Native Plant Society 2018-2019 Officers

New FNPS officers to the Board of Directors were elected at the annual conference. If you are interested in serving as either VP for Finance, Treasurer or Conservation Chair, please contact [President Susan Carr](#).

Board of Directors Officers

President: Susan Carr

Past President: Catherine Bowman

Vice President for Administration: Don Spence

Vice President for Finance: vacant

Secretary: Jacqueline Rolly

Treasurer: vacant

Directors at Large: Wendy Poag, Carol Sullivan and Christine Warren

Council of Chapters Officers

Council Chair: Kara Driscoll

Vice Chair: Gail Parsons

Secretary: Athena Philips

Standing Committee Chairs

Communications: Shirley Denton

Conference: Marlene Rodak

Conservation: vacant

Education: vacant

Land Management Partners: Ray Jarrett

Landscape: Ron Blair

Membership: Anne Cox

Policy and Legislation: Eugene Kelly

Science Advisory: Paul Schmalzer

Board and Council of Chapters Meetings

Aug. 11 Board/COC, Lyonia Environmental Center (9 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.)

Sept. 15 Council of Chapters workshop, Lyonia Environmental Center
(10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.)

Check out other meetings and events at www.fnps.org/society/calendar.



News from Executive Director Juliet Rynear

I want to thank the Board of Directors and the hiring committee for their hard work and dedication to the strategic planning process. This process is never easy because it involves a thorough assessment of organizational strengths and weaknesses and a willingness to change in order to grow.

In nature, change is the only constant, but within organizations change is often avoided as it is disruptive and painful because it eats away our time with family and takes us away from all the fun things that we would rather be doing.

Please join me in thanking the hiring committee – Catherine Bowman, Susan Carr, Don Spence, Ann Redmond and Shirley Denton – for their work in fine-tuning the job description for the new position of Executive Director, for advertising the position, reviewing the applications, and interviewing the applicants. It is an honor to have been chosen from a very large field of candidates, and I will do my best to carry out our mission. I look forward to working closely with our committee chairs, the Board of Directors, the Council of Chapters and our local chapters on strengthening and promoting our Society.

I have stepped down as the Conservation Committee Chair, and one of our committee members is considering a commitment as the Chair. We are so fortunate to have many amazing committee members who are dedicated to our mission! Accepting the role and responsibility of the position of Chair is a serious consideration as it involves the sacrifice of one's time in pursuit of a cause that benefits so many. Stay tuned.

As you read this, we will be working to hire another full-time employee – the Director of Communications and Programming. We hope to have this position filled quickly. These are exciting times for our Society! Promoting our mission, our programs and the excellent work we are doing across the state is very important, and a new full-time staff member dedicated to this purpose will be very much appreciated.

This summer, we will focus on building a strong foundation for the Society. We will continue to bring our strategic plan to life by sharing, with each of our chapters, the assessment tools we have developed during the strategic planning process. I am working with the Council of Chapters and our Membership Chair on a facilitated assessment and inventory for our chapters. We will also continue to promote strong regional networks between our chapters. In this way, chapters can focus on what they do best with the resources available to them, learn and benefit from the strengths of their regional partners, and collaborate to achieve our mission.

FNPS is hiring again!

The Florida Native Plant Society is seeking applications for the position of Director of Communications and Programming. This will be a full-time salaried position.

Apply by July 31 by sending a cover letter, a resume, and a writing sample or curriculum vitae (CV) to Julie Rynear at ExecutiveDirector@fnps.org.

[Read the job description & salary information here](#)

In Memory: Rick Ehle



Rick Ehle was a self-taught native plant expert and naturalist. A long-term member of the Tarflower Chapter, he was integral in the chapter's success and contributed knowledge and plant identification for many years during meetings and on field trips.

Rick was very personable and was always answering questions. His passion for identifying and preserving native plants and native plant communities inspired many. Rick was known for his intricate detailed description of native plants and detailed knowledge of more than 400 species. He was President of the Tarflower Chapter for years and was a founding member and eventual President of the Cuplet Fern Chapter as well. Under his and his wife Pam's leadership, the chapter grew and flourished.

Rick was also an accomplished native plant and wildlife photographer. His photograph collection was used for many educational presentations. One photo resulted in the discovery of a new insect species found in Seminole County, Florida. Rick Ehle and Henry Whittier, Ph.D., a professor of Biology at the University of Central Florida, presented the photo and other documentation and were distinguished with the finding of the Scarlet Bodied Wasp Moth (*Cosmosoma myrodora*) in 2007.

Rick Ehle was a dedicated member of the Florida Native Plant Society for many years, and he will be missed dearly.

– Karina Veaudry

Council of Chapters Reports

– Ginny Stibolt, Ixia Chapter Rep, and Kara Driscoll, Council Chair

The Council of Chapters (COC) will hold a workshop for Society chapters on Saturday, Sept. 15 from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Lyonia Environmental Center in Deltona.

When we held a similar workshop three years ago, the topic was outreach. Each chapter was invited to send up to three people who were most involved in outreach so we hosted newsletter editors, website managers, social media managers, membership chairs, and others who would benefit the most from the presentations and discussions.

What topics would be most useful for your chapter? We can focus on outreach again because it is always important, but we'd like to hear from your chapter on what topics would be most helpful to help make your chapter more successful. We'll also discuss this workshop at our quarterly in-person Board and COC meeting on Aug. 11, which is also at the Lyonia Environmental Center. Send your thoughts to K.dreamflow@gmail.com.

– Gail Parsons, Council Vice Chair

At our annual retreat last February, Archbold Biological Research Station Executive Director Hilary Swain welcomed our group to the station and told us about the destruction of many laurel oaks that occurred when Hurricane Irma passed through in September 2017. She mentioned that she wanted to replace those oaks with 30 live oak trees. The Council of Chapters immediately took up the cause and Chapter Representatives offered to ask their local chapters to donate a live oak to Archbold.

On my way home from the conference, I serendipitously passed a very large native plant nursery just 30 miles from Archbold on SR 70 near Arcadia called Sandhill Native Growers. I

pulled in, looked around and thought this is one of the largest Florida native nurseries I've ever seen. I noticed they did have a large selection of live oaks. When I got home I looked up their website (sandhillgrowers.com) and saw that they promote their nursery this way: Sandhill is proud to be one of the largest "all native" nurseries in Florida, specializing in native plants, grasses, shrubs, and trees.

Chris Holly at Sandhill provided pricing on three sizes of live oak trees: \$18 for 4 to 5 foot-tall trees in 7-gallon containers, \$60 for 6 to 7 foot-tall trees in 15 gallons and \$125 for 8 feet and taller trees in 25 gallons.

We have now raised the money to sponsor the purchase and delivery of 30 live oaks to Archbold. Numerous chapters and some members contributed to this cause. Archbold will make a map and signs acknowledging each contributor. The next time you visit Archbold, walk around and look for your oak tree!

Committee Reports



Conference Committee – Marlene Rodak, Chair

Wow, was the annual conference fun! We are sorry if you missed our 38th annual conference. It was spectacular! We do hope you will join us for our 39th annual conference at the Plantation on Crystal River in beautiful Crystal River, from Thursday, May 16 to Sunday, May 19, 2019.

The speakers, from George Gann to Craig Huegel, were informative and entertaining. Best of all is always the mingling with other "plant heads." Of course, the native plant sale was nothing to sneeze at either.

Although the field trips were a bit damp, none were canceled, and attendees raved about them.

Photos below: Roger Hammer led a field trip of the Long Pine Key Nature Trail in the Everglades. Thanks to Sonya Guidry who provided these photographs.



Awards

Annual awards and recognitions were announced during the conference.

Conservation Committee – Juliet Rynear

A \$5,000 Conservation Grant for 2018 was awarded to Ellen Stewart and the Friends of Jonathan Dickinson State Park for the project: *Tolunnia bahamensis* population augmentation in Jonathan Dickinson State Park FY18-19.

The focal species for this proposal is Dancing Lady Orchid (*Tolunnia bahamensis*), a state-listed endangered orchid with a narrow range, limited to two southern Florida counties and the Bahamas. The scrub ecosystem that this orchid occupies along Atlantic sand ridges has a very limited distribution. This species is found naturally in two small patches (<100 individual plants) in Jonathan Dickinson State Park and one Palm Beach County property. This rare plant is endangered due to development, poaching and loss of pollinators. This

orchid occupies late successional scrub. The funds from this project will be used to collect seed, grow plants, and outplant 1,000 plants into the park.

This grant was made possible by generous donations from Annie Schmidt and John Stites and several chapters of the FNPS: the Dade Chapter in honor of Don and Joyce Gann, the Tarflower Chapter in honor of Dick Deuerling, Nature Coast Chapter, and the Sea Rocket Chapter.

Thanks to the following committee members for reviewing the applications this year: Alan Franck, Ph.D., Amir Khoddamzadeh, Ph.D., Michael Jenkins, Scott Davis, Theresa Lutz, Valerie Anderson and Annie Schmidt.

Science Awards – Dr. Paul Schmalzer

Dr. Schmalzer acknowledged donations to the research grants of \$1,500 from the Tarflower Chapter, in honor of Sam Hopkins, and \$500 from the Sea Rocket Chapter. Four awards were announced:

- Milton Diaz, "Belowground nonstructural carbohydrate total contents and concentrations in pine savanna species," \$1,500 award Sam Hopkins honor
- Arian Farid and Alan Franck, "Molecular ecology of *Monotropis reynoldsiae*," \$700 award
- Anthony Rossi and Dale Casamatta, "Assessing genetic diversity of the highly endangered native semaphore cactus *Consolea corallicola* and its potential for breeding programs," \$1,000 award
- Brigette Williams, "Conservation epigenetics in the highly endangered Florida ziziphus (*Ziziphus celata*, *Rhamnaceae*) located at Bok Tower Gardens in Lake Wales, Florida," \$1,500 award

Landscape Awards – Ron Blair

- Institutional - Award of Excellence: Florida Gulf Coast University Main Entrance (Waldrop Engineering)
- Institutional - Award of Excellence: Kitching Creek Central Flow Way (Martin County Engineering Department)
- Butterfly Garden Category - Award of Honor: Carol Spears Residence (Carol Spears and AJM Environmental)
- Residential Multi-Family - Award of Merit: The Shores of Long Bayou Condominiums Stormwater Ponds (The Shores of Long Bayou Condominiums)

Palmetto Awards

- Green Palmetto Award for Service: Loret Thatcher of Pine Lily Chapter
- Green Palmetto Award for Education: Barbara McCormick, Citrus Chapter
- Outstanding Chapter(s) of the Year: Coccoloba Chapter and Tarflower Chapter
- Mentor Award: Shirley Denton, Suncoast Chapter
- Silver Palmetto Awards: Ina Crawford, Richard Brownscombe, Paul Schmalzer, Gene Kelly



The Coccoloba Chapter was one of two to receive the Outstanding Chapter of the Year recognition.

"This award means a lot to the Coccoloba Chapter," explained Ryan Scofield, chapter president. "It shows us that our hard work to fulfill our mission is helping to inspire others to do the same. It took many volunteers many hours to accomplish what we did this past year, and we look forward to doing even more this year!"

Photo: Coccoloba Chapter President Ryan Scofield accepts the recognition from Susan Carr at the annual conference.

Last year, the Coccoloba Chapter:

- Installed more than 100 species of native plants at our new demonstration site, Cutting Horse.
- Held weekly native plant sales at Koreshan State Park, earning money to give back to worthy recipients like SCCF and Friends of Fakahatchee.
- Completed numerous site visits, giving residents of Lee County a great 'head start' with going native.
- Led a *Tilandsia* project at Koreshan State Park, including permitting, seed collection, inoculation, monitoring, re-populating, etc. and monitored two species of milkweed in Estero.
- And, of course, held monthly board and chapter meetings throughout the year, hosting many diverse speakers, held two volunteer appreciation events (May and December) to give thanks to hard-working chapter team, and organized and participated in several guided nature walks with local experts.

Chapter News, Events and Programs



Conradina Chapter completed two native plant landscapes.



Cuplet Fern Chapter Vice President Barbara Whittier at the Ed Yarborough Nature Center.



Pawpaw Chapter collected data of the chapter's namesake, Rugel's False Pawpaw.

Conradina – Carol Hebert

We have completed two native landscapes with grants from Keep Brevard Beautiful at West Melbourne Post Office and Ballard Park. They look fantastic and have received so much positive feedback!

The West Melbourne Post Office now has a beautiful presentation with native plants added around the main entrance. We heard so many positive comments while we were planting and watering. The Post Office employees support it and get great feedback from their customers.

Ballard Park in Melbourne is a treasure for the public to use for the playground, pavilions, tennis courts and boat ramps. It is on the Eau Gallie River leading to the Indian River Lagoon. The garden is in a perfect spot for everyone to see and appreciate the beauty of native plants as they launch their boat or bring their family to go fishing in the IRL.

Join us for our Native Plant Landscaping Tour on Saturday, October 13 to see native plants that enhance the landscape beachside and on the mainland of the southern part of Brevard County. [Learn more.](#) Plant native!

Cuplet Fern – Mark Kateli

Mark Kateli is the incoming president for Cuplet Fern chapter. Originally working with Tarflower chapter for some years, he decided to take on the leadership position for this chapter as his business has been serving the northern Orlando Metropolitan area recently. Watch the [video](#) of that introduces him and the Youth Eco Camp sponsorships

As part of his first-year mission, Mark is emphasizing growing usage for information and publicity through online streams which is a part of a much larger initiative to increase membership, attendance, visibility, and community volunteering by spreading the native plant message. He is also interested in streamlining volunteer hour reporting and amplifying awareness for the Seminole County Youth Eco Camp for children ages 7 thru 12, an objective that Cuplet Fern continues to hold dear. Our initial revamp of the [website](#) that includes information about the Youth Eco Camp is ready for visitors.

Vice President Barbara Whittier shared news about the chapter's continued development of a native garden at the Ed Yarborough Nature Center (EYNC). Signage was added in the native plant garden, furthering visibility of the chapter's hard work. The chapter led a tour of the gardens as part of their June field trip.

Longleaf Pine – Lynn Backes

On Saturday, July 28, will be a field trip to Coldwater Gardens in Milton.

Invasive plant species infest many different landscapes, both natural areas and the places people live and work. Weeks Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve is holding a workshop on *Identification and Control of Invasive Plants in Urban Landscapes* on July 18 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Gulf Shores Fire Rescue, Station 1 (1921 West 1st Street, Gulf Shores, Alabama). This course provides expert information on the identification, ecology and practical control and prevention of most prevalent and damaging invasive plants in residential and urban landscapes and explores native plants, selecting plants to increase diversity on the landscape and the practical use of noninvasive species. [Learn more and register online.](#) The course fee is \$15.

The Historic Pensacola Village offers a themed tour *William Bartram: A Flower Hunter's Legacy*. The guided walk through Pensacola's historic district focuses on the significance of naturalist William Bartram's travels through the southeast and Pensacola in the late 18th century. These tours are offered Tuesday through Saturday at 3 p.m. with paid admission. [Learn more.](#)

Mangrove – Alan Squires

The chapter meets at Lemon Bay Park (570 Bay Park Blvd., Englewood) from October to May on the second Tuesday of the month. Presentations include an open forum on the glories and pitfalls of native gardening on Oct. 9, traveling through time with trees on Nov. 13, land conservation on Jan. 8, wild orchids of Florida on Feb. 12, edible plants in the neighborhood landscape, on Mar. 12, the wonderful, wacky world of lichens on April 9, and two potlucks on Dec. 11 and May 14.

Marion Big Scrub – Deborah Curry

Monthly meetings continue through the summer at 5 p.m. at the Bellview Public Library

(13145 SE Highway 484, Belleview.) The general business and speaker meeting begin at 6 p.m.

Sea Rocket – Lois Harris

On July 21 and August 11 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. we will be adding plant material to the butterfly gardens around Enchanted Forest Sanctuary (444 Columbia Blvd., Titusville) educational building. If you would like to help and learn more about nectar and host plants for butterflies. Let us know you are coming by calling (321) 264-5185. Literature will be available to take home.

Pawpaw – Sonya Guidry

The Pawpaw Chapter maintains a busy schedule throughout the summer.

Although we had to cancel our annual survey of the chapter's namesake, Rugel's False Pawpaw (*Deeringothamnus rugelii*), Danny Young was able to gather a small group of scientists for a mini one-day data collection survey of this rare Volusia County endemic. A horticulturalist from Bok Tower Gardens collected DNA samples, and a Nova University graduate student took soil samples for microbial analysis.

An early May tour of a DeLand pollinator landscape coupled with a tour of the Stetson Campus sandhill restoration site brought a great turnout. On tap is a trail walk and swim at DeLeon Springs State Park in July. August will bring our annual plant swap, this time at Buchman Park in Port Orange. The idea is simple: bring three native plants and take home three new ones.

Members will continue to participate in outreach programs, including the Tomoka State Park Pollinator Day and helping to design a butterfly garden at Ormond Beach Environmental Discovery Center. On Sept. 8 we will be at the Daytona Museum of Arts and Sciences to participate in its Natural History Festival.

The chapter maintains a native plant demonstration garden at the Park of Honor in South Daytona. It will be in for a little make-over this summer after an unwelcome herbicide treatment. The city of South Daytona has otherwise been a very supportive partner and is doing its part to make things right. Now, hopefully, rains will continue to help the new plantings get established.

A chapter ad hoc Adopt-a-Highway committee has been driving the roadways to evaluate which available roadside segments our chapter should adopt. We decided this would be a great opportunity to monitor the natives along the rights-of-way of more rural or natural roadways in our area. The segment must meet our criteria: two-mile section of a more rural roadway where we can monitor the native vegetation while cleaning up litter four times a year. Hopefully, our application goes through, and we can hold out for two years! FDOT will post a sign designating it as "Adopted by Pawpaw Chapter, Florida Native Plant Society."

On June 4, the south side of SR-442 was explored. It does not meet our criteria for monitoring natural areas since it is about 60 percent suburban-to-urban so we explored beyond the available segment to include a swampy part of the roadside. Our team found a number of delightful flowering species and at least one threatened *Sacoila lanceolata*.

Sonya Guidry provided the photos (below) of a few species found.



Swamp Leather Flower
Clematis crispa

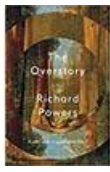


Leafless Beaked Orchid
Sacoila lanceolata



Nuttall's Thistle
Cirsium nuttallii

Book Reviews



The Overstory by Richard Powers

– Karina Veaudry

The FNPS's 2017 conference featured a presentation on the science of plants and trees communicating together in forest settings. Richard Powers in his new book *The Overstory*, weaves a story around much of this science. The book review by the [New York Times](#) is, on its own, a great read!

“Trees do most of the things you do, just more slowly. They compete for their livelihoods and take care of their families, sometimes making huge sacrifices for their children. They breathe, eat and have sex. They give gifts, communicate, learn, remember and record the important events in their lives. With relatives and non-kin alike, they cooperate, forming neighborhood watch committees — to name one example — with rapid response networks to alert others to a threatening intruder. They manage their resources in bank accounts, using past market trends to predict future needs. They mine and farm the land, and sometimes move their families across great distances for better opportunities. Some of this might take centuries, but for a creature with a lifespan of hundreds or thousands of years, time must surely have a different feel about it.”

Suggest a plant for the next issue by sending an email to FNPS.Sabalminor@gmail.com.

We want to share your news with FNPS members.

The *Sabal minor* is now distributed as a readable email message. This change means a PDF file no longer needs to be opened, an issue is no longer restricted to four pages and more photographs can be included. A PDF of the emailed version is posted at [FNPS Resources](#). Chapters are encouraged to print copies of the PDF to have on hand at their monthly meetings for members who do not have email addresses.

Thanks to the contributors of the July–August 2018 issue: Lynn Backes, Laura Bennett-Kimble, Susan Carr, Deborah Curry, Kara Driscoll, Sonya Guidry, Lois Harris, Emma Haselow, Carol Hebert, Mark Kateli, Eric Menges, Gail Parsons, Marlene Rodak, Juliet Rynear, Ryan Scofield, Alan Squires, Paul A. Schmalzer, Ginny Stibolt, Karina Veaudry.

Please send your suggestions to make this newsletter more valuable to you and, **by August 15**, submit articles for the September–October issue to FNPS.Sabalminor@gmail.com. Maran Hilgendorf will be producing the 2018 issues of the *Sabal minor* newsletter.

The Florida Native Plant Society is dedicated to the preservation, conservation, and restoration of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida. Sabal minor is the newsletter for members about FNPS.



The Plant Messiah by Carlos Magdalena

– Laura Bennett-Kimble

Carlos Magdalena is senior tropical botanical horticulturist at Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, in London and the author of *The Plant Messiah*. Tech can help save endangered plants but sometimes what you really need is luck is an essay adapted from the book. [Read the essay](#) on his experience with a “living dead” species.

The essay was published by *The Washington Post*.

Fire ecology film on Florida scrub now on [FNPS website](#)

A new film explores fire adaptations and fire management in a fascinating ecosystem, the Florida scrub. Filmmaker Jennifer Brown uses time-lapse photography, drone videos, and dramatic images of prescribed fire to explore the many aspects of fire in the scrub landscape. The film features three decades of discovery and research by Dr. Eric Menges of Archbold Biological Station. After watching this 16-minute film, you will never look at Florida plants the same way again. This film also pays tribute to the special people who dedicate their lives to improving fire management.

Florida Native Plant Society

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