



Sabal minor

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

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Message from the President | Susan Carr



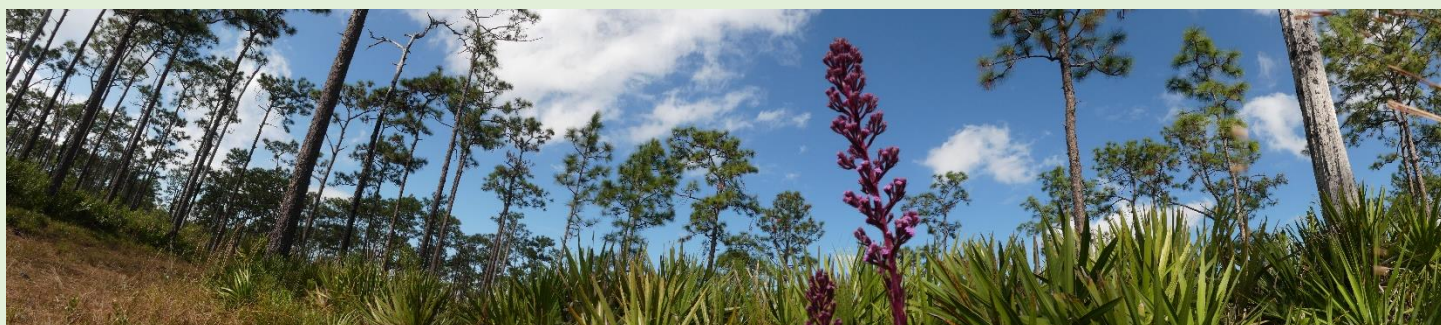
As 2018 ends, we look back on our accomplishments and changes. This year was a big one for FNPS, as we experienced a lot of growth in our organization with the addition of two full time staff, an uptick in our membership, and so much good work accomplished by our Chapters.

I am pleased to report that we are ending the year in good financial shape. Our annual revenue will be approximately \$235,000, which is about \$20,000 more than our budget estimate. Our annual expenses will be very close to our budget estimate of \$224,000. Thanks to the staff, contractors and board members for your diligence and expert administration of our finances!

Earlier this month, the FNPS Board passed the 2019 annual budget, which serves as our operating blueprint for the coming year. There are key additions which underscore new organizational priorities and initiatives. We continue to support our new staff and the contract labor needed to run FNPS in addition to funding some new projects and initiatives as investments in the FNPS mission. A few new projects include: regional organization for advocacy among the Southeast Florida chapters, new partnerships for conservation of the Endangered *Torreya* tree, and demographic monitoring of imperiled endemic mint species throughout Florida. I don't have enough space to mention all FNPS projects, but I am committed to promoting and implementing our mission: to promote the preservation, conservation, and restoration of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida. To that end, my priorities for 2019 include:

1. Better communication of the good works done by FNPS Chapters
2. More projects and initiatives that involve Chapters at regional levels
3. More partnerships with other organizations, government agencies, and other entities involved with native plant conservation
4. Increased membership, as well as greater outreach to other supporters and funders.

Please let me know if you have thoughts about FNPS's priorities, mission work and organizational development (my email is suscarr123@gmail.com). I look forward to a productive and fun 2019. Happy New Year!



Message from the Executive Director | Juliet Ryneer



Happy New Year! We have an exciting year planned and will be busy writing grant proposals to fund both new and existing projects:

TorreyaKeepers project. This volunteer project started as an outgrowth of the Florida Torreya Tree of Life conference in March 2018 to aid in the recovery of *Torreya taxifolia*, a critically endangered tree species. In 2018, volunteers performed an in-depth GIS analysis with grant support from the Magnolia Chapter of FNPS and identified 987 property owners within the native range that could potentially have Torreya.

Before Hurricane Michael, volunteers were reaching out to landowners and conducting one field survey each week as they honed the process. Plans to ramp up the effort were thwarted after hurricane impacts were assessed. Each Torreya tree located is number-tagged with a unique number and we are partnering with Atlanta Botanical Garden to collect cuttings so that new trees can be propagated, and genetic diversity can be preserved. Our goal now is to fundraise through grants and donations to locate trees and increase the number of private landowners partnering with us to conserve this species. The photo shows Project Manager Leigh Brooks collecting Torreya tree data.



Warea Area Land Acquisition & Preservation. Thanks to your support 8 parcels now have been preserved from development and our goal for the next year is to acquire at least 50 acres through grant funding and donations. The “Warea Area” is home to the largest population of the critically endangered species Clasping Warea (*Warea amplexifolia*). Watch a [video](#) and [donate](#). Thank you to Deborah Curry, Jim Buckner, and the Marion Big Scrub Chapter for all of your hard work!

Rare species monitoring, conservation and restoration. We are working to monitor, conserve and restore populations of many of Florida’s rare and endemic species. This work involves numerous FNPS chapters and regional collaborations. Here are just a few examples: seed collection, rescue and restoration work for publicly-owned properties, monitoring and conservation of *Dicerandra modesta*, *Dicerandra cornutissima*, *Warea amplexifolia*, *Polygala lewtonii*, *Deeringothamnus rugelii*, *Nolina brittoniana*, and many more!

Southeast Chapter’s Policy Initiative. The five FNPS Chapters of southeast Florida identified a need for professional organization to assist them in outreach and advocacy. They have hired a professional consultant to help them set up meetings with elected representatives, appear at local meetings, and to take their legislators on fieldtrips to show them why funding for land acquisition and management is so important for the conservation of Florida’s natural resources and the wellbeing of all Floridians.

Palmetto Awards. With all these outstanding projects going on we need **YOU** to nominate our outstanding members for their volunteer work!!!

TO SUBMIT A NOMINATION (deadline March 13, 2019):

1. Identify the award for which you are submitting the nomination:
 - Service or education,
 - Science,
 - Outstanding chapter of the year.
2. Provide the name of the individual or chapter that you wish to nominate.
3. In narrative format, provide an explanation of at least 150 words in length that explains what the individual or chapter has done to merit this important recognition.
4. E-mail the Word or Text document to: executivedirector@fnps.org

After the nomination cycle closes on **Wednesday, March 13, 2019**, the Board of Directors and the Council of Chapters members will review all the nominations that have been submitted and make a final decision about award recipients by conducting an online vote. Award winners will be announced at the Annual Conference on Saturday, May 18th at the Plantation on Crystal River.

Champion Trees of Wakulla Springs State Park | David Roddenberry



The celebrated geologic feature and the sparkling “jungle” river of Wakulla Springs State Park tend to outshine another feature: the Park’s great southern broadleaf forest. The expanse of this forest (a vestige of which graces the grounds of Wakulla Springs Lodge) and its long-unmolested status make it a rich domain of big trees. A third factor has made WSSP home to a remarkable number of Florida champion trees. Sarracenia Chapter member George Apthorp enjoyed the privilege of living in the Park for 13 years bracketing the turn of the century, this because his spouse, Sandy Cook (also a Sarracenia member), served as manager of the Park. Appreciating more and more the tree nobility he was often walking among in that forest, George became a champion for champion trees in the Park.

That the Park is listed currently as home of 16 Florida champion trees is no testimony to any nimble updating of the state database—for there has surely been attrition not yet registered—but it is testimony to the quality of the forest and to George Apthorp’s dedication to the big trees.

Three of those 16 are listed as national champions. Unfortunately, the attrition includes Hurricane Michael’s recent savaging of the flagship of the Park’s champion trees—the national champion bluff oak (*Quercus austrina*) that stood on the lodge grounds and now lies, uprooted, on them. Sarracenia members had gone to bat for the bluff oak in 2011, catalyzing the decision of American Forests to recognize the species and this specimen.

It’s always turbulent times for champion trees, and no database can keep up. With the attrition of the great bluff oak and several other trees (but attrition of trees elsewhere in the state also), the actual current number of Florida champions in WSSP is undetermined. With any luck, however, the valid roster may still include:

National champions

- Carolina basswood ([*Tilia caroliniana*](#))
- Rusty Lyonia ([*Lyonia ferruginea*](#))

Other Florida champions

- Pignut Hickory ([*Carya glabra*](#))
- Sweetbay Magnolia ([*Magnolia virginiana*](#))
- Laurel Oak ([*Quercus laurifolia*](#))
- Shumard Oak ([*Q. shumardii*](#))
- White Oak ([*Q. alba*](#))
- Eastern Redbud ([*Cercis canadensis*](#))
- Black Tupelo ([*Nyssa sylvatica*](#))

Note: George Apthorp of Sarracenia Chapter will conduct a big-tree walk in WSSP on Sunday, Feb. 17, 2019, as the concluding event of the FNPS Board and Council of Chapters retreat to be held at Wakulla Springs Lodge in the Park.



George Apthorp with the champion Rusty Lyonia (*L. ferruginea*)



Just one view of the great broadleaf forest of Wakulla Springs

Committee and Staff Reports

Membership Committee | Anne Cox



Happy Holidays to all of our members and welcome to all of our new members! We are thrilled that we are growing. Chapters are doing a great job recruiting! We have 167 new members since the last Sabal Minor went out (November 1st)! We are now 4,225 members strong.

Science Advisory Committee | Paul Schmalzer



FNPS 2019 Endowment Grant Research Awards:

Conservation Grant Awards and the Dan Austin Award for Ethnobotany

The Florida Native Plant Society maintains an **Endowment Research Grant** program for the purpose of funding research on native plants. These are small grants (\$1500 or less), awarded for a 1-year period, and intended to support research that forwards the mission of the Florida Native Plant Society which is "**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. These grants (\$5000 or less) are awarded for a 1-year period. These projects promote the preservation, conservation, or restoration of rare or imperiled native plant taxa and rare or imperiled native plant communities. To qualify for a Conservation Grant, the proposed project must be sponsored by an FNPS Chapter.

The **Dan Austin Award for Ethnobotany** will provide up to \$1500 to graduate or undergraduate students who are studying Florida ethnobotany—i.e., the study of the relationship between peoples or cultures with plants native to Florida or Florida ecosystems. These can be current uses or historic uses.

Application guidelines and details are on the FNPS Web site (www.fnps.org), click on 'What We Do/Grants and Awards'. Questions regarding the grant programs should be sent to info@fnps.org.

Application deadline for the 2019 Awards is March 3, 2019. Awards will be announced at the May 2019 Annual Conference at the Plantation on Crystal River. Awardees do not have to be present at the Conference to receive award.

Land Management Partners Committee | Grace Howell



The Land Management Partners Committee has had a great year so far with 100% participation in land management reviews on our state lands! In the last couple months, volunteers attended reviews at Guana River Wildlife Management Area and at Big and Little Talbot Island State Parks.

Are you interested in learning more about the land management review process or potentially becoming a reviewer? Plan to attend the information session at the Annual FNPS conference in May to learn more and sign up for reviews or email partners@fnps.org with any questions.

Communications Committee and Staff Report | Valerie Anderson & Shirley Denton



Happy New Year! We've been working a lot on the conference; the website is coming together, and you can browse the [speakers](#) and [field trips](#) at your leisure. We are working hard on getting several fresh new themes ready for you to use on your chapter website. Check out [Martin County](#) for their new site which uses the theme MartinCountyBlue and [Pine Lily](#) for their customized Verti Theme. [Magnolia](#) is in the early stages of transitioning to a mobile theme (likely the SuncoastDrop theme). We have several new themes that are available and we are making the themes easier to set up and use. In the meantime, enjoy the previews and watch as the chapters learn to customize their site designs and content.

We are posting regularly on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Flickr](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#). We love to like/retweet/repost great chapter stuff so please make sure the great native plant work and play you're doing is making it onto social media.

Chapter News, Events, and Programs

Palm Beach County Chapter – Annual Garden Tour and Photo Contest | Winnie Park Said



Held on a beautiful Sunday in November, the PBCC FNPS 2018 **Annual Native Garden Tour** attracted hundreds of enthusiastic visitors to six remarkable properties located in west-central Palm Beach County that featured at least 80% native landscaping. This popular outdoor event was enhanced by a photo contest. More than 25 photographers submitted photos. Winning photos can be viewed at our chapter website's [gallery](#).

Conradina Chapter – We Keep Brevard Beautiful, You Can Keep Your County Beautiful, Too | Carol Hebert



Conradina is celebrating a wonderful year of winning several grants from Keep Brevard Beautiful (KBB) for native plant landscapes and our 9th year of "Landscaping With Native Plants" garden tour. Conradina also participated in the VegFest in Cocoa Village. About 8000 people attended this event. We look forward to our monthly meetings in 2019 with special speakers each month. In March Jason DePue, a Biologist with the Florida State Park system will highlight the "Indian River Lagoon State Park". Brevard's second state park highlighting IRL! Mike Owen from Fakahatchee Strand Preserve will be featured in April 2019.

We received two grants in 2018 from KBB: West Melbourne Post Office and Ballard Park. Both of these areas get a lot of foot traffic. We are going for two more in 2019: Franklin T. DeGroodt Public Library and the Barrier Island Nature Center.

Our KBB has a workshop to attend to get all of the paperwork and learn how to apply for a grant. They always offer to help and are available to us by phone or email. Our awesome members Jane Higgins, Bo Platt, and Kathryn Merry do the paperwork and planning and Sharon Dolan of Maple Street Natives assists with landscape design, labor, and native plants. We maintain all of the gardens we install with 'weed days', so it's not a set it and forget it situation.

I would love to help you/your chapter get a grant from the Keep Beautiful organization in your county. Please call or email me if you'd like to get started or want more information: 321.480.9723 and carol.hebert@gmail.com.

We also like to end each year at our general meeting giving each guest a grape vine wreath to decorate with native plant cuttings. Happy New Year! Plant native!

Sparkleberry Chapter – Native Holiday Decorations | Jenny Welch



Sparkleberry Chapter made Christmas decorations from native plants and has them on display at Heritage Park and Gardens in Live Oak, Florida during the Holiday season. We also gave them as gifts to each other.

A variety of native plant materials were used including sparkleberry branches and twigs, Sycamore leaves, Oak slabs, branches, twigs, and acorns, Winged sumac leaves, foxtail grass, tall jointweed flowers, oakleaf hydrangea flowers, eastern red cedar branches, southern magnolia seed pods, seeds, and leaves, hickory nuts and bark, spanish moss, lichen, coral bean seeds and seed pods, grape vine, palmetto fronds, pine bark, pine needles, and pine cones, sweet gum seed pods, purple cone flower seed pods, lotus seed pods, bluestem grasses, yellowtop flowers, and goldenrod seedheads

