



# Sabal minor

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

## **MAY – JUNE 2019 | VOLUME 21, NUMBER 3**

Chapters are encouraged to print copies of the newsletter to have on hand at their monthly meetings for members who do not have email addresses.

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Valerie Anderson is the *Sabal Minor* editor. Please send your suggestions to make this newsletter more valuable to you and, **by June 15**, submit articles for the July-August issue to [sabalminor@fnps.org](mailto:sabalminor@fnps.org).

### **Message from the President | Susan Carr**



It is hard to believe the [2019 Annual Conference](#) is almost here. Staff and volunteers have been assiduously working toward a great conference with a fantastic line up of speakers, field trips, workshops and fun. This year's theme is "Transitions", which aptly describes what is going on in our environment, our lives and with the Society.

On the topic of transitions: this is a critical time in our State in terms of protecting and conserving native plants and the ecosystems that support them. As the Legislative Session finishes, we face the specter of three new toll roads that will bisect our remaining rural and natural landscapes. These regions harbor habitat for some of our most imperiled plant species. At the same time, funding for conservation programs remains low - well below historical levels - meaning our State land protection programs such as Florida Forever will not keep pace with development. As Florida's population growth continues (30 million by mid-century), our work is cut out for us as advocates for native plants and habitats. To this end, we must work at multiple levels and work collaboratively with lawmakers and other environmental and citizens groups. FNPS members are some of Florida's most vocal and influential voices on behalf of our natural environment, and I am pleased that the FNPS sponsored Southeast Florida Chapter Initiative for Community and Policy Advocacy is fueling grass roots environmental support. In addition, the FNPS Policy Committee actively pursues our advocacy goals - check out Gene Kelly's section below to read about FNPS's advocacy and communication to our Governor.

Our organization continues to transition, particularly as our nascent Staff grows. The heart of our organization is our volunteerism - with staff steering the boat in terms of operating the organization, volunteer energy is focused on mission related work. I can see this happening, as programs started last year are now thriving. Juliet's section below describes the

Warea Area and TorreyaKeepers initiatives - two projects centered on recovery of Endangered plants (*Warea amplexifolia* and *Torreya floridana*). Similarly, the Pawpaw chapter (see below) is doing important work for the Endangered Rugel's false pawpaw. The new FNPS initiative for supporting native landscaping and conservation in land development is growing, as volunteers seek grant funding for development of model conservation codes. This effort is very important for our growing urban and suburban lands. Of course, there are many more exciting FNPS initiatives emerging and ongoing, too many to list here. Collectively, the passion and effectiveness of FNPS members motivates our mission and drives our multifaceted work.

The FNPS Board put forth some recommended changes for the Society's bylaws, which will be considered by the membership at our Annual Meeting this month. We continue to change bylaws and organizational policies to improve our governance structure and process. The FNPS Board will gain some new members this year, with several new officers and directors on the slate for approval at the Annual Meeting (see Anne Cox's report below). Finally, some have asked for summaries of FNPS governance activity be made available in an easily accessible format. Thanks to Wendy Poag and Patricia Burgos, you can check out "On The Vine" on the FNPS website for synopses of FNPS retreats and in-person meetings.

With the first quarter of 2019 behind us, we remain in good standing financially, and our membership remains strong. I am particularly pleased that contributions in support of mission related projects are growing. Importantly, FNPS income from institutional sources has increased. FNPS was awarded a challenge grant from the Felburn Foundation for \$37,500, to purchase land in Marion county for the endangered Clasp Warea. In addition, over the last few months we've submitted numerous grants and proposals to support our growing programs. Stay tuned, we hope to have some more good news to report later in the year!

## Message from the Executive Director | Juliet Rynear



Please help me thank Theresa Lutz of for overseeing the Conservation grant evaluation process and to all of our grant reviewers on the Conservation Committee—Chair Todd Angel, Alan Franck, PhD, Mike Jenkins and Chris Lockhart. And a HUGE thanks to everyone who donated to our 2019 grants!

### Conservation Grant Donors:

- Florida Power & Light
- Tarflower Chapter of FNPS in honor of Dick Deuerling
- Sea Rocket Chapter of FNPS
- Dade Chapter of FNPS in honor of Don and Joyce Gann
- Nature Coast Chapter of FNPS

### Dan Austin Award Donors:

- Cocoloba Chapter of FNPS in memory of Dick Workman. *It was Dick Workman who recommended the Dan Austin Award and was its first donor. We are sad to have lost Dick but heartened that his legacy will live on.*
- Anne Cox in memory of Dick Workman
- Anne Cox in memory of Debbie Dixon

### News regarding our mission in action:

#### Plant Rescue, Restoration & Conservation

- Hear from our project partners and learn about this important FNPS project on Saturday afternoon at our Annual Conference:
- How our CPR Policy supports our mission work.
- How we build partnerships
- Planning: from preparation to collection to planting—how to ensure that we are conserving genetic diversity in introduced populations.
- Obtaining permits for seed collection and rescue.
- How to assist with restoration on public lands.
- How to monitor restoration sites.

#### Warea Area Corridor



- We are currently working to acquire 12.5 acres in the project area.

### **TorreyaKeepers**

- We have submitted 2 grant proposals and are currently working with Atlanta Botanical Garden on a 3<sup>rd</sup>.



Bill Boothe clearing debris near a Florida Torreya. Photo by Pat Stampe and Robin Kennedy.

**You can donate to any of these FNPS projects on our website:** <https://www.fnps.org/participate/support>

### News about our Annual Members Meeting

Bylaws revisions have been approved by the Board of Directors.

We will be voting on a new Bylaws revision at our Annual Members meeting on Saturday, May 18th from 8:00 am – 9:15 am at our Annual Conference at the Plantation on Crystal River. We'll be going back to basics and removing "policy" to our Policy Handbook. Yes, we've done this before, but somehow policy just keeps creeping back into our Bylaws. Please help me thank our dedicated FNPS Board member Carol Sullivan for working on this for the past year!

To review both a clean copy of the revision recommended by the Board of Directors and a marked-up copy showing changes, please click on [this link](#). Please note that you will need to use Google Chrome to be able to see the markups on the marked-up copy. They are not visible if you are using Firefox. Other browsers may also have this issue.

### **Governor DeSantis – Veto the Toll Road Bill | Eugene Kelly**



SUBJECT: Please Veto the Multi-Use Corridors Transportation Bill (CS/SB 7068)

Dear Governor DeSantis:

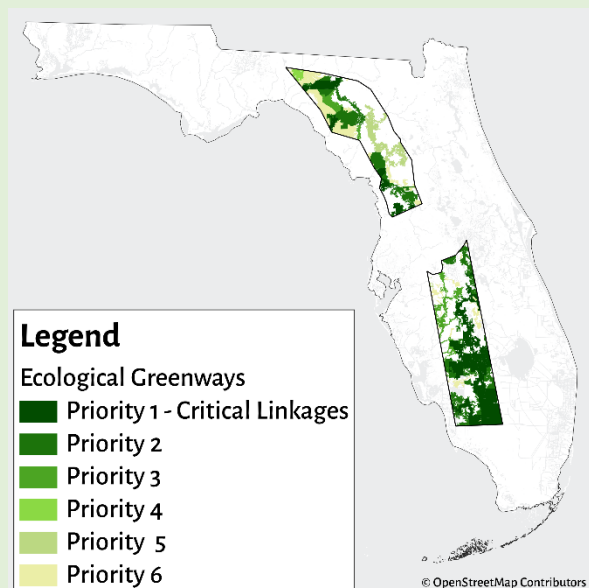
The Florida Native Plant Society (FNPS) was heartened by your early commitment to tackle some of Florida's most pressing environmental issues. Your commitment was made tangible by a proposed budget that included \$625 million annually to support Everglades restoration, the prevention of harmful algal blooms like the ones that have

devastated the surface waters and local economies of many south Florida communities, and the rehabilitation of degraded springs. Now, legislation patently inconsistent with those commitments is awaiting your signature. We ask you to veto this poorly conceived legislation. Florida already has more miles of toll road than any other state – more than we need based on toll receipts for many of them – and FNPS opposes the proposed construction of more unnecessary toll roads through sparsely populated regions as proposed by CS/SB 7068.

FNPS is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation and conservation of Florida's native plants and native plant communities. Our 4,300 members are informed citizens who understand the threats facing our environment and appreciate the complexity of governing a state like Florida. There are many competing needs and interests that must be accounted for, and a balanced approach is required. However, the declining state of our environment reflects a longstanding imbalance that has favored land development over conservation and environmental protection. Destructive algal blooms and degraded springs are part of the price we now are paying for that imbalance. The balance you seek to restore simply cannot be attained if you approve CS/SB 7068, which would enshrine the imbalance for years to come by promoting development across much of peninsular Florida's remaining core of rural and agricultural land.

The range of likely impacts and harmful outcomes is immense. We would like to highlight some issues that should be carefully weighed before you consider signing this legislation into law:

1. More than 1 million acres of protected conservation land, and 1.4 million acres in approved Florida Forever projects, are threatened by the proposed connector projects. These large acreages underscore the immense scale of the connector study areas and the tremendous environmental significance of the regions that would be affected. Fragile ecosystems threatened by these road corridors include the rare scrub of the Lake Wales Ridge, home to dozens of imperiled species; the panther habitat of the Corkscrew and Fisheating Creek systems; and the sandhills of the Suwannee River valley, noted for some of the highest groundwater recharge rates in Florida. Map 1 illustrates the priority wildlife corridors that have been delineated within these environmentally sensitive areas. They account for more than 3.6 million acres, or 57% of the 6.4 million acres in the proposed highway corridors. While no one suggests all these lands identified as valuable for conservation purposes should be protected through public ownership or conservation easements, it is not hyperbole to state that the large acreage figures cited above reflect the tremendous significance of these areas to Florida's environmental future. Wildlife corridors and highway corridors are not compatible, and our existing network of highways (Map 2) has already compromised wildlife movement greatly. We should aggressively pursue conservation within these corridors, rather than development of major highways and the sprawl they would promote.



Map 1 Existing priority wildlife corridors within the toll road project areas



Map 2 Existing highway network



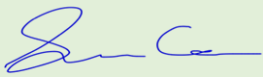
2. The springsheds of 13 of our 30 Outstanding Florida Springs lie within the proposed Suncoast Connector and Northern Turnpike Connector corridors. At great expense, the Department of Environmental Protection has published Basin Management Action Plans to serve as blueprints for the restoration of most of those spring systems, which have been degraded by nutrient pollution and declining flows. You have identified spring restoration as one of your priorities and want to spend \$50 million annually toward that end. We do not need any new studies to understand that promoting development through this swath of rural Florida would only aggravate the problems facing those springs and be entirely inconsistent with your stated goals for restoring springs and protecting vulnerable water resources. More development would mean more water use, more stormwater discharge, more fertilizer use, and more degradation of our springs
3. Agriculture's contribution to our economy is second only to tourism. Collectively, the three corridor study areas encompass huge swaths of Florida's agricultural land base, including the commercial forests of the Big Bend region (more than 300,000 acres in Taylor County alone), the renowned thoroughbred horse ranches of Marion County, and the large cattle ranches of the Peace River and Kissimmee River valleys. The proposed highways would promote suburban sprawl and compromise the future viability of agriculture in those regions. Why trade valuable agricultural land, and the perpetual economic and national security benefits of viable large-scale agriculture, for expensive suburban sprawl? If the rural communities in these study areas need access to high speed internet and other infrastructure—a widely stated justification for the highways—such infrastructure can be provided without spending billions on unneeded toll roads.
4. The Florida Department of Transportation's systematic approach to planning for our transportation future has not identified a need for these roads. Through their Strategic Intermodal System and coordination with local Metropolitan Planning Organizations, FDOT works to identify and solve our actual transportation needs in the most effective and cost-efficient way possible. Siphoning millions in funding from FDOT's budget to study the need for these toll roads will only delay progress on addressing real transportation needs. It would also keep us mired in the longstanding, disproportionate and outdated focus on roads as the solution to all our transportation needs. As Map 2 illustrates, we already have a network of highways that provides access across the entire state. Enhancing the existing network of roads, and providing alternatives to the use of automobiles, should be the focus of our future transportation investments.
5. Reducing hurricane evacuation times has been used as an additional justification for these roads; however, Florida's Division of Emergency Management has never suggested they are needed, and inducing evacuees to travel long distances by providing such highways would be contrary to DEM guidance, which recommends that evacuees stay as close to home as possible. The massive traffic jams experienced during past evacuations are less a product of deficiency in highway capacity than in safe alternatives for sheltering locally. Many counties are deficient in evacuation shelters. Resolving those deficiencies and devising other strategies that would make it possible for evacuees to remain closer to home would be a more efficient and far less expensive strategy for reducing evacuation times than spending billions on unnecessary highways. It would also simplify the return of evacuees to areas that escaped damages and reserve more roadway capacity to accommodate emergency responders and recovery efforts.

This legislation appears predicated on a vision for Florida's future that does not include completion of the sustainable network of conserved land as conceived by the Florida Forever Five-Year Plan, nor does it include a place for rural communities and large-scale, economically viable agriculture. In the name of promoting economic development, it would simply replace agriculture and natural green space with suburban sprawl and exacerbate our current challenges to protect water resources and conserve wildlife habitat.

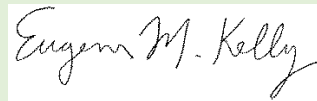
Projects of this scale should not be rushed through the legislative process. Why the urgency? Why not allow FDOT's process, supported by rigorous analysis and intergovernmental coordination, to proceed without undue political influence? Given the absence of an established transportation need for these roads, the many transportation projects that have already been vetted and planned and are awaiting funding, and the many other pressing needs we face—like assisting in the Panhandle's recovery from Hurricane Michael—why is the legislature focused so intently on the development of these toll roads? It begs the question whether there are other unstated priorities driving this legislation.

The members of the Florida Native Plant Society support your efforts to address our environmental challenges and protect our natural heritage. That is why FNPS urges you to veto this ill-conceived and dangerous legislation. Please allow the professionals at the FDOT to do their job and plan for Florida's transportation needs. Thank you for considering our concerns.

Respectfully,



Susan Carr, Ph.D.  
President of the Florida Native Plant Society



Eugene M. Kelly  
Chair of Policy and Legislation

cc: Nikki Fried, Commissioner, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services  
Kevin J. Thibault, Secretary, Florida Department of Transportation  
Noah Valenstein, Secretary, Florida Department of Environmental Protection

## The Society Weighs in on NRCS Practice Standards | Eugene Kelly



The Society recently had an opportunity to speak in support of native plants on a national basis. The USDA's [Natural Resource Conservation Service](#) (NRCS) accepted comments on the Practice Standards they use while implementing Farm Bill [\[wikipedia\]](#) programs. Landowners can apply for funding assistance—typically on a cost-share basis—to make changes to their agricultural practices that achieve a variety of conservation benefits. The general substance or goal of a particular Practice Standard can often be surmised from the title. Examples of Practice Standards promoted by NRCS include [Field Border](#), [Forest Stand Improvement](#), [Hedgerow Planting](#), [Streambank and Shoreline Protection](#), and [Upland Wildlife Habitat Management](#). And the conservation benefits of the practices are aligned with such Farm Bill objectives as reducing erosions, enhancing habitat for wildlife, and attracting pollinators.

Field Office Technical Guide  
Section IV

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE  
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD

UPLAND WILDLIFE HABITAT MANAGEMENT

(Acres)  
Code 645



**DEFINITION**  
Provide and manage upland habitats and connectivity within the landscape for wildlife.

Remove or reduce limiting factor(s) in their order of significance, as indicated by results of the habitat evaluation and application of this practice.

Application of this practice alone, or in combination with other supporting and facilitating practices, will result in a conservation system that will enable the planning area to meet or exceed the minimum quality criteria (≥0.50) for wildlife habitat established in Section III of the FOTG.

Look to the Florida NRCS Conservation Practice Standard 645 Guidance, Upland Wildlife Habitat Management, for additional components of this practice including, but not limited to:

- vegetation establishment for shelter, food and corridors;
- structural measures to provide shelter, food or corridors; and

Upland Wildlife Habitat Management, Code 645, an NRCS Practice Standard that could include native plants

One notable deficiency in current Practice Standards is a lack of emphasis on use of native plants when they are appropriate, and even advantageous. We understand the obvious advantages of native plants. When the [National Wildlife Federation](#) apprised the Society of this opportunity to recommend changes to the Practice Standards, they invited us to combine our voice with theirs. The eventual result was a joint letter to USDA recommending that most Practice Standards be updated to recommend the preferential use of native plants when they are suitable for the objectives of the practice.



A conservation buffer with native plants, photo by Jennifer Hopwood, Xerces Society

By the time the letter was submitted, 70 organizations were signatories and 8 of them were Native Plant Societies. In addition to FNPS, our compatriots in the California, Colorado, Illinois, Montana, North Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia NPSs also signed on. Our friends at the [Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council](#) were also included.

## **Future Society Leadership – Nominating Committee Slate | Anne Cox, Chair**

The 2019 FNPS Nominating Committee is announcing the following candidates for election at the 2019 FNPS Annual Members Meeting at Crystal River, FL. There will also be nominations from the floor at the Annual Members Meeting. Please attend the conference and vote!

### **Bonnie Basham, Nominee, President-Elect & Nominee, Treasurer**

I grew up in Orlando and have been passionate about native plants since my grandmother and mother started teaching me the botanical names of Central Florida natives at age 8. I find rejuvenation and peace on each occasion I spend time weeding, planting, sitting in my garden or venturing into the richly bio-diverse countryside of north Florida.

My environmental interests have several regional outlets. I enjoy volunteering for the Monarch Milkweed Project of the St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge. Last year, I was proud to lead a group of like-minded citizens in Wakulla County to overturn a Wakulla County commission decision to mow all rights of way throughout the county every other month, thus improving habitat for native wildflowers. This experience proved to me, again, there is power in the citizenry to overturn the ill-conceived plans of any level of government.

My educational and work experience centers on education and politics. These pursuits, coupled with my environmental interest, naturally led me to the world of non-profit governance and management. I have two master's degrees from Stetson University; one in Political Science and one in Education. Over the last several years, I have served on non-profit boards and was executive director of non-profit organizations. I graduated from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Non-profit Association Training Academy at the University of Delaware. This rigorous six-year training program covered all facets of non-profit governance, from the perspective of the board member as well as that of the executive director.

I have been a lobbyist for the past 38 years and represent BoatU.S. (Boat owners of the United States) an organization which includes all types of boating craft from paddle-power to marine engines. For the past 9 years I have been actively engaged in passing legislation making it easier for local governments and the state to remove derelict or "at-risk-of-becoming-derelict"



vessels from state waters. I also have worked with FWC and other stakeholders to designate spoil islands and similar locations as Critical Wildlife Areas for nesting and resting birds.

I am married to Warren Woodward who is a gold and silversmith. Along with college Baseball, we enjoy sharing our time biking, fishing, visiting Florida State Parks, geocaching and gardening. We especially enjoy gardening in the rain.

In May 2019, I will conclude my term as President of the Sarracenia Chapter of FNPS. Last September I assumed the duties of Treasurer of FNPS and am serving out the unfinished term of Pete Rogers.

It will be an honor to serve the members of FNPS in all our endeavors and I look forward to the opportunities we have ahead of us.

### **David Martin, Nominee, Vice President for Administration**

My father was a dentist with the Air Force, so school years were migratory, including San Antonio, Tampa, and Puerto Rico. I was a legal resident of Pennsylvania, so got a B.S. in botany at Penn State (the biology options at the time were pre-med, zoology, botany, and biochemistry). M.S., botany, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 1974. My first job was surveying vegetation along the route of the Cross Florida Barge Canal as part of a study conducted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. My career was with the U.S. Department of the Interior, seven years with the Bureau of Land Management in northwest Wyoming, the rest with the Fish and Wildlife Service in Jacksonville, Portland, Oregon, and Vero Beach, mostly with endangered plant listing and recovery. I retired ten years ago and most recently have been involved with Heathcote Botanical Gardens in Fort Pierce. I've been an FNPS member for approximately 30 years.

### **Jim Erwin, Nominee, Vice President for Finance**

Teaching, presenting, to some extent writing – these skills I have. I am a left-brain problem solver, a Myers-Briggs INTP (rare in the general population), an English major. I graduated from the University of Pennsylvania, received an MA in English from the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, and for three years taught writing and humanities at Southeastern Community College in Whitesville (Whahtzvl) NC. That teaching was the best job I ever had. I left it (No, don't!) to study documentary film making at Columbia University (making ends meet by driving a cab), but left that two-year dead-end program after a year, to take a job making documentaries for Kentucky Educational Television, remaining in public television film work for eight years. Facing starvation, I quit to learn computer programming and have been in computer work ever since, most recently, fifteen years, as database administrator for the HR (payroll) Oracle and SQL Server databases at what is now Wells Fargo Bank. My problem solving won me some satisfying career-advancing victories, but I had to work extra hard to compensate for my poor memory. I retired about 4 years ago and cared not to look at any computer for about a year.

An inherited metabolic glitch called insulin resistance for decades has demanded I keep physically active, which I am happy to do. When I returned to Florida about ten years ago, after 15 years in North Carolina, I knew I had to keep hiking – in Florida scrub, in July. So I did, found I could tolerate the heat, kept it up, began to take an interest in some plants I was seeing. Here was this robustly healthy mini-bush about a foot in diameter, glossy dark green little leaves, growing in baking hot white sand with no other plant nearby. How does it do that? Later on I saw flowers unlike any I had ever seen: clouds of purple, and purple spires. I happened to mention this to Karina Veaudry who told me I should join the Native Plant Society. So I did. I was immediately made a Vice President and put in charge of storing and lugging back and forth all the event stuff, tent, tables, heavy metal plant signs, boxes of literature, books, complicated displays. I was asked to attend board meetings. At the meetings I found the people fun, funny, entertaining and smart. They could speak Latin! I enjoyed Tarflower for several years but began to realize that I was getting older and had seen very little of the world, I think because I had been working hard much of my life. With this in mind, I dialed back my involvement in FNPS and some other things, made my first trips to Europe, South America, and Alaska. With that out of the way, and missing regular contact with friends and acquaintances locally, I have begun to renew local connections, including, to my dismay, applying for this job. The travel is not over: I am in North Carolina for two weeks now. The need for physical activity is not over: I am resurrecting my golf game as a less strenuous form of hiking, may begin sailing again. I must commit to only a few activities that involve long sitting in chairs. But I do enjoy the FNPS people.

### **Jackie Rolly, Nominee, Secretary**

Jacqueline (Jackie) Rolly is a resident of Seminole County and has been a member of the Tarflower Chapter of Florida Native Plant Society (FNPS) since 1997. She holds a bachelor's degree in Business from Chaminade University in Hawaii, and a Master's Degree in Contracting from Florida Institute of Technology, Melbourne, FL. She retired from Government service in 2006 and served as FNPS VP Admin from late 2009 to 2014. Jackie also served as Secretary for the Tarflower Chapter from May 2007 to May 2015. She is the current FNPS Secretary since June 2017 to date. Although her education is in business, her volunteer work over the past ten years in plant rescue and ecosystem restoration at the Oakland Nature Preserve continues to provide



knowledge in the native plant communities and the wildlife that depends on those communities. Jackie also holds certification as a Master Naturalist from the University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences and is lead instructor in Orange County. She was recently awarded the Florida Wilderness Society Citizen Conservation Award and was recognized by Sierra Club of Central Florida for Environmental leadership in 2013.

### **Carole Sullivan, Nominee, Director at Large**

FNPS affiliation:

Joined the Nature Coast Chapter (Pasco County) in 2001. Served one year as Secretary and two years as Treasurer before moving to Suwannee County.

Currently serving as Director at Large for the Society and on the Bylaws Committee.

Previously participated in Society Committees (Land Management Partners, Bylaws and Nominating) and Council of Chapters Committees (Standard Operating Procedures Development, Landscape Brochure).

Sparkleberry Chapter (Suwannee County) affiliation:

Founding member of the Chapter established in 2010.

Served one term as President and as a Director since Chapter's inception.

Currently serving as Chapter Representative, Membership Chair, Website Chair and Director.

As a 5th generation Florida native, I feel compelled to conserve, preserve and restore what's left of our state. A love of Florida, especially the plants, began at an early age while growing up in a family of long-time Florida fishermen, hunters, farmers, and ranchers. Born in Miami, where weekends of my first 10 years were spent walking the parks, playing on beaches, camping on US-1 in the Keys, or driving the Tamiami Trail to the family's fish camps at Tarpon Springs. From there, most of my life was spent in the coastal areas of west central Florida exploring the Gulf beaches and natural areas that were just everywhere. In 2006 we moved to a sandhill in Suwannee County, again with the inbred instinct to explore the natural areas, springs, rivers and coastlines throughout the state.

The broad diversity of plants, animals, coastlines, and lands of our state, much of which no longer exists, is something to be treasured. We all must keep working for the survival of our native plants and their habitats. Florida, the *real Florida*, is a wonderful and exciting place like no other.

### **Carole McKay, Nominee, Director at Large**

Carole McKay is a member of the Sarracenia Chapter of the FNPS. She is also a UF/IFAS Leon County Extension Master Gardener where she is in charge of the PR/ Marketing for Master Gardener Events.

Carole is also a volunteer with the Monarch Milkweed Initiative at the SMNWR where she was recently involved in the plant rescue of the *Ruellia noctiflora*. She also has the Leon County Record for discovering the first *Philadelphus inodorus* (Scentless Mock Orange), confirmed by Dr. Loran Anderson

Carole has also written numerous articles for the local newspaper, the Tallahassee Democrat focusing on native plants.

## **Committee and Reports**

### **It is 11:00 pm in chapter records land. Do you know where your records are? - Communications Committee | Shirley Denton**



I was inspired to write this by my chapter – we cannot find our master digital logo. We do not have the login to order more t-shirts printed. We only recently got the master login for our MeetUp account. I'm guessing we are not alone!

Every organization needs records. Likely, your chapter can find its minutes. I'd guess they are in notebooks or a big box passed from one secretary to another. You may have financial information, likely also on paper and either with the minutes or with the chapter secretary.

But what about things that are electronic?

- If you have a logo and it is in a computer file – where is that file? If the person who has it leaves, will it leave with that person?

- The chapter almost certainly has a website. It likely has a Facebook page. It may have a MeetUp page, and Instagram page, YouTube, Flickr, or other social media. It may have Google documents or other Google services (calendar, group(s), etc.). You may have logins for such things as renewing your chapter's domain name (if you have one) Does your chapter have a plan for not losing the logins?
- You may have various digital documents (spreadsheets, etc.) that you would not want to lose.
- You may have on-line accounts for printing, making t-shirts, etc.

As Communications Chair, I often get asked if I know the login(s). Well, only maybe. The WebTeam (a subcommittee of Communications) knows if the Communications Committee or WebTeam created the login. The WebTeam can provide logins for the TeamUp calendar (the calendar used by FNPS and chapters not grandfathered for a different calendar). We can provide logins for any chapter website hosted by FNPS (most of them). We can provide logins to let the chapter access its membership data. What we cannot do, is provide logins that we did not create, since we have no way to know them (social media, etc.).

We cannot provide missing files, and we likely cannot help you with files that were created in very old or "non-standard" programs. We cannot help if files were stored on old media that has been corrupted. CDs and DVDs can break with time. Thumb drives are notorious for failing.

We recommend that each chapter have some form of on-line storage. FNPS uses Google drive. It is free within limits. Other options are available at little or no cost. But remember, you have to make sure the login does not get lost. As a side note, FNPS uses Google drive, and we make sure that we store the password in multiple places accessible to multiple people. We similarly do that for FNPS social media accounts and every other on-line account that FNPS has.

## Chapter News, Events, and Programs

### Cuplet Fern – Interchapter disaster relief fund | Mark Kateli



The interchapter disaster relief fund is moving towards reality. Initially proposed last November in the wake of Hurricane Michael, the last online Council of Chapters (CoC) meeting in March had representatives from Serenoa, Marion Big Scrub, Citrus, Pawpaw, Suncoast, Hernando, Tarflower, Cuplet Fern, and The Villages all support or indicate interest in the fund idea. A handbook along with further information has been requested by the CoC participants to set parameters on how the fund will function. The fund's purpose will be to support participating chapters with purchases during a time of disaster such as hurricanes, tornadoes, fires, and floods. Though FNPS State's core mission remains (and rightfully so) in prioritizing native plants first and foremost, there is no management plan or earmarked funds in the state treasury to address chapter supplies in the event of a wide scale catastrophe (or multiple ones in the same year). This grey area is where the disaster relief fund will prove to be helpful and would cover some (if not all) costs pertaining to (but not exclusively) gardening supplies (soil, mulch, shovels), transportation costs (gas for hauling), stationary, outreach supplies (tent, water for volunteers, table, chairs, other equipment), program supplies (audio/visual equipment, rent). Moreover, the fund aims to help chapters mobilize or coordinate an effective aid response to fulfill their mission in supporting native plants during a disaster. The fund anticipates the likelihood that several requests from the community (HOAs, parks, conservation areas) can reach out all at once for chapter help within a short period of time. In addition to money, the fund will consider addressing administrative help (such as spreadsheet management for chapter treasuries and basic clerical help). Large scale, rapid relief systems coordinated by FEMA, local agencies, and big box companies already exist to address core needs (food, water, tarp, personal property damage/loss) but fund assistance for chapter needs would not qualify. By pooling resources together, the interchapter disaster relief fund can have a more concerted response than at present. All chapters are requested to participate at a level they are comfortable with. The requirement is not a certain monetary amount, rather it needs to be a commitment every year. This will ensure fund growth and its ability to address more than one potential disaster during the same year. The system aims to provide a stronger FNPS response in a time of acute need by participating chapters. Each chapter will manage and retain their earmarked commitment in their own treasury- a CoC member would simply manage a spreadsheet noting each chapters pledge. This is a good collaborative, ongoing interchapter project. For more information, please contact Mark Kateli at Cuplet Fern chapter: [cupletfern@gmail.com](mailto:cupletfern@gmail.com)

### Pawpaw – Rare pawpaw gets expanded attention | Doug Hunt



The Pawpaw Chapter's signature citizen science initiative, its annual "Rugel's Roundup" assessment of the Volusia County endemic *Deeringothamnus rugelii*, or Rugel's false pawpaw, is going Major League in May. Thanks to funds provided under Section 6 of the federal Endangered Species Act, and with the Missouri



Botanical Garden acting as Lead Principal Investigator, what has been a one-weekend field survey will become a multifaceted environmental investigation.

The Pawpaw Chapter, led by Danny Young, will be a Co-Principal Investigator. Instead of just monitoring populations of Rugel's, a consortium that also includes representatives from Bok Tower Gardens and Nova University will collect and investigate both germplasm and soil samples to help determine what management strategies are needed to keep *D. rugelii* viable as a species. The team also will be collecting micro-habitat data, which will help select future introduction sites and assist managers of this federally and state-endangered species, which was recently taxonomically realigned with the *Asimina* genus based on DNA studies.



April Chapter field trip to Castle Windy trail in Canaveral National Seashore.

Thanks to the efforts of the Pawpaw Chapter's Native Plant Propagation Study Group, more than 200 "homegrown" native plants—many seldom found at nurseries—made their way to two major outreach events for the chapter: the annual Wildflower Festival in DeLand in late March and the Master Gardener Faire at the Volusia County Fairgrounds in early April. Sales of these plants brought in more than \$800, and helped to disperse a greater diversity of native plants throughout our community. Attendance at meetings continues to grow and now averages around 50 thanks in part to a strong lineup of speakers, which included Nick Giannola from Green Isle Gardens on pruning; David Schroeder from DeLand's Evolving Landscapes on incorporating natives into landscape design; and Chapter President Paul Rebmann, with a photographic feast of a program on Volusia area wildflowers.

The chapter also:

- Provided a grant for plants for a native plant garden at a local elementary school
- Supplied speakers on the Society and gardening with natives at several local clubs and set up outreach tables at a variety of spring and Earth Day events around Volusia County



- Documented 52 species of spring-flowering plants during our quarterly Adopt-a-Highway litter clean up on SR 40 west of Ormond Beach
- Offered field trips to Bulow Creek State Park, Palm Coast's St. Joe Walkway, Canaveral National Seashore's Castle Windy Trail, and to a tract of county land where a large population of *Conradina grandiflora* was found.



Questions, Comments, Complaints? Contact the editor, Valerie Anderson at [sabalminor@fnps.org](mailto:sabalminor@fnps.org)