



Sabal minor

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

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Chapters are encouraged to print copies of the newsletter to have on hand at their monthly meetings for members who would prefer a print version.

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Message from the President | Susan Carr



We had a great annual conference in May in Crystal River. Over 380 FNPS members and guests attended, and heard about many topics affecting Florida's native plants and habitats. And of course, we got outside to explore the natural areas of West Central Florida.

As part of the Society's Annual meeting, we elected several new officers and directors to the Board. I encourage you to read about our new members (see below). With these changes, we are losing some long-term Board members and I want to acknowledge and thank them for their service. Their efforts have greatly contributed to the Society's development:

Catherine Bowman: Catherine was the Society's President from 2016-2018 and is leaving the Board after a year as Past President. During her tenure, the Society transformed in foundational ways, including the revision of our Strategic Plan, overhaul of our accounting and financial system, and laying the foundation for hiring our staff. Catherine brought to FNPS her experience in the restoration of upland and wetland habitats and knowledge of native Florida plant species and their use in the urban environment. I thank Catherine for her steady leadership - she guided us through a period of remarkable growth and change. She also mentored me as President elect, and I learned a lot from Catherine about the Society's mission and culture. Catherine will remain active in the Tarflower Chapter in Central Florida. Thank you, Catherine, for your leadership and contributions!



Catherine Bowman

Don Spence: Don is leaving the Board after a two-year term as Vice President for Administration. Don's contributions to the Society have been long term and varied - since joining in 1995, Don has served in various leadership roles in the [Pawpaw Chapter](#), and on the Society's Board and committees. Don headed up the Annual Conference twice: in 2006 and then again in 2016. He's served on the [Science](#) and [Landscape](#) committees and received the Landscape and Silver Palmetto awards. In his day job, Don is an Assistant Professor in the Natural Sciences Department at [Bethune-Cookman University](#). As Vice President of Administration, Don was a diligent overseer of our finances and operations. His steady guidance helped us as we decided to create and hire staff positions. Don is tirelessly devoted to improving the Society's operations in support of our mission. I look forward to working with Don as he stays active with the Pawpaw Chapter in Volusia County.



Don Spence, PhD

Anne Cox: Anne is leaving the Board after a term as Membership Committee Chair. Anne's leadership has been foundational for the Society, and her contributions varied. Anne has been a member since 1982! Over the years, Anne has been part of many Chapters, and is currently active with the Martin County Chapter. Anne has a long career as a botanist, ecologist and environmental consultant, and she currently is a contractor (2017-2019) for [Family Lands Remembered, LLC](#), a strategic consulting company. Anne lives in Stuart, Florida and serves on numerous Advisory Boards, advocacy and professional organizations.



Anne Cox, PhD



Our new board members: Bonnie Basham, President Elect & Treasurer; David Martin, VP Administration; Carol Sullivan, Director at Large, and Jim Erwin, VP Finance, and Carole McKay.

Anne was the Society's President from 2014-2016, and notably, she spearheaded the [Land Management Partners \(LMP\)](#) committee in the mid-2000's. The LMP committee remains very active and is a critical part of our conservation mission. In addition, Anne chaired the Nominating Committee in 2017 and 2019. Anne's contributions and enthusiasm are legendary. Although she has left the Board, Anne will continue to promote the FNPS mission through her work, contacts, and volunteer efforts with the [Martin](#) and [Palm Beach](#) Chapters. Thank you, Anne!

Bonnie Basham: Our new President Elect is the Past President of the [Sarracenia Chapter](#) and was born in Orlando. She is a lobbyist representing BoatsUS, and enjoys biking, fishing, visiting State Parks, gardening, and College Baseball.



Bonnie Basham

She has vast experience in nonprofit governance and I'm very excited to have Bonnie succeed me as President.

Carole McKay: She 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 the first Scentless Mock Orange, *Philadelphus inodurus*. [no photo of Carole is available]

David Martin: He has a M.S. in Botany from UNC Chapel Hill and once surveyed vegetation along the route of the Cross Florida Barge Canal. He worked for the US Department of Interior and US Fish and Wildlife Service on endangered plant listing and recovery. He's been a member for about 30 years and is a member of the [Eugenia Chapter](#).



David Martin

Jim Erwin: He has a M.A in English from UNC Chapel Hill and did a stint as a documentary filmmaker for Kentucky Educational Television before becoming a computer programmer.

He was initially fascinated by the robustness of Florida Scrub plants while hiking and was roped into the society by current [Pine Lily](#) President Karina Veaudry.

Jim is a member of [Tarflower Chapter](#) and is the editor of their newsletter, [The Tarpaper](#).



Jim Erwin

Message from the Executive Director | Juliet Rynear



It's been a busy first year as the director of our Society. Thank you all for your passion and dedication to our mission! And a special thank you to everyone who works so hard to keep this organization running - our chapter board members and our FNPS board members who do an amazing amount of work "behind the scenes." The next time you see one of our leaders at a meeting or event, please take a moment to thank them for their service.

My vision for our Society remains steadfast. I strive for:

- A clear focus on our mission and projects in support of our mission.
- Building stronger chapters with mentorship via regional projects and collaboration.
- Expanding partnerships and strengthening the connections of the Society as a whole.

Each year we honor members and chapters who have been nominated by their peers at the Annual Members meeting. This year we also honored three members during the Saturday night dinner at the 39th Annual Conference at Crystal River.

Mentor Award: Roger Hammer, Dade Chapter

The hallmark of a mentor is their ability to share their knowledge with everyone—from novice to expert—while enlightening and entertaining the entire audience. Roger accomplishes this daily, whether he is giving a talk in person or communicating online in numerous forums where people of every possible skill level ask for help identifying plants, plant communities, or just asking for advice. He is a mentor in every sense of the word and we are fortunate to have him in our Society.



Green Palmetto Award for Education

- John Bradford, Martin County Chapter
- George Rogers, Martin County Chapter

Green Palmetto Award for Service

- Barbara Whittier, Cuplet Fern Chapter
- Jim Buckner, Marion Big Scrub Chapter
- Jane Higgins, Conradina Chapter
- Christine Brown, Cuplet Fern Chapter

Outstanding Chapter of the Year: Conradina Chapter

Special recognition for service to the Society and our mission in action:

Ginny Stibolt was recognized for her years of service as an ambassador for our Society and for her generosity in time and contributions.

Jim Buckner was recognized for his dedication and work on our Warea conservation project.

Guy Marwick, Executive Director of the Felburn Foundation was recognized for his support of our Warea conservation project.



Clockwise from top left: Conradina Chapter wins 'Chapter of the Year', Jim Buckner wins the Green Palmetto for Service, Ginny Stibolt wins a framed artwork for her many years of work, Carole Hebert wins a Silver Palmetto award.

<p>Conservation Grant Awards</p> <p>“Habitat Enhancement and Restoration of Clasping Warea (<i>Warea amplexifolia</i>)” submitted by Putnam Land Conservancy – sponsored by:</p> <p>Tarflower Chapter in honor of Dick Deuerling Sea Rocket Chapter Dade Chapter in honor of Don and Joyce Gann Nature Coast Chapter Annie Schmidt</p> <hr/> <p>“Save Florida's Bromeliads Conservation Project” submitted by Martha Pessaro - sponsored by:</p> <p>Florida Power & Light</p>	<p>Dan Austin Award for Ethnobotany</p> <p>“The North Florida Heritage Garden Project” submitted by the University of Florida. - sponsored by:</p> <p>Anne Cox in memory of Dick Workman Anne Cox in memory of Debbie Dixon</p> <hr/> <p>“The adoption of Florida natives as insectary plants to promote beneficial insects in agricultural communities via trophic resource enhancement.” submitted by: Andrea Salas Primoli, Ph.D Candidate. Plant Ecology (Koptur) Lab at Florida International University – sponsored by:</p> <p>Coccoloba Chapter in honor of Dick Workman.</p>
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Committees and Reports

2019 Research Grants and Publications – Science Advisory Committee | Paul Schmalzer, PhD



We're proud to award four research grants this year. These were funded by earnings from the Society Endowment as well as additional donations by Chapters and individuals. Anyone who is interested in supporting our research grants can either donate to the [endowment](#) and/or contact [me](#) or [Juliet](#).

Four FNPS Research Grants were announced at the Annual Conference in May.

Awards are going to:

James W. Horn, Florida Gulf Coast University, Dept. Biological Sciences, Testing species boundaries and inferring the biogeographic history of *Stillingia* (Euphorbiaceae) in the North American Coastal Plain, with a focus on Florida.

Charles Ray, Auburn University, Dept. Entomology & Plant Pathology, Understanding how pollination can guide conservation of *Spigelia gentianoides*, a Federally-listed endangered plant.

Jasmine S. Peters, Cornell University, Dept. Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, Do prescribed burns control a viral plant pathogen in native and endemic prairie grass species?

Kasey Kieseewetter, University of Miami, Biology Dept., Effects of soil microbiome on growth and dispersal of a native plant (*Croton linearis*) in a fragmented landscape.

This year we received contributions of \$500 from the Sea Rocket Chapter and \$1500 from the Tarflower Chapter in honor of Sam Hopkins. The award to Kasey Kieseewetter is funded by the contribution in honor of Sam Hopkins.

Two scientists who have received Endowment Research Grants from FNPS have recently published papers relating to these projects.

Adam Payton, with the Department of Biology, University of Florida and Florida Museum of Natural History, has published a paper that was supported in part by a **2010** Endowment Research Grant. The paper is:

Payton, A.C., A.A. Naranjo, W. Judd, M. Gitzendanner, P.S. Soltis, and D.E. Soltis. 2019. Population genetics, speciation, and hybridization in *Dicerandra* (Lamiaceae), a North American Coastal Plain endemic. *Conservation Genetics* 20: 531-543. [\[full text\]](#)

Adam and co-workers studied the four annual species of *Dicerandra* that occur in northern Florida and southern Georgia. This study provides detailed information on the genetic differences within and between these taxa with implications for their conservation.

Lauren Trotta, with the Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, University of Florida, has published a paper that was supported in part by a **2016** Endowment Research Grant. The paper is:

Trotta, L.B., B. Baiser, J. Possley, D. Li, J. Lange, S. Martin, and E.B. Sessa. 2018. Community phylogeny of the globally critically imperiled pine rockland ecosystem. *American Journal of Botany* 1095: 1735-1747. [[full text](#)]

Lauren and co-workers found that the pine rockland flora included representatives of all major vascular plant lineages and most species were native to the New World. There was a strong phylogenetic signal for endemism but not for invasiveness.

Chapter News, Events, and Programs

Sumter Chapter – Becoming a Bee City USA | Michael J. Harris

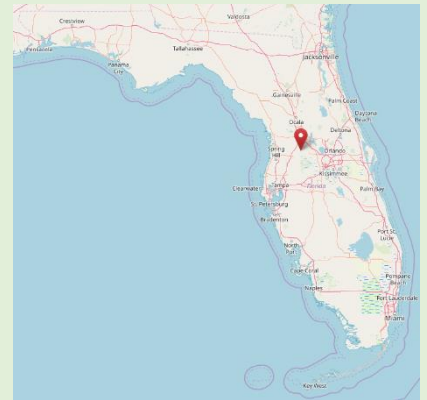


The [City of Webster](#) has a population of less than a thousand people and has just become the first city in Florida designated as a Bee City USA¹. We are in our second full year of membership, as we were certified in May 2017.

Florida has a wide variety of declining native pollinators and our highly diversified agricultural industries are dependent on pollination; it amazed us that we were the first city in Florida to apply.

Webster is located just north of the Richloam Tract of the Withlacoochee State Forest on SR-471, east of Interstate 75.

Insect pollinators around the world, including the non-native honeybee, have been declining in recent years. Bee City USA fosters ongoing dialogue in urban areas to raise awareness of the role pollinators play in our communities and what each of us can do to provide them with healthy habitat. Sumter Chapter constantly reminds people that every third bite of food we eat is because of an insect pollinator.



To this end, the Sumter Chapter and [Sumter Master Gardeners](#) came together to plant natives around our Welcome to Webster sign. Allen Wise, President of the Sumter Chapter and operator of [Shady Oaks Native Plant Nursery](#), a [FANN](#) member nursery in Sumterville. Nancy Dwer, Sumter Chapter Past President, donated and planted Spotted Horsemint (*Monarda punctata*) and Indian Blanket (*Gaillardia pulchella*). Member Pat Provance donated Blanket Flower and Tickseed (*Coreopsis* sp.). We completed installation in time for [National Pollinator Week](#), June 17-23, 2019.

The City of Webster maintains a list of locally available native plants at City Hall. It's our hope that this initiative will have a positive effect on local residents who will plant Florida native plants for our pollinators in their own home and business landscapes.

¹ The University of Central Florida was certified as a Bee Campus in 2018

Naples Chapter – Expanding our Education | Andee Naccarato, Chapter President



The [Naples Chapter](#) has committed to offering its educational programs year-round in order to continue engagement with our permanent residents through the summer. Our first summer program focused on native plants for southwest Florida butterflies and was preceded by a request by Kara Driscoll, Chapter Representative, for members to report their native milkweed sightings in natural areas, vacant lots, and roadsides. Kara displayed excellent photos of all species of milkweed with current and historical records in Collier County.

Future observations by Naples Chapter members will be submitted to the statewide [Milkweed Mapping Project](#).



Additionally, the Naples Chapter board of directors would like to extend our gratitude to our neighboring chapter to the south, the [Coccoloba Chapter](#), for welcoming our presence at a variety of their outreach projects. After observing the Coccoloba Chapter's native landscaping consultations and plant sale, the Naples Chapter now has a better understanding of what it takes to provide these opportunities for southwest Florida residents. Our chapter strives to provide similar services to the Naples community in the near future.

Conradina Chapter – Conference Highlights for our Chapter | Carol Hebert, Chapter President



Conradina Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society won "Outstanding Chapter of the Year" award! We received it at the FNPS State conference on May 18th at Crystal Springs. What an honor! Another great honor was Jane Higgins receiving a Silver Palmetto award! Jane has contributed so much to the Conradina Chapter by being our past Secretary and currently Treasurer. She wrote several grants to promote native plant landscaping such as the West Melbourne Post Office and the Franklin DeGroot Library. Her home has been on the Conradina "Native Plant Garden" tours several times and also on the Keep Brevard Beautiful garden tours. Thank you so much Jane, for your dedication and love of native plants!

To top it all off we have Suzanne Valencia who took the time and effort to nominate Jane and our Chapter to the FNPS State awards. Suzanne has been a huge supporter and leader of Conradina. She had served 2 terms as President, other officer positions, board member "forever", her home has been on Conradina's "Native Plant Garden" tour several times and Keep Brevard Beautiful garden tour also. She has also been involved with Sierra Club for about two decades. She has led a huge number of Service Field Trips in the United States and notably some at Pelican Island National Park and Sebastian Inlet State Park. Suzanne was honored with a [national award](#) from Sierra Club and there is a trail named after her at the Sierra Club National Park in California.

Martin County Chapter – Roadside native orchids saved by an FNPS member because of a Chapter newsletter | Linda Eastman, Chapter President



Richard Brownscombe wrote a blurb for Martin County Chapter's February 2019 newsletter asking:

HAVE YOU SEEN THIS PLANT?

Find this beauty and help solve a mystery.

Leafless Beaked Lady's-tresses, *Sacoila lanceolata* var. *lanceolata*, is vouchered in counties all around us but why not in Martin? Maybe you can help change the situation. Or just have fun geeking out on the records.

- [Not Vouchered](#) in Martin.
- [The Floristic Inventory of South Florida](#) in Dupuis as Palm Beach County.
- Vouchered in [St. Lucie](#).
- [Why Vouchering Matters](#)



Sue Yorke, longtime Martin County member, saw this cry for help and took immediate action. She knew of a population of orchids blooming along Highway 471 in Indiantown and knew that now was the perfect time to help.

She emailed the County Administrator for Martin County, Taryn Kryzda who looped in the Public Works and Ecosystem and Restoration Department. Despite SR-471 being a state road, it is maintained by the County.

By **the next day**, the Public Works Department was out flagging the orchids so they wouldn't be mowed and was sharing information and ID tips about this State Threatened orchid with other public works staff.

So, chapter newsletter editors and contributors, we appreciate you and we support you! Everyone else: read your chapter newsletter!

This piece was written by Valerie Anderson using excellent information from Linda, Sue Yorke, Ellen Broderick (Martin County Chapter Vice President, Virginia Sherlock, and Richard Brownscombe (Broward Chapter President).

Past issues delayed by two months are available [here](#). Please consider submitting an article to the Sabal Minor, [email](#) the editor to discuss your story ideas.

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