



Sabal minor

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

May – June 2018 | Volume 20, Number 3



President's Message

Susan Carr, Incoming President

As I write this, we are in the final days leading up to the Florida Native Plant Society Annual Conference (May 17-20, 2018). The conference theme of “renewal” reflects the changes going on in our organization – a mixture of new developments with the “tried and true” ways. I look forward to seeing many of you again at the conference and meeting new native plant enthusiasts. The conference will be a momentous occasion for me, as I assume the position of

FNPS President. Although a bit nervous, I am looking forward to starting my new position and am working with current president Catherine Bowman to affect a smooth transition. Thank you, Catherine, for your service. FNPS has accomplished great things under your leadership.

I think we have a lot to look forward to in these times of rapid change. Our organization is changing. As we continue to grow, we reach more people with our message and positively affect our environment. I am proud that FNPS is Florida's native plant champion as we pursue our mission: to promote the preservation, conservation, and restoration of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida.

As I ponder our mission statement, I ask myself: how do we implement it? And, how can we do it better? We are a nonprofit organization with a large membership of more than 4,000 people, scattered across 37 local chapters. As I get to know the local chapters, I learn about the diversity of interests and activities: native plant sales, landscape tours, plant rescues, rare plant monitoring, citizen science, and advocacy for natural areas and land management. Altogether, wow, we do a lot! As an organization, we lead the way for native plant science, advocacy, and education, and I think we will continue to do this critical mission work. Much of the challenge ahead is communication. How do we communicate the importance of our

mission and work? How can we communicate with each other better? How can the governance structure best support the membership and mission? And, of course, how can we better communicate our message to those who influence policy and philanthropy?

We have already taken a big step that will help our organization grow, communicate and coalesce. We are hiring an Executive Director this summer and will be hiring a second staff person by year's end. I am particularly excited about this, and I thank Catherine and FNPS governance for making this happen. As an organization, we've reached a point of stability in our finances and membership and can support staff and other institutional investments which will support our mission work.

I am excited about my new position and look forward to learning more about our organization as I get to know the members and chapters. As a lover and student of native plants and Florida natural areas, I love our mission, and I appreciate that we are the voice for Florida's natural legacy – native plants and plant communities.

2018 Board and Council of Chapters Meetings

Thursday-Sunday, May 17 to 20	FNPS 38th Annual Conference
Thursday, May 17, 4:30 p.m.	Council of Chapters Meeting
Thursday, May 17, 5:30 p.m.	Board of Directors Meeting
Saturday, May 19, 8 a.m.	Annual Members Meeting
Thursday, June 28, 7 p.m.	Board of Directors GoToMeeting

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

Executive Assistant News

Juliet Ryneear, Executive Assistant

The Annual Members Meeting will be held during the Annual Conference on Saturday, May 19 from 8 until 9:15 a.m. at the Miccosukee Resort in Miami (500 S.W. 177th Avenue, Miami).

There will be a vote on the bylaws amendments recommended by the Board of Directors. We will also hold the annual election of officers and announce the Plant ID Contest Winners, FNPS Palmetto Awards, Land Management Review Recognition, grant awards (science, conservation, Dan Austin), and the landscape awards.

The [proposed bylaws amendments](#) are available for your review.

In Memory



Mary Jelks

Regional environmentalist, pediatrician, and native plant advocate Mary Jelks died at the end of March after four decades of leadership



Helen Morrison

Even in the 10th decade of her life, Helen Morrison of Babson Park often came across people who credited her for kindling a fondness



Sherry Cummings

Sherry N. Cummings, of Lake Worth, Florida, passed away September 3, 2017. She was born June 6, 1936 in Winter Park, Florida. She was a

focused on environmental health and the Myakka region. As a pediatrician, she focused on allergies, which led to a half-century of pollen studies and two books on the subject. An early activist with Manasota-88 opposing phosphate mining and oil refining, Mary became known for work on Integrated Pest Management, solid waste, and recycling. She found special meaning in the Myakka ecosystem, founding the Friends of the Myakka River and leading twice-yearly river clean-ups since 1993, as well as serving on the Myakka River Management Coordinating Council for 30 years. She loved both the Myakka prairie and the river and wrote a poem about an unusual two-headed cabbage palm that grew along the banks of the river. Her family foundation provided the leadership for the acquisition of 614 acres of native habitat along the river, now known as the Jelks Preserve. For many years she tended a patch of dry prairie in the entrance median of the state park, a miniature knee-high arboretum. That was Mary's way of exposing the public to the native plants of the prairie. An illustrated oral history of Mary and her prairie plants may be found at <https://goo.gl/aFiWsT>. – Jono Miller, Serenoa

Mary and Allen Jelks were founding members of FNPS. Mary was recognized by FNPS in 2004 with the Mentor Award.

for them for Florida's animals and plants.

Helen Morrison was a respected conservationist and environmental educator. Morrison and her late husband, Ken Morrison, were active with state conservation efforts and founders of such local groups as Ridge Audubon Society, Defenders of Crooked Lake and Green Horizon Land Trust.

David Price, director of Bok Tower Gardens and a longtime friend, said Morrison's genteel manner made her especially persuasive. "She just had this kindly demeanor about her, and her voice was really soothing," Price said. "She was never negative about anything, but she always spoke the truth in her environmental work, and I think that's what made her so effective. She never really insulted anybody." – Reprinted from the Lakeland Ledger

"I grew up in canoes, on hikes and camping with Helen and her husband, Ken, and other wonderful environmentalists . . . some of the best people you could ever hope to know," said Rachelle Coleman Selser, executive director of the Green Horizon Land Trust "Today, when I envision the face and voice of "Mother Earth," it is Helen's. She will be missed by her family and the environmental community.

graduate of the University of Florida.

Sherry and her husband Paul were founding members of the Florida Native Plant Society. She signed the initial articles of incorporation and served as president for two terms in 1984 and 1985. The Green Palmetto Awards were established in 1986 by Sherry to honor those who had given special service in the areas of education, science and outstanding chapter to FNPS. According to a Spring 2000 article in *The Palmetto*, The couple also established the Palm Beach Chapter and, in the late 1970s, they established one of the first native plant nurseries in Palm Beach County. "The biggest challenge, Sherry expects, will be to keep our message fresh in the public eye, and keep up the momentum. FNPS is headed in the right direction, but it's important to reach out and get new people involved."

She was chapter chair of the Florida Trail Association, Loxahatchee Chapter and an outdoor activity leader with the Audubon Society, the Florida Trail Association, the Palm Beach Pack and Paddle Club, and was extremely knowledgeable about Florida wildlife and wildflowers. She also led many bird watching activities at the Green Cay Nature Center and Wakodahatchee Wetlands.– Palm Beach Post

Committee Reports



FNPS's 38th Annual Conference *Renewal!*

May 17–20, 2018 | Miccosukee Resort in Miami

Marlene Rodak, Conference Chair

We hope you join us Thursday, May 17 to Sunday, May 20 at the FNPS *Renewal* conference at Miccosukee Resort in Miami. In addition to learning about the latest science and rubbing elbows with your favorite native plant people, there are field trips all around the Everglades!

This year we are featuring a step-by-step workshop to a Florida native yard. This exciting workshop is open to conference participants and is open to the public for \$50. Ginny Stibolt and Marjorie Shropshire will host this interactive workshop on Saturday afternoon.

The FNPS annual conference is offered as part of your membership. We hope you will support this effort by attending and providing donations in the form of your time, silent auction items or cash contributions.

We still have volunteer slots available for those who want to attend the conference for free. You still have to pay for field trips, dinners, and lodging, but you save the \$85 program registration fee.

Consider donating items for the Silent Auction. This is a great way to advertise your business or rehome some of your own treasures. Contact Jenny Welch at fnaturegirl@outlook.com or (407) 319-2488 with your items. Your donation supports the efforts of the Society.

Thank you so much for your continued support of Florida Native Plant Society.

Here is a sampling of some of what will be offered.

- Field Trip A: Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden guided tour
- Field Trip C: Zoo Miami Pine Rockland and Imperiled Butterfly Conservation
- Field Trip E: Two Pinelands: Owaissa Bauer Addition and Navy Wells
- Field Trip M: Gator Hook Trail, Big Cypress
- Field Trip N: Miccosukee Tribal Lands Airboat
- Workshop: Identifying Fungi
- Workshop: Phytotelmata: Investigating Water Worlds in Bromeliads
- Workshop: Florida's Edible Wild Plants
- Workshop: Fertilizer, Fertilization and your Planting Specifications
- Workshop: The Hows and Whys of Plant Vouchering



Spiderwort (*Tradescantia ohiensis*) by Donna Bollenbach is on display at *Renewal: Going Native*, a three-month exhibition at the Palm Beach Photographic Centre. Photo used with permission.

Susan Lerner, Palm Beach Chapter

In honor of the FNPS Conference and the three events the Palm Beach County Chapter has planned for the public to learn about natives, both the City of West Palm Beach and Palm Beach County are issuing **proclamations** declaring May 14 to 20 *Renewal: Going Native Plant Week*.

We hope you will join us for these special events. Learn more at Palmbeach.fnpschapters.org.

Renewal: Going Native is a three-month exhibition at the Palm Beach Photographic Centre (www.workshop.org) in downtown West Palm Beach (City Center Municipal Complex, 415 Clematis Street). Beautiful imagery will fill the main gallery, selected from native plant, bird and butterfly photographers Kevin Barry, Donna Bollenbach, Richard Brownscomb, Christina Evans, Roger Hammer, George Gann, Kirsten Hines, Craig Huegel, Mary Keim, Susan Kolterman, Susan Lerner, Don Marchetto, Chuck McCartney, Rufino Osorio, Rebecca Sabac, Loret Setters, and Peg Urban. Many images will be available for purchase. The gallery is open Monday to Thursday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For people who would like to see the exhibit on their way to or from the conference, the center will be open special hours on Sunday, May 20 from Noon to 5 p.m.

The exhibition is a celebration of the City's recently **revised landscape ordinance** that highlights and rewards the use of native plants in public and private landscapes. The exhibition will be an opportunity for the public to appreciate the beauty of Florida's native plants and some of the critters who depend on them, and will demonstrate PBCC FNPS' proclamation, "Native plants are the gateway to sustainability."

The Palm Beach County Chapter is hosting its **13th Annual Rare & Unique Native Plant Auction** at the Mounts Botanical Garden Auditorium in West Palm Beach on Tuesday, May 15 from 7 to 9:30 p.m. The theme of this year's auction is *Renewal: Going Native – the birds & the bees and the flowers & the trees...* A very special guest, Craig Huegel, will be introducing the plants in the live auction, which features six plant categories: Putting Down

Roots, It Takes Two, Sleeping Beauties, Just Passing Through, Food for the Soul, and Valuable Vessels. The silent auction will feature other unique or hard-to-find native plants, gardening-related items and services, signed books and more. Auctioneer Andrew Burr is returning for this year's event. There is no charge to attend or bid. Cash or check, please.

Bringing Nature Home: Renewing Our World with Native Plants – An Evening with Doug Tallamy is a special event that will be held in the Carole & Barry Kaye Performing Arts Auditorium on the Boca Raton campus of FAU on Wednesday, May 16 at 7 p.m. The Palm Beach County Chapter is a sponsor, in partnership with Audubon Everglades, the Atala Chapter of the North American Butterfly Association, FAU/Pine Jog Environmental Education Center and Mounts Botanical Garden of Palm Beach County. Tickets for Tallamy's presentation are \$5 in advance, \$10 at the door, and may be purchased online.

Conservation Committee

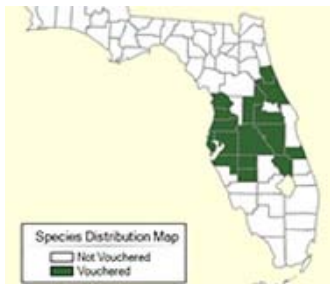
Juliet Ryneear, Chair

We received five applications for the **2018 Conservation Grant Awards**. Please join us in thanking the following generous sponsors for their contributions:

- Sea Rocket Chapter
- Nature Coast Chapter
- Dade Chapter in honor of Don and Joyce Gann
- Tarflower Chapter in honor of Dick Duerling.

Please also help us thank the following Committee members for reviewing the applications this year: Alan Franck, Ph.D., Michael Jenkins, Scott Davis, Theresa Lutz, Valerie Anderson, and Annie Schmidt.

Featured Plant: *Tillandsia*, Florida airplants



Cecilia Catron, Tarflower

A collection of plants are commonly known as the Florida airplant. *Tillandsia floridana* is endemic and may be overlooked as *T. setacea* or *T. bartramii* on a hike through the woods. In Florida, *T. flexuosa* is only found in south Florida so may not be well-known to FNPS members in the rest of the State. It's a wonderful-looking *Tillandsia* that is threatened. *T. fasciculata* grows in the southern half of the State. It is big and showy and endangered. On the other hand, *T. flexuosa* and *fasciculata* may be threatened or endangered by over-collecting, so for the marvel of seeing these wild plants in the future, it might be wise to look, not touch.

Photos and Map: The Atlas of Florida Plants Institute for Systematic Botany Distribution Map.

The map (above) is based on vouchered plant specimens from non-cultivated populations. *Tillandsia floridana* specimens received by the Atlas have been found in Citrus, DeSoto, Flagler, Hardee and Hernando counties. Cultivated occurrences are not mapped; however,

many vouchers have documented plants that occur outside their historical range because of escape from private and public gardens.

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



Tour Rain Forests and Waterfalls Tour: May 6 to 11, 2018

There's still time to join the tour!

A portion of the proceeds will be donated to FNPS. Learn more, including pricing and itinerary: Devon at (813) 478-1183, indigotravelcompany@gmail.com or www.indigotravelcompany.com.

Discover for yourself what a temperate rain forest looks and feels like, and learn what native plants the American Indians used for food and medicine. David Cozzo, a specialist on the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians, is one of our guides. We also have Lichenologists, Naturalists, and Botanists, all local, incredible guides anxious to share their knowledge of plant and animal life in the Appalachians. We will tour Brasstown Bald, the Blue Ridge, Mount Mitchell and the Smoky Mountains and discover along with us "The Wildflower National Park."

Photo: Great chickweed (Stellaria pubera).

Chapter News, Events and Programs



BioBlitz is both a celebratory event and an on-going project where research professionals, naturalists, hobbyists, and volunteers work together to survey and log as many species as possible in a designated study area.

Pine Lily, Tayler Figueroa

A BioBlitz will be held May 4 to 6 at Split Oak Forest Wildlife and Environmental Area. It is open to the public of all ages. Anyone with a smartphone, location services, and the iNaturalist app can check in and log data.

We are in need of research professionals and knowledgeable naturalists who can help lead groups of volunteers for an hour or two for a hands-on biology activity (forestry, wildlife, native and invasive plants, insects, herptiles, wildlife, etc.)! Our goal is to bring together a variety of individuals within our community that enjoy exploring and surveying local biota. If you are

interested in joining this fun field-study event, let us know by sending a message to gtu@uwf.edu as to what times you are available and your field of expertise.

Visit [Split Oak Forest Bioblitz](#) for more information. Invite others to join the event.

Longleaf Pine, Lynn Backes

In April, a BioBlitz was held at the University of West Florida campus. UWF BioBlitz was initiated by the Earth and Environmental Science department and the Gamma Theta Upsilon (GTU) Geographic Honors Society. Since October 2014 there have been several events that have surveyed vascular plants, birds, reptiles, amphibians, aquatic and terrestrial invertebrates, and fungi. About 300 to 400 species are logged at every event. There are two natural areas on campus that host a large amount of wildlife and include hiking trails. Learn more at [UWF Bioblitz Spring 2018](#).



Pawpaw, Sonya Guidry

The Rugel's Roundup promoted in the last issue has been postponed due to the timing of a grant. The project will be held in the Spring of 2019.

This Spring the Pawpaw Chapter was kept on its toes with an active schedule of meetings, field trips, and outreach events. Thanks to new Field Trip Co-Chair Warren Reynolds, each trip started with a plant list and golf pencils so participants could identify and check off some new plant friends. Sites visited were Titusville's Enchanted Forest, Volusia's Green Springs Park, Merritt Island Wildlife Refuge's Scrub Ridge Trail, and Gamble Rogers State Recreation Area's Joe Kenner Trail. Outreach events ranged from Ponce Inlet's Earth Day, DeLand's Florida Wildflower Festival, New Smyrna's Water-Wise Gardening Spring Fling, to Marine Discovery Center's Lagoonacy event.

Before the regular April 9 meeting, members met to review a collaborative stormwater treatment project between B-CU, the city of South Daytona, and others. Samuel Mwenda is a Bethune-Cookman University's environmental master's program student. His project is adjacent to a major drainage canal in South Daytona. It will use native plants and a skimmer to filter out pollutants and debris before stormwater can make an outflow into Reed Canal and then to the Halifax River. This ongoing project is



Winter Grapefern Survey Results

Longleaf Pine, James Burkhalter

Longleaf Pine Chapter members gathered at Pensacola's historic St. John's Cemetery (established 1876) on March 3 to appreciate and survey the population of winter grapefern (*Botrychium lunarioides*) occurring there. This was accomplished by first locating every fern and marking each one with a small flag, then tallying the number of individuals observed. The final total for this year's survey is 1,237 (down 20.2 percent from the previous total observed in 2013, which was 1,551). The sporophytes present appeared to be healthy and vigorous and were of varying sizes and ages throughout the population, and the decline in numbers is interpreted as a natural fluctuation in a dynamic population and not the result of trauma or stress produced by human activities. *Botrychium lunarioides* is, of course, one of Florida's rarest and most unusual native plants, and the population in St. John's Cemetery is the second largest known in the state, exceeded only by the population in Magnolia Cemetery, DeFuniak Springs.

Longleaf Pine, Lynn Backes

designed to benefit the water quality for all the cities along the Halifax River.

Photo, left to right: Miranda White, Warren Reynolds, David Anderson, Sande Habali, Kathy VanEck, and Samuel Mwenda.

Thanks are extended to all who helped at the Winter Grapefern count at St. John's Cemetery.

Saturday field trips:
May 26: Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge
June 30: Tarkiln Bayou Preserve State Park

Learn more by sending a message to
fnps.longleaf.pine@gmail.com.



Birds, Bugs, and Berries: The Bird and Native Plant Connection

Sweetbay, Jody Wood-Putnam

On March 29, 117 folks attended the symposium *Birds, Bugs, and Berries: The Bird and Native Plant Connection* at

the Gulf Coast State College in Panama City to encourage folks to help our Panhandle bird populations through the use of native plants.

Five organizations combined efforts to plan and make the event successful: FNPS Sweetbay Chapter, Bay County Audubon, UF/IFAS Bay County Extension/Master Gardeners, Bay County Conservancy – The Land Conservancy of Northwest Florida and Gulf Coast State College.

Planning meetings for the event were held every couple of weeks starting early January. It was a pleasure working with the other organizations. While each group had a separate focus, we all had an overlapping interest in promoting the use of native plants to help our bird populations.

Advertising for the event was accomplished through the posting of flyers and announcements at prior events such as Citizen Science talks and individual sponsoring group monthly meetings. Folks were able to register via Eventbrite or by phone at the County Extension Office. The individual organizations shared the Eventbrite link on their own Facebook sites. The event was written up in newsletters and local magazines. Sweetbay Chapter FNPS and Bay County Audubon representatives also promoted the event on Gulf Coast State College radio.

During the three-hour event, five speakers presented. Dr. R. Todd Engstrom, a researcher at Tall Timbers Research Station in Tallahassee spoke about the wonderful diversity of birds we have in the panhandle, the declining status of many of our bird populations and about their needs. Dara Dobson of 7-Pines Native Nursery then discussed the interdependence of native plants, insects, and birds. A focus of her presentation was the importance of native plants as hosts for our insects which in turn are important to our birds. Julie McConnell, the UF/IFAS Bay County Extension Agent, followed with a discussion of great native plants for attracting a diversity of birds throughout the year to a Northwest Florida garden. Mary Jo Capra of Bay County Audubon talked about web-based tools available to help in the selection of native plants for a landscape such as www.audubon.org/plantsforbirds and www.fnps.org/plants/. Jody Wood-Putnam of Sweetbay Chapter FNPS finished by explaining ways that individuals can easily incorporate natives into their home landscapes. She explained that it can be done in steps, one plant at a time. After each speaker, drawings were held to give away numerous native plants as door prizes.

Information bags were provided to the attendees. The bags were donated by Wild Birds Unlimited. We filled them with information from each of the sponsoring organizations and a trifold we developed with information about electronic resources, our local organizations, and

locations to purchase native plants. Additionally, wildflower seeds were included that were donated by Sweetbay Chapter FNPS and the Panhandle Wildflower Alliance.

Early in our planning, we became aware of an opportunity for an Audubon Plants for Birds Burke Grant. The Bay County Audubon Chapter applied and were awarded a grant for \$1,000 which we were able to put toward promoting the event, purchasing native plants for door prizes and procuring copies of the Wildlife Foundation of Florida and FFWCC booklet, "Planting a Refuge for Wildlife" which were also included in the information bags.

Each organization staffed an information table and the event was videoed by the Gulf Coast State College and shown on Facebook Live and [YouTube](#).

We received numerous compliments from those attending. This event was successful through the synergistic cooperation of the multiple individual groups.

Folks learned that one of the biggest things we can do to help our birds as individuals is preserve existing native habitat and plant native plants. They left the symposium with seeds, plants, and information that they could take home and make a difference in their yards.

Photo: Dara Dobson of 7-Pines Native Nursery discussed the interdependence of native plants, insects, and birds. Photo by Ron Houser.

Social Media

Do you have information you'd like shared through FNPS blog, Facebook and Instagram social media platforms? Send your information to Sarah Toney Garcia at ms.septemper@gmail.com.

Policy Position

Wondered what policy positions FNPS has taken? Visit www.fnps.org/resources/pubs to learn more. Letters written regarding policy recommendations are online at www.forum.fnps.org/.

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 <http://fnps.org/resources/sabalminor>. 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 May-June 2018 issue: David Anderson, Lynne Backes, Catherine Bowman, Susan Carr, Cecilia Catron, Anne Cox, Shirley Denton, Tayler Figueroa, Sonya Guidry, Emma Haselow, Devon Higginbotham, Susan Lerner, Jono Miller, Marlene Rodak, Juliet Rynear, Rachelle Selser, Jody Wood-Putnam.

Please send your suggestions to make this newsletter more valuable to you and, **by June 15**, submit articles for the July–August 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.

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