

Sabal minor

A bi-monthly newsletter for the members of

THE FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY



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FNPS is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit corporation registered in Florida as a charitable organization (CH3021).

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President's Message

Greetings fellow Native Plant Society members! The new year is upon us, and I wish to thank all of you who sent in your support during our end of 2012 fund drive. Thanks to your efforts we have raised over \$8,700 — funds much needed to support our native plant programs and grants. I also wish to thank the Dade Chapter of FNPS who, through one of their own fund drives, raised enough money to support one of our Conservation Grants this year, which will honor founding members Don and Joyce Gann.

Our Society's leadership is working hard to implement our many programs, and February will mark a major event in our Society's history as we will be meeting to evaluate our Society's mission and organizational success through our Strategic Plan weekend "retreat." This is a formal and real effort, funded through a major grant awarded to us last year by the Elizabeth Ordway Dunn Foundation. After months of careful review and analysis, the retreat will culminate in what I anticipate to be positive changes to our Society's programs, structure and organizational effectiveness, so stay tuned.

We are still accepting nominations for our prestigious Palmetto Awards. Nominees must be Society members, and may not be actively serving on our Board of Directors. Please feel free to contact me or your chapter representative with a written letter of support for anyone who you feel is deserving of recognition for their Service, Science, or Mentorship efforts. We also award the FNPS chapter who has showed the greatest excellence in the preceding year. Deadline for nominations is February 28, 2013.

I am happy to report that Kim Zarillo of the Conradina chapter has agreed to finish Daphne Lambright's term as FNPS treasurer, and also wish to welcome Karina Veaudry of the Tarflower chapter, our new Landscape Committee chair, and Debra Klein of the Cocoplum chapter, our new Education Committee chair, to our Board of Directors. Be sure and give them, and all board members, your thanks for volunteering their time to make our Society exceptional.

I am stoked about our upcoming Annual Conference in Jacksonville entitled "Celebrating La Florida; The Land of Flowers." This is the first time we have held a conference in that fair city, and your Conference Committee — led by Ixia Chapter's Barbara Jackson, Executive Director Kellie Westervelt, and Administrative Services Representative Cammie Donaldson — continues to work diligently on making it a spectacular event. Online registration is now open! If you haven't attended one of our conferences, you are really missing out. I look forward to seeing many of you in Jacksonville.

Best Regards,

Steve Woodmansee,
President

Call for Palmetto Award Nominations

Each year the Florida Native Plant Society awards select members for their service to education, science, chapter and/or mentorship. Green Palmetto awards are given for service, education, science, and chapter leadership. The Mentor Award is the highest honor the Society can bestow and is reserved for lifetime or career-long contributions.

Any FNPS member may nominate someone for an award — just contact your Chapter Representative or the FNPS President (president@fnps.org). To nominate a member, submit a one-page letter of endorsement specifying the individual you are nominating, the proposed award category, and supporting rationale for the nomination. Nominations are due by February 28, 2013. All nominations are voted upon by your FNPS Board of Directors.

FNPS Landscape Awards Program

The deadline for submitting a landscape design for judging is Friday, March 1, 2013. The FNPS Landscape Award recipients will be honored during the Florida Native Plant Society's annual conference on Saturday, May 18, 2013. The criteria for the design is a minimum of 75 percent Florida native plant species, and a minimum 2-year grow-in period before application submittal, and it can have no plants listed on the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council's (FLEPPC) Category I or II lists (www.fleppc.org). The project categories are Residential (single family and multi-family), Commercial, Institutional (governmental agencies, churches and schools), Transportation (streetscapes, roadways, medians, right-of-ways), Preservation, Restoration, Mitigation and Wildflower/Butterfly Garden.

To download the application, review all submittal requirements and submittal fees (free for homeowners), and to view previous award winners, visit <http://www.fnps.org/what-we-do/landscaping>. Applications should be mailed (or overnighted) to: FNPS Landscape Awards, 311 South Glenwood Avenue, Orlando FL 32803-6259. Questions? Send an email to info@nativefloridaconsulting.com or call 321-388-4781.

Registration is now open for the
2013 FNPS Annual Conference:
Celebrating La Florida, the Land of flowers

MAY 16–19, 2013 Jacksonville, FL

Visit www.fnps.org/conference to register and to view the full conference schedule!



FNPS Social Media — It's All About You

by Laurie Sheldon, Social Media Director

Maintaining interesting, pertinent stories on our Facebook, Twitter and Blog is a labor of love, which your social media team does for YOU. After all, without readers, we'd essentially be talking to ourselves... I certainly don't need a computer to do that! Our ever-increasing number of followers is a strong indicator that you like what we have to say and the stories we're sharing. If you are not among the world's one billion Facebook users, what are you waiting for? Fortunately, this organization is full of internet-savvy individuals who have embraced our page and regularly comment on our posts. (Thank you!) For those users who are less familiar with the layout of our page, or generally catch updates in their news stream, we'd like to make you aware of our relatively recent practice of "pinning" a link to the latest blog article at the top of our page, so it's always easy to access. The rest of our stories are posted in reverse chronological order (i.e. with the most recent entries at the top of the list).

Inquiring minds want to know...

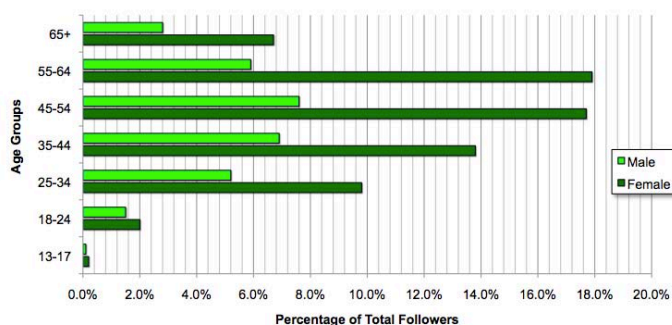
How many followers do we have? At the time of our last article in the *Sabal minor* (the November-December edition), we had 3,037. As of February 1, we have 3,606.

Where are they from? The chart to the right shows the top ten cities and how many followers each has.

Are they male or female? How old are they? 30% are male and 68.1% are female; the rest have not disclosed this information on their profiles. The chart belows shows the demographic distribution of our followers.

Are there any topics that you've been hoping to see us cover that we've somehow managed to miss? Let us know! Social media is all about YOU!

City	Followers
1. Tampa	191
2. Gainesville	175
2. Orlando (tie)	175
3. Jacksonville	135
4. Tallahassee	118
5. Miami	91
6. St. Petersburg	84
7. Sarasota	54
8. Naples	44
9. West Palm Beach	42
10. Ocala	38



FNPS Joyce and Don Gann Conservation Grant

Please help us reach our goal by donating to the FNPS Conservation Grant Award sponsored by the Dade Chapter in honor of our founders, Joyce and Don Gann, who initiated FNPS and then also created DCFNPS. Send to: Dade Chapter FNPS, 6619 South Dixie Highway #181, Miami FL 33143-7919. Please make your check payable to DCFNPS and indicate that is for "Joyce and Don Gann Conservation Grant Fund." DCFNPS will match the donations. Download a printable Conservation Donation Form from <http://dade.fnpschapters.org/documents/Conservation%20Donation%20Form.pdf>.

Conservation Committee Report by Juliet Rynear

The Florida State Horticultural Society (FSHS) requested photos of Florida's natural communities to feature on the covers of their annual "Proceedings" book. The Conservation Committee sent names and contact information of photographers that may be interested in having their photos displayed.

We also responded to a request from a researcher from French Institute regarding seed collection of *Aeschynomene evenia*, *Aeschynomene indica* and *Aeschynomene pratensis* var. *pratensis* (found only in Florida).

Previous Conservation Grant award winners were contacted for project updates and photos. Visit www.fnps.org/committee/conservation for project updates.

Native Plant Owner's Manuals Available

The newly revised "Native Plant Owner's Manuals" created by FNPS Education Committee member Mark Hutchinson are available for download and use at <http://fnps.org/resources/pubs> under "Plant Presentations." These presentations are quite thorough and cover most aspects of the plants — from name origin, life cycle and pollination to propagation and ethnobiology. The presentations are PDFs; they can be viewed as a simple start to finish slide show, or can be used in open discussion using the "Navigation" page, which provides internal links to different parts of the presentation, making a free wheeling discussion of the plant easy and convenient.

Mark prepared these PDFs for use by FNPS chapters and members, so check them out, download them, and use them!

Thank you, Mark, for your amazing commitment to FNPS and native plant education!



FNPS 2013 Endowment Grant Research Awards and Conservation Grant Awards

FNPS 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 are 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 are small grants (\$1500 or less) 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.

Application guidelines and details are on the FNPS Web site, www.fnps.org, under "Participate/Grants and Awards." Questions regarding the grant programs should be sent to info@fnps.org.

Application deadline for the 2013 Awards is March 1, 2013. Awards will be announced at the May 2013 Annual Conference in Jacksonville. Awardees do not have to be present to receive award.

Chapter Happenings

Cocoplum Chapter began offering “relaxed but thoughtful” sessions on how to recognize a selected native plant family. Using prominent features of the family evident in the plant samples collected for the workshop, participants learn botanical names for various parts of the plant, zeroing in on the salient identifiers. A small fee is charged for materials.

The Chapter has begun working on a “**Big Tree Database**,” documenting the big trees and shrubs of Martin County. Residents nominate candidates and FNPS volunteers go out and measure the nominated specimens.

They joined the Master Gardeners and Garden Club members in a **Florida wildflower project**, sowing seed in the medians at the Halpatiokee Regional Park. And they are participating in a big native plant sale with the Environmental Studies Council on April 20.

Dade Chapter will host its **18th annual Native Plant Day**, featuring nature walks, hands-on activities, plant sales, and programs on attracting wildlife to your yard, landscaping tips, and more.

When: Saturday, March 23, 9am–4pm

Where: Bill Sadowski Park, Palmetto Bay, FL

Come out and enjoy the day at this lush 30-acre park with native forest, butterfly garden, wildlife, and recreational activities. This event and all activities are FREE! For more information, visit <http://dade.fnpschapters.org>.

Pawpaw Chapter entered into a **partnership with the city of South Daytona**, whereby the city offers the chapter a place to hold meetings, provides storage, and helps with advertising of events, and in exchange, members maintain a section of The Park of Honor showcasing native plants. The demonstration garden was started this past spring with the help of Full Moon Natives and Herbs.

The Pawpaw chapter also hosted a **landscape tour** in October in eastern Volusia County. The self-guided tour took participants through eight homes and two local nurseries with the help of maps and detailed pamphlets, complete with photos. Homeowners had 75% or more native plants in their yard or were working toward that goal.

Sparkleberry Chapter held an **Arbor Day Celebration** on Friday, January 18, by making free Florida NATIVE bare root seedling trees available. Despite the cold windy day, many people stopped by to pick up a native flowering dogwood, red cedar or Shumard’s oak. Instructions were provided on where and how to plant and care for their choice, along with a short article about Florida’s Arbor Day. During the course of two hours, 175 trees were distributed to local area residents. Considering the sparse population of Suwannee County, this first attempt at an Annual Florida Arbor Day event was very successful.

Suncoast Chapter has assembled a **Speakers Bureau** from among their members and have been out in the community giving talks on the virtues of planting Florida natives to a variety of groups ranging from homeowners’ associations to Garden Clubs to Women’s Clubs to other chapters of FNPS. By having a group of willing speakers and PowerPoint presentations, they are ready for any level of interest from “What is a Native?” to “Attracting Wildlife with Native Plants.” They have found that many groups are eager to hear their talks and the more they are out in the community, the more requests they are receiving. Word is getting out!

Sweetbay Chapter members Karen and Travis MacClendon have been documenting plants occurring in Calhoun County and are proud to release an **on-line resource of high-quality images of the herbarium specimens**. The images will assist people needing to do plant ID in the panhandle. Check it out at <http://www.calhouncountyherbarium.org>.

Magnolia Chapter is flying along with a **spring calendar** of too many to mention activities, including Arbor Day, Bay Day, phenology workshops and continuing invasive plant eradication/education workdays.

The Chapter hopes to support the Tallahassee City Commission’s declaration of March 3–9 as **National Invasive Species Awareness Week**. Also on the local government scene, Magnoliads, including wildflower experts Dr. Jeff Norcini, Eleanor Dietrich, and Dan Miller are assisting city and county staff in a roadside wildflower planting initiative with advice on which sunflower to select as the official county flower, and obtaining seed sources in bulk that would be good choices visually and ecologically.

The Magnolia Chapter’s Roadside Wildflower Committee reports that the new **State Road 65 wildflower tour guide** is going to the printer’s in time for the spring bloom. The full color flyer, with a self-guided tour map and wildflower photographs, is being produced with the assistance of the FDOT Highway Beautification Program. Building on the success of the Chapter’s SR 65 fall wildflower guide and the FWF Panhandle Wildflower Route brochure, the new guide will highlight the spring blooming wildflowers and carnivorous plants along the scenic highway through the Apalachicola National Forest pinelands. The roadside wildflower guide is available online at http://magnolia.fnpschapters.org/data/uploads/plant-lists/wildflowertourguide_spring2.pdf.

Magnolia Chapter member Scott Davis began an ongoing foraging series entitled “**Urban and Edible Plant Foraging**” that has met with wondrous success. The communities of this region expressed an interest in learning about the edibility of backyard and roadside plants. Facilitated by FNPS, the walks and classes have



attracted the attention of many progressive whose core values focus on such topics as sustainability, permaculture, abstinence from intensive capitalism via local business faithfulness, local environmental literacy, and land preservation. The series has even attracted the attention of the local newspaper, *The Tallahassee Democrat*, as well as the Leon County Soil and Water Commissioner, Martha Lang. This has led to the anticipated integration and co-sponsorship of these activities with such organizations as the Tallahassee Sustainability Group, Transition Tallahassee, FSU Environmental Service Program, FSU Center for Participant Education, and the Florida Trail Association.

The events are drawing huge turnouts, with hikes often attracting 80+ individuals, and presentations attracting 100+ individuals. This has worked to increase and diversify the crowds that attend monthly chapter presentations and field trips, with new and potential members slowly percolating in.

Within the foraging classes, Scott teaches the individuals about the edibility or toxicity of a plethora of plant species, their ethnobotanical history, their occurrence and distribution, nativity, and overall importance to the economy, ecology, etc. For example, when folks discover the deliciousness that is Kudzu (*Pueraria montana*), they are often elated to learn that an invasive species could taste so divine! It brings them pleasure to remove a plant that destroys native plant communities and also pleases their stomachs!

There are already three more classes scheduled over the course of the next two months.

**Tell us what YOUR chapter is up to.
Send your Chapter Happenings to Sabalminor@fnps.org.**

UPCOMING EVENTS

NATIVE PLANT SHOW

APR 4-5, 2013 Kissimmee, FL

Florida's first all native plant industry tradeshow will take place Thursday and Friday, April 4-5, 2013. Hosted by the Florida Association of Native Nurseries (FANN), the show will feature native plant growers from across the state and showcase the diversity of Florida's native flora in cultivation. At the show, FANN will offer professional CEU courses for landscape architects, designers, installers, maintenance professionals and arborists both days. Demonstration landscapes will be installed on, selected from award-winning native landscape designs. More information about the design competition, CEU courses and the Native Plant Show can be found at www.nativeplantshow.com.

2013 BOD Meeting Schedule

APR 13: Executive Committee Meeting, Teleconference

May 16: Board Meeting, Jacksonville (at the Annual Conference)

**Meeting locations are subject to change.*

FNPS 2013 ANNUAL CONFERENCE: CELEBRATING LA FLORIDA, THE LAND OF FLOWERS MAY 16-19, 2013 Jacksonville, FL

This year's conference theme commemorates Ponce de Leon's naming of the greater Florida region when he landed here 500 years ago.

Join us for exciting field trips, inspiring keynote speakers, educational sessions, workshops and the best plant sale featuring growers from around the state.

The 2013 conference will be held at the University of North Florida in Jacksonville. Check out www.fnps.org/conference for details.

Online registration is now open!

Don't miss this unique "Real Florida" celebration!



Passiflora incarnata, Large Passion by Jim Draper
(Jacksonville, Florida), oil on canvas, 48 by 60 inches. Use of this image generously donated to FNPS for the 2013 Conference by Jim Draper.

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Shop online. Use GoodShop.com when you shop online and they'll donate a percentage of every purchase and offer over 100,000 coupons to help you save money too!

Dine out. Sign up for the GoodDining program and they'll donate a percentage of your restaurant bill when you eat at any one of thousands of participating restaurants.

It's easy and free! Visit GoodSearch.com for details and to get started!

Get Involved with FNPS!

There are many ways to get involved with the Florida Native Plant Society:

Serve Your Chapter. Chapters are the heart of FNPS. Participate in chapter initiatives such as plant sales or community events. Help with the chapter newsletter. Serve on a committee. Volunteer to lead a committee. Serve as an officer. Volunteer to speak. Contact an officer in your chapter to volunteer.

Serve on an FNPS Committee. FNPS has standing committees that always need assistance: Education, Science, Conservation, Land Management Partners, Policy, Membership, Finance, Communications, Website, Landscape Awards and Conference Committees. For details on what each committee does, visit www.fnps.org/participate/volunteer. To volunteer, contact our Executive Director at executivedirector@fnps.org.

Be an FNPS Officer. FNPS elects half of the officers annually. If you would like to serve as an officer, please contact the FNPS president at president@fnps.org.

Special Needs. FNPS always has special projects that require volunteers with special skills such as communications, public relations, accounting, legal and policy skills and/or interest — and just plain enthusiasm. We'll find a spot for you! If you have any of these skills, please contact the FNPS Executive Director at executivedirector@fnps.org.

2013 FLEPPC/SE-EPPC JOINT ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM: PLANT WARS: THE EPPCS STRIKE BACK

MAY 21-23, 2013 Edgewater Beach Resort, Panama City Beach, FL

For more information and to register, visit www.fleppc.org/Symposium/2013/.

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