

Sabal minor

A bi-monthly newsletter for the members of
THE FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY



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Message from the President

Dear fellow FNPS members,

It is an honor to be your newly elected President of the Florida Native Plant Society. I have been a member since 1982 and I've seen FNPS grow to approximately 3,000 members in 38 chapters. Through my eight years experience as chair of the Land Management Partners Committee, I have worked closely with over 100 FNPS members and the hard-working vice chairs, Danny Young and Kevin Love. I am excited to help FNPS continue to grow.

Last year, FNPS held strategic planning meetings under the direction of our past president, Steve Woodmansee, that were funded by a grant secured by FNPS Executive Director Kellie Westervelt. Based on these meetings, two changes were proposed: 1) to reduce the size of the board to more effectively conduct FNPS business; and 2) to create a Council of Chapters. Both of these changes were approved for adoption by the FNPS membership. The Council of Chapters promotes the mission of FNPS from the special point of view of chapters and their grassroots work in communities throughout Florida.

My goal for FNPS during the next two years is to strengthen and build connections. We can do this by sharing our passion for native



plants and plant communities through connecting networks in neighborhoods, towns, counties, and at the state level. We can also build on the concept that what is good for the Native Plant Society is good for society as a whole.

Education and outreach are important and integral parts of FNPS. Chapter meetings provide presentations and workshops on native plant identification and propagation and native plant house tours on a local scale. The annual conferences attract the general public and professionals to programs on urban landscaping, species conservation, habitat restoration and scientific studies. Working together, FNPS members can connect with our communities and promote our mission.

I am looking forward to working with everyone during the next two years strengthening and broadening our connections and promoting our FNPS mission to preserve, conserve and protect the native plants and native plant communities. I welcome your comments and suggestions. Please contact me at president@fnps.org.

Anne C. Cox
FNPS President, 2014-2016

Conservation Committee Report by Juliet Rynear, Chair

The Conservation Committee recommended and the board of directors approved two conservation grant awards for 2014. The awardees are:

- **Thomas Greene:** *Mapping Wet Prairies and Rare Species of Point Washington State Forest—2nd Year.* The second year of this project will complete the mapping of larger wet prairies; complete the update of historic Element Occurrences (EOs) of most rare or imperiled plant species; and continue mapping of new EOs of rare and imperiled plants on the 15,000-acre Point Washington State Forest in south Walton County.
- **The Friends of Boyd Hill Nature Preserve (Barbara Stalbird):** *Sand Scrub Conservation*

Project. This project will evaluate the current health and diversity of the sand scrub at Boyd Hill Nature Preserve in Pinellas County through a species inventory, an analysis of that inventory and recommendations for future management of the scrub in an effort to ensure the preservation of this imperiled native plant community.

The committee is currently working to update the FNPS 1988 "Transplanting Native Plants from the Wild" policy, in addition to revisiting a cultivation policy. A package of support materials is also being prepared to assist our members in understanding legal issues, botanical considerations (such as species ranges within the state), and policy implementation.

2014 Board of Directors Election Results

Elections for the FNPS Board of Directors were held at the annual meeting on May 17 at the 2014 Annual Conference. The results are:

- President: **Anne Cox** (Cocoplum Chapter)
- Vice President for Administration: **Debbie Chayet** (Pinellas Chapter)
- Vice President for Finance: **Devon Higginbotham** (Suncoast Chapter)
- Directors-at-large (2014–2016): **Dave Feagles, Jon Moore and Julie Wert**

They join Kim Zarillo (Treasurer) and Martha Steuart (Secretary) to complete the FNPS Board of Directors.

2014 Palmetto Awards

The Palmetto Awards are presented at the annual conference to distinguished members for their work for native plants and FNPS. They are nominated by individuals and chapters.

This year's winners of the **Green Palmetto for Service** are:

- **Eleanor Dietrich**
- **Tom Heitzman**
- **Anne Marie Loveridge**
- **Laurie Sheldon**
- **Troy Springer**
- **Linda Wilson**

This year's winners of the **Silver Palmetto for Mentor** are:

- **Catherine Bowman**
- **Dan Miller**

Council of Chapters

The FNPS Council of Chapters met for the first time at the 2014 annual conference. They now have a web page where you'll find resources for speakers and field trips, a how-to section on many topics of import, a calendar, a photo gallery and more. Keep up with their activities and progress at <http://council.fnpschapters.org>.

Communications Committee Report *by Shirley Denton, PhD, Chair*

As the new chair of this committee, I am both excited at the opportunities and instantly overwhelmed. We have a number of people who have volunteered to work on various aspects of communication—and we can always use more! The purpose of the Communications Committee is to enhance communications both within FNPS and between FNPS and the general public to better fulfill the mission of the Society.

One great idea has come out of our first committee phone meeting. We have long discussed the need for copy-ready articles that can be provided to local newspapers and weekly magazines. To that end, we are establishing a media link on our website intended for those reporters who scrounge for current information. On that link, we'll keep some current news item and also a library of material that they could pull from for additional information. Our bloggers have lots and lots of great articles that they have

already written, and Laurie Sheldon (Social Media Sub-Committee Chair) may be looking for assistance in converting some of those into a form oriented toward media publications. We also know that a number of chapters have materials that they have developed. Look for this resource to develop over the coming months.

We are also moving our websites. We outgrew our ultra-cheap hosting, so we are off on a new adventure—a virtual server hosted by what we hope will be a good service provider and located in Central Florida. Right now, both our webmaster, Paul Rebmann, and I are running on too little sleep! We have moved all of our chapter websites, but still have to clean up a laundry list of technical glitches. Our fnps.org website will soon be joining the chapter websites. Chapter webmasters will also be getting new password information soon, but if your chapter webmaster has changed and we do not know it, that webmaster needs to

contact us at webteam@fnps.org. Look forward to increased speed (our existing web host penalizes large websites by slowing them down) and new capabilities.

Another up-and-coming need is to update the FNPS handbook, which provides lots and lots of information for chapters and Society leadership. It needed updating before the Society reorganization started. It badly needs updating now. We have a volunteer who will handle the Wiki that we use to publish the handbook, but she is going to need lots of help. The biggest challenges here will be on the shoulders of the Council of Chapters, and they are already working hard to get themselves organized. Check out their new website at council.fnpschapters.org. We anticipate lots of updated and better information. If you have never visited the Wiki, you can get to it most easily from the Handbook Wiki link at the bottom of our website, www.fnps.org.

LMR: Big Bend Wildlife Management Area *by Hugh Boyter*

For over four decades, the state of Florida has operated the largest and most sophisticated conservation land acquisition program in the nation. Florida Forever is Florida's conservation and recreation lands acquisition program, replacing Preservation 2000, the largest acquisition program of its kind in the United States. Of the 9.9 million acres of conservation land in Florida, more than 2.4 million acres have been purchased under the Florida Forever and P2000 programs.

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of State Lands (DSL) is Florida's lead agency for environmental management and stewardship, serving as staff to the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund (Governor and Cabinet). DSL's role is to provide oversight for the management of activities on more than 12 million acres of public lands. Part of this role is to conduct land management reviews (LMRs) of the state conservation lands to be certain that the managing agencies (lessees) are managing and protecting resources according to their leases and approved management plans.

On April 7–9, 2014, DSL conducted an LMR on the Big Bend Wildlife Management Area (BBWMA) in Taylor County. It is managed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). The first two days were devoted to field inspection of the five BBWMA management units, comprising roughly 72,000 acres along 67 miles of coastal marshlands. The final morning was devoted to filling out forms and formulating statements of support and/or suggestions for improvement.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) lists approximately 18 natural plant communities for BBWMA and has discovered eight rare plant species, including four state endangered species: beaked spikerush (*Eleocharis rostellata*),



Sandhill spiny pod (Matelea pubiflora). Native, Endangered State of Florida. Photo by Robert Fewster, courtesy of the Atlas of Florida Vascular Plants, University of South Florida

pinewoods dainties (*Phyllanthus liebmannianus platylepis*), sandhill spiny pod (*Matelea pubiflora*) and pond spice (*Litsea aestivalis*) and four state threatened species (corkwood (*Leitneria floridana*), Chapman's sedge (*Carex chapmanii*), palegreen orchid [aka gypsy-spikes] (*Platanthera flava*), and Southern crabapple (*Malus angustifolia*). Sandhill spiny pod is the only rare species that occurs in the actively managed portions of the WMA, and it responds well to the burning and other management prescriptions carried out by FWC. FNAI has stated that none of these species require special management considerations aside from avoiding disturbance. FWC staff is attempting to become familiar with existing locations, and to document discovery of previously unknown locations of these species. They welcome assistance from the Magnolia and Sparkleberry/Sarracenia Chapters of FNPS in locating known rare species and in discovering new ones.

Specific FWC management activities of note include mowing and planting programs. In certain sections of the BBWMA road shoulder, mowing is delayed in the fall to allow flower maturation to benefit pollinators (i.e., butterflies, bees, wasps, etc.) and to provide visitor

viewing opportunities. FWC managers are also converting some old logging decks to native grasses, forbs, flowering plants and fruiting plants (e.g., *Vaccinium* spp., persimmon, etc.) to benefit wildlife and pollinator species.

Altogether, BBWMA is an important state-owned coastal acquisition that is being managed to benefit both land-based native plant and animal species and the aquatic plants and animals comprising the offshore Big Bend Seagrass Aquatic Preserve, the most productive nursery ground in the Gulf of Mexico. Because of the relatively low staffing levels of FWC and other natural resource management agencies, FNPS should continue its cooperative partnership with FWC and DSL in perpetuity and look for ways to assist these land management efforts.

Conference photos on Flickr!

Did you miss this year's amazing conference in Ft. Myers? Well, fret not. You can check out all the action in our Flickr gallery of conference photos. Visit www.flickr.com/photos/fnps/ and click on the FNPS 2014 Conference album (or go directly to the album at www.flickr.com/photos/fnps/sets/72157644756084604/) to see what you missed!

Your photos wanted!

Do you have photographs from the conference that you would like to share with other FNPS members? We would love to help you share them! Please send an email to WebTeam@fnps.org and we will coordinate getting your photos on Flickr.

A Conference Experience *by Sid Taylor*

My interest in the many archaeological sites of the Calusa took me to this year's conference in Ft. Myers. On Thursday, I joined Dick Workman at the Randell Research Center in Pineland, along with Cindy Bear, the Center's Coordinator of Programs. The building and its electric bill are funded by the Florida Museum of Natural History at the University of Florida in Gainesville. If you haven't visited the museum, do! The Calusa exhibit and their throne room are based on the Brown Mound excavations on Pine Island in Lee County. For more information, visit www.flmnh.ufl.edu/RRC.

Dick shared the ethnobotany of the Calusa. He has been experimenting with the natural material, including sisal (*Agave* spp.) to emulate the aboriginal techniques for basket and clothing creations. He has a skirt of Spanish moss with a palm frond woven waistband—his own idea.

We took a group photo under a huge gumbo limbo (native) that we estimated to be 125 years old, established when whites moved to the island. The 62 acres supports many of the trees; the Calusas' use for them was ceremonial incense.

Surprisingly, the Calusa lived at Pine Island as late as 1710. Centered there, Calos (Caalos) was chief (cacique) of at least 50 communities, distributed mainly from Charlotte Harbor to Estero Bay, but spreading from modern day Tampa, east to Lake Okeechobee and south through the Florida Keys. Numbers at the time of

contact with Ponce de Leon (1513) are estimated from 4,000 to 7,000 people.

One of the conference sessions featured Theresa Schober, who presented "The Culture and Natural Landscapes of La Florida before 1513: An Archaeological and Ethnohistorical Approach." She believes the Calusa were a viable culture for 1500 years. Visit www.trailofthelosttribes.org for a brochure of other sites to visit.

The International Partnership on Climate Change statistics were reported in a session by Dr. Don Chambers, Associate Professor at the University of South Florida's College of Marine Science. Carbon has never been above 280ppm in the atmosphere until now. It is averaging 400 ppm and has exceeded the same in this last year. Remember: Climate is not the same thing as weather. We have to look at long-term data (decade-by-decade) to interpret upward or downward trends in climate change. Ninety-three percent of the energy from the sun is stored in the oceans, with 60–70 percent in the upper levels and 30–40 percent deep in the oceans. Four percent of the total energy is that which is melting the Earth's ice.

Dr. Jim Wohlpart, Dean of Undergraduate Studies and Professor of Environmental Literature at our conference host site, Florida Gulf Coast University, also included global warming in his presentation, "Remembering Sacred Reason: Global Warming, Sense of Place,

and Native Species." He stated, "Epistemology is the study of how we know [our] world and thus [our] ethic which flows out of [our] epistemology. We need a new ethic for the 21st Century." We have historically treated the world around us as our resources (to use and abuse) and we have had no ethical misgivings about this as we have been disconnected from the Earth. E. O. Wilson's book, *The Future of Life*, makes a passionate and eloquent plea for a new approach to the management and protection of our ecosystems. Marshaling arguments from science, economics, and ethics, he demonstrates that proper stewardship of the Earth's biodiversity is not an option—it is a necessity and a choice we must make if life is going to continue to thrive on the only home we have. We need to take steps toward a new ethic first or environmental engineering will not be adequate to do the job ahead of us. Wohlpart's suggested reading list includes Linda Hogan's *The Dwellings*, and in particular, an essay entitled, "The Feathers"; *Unspoiled: Writers Speak for Florida's Coast*, edited by Wohlpart, Janisse Ray and Susan Cerulean just before the Deep Horizon oil spill; and for the political science side of climate change, David Orr's *Down to the Wire: Confronting Climate Collapse* and James Howard Kunstler's *The Long Emergency: Surviving the End of Oil, Climate Change, and Other Converging Catastrophes of the Twenty-First Century*.

2014–2015 BOD and Ex-Comm Meetings

Teleconference meeting

Thursday, July 17, 2014, 7:00p.m.

Check the FNPS Forum for the agenda.

BOD meeting with Council of Chapters Saturday, August 16, 2014, Orlando

Meeting will include workshops and training sessions. (Location TBD)

Annual Board Retreat

Saturday–Sunday, February 7–8, 2015, Archbold Biological Station, Venus, FL

The retreat will be full of workshops, plant identification, plant walks, land management (mostly outside in the scrub) and learning more about Florida's native plants and plant communities. Lots of fun in Florida's native scrub plant community at Archbold. All members are invited. The more, the merrier!

Check the Society Calendar at fnps.org/events/eventlist for updates.

Science Advisory Committee: 2014 Endowment Research Grant Awards

by Paul Schmalzer, Chair

FNPS received 16 applications for Endowment Research Grant Awards this year. They were reviewed by committee members Dr. Richard Wunderlin, University of South Florida; Dr. Joyce Maschinski, Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden; Dr. John Moore, Florida Atlantic University; Kim Zarillo; and Dr. Paul Schmalzer, chair.

Funding was available for three \$1,500 awards (total \$4500) and included earnings from the FNPS endowment, a \$1,500 contribution from the Tarflower Chapter in honor of Sam Hopkins, and a \$500 donation from the Sea Rocket Chapter.

Three applications were recommended by the review committee and approved by the Board of Directors. These are:

- **Dr. Jennifer L. Schafer, Dept. of Plant Biology, North Carolina State University:** "Population density and root nodulation of *Chapmannia floridana* in natural and disturbed habitats." This project, to be conducted at Archbold Biological Station, will compare populations of the endemic *Chapmannia floridana* in natural (rosemary scrub, scrubby flatwoods) and disturbed habitats (scrub, roadsides, pastures), as well as the degree of root nodulation of *Chapmannia*

in these habitats. Root nodules in the Fabaceae (pea) family indicate the presence of symbiotic, nitrogen-fixing bacteria.

- **Dr. John J. Schenk, Dept. of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Tulane University:** "Evolutionary origins of *Paronychia* on Florida's sand ridges." This project is funded by Tarflower Chapter's donation. It will examine the seven Florida species of *Paronychia* across the state's different sand ridge systems using field, ecological, and genetic approaches to determine whether speciation, endemism, and ecological differences are related to sand ridge formation and imply *Paronychia*'s migration history into Florida.
- **Wyatt Sharber, Dept. of Biology, University of Miami:** "Estimating genetic diversity and population fragmentation in the South Florida Pine Rockland endemic, *Ayenia euphrasiifolia*." *Ayenia euphrasiifolia* is a pine rockland endemic now limited to fragmented habitat in Miami-Dade County and Everglades National Park. This project will use population genetic techniques to compare genetic diversity among and gene flow between fragmented populations. This information should inform conservation efforts in South Florida pine rocklands.

Chapter Happenings

Conradina Chapter will host their 5th annual **Native Plant Garden Tour** on October 11, 2014. Five to six homeowners, whose yards are landscaped with 80 to 100% native plants, volunteer to allow a few hundred visitors to tour their yards. Several yards have been on the tour a few times to show how they mature and are maintained. Both mainland and beachside yards are featured. **Please join them for the tour.** Tickets in the form of a brochure are only \$5 each. Check their website (conradina.fnpschapters.org) or visit Maple Street Natives plant nursery in West Melbourne to purchase tickets.

Heartland Chapter hosted professional naturalist, author, botanist and photographer (and favored friend of FNPS), **Roger Hammer** on June 17 at the Circle B Bar Reserve in Lakeland. Hammer spoke on the “Wildflowers of the Everglades.”

Hernando Chapter has been assisting with a native landscape in Hernando Beach. With the help of many dedicated volunteers from the community, as well as **Nature Coast Chapter** members, a great variety of Florida natives have been planted. Volunteers also mulched, watered, weeded and helped stabilize the banks of a small pond on the site where a selection of aquatics will be installed. One large, female weeping yaupon holly will be purchased as a specimen tree. Wildflowers will continue to be added to provide blooms and color in different seasons. Future plans include installing a bench, labeling the plants, and developing interpretive signage.

On July 7, Hernando Chapter will celebrate native plants in the home landscape with their **Annual Garden Party!** Members bring digital images for the annual show-and-tell of progress in their landscapes—or lack thereof!—and are encouraged to bring cuttings for identification, or even a bouquet from their yards. Festive garden hats are definitely appropriate attire for this event!

The chapter has convened the **Hernando County Wildflower Resolution Committee**. In order to qualify for grants and technical assistance for roadside beautification, the Board of County Commissioners must pass a Wildflower Resolution. Many Florida counties have done this, including nearby Sumter and Hillsborough. The first meeting was productive and resulted in assignments for fact finding on county and DOT practices, and responsibilities and natural areas initiatives. This program is intended to protect and plant native species on roadsides and promises to be a powerful means to benefit wildlife habitat and create ecotourism interest in Hernando County.

Lake Beautyberry Chapter will, for the 3rd year in a row, be a partner in Lake County's **Wings and Wildflowers Festival**, October

3–5, 2014. This premier event will take place at the Venetian Gardens in Leesburg, will feature field trips in birding hotspots and wildflower havens, and will bring some of the nation's best birding, wildflower and nature experts to the area to share their knowledge. This year's keynote speakers are Greg Miller, the inspiration behind the star-studded film *The Big Year*, Stacy Tornio, editor of *Birds & Blooms* magazine, and Roger Hammer, award-winning naturalist and author. For more information, to view the schedule of events, and to register, visit www.wingsandwildflowers.org or call 352-742-3924.



Longleaf Pine Chapter members enjoyed a special presentation entitled “Native *Hypericum* Species of the Pensacola Area” by their own **James R. Burkhalter**, curator of the Michael I. Cousens Herbarium of the University of West Florida, at its April meeting. Specimens from the Cousens Herbarium were used as an integral part of the presentation, which afforded attendees the unique experience of seeing all 20 *Hypericum* species in one place at the same time.

Magnolia Chapter members, along with **Sparkleberry Chapter** members, made a worthy showing at the Florida Folk Festival at Stephen Foster State Folk Culture Center State Park over Memorial Day weekend. The chapters set up educational exhibits side by side, sharing an FNPS sign. Magnolia displayed a multitude of fresh-cut colorful roadside wildflowers with identification tags and a “Name that ditch weed” sign. They also had field guides and handouts and promoted Amendment 1. Sparkleberry displayed bales of pine needles (suggesting their use as mulch), a poster on how to tell the region's pine species apart, and a colorful multi-brochure holder. Volunteers talked to attendees, made referrals to chapters, and got volunteer sign ups for “Vote Yes on 1.” Live music and children playing on the grass made for a delightful setting. The chapters' promotion of Florida's natural heritage and attractive display received many appreciative comments from visitors.

Mangrove Chapter had an eventful showing at the 2014 FNPS Annual Conference. The chapter received a **Landscape Award of Excellence** for their Butterfly/Demonstration Garden at Cedar Point Environmental Center in Englewood (see article below). Member **Linda Wilson** received a **Green Palmetto Award for Service**. And members **Denny Girard** and **Al Squires** led a very successful field trip to Babcock-Webb WMA where,

thanks to the assistance of **Shirley Denton** and **Sonya Guidry**, at least 32 specimens of the pretty false pawpaw (*Deeringothamnus rugelii* var. *pulchellus*) were located.

Pawpaw Chapter held its 3rd annual **Rugel's Roundup** on May 10, 2014, at Tiger Bay State Forest with 22 citizen scientists participating. The only place in the world where Rugel's false pawpaw (*Deeringothamnus rugelii*) is found is Volusia County. The Pawpaw Chapter has taken on the annual documentation of the occurrence of this rare pawpaw. This year's citizen scientist survey team ranged in age from 11 to 81+ and was composed of FNPS members, high school and college students, adult volunteers, Volusia County land managers Richard Harris and Danielle Ivey, Tiger Bay Forester Cathy Lowenstein, and FNPS member-experts **Dr. Eliane Norman**, **Dr. Don Spence** (with his 11-year-old son, Nat), and **Paul Rebmann**, all under the direction of FNPS LMR Committee Chair **Danny Young**.



Rugel's false pawpaw (Deeringothamnus rugelii)

Pinelily Chapter had an exhibit at this year's Epcot Flower and Garden Festival. Members talked with over 200 people each day, many of them local residents. The festival attracts local people who want ideas for their own gardens and yards. This year featured a Florida native section.

Other chapters are welcome and encouraged to join them next year and help spread the message about native plants! The exposure attracted people to their FNPS and local master gardener plant sale. (Pine Lily brings native plants to the master gardener plant sale and shares the profit.)

Pine Lily Chapter supplied and set up most of the plants at the Osceola County Fair IFAS/County Extension exhibit. They knew their exhibit was popular when visitors brought their children and families in to photograph them in front of their native plant display!

The chapter also joined Kissimmee Valley Audubon Society to bring native plants to the Audubon Center for Birds of Prey's Baby Owl Shower. For the first time, they sold native plants at the shower, with all of the profits going back to the Center for Birds of Prey.

Chapter Happenings (cont.)

Sea Rocket Chapter held a native plant sale on June 7 at Brevard County's Enchanted Forest, in conjunction with the Merritt Island Ace Hardware Pond Tour.

On July 20, they are hosting their **annual summer picnic and cookout** at Fox Lake Park in Titusville. The event will include a hay ride, guided hikes on the park's newly opened trails, plant ID contest, and other traditional summertime games like horseshoes and croquet. The chapter is providing hamburgers, hot dogs and beverages and members are encouraged to bring a covered dish.

Suncoast Chapter initiated a **membership drive** on May 21 that will run until their December Christmas party. Their goal is to move from 8th place (according to the April 2014 Summary Membership Report) to 4th place and all they need is 17 new members! **Of course, if any other chapters would like to challenge them, they are prepared for the race and say, "bring it on!!"**

To the top four recruiters, the chapter is offering a \$75 gift card to a native nursery; a one-day 2015 conference registration; a one-hour yard cleanup by Springer Environmental with a three-man crew; and a signed and framed scrub jay print.

Through the urging of the Suncoast chapter, Hillsborough County recently enacted the **Florida Wildflower Foundation's resolution** to protect wildflowers. The county has gone one step further by establishing four roadside plantings of wildflowers throughout the county with signs designating the "Do Not Mow" areas. Suncoast is urging the county to work with the Florida Wildflower Foundation to determine the best type of flowers, most ideal planting dates and methods of cultivation to get these natural areas started and to continue this project in perpetuity.

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

The deadline for the
September–October 2014 issue
is August 1, 2014.

Want to know what else FNPS is up to?

Find us or follow us at:

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 fnpsblog.blogspot.com

 twitter.com/FNPSonline

 [flickr.com/photos/fnps](https://www.flickr.com/photos/fnps)

Landscape Award of Excellence: Mangrove Chapter's native plant demonstration garden

The Mangrove Chapter sponsored a demonstration garden at Cedar Point Environmental Park in Englewood (Charlotte County). The park has been managed by the Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center (CHEC) since 1994. The initial development began in January, 2008, starting with the neglected "butterfly garden" near the park's educational building, which had very few butterfly larval food sources and many non-native plants. An adjacent 3,500 square feet of overgrown saw palmettos, lyonia, rosary pea, grapevine and smilax was also targeted.

Native invasives, such as grapevine and smilax, and all non-native plants were removed. Most of the lyonia, slash pine, pawpaw, saw palmetto, and red cedar were left in their original locations and were used to design beds and to create paths, allowing the garden to take on a natural, rather than formal appearance. Several memorial trees including red maple, dahoon holly, red cedar, and mulberry were already planted along the outer border of this area, and were incorporated into the design, as were a number of original butterfly plants. The overall objective was to promote butterfly-attracting and larval host plants, showcase endangered plants, and install representative naturally occurring plant species. It is an educational site where the public can see native plants in their natural habitat, recognize their beauty, and be encouraged to incorporate them into their home landscape.

Planting began in March 2008 with a variety of endangered plants from Bok Tower Gardens. These were planted to provide a showcase of Florida endangered plants and to see if they would flourish outside their natural range. Next, 45 plants representing 30 species were purchased using funds from a micro-grant from the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program (CHNEP). No soil amendments other than dirt provided by the county from local sources were used. Pine needles and native mulch sources were used for weed control. There is no irrigation system.

A grant from FNPS allowed the purchase of aluminum signs listing common and scientific names, and designating plants that were endangered (see *The Palmetto*, Fall/Winter 2009). Subsequent support for signs, plants and

other improvements came from grants from the chapter's annual public outreach program, "Plant Native Day," which is funded from micro-grants from CHNEP.

Over the years, the garden has expanded to other nearby areas, and two arbor-style trellises were installed to encourage vines such as passionvine, coral honeysuckle, crossvine and trumpetvine to round out the plant diversity. Concrete pavers were used to create paths in the garden and maintain handicap access.

As the native garden has matured, it has attracted more birds and a more plentiful assortment of butterflies. Water features (four birdbaths at various heights and locations) also attract birds to the garden, while the berry-producing native shrubs and trees (such as mulberry and holly) are now established enough to provide fall and winter food for migrating and resident birds. Slash pines and cedars, along with the deciduous trees and palmettos, offer additional canopy.

The garden is maintained by a work group comprised of chapter members and CHEC volunteers that meet once a week, year-round, for the purpose of maintaining the garden by hand-watering, weeding, pruning, deadheading, transplanting, potting, and other improvement projects.

A mailbox in the garden contains various educational materials such as the chapter calendar, information on local nurseries, and pamphlets such as "Florida Wildflowers & Butterflies" or "Monarchs and Milkweeds." Tours of the garden are offered on request or in conjunction with chapter-sponsored events or workshops.

The garden has been recognized as a Florida-friendly model landscape by the Florida Yards & Neighborhoods; a Certified Butterfly Garden by the North American Butterfly Association; and has received the Beautification Award from the Englewood-Cape Haze Area Chamber of Commerce (December 2009) in recognition of our aesthetic contribution to our community. All of this serves to impress upon the public that there is some merit to using native plants in their landscape plans.

Congratulations to the Mangrove Chapter on receiving the Landscape Award of Excellence and on the success of their demonstration garden!



In other news...

- On May 29, Washington County Board of County Commissioners became the 27th Florida county to pass a **Wildflower Resolution**. Read more at <http://fosterfollynews.com/2014/05/30/wildflowers-matter-in-washington-county/>.

- A recent **Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) study** conservatively estimated that roadside vegetation along the state highway system performs nearly a half-billion dollars worth of ecosystem services (including carbon sequestration, runoff prevention, and support of crop pollinators and other insects, as well as contributions to air quality, invasive species resistance and roadside aesthetics). The study found that value would increase to \$1 billion if sustainable vegetation management practices such as reduced mowing were adopted, and it would triple if wildflower areas were

incorporated into roadside landscapes.

The Florida Wildflower Foundation (FWF) requested the study on behalf of the Florida Native Plant Partnership, which includes FWF, Florida Association of Native Nurseries, Florida Native Plant Society, and Florida Wildflower Plant and Seed Growers Association. To read the full release online or to view the full FDOT report, visit www.FlaWildflowers.org.

- Ten Southwest Florida counties, municipalities and organizations have joined to engage and educate their citizens on the responsible use of fertilizer, and to inform them of how over-fertilization impacts water quality, quality of life and the local economy. They created a “slime monster” character to help spread the word about the importance of fertilizing properly. The slime monster symbolizes the

effect of over-fertilization and runoff. The campaign will demonstrate the dangers of “feeding the monster.” For community fertilizer regulations or additional information, visit www.fertilizesmart.com.

- On June 4, the Florida Governor and Cabinet issued a resolution recognizing the **Florida Wildlife Corridor** as a visionary project to connect the remaining natural lands, waters, working farms, forests and ranches from the Everglades to Georgia. To read the resolution, visit www.floridawildlifecorridor.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/FL_Wildlife_Corridor_Resolution.pdf. The next Florida Wildlife Corridor Expedition kicks off on October 11. The team will be heading west to expand the statewide vision to Alabama. For more information, visit www.FloridaWildlifeCorridor.org.

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Melbourne, FL 32902-0278

For Pine Lovers Only!

The perfect parcel of pine-land is for sale near Homestead, FL. This lovely, vacant one-acre tract is adjacent to an EEL property, so it is quiet and secluded, yet still near town—a rarity in Florida! The front half of the property is clear and buildable, while the remaining land is like being in a large, wooded preserve. Taxes are low. The parcel is located on SW 152 Ave., just north of 272 St. (33032).

They asking price is \$85,000. If you are interested, or would like more information, please contact Liz at 305-281-6166 or 305-248-2748.



FNPS Native Plant Landscape Demonstration Areas

by Karina Veaudry

FNPS Landscape Committee member Jim Helmers has compiled a list of places where the public can view native plant landscapes. The goal is to increase interest in native plants for Florida landscapes and to attract members of the public who want to learn about and see native landscapes.

You can view the map and addresses by selecting the “Gardens with Natives” link under the “Native Plants” menu tab on our website or going directly to www.fnps.org/natives/gardens_with_natives.

The listed sites include native landscapes in varied public places such as parks, botanical gardens, libraries, government buildings, churches, resorts, roadsides, etc.

Please view the information and if you know of a native plant landscape that can be added, contact Jim Helmers at helmers6@aol.com. By recommending additional sites, you can assist FNPS in expanding this excellent tool for advocacy.