

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 members,

Fall has arrived in Florida, along with FNPS chapters in full swing after the hot, busy summer. There is lots of activity among the chapters—from wildflowers and insects, to pollution in the Indian River, to restoration of habitats, to creating backyard biodiversity—everything native. Check out the events calendar on the FNPS website for meetings, plant walks and special topics. You may have missed Dr. Walter Taylor who spoke to the Hernando Chapter on October 13, Nature Coast Chapter on October 14, and Suncoast Chapter on October 15—so make sure you check fnps.org/events/eventlist regularly.

August 16 Retreat: The FNPS Board and Council of Chapters joint meeting, held on August 16 at Horseshoe Lake Park and Retreat (HLPR) near Ocala, was a huge success, with meetings and workshops for all attending. **Karina Veaudry** led the workshop on Landscape Projects and Issues; **Shirley Denton** had an interactive presentation on FNPS web and Forum use; and **Kellie Westervelt** presented “How to Write and Implement Work Plans”. A potluck lunch was the hit of the day with delicious dishes served from HLPR’s spacious kitchen. Approximately 20 FNPS members stayed over in the bunkhouse and cabin facilities—a real treat for FNPS members who had traveled long distances to attend the meeting. Several plant walks occurred throughout the weekend and a hearty group set out in canoes on the small lake Sunday morning. A plant list was compiled by **Carol Sullivan** (Sparkelberry Chapter), with the majority of plants in the list contributed by **Scott Davis** (Magnolia Chapter). The list was sent to the Marion County Parks and Recreation Department for the rangers at HLPR and their “Lodge Notebooks.”

Members of the Council of Chapters met in groups on three initiatives:

- promoting landscaping with Florida Native plants
- enhancing educational field trips
- developing strategies and advocacy for land use planning to address habitat loss.

Please follow the Council’s progress on their web page at council.fnpschapters.org. Perhaps



FNPS Board retreat at Horseshoe Lake Park

there will be more time for Council breakout work sessions at the November 15 meeting at the Disney Wilderness Preserve (see calendar, page 4).

2015 Annual Conference: The Society is sponsoring the **2015 conference, “Born to Burn,” to be held May 28–31 in Tallahassee.** The conference venue, chosen by the Magnolia Chapter in the Downtown Market area, is the Challenger Learning Center (CLC), with evening venues at the Capital Building, Wakulla Springs State Park and Tall Timbers Research Station. The hotel for the conference will be the Aloft, located several blocks from the Downtown Market. Field trips and workshops are being scheduled for Thursday and Sunday mornings. Speakers and workshops will be available on Friday and Saturday. FNPS members of chapters in Northwest Florida will assist with the conference to promote the mission of FNPS.

Committee News: The Conservation and Education Committees proposed and the Board approved a policy to change the wording of the mission to Conservation, Preservation and Restoration (CPR). It was believed the acronym CPR would help increase public awareness and will bring attention to the FNPS purpose. The Articles of Incorporation or other legal documents will be updated as necessary.

The Membership Committee is now a sub-committee under the Finance Committee. Membership managers in Chapters are requested to provide feedback on how to increase membership throughout the society.

Paul Schmalzer, Science Committee Chair,

has submitted a “Call for Papers” for the 2015 conference. See page 2 for details.

The Education Committee is working with Jennifer Brown of Into Nature Films to begin filming “Walk with the Wildflowers” at Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park on November 1. The film will feature naturalist Roger Hammer and ecologist Craig Huegel as field guides. A draft will be vetted by the Science Committee and then the Communications Committee will assist in delivering the final product via social media and other internet sources. This looks to be an exciting project for FNPS.

The Land Management Partners Committee consistently provides FNPS members for the FDEP Land Management Reviews and participation at the Management Advisory Groups (MAGS). The goal again this year for LMR participation is 100%. Thanks to Kevin Love, Vice Chair, for the great scheduling.

The Finance Committee held several online meetings to update the draft Action Plan for Economic Development. **FNPS members with development experience are needed for this committee.**

Coccoloba Chapter has partnered with Lowe’s with the goal of making native plants more readily available to the general public. See the article on page 3 for details.

For more information on committee activities, visit the Forum (under Board of Directors) and read the monthly reports.

FNPS members: Please visit our FNPS website and calendar. Get involved and help promote the mission of FNPS—the conservation, preservation, and restoration of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida.

Anne C. Cox
FNPS President, 2014–2016

Florida Native Plant Society

P.O. Box 278, Melbourne, FL 32902-0278
321-271-6702 • Fax: 815-361-9166

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www.fnps.org • info@fnps.org

President: Anne Cox, email: president@fnps.org

Sabal minor editor, Stacey Matrazzo, email: sabalminor@fnps.org

Chapter Happenings

Cuplet Fern Members Build Florida Native Bee Nest

Boxes by Neta Villalobos-Bell

It started with one Cuplet Fern Chapter member, **Jane Miller**, who suggested our chapter build Florida native bee nest boxes to sell at our monthly meetings and at events that we attend. That single and simple suggestion encouraged three other members to volunteer on this project. **Richard Poole** builds the nest boxes and donates the wood he uses; **Susan Ghrist** collects and cleans bamboo shoots donated by her neighbor and then delivers them for use in the boxes; and **Ken Bell** measures, cuts, and assembles the hollow bamboo tubes into the nest boxes.

Although there are over 300 species of native bees in Florida, not all use the same type of nests. Most nest in underground tunnels, but some nest in hollow twigs and stems, thus the bamboo tube nest boxes. The cavity (bamboo tube) nesters are mason bees and leafcutter bees. They are gentle, do not sting, and are great pollinators.

Feedback from buyers shows that the bamboo tubes are being used. You can tell they are in use because the entrance ends are mudded up. The females lay their eggs, one in front of the other, in the tube, adding a small amount of pollen for the emerging larva to feed on and a plug of mud to separate it from the next egg. This procedure is continued until the entire tube is filled. Then they move to the next tube and start the process over. The eggs pupate into larvae that become adults to emerge in the spring and start the life cycle again.

Due to habitat loss, many of our hollow twig and stem bee nesters have nowhere to lay eggs. You can help. Explore the internet for a variety of nest box options to build.



Richard Poole assembles a nest box.



Nest box with tubes "mudded up."

FINAL REMINDER FOR CHAPTERS

Effective January 2015, FNPS Administrative Services will no longer produce monthly chapter membership reports. All chapters must begin to obtain member contact information from the FNPS website, using online "Chapter Membership Tools" available upon login with chapter credentials. All chapters should immediately begin to transition their preparation of mailing labels, email lists, and other member contact information based upon website access and download. For additional information, please contact info@fnps.org.

Cocoplum Chapter was represented by Conservation Committee Chair **Joan Bausch** at a comment meeting conducted by FDEP and SFWMD on the proposed Sugar Hill development in Hendry County. She presented a statement of "myth vs. fact," and requested that the same land be purchased as a critical component of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan and used for moving water south.

Mangrove Chapter members were introduced to the "Five Species of Ground Cherry" at their October meeting. Later that month, they sponsored a presentation at a local county park, "Protecting the Coastal Waterfront with Florida-friendly Natives." At their November meeting, a guest speaker will talk about "Wild Mushrooms in Their Florida Habitats."

On **November 22**, members will again participate in the annual **Charlotte Harbor Nature Festival**, sponsored by the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program. The chapter will offer homegrown plants, as well as an assortment of nursery-grown natives at their booth while promoting FNPS and handing out literature.

Naples Chapter met for their season opening Annual Picnic at Naples Preserve on September 25. Twenty-three members and guests enjoyed a potluck dinner and lots of networking time. A planned boardwalk tour was cancelled due to heavy rain but a couple of brave souls checked it out anyway. Schedules for the new year were passed out and several members signed up for upcoming outreach events. It was good to see some old faces again and meet some new ones.

On November 4, they will host Janice Duquesnel, a Florida State Parks biologist, who will speak on "Rare Keys Plants and Their Conservation."

Pine Lily Chapter member **Jenny Welch** appeared on "Kissimmee FYI," a program produced by Access Osceola, a government access TV channel owned by the City of Kissimmee. During her segment, Jenny showcased native plants that can be used instead of invasives. She promoted FNPS and the Pine Lily chapter, as well as the county's master gardener plant sale where the chapter sells native plants, the Twin Oaks Conservation Area where people can go to see native plants, the chapter's upcoming birding class, and their eagle watch program.

The episode will run through October on Brighthouse channel 199 in Kissimmee and unincorporated parts of Osceola County. Those outside of the area can watch it online at www.kissimmee.org/index.aspx?page=217.

Pinellas Chapter invite all to join their friendly group at their monthly meetings on the first Wednesday of each month at 7p.m. at Moccasin Lake Nature Park located at 2750 Park Trail Lane in Clearwater. On November 5, the topic will be "**How big is your carbon footprint?—Low emission lifestyles** and the difference individuals and communities can make in reducing their carbon footprint and mitigating climate change." On December 3, **Roger Hammer** will present "**Wild orchids of Florida.**" If you are interested in Florida's native orchids, you won't want to miss this fun and informative program. That night will also be the chapter's annual **Holiday Conservation Celebration** so mark your calendar for this special event! **NOTE: The Dec. 3 meeting will be at the Pinellas County Extension Office, located at 12520 Ulmerton Rd. in Largo.**

Suncoast Chapter is once again planning a **weekend camping trip**. On **November 7-9**, they are heading to **Mike Roess Gold Head Branch State Park in Keystone Heights** for a weekend of hiking in one of the oldest state parks in Florida among 2,000 acres of rolling sandhills, marshes, ravines, lakes and scrub located midway between Gainesville and Jacksonville. They have reserved five cabins, some built by the Civilian Conservation Corp in the 1930s, and numerous camp sites for our hardier members. Potluck dinners are planned, as well as conversations around the campfire and plenty of botanizing. If you are interested in joining them, reserve your campsite today, but remember, FNPS members only!

Tell us what YOUR chapter is up to. Send your "Chapter Happenings" to Sabalminor@fnps.org.
The deadline for the January–February, 2015 issue is December 1, 2014.

Coccoloba and Lowe's—Making great strides for native plants *by Marlene Rodak*

The Coccoloba Chapter's goal is to make native plants more readily available to the general public. Beyond that, we want to make native plants more visible to garden center/nursery staff and the general public.

To achieve our goals, our chapter approached a single neighborhood Lowe's store and asked the assistant store manager if we could promote the native plants that they already carry. The assistant manager agreed to allow us to do that, asking questions like, "Will you bring your own table?" "Will you have a backdrop?" etc. She also asked that we set up on Saturday, July 5, because it would be a busy day.

On July 5, we "worked" that Lowe's store. As promised, we promoted native plants and all that Lowe's is doing so well. We DID NOT send customers anywhere else for plants or discuss invasive exotics that were for sale in the store. When customers came in, we greeted them with, "Hi. We're here promoting native plants at Lowe's today. Are you familiar with native plants?" It was a friendly greeting that invited conversation.

That store LOVED US! They agreed to share us with another store. The new store called the first store to check us out before they agreed to let us in. We were given a rave review by the initial store, and the second store's general manager called me immediately to confirm the dates. So, we worked two days each at two different Lowe's stores over Labor Day weekend, four days total.

Now, this is no small effort that we make. We have a coordinated effort with Lee County Natural Resources, UF/IFAS Extension Services, Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program and others. We are able to develop a relationship with store staff to provide support to them for their customers. As a matter of fact, the live nursery manager has since called me to get information while a customer was standing in front of her. We are able to explain the fertilizer ordinance in a very detailed manner to employees. We walk through the aisles and show them what can be used legally and what cannot. We give customers a plant selection guide to help them make smart selections about native and Florida-friendly plants. We promote Extension Services and the Horticulture Help Desk. We are also able to promote upcoming classes and events.

Prior to these events, we created a flyer and sent an electronic copy of it along with a press release to the store. The store can make copies of the flyer and distribute it themselves. Once we get approval on the very general press release, we sent it to the papers and media. We posted the flyer on Facebook and got the info out everywhere we could. Then, when Lowe's customers are walking in with pieces of plants in baggies, everybody knows they are looking for us! When they ask for us when we're not there, the store KNOWS we're being effective in bringing in customers. It works out really well. The event was publicized in local newspapers and reported on the TV news.

So, on the Monday of Labor Day weekend, the store manager met us in the garden center as soon as we got set up. He asked if we would do more events at the store. We agreed to pursue a native plant sale in their Christmas tree tent after Christmas, although I don't think that will happen.

As you know, Lowe's suppliers simply don't have the native plants to supply. The truth of the matter is that we can't even work two days in the store because they don't have enough native plants for us to sell. We even pulled Florida-friendly things that were attracting butterflies and had caterpillars to education consumers on how they should select plants that will be eaten by insects. Because the plant lists are set once a year, we don't have much flexibility there. So, we simply cannot commit to having a native plant sale when we don't know that we'll have any native plants to sell.

Therefore, we are moving on to more nurseries. Our goal is for our chapter and like-minded partners to spend one day "working" in each nursery in Lee County to promote native plants. We'll do our usual press releases and flyers to promote the event to assure a positive experience for the nurseries. As we can, we'll write articles for the newspapers and do native plantings at parks and schools to promote the cause. We have learned that we must promote our chapter and get the word out as much as possible.

And because Lee County Natural Resources was so pleased with our outreach efforts at Lowe's, they bought us 10,000 plant pot stakes to use on native plants in nurseries so we can make native plants more identifiable to garden staff and customers. With store permission, we have labeled the native plants in the two Lowe's stores that we worked. We'll continue this effort with each nursery we work with in the future.

Now, just to clarify, Lowe's suppliers carry some native plants—at least the ones supplying the Lee County stores do. There are also small changes they can make without costing them money. For instance, substituting the native blue porterweed for the non-native wouldn't entail a new SKU. Mostly, it's just showing them which plants are native and helping their staff understand the benefits. We learned that the staff wants to learn! They were the first ones to use the materials we gave them. They are excited about the pot stakes.

We also approached a Home Depot store and are heading there next. They have more varieties of native trees than Lowe's has, but fewer vines and shrubs. We also chatted with the Edison/Ford Estates Horticulturist and she loved us coming there for an event. And why wouldn't she? We just bring customers! She also agreed to set us up in another local nursery where she has a friend who is the manager.

The Coccoloba chapter will do all we can to help Lowe's—and others—understand the benefits of native plants. If anyone would like more information, or would like a copy of the flyer or press release, please contact me at rodakma@msn.com.

FNPS 2015 Endowment Grant Research Awards and Conservation Grant Awards

The Florida Native Plant Society 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 one-year period, and 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 grants (\$5000 or less) awarded for a one-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 website at www.fnps.org; click on "Grants and Awards" under the "Participate" menu tab. Questions regarding the grant programs should be sent to info@fnps.org.

Application deadline for the 2015 Awards is March 6, 2015. Awards will be announced at the 2015 FNPS Annual Conference in Tallahassee in May. Awardees do not have to be present at the conference to receive award.

Call for Research Track Papers and Poster Presentations for 2015 FNPS Annual Conference

The Florida Native Plant Society Annual Conference will be held in Tallahassee, Florida, May 28-31, 2015. The research track of the conference will include presented papers on Saturday, May 30. The poster session will be on Friday, May 29.

Researchers are invited to submit abstracts on research related to native plants and plant communities of Florida including preservation, conservation, and restoration. Presentations are planned to be 20 minutes in total length (a 15 minute presentation with 5 minutes for questions).

Abstracts of not more than 200 words should be submitted as an MS Word file by email to Paul A. Schmalzer at paul.a.schmalzer@nasa.gov by February 1, 2015. Include title, affiliation, and address. Indicate whether you will be presenting a paper or poster.

2014–2015 BOD and Ex-Comm Meetings

NOV 15, 2014 **FNPS Board and Council Meeting,
Disney Wilderness Preserve, 10a.m.–5p.m.**

The board and council meetings will be held in the morning, followed by workshops in the afternoon.

JAN 15, 2015 **FNPS Board Meeting Teleconference, 7p.m.**

FEB 7–8, 2015 **Annual Board Retreat
Archbold Biological Station, Venus, FL**

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

MAY 28–31, 2015 FNPS Annual Conference

**All dates subject to change. Check the Society Calendar
at fnps.org/events/eventlist for details and updates.**

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In Memoriam: Alyene Hayes *by Jackie Rolly*

Florida native Alyene (Anderson) Hayes passed away on October 4 at the age of 96. Many early FNPS members remember Alyene fondly, not just because she was the first president of the Tarflower Chapter, but because she was a great supporter and activist for Florida's environment. Of her, Walter Taylor said, "She was very knowledgeable about plants, the environment of Florida, history, and also politics." Alyene mourned the drying up of the popular Kissengen Spring in Polk County where she often swam, and the spoiling of Orlando lakes where she taught swimming.

Florida's environmental losses made Alyene a supporter of Amendment 1 on this year's November ballot. Alyene had many volunteer activities: She was a Red Cross first aid instructor and swimming instructor; she was active for more than 60 years in the Orlando Garden Club; and she started Girl Scout Troop 74 and was its leader for almost 20 years. She became an avid photographer of wildflowers and was invited to present many programs using these pictures to promote the preservation of native plant communities.

In lieu of flowers, Alyene requested donations to the campership fund for the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs Youth Camp in support of her belief that the future of Florida's beautiful lands and waters lies in the exposure of our children to nature. Donations for camperships should be sent to the Orlando Garden Club, 710 E. Rollins St., Orlando, FL 32803.



FNPS Reorg Births Another Website

by Jan Allyn

The Society is well represented in cyberspace, with a main website, chapter websites, and a number of social media outlets. At the 2014 annual conference in May, members approved the creation of a "Council of Chapters," an organizational body separate from the Society's Board of Directors, which is composed of chapter representatives from around the state. Three council members are elected from within its body to represent the Council on the Society's Board of Directors.

The Council now has its very own website: council.fnpschapters.org. The purpose of the site is to provide a place for sharing information among chapter reps and with members about Council activities. It has a calendar, minutes of meetings, and links to Council discussions on the FNPS Forum. It is hoped that the Council will be valuable in sharing "best practice" knowledge among chapters, and to allow them to coordinate chapter-level activities regionally and statewide. As the Council matures and takes on new projects, look for additional information.