

# Sabal minor

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



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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT *by Catherine Bowman, FNPS President, 2016-2018*

The end of the year is particularly busy for many of us, with an abundance of family, work and volunteer opportunities. It can be challenging to work on all the things we would need to and still have time for our personal spirit-restoring activities. For me, the second Saturday in December brought one of those activities — our annual family Christmas tree cutting day. We had some surprisingly cool weather for Central Florida, with smells of campfires, conifers and kettle corn in the air. I got my usual sand pine. I love a fresh native Christmas tree — year before last, I got one with a bird's nest in it! The day provided a lovely break and certainly made me appreciate our native plant communities and all that FNPS members do to further knowledge of and protection for them.



Winter 2016 is also a busy time for the FNPS state Board of Directors and Council of Chapters; below are some of the things that we have been focused on.

I know we are all anxiously awaiting the delivery of the hot-off-the-press **regional landscape brochures**. The board and council have been furiously coordinating and finalizing and rounding up funding to get these in your hands in January 2017. As of my writing this in mid-December, we had orders to print a total of 114,000 copies.

Also, this end of the year, **FNPS Vice President for Administration Lassie Lee** (Ixia Chapter) worked with me to review and execute all the contracts for **FNPS paid contractors**. I appreciate Lassie's calm thoroughness in updating the contracts for another year and coordinating with each of our contractors to get them on board for 2017. Before becoming president, I was not aware of all of the contractors who work in their fields on our behalf; and I thought you might like to know who our current contractors are:

- **Andy Taylor** (Suncoast Chapter) – Development Director
- **Cammie Donaldson/Just Cause Media** (Conradina Chapter) – Administrative Services
- **Juliet Rynear** (Heartland Chapter) – Executive Assistant
- **Marjorie Shropshire** (Cocoplum Chapter) – *Palmetto* Editor
- **Stacey Matrazzo** (Tarflower Chapter) – *Sabal minor* Editor
- **Donna Bollenbach** (Suncoast Chapter) – Social Media
- **Sue Mullins** – lobbyist
- **Stacey Smith/Register With Ease** – FNPS Conference Registration Manager

As we end 2016, I am sure that you will all join me in welcoming new volunteers for the **Education and Landscape Committees**. At the November state board meeting, we welcomed **Niki Cribbs** (Suncoast

Chapter) as **chair of the Education Committee**. She and **co-chair Wendy Poag** (Lake Beautyberry Chapter) hit the ground running with plans and programs. The committee produces events and support materials to assist members and the general public in learning about Florida native plants. If you would like to work with them – contact Niki. I am sure you will be excited to hear what they are working on. The February retreat at Gold Head Branch State Park would be a great time to talk to them in person.

The **Landscape Committee** also has new volunteers in **Marc Godts** from Green Isle Gardens (Tarflower Chapter), **Ron Blair** (Tarflower Chapter), and **Steve Turnipseed** (The Villages Chapter). They are still sorting out who

will serve as the official chair and are looking for a few others to help on the committee. The committee is responsible for providing resources for the landscape industry, landscape architects and landscape designers; reviewing applications for the FNPS landscape awards program; assisting in the revision of city and county landscape, tree and fertilizer ordinances; and advocating for the planting of native plants in our communities by producing selection, planting and maintenance guidelines for citizens and business owners. There will be a need beginning in January for the committee to begin planning for the landscape awards and promoting them. More and more Florida landscapes focus on designs with native plants and we want to recognize the property owners and their designers. You may contact anyone on the Landscape Committee or me if you would like to be involved.

**If you are interested in participating in any committee, you will find committee descriptions at [FNPS.org](http://FNPS.org) under Participate/Volunteer Opportunities. Committee contacts can be found under Who We Are/Contacts.**

Are you planning to attend the **February retreat**? Be sure to **let Juliet Rynear know if you want to reserve a cabin**. If you don't feel like staying in one of the cabins or camping with me in the turkey oak loop, Gold Head Branch is only about 20 miles northeast of Gainesville and other accommodations. I think we still need representatives from four chapters. If you have not attended an FNPS retreat in the past, come and find out what a wonderful opportunity it is to get to know other members, committee people, and the board. We all have so much to do at our chapters that it is easy to feel overwhelmed and overscheduled. The retreats offer a chance to exchange ideas with other chapters, spend some quiet time outside, and be energized or energize others.

*(continued on page 2)*

## CALL FOR 2017 AWARD APPLICATIONS

**Landscape Award applications** Are you a landscape architect or designer, homeowner, business owner, or restoration practitioner? Showcase your work with Florida's Native plants. Apply for one or more of our annual Landscape Awards at [www.fnps.org/participate/awards](http://www.fnps.org/participate/awards).

**Palmetto Award applications** At the annual conference, FNPS acknowledges the significant contributions of members who have gone "above and beyond" to help the Society achieve its mission by bestowing the following awards:

- **Green Palmetto** The Society generally awards one Green Palmetto Award each for service or education, science, and outstanding chapter of the year. FNPS board members are not eligible for this award category. Contributions can be of regional or statewide significance. Any member can make a Green Palmetto nomination by contacting their chapter director or the FNPS president.
- **Silver Palmetto** The Silver Palmetto Award is made by the FNPS president to the board member who has been of the greatest assistance during the past year.
- **Mentor Award** Created in 1995, the Mentor Award recognizes distinguished individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the science and practice of native plant preservation, conservation and restoration. This award is the highest honor the Society can bestow and is reserved for lifelong or career-long contributions. Selection of award winner is by a vote of the FNPS Board of Directors.

Details on how to submit a nomination are available at [www.fnps.org/news/society-news/fnps-annual-awards](http://www.fnps.org/news/society-news/fnps-annual-awards). Nominations must be received by March 15, 2017. They will then be posted for voting on the Forum at [www.forum.fnps.org/index.php/board,87.0.html](http://www.forum.fnps.org/index.php/board,87.0.html).

## CONSERVATION COMMITTEE NEWS *by Juliet Rynear, committee chair*

*Rynear, committee chair*

The committee met in December to chart our course for 2017. Stay tuned for a number of exciting new developments and projects, including:

- the new webpage for the Habitat Restoration Program to highlight the Society's restoration work throughout Florida.
- fun citizen-science fundraising projects suitable for all ages!
- expanding the Florida Milkweed Map, Top 10 Endangered Species, and Roadside Rare Plant Species Map.

Please consider an individual or chapter donation to the FNPS Conservation Grants program and help conserve Florida's threatened and endangered plant species and plant communities.

*(President's message, continued from page 1)*

Every year at the annual conference, we all share the privilege and responsibility of voting on the slate of open positions for state officers. **The positions that we need to fill at the 2017 conference are:**

- President-elect (vacant)
- Secretary (currently held by **Martha Steuart**)
- Treasurer (currently held by **Kim Zarillo**)
- Council Chair and Board Director (currently held by **Dave Feagles**)
- Director-at-large (two positions currently vacant)

**Happy New Year, FNPS!**

## ARE YOU A NATIVE WILDFLOWER PHOTOGRAPHER OR BLOGGER? *by Donna Bollenbach*

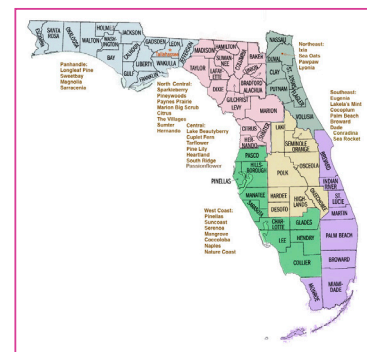
We need your submissions for **Wednesday Wildflower**, a new regular feature of the Florida Native Plant Society Blog in 2017. The purpose of Wednesday Wildflower is to feature images and a plant profile on one or two native wildflowers (or flowering trees and shrubs) from different regions each week. The native plant should be in bloom (and is in its' typical bloom season) at the time of publication.

Ideally, we will receive submissions from various regions in the state (see map, lower right), so each region will be represented. To make sure your region is represented, consider asking a chapter member and/or photographer to submit at least one profile monthly.

A short version of the specifications for submission are below. If you would like the complete version and a copy of the regional map, send your request to [donna.bollenbach@gmail.com](mailto:donna.bollenbach@gmail.com)

1. The photographer will retain all rights to the image, but by submitting your images to FNPS, you give FNPS the right to publish your images online or in print. FNPS will give credit each time we use your image.
2. Submit 1–3 images of a Florida native wildflower, or flowering shrub or tree that was photographed in a region where it occurs naturally.
3. Rename your images so they include Scientific name\_Your First and Last Name\_Date\_Where Photographed. For example: *Salvia coccinea\_Donna Bollenbach\_042016\_Valrico\_FL*.
4. Images should be large or medium jpegs (if you work in pixels, 600 pixels on the largest size).
5. Blogs will be published based on the normal blooming season of the species, but please submit at any time you wish, as it will be held for later use. For weekly consideration, submit on the Sunday following the publication date.
6. Preference will be given to those images submitted with at least 50-100 words about the species. See the Sneak Peek by Roger Hammer, or "When a Picture is Not Worth a 1000 Words – Writing a Native Plant Profile" in this issue of the *Sabal minor*.
7. Don't forget to provide how you would like your images credited, your FNPS chapter, and a line or two about yourself.

Your submissions to Wednesday Wildflower will help the FNPS blog continue to be a useful resource for native plant information for the entire state, and will be an opportunity to showcase the many beautiful native wildflower images by FNPS members in the field and in their gardens.



## WHEN A PICTURE IS NOT WORTH A 1000 WORDS — WRITING A NATIVE PLANT PROFILE THAT CAPTIVATES THE READER *by Donna Bollenbach*

We have all heard the saying “A Picture Says a 1000 Words,” but when it comes to images of plants, I beg to differ.

When I see a beautiful, well-composed image of a Florida native plant on social media, it gets my immediate attention. The first thing I look for is the name of the plant, and when and where it was photographed. If the photographer doesn't provide that minimal information, I feel let down, especially if I am not familiar with the plant, or the region where it grows.

The name and location is the minimal information you should include when posting an image to Facebook. The location does not have to be specific, especially if the plant is endangered or subject to poaching. If not the city or park, at least provide the county name.

If you are writing a plant profile for a plant sale, you will want to include the common and botanical name, and information relative to how and where the plant grows. Some of the “facts” you may see on plant profiles for plant sales include family name, genus/species, common name(s), type of plant, native range, conservation status, hardiness zone, soil preference, preferred sun, height at maturity, and propagation (seed, seedling).

Of course, you don't have to stop here, and if you want to sell more plants, you would be better off adding some interesting and fun facts to your profiles. You might consider writing your plant profiles, or even your social media posts, as if you were writing a short blog.

When blogging about a native plant, the reader is expecting more than a photograph and a name. They want to know something they don't already know. Tell them something that makes them gasp, laugh or even sigh, and they will remember it. You might want to:

- tell the history or story behind the plant's name (scientific or common).
- provide keys to correctly pronounce the scientific name.
- describe the shape, color, size and smell of the flower (especially if not obvious from the photo).
- describe the typical natural habitat (scrub, wetlands, uplands, flatwoods, hammocks, etc.).
- tell about a special relationship between the plant and wildlife, or its benefits to wildlife.
- talk about human uses for the plant, or your personal experience with this plant in the field or in your garden.

Of course, you would not include ALL this information in your plant profile or blog. The point is to provide 100–600 words about the native plant that will add an extra dimension to your photograph(s).

If gardening is more your thing, talk about the plant from a gardening standpoint. If fieldwork is your expertise, that might be the angle you take. Or, you may prefer to do some research and cite other sources. Whatever information you provide, make sure it is true. Use reliable, up-to-date sources, cross-check your material, and include links to references that you cite.

What's great about blogs and social media is that you can always provide links to sources for additional information. I recommend you link to FNPS, the USF Plant Atlas, or any other reliable source for your region.

Last, don't let the thought of writing scare you. The hardest part is to start the first sentence. I would love to see your original thoughts for Wednesday Wildflower, but if you prefer to simply fill out a form when you submit your images, I can provide the form. At the very least, to post the images on the blog, or other social media, you need to provide the name, the location, and when you took the photograph.

If you would like the blog specifications, a guide to information to include in the profile, and a copy of the regional map, send your request to [donna.bollenbach@gmail.com](mailto:donna.bollenbach@gmail.com).

## EVERGLADES COALITION CONFERENCE *by Joan*

*Bausch, FNPS representative to the Everglades Coalition*

The Everglades Coalition's 32nd annual conference will take place January 5–8, 2017 at the Sanibel Harbour Marriott Resort in Fort Meyers, Florida, hosted by Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation.

The conference is the largest event for discussion and progress reports on restoring America's Everglades. This year's conference will address ecological issues facing Florida's estuary communities while advancing projects that will restore the environment. Five plenaries and 11 breakout sessions will cover subjects such as algal outbreaks in the estuaries, as well as effects on fishing, biodiversity, energy and climate change.

FNPS members are encouraged to attend. Our voices will be needed to encourage political will to accomplish the necessary tasks as quickly as possible!

### 2017 FNPS ANNUAL CONFERENCE “CONNECTIONS: ABOVE AND BELOW”

Join us on a safari to wild Florida at the **37th Annual Florida Native Plant Society Conference, May 18-21, 2017**. See plants and plant communities found nowhere else in the world! Retreat to an ancient landscape of old beach ridges, wild prairies, panther habitat, and islands of subtropical trees in central-south Florida.

Amazing field trips will be offered within the Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge, including Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park, Lake Wales Ridge State Forest, Disney Wilderness Preserve, Lake Kissimmee State Park, Sumica, and more!

**Reserve your lodging, RV and camping spots soon!** There is a limited number of each room type available. For the complete details and hotel contact information, visit our 2017 conference website at [www.fnps.org/conference/2017](http://www.fnps.org/conference/2017). For questions, please contact Juliet Rynear at [julietrynear@yahoo.com](mailto:julietrynear@yahoo.com).

## A PASSION FOR PUBLIC LANDS *by Wendy Poag,*

*Lake Beautyberry Chapter*

The Society fulfills its mission in many ways, including supporting conservation land acquisition and management of those lands that enhance the diversity of our native plants as well as the health of our native ecosystems. As Society members, we have unique opportunities to use our knowledge and passion to help usher along the stewardship of our public lands. Aldo Leopold (1887–1949) championed environmental stewardship based on a land ethic “dealing with man's relation to land and to the animals and plants which grow upon it.”

As shareholders, would you like to know more about public land ecology and stewardship? Would you like to play a role in ensuring the health and beauty of ecosystems long into the future? If so, we invite you to attend “A Passion for Public Lands,” a program that will be coming soon to your local chapter.

The steps to becoming an active participant in public lands stewardship aren't difficult and we guarantee they will introduce you to interesting ecological concepts and the fascinating relationships between plants, the ecosystems in which they thrive, and other species.

We hope that you are now curious enough to want to know more about the management of your local public lands and will take a step forward in getting to know them better. Stay tuned for program dates.

FNPS is now on **Linked in**. Follow us at [www.linkedin.com/company/florida-native-plant-society-inc-](http://www.linkedin.com/company/florida-native-plant-society-inc-).

## CHAPTER HAPPENINGS

**Mangrove Chapter** will host **Dave Clayton** and **Jayne and Charlie Woodruff** at their **January 10** meeting at Lemon Bay Park in Englewood. They will present **“Experiences with Planting a Native Yard.”** Clayton refers to himself as “a biologist who went bad.” He studied zoology and plant physiology in college, but ended up in the field of information technology. He has also studied nature photography, and has volunteered with US Fish & Wildlife, Lemon Bay Conservancy and Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center. The Woodruffs moved to Florida in 2010 and immediately began to restore their landscape with native plants. Six years later, they received the FNPS Landscape Design Award. The restoration project has been described as “beautiful, functional and inspirational” for its display of outstanding examples of the “Real Florida.”

**Naples Chapter** will host **Monica Folk** who will present **“Red-cockaded Woodpeckers in Picayune Strand State Forest”** at their **January 10** meeting at Naples Botanical Garden, Kapnick Center. Bird boxes made by Brian Beckner will be available.

On **January 14**, the chapter will take a **field trip to Picayune Strand State Forest** to learn more about an ongoing hydrologic and habitat restoration project. For more information and to RSVP, contact Jean Roche at 330-730-1516 or [naplesnativeplants@gmail.com](mailto:naplesnativeplants@gmail.com).

On **February 1**, **Chad Washburn** will present **“Birds, Butterflies and Bees — Landscaping with Native Plants for Our Flying Friends”** at Port Royal Club in Naples. Washburn is deputy director of Naples Botanical Garden. Heavy hors d'oeuvres, wine, beer and drinks will be served. **Advance reservations and a recommended voluntary donation of \$50 per person is requested.** Visit the chapter's Facebook page (Naples Native Plants) or contact Jean Roche (phone/email above) to donate and RSVP. Business casual; no blue jeans.

**Sea Rocket Chapter** will have an outreach booth at the **Space Coast Birding and Wildlife Festival** on **January 28**. The event, which runs from January 25-30, will take place at the Titusville campus of Eastern Florida State College.

**February 11 is Pioneer Day at Sams House on Merritt Island.** This annual festival celebrates the history of Merritt Island and has an exciting appeal for history, art, music and nature lovers.

**Tarflower Chapter** finished off the year with a potluck party. We enjoyed a relaxed, round-table dinner followed by a panel who told stories of **Dick Deuerling** when he was their boy scout leader. Photos of time spent outdoors, a chartreuse boy scout bandana, and a coveted belt buckle created by Deuerling, a fine-skilled jeweler, were passed around. Dick was one of our founding members, and had a penchant for getting into the Florida outdoor experience no matter the circumstance. He and **Peggy Lantz** wrote the first edition of *Florida's Incredible Wild Edibles*. His life continues to be celebrated by our chapter in story and in our annual restoration grant (\$1500) presented during the annual conference. Donations are welcome to help us continue his legacy.

As Tarflower Chapter looks toward the new year, we have a few new projects planned. First, we will begin contributing financially to the annual Chertok Photography Contest, hosted by Orange Audubon and Colonial Photo and Hobby. Second, Tarflower will partner with Orange Audubon for a spring yard tour on April 8. This will be the third year in a row for this tour and we will likely wait a few years before scheduling the next. We want to encourage all surrounding chapters to mark your calendars and join us. Last, we are continuing the discussion surrounding volunteer hours, recognizing the value of logging our hours and activities. **Christine Warren**, programs chair for the chapter, has introduced a volunteer appreciation program to help gain momentum in our chapter. We want to recognize and celebrate our members who consistently lend a helping hand by using the state's volunteer hour tracking program. As our appreciation program develops, we hope to share the details, offering a template for other chapters who like the idea.

Send your “Chapter Happenings” to [fnps.sabalminor@gmail.com](mailto:fnps.sabalminor@gmail.com). The deadline for the March–April 2017 issue is February 15, 2017.

## CALL FOR 2017 ENDOWMENT RESEARCH AND CONSERVATION GRANT AWARD APPLICATIONS

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 1-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) are 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 can be found at [www.fnps.org/participate/awards](http://www.fnps.org/participate/awards). Questions regarding the grant programs should be sent to [info@fnps.org](mailto:info@fnps.org).

Application deadline is March 3, 2017. Awards will be announced at the annual conference in May at the Westgate River Ranch Resort, River Ranch, Florida. Awardees do not have to be present at the conference to receive award.

## CALL FOR RESEARCH TRACK PAPERS AND POSTER PRESENTATIONS

The FNPS annual conference will be held at the Westgate River Ranch Resort, River Ranch, Florida, May 17-21, 2017. The Research Track of the conference will include presented papers and a poster session on Friday, May 19 and Saturday, May 20.

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 (15 min. presentation, 5 min. questions).

Abstracts of not more than 200 words should be submitted as a MS Word file by email to **Paul A. Schmalzer** at [paul.a.schmalzer@nasa.gov](mailto:paul.a.schmalzer@nasa.gov) by February 1, 2017. Include title, affiliation, and address. Indicate whether you will be presenting a paper or poster.

## 2016–17 BOD AND EXCOM MEETINGS

JAN 19	Board meeting, 7 p.m., teleconference
FEB 11-12	Annual retreat, board and council of chapters meeting, Mike Roess Gold Head Branch State Park, Keystone Heights, FL
MAR 23	Board meeting, 7 p.m., teleconference
APR 20	Board meeting, 7 p.m., teleconference
MAY 17-21	Annual conference, Westgate River Ranch Resort & Rodeo, River Ranch, FL

Check the Society calendar at [fnps.org/events/eventlist](http://fnps.org/events/eventlist) for details, updates, directions and meeting instructions. All dates subject to change.