

# 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*

Spring was off to a fine start with the February member retreat, Council of Chapters and Board of Directors meetings! It was a little chilly camping Friday night and there were a few minutes early Saturday morning when I wished I was in one of the CCC cabins. However, it was worth a little cold (you know, 40° is cold when you live in the Orlando area) to sit quietly under the turkey oaks and sand live oaks and see the full moon — the Snow Moon — and the partial lunar eclipse in the east with Venus and Mars in the clear sky to the west.

The general meetings were lengthy on Saturday, as was the board meeting Sunday morning, but the time flew by with features such as Juliet Rynear's excellent presentation on our strategic planning that demonstrated all we have accomplished in the last three years and offered topics for thought about things we still want to accomplish as a society; Niki Cribbs' presentation on the Education Committee initiatives, and Donna Bollenbach's presentation on using social media to reach a wider audience. We are pleased to have Donna serve as the Social Media Committee Chair and look forward to your efforts to get our message out in new ways. Chapters will want to check the 15 minute PowerPoint that Wendy Poag and Niki Cribbs have developed for use during chapter meetings that focuses on ways in which we can all participate in caring for our valuable public lands, including a primer on participating in land management reviews on public lands in your area. This is a vital volunteer service that FNPS provides to the State of Florida. You can find it on the Forum under Land Management Partners or contact Niki to find out how to get a copy of the presentation to show at your chapter meetings.

Thanks to those of you who were able to attend the February retreat at Gold Head Branch State Park and to those of you who sent me your comments. The opportunity to share ideas and concerns in casual grouping over a couple

of days is such a valuable way to make yourselves heard; future retreats will allow for more of that (yes, less meeting, more hiking!).

In other news, we were notified on February 20 that **FNPS was selected by the Florida Wildlife Federation as Conservation Organization of the Year!** Our award will be presented at their 80th Annual Conservation Awards Banquet on April 21.

Thank you for your tens of thousands of volunteer hours; please keep submitting those. We are planning to prepare another annual report with content similar to the 2012 annual report that you may recall receiving in hard copy. It may be an electronic format, but will showcase the projects and activities that you are all doing in your chapters as well as some state initiatives. Thank you for keeping records of your volunteer hours and submitting those through your chapters or directly to Juliet Rynear, as some have done. It makes a huge difference in our being able to document all you do for native plants and native plant communities.

I hope you are all enjoying and sharing the Council of Chapters Landscape Brochures! Thank you Donna Bollenbach, Richard Browscombe, Juliet Rynear and all those who helped compile them. They are attractive and informative tools for us all to use in promoting native plants in our region of the state. We got some good tips during the retreat on ways to use and display them at events. Please continue to contact the various state committees, your Council of Chapters representatives, and me about anything FNPS. We can really feel the momentum growing. I know we are all looking forward to the conference at River Ranch, May 18–21. Please continue to promote this amazing fun and educational event at your chapter meetings and events. See you there!

### CONNECTIONS: ABOVE & BELOW

Florida Native Plant Society  
37<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference

May 18 – 21, 2017  
Westgate River Ranch  
River Ranch, Florida



This year's conference will address environmental connections that are known, broken, restored and newly discovered. Amazing field trips through the vast array of ecosystems that connect in central Florida to form a long natural corridor will also be offered. Reserve your lodging, RV and camping spots soon! Limited numbers of each are available. For complete conference and lodging details, visit [www.fnps.org/conference/2017](http://www.fnps.org/conference/2017).

### VOLUNTEER AT EPCOT!

Pine Lily Chapter is offering FNPS members the chance to volunteer at **FNPS' exhibit at the EPCOT International Flower and Garden Festival** each Saturday and Sunday, March through May. Times are 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Each day you volunteer at EPCOT, you will receive a free pass to return on your own another day.

If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering, please contact Jenny Welch at [fnaturegirl@outlook.com](mailto:fnaturegirl@outlook.com) or 407-319-2488.

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

## LANDSCAPE BROCHURES AND TRACKING VOLUNTEER HOURS submitted by Donna Bollenbach, Council of Chapters asst. director

I just returned from the board retreat at Gold Head Branch State Park, and as usual, there were a lot of great discussions. I want to share some great new changes to boost reporting of chapter volunteer and education hours and some ideas chapters shared for displaying and personalizing the landscape brochure.

### Tracking Volunteer and Education Hours

For those chapters and individuals tracking their volunteer hours in 2016, the results were impressive – more than 34,000 hours were reported! As we talked about recognizing those individuals and chapters for their time, many chapter reps lamented that they had many more hours that went unreported. The message: **We all need to do a better job of capturing all volunteer and education\* hours in 2017.** To enable more chapters to accurately log hours, we will make the task of identifying and reporting hours easier:

- **Volunteer hours:** So far in 2017, 877 volunteer hours were reported by only 10 chapters. Volunteer hours are hours performed by individuals or groups, members or non-members, actively involved in any work related to the FNPS mission, including but not limited to board meetings, planning, administration, chapter meetings, fundraising and workdays.
- **Education hours:** A new category will be added to the reporting tool so that chapters and the Society can track the significance of education and outreach programs. The new “Education hours” category will capture the time spent providing mission-related education to a specific number of individuals. For example, 35 people (members and non-members) attend a 1-hour presentation on native landscaping at your chapter meeting, so you would log 35 hours of “Education.”
- **Monthly reminders:** Many chapters logged a great deal of the 2016 hours at the end of year, or even into January, which makes it a bit more challenging to create accurate quarterly reports. It was discussed that chapters and individuals should be logging hours monthly, and to help them remember, a monthly email reminder will be sent to chapter reps, chapter presidents and FNPS board members.
- **Easier access to the hours reporting tool:** While some chapters have one person designated to log hours, others said it would be easier if more individuals could log their own. So, we’ve added the link to the volunteer hours reporting form to the footer of the website. Anyone with a chapter login will be able to access and use the tool. The chapters can then decide who in their chapters can be given access to enter group or individual hours. The tracking spreadsheet (to help you track hours prior to entering them into the online form) is still located on the Forum and on the website in Support Documents ([www.fnps.org/society/docs](http://www.fnps.org/society/docs)).
- **Chapter, individual and FNPS recognition:** The collection of volunteer and education hours is important because it shows others that we are fulfilling our mission. The mission statement does not stop at what we do and how we do it. We also need to show the extent of our education and outreach efforts and the results and benefits of our work. BE RECOGNIZED for all the work your chapter does, while helping FNPS show the statewide commitment to its mission by tracking volunteer and education hours.

### So your chapter has the regional landscape brochures — now what?

Everyone is ecstatic that the regional landscape brochures have been printed and distributed to each chapter, but having the brochures is just the beginning. Like any tool, we need to learn to use it effectively. Over the next few months we will share the ways chapters are using the brochure to not only educate, but also to promote their chapters and FNPS. Here are some initial suggestions to get up and running:

- ▶ First, create a sticker with your chapter information on it to fit on the space under the FNPS logo on the back cover and put one on all your copies of the brochure.
  - Richard Brownscombe recommended [www.uprinting.com](http://www.uprinting.com), where you can buy 1000\_3” x 3” inch precut rectangle full color stickers on gloss or matte paper for \$62.50. The 3 x 3 would fit nicely under the FNPS logo on the back cover of the brochure. Other sizes and quantities are available.
  - Al Squires also showed us a 4x4 sticker that his chapter printed on their own and applied to the back cover. The 4 x 4 sticker provides more space for information and will also fit on the back cover.
  - There is a space on the inside of the brochure where a smaller sticker will fit.
- ▶ Second, laminate two of your brochures so you display both sides on a wall, table or easel.
  - Al Squires said Office Depot will laminate them with a ½ inch lip you can use to hang them. The cost to laminate was less than \$15.00 each. **Note:** The plant (or poster) side of the brochure does not have the FNPS logo, so make sure you display both sides or add the logo to your laminated poster. If you need suggestions on how to do this without infringing on FNPS copyrights, email Donna at [donna.bollenbach@gmail.com](mailto:donna.bollenbach@gmail.com).
- ▶ Third, decide if and when you are going to charge for the brochure.
  - The brochure has a price of \$1.00 on it. Most chapters are asking for a \$1.00 donation for each brochure and they are having no problem collecting it. The \$1.00 will help fund the reprints when needed.
  - A few chapters said they have enough money to fund a reprint and prefer to give away their copies, but even the chapters who are giving them away are only giving them to people who show a true interest in planting natives.
  - Donna Bollenbach of Suncoast Chapter says they do both. At outreach and plant sales they ask for a \$1.00 donation, but may give one to someone who comes to a meeting and needs advice for planting natives around their home or business.

We will be discussing many more uses of the landscape brochure in future communications. Obviously they are great tools for education and outreach. It has also caught the eye of like-minded organizations like Audubon who have expressed an interest in buying copies, but remember, the landscape brochure is copyrighted by the Florida Native Plant Society, so you should be proudly displaying the FNPS logo and promoting the society whenever you use it.

Share your chapter’s ideas for the regional native landscape brochures with Donna via email at [donna.bollenbach@gmail.com](mailto:donna.bollenbach@gmail.com).

## NORTH ALABAMA SPRING NATIVE PLANT INAUGURAL FNPS TOUR: APRIL 17–22

The Florida Native Plant Society is heading north–North Alabama to be exact—for 6 days and 5 nights of discovery. Join us as we explore the rock outcroppings, caverns and canyons of the southern terminus of the Appalachian Mountains. Discover the endemic plants their geology supports, while enjoying southern hospitality, and savoring local restaurants and cafes. We will be joined by members of the Alabama Wildflower Society, the local native plant enthusiasts of Sweet Home Alabama.

Pack your bags and join us on this amazing tour of the biological wonders of our southern neighbor. Sign up today to reserve your seat on this limited capacity tour. First come, first served! For an itinerary, application or more information, contact Devon Higginbotham at 813-478-1183 or [indigotravelcompany@gmail.com](mailto:indigotravelcompany@gmail.com).





**EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT NEWS** by Juliet Rynear

Thank you FNPS members for your dedication to our mission! Together, we volunteered more than 34,000 hours in 2016. The dollar value of those hours is more than \$800,000! The actual value of that work, however, is immeasurable. Without the work of FNPS volunteers, many native plants and plant communities would be extinct today. I am confident that 2017 will be another outstanding year! As we continue to grow our organization and expand our reach, we will be able to educate more of our citizens and elected representatives, conserve more of our endangered plant populations, help more land managers restore and maintain public properties, and continue to grow our outstanding annual conference.

The Palmetto Awards are a great way to recognize volunteer service. See “Call for 2017 Award Applications” on this page for details.

**LAND STEWARDSHIP: TENDING BIODIVERSITY** by Wendy Poag

Do you have a Passion for Public Lands? Do you hike, bird watch, kayak or enjoy nature photography? Would you like to be involved in paying it forward?

Then come join other FNPS members in land management reviews, guided tours that afford us an inside look at our public lands. The review process involves public meetings, resource plan updates and boots-on-the-ground site evaluations. Involvement helps promote the mission of the Florida Native Plant Society, which is to promote the preservation, conservation and restoration of native plants and native plant communities of Florida.

An introductory PowerPoint program, “A Passion for Public Lands” to be modified, used and moderated by each chapter has been posted to the FNPS website Council of Chapters forum under Land Management Partners.

The Land Management Partners Committee will be presenting a program entitled, “A Passion for Public Lands: Empowering Stewardship,” at the FNPS annual conference in May. As shareholders in our public lands, we as individuals can support the stewardship activities that need to take place in order for these spaces to be enjoyed and conserved for many generations to come. Land managers are generally a passionate, overworked and underfunded group whose jobs involve conserving species, promoting ecosystem health, protecting natural resources, and providing for resource use and public recreation. This workshop is designed to offer insight into the processes used by resource managers, the goals they hope to achieve, and the challenges they face.

Come join us in an education process which will give you some tools and confidence in the realms of ecology, biodiversity, ecosystem services, climate change and assisted migration so that you may have the confidence to speak up and publicly participate in defending proper stewardship of our beloved conservation areas.

Also, don't miss the conference field trip led by land management review experts Gene Kelly and Danny Young. They will be touring Lake Kissimmee State Park as you would if you were doing an actual land management review, utilizing the standard checklist.

**The Sabal minor has gone all-digital.**

In an effort to reduce costs and waste, the *Sabal minor* is now delivered via email only. If you are not receiving the *Sabal minor* via email, please contact FNPS Administrative Services at 321-271-6702 or [info@fnps.org](mailto:info@fnps.org) and provide them with a current email address. Chapters are encouraged to print copies of the newsletter to have on hand at their monthly meetings for members who do not have email addresses.

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

Do you enjoy field trips to natural areas? Have you seen milkweed (*Asclepias* spp.) plants in natural areas and/or along roadsides? If yes, then we need YOU to help us map and preserve Florida's milkweed species! Committee member Scott Davis began this project to document occurrences of Florida's native milkweed species throughout the state. But he can't do it alone! Committee member Theresa Lutz has volunteered to help enter location data and plant numbers. Many of our milkweed species are important hosts for monarch butterflies. To date, Scott has documented 21 native milkweed species in Florida and has tracked about 800 populations throughout the state.

**How you can help:**

1. Document all sightings of *Asclepias* occurrences and report to [conservation@fnps.org](mailto:conservation@fnps.org) to help fill in gaps and build the database.
2. Encourage your county to adopt a wildflower resolution (if they haven't yet done so). To see if your county has adopted a wildflower resolution and for information on how to request a wildflower resolution, visit [www.FlaWildflowers.org/resolution.php](http://www.FlaWildflowers.org/resolution.php).
3. If your county has adopted a wildflower resolution and you see a roadside population (state and county roads) with no signs of protection, contact your FDOT district wildflower coordinator. Visit [www.FlaWildflowers.org/resolution.php](http://www.FlaWildflowers.org/resolution.php) for a coordinator names and contact information.

Need help identifying milkweed species? Want more information on monarchs and milkweeds? Check out our videos on the FNPS YouTube channel ([www.youtube.com/channel/UCTom5I9pQlwTC-S\\_uDjkAEw](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTom5I9pQlwTC-S_uDjkAEw)).

Join us in thanking the following chapters for their generous donations in support of the 2017 conservation grant awards:

Pinellas Chapter  
Suncoast Chapter  
Dade Chapter (in honor of Don and Joyce Gann)

The FNPS conservation grants have supported vitally important projects throughout Florida that have helped to manage, conserve and restore our rare plant populations and plant communities. Check out the latest updates on our website: [www.fnps.org/what-we-do/conservation\\_grants](http://www.fnps.org/what-we-do/conservation_grants).

**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).

## CALL FOR SILENT AUCTION ITEMS FOR 2017 CONFERENCE

The conference committee is seeking donations for this year's silent auction. Consider donating one or more of the following: unique items; handmade items; baskets of goodies such as coffees, teas, chocolates, honey, jams/jellies, cheeses; nature-themed items; garden art; garden tools; native wildflower seeds; handmade craft items; bird houses and feeders; nature-inspired jewelry; or maybe you or someone you know would like to volunteer their time to lead a specialty field trip.

We all enjoy viewing and bidding on great one-of-a-kind items at our annual silent auction. Let's get our imaginations working so we will have some unique items this year! Money raised from the auction supports FNPS. Contact **Jenny Welch** (flnaturegirl@outlook.com or 407-319-2488) if you have items, ideas, or would like her to contact a person or business for a donation.

## 2016-17 BOD AND EXCOM MEETINGS

- MAR 23 BOD 7 p.m. teleconference
- APR 20 BOD 7 p.m. teleconference
- MAY 17-21 Annual conference, Westgate River Ranch Resort & Rodeo, River Ranch, FL

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

## CHAPTER HAPPENINGS

**Cuplet Fern Chapter** members have, for the past five years, maintained the native plant garden at Geneva Wilderness Area, one of several Seminole County Natural Lands wilderness areas. However, the Adopt-a-Park program was initiated just last year and the recognition sign was installed last month. In addition to the native plant garden, the chapter has also maintained a small self-contained aquatic garden. (Pictured: **Jane Miller**, member and volunteer. Photo by **Barbara Whittier**.)



**Mangrove Chapter** will celebrate their **14th Annual Plant Native Day** on Saturday, March 11, 9:30 a.m.–1 p.m., at Cedar Point Environmental Park in Englewood. The focus of the day will be “Fire-Wise Landscaping.” The event will also offer lectures, walks, live butterfly-raising demonstrations, plant and book sales, and refreshments. For more information contact Cedar Point Environmental Park at 941-475-0769 or the Mangrove Chapter board at 941-697-2756.

**Nature Coast Chapter** won **3rd place** in the **2017 Florida State Fair's horticulture exhibit competition!** The invitation to participate — and certainly the 3rd place honor — show that the state fair is starting to see FNPS as an organization of value in landscaping. Chapter members worked on the theme and design for several months and used as the backdrop a photo of the home of member **Mary Ellen Gotto** who won the FNPS residential landscape award in 2015. They also used the “Why Should You Join FNPS” banner available on the FNPS website. Member **John Lampkin** donated beautiful photos of butterflies and bees. Plants were loaned by Rainbow's End Native Nursery in Wesley Chapel, and Sweetbay Nursery and Green Seasons Nursery in Parrish. Karen's Wildflower Nursery of Land O' Lakes supplied all the plants for the plant sale. More than 60 members, some from Hernando and Suncoast chapters, volunteered from Feb. 9 to Feb. 20 to hand out information and talk about FNPS. The Nature Coast Chapter would be happy to lend their banners to other chapters for exhibits.



The chapter will host its **Spring Native Plant Sale** on Saturday, March 25, 10 a.m.–2p.m., at Land O'Lakes Community Center in Land O'Lakes. They will have a large selection of quality nursery grown plants

and books for sale, free literature and a Pasco Master Gardener information table. A plant profile will be provided for each species of plant purchased. For more information contact [naturecoastfnps@gmail.com](mailto:naturecoastfnps@gmail.com) or visit [www.pasconativeplants.org](http://www.pasconativeplants.org).

**Paynes Prairie Chapter** along with co-hosts City of Gainesville Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Department, and Friends of Nature Parks, will hold their annual **Spring Native Plant Sale** on Friday, April 14, 4:30–6:30p.m. (FNPS and Friends of Nature Parks members only) and Saturday, April 15, 8:30a.m.–12:30p.m. (open to general public) at Morningside Nature Center in Gainesville.

**Pinellas Chapter** will host **Craig Huegel** on March 1. He will present “Spring At Torreya State Park,” an introduction to the flora found within the park's 12,000 acres of bluffs and ravines. The park is one of the major centers of endemism in North America. The meeting will be held at Moccasin Lake Nature Park, Clearwater.

**Suncoast Chapter** had a record-breaking attendance in January, when over 70 people crowded into the meeting room to hear **Scott Davis** talk about monarchs and milkweeds. We thank Scott for his wonderful presentation.

In February, **Damon Moore**, environmental program manager for Manatee County, talked about Perico Preserve, a 2016 FNPS landscape award of excellence for restoration winner. The presentation was followed by a field trip to the preserve.

**Craig Huegel** will present “How Roots Work” at the March meeting. The March field trip will be a wagon tour through Lower Green Swamp.

The native plant garden in Plant City continues to grow thanks to member **Janet Bowers**, who has assumed its care from **Gar and Eileen Reed**, who launched the chapter's involvement. Several workdays have been held and are planning to show it off at an Earth Day event this year.

The chapter's monthly Lettuce Lake native plant walks continue to be popular and have resulted in several new members, as well as a closer relationship with our county parks program. Two SNPS members, **Donna Bollenbach** and **Tina Patterson**, recently led a native plant walk at Golden Aster Preserve at the county's request.

**The Villages Chapter** is jointly funding a project along with their local UF/IFAS Extension office to create zero-turf landscape designs for three typical lots in The Villages. There will be two designs for each of the three lot types. All designs will be 75 percent natives to meet landscape award criteria. All designs will also meet Florida Water Star criteria and will align with The Villages deed restrictions. The final product will be colorized CAD files available online for anyone to access. Expect completion by the end of this semester.

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