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



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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT-ELECT *by Susan Carr*

As a newcomer to the Florida Native Plant Society and its board of directors, I am excited and enthusiastic about our mission and the future of our organization. Our mission is strong and achievable — promote the preservation, conservation and restoration of Florida's native plants and native plant communities. And, importantly, our organization is credible and capable of carrying out our mission. FNPS has a large and geographically dispersed membership consisting of passionate native plant lovers of all sorts. This makes us strong and resilient as a group, especially in light of Florida's rapid population growth and changes in land uses.

Our mission bonds us in our purpose and actions. Now we are tackling the difficult work of figuring out how to actuate our mission in our ever-changing political and ecological environment. Recently, the board and Council of Chapters initiated re-evaluation of our strategic plan, including goals and actions to implement our mission (aka "aspirational goals"), and strategies to build our organization and support the diverse membership fundamental to our success. We are in a good place to do this now, as we are financially and organizationally stable thanks to the dedication of our leadership, membership and contractors. I look forward to working with all of you as we grow our organization and implement our mission.

The ways we implement our mission are varied and include diverse activities related to education, landscaping, habitat restoration and conservation, and influencing public land management, research and public policy. Our challenge is to bring this all together in a manner that is effective, well-coordinated and tractable. And, we need to effectively communicate our mission to lawmakers, enthusiasts, the public — and each other! Our multifarious activities and membership are at once a blessing and a challenge, and I am optimistic that our organization will continue to evolve as the primary voice for native plants and native plant communities in our state.

I am optimistic, as well, that many Floridians are receptive to our mission, and are supportive of native plant protection and restoration, which is so intricately related to the conservation of our natural resources. As Florida's population continues to grow, I think that public awareness of and interest in these issues will increase. FNPS has a very important role in that we represent an significant part of our natural heritage: native plants and plant communities.

I look forward to meeting many of you and learning more about your goals, activities and passions for native plants. FNPS has the vision, expertise, organizational credibility and will to protect our native plants and affect native plant conservation in Florida, and I am glad to be part of it!

## EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT NEWS *by Juliet Rynear*

On August 11–13, 2017, the FNPS Board of Directors, Council of Chapters representatives, and contractors, met at the Withlacoochee State Forest for a series of strategic planning sessions. We reviewed FNPS achievements since the 2011–2014 strategic planning sessions that were facilitated by the Bristol Strategy Group and we began charting a course for the next three years.

An Ad hoc committee was formed and will be working on a development and fundraising plan to be presented for review at the November 4 meeting at the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary.



*From left to right: President-elect Dr. Susan Carr, Smokey the Prescribed Fire Bear, Past-president Dr. Anne Cox, and Palmetto editor Marjorie Shropshire attended the August strategic planning meeting.*

### 2016–17 BOD AND EXCOM MEETINGS

SEP 21	Board of Directors meeting, GoToMeeting
OCT 12	Board of Directors meeting, GoToMeeting
OCT 22	Council of Chapters meeting, GoToMeeting
NOV 4	BOD/COC meeting, Enchanted Forest, Titusville

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

## CHAPTER HAPPENINGS

**Conradina Chapter** will host their eighth annual Native Plant Garden Tour on Saturday October 14, 2017. This will highlight a great variety of native landscaping plants. Since Brevard County is so diverse, the gardens are all wonderfully different. They are featuring a Melbourne Beach home and coastal park. There will also be five homes to visit on the mainland. It is always fun and fascinating to see the creative use of native plants at each location. And it doesn't stop there! Maple Street Natives nursery will host a native plant sale the following Saturday, October 21, and donate a percentage of the sales to the Conradina Chapter. So make a list during the yard tour and come invest in native plants for your own personal landscape. Check the chapter website for more details: [conradina.fnpschapters.org](http://conradina.fnpschapters.org).

**Mangrove Chapter** will welcome the following speakers to their remaining 2017 monthly meetings: Girls Scouts, Sue Killion and Barbara Rao will present "Improving Our Neighborhood, Protecting Our Planet" (October 10). Alyssa Vinson, Environmental Specialist for Sarasota County will present "Mangroves: Their Importance, Identification and Protection" (November 14). Check the chapter website for more information on these and other monthly speakers: [conradina.fnpschapters.org](http://conradina.fnpschapters.org).

**Naples Chapter** will hold its annual potluck picnic at the Naples Preserve on Saturday, September 30. Send an email to [naplesnativeplants@gmail.com](mailto:naplesnativeplants@gmail.com) to RSVP.

At the October 10 meeting at Naples Botanical Garden, a Florida Forest Service representative will do a presentation on prescribed fire. Check the chapter website for more details: [naples.fnpschapters.org](http://naples.fnpschapters.org).

**Nature Coast Chapter** will have a Fall Yard Tour on October 7. There will be four properties in Pasco County to visit, with a variety of native plants growing in each landscape. Visit the chapter website for more information: [www.pasconativeplants.org](http://www.pasconativeplants.org).

The chapter will have its Fall Plant Sale on Saturday, October 21, at Land O Lakes Community Center. There will be a large selection of quality nursery-grown plants from local vendors, books for sale, free literature and a Pasco Master Gardner information table.

Nature Coast Chapter planted a demonstration garden at the community center. When the center was remodeled, the chapter was awarded the front of the building for a native planting to inspire the many visitors. Volunteers from chapter and community came together to plan, clear the space, plant and make labels for the plants. Maintenance, which is always an issue for native plantings in public spaces, will be provided by the chapter.

**Pine Lily Chapter** has contributed the design for a local pollinator garden on the campus of Valencia College. "The Valencia Peace Garden" will house a memorial to the students that perished in the Pulse night club shooting on June 12, 2016. The garden will contain a grass amphitheater for native plant outdoor education and a 100% native plant pollinator garden containing both host and nectar plants. The chapter is initiating a fundraising program to pay for the installation of this demonstration garden. The college will match funds raised.

On Earth Day 2018, the first annual Native Plant Festival will be held in Osceola County. The festival will include a native plant sale, speakers and interpretive tours at the pollinator garden site. Because funding is not currently in place, the pollinator garden may not be installed in the next year or two; however, the chapter hopes to build financial support by hosting the festival on the proposed site.

**Sea Rocket Chapter** will be very busy throughout September and October. On September 2 and 16 and October 7 and 21, they will host a Butterfly Garden Workday at Enchanted Forest Sanctuary. Volunteers will work in the various butterfly gardens around the kiosk. Weeding, trimming, planting, and whatever else needs to be done to enhance the natural beauty and functionality of these native gardens will be in work. It is a great time to learn from experts about native plants.

On September 27 at the chapter meeting, Glen Bupp, the University of Florida IFAS Commercial Horticulture Extension Agent for Brevard County will speak on "Considerations for Container-growing Florida Native Plants."

The chapter will sell plants at the Enchanted Forest on Public Lands Day (September 30) and at the Harvest Festival (October 21). Members will be available to answer questions and assist the general public with plant selection.

On October 25, at the chapter's monthly meeting, Arlene Perez-Garrido will do a presentation on how Florida cities got their names.

**Tarflower Chapter** will host a "Toast to Natives!" on Sunday, October 1, at Enzian Theatre in Maitland, to kick off Native Plant Month. A few chapter board members, along with award-winning





**CHAPTER HAPPENINGS (continued)**

homebrewer Mike Radford, have concocted two beers and five teas for the tasting event — all brewed with Florida native plants. Tickets can be purchased through the chapter's Facebook event page. Limited space is available.

In conjunction with the Central Florida Sierra Club, Orange Audubon, and Cuplet Fern, Pine Lily, and Lake Beautyberry FNPS chapters, the Tarflower chapter's October 3 meeting will feature a presentation from Dr. Patrick Bohlen on bringing biodiversity back to the urban landscape. All are invited to come and spend time with like-minded community members and discover what your yard can yield. A cake cutting ceremony with all attending presidents from each organization is planned.

On that note, the chapter will hold its fifth annual Backyard Biodiversity Day on Saturday, October 14 at Mead Botanical Garden. This event includes a massive native plant sale, so you can add diversity back into your landscape without having to leave the city of Winter Park. There will be a kid's tent with natural activities, free guided hikes and workshops, an author's tent for question and answer sessions, music, food and fun! Come out and enjoy the day! All proceeds from the plant sale will go toward the chapter's habitat enhancement activities on a historic sandhill in Mead Botanical Garden.

To wrap up Native Plant Month, Ethos Vegan Kitchen in Winter Park will donate five percent of all food sales on October 21 to the Tarflower Chapter. Not only is it a delicious excuse to eat out, but you can also support multiple causes by simply lifting a fork. Please make sure to mention your support of the Tarflower Chapter as you tip your server.

Send your "Chapter Happenings" to  
[fnps.sabalminor@gmail.com](mailto:fnps.sabalminor@gmail.com).

The deadline for the November–December 2017 issue is October 15, 2017.

**ENDOWMENT-FUNDED RESEARCH PUBLISHED**

by Dr. Paul Schmalzer

Research supported in part by an FNPS Endowment Research Grant to Dr. Alice Winn, Florida State University, in 2009 has been published recently in *Natural Areas Journal*. The paper on the endangered shrub, *Conradina glabra*, is:

Bladow, J.M., T. Bohner, and A.A. Winn. 2017. "Comparisons of demography and inbreeding depression in introduced and wild populations of an endangered shrub." *Natural Areas Journal* 37:294–308.

**SAVE THE DATE!**

The 2018 FNPS Annual Conference  
will be held May 17–20, 2018  
at the Miccosukee Resort in Miami.

**THANK YOU, DONNA BOLLENBACH!** by Devon

Higginbotham

As you ride off into the sunset of Chattanooga, Tennessee, we want to thank you for all your contributions to the Florida Native Plant Society.

**Thank you** for giving up your participation at the Tallahassee conference to take on the task of the silent auction, even though you already paid for full conference participation. We are so glad you won Jeannie Brodhead's handmade quilt of Florida trees.

**Thank you** for being the chapter representative for the Suncoast Chapter and attending all the Council of Chapters meetings, retreats, etc.

**Thank you** for taking on the task of being the Vice Chair of the Council of Chapters, then running for and winning the Chair's position in 2017, only to have to resign to move. You would have been an incredible chair!

**Thank you** for coming up with the idea for Florida Native Plant Month and then spearheading the effort, designing the poster and running the show.

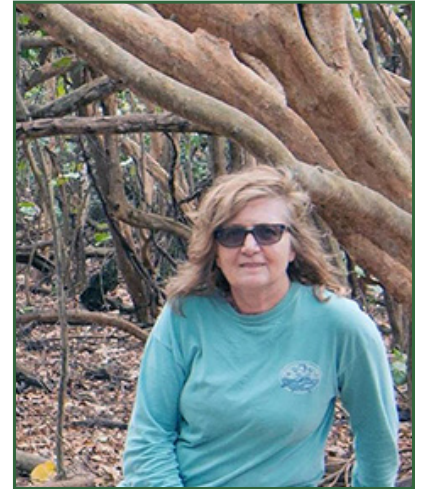
**Thank you** for helping with the design and graphics for the landscape brochures for the six regions of the state.

**Thank you** for being the media and blog contractor for the state.

**Thank you from the Suncoast Chapter** for being on the board for so many years, being our president, arranging fieldtrips, taking pictures, creating our website, updating the social media, leading the Lettuce Lake Park native plant walks, starting the Hillsborough Community College native garden and arranging camping trips, especially to Kissimmee Prairie Preserve.

**Thank you** for always being available, always participating, always lending a helping hand and always taking on a task when no one else was willing to do it.

THANK YOU!

**APPALACHIAN TOUR, SEPT. 10–15, 2017**

Don't let September slip away. It will be here sooner than you think. Our native plant society is embarking on an adventure to the Appalachians this summer to botanize, socialize and explore the mountains on a refreshing trip to the temperate rain forests. Come with us while we discover the amazing world of the spruce-fir forests of the southeast with local expert guides. Invite your favorite traveling companion or come alone and make new friends. Seating is limited, but you can reserve your spot for only \$50. For more information on pricing and itinerary, visit [www.indigotravelcompany.com](http://www.indigotravelcompany.com).



## CONSERVATION COMMITTEE NEWS by Juliet Rynear

You ROCK, native plant people! At the August meeting of the FNPS board and Council of Chapters representatives, held at the Withlacoochee State Forest, several members identified *Matelea floridana* (Florida milkvine) in the sandhill habitat near our meeting location. This species is listed as imperiled both globally and in the state of Florida and was not even included in the list of endangered or threatened species in the 10-year resource management plan for the forest! Clearly, our help is needed across the state to monitor and document populations of Florida's plant species!

Thank you to everyone who is helping us record and map locations of milkweed (*Asclepias*) species and our rare plant species! This is vitally important information because it helps us monitor existing populations and determine conservation needs. This work has given us both good news and bad news. The good news is that we continue to find new populations of rare species. The bad news is that many species that are currently considered "common" are, in fact, becoming quite rare due to habitat loss and/or a lack of land management. The significant loss of plant populations throughout Florida and globally is a serious cause for alarm!



Taylor Figueroa, Athena Philips and Wendy Poag used their cell phones to "key" and document an occurrence of the imperiled species *Matelea floridana* (seen in the lower left of photo).  
Photo courtesy of Sonya Guidry.

Learning that many "common" species are actually endangered has made us realize the importance of increasing our monitoring efforts. We will now be documenting occurrences of ALL Florida native plant species in a new database. We are in the beginning stages and are requesting that FNPS chapters and members send us their plant lists. We have all made these lists during field trips, nature walks and even while driving. (We know you do!) This information is desperately needed so that we can influence land acquisition decisions, corridor creation, land use planning, and to justify the funding of land management, Florida Forever and other land acquisition programs.

Please send your plant lists to [conservation@fnps.org](mailto:conservation@fnps.org).



A flower of *Matelea floridana* with its distinct black corona and purple corolla.  
Photo courtesy of Sonya Guidry.



You can never look too close or take too many photos! Photo courtesy of Sonya Guidry.

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