

Sabal minor

A bi-monthly newsletter for the members of

THE FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY



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Florida Native Plant Society • P.O. Box 278, Melbourne, FL 32902-0278 • 321-271-6702 • Fax: 815-361-9166
www.fnps.org • info@fnps.org • President: Ann Redmond, email: president@fnps.org

Message from the Executive Director : Conservation Lands — And You

Adoption of conservation land preserves the diversity of nature and our unique heritage in Florida. Now that biodiversity has come to be recognized as integral to the health, well-being and prosperity of people nationwide, our ability to protect and conserve critical areas of conservation has developed in step with scientific research and informational resources. There are excellent books to accentuate the importance of native plants, plant communities and arguments that nature should be included in our long range planning by Rutherford Platt and Rick Darke, our 2011 conference keynote speakers. Authors such as Craig Heugel, Bill Belleville, Doug Tallamy, Walter Taylor, Deborah Green, Roger Hammer, Bruce Means, Gil Nelson, Ginny Stibolt and many others bring definition and resources for us as individual members of the FNPS and as chapters to express ourselves to others outside of our Society and to community decision-makers.

Although conservation measures have been established in Florida, the areas conserved are not ecologically representative. For instance, Scrub, Sandhills, Dry Prairie and other under-represented communities have not been represented proportionally. Areas protected by conservation easements are one of the most effective measures to preserve Florida's endemic plant communities. Identifying them is one thing; however, ensuring that they are protected and providing for their management is another.

President Barack Obama signed the Omnibus Lands Management Act of 2009 into law protecting more than 2 million acres as wilderness and making the National Landscape



Conservation System a permanent entity. This legislation is the most significant wilderness law in at least 15 years. During the signing ceremony President Obama said, "This legislation guarantees that we will not take our forests, rivers, oceans, national parks, monuments and wilderness areas for granted, but rather we will set them aside and guard their sanctity for everyone to share." That bill was decades in the making and had the backing of Americans from every walk of life including ranchers, fishermen, small-business owners, environmentalists, Republicans and Democrats — all united around the idea that there should be places that we must preserve. It's hard work seeking common ground to protect plant communities.

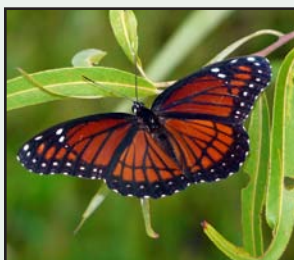
In Florida, one of the most effective ways to bring people with diverse backgrounds together to conserve a cross-section of our unique biodiversity and to promote conservation easements is through the Florida Forever Program and by backing the work and mission of the Department of Community Affairs (DCA). Both are currently being compromised. As members and chapters of the FNPS, we should be talking to our local legislative representatives on a regular basis, educating them on the merits of both Florida Forever and DCA. We're a diverse organization with access to Florida's diverse population. Our chapters can be a catalyst to action and put conservation planning on the forefront.

Kariena Veaudry

Board of Directors Meeting Summary

The weekend-long Board of Directors retreat at Camp Weed was productive, lively, and fun. The retreat's focus was on discerning our collective identity by focusing on our chapters' strengths. Other issues addressed were our governance structure and website and handbook updates.

Viceroy (*Limenitis archippus*) by Linda Cooper



Viceroy (*Limenitis archippus*) can be difficult to identify due to its similarity to the toxic milkweed butterflies, Monarch and Queen. It ranges over most of the US, east of the Rockies. It is not as large as either Monarch or Queen, but is still a medium-large butterfly.

Viceroy is a master of disguise.

Its eggs resemble leaf galls and its caterpillars resemble bird droppings. In much of Florida, it mimics Queen with its mahogany groundcolor; but, unlike Queen, it has a dark postmedian concentric band on the hindwings. Farther north, it mimics Monarch and its color is more the dull orange of Monarch; but again, the dark postmedian concentric band on the hindwings signal it is a Viceroy.

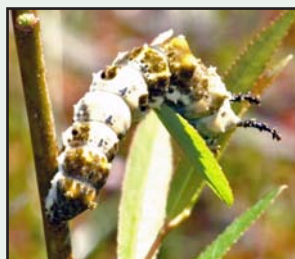
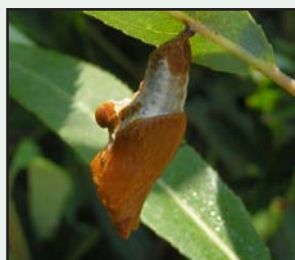
Viceroy also has a dark “wedge” with white dots on the forewing near the apex. Recent studies have found that Florida Viceroys (*Limenitis archippus floridensis*) are almost as toxic as Monarchs and more so than Queens. It sequesters nonvolatile defensive compounds from its host plant, *Salix*, and also secretes volatile defensive compounds when disturbed. Predators are wise to avoid any of these butterflies.

Viceroy prefers moist, open shrubby areas, especially where *Salix* is growing. It uses Carolina willow (*S. caroliniana*), black willow (*S. nigra*) and the exotic weeping willow (*S. babylonica*). It lays its pale green eggs singly on leaf tips and the caterpillars feed at night. It produces two to three generations a year in Florida, with the last generation overwintering in a small leaf shelter anchored to the stem with silk.



An easy way to identify Viceroy is in flight. The wings have a “flap, flap, glide” rhythm with the wings held flat during the glide portion of the flight. Queen and Monarch have a more lilting flight with the wings

held in a “V” shape. If you have a wet area in your yard, consider planting *Salix* and welcoming Viceroy as a new addition to your yard or garden.



New Palm Identification Resource

Patti Anderson, PhD, a botanist with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' Division of Plant Industry has recently completed *Identifying Commonly Cultivated Palms* as part of the commodity-based *A Resource for Pests and Diseases of Cultivated Palms*. Funded in part by the USDA, the online tool includes 82 species of commonly cultivated palms in the US and Caribbean, and features an interactive key, as well as detailed fact sheets, a glossary, annotated illustrations and other tips. *Identifying Commonly Cultivated Palms* is a free resource and can be viewed at <http://itp.lucidcentral.org/id/palms/palm-id/index.html>.

Protect Florida's Coasts From Oil Drilling

Save Our Seas, Beaches and Shores (SOSBS) is a citizen group led by the Florida Wildlife Federation and supported by a number of organizations, businesses and individuals. The group was created to coordinate a citizens' petition drive to place an amendment on the 2012 ballot that would stop drilling within 10 miles on the Gulf Coast and within three miles on the Atlantic Coast.

SOSBS wants the public to have the chance to vote on near-shore oil drilling and to ban the possibility of this destructive practice. They have received approval for the Constitutional Amendment Petition Form from the Department of State, Division of Elections; but in order to get this amendment on the 2012 ballot, SOSBS will need approximately 700,000 verified petitions. For more information and to download the petition, visit www.sosbs.org.

Chapter Happenings

- **Paynes Prairie Chapter:** The Paynes Prairie Chapter will host their annual **Spring Native Plant Sale** at Morningside Nature Center April 8th and 9th. Friday is for FNPS members only, and Saturday we are open to the public. Experience the largest native plant sale in north central Florida with hands-free shopping and customized plant advice. Proceeds benefit the Friends of Nature Parks. Cash and checks only. See our *Rhexia* newsletter on the FNPS web site for more details.
- **Sarracenia Chapter:** For the past four years, the Sarracenia Chapter has partnered with the Iris Garden Club of Wakulla County to give away native trees at their community's Arbor Day celebration. Realizing that the small, bareroot specimens that were typically given out were unlikely to survive, the groups decided to pot and care for hundreds of trees to better ready them for the annual event. The Garden Club funded the purchase of 900 bareroot native trees and, in January, Sarracenia members joined them to pot the tiny trees. Space to pot and house the plants was donated by Just Fruits Nursery, a local nursery whose owners are members of both organizations. At the Arbor Day event, members of both the Sarracenia Chapter and Iris Garden Club are on hand to help people choose the right native tree to take home.
- **Ixia Chapter:** The Ixia Chapter has adopted the City of Jacksonville's Native Parks 1 & 2. The parks, which have fallen into decline in the past few years, offer the chapter an ideal opportunity to promote FNPS and the local Ixia Chapter. During the past few months, chapter members and other volunteers have been working to rid the park of invasive and unwanted plants in preparation for replanting and rejuvenation. Chapter goals for the park include demonstrating the attractiveness of native plants, identifying and displaying information about native plants, and holding seasonal on-site workshops.

Tell us what YOUR chapter is up to! Send your Chapter Happenings to stacey@impactpress.com.

2011 FNPS Board of Directors Slate of Nominees

- Jacqueline “Jackie” Rolly, Tarflower Chapter, for Vice President of Administration
- Daphne Lambright, Suncoast Chapter, for Treasurer
- Matt King, Palm Beach Chapter, for Director-at-Large
- Greg Krolczyk, Conradina Chapter, for Director-at-Large
- Ray Jarrett, Lyonia Chapter, for Director-at-Large

FNPS Palmetto Awards

Do you know someone who deserves an award for service to FNPS, education on Florida native plants, or contributions to the science of Florida native plants? If so, submit the nomination in writing your chapter representative before March 31, 2011 or email to executivedirector@fnps.org.

Green Palmetto Awards are given annually to members who have provided outstanding contributions to FNPS in the arenas of Service, Education and Science or Technical contribution. FNPS also gives a mentor award for lifetime achievement related to the FNPS mission and service to FNPS. There is also a Green Palmetto Award to a chapter that has made outstanding contributions.

Any FNPS member can nominate someone for an award. Awardees must be FNPS members and cannot be current members of the Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors will vote on who will receive FNPS awards from those that are nominated and the winners will be announced at the annual conference on Saturday, May 21, 2011. In a typical year, FNPS gives three to five Green Palmetto Awards, one to three Silver Palmetto Awards (selected by the President), one Service award and one Mentor award. We have had years with no awards and years with many more awards.

You can see a list of past awardees at http://www.fnps.org/pages/programs/programpg_no_pic.php?keyword=PalmettoAwards.

Here's a not so subtle hint: while secrecy isn't a requirement, it's always nice to surprise the awardee at the conference.

Rainforest and Cloud Forest — FNPS Plant Expedition to Nicaragua

This trip is especially designed for Florida Native Plant Society Members. Experience the

Unesco Biosphere Preserve, covering 3,442,000 acres, and the Bosawas Preserve, considered the heart of the Mesoamerican Bio-corridor. Bosawas represents the

largest protected complex of tropical mountain moist forest north of the Amazon basin. Visit www.fnps.org to find out more details, download the itinerary and reservation form.

Travel dates are November 25–December 5. Cost of \$2,995 includes all airfare (one internal flight) meals, tips, lodging and entrance into preserves. Space is limited. Six seats are already taken! Contact Elston Chavarria at aventurasnaturales@gmail.com or 954-662-1539 for questions and information. Visit www.fnps.org to download the itinerary and registration form.



Board of Directors Profile: Dick Workman, Cocoloba Chapter Representative

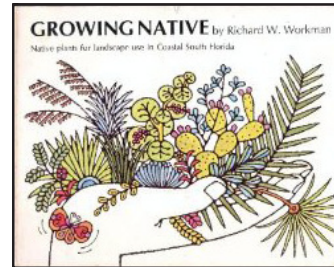
Dick Workman has been an advocate for environmental protection and natural systems for many years. He was born in Waynesville, Ohio, studied zoology at Miami University Oxford, Ohio, and served in the Air Force. In 1970, Dick organized an event for the first Earth Day at Victor Valley College in Southern California. He moved to Florida in 1973 and accepted the position of director of the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation, where he introduced prescribed fire and exotic pest plant management, and created their first native plant nursery. As Chairman of Sanibel's first vegetation committee, he helped write their first vegetation ordinance. Dick served a five-year appointment to the Visit Florida Nature-Based Tourism Advisory Board under Governor Jeb Bush, and has advised many governments and individuals on the importance of native plants. Perhaps his greatest claim to fame to readers of this publication is his role as a founding member of the Florida Native Plant Society.



Dick performs his famous conch shell Christmas carols
(Photo courtesy of Gayle Edwards)

Today, Dick is president of Coastplan, Inc., a Fort Myers-based environmental consulting firm. He is also the Cocoloba Chapter Representative and serves on the Advisory Board of Florida Natural History Museum's Randell Research Center. He is the author of *Growing Native: Native plants for landscape use in Coastal South Florida* and has written and contributed to countless articles publications.

Over the years, Dick has been an active and inspiring member of the Florida Native Plant Society and of his community and a tireless and dedicated educator. He has been called "Mr. Native Plant Society" and Florida's Aldo Leopold. From his incredible depth of knowledge on Florida plants and natural systems, to his witty sense of humor; from his kind and caring approach, to his annual conch shell Christmas carol performances, Dick is truly admired and respected by many.



Growing Native celebrates its 30 year anniversary in 2011

Silent Auction Items Needed

Silent Auction items are needed for the annual conference. Please contact Kay at kay@americanbuilders.com if you have items to contribute.

Vendors Needed for FNPS' Online Shoppe

The FNPS Online Shoppe is an immediate success. We need more vendors now! If an individual or chapter would like to sell their products online, please contact Greg Krolczyk at The.FNPS.Shoppe@gmail.com or 321-243-8287.

When thinking about purchasing gifts or FNPS products, go the the FNPS Online Shoppe!

Visit floridanativeplantsociety.mybigcommerce.com and check out the wide assortment of gifts, t-shirts, original art and more. Shop by artist, medium (painting, photography, etc.), product (cards, hats, mugs, etc.) or chapter.

Pass the word around to your friends, family, colleagues and chapter newsletters!

Sam Hopkins Research Grant Announced

The Florida Native Plant Society has established a grant honoring Sam Hopkins, founding member of the Society and Tarflower Chapter. Sam served as the initial vice-president and later as field trip chairman. He gave many talks on identifying native plants and for many years presented a segment entitled "What's Blooming" at the Tarflower monthly meetings.

The Sam Hopkins Research Grant was funded by donations from the Beautyberry and Tarflower Chapters as well as several current and past Tarflower members. It will be awarded at the 2011 Annual Conference.

Patios,



Preserves

**and
Public
Spaces...**

Making Connections



**FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
31ST ANNUAL CONFERENCE
MAY 19-22, 2011**

**Over 50 speakers, including nationally renowned
RICK DARKE and RUTHERFORD PLATT**

.....
**Landscape Design • Wildlife Habitat Info
Exhibitors • CEUs • Guided field trips
Native plant sales • Research • Social events
Youth program • Authors' book signings**

**FLORIDA EXOTIC PEST
PLANT COUNCIL
CONFERENCE
MAY 17-20, 2011
AT SAME LOCATION**

**SHERATON ORLANDO
NORTH HOTEL**
600 North Lake Destiny Drive
Maitland, FL 32751

For reservations,
call 800-325-3535 or 407-660-9000.
For Conference discount,
ask for FNPS rate.

To register or for additional information, visit www.fnps.org/conference

For questions or to receive conference information by mail,
contact FNPS at 321-271-6702 or send an email to info@fnps.org.

Next Board of Directors Meeting

May 19, 2011 at 5pm
at the FNPS Annual Conference
Sheraton Orlando North
Maitland, FL

Volunteers needed

FNPS is looking for individuals to assist in the following capacities:

- **Social Media Sub-Committee** Do you enjoy organizing, editing and posting articles? Do you have an interest in forwarding the Society's mission through public relations? If so, we need you! Please contact Sue Dingwell at sue@dingwell.net.
- **Policy and Legislation Committee** Are you interested in being involved with state wide policy and legislation? If so, contact Gene Kelly at gmkelly@tampabay.rr.com.

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Florida Native Plant Society
P.O. Box 278
Melbourne, FL 32902-0278