President’s Message

Greetings Fellow Members!

I hope you’ll join me in welcoming in a great 2011! Thank you for your collective generosity during our Annual Fund Drive, as well as the Chapter and Conservation Chair Grant challenges. Your Annual Fund donations have made a significant dent into our budget deficit. By the time of the February Board of Directors retreat, we’ll have an updated budget to report on. As of December 31, the research and conservation grants and landscape awards programs had received donations totaling $4300. We’ll be able to fund at least two science grants and one conservation grant, as well as 1–3 landscape awards. As I write this, not all chapters have met to discuss whether they can support these programs this year. Hopefully we’ll be able to fund a few more projects than expected!

One of the aspects of FNPS that I’d like to foster is greater volunteer involvement in the business of the Society. We are an all-volunteer organization, so FNPS is a reflection of what we collectively put into it. If you’ve thought it would be fun and interesting to be more a part of FNPS’ activities and functions, we’d love to have you! We have several committees at the state level and participation on these is a great way to get involved. They are Communications, Conference, Conservation, Education & Outreach, Finance, Landscape Awards, Membership, Policy & Legislation, Public Lands Management and Science. We just created a temporary Governance Committee, chaired by Director-at-Large (and past president) Rick Joyce. This committee is reviewing the governance structure of the society to ensure that we are both flexible enough to be responsive, while remaining true to our grassroots nature. The committee chairs are always looking for new members, so take a look at the committee list and contact the chair (http://www.fnps.org/pages/fnps/bod.php). Volunteer today.

Over the holidays, as I cleaned out the home office/guest room to make room for our sons, I came across my March 2010 copy of Garden Design. I turn down pages in magazines when I want to remember an interesting article; then they end up in a stack. I looked through this issue and one of the turned-down pages was an article about Rick Darke and his book, The Wild Garden: Expanded Edition — our lead-off keynote speaker at the 2011 annual conference! Mr. Darke has long been writing and lecturing about and designing with an emphasis on natives. As one of our most effective advocates for using natives in landscape design, Rick’s book The Encyclopedia of Grasses for Livable Landscapes is a fantastic resource advocating woefully under-utilized native grasses. His topic is Liveable Florida: Native by Design. Other keynote speakers are Professor Rutherford Platt and Attorney Mari Margill, who will be talking to us about Blooming Cities: Restoring Nature in Urban America and Earth Jurisprudence: Protecting Nature’s Rights to Exist. We’ll look forward to seeing you at the conference this May.

As always, please let Kariena (executivedirector@fnps.org) or me (president@fnps.org) know if you have questions, suggestions or time or talent to donate to our Society. Thanks for all that you do for FNPS!

— Ann

Chapter Happenings

- **Hernando chapter:** In an effort to find new ways to encourage members and guests to plant natives in their yards, Hernando Chapter member, Mark Hutchinson, has created a pilot project he’s calling “The Native Plant Owner’s Manual.” Mark has created an “Owner’s Manual” on CD for a number of native plants. Each CD is chock full of information about a specific plant including its common and scientific names, where it is found, when and where to plant it, and even how to propagate it. These CDs are a creative way to help people become familiar with specific native plants. Both the Hernando and Nature Coast chapters have offered the “Owner’s Manual” CDs with each native plant sold at their meetings and they have been a big hit. For more information about the “Native Plant Owner’s Manual” CDs, contact Mark Hutchinson at mhutchinson10@tampabay.rr.com.

- **Conradina chapter:** The Conradina Chapter is now giving away a new membership ($35.00 category only) to the first non-member whose door prize ticket is drawn at monthly meetings. This will mean 12 new memberships per year. We challenge the other chapters to try this and increase their membership and the statewide membership. With 38 chapters and 12 meetings per year, that adds up to a respectable amount of new members. Of course, it is up to each chapter to keep the new members interested in coming back...

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

Status of FNPS Finances

In this slim budget year for FNPS, the Suncoast (Hillsborough County) Chapter has issued a challenge to all chapters. They have donated $800 to fund the FNPS Research Grants program and challenge other chapters to do the same — fund research or conservation grants or landscape awards. The Ixia, Palm Beach, Serenota and Suncoast Chapters have collectively donated $2,300 towards FNPS Research Grants, Conservation Grants and Landscape Awards thus far! Two of them also donated a total of $700 to the FNPS General Fund! Their generosity has made a difference. We are still well below 2010 grant and award funding levels, so please consider making a donation today! For more information contact Kariena Veaudy, Executive Director, at executivedirector@fnps.org or Ann Redmond, President, at president@fnps.org. Or simply send in your donation to FNPS, PO Box 278, Melbourne FL 32902-0278 and write the donation description in the check memo field.
Land Management Partners Committee Report

The Land Management Partners section of the FNPS website is regularly updated by Danny Young. He has done an excellent job of adding new information for land reviewers, FNPS members and visitors to the site. We encourage FNPS members and guests with inquiries to visit the LMP section for information at http://fnps.org/pages/programs/programmphp?keyword=partners.

FDEP Land Reviews. Danny Young and Anne Cox are scheduling FNPS Chapter participants for the 2011 FDEP Land Reviews. Reviewers are still needed for Okaloacoochee Slough State Forest on April 28 & 30, 2011 and Welaka State Forest on May 18 & 19.

LMP received excellent feedback from SWFWMD about FNPS participation in the Stakesholder groups meeting on Nov 17. Since that meeting, FNPS Members have sent additional requests to get involved and are signing up with SWFWMD for meeting notices. A hunting working group meeting is being held to evaluate criteria to apply to District lands to determine if there are hunting opportunities on District properties that are not currently hunted.

Will V anGelder, SWFWMD Senior Land management Specialist, will be setting up tours on the District’s lands for FNPS members. This is a good opportunity to get FNPS members on the ground on District lands. We are looking for an FNPS member in the SWFWMD boundary to coordinate this.

LMP has also been communicating with the St. John’s River Water Management District to establish a working partnership.

At the 2011 FNPS annual conference, the LMP Committee will conduct a Thursday afternoon training session at the Florida Division of Forestry’s Warea Tract in Clermont. The four-hour training session will cover the land review as well as the evaluation process. The Warea Tract has a beautiful sandhill with many listed species and is within 30 miles (30–45 minutes) of the conference site. We are asking that participants volunteer for one Land Review within 12 months of attending the training. The training session will be limited to 15 FNPS members.

Board of Directors Profile: Paul Schmalzer, Science Committee Chair

Paul A. Schmalzer received a BA in biology from Western Maryland College (1976), and an MS (1978) and PhD (1982) in ecology from the University of Tennessee. He is a plant ecologist with the Dynamac Corporation at Kennedy Space Center, Florida. His current research interests include: effects of fire on vegetation and soils, restoration of scrub ecosystems, distribution of rare scrub plants, and composition and dynamics of barrier island plant communities. Previous research included studies of vegetation and flora of the Cumberland Plateau in Tennessee and habitat use by gopher tortoises. He has received certification as a Senior Ecologist by the Ecological Society of America. He is a member of the Ecological Society of America, Society of Wetland Scientists, Association of Southeastern Biologists, Southern Appalachian Botanical Society, and other professional societies. He served as editor for Castanea (2001–2004) and as Vice Chair, Secretary and Chair of the Southeastern Chapter of the Ecological Society of America. He serves on the Environmentally Endangered Lands Selection and Management Committee for Brevard County, Florida. He is author or coauthor of 45 published papers and numerous technical reports.

Dr. Schmalzer is very active in his chapter and contributes important insights at the FNPS Board level. Each year, Paul advertises for and collects the call for science and research presentations for the FNPS conference. He is responsible for all of the interesting, innovative and current research being presented at the conference each year.

Pipevine Swallowtail (Battus philenor) by Linda Cooper

The pipevine swallowtail (Battus philenor) is found in almost every county in Florida. It is a large butterfly, but small for a swallowtail. The male is black with brilliant iridescent blue on its dorsal hindwings; a row of creamy spots on the outer hindwings extends onto the forewings. The female is also black, but its iridescent blue is not as brilliant while its row of creamy spots is more noticeable on the forewings. Both sexes have short tails. If you can see either sexes’ ventral hindwings, you’ll see seven round bright orange spots against an iridescent blue background which are very quite striking.

Because their host plant Aristolochia is poisonous, the caterpillars sequester the toxic alkaloids and the adults advertise to predators through their striking colors that they are best left uneaten. Several of our other swallowtails mimic the pipevine swallowtail for protection from predators. Males spend much of their day patrolling for receptive females and will join other male butterflies at “puddle parties.” Females spend much of their time searching for host plants such as Virginia snakeroot (Aristolochia serpentaria), an herb, and woolly dutchman’s-pipe (A. tomentosa), a vine, in open woodlands, pine forests and gardens. Females will also lay eggs on exotic pipevines, but their caterpillars usually do not survive.

There are three broods in Florida. Reddish eggs are laid in groups and the voracious caterpillars grow quickly. The caterpillars are dark with orange tubercles on their backs and longer dark filaments on their sides. The chrysalis can be brown or green and, to my eyes, resembles a snake’s head. Try planting A. tomentosa to entice this beautiful swallowtail into your garden.

If you don’t mind a short commercial, watch this four and one half minute video on the life cycle of this butterfly, “Life Cycle of Pipevine Swallowtail” at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u2eE86AA1q0.
Is There a CISMA In Your Chapter’s Region?

FNPS is a member of the Florida Invasive Species Partnership (FISP). Together with public agencies and private landowners, this organization coordinates efforts to track invasive species. The FISP is the parent organization for Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas (CISMA). Several chapters have already joined their local CISMA or are helping to form a CISMA in their region.

CISMAS are expanding efforts to track invasive plants across the landscape, rather than just within political or property boundaries. By forming a partnership of federal, state, and local government agencies, tribes, individuals and various groups that manage noxious weeds or invasive plants in a defined area, the following concerns can be addressed:

- Prevention
- Education/Awareness
- Early Detection & Rapid Response
- Monitoring
- Integrated Pest Management

If CISMA/CWMA is not in your area, please contact your local working group from this list:

- Panhandle – Matt Phillips (850) 245-2809
- Northeast – Beau J. Wills (386) 362-1001
- Withlacoochee – Adele Mills (386) 312-2273
- Sun Coast – Debbie Chuyet (727) 582-2521
- West Central – Tabitha Diehl (863) 534-7377x272
- East Central – Melanie Brodhead (407) 836-1540
- Mosquito Coast – Chris O’Hara (321) 255-4466
- Treasure Coast – Jackie Smith (561) 722-2479
- Southwest – Melissa Hennig (239) 252-2957
- Southeast – Joe Maguire (305) 257-0933
- Florida Keys – Allison Higgins (305) 745-8402

For more information, visit http://www.floridainvasives.org/cismas.html.

FNPS 2011 Endowment Grant Research Awards and Conservation Grant Awards

Florida Native Plant Society 2011 Endowment Research Grant and Conservation Grant applications are available for download at www.fnps.org. Grant amounts are $1500 or less and awarded for a one-year period.

FNPS Research grants are intended to support research that forwards the Florida Native Plant Society’s mission: “to promote the preservation, conservation, and restoration of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida.”

FNPS Conservation grants are intended for applied native plant conservation projects in Florida. On-the-ground native plant community restoration, land acquisition, and habitat enhancement projects are examples of projects that this grant is intended to assist.

Application guidelines and details are located at www.fnps.org. Email questions regarding the grant programs to info@fnps.org.

Application deadline for the 2011 Awards is March 4, 2011. Awards will be announced at the 2011 Annual Conference in Maitland.

2011 Landscape Award Submittals Due March 18

Each year at the annual conference, FNPS gives awards for high quality native plant landscapes. If you have a home, business or school site landscaped primarily with native plants, you can apply for one of our landscape awards (presented at our annual conference).

Applications for the Florida Native Plant Society Landscape Awards are currently being accepted and can be downloaded at www.fnps.org under “Awards & Grants.” Plan now to submit your Florida native plant landscape project! For questions, contact Landscape Awards committee Chair Jim Couillard at jrc-rla@cox.net.

FNPS has written policies regarding conservation issues over the years. To view them, go to the “Policy and Legislative” section under “Initiatives” on the FNPS web site.

Freeze Discussion on FNPS Forum

A current discussion is taking place on the FNPS Forum. Located at http://fnps.org/smf/index.php, the Forum is an electronic communications tool for FNPS members and FNPS governance, which has information listed and various topics for discussion groups.

Call for Scientific Papers and Poster Presentations for FNPS 2011 Conference

The Florida Native Plant Society annual conference will be held at the Sheraton Orlando North, Maitland, Florida, May 19-22, 2011. The Research Track of the Conference will include presented papers on Friday, May 20 and Saturday, May 21. Posters will be on display Friday and Saturday; the poster session will be on Saturday afternoon.

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 an MS Word file by email to Paul A. Schmalzer at paul.a.schmalzer@nasa.gov no later than February 1, 2011. Include title, affiliation, and address. Indicate whether you will be presenting a paper or poster.
Volunteers needed

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

• **Legacy Campaign Coordinator** FNPS needs a volunteer to head the Legacy Giving campaign. This comprises planned giving and estate giving. Contact Steve Woodmansee at smwood@bellsouth.net.

• **Development Sub-committee Chair** FNPS is seeking a professional level volunteer for this position. Contact Steve Woodmansee at smwood@bellsouth.net.

• **Land Management Partners Committee (LMP)** The LMP Committee needs volunteers:
  1) to help getting FNPS members on FDEP Land Management Reviews and
  2) to help coordinate land management meetings and land reviews in the five Water Management Districts across the state.

  Please contact Anne Cox, LMP Chair, at annecox@bellsouth.net or Danny Young, Vice-Chair, at Dyoung@zevcohen.com. Also please check the Land Management Partners Web page under Initiatives (Committees) for updates.

• **Chapter Liaison** FNPS needs a volunteer to work with chapters who request assistance in governance structure and membership recruitment. Contact Kariena Veaudry at executivedirector@fnps.org.

• **Volunteer needed to help scan and categorize Palmetto issues.** Contact Kariena Veaudry at executivedirector@fnps.org.

• **FNPS Historian** FNPS is seeking a volunteer to fill this position. Contact Kariena Veaudry at executivedirector@fnps.org.

5 Ways to Fundraise for FNPS

1. If you or someone you know is a state employee, sign up with the Florida State Employees’ Charitable Campaign (FSECC) and select the Florida Native Plant Society as your charitable organization of choice. Please forward this information to state employees you know.

2. Public agency employees whose employers offer Earthshare can also select FNPS as their charitable organization. FNPS is seeking an Earthshare Coordinator; if interested, please contact VP of Finance, Steve Woodmansee at smwood@bellsouth.net.

3. Search the web using GoodSearch.com and raise funds for FNPS. Just go to www.goodsearch.com, choose or enter Florida Native Plant Society — Melbourne and complete your internet searches as you would from any other search engine. GoodSearch will donate 1 cent per search to FNPS and you’ll be helping FNPS financially without spending a penny.

4. Shop online with GoodShop, a portal featuring hundreds of great retailers. Goodshop donates up to 20% of each purchase to FNPS. Visit www.goodshop.com, select Florida Native Plant Society — Melbourne, make purchases you’d normally make and GoodShop will donate to FNPS.

5. Download the GoodSearch – Florida Native Plant Society – Melbourne toolbar and earn money for FNPS every time you shop and search online — even if you forget to go to GoodShop or GoodSearch first! Add the FNPS toolbar at www.goodsearch.com/toolbar/florida-native-plant-society-melbourne.