

Sabal minor

A bimonthly newsletter for the members of

THE FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY



VOLUME 11, NUMBER 3

June - July 2008

The *Sabal minor* is now distributed electronically by email. All members without an email address will receive a paper copy. If a member with an email address wants to receive a paper copy, notify us at info@fnps.org or call 321-271-6702.

June

Black skimmers and laughing gulls hatch.

This is the height of gopher tortoise nesting season. Indigo snakes lay their eggs, sometimes in gopher tortoise burrows. Female alligators are building nests.

Migrating tarpon can be found almost anywhere in the Keys. Snook begin moving out to inlets and passes.

Tarflower (*Bejaria racemosa*), devil's walking stick (*Aralia spinosa*), winged sumac (*Rhus copallinum*) are blooming. Look for the listed sweet-scented pigeon-wing (*Clitoria fragrans*) and Florida bonamia (*Bonamia grandiflora*) in central Florida.

July

Swallow-tail and Mississippi kites prepare to migrate south for the winter.

Bear breeding season begins. Red and Seminole bats are being born.

Curtiss' milkweed (*Asclepias curtissii*), elephant's foot (*Elephantopus elatus*), sneezeweed (*Helenium autumnale*) and sea oats (*Uniola paniculata*) are blooming. Look for Michaux's Lily (*Lilium michauxii*) and Chapman's crownbeard (*Verbesina chapmanii*) in the panhandle

OUTGOING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It has been a great two years. I've been really privileged to work with a great FNPS leadership team of officers and committee chairs; individually and collectively they have been extraordinary in implementing the FNPS mission. All our work has been made possible by the support of the FNPS board and our membership. Here are a few highlights of the accomplishments:

1. We contracted the services of an Executive Director (Karina Veaudry), which has improved support for chapters, officers and committees (2007-2008).
2. We approved a model landscaping ordinance and have been providing it to local governments for use in upgrading their landscape regulations (2007).
3. For the first time, we had a voice in Tallahassee during the legislative session. We learned a lot! With the assistance of our lobbyist, we were instrumental in getting Florida Forever renewed and helped get bad legislation off the approval agenda (2008).
4. We got our FNPS action alert system working (2008). Our policy team developed procedures for determining what issues are appropriate for FNPS to pursue, and we now have the ability to send out email alerts in support of those issues. The Policy team also informs Chapters if there is an issue which is not appropriate for the overall Society to address but which a Chapter would likely want to be aware of and potentially address locally.
5. The board approved 3 policy statements. The intent of these policy statements is to provide a vetted (science-reviewed), clear voice on issues of FNPS concern. These policies also provide background material that Chapters can use to develop statements or speak out on issues that may arise locally (2007, 2008). Two of the statements were just passed at the board meeting in May. The third, opposing the growing of an invasive species (*Arundo donax*) as a biofuel, just had FNPS cited in the New York Times.
6. We've gotten most FNPS historical documents on the web site so that they are available and searchable (2007-2008).
7. We're now distributing the *Sabal minor* by email and on-line, which should save some trees and reduce mailing costs (2008).
8. We are learning to use on-line payments -- the last two conferences allowed on-line registration and we should have on-line membership available soon.
9. We started many new chapters and expanded membership throughout the state!

I'm looking forward to the next two years, serving on the Executive Committee without being in the lead seat. I believe that our new president, Gene Kelly, will be effective and will continue to improve our ability to fulfill the FNPS mission: to promote the preservation, conservation and restoration of native plants and native plant communities throughout the state.

- Shirley Denton

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Sabal minor is on-line at <http://www.fnps.org/sabalmirror>. The on-line version has color photographs and other benefits. Enjoy!

Deadlines for *Sabal minor* submissions are: 1/15 for Feb-Mar issue; 3/15 for Apr-May; 5/15 for June-July; 7/15 for Aug-Sept; 9/15 for Oct-Nov; 11/15 for Dec-Jan

Species Spotlight

Passiflora spp.
PASSIFLORACEAE

Picking Out Passionflower

Rosalind Rowe

Of the eleven different passionflower or “maypop” vine species listed in the Florida Atlas, only six are native. Of the six native species, three are listed as endangered and found only in the southern part of the state. Thus, for most of us in Florida, we have three native passionflower species to learn about for our yards: purple passionflower (*Passiflora incarnata*), yellow passionflower (*Passiflora lutea*), and corkystem passionflower (*Passiflora suberosa*).

Our passiflora are all perennial and have the characteristic complex flowers of their genus.

P. incarnata blooms now and through the summer, with showy purple flowers to three inches wide. The fruits are yellow, decorative and edible. The leaves are deeply three-lobed with finely-toothed edges. The vine is very hardy; it does sucker readily, so be prepared to do some pruning. Purple passionflower does best out in the open, in rather dry and well-drained soil.



P. lutea blooms in June and July in central and northern Florida. The flowers are yellow to chartreuse, and about an inch wide. The fruit is a small black berry. The leaves are shallowly three-lobed and hang on a fairly long petiole (leaf-stem). The vine is only somewhat shade tolerant, does best in medium rich soils, and reportedly won't do well in really dry conditions. Yellow passionflower is the most cold tolerant of the three.

P. suberosa blooms throughout the year. The flowers are inconspicuous, greenish and about a half-inch wide; on close inspection you'll find them adorable! The fruit is a purple-black berry about the size and shape of an olive, and it is edible; birds like them, too. The leaf shape and size can vary quite a bit, but this doesn't bother the butterflies (gulf fritillaries, julias and zebra longwings) that feast on them. Corkystem passionflower is easy to grow and does well in full sun or deep shade, on moist to dryish soils.

If you are shopping for passionflower, three is not too many to learn to identify. Take the time to do this because several non-native species found in Florida are not well behaved but may be available for sale anyway or may have been labeled incorrectly as a native. Beware!

A great resource for identification photos is our Florida plant atlas: www.plantatlas.usf.edu. Type the scientific name in the atlas Search box. When you get your plant, you can browse images. You also can check the map to see if the plant you want is already growing in your county.

Gulf Fritillary

Linda Cooper

One of Florida's brightest and most common butterflies is Gulf Fritillary, *Agraulis vanillae*, one of the brushfooted butterflies. This bright reddish-orange butterfly with its silvery underwings flies year round. It ranges as far north as North Carolina, west to California and south to Argentina and the West Indies. Large numbers migrate into the state during fall.

Its host plants, members of the Passifloraceae family,



are easy to grow in our sandy soils. There are many natives including *Passiflora incarnata*, *P. lutea* and *P. suberosa*. Gulf Fritillaries prefer the host plants planted



Photos by Linda Cooper

in the sun. Their caterpillars are bright orange with black spines but none of our butterfly

caterpillars sting. Ants are a major predator on its caterpillars.

WELCOME! To Our New State Officers

Annual elections for Board of Directors positions took place during the FNPS Annual Conference, at the General Meeting 8 a.m., Saturday, May 17, 2008.

- President - Eugene Kelly
- Secretary - Christina M. Uranowski
- Vice President of Finance - Steve Woodmansee
- At Large Director, 2008 to 2010 - Rick Joyce
- At Large Director, 2008 to 2010 - Lynne Flannery
- At Large Director, 2008 to 2010 - Fritz Wettstein

Make the FNPS Forum Work for You

As an FNPS member, you have access to information about most of the Society's work and its day-to-day business through the FNPS Forum. You can review minutes, the wording of contracts, discussions of strategies, among other things. You can start your own discussions there.

Go to FNPS.org, select FNPS Coordination and then select Forum--Society Coordination and History.

Please don't be intimidated by this portion of the web site because it requires you to go through the steps of registering -- and then later remembering how you registered and what you chose as your password! It is *because* access to the Forum requires a password that FNPS now has the security to share such information with its members.

**FNPS.org Expanding Its
Chapter Resources
Information and Links**

Watch for:

- Chapter *Calendar of Operations* template for key annual activities
- Contact information for who has the latest Plant Profiles that could be used for plant sales
- Checklists of tasks for new Chapter directors and other board members
- Presentation templates
- Speaker's Bureau initiation
- ...and "much, much more"!

Chapter Tips & Tricks

Tap into the power of delightful artwork! For all the science and economic values of native plants -- to really love them is to know them, and that is a sensory experience! Get those visuals in front of everyone! Find scents, tastes, textures to accentuate! Here is a sample from the **Dade Chapter** of a visual to delight the eye and swell the heart. They put it on a t-shirt. It's definitely a case of Love at First Sight!



Watercolor by Wes Jurgens

Chapter Mentors Chapters

from Brian Quinn & Karina Veaudry

When the Paynes Prairie Chapter allocated bits of money from its treasury at its last board meeting, not only did it decide to give some to FLEPPC (Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council), Alachua Conservation Trust and Putnam County Land Trust, it also decided to make some of its funds available to the fledgling chapters near it (Ocala, Jax, and St. Augustine). The Chapter is thinking of inviting neighboring chapters to submit proposals that would explain what they would do with \$500 in order to boost their membership and further the goals of FNPS.

The Chapter also is inviting their neighbors to their board meeting on the first Tuesday in August to show how they do business and to offer support in garnering speakers, field trips, and new members. Paynes Prairie also is scheduling field trips in areas close to the other chapters in the fall in an effort to take the trips jointly.

It is such a good feeling knowing that an older and successful chapter can offer so much to a novice chapter who is looking for assistance!

The FNPS Executive Committee has been discussing the implementation of "Chapter Liaisons" who would essentially assist chapters according to their needs. The Paynes Prairie Chapter outreach to the other chapters reflects that need and anticipates some ways to approach its solution.

**It's Time for Chapters to Consider the
501 (c) (3) Group Exemption for 2008**

Chapters that would like to become participants in the 501(c)(3) Group Exemption in 2008 may submit necessary materials now. Final date for transmittal to the IRS is September 30, 2008. Instructions and forms will be available at FNPS.org. Contact Treasurer Sue Thompson at susandjesse@bellsouth.net; phone and fax: 772-567-9006.

**A Letter of Thanks to
FNPS' Sumter Chapter**

Hi Ms. Denton.

My name is Jim Davis. I am the Florida Yards and Neighborhoods Extension Agent for UF IFAS Sumter County Extension. I have worked with the local Sumter County Native Plant Society chapter on numerous occasions, one being a Florida Friendly Demonstration Landscape in the town of Oxford located near The Villages.

I just wanted to let your organization know that the efforts made by the local chapter have been exemplary. They have been very helpful in the maintenance and continued donation of Native Plants in our demo garden. Without their efforts the demonstration landscape would not have happened and would not be the success it is today.

I believe they are an excellent representative of your organization to the residents of Sumter County.

Thank you for all of your organization's help.

Sincerely,

Jim Davis

Extension Agent I

Florida Yards and Neighborhoods

UF IFAS Sumter County Extension



Florida Forever has been renewed!

Thank You everyone who worked to make this happen!

In May of this year, both the Florida House and the Senate unanimously approved legislation to extend the Florida Forever program through 2020 at \$300 million a year.

Florida Forever assists over a dozen agency recipients. To see a detailed list of recipients and priority projects, go to <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/lands/acquisition/FloridaForever>.

The Division of State Lands receives about \$105 million annually from the sale of Florida Forever bonds. Under the Florida Forever program, the Division negotiates with owners and buys lands on behalf of the people of Florida. The Governor and Cabinet oversee the entire program by approving the list of projects recommended each year by the Council and by approving specific purchases.

These funds are not enough to acquire all the projects on the Florida Forever list in any one year. The estimated market value of the properties on the list well exceeds a billion dollars. However, the dedicated funds will help perpetuate conservation efforts in Florida!

The extension of the Florida Forever program is a legislative victory in view of an extremely tight budget year. FNPS thanks its members and Chapters, and all the individuals, organizations, township and county governments who converged in support of this program and contacted our elected leaders. Your input made all of the difference!

Consider Exploring Belize with FNPS

Charlie Strader

Thank you for your past travel with Explorations, Inc. We have once again designed a natural history tour for the members and friends of the FNPS! You are invited to explore the Central American country of Belize this October 25 through November 2, 2008. The 9-day itinerary features accommodations in three great jungle lodges, explorations of multiple ecosystems, and a wide variety of activities. In addition to rainforest/wildlife nature walks and visiting Maya ruins, boating and floating on rivers will open up even more beautiful natural scenery.

Highlights include:

3 Nights at Cohune Palms Riverside Cabanas in the Cayo District, located on the Mopan River for: Masewal Forest Garden Trail & Mopan River Tubing Excursion, Macal River Canoe Trip & Xunantunich Archaeological Site, El Pilar Reserve and Ruins, and Ix Chel Medicine Trail.

3 Nights at Pook's Hill Lodge & Nature Reserve in the Belmopan area for: Barton Creek & Cave Canoeing Excursion, Green Hills Butterfly Ranch, Cave's Branch Cave Tubing, Guanacaste National Park, Belize Zoo, and hiking, birding, tubing, swimming in Pook's grounds & Roaring Creek Area.

2 Nights at Lamanai Outpost Lodge in northern Belize, directly on New River Lagoon for: Lamanai Archaeological Reserve & Visitor Center, Night spotlight safari on the New River & Lagoon, and local village visits.

For detailed trip brochure visit our website -- www.ExplorationsInc.com/Belize --for photos and to download trip brochure. Or feel free to call Explorations at 800-446-9660.

If interested, please reserve early to guarantee a place on this tour as space is limited and most previous offerings have sold out.

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