

Sabal minor

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



VOLUME 7, NUMBER 5
October-November 2005

October

Hawk migration begins and Bald eagles return to nest sites and begin courtship. We're already seeing them in east Sarasota County. UF notes they'll be at St. Joseph Peninsula in Gulf County by this month.

Atlantic sturgeon begin fall migration from the Suwannee and Apalachicola Rivers to the Gulf of Mexico. Blue crabs migrate from the shallow panhandle coast to deeper water for the winter.

This is primarily the purple and yellow time of year for our wildflowers, with all the goldenrods and liatris. Don't forget to take a good long moment with a full-berried beautyberry -- and then go plant some!

November

Northeast Floridians should keep a lookout for migrating Peregrine falcons, especially along the coast. Southeast Floridians will note the return of the Turkey Vultures. Warbler migration peaks early this month. Sandhill cranes that nested in more northern latitudes move south to join our resident birds.

Monarch butterfly migration nears its peak along Florida's Gulf coast. Flatwoods salamanders breed. Flying squirrels will be moving into pecan groves as the nuts ripen.

Some of our more deciduous plants, such as red maple and Florida privet, may start looking a little thin (Autumn in Florida!), but the climbing aster will still be rather lush.

Education Requires Communication

Cindy Liberton, Rosalind Rowe, Bob Egolf

The primary mission of the Florida Native Plant Society, and the major piece that makes us eligible to be a 501(c)3 charitable organization, is education of the public about the importance of native plants. Although there are many ways to share this knowledge, the two primary categories of approach we have been using are through 1) our membership, using meetings, lectures, field trips, newsletters and *The Palmetto* magazine; and 2) the public, using the website and events such as plant sales and Earth Days. FNPS is now beginning a third approach.

The Society is starting a new initiative, under the leadership of Eileen Szuchy, SeaRocket Chapter, to get what we know to where citizens can see it—in their *local newspapers*. We're envisioning garden columns, conservation news, editorials with FNPS position statements on current affairs, and other similar articles.

How often have you seen an article in the garden column of your local newspaper touting plants such as *Lantana camera* or Mexican petunia? Many newspapers run syndicated articles from other areas of the USA. We have thousands of newcomers coming to our state every day. Most have no idea of the uniqueness of Florida or the need to provide wildlife habitat. They run off to the "Big Box store" to load up on exotics, invasives, fertilizers, insecticides, and cypress mulch. Hopefully, this new initiative will provide a service to these publications by offering them scientifically sound gardening advice on the wonderful world that is the real Florida.

Some Chapters are already doing this successfully; Eileen and others of us on the Publications Committee need to hear from you, and hope you will share your efforts. For Chapters who would appreciate receiving peer-reviewed, ready-to-roll articles to send to the media, we need your ideas.

We are currently planning the process, building a preliminary list, and identifying resources. The process will ultimately include these elements:

- Submit to FNPS Science Committee for scientific evaluation
- Determine where in Florida the article is most relevant
- Determine the appropriate season for each article
- Collect state-wide media contacts
- Submit to local media
- Record publication success
- Analyze effectiveness of efforts

We have many members already contributing wonderful articles to the FNPS publications, both at the state level and locally. Now we're adding another outlet and another set of requests for content and participation from the

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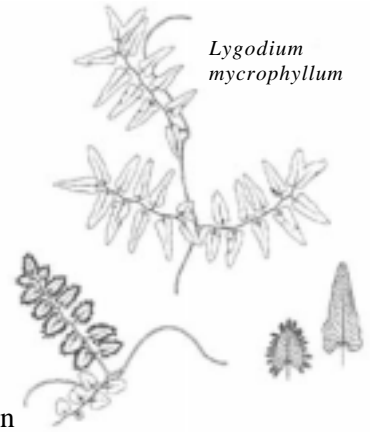
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Species Spotlight

Lygodium japonicum and *Lygodium microphyllum*

**Get to know
these plants and kill
them on sight!**



*Lygodium
microphyllum*

Center for Aquatic and
Invasive Plants, University of Florida

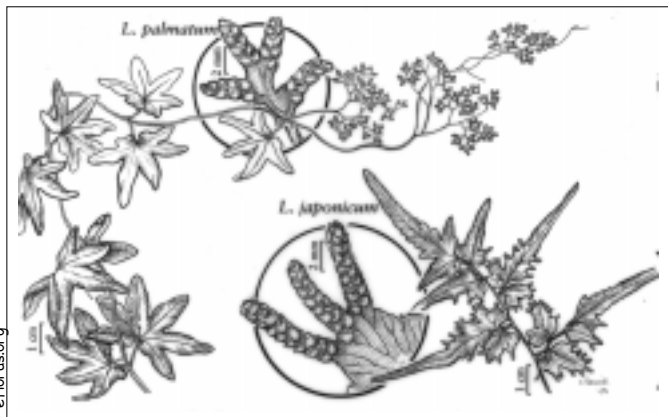
Some plants just don't behave as nicely as others. Anthropomorphizing? Maybe so, but it is humans who have introduced such plants into places where they just don't belong, so it is up to humans to take action to control them.

Two badly behaved plants are of the same genus: *Lygodium*. These vinelike ferns are from other continents. (We have one native *Lygodium*, *Lygodium palmatum* or American climbing fern, but it is rare.) *Lygodium microphyllum*, Old World climbing fern, is native to wet-tropical and subtropical regions of Asia, Australia and South Africa. *Lygodium japonicum*, Japanese climbing fern, is native to tropical Asia.

Control and removal is difficult. The minute spores are windblown, and have established significant populations even in remote areas of the Everglades. Regrowth can occur after physical removal or burning. Cutting vines kills only the vine above the cut, but may reduce the number of spores produced. Flooding does not kill established plants, but may reduce germination of spores. In two years, Old World climbing fern has more than doubled its coverage in central and south Florida.

The ferns are destructive in many ways. They twine over and completely blanket other plants. They develop dense mats of stems and roots on the soil surface. They completely alter fire behavior, carrying fire into tree canopies, and into and through moist areas such as cypress sloughs. These plants are so noxious, it is now illegal to possess, transport or cultivate them.

Participate in community workdays for removing invasive plants. Also, if you see any *Lygodium* species on public lands that are less than 10 acres in size, notify Andrew Leslie of the Bureau of Invasive Plant Management, (850)-245-2822 or Drew.Leslie@dep.state.fl.us.



eFloras.org

FNPS Joins the Florida State Employees' Charitable Campaign

Bob Egolf

This is the time of year when many businesses conduct charitable campaigns for agencies such as the United Way. One advantage of these programs is that they usually allow an option of using payroll deduction. This is a good opportunity to make a significant gift by making a year's worth of small contributions over time.

This year, FNPS was screened and accepted into the Florida State Employees' Charitable Campaign (FSECC). The effort to join this group was begun about two years ago by our then President, Kim Zarillo. The application process was quite rigorous, requiring a lot of documentation work from our Treasurer, Sue Thompson, but we made it.

There are two ways to give to make a gift to FNPS with FSECC. You can designate a gift to all Earth Share members by specifying Agency Code 900, or you can designate directly to FNPS by specifying Agency Code 920. FNPS is part of Earth Share, which is a group of organizations that protect our environment health, wildlife, and natural resources. (Their slogan is, "One environment, one simple way to care for it." You can learn more by visiting their website at <http://www.earthshare.org>.)

This option is available to employees who work for the state of Florida and also to Federal employees participating in the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). I'd be interested in learning if other companies and governmental entities allow their employees to designate funds to Earth Share.

As an old United Way volunteer, I would hope you wouldn't forget to include your local United Way. Again, payroll deduction allows you to make a gift to these agencies that you can be proud of, plus you get a tax deduction.

Travis MacClendon and Eileen Szuchy Join FNPS Executive Committee

Bob Egolf

Travis MacClendon has agreed to come out of retirement to fill the unexpired term of Vice President, Finance. This slot became open when David Lei had to resign for health reasons. Travis has had this role before. Travis is now researching options for Planned Giving through wills or trusts. If anyone has experience with these estate options and are willing to help Travis with this, please contact him at travismac@gtcom.net.

Eileen Szuchy of Brevard's Sea Rocket Chapter has agreed to lead the Publications Committee on a new initiative, as you may have read already in the front page article.

This leaves two openings on our Executive Committee: **Education** and **Membership**. At the time this is being written, we have some offers pending but we haven't filled the positions. If you'd like to nominate someone, please let me know at begolf2@verizon.net.

Education...

Continued from page 1

Chapters. When the Society selects a new Education Chair, another wave can be predicted; in total, an overwhelming number of requests for input, indeed.

This is a good time for the Chapters and the State Committees to discuss ways to streamline collaboration, so that information sharing is rewarding as well as effective in reaching our many audiences. Discussions may include how to initiate specific projects that bring together the resources -- the educators, writers, newsletter editors, and so on -- and the strategies by which Chapters can identify and submit articles that could be repeated or amplified in one of the other publications. Your suggestions will be part of the solution.

If you can be a Publications committee member or help in other ways with this question send an email to info@fnps.org. If you would like to help with the new initiative, please e-mail Eileen at bidensz1@yahoo.com.

Editor's Note: Chapters, please discuss in your executive and board meetings how you might encourage members to contribute and how you want the state representatives to in turn help you obtain the educational materials you need. Also, please choose a Chapter tip that you would like to contribute to the next *Sabal minor*. This will be due the middle of November. Thanks, rr.

Chapter Tips

The **Beautyberry Chapter** encourages its members to pot any new or young beautyberry plants (*Callicarpa americana*) they might have and donate them to the Chapter for sale at local events. This provides them with



plants to sell, gets more beautyberry out into the community, and the buyer can remember the name of the Chapter more easily.

The **Tillandsia Chapter** and **Serenoa Chapter** participate in workdays for local environmental conservation or restoration efforts. Tillandsia has been helping with the Everglades National Park's Coe Visitors Center, installing natives. Serenoa has been helping the Felts Audubon Preserve in Manatee County, particularly focusing on clearing exotic invasives.

The Conservation Chair of the **Palm Beach County Chapter** is developing community contacts and recruiting interested volunteers to rescue (retrieve and relocate) native plants from local sites that would otherwise be bulldozed on land slated for development. Starting with small lots of builders who will build model homes, she will ascertain if they will give permission for a team to retrieve native plants not included in the site development. For more information, check with Stephanie Brown, scb17611@hotmail.com.

Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Magazine

This year, FNPS became an affiliate member of the Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin, Texas. One of the benefits offered to our members is a 25% discount on a subscription to the Center's *Native Plants* magazine. For only \$15, you will receive a year's worth (four issues).

A winner of national awards, this ad-free magazine explores native plant conservation, restoration and use. Thought-provoking editorial and gorgeous four-color nature photography examine issues of regional interest and national significance.

Sign up online at wildflower.org by clicking **Read Our Magazine**, then **Subscribe**, then **Special Offer**. Or sign up by sending a check with your name, address, phone and native plant society affiliation information to:

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center
4801 La Crosse Avenue
Austin, Texas 78739

Make check payable to **LadyBird Johnson Wildflower Center**.



Have you noticed the lovely new face on our **FNPS.org** website and how easy it is to navigate?

LEEF Workshop

The League of Environmental Educators in Florida is having it's 5th FLORIDA NATURAL HISTORY WORKSHOP is scheduled for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, October 21-23, 2005. Calling this event "Nature-immersion education," this event is designed for environmentalists, nature lovers, and environmental educators,

The Workshop is set at beautiful Camp Crystal Lake, north of Gainesville, Florida. Habitats include freshwater lake, sandhill, ravine, steephead, creek, ephemeral pond, and woodland with abundant wildlife. Nature study will be augmented with discussions of Deep Ecology, Despair-to-Empowerment Exercises, and therapies for body, mind and spirit.

The Workshop is \$100 per person, which includes all sessions, organic meals, drinks, snacks, lodging Friday evening through Sunday breakfast, and LEEF membership. (\$20 LEEF member discount!). Accommodations are communal cabins with bathrooms; campsites are also available.

The registration deadline is September 20, 2005. If space is available after the deadline, the cost is \$125 per person. Check the LEEF website, leeflet.brinkster.net, under "News and Events." To register, or if you have specific questions, contact Maria Minno in Gainesville at (352) 375-3028, email mminno@bellsouth.net.

Endowment Fund Grants Available for Research

Cindy Liberton

Notices will soon be distributed soliciting applications for the annual Endowment Fund Grants. If you have contacts at universities or know researchers who may need additional financial support for their projects, please contact Shirley Denton, Science Advisory Chair, EcotypeS@myrapidsys.com so that she can add them to the list.

An Endowment Fund is maintained by the Florida Native Plant Society for the purpose of funding research on native plants. These are small grants (typically \$1000 or less), awarded for a 1-year period, and intended to support research that forwards the mission of the Florida Native Plant Society "to promote the preservation, conservation, and restoration of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida." Anyone may apply—preference will be given to FNPS members, but membership is not a requirement.

Awards will be announced at the 2006 Annual FNPS Conference in May 2006. Recipients will be notified in advance, and attendance is encouraged as we would like to honor those receiving research grants and to introduce them to the membership.

The deadline is March 30, 2006. A written application is required. For more information, and listings of previous winners, please visit the FNPS Website. Information about the grant program appears under Programs, Awards and Grants.

WANTED
 Editor for **The Palmetto** magazine.
 FNPS is currently reviewing applications.
 Send letter of interest and qualifications to
 VP Admin, Joan Bausch (jclb@gate.net).

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