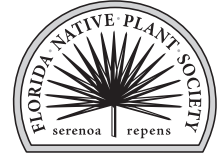


# Sabal minor

A bimonthly newsletter for the members of

THE FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY



VOLUME 8, NUMBER 2

April - May 2006

## April

Wood storks in north Florida begin courtship and nesting. Florida sandhill crane chicks begin foraging in open habitat. Bobwhite quail nest now through September.

American crocodiles in Florida Bay begin laying eggs. Florida softshell turtles lay eggs now through July. Loggerhead sea turtles begin nesting on sandy beaches.

Long-tailed weasels, minks, and river otters are born April through May, and bobcat kittens arrive this month and next. Manatees are dispersing around Florida's coastal waterways.

Pitcher plants blanket the wet savannahs of the Panhandle. Blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium* spp.) decorates roadside ditches, along with various lindernias and lobelias.

## March

Red-cockaded woodpeckers are breeding, as are many resident and summer songbirds. Painted buntings nest through summer in northeast Florida.

This is peak flight period for Schaus' swallowtail butterfly in the Keys.

Adult alligators begin their courtship ritual--noted by the loud and resounding bellows and water slapping; this continues through June. Sea turtles emerge from their nests and head for the ocean -- so keep those beach lights off!

American lotus is in bloom in wetlands. White swamp lilies dot wet prairies and sloughs in the Everglades.

## Is FNPS Ready for the Next Level?

The job of promoting the preservation, conservation, and restoration of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida gets tougher every day. Lots of new people move into our state daily with their own ideas of what Florida should look like. These ideas often do not represent good science or sustainability of our environment. It really is important that FNPS play an increasingly active role in promoting our mission.

We do have a lot going for us. We're a growing Society with 27 chapters throughout a large, diverse state. There's a unifying spirit within the society: you'll meet a FNPS member from the other side of the state on a conference field trip and it's like meeting someone you're known for years. Our Annual Conferences have been great.

But there are some weaknesses, too. The Society could serve the chapters better. Many of our committees are really solo efforts. Board turnover and having only four Board meetings a year makes sustaining momentum difficult.

I believe it's time that FNPS return to having an Executive Director who can sustain and coordinate the efforts of our Board of Directors and our Chapters. Our 2003 Strategic Plan talked about gradually transitioning from individual contract services to an Executive Director over a period of years. The possibility that the Society may turn to a professional conference planner in the future gives us the opportunity to combine duties into what could be a full time position.

I think we're ready to make that next step. I'd appreciate your opinions and comments.

*Bob Egolf, FNPS President*

FNPS now has established an Estate Giving program.  
You can make a difference and establish a lasting legacy.  
Contribute to the growth and success of the FNPS --

■ Remember FNPS in your will ■

For more information,  
contact Travis MacClendon 850.674.4408 or [travismac@wfeca.net](mailto:travismac@wfeca.net).  
All discussions are confidential and can be anonymous if you wish.

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## Species Spotlight

*No One Had a Favorite to Submit?*

Ed Note: *In the last issue, how many of you noticed the missing second 'r' that belongs in "prostrate"? I'll take responsibility for that miss. But didn't finding it make for an interesting moment? Also, how many of you knew that "repent" in botanical terms is more or less equivalent to prostrate? Maybe I should use that term next time; we could then have a moment to consider the concilience of plant and religious thoughts. Language is a fine thing...*

I do hope someone out there will give us a *Species Spotlight* for the next issue. Deadlines for **Sabal minor** submissions are the 15th of the odd-numbered months (May, July, September...).

## Endangered Species Act Update

*Bob Egolf*

At the end of September, the House of Representatives passed H R 3824 to amend and reauthorize the Endanger Species Act of 1973. FNPS is a member of both the Florida Endangered Species Network and the Center for Biological Diversity. Both organizations are against the adoption of this bill, saying, "The bill will systematically remove every proven recovery tool from the Endangered Species Act."

Only 6 Florida Representatives voted against weakening the ESA:

District 3 - Corrine Brown  
District 16 - Mark Foley  
District 17 - Kendrick Meeks  
District 19 - Robert Wexler  
District 20 - Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
District 23 - Alcee Hastings.  
Representative Jim Davis, District 11, did not vote.

Why such a lopsided 19 to 6 vote in a state with a fragile environment to begin with? I can't seem to find much of a rationale online. What I've seen on the web is mostly both sides hurling mud at the other. I would welcome some explanation for why this vote seems so out of wack with the needs of our state. How do we convince our own representatives that extinction is forever?

Incidentally, I'm not personally against compensating landowners for any losses.

No sure date for Senate action has been set. It could happen before you read this. Just in case, here are phone numbers: Senator Martinez, 202-224-3041

Senator Nelson, 202-224-5274

## Florida Wildflower Education Grant

*Neta Villalobos-Bell*

Applications are being accepted now by the Florida Wildflower Advisory Council (FWAC). See details at [floridawildflowercouncil.org](http://floridawildflowercouncil.org). Application deadline is July 31, 2006 for the 2006-2007 season. Small Grants award up to \$1500. Large Grants award from \$1500 to \$25,000.

Basically, any association or person whose project will further the goals of the Florida Wildflower Council are eligible. This includes educational institutions, public and private nonprofit organizations, governments, and community based organizations such as Home Owner Associations. Contact Gary Henry at 850 877-7101.

## The 1st Annual Awards of Excellence for Community Trees

This year the Home Depot Foundation and the U.S. Conference of Mayors announced a new program to identify, recognize and showcase outstanding, innovative work of public/private partnerships engaged in enhancing and strengthening communities through the strategic use of trees.

To be eligible to receive an Award, the program/project must demonstrate a partnership between city government and local nonprofit having a 501c 3 status, show innovations in the development and enhancement of a city's urban forest, and demonstrate exceptional city leadership and community involvement in creating a well-managed urban forest.

Awards are for two population categories, cities with fewer than 100,000 people and those with a population of 100,000 or more. Within each category, two grant awards will be made -- \$75,000 to the winning project and \$25,000 to the runner-up. While both the city and the nonprofit partner will be recognized, the grant will be awarded to the winning cities' nonprofit partners to be used at their discretion, within the program goals.

An independent Advisory Committee of experts selects project winners. The Committee consists of representatives from the Alliance for Community Trees, American Society of Landscape Architects, Centers for Disease Control, Former Mayor of the U.S. Conference of Mayors, National Arbor Day Foundation, Trust for Public Land, University of Washington, USDA Forest Service.

Although this year's application deadline has passed (February 24 for projects completed before December 31, 2005), it is worth looking into this program in preparation for next year's awards. What a golden opportunity to promote *native* trees! Any city or nonprofit organization interested in submitting a first-round application for the Awards of Excellence Program for Community Trees should go to [homedepotfoundation.org](http://homedepotfoundation.org) and scroll to the Healthy Community and Wildland Forests link.

## **2006 FNPS Officer Nominees**

### **President**

Shirley Denton

### **VP Finance**

Travis MacClendon

### **Secretary**

Ameé Bailey

### **Directors-at-Large**

Lauren Day

George Kish

Laurel Schiller

**Those elected this May will serve 2-year terms.**

## **Nominee Bios**

### **President**

Shirley Denton was born in Roanoke, VA. All of her four degrees are from the University of Michigan. She received her BA and MA in Mathematics and went to work as a computer scientist. She then decided to start a second career. She returned to school and got a MS in Natural Resources and a Ph.D. in Forest Ecology. Today she is a Vice President and Senior Ecologist for Biological Research Associates in Tampa. She has been the Chair of the FNPS Science Advisory Committee for 5 years and has played a lead role on the FNPS web team since 2003. Shirley's hobbies include camping, hiking, and paddling. She's a prolific nature photographer. See her photos on several websites including our own and Dr. Wunderlin's ISB Plant Atlas.

### **VP Finance**

Travis MacClendon, an FNPS member since 2000, has served as FNPS VP of Finance, as the Conradina Chapter Director and President before his recent move to the panhandle. Travis by education is a mathematician, a self-taught biologist, and an international birder who applied the concept of birder's life list to a plant life list. Travis and his wife, Karen, have begun an official herbarium for Calhoun County and are actively collecting plants each week. What free time is left, Travis spends on his 11 acres attempting to restore a bit of natural Florida. Travis is with the Magnolia Chapter of the FNPS.

### **Secretary**

(Aimee's bio was not received by time of printing.)

### **Directors-at-Large**

Lauren Day, Payne's Prairie Chapter and a Gainesville native, has been the Executive Director of Alachua Conservation Trust (ACT) since 2003. At ACT she works to protect the area's natural, scenic, & historic heritage by purchasing land and conservation easements. Her education includes a bachelors degree in Environmental Studies and a masters degree in Real Estate from the University of Florida. Before working for Alachua Conservation Trust, she was a construction supervisor, a commercial property manager, and the "Greening UF" Coordinator. When she is not enjoying the outdoors, Lauren works to restore old houses.

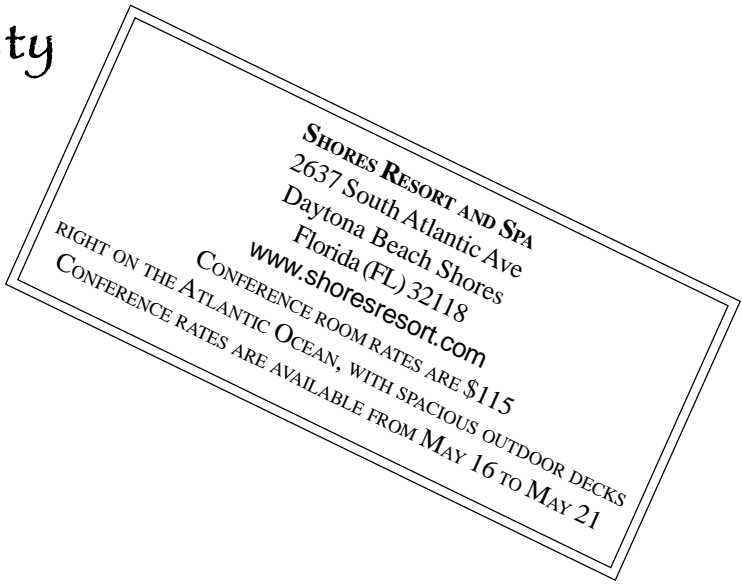
(George's bio was not received by time of printing)

Laurel Schiller, Serenoa Chapter, is CO-owner of Florida Native Plants Nursery she also serves as a member of the AFNN Board and the Sarasota Planning Commission. She brings experience, energy and enthusiasm to the Society for the future of sustainable communities. Her education includes degrees in wildlife biology and systematics and ecology. Laurel is committed to working on behalf of the Society to connect green building and green landscaping within the sustainable development movement.

# Florida Native Plant Society 26th Annual State Conference May 17-21, 2006

**Growing Partnerships:  
Preserving Florida's Environment  
from Backyards to Backwoods**

**Go to FNPS.org to Register NOW!**



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## Endowment Grants Better than Ever

*Shirley Denton*

Good news! The FNPS Board of Directors voted to increase the upper limit for Endowment Grants from \$1000 to \$2500, effective this year!

The Florida Native Plant Society maintains an Endowment Grant program for the purpose of funding research on native plants. These are small grants 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.”**

Endowment Grant applications are due March 31, 2006. Grants are competitive. Applicants submit proposed research on Florida's plants. These are reviewed by a 3-4 members of the Science Advisory Committee, and awards are given based on merit, consistency with the mission of the Florida Native Plant Society, wise use of money (good budget) and available funds. Awardees are requested to present the results of their research to the membership, usually in the form of a presentation at the Conference.

Details are on the web site at <http://www.fnps.org>. Follow the menu to Programs -> Award & Grants->Endowment Fund Grants. Take advantage of this wonderful program.

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