

Sabal minor

A bimonthly newsletter for the members of

THE FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY



VOLUME 9, NUMBER 6

Dec 2006 - Jan 2007

Thanks to Gayle Edwards and her merry crew, we can begin parcelling out a month-by-month bloom list. And, of course, thanks to *la Florida* for so generously blooming all the year 'round...

December

Physostegia purpurea, eastern false dragonhead
Hibiscus aculeatus, pineland hibiscus
Balduina angustifolia, coastalplain honeycomb-head (now there's a name..)

Conoclinium coelestinum, blue-mistflower
Symphotrichum carolinianum, climbing aster

You should also be seeing berries on the *Hamelia patens* (firebush), both *Psychotria* species (wild coffees), and *Ilex glabra* (ink berry or gallberry).

Also this month, the 107th Christmas Bird Count begins December 14th. Great horned and barred owls are courting; listen for their hooting! Bears are still on the move, especially inland.

January

Salvinia coccinea, tropical sage
Poinsettia cyathophora, painted leaf
Gaillardia pulchella, gaillardia
Saururus cernuus, lizard's tail
Erythrina herbacea, coral bean
Gelsemium sempervirens, Carolina jessamine

Nesting season begins for roseate spoonbills, Florida sandhill cranes, hawks and owls. Gray foxes, bobcats and raccoons are at peak of courtship and breeding this month. Striped bass and sunshine bass move into open water to feed on shad.

FNPS Contact Information

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Greetings -

Since its inception, FNPS has continuously taken on more and better activities as a Society. In the last few years, we have added Chapter Grants to help fund chapter projects, added a Conservation Grant for a worthy conservation or restoration project, and increased the amount going to Endowment Awards. We have also hired an Executive Director (Karina Veaudry), who has been adding enormous support for chapters, FNPS committees, and members. Costs to produce the Palmetto, our premier FNPS publication, continue to climb. All of this requires money, and to a great extent, we have been funding them from conferences' profits. This funding source, however, is unpredictable as some conferences do not make money.

A review of other native plant societies and similar organizations revealed that our dues are very low compared to services offered. They are, in fact, similar to dues for organizations that offer no publication that is the equivalent of the Palmetto, have no Executive Director, and do not provide the types of grants and awards offered by FNPS. We are investigating various sources to increase revenues including making changes to the Conference structure; we want to make it easier for chapters to be hosts and to ensure that they contribute to the coffers. We are also looking into other money-making activities, including sponsoring more trips to great botanical places and offering the sales of articles (t-shirts, mugs, etc.) with FNPS logos on them. We are also looking into ways to save money (email receipt of the Sabal minor will soon be an option for members that will save printing and mailing costs). The last dues increase was in 1990.

FNPS will be increasing membership dues effective January 1, 2007. The new rates will be: \$30 for individuals, \$40 for families/ households, and \$50 for contributing memberships. New or gift memberships for individuals will be \$25. All other categories will remain the same.

Starting in January, renewal notices will include the new rates. Updated membership application forms, with the new rates, will be provided to all chapters in time for distribution in January. All membership applications and renewals postmarked by December 31, 2006, will be honored at the current rates. Applications and renewals postmarked January 1 or later will be held to the new rate schedule. FNPS Administrative Services will contact members as needed to correct discrepancies.

Please consider giving an FNPS membership as a Christmas gift. A gift membership (\$25) and a small, potted native plant with a ribbon around it could make a friend aware of the importance of conserving our native plants and native plant communities.

Shirley Denton
FNPS President

Ed. Note: If each of us gives a friend, neighbor or family member a gift membership, we'll be twice the Society we are in a month!

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Deadlines for Sabal minor submissions are the 15th day of each of the odd-numbered months (5/15, 7/15, 9/15...)

Species Spotlight

Coreopsis floridana

Florida tickseed
Family Asteraceae

ONE MAN'S WEED

John Pancoast

Coreopsis floridana is a perennial with bright orange-yellow flowers that start to open in early October. The flower spikes may reach a height of three feet. *Coreopsis* is a member of the Asteraceae or sunflower family, so each flower contains ray flowers or "petals" that are bright yellow and a center of dark purple disk flowers. The fruit is an achene less than 1/10 inch long. The nine-inch long leaves alternate near the base of the plant and are elliptic or lance-shaped. The lower leaves have longer stalks, the leaves further up the stem are shorter with shorter stalks.

The Florida tickseed is endemic to Florida. It has been reported in most every county in the state, but it may have been extirpated in Miami-Dade and Broward counties. It is found in wet pinelands, and other wetlands. It grows in sandy, nutrient-poor soils.

In 1991 the Florida legislature named the genus *Coreopsis* as Florida's official wildflower. Several species are being used for roadside plantings and highway beautification. *Coreopsis floridana*, is being studied by researchers at the University of Florida for use as a nursery and landscape plant. Some nurseries are already growing the plant for sale.

This species will make a bright addition to your wildflower garden. Make sure that the plants are planted in well drained soil that can be irrigated.



Coreopsis floridana

Illustration by Wes Jurgens

Article originally published in

The Tillandsia, newsletter for Dade Chapter.

2007 Annual FNPS Conference

Claudia Larsen and Charlie Pederson,
Conference Co-chairs

Mark your calendars: April 19-22, 2007!

The theme: "Conservation Cures by the Yard and Mile"

Paynes Prairie Chapter Planning committees have been working through the summer to lay groundwork for our upcoming conference in Gainesville.

We chose the theme to highlight the many important advances our local conservation groups have made identifying and purchasing land. And we would like to convince others that even backyard conservation can make a difference to local environments.

We have invited keynote speakers, compiled a list of interesting talks based on our conservation theme and created a list of our favorite places for field trips. We are also organizing a huge plant sale and inviting nurseries from throughout the state.

Interested FNPS members are invited to contact us with sponsorship leads. The costs of the hotel and event locations are huge and we need to generate sponsorship donations to offset these costs and keep the registration fees affordable.

If you, your business or your friends' business would like to donate, there are many levels of sponsorship. These include sponsoring receptions, continental breakfasts, and coffee breaks, donating to the general fund or placing ads in the conference brochure which will reach 500 people. Of

course the most generous donors will also be compensated with recognition signs and announcements during the conference.

Please contact Claudia (352-846-1070) (micanopywildflowers@yahoo.com) or Charlie (charliepedersen@gmail.com) for sponsorship information and any other ideas or questions you may have concerning the conference. We will be putting more timely information on the conference website at www.FNPS.org, so stay informed and please plan to join us in 2007!

Common Buckeye

Linda Cooper

The most frequently encountered buckeye in Florida is the Common Buckeye (*Junonia coenia*). It is named for the prominent eye spots on the forewing and the hindwing. Found in a wide variety of habitats, including uplands, scrub,



Linda Cooper

sandhills, flatwoods, prairies and weedy places, its caterpillars feed on herbs in a wide variety of plant families including Acanthus, Broomrape, Plantain and occasionally *Phyla nodiflora* in the Vervain family. Three or more generations are produced each year. It is a true migrant, moving north in the spring and south in the fall.

WANTED

Articles for *The Palmetto*
the quarterly publication of the FNPS.

Among the items published are papers on native plants, rare plants, native plant communities, restoration and conservation. *The Palmetto* reaches an audience of 2800 to 3000 members.

Contact the editor,
Marjorie Shropshire (pucpuppy@bellsouth.net),
for details on submittal guidelines and other information.

Palmetto Magazine Deadlines

February 1, 2007
June 1, 2007
August 15, 2007
November 1, 2007

WALK

*I walk along the trails each day
and note the sights along the way.
Each walk becomes another thrill,
through wet marsh and up sandy hill.
Some paths are known of old.
Other trails new secrets hold.
My eyes see many different things
the world of nature brings.
I see spiders and toads along the way.
There are butterflies, and squirrels at play.
I smile at birds and lizards that fly and creep,
and other creatures that croak and peep.
Mainly, though, plants take my eye;
the shrubs and trees against the sky,
and tiny sprouts that bloom and grow
with colors of an earthly rainbow.
Nature changes dress from gray to green
as seasons pass and change the scene.
And each walk I walk unveils
new friends along the trails.
Film records a glimpse of time.
But all are etched upon my mind.*

Denny Girard

Chapter Tips & Tricks

The **Dade Chapter** offers yard visits for “new learners,” where they tour a designated yard and share ideas about planting and maintenance. The visits provide an opportunity to learn about natives in a hands-on manner and to see them in various settings, formal and informal, and to learn the property owner’s successes and failures at growing them.

Another program offered by the **Dade Chapter** is to have special membership meetings, known as “Bring a Friend!” meetings. In addition to getting an excellent program at the meeting, new members are offered a free native plant.

The **Conradina Chapter** recently purchased a laptop computer and a projector for use during their meetings. The purchase total was \$1250 (from Dell). All their speakers have to do is bring a CD; the setup for showing PowerPoint presentations or other pictures is ready to go. Also, at the beginning of each chapter meeting they use the setup to display native plant pictures that have been taken by their members or to present important information during announcements.

Pinellas Chapter is trying out an email marketing service to publish their newsletter, *The Understory*. This is one great way to save paper and still publish a very professional-looking newsletter in PDF format.

Count Your Volunteer Hours and Support FNPS Grant Applications

Executive Director Karina Veaudry asks that chapters record and report ALL volunteer hours committed not only to FNPS activities but for any other environmental organizations.

In recording and reporting these hours it is important to list the organizations for whom one volunteers (for example, Everglades Visitor Center landscaping). Include drive time for all endeavors. Record your Chapter Representative time under Board of Directors. Record officer duties under Chapter operations.

There is a volunteer hours tracking form posted on the FNPS website. Go to www.FNPS.org ->Member Services -> Chapter Resources -> Organizational Materials.

FNPS Leadership Given Public Recognition

Paul Schmalzer, science chairman for the Florida Native Plant Society, and plant ecologist for Dynamac Corp. at Kennedy Space Center, was given a nice write-up in FLORIDA TODAY. This kind of publicity helps to build our reputation as being a science-based organization.

Florida Policymakers:

We urge you not to approve the growing of *Arundo* as a biofuel!

Members of the Society have expressed considerable concern about *Arundo* and its potential to invade native Florida ecosystems. On Saturday, October 28, 2006 the Florida Native Plant Society adopted a policy statement on *Arundo donax*, giant reed, e-grass.

The nearly 3000 members of the Society are urging our policymakers to read the policy statement and the background information from which the statement was developed. Members of the Society are also voters and concerned citizens of Florida.

FNPS encourages the responsible investigation of alternative energy sources that will not threaten the integrity of Florida's native plant communities. The full policy statement with supporting background information can be found on the FNPS website, www.FNPS.org.

Policy Statement

The Florida Native Plant Society opposes the agricultural production of *Arundo donax* (giant reed, e-grass, bamboo reed, arundo grass, giant bamboo reed, etc.) as a biofuel in Florida due to its invasive characteristics and empirical evidence of impact on native plant communities.

The Society further encourages the eradication of existing stands of this species and the banning of its sale as an ornamental to prevent invasion of native plant habitats in Florida.

Welcome New FNPS Chapters

Sumter County, in central Florida, serves Bushnell, Center Hill, Coleman, Lake Panasoffkee, Oxford, Sumterville, The Villages, Webster, and Wildwood. Sumter County is approximately 50 miles west of Orlando and approximately 60 miles northeast of Tampa. Sumter County currently has a population of approximately 82,600 residents with the number growing each day. The president is Holly Tuxbury, HTuxbury@cfl.rr.com.

The *Sarracenia* Chapter serves Wakulla and Franklin Counties. This new chapter is showing great potential for the region. For more information, Contact Lee Norris at lnorris@ectinc.com.



Leave a conservation legacy.
Help contribute to the stability and
long-term growth of the FNPS.
Remember us in your will.

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