



# Sabal minor

**A bi-monthly newsletter for the members of the Florida Native Plant Society**

## **NOVEMBER – DECEMBER 2021 | VOLUME 23, NUMBER 6**

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Do you enjoy getting the *Sabal minor* by email? Did you know we also offer *The Palmetto* by email, as well? [Email us](#) to switch over to save paper and to save us postage.

Chapters are encouraged to print copies of the newsletter to have on hand at their monthly meetings for members who would prefer a print version. If your chapter isn't holding in-person meetings, you may wish to print out the *Sabal minor* and mail it to your members.

*Sisyrinchium xerophyllum*, Jeweled Blue-Eyed Grass  
Jim Peter's Prairie, Split Oak Forest WEA, Osceola County



## Message from the Executive Director | Juliet Rynear



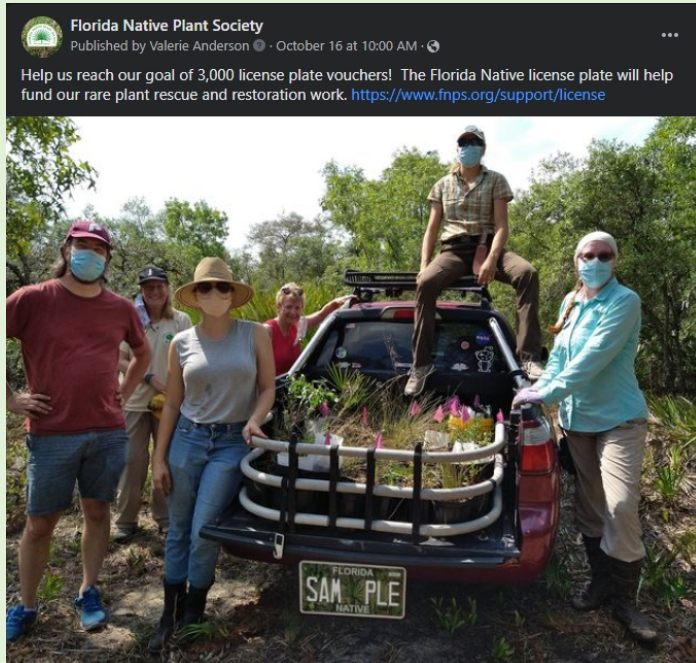
This will be my last note to you before retiring to Vermont at the end of December. I will miss you!!!

I am excited to announce our new campaign to promote our license plate voucher sales. We would like to highlight the work we do while also featuring our members and partners. Together we can meet our goal of selling 3,000 vouchers so that we can take our work to the next level!

We would like to highlight chapter plant sales, members' native landscapes, Florida State Parks, local preserves, and other great examples of our mission in action.

If you have purchased a voucher and would like to be featured in our campaign, please contact us. You can find our contacts here: <https://www.fnps.org/contacts>

You may have seen our first two campaign posts on Facebook:



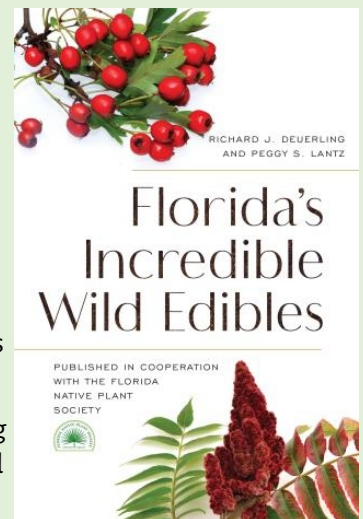
Help us reach our goal of 3,000 license plate vouchers! The Florida Native license plate will help fund our rare plant rescue and restoration work. <https://www.fnps.org/support/license>

## Message from the President | Bonnie Basham



Greetings from north Florida where the first hints of fall are evident in my garden and along the roadside trails my husband, Woody, and I ride. The crows are in our pecan trees trying to run off the Fox Squirrels and claim the pecans as theirs. The beautyberries are yielding their fruit to the animals as well as those who love to make cobbler with the berries; the elderberries and grapes also are in plentiful supply. I keep, and use, two books about Florida edible plants in my kitchen and I recommend them to you. Peggy Lantz's *Florida's Edible Wild Plants* and *Florida's Incredible Wild Edibles* by Peggy Lantz and Richard Deurling. Many of the chapters of *Florida's Incredible Wild Edibles* first appeared as articles in our FNPS publication *The Palmetto*. The book has been republished by Pineapple Press and FNPS receives royalties from its sale. I urge you to put both of them on your Christmas "want" list. A portion of book sales comes to FNPS as royalties.

As we look toward fall and winter your FNPS Board of Directors is looking forward to welcoming a new Executive Director who will take over the helm from Juliet Rynear. Juliet and her husband will be moving to Vermont, and we wish them both good luck in their endeavors.





It's not too early to begin thinking about attending our annual "hybrid" conference being held both virtually and in person in Jacksonville. The conference begins May 19 and concludes May 22. Our [conference website is up](#) and our theme is 'Gateway to Florida's Biodiversity'



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## FNPS News and Notifications

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**Richard Turk Poole, 1931-2021** | *Barbara Whittier, Vice President, Cuplet Fern Chapter*



Richard Poole was one of the original members of the Florida Native Plant Society's Cuplet Fern chapter, established in 2010. His longtime experience in plant and bird biology led to his love for propagating native plants, making bird boxes, and sharing his knowledge of plants and bird life in Florida.

At our monthly meetings, Richard would bring a variety of plants for members to take home. He would explain how the plants would grow and support Florida birds, insects, and butterflies, which would encourage more backyard birdlife.

At every plant sale, he would display his posters featuring bird migration patterns and local bird nesting. Children and adults alike enjoyed the wonderful photos of young nesting birds.

Richard always had several homemade bird boxes to take home. He would explain how certain native plants were food sources for birds and encourage people to add them to their butterfly gardens.

Richard was passionate in promoting how the relationship between bird biology and native plants enables successful bird populations. He was a kind and generous person willing to give his time to advocate for native plants. I am forever appreciative for the many discussions we had on plant names and propagation. Richard, all the specially grown native plants you shared with members and the public are in backyards throughout Central Florida, providing shelter and food to wildlife.



The Poole family is known for their extensive volunteerism. Richard's widow, Christine Brown, as well as daughter, Kathleen Poole, are FNPS Green Palmetto Award recipients from Cuplet Fern.

Richard Poole was credited by the UF IFAS Central Florida Research and Education Center in Apopka as a contributor to the report, "Programs for the Ornamentals Industry." Read it [here](#).

You can read another obituary for Richard on [Legacy.com](#).

## In memory of Allen Wise, co-founder of Sumter Chapter | *Nancy Dwyer*



Allen Wise ran Shady Oaks Gather All, an old-style roadside plant nursery on Highway 301 in Sumterville where he offered a mix of native, edible and Florida-friendly plants. His many loyal customers will continue to remember what he taught them about the plants that he nurtured. By making Florida native plants available to homeowners, Allen was a wonderful advocate for attracting pollinators and supporting butterflies in home landscapes. While volunteering as a Sumter County Master Gardener, Allen annually put together a native plant exhibit at the Sumter County Fair. He was always eager to donate his time at native plant shows and for 20 years was a faithful member of the Florida Association of Native Nurseries ([FANN](#)).

He was a founding member of, and for years served as an officer for, the Sumter County Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society ([FNPS](#)), which disbanded soon after Allen found he had cancer in 2019. As a local property manager for his south Florida friends, he demonstrated his wide-ranging skills in carpentry and mechanics. He showed remarkable perseverance and strength because he did all of this from his wheel chair or using crutches since he was afflicted by a rare disease, hereditary spastic paraplegia or HSP/FSP.

Twenty-five years ago, Allen moved to his home on Route 301 after working as a chef in Miami. He left south Florida after his fiancé, Jewel Hammer, was killed by a drunk hit-and-run driver. Allen was born December 22, 1950 in Pennsylvania where he and his siblings were separated as children. His sister Sandra Wise finally found him 4 years ago and introduced him to his other sister, Tara Prentice. Although they were reunited for only a few years, being in touch with long lost family was a great source of connection for Allen. He also cherished his Leferink family, Ruth, Dean and his nephew, Kenny, who live in Dade City.

Allen was proud to have, at last, kicked the smoking habit 12 years ago. He died at Cornerstone Hospice on October 6 2021 from lung cancer.



*Left to Right - Ruth & Dean Leferink, Allen, Diane Reppert & Sandi Wise.*

He was a resource to countless home gardeners who will miss his presence on Route 301; passersby could observe Allen diligently tending his plants from his motorized chair. But they will forever remember him by the shrubs, trees and flowers that prosper and bloom in their yards. Allen's friends have established the [Allen G. Wise Research Fund](#) to honor his memory. Donations fund a scholarship within the Native Plant Horticulture Foundation to support research projects that expand and strengthen the native plant industry that Allen loved.

## Jim Thomas Remembered | *Jackie Rolly, Tarflower Chapter and FNPS Board Secretary*



Oakland Nature Preserve (ONP) founder and past president of the board, Jim Thomas died Sunday, September 19, quietly at his home in Winter Garden after a long debilitating illness. His wife of 60 years, Margaret (Ms. Peg), was with him.

A fifth generation Floridian, Jim was born in November, 1930. He grew up filling his pockets full of critters as he explored the outdoors, which he loved so much. This love of nature followed Jim into his adults life, and he continued his education in biology and environmental studies receiving his B.S. from Florida State University and MS from the University of



North Carolina, Chapel Hill. He also attended Yale University, University of Florida, North Carolina State University, University of Puerto Rico and Rutgers University for additional graduate studies.

In 1990, he settled with his family into the West Orange Community and showed us that many positive things are possible, and quality of life can be enriched through education and perseverance. He opened Biosphere Consulting, which focused on lakefront and wetland restoration as well as a provider of retail and wholesale native plants. He worked with lakefront property owners and large mitigation projects to help enhance and maintain healthy water quality of local wetlands, lakes, and waterways.

Throughout his life he immersed himself into many battles on behalf of the environment always promoting science to lead the way for sound growth and ecological restoration. He served as President or as an influential board member with many groups around Central Florida including; Friends of Lake Apopka (FOLA), Friends of the Wekiva River, Orange Audubon, Florida Native Plant Society, Florida Wildlife Federation, Reedy Creek Pollution Control Board, the Nehrling Society, and ONP.

Jim always held the philosophy that education is the key to environmental problems that have political solutions and in 1991, founded FOLA as an advocacy group dedicated to the restoration and long-term management of the lake. Dubbed "The King of the Gray Hairs," Jim spearheaded policy actions and funding efforts to bring the lake back to its past glory.

He played a major role in forming ONP, which was incorporated in 1997, with a group of FOLA board members and like-minded Oakland residents whose mission was to preserve, restore, and educate about the environment and tell the history and restoration story about Lake Apopka. He always said that as ONP grew the mission grew with it but always at the core was the need to educate.

As an environmentalist, ecologist, teacher, and private business owner, Jim taught individuals and groups for years regarding environmental-friendly landscapes using native non-invasive trees and plants. His passion for the environment and wildlife was contagious and teaching was a second nature to him.

Jim received numerous awards and recognition for his work on behalf of the environment but it was not important to him to receive credit for taking a stand, it was more important to take the stand and make a difference.

*Jim Thomas believed that all life is precious and that everything is connected and we are all indebted to him for teaching us that no battle is too big or too small when we work together to do our part to restore and care for native habitat and the wildlife that live here.*





The Florida Native Plant Society maintains an **Endowment Research Grant** program for the purpose of funding research on native plants. These are small grants (\$2500 or less), awarded for a 1-year period, and intended to support research that forwards the mission of the Florida Native Plant Society which is "to promote the preservation, conservation, and restoration of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida."

FNPS **Conservation Grants** support applied native plant conservation projects in Florida. These grants (\$5000 or less) are awarded for a 1-year period. These projects promote the preservation, conservation, or restoration of rare or imperiled native plant taxa and rare or imperiled native plant communities. To qualify for a Conservation Grant, the proposed project must be sponsored by an FNPS Chapter.

The **Dan Austin Award for Ethnobotany** will provide up to \$1500 to graduate or undergraduate students who are studying Florida ethnobotany – i.e., the study of the relationship between peoples or cultures with plants native to Florida or Florida ecosystems. These can be current uses or historic uses.

The Florida Native Plant Society has established a **Cornelia McNamara Grant** program for the purpose of funding applied research on native plants and habitats, particularly those that are rare or imperiled. These are small grants (\$1500 or less), awarded for a 1-year period, and intended to support research that will yield data to inform the management for or restoration of native species and habitats.

Application guidelines and details are on the FNPS Web site ([www.fnps.org](http://www.fnps.org)), click on 'What We Do/Awards and Grants'. Questions regarding the grant programs should be sent to [info@fnps.org](mailto:info@fnps.org).

**Application deadline for the 2022 Awards is March 4, 2022.** Awards will be announced at the May 2022 Annual Conference. Awardees do not have to be present at the Conference to receive an award.

### **Juliet, We Love You** | *by Valerie Anderson, Director of Communications and Programming*



I'm pretty sure we all took Juliet for granted. She was and always will be the first full-time employee, first staff Executive Director. She interviewed and hired me and has supervised me since 2018. She brought Lilly on in early 2020 and it just felt like we could depend on her to always be there for us. We've known she's leaving since the summer and we're working on hiring someone who probably has no real hope of filling her shoes adequately, but we're trying. This is the last *Sabal minor* before she leaves the state, so I asked people close to her to help us give her a proper sendoff. These lovely people sent too many photos to include, so in addition to some old photos I dug up, I made a [Flickr album](#) for y'all to enjoy of all of the photos Juliet's friends and colleagues sent me.

Let's start with Juliet's best friend, **Cindy Campbell**.

"Hair pulled back, big broad hat and gloves in hand Juliet was ready to volunteer with the Rare Plant Program at Bok Tower Gardens. My first thought was that she was going to wilt in the Florida sun with her complexion. She most definitely did not wilt and went on to become my coworker setting the bar high with her organization, energy and passion. We spent many hours side by side traveling to and working in Florida's wonderful natural areas. The hours, the sweat, the cursing, the fellowship we shared with colleagues and volunteers, and the satisfaction of our efforts to save and perpetuate numerous Florida rare plants and habitats bonded us. Beyond the office we shared the love of plants, gardening, chickens, good cocktails and certainly food. Seeking out good food during our outings was always a priority. I am grateful to her for continuing my work with several species especially *Chrysopsis floridana*. Florida has been truly fortunate to have such a competent professional in their plant conservation efforts. I treasure our friendship and look forward to being a part of her Vermont chapter of life especially the seeking out of good cocktails and food part."



Next let's go to **Theresa Lutz**, a longtime friend and plant rescue co-conspirator.

"My favorite memory of Juliet is from the day we met. We were doing monitoring on a rosemary bald, and it was HOT. Juliet, newly moved to Florida, was tasked with operating a heavy, ancient backpack GPS unit, with a long, unwieldy metal pole sticking out the top.



Trudging up and down the sandy hills along barely cleared trail, burning to a brilliant red, trying to read the tiny scarred up LCD screen in the blazing sun with sweat dripping in her eyes, while that dang pole caught on every possible overhead obstacle, causing every overhanging branch to whack her in the head, it was challenging work, to say the least. But she persisted, turning away help several times, until, visibly in distress from the heat and on the verge of collapse, folks stopped asking if she was okay, and insisted she surrender the GPS, rest in some shade, and rehydrate. We have now worked together many years, but I knew from this very first encounter how determined she could be, and how much I liked, admired, and respected her.”

Some folks responded very succinctly to my request for memories, tributes, and/or photos of Juliet. **Shirley Denton**, our Communications Chair, sent in the following list of Juliet's accomplishments:

1. First ED to really bring in money ... her going after government grant money has worked and worked well.
2. Dedication to conservation and having led a number of successful conservation projects
3. She got FNPS through the worst of COVID with a significant increase in membership at a time when most non-profits were bleeding members.
4. She helped the Council of Chapters get up and running

Another short and sweet message was from **Marc Godts**, owner of Green Isle Gardens, a native nursery in Groveland.

“She has been a great positive influence on rescues in the face of a property's destruction. I have always leaned on her to keep our hopes up and to help the cause of FNPS. I am glad I have had the opportunity to work with her over the years. I did see her misidentifying a plant once.”

**Di Wentink** of Martin County Chapter sent this photo of Juliet and I on an FNPS retreat field trip right after she asked me to smell the orchid. Di did include the following caption: Juliet, demonstrating her stellar command of leadership skills, photographing Valerie doing a sniff test of a rare twayblade.



**Wendy Poag** gave me her remarks by telephone. I've edited them slightly for clarity. I hope you don't mind, Wendy.

"I've known Juliet since she was working with Bok Tower and did a couple of re-introductions. You think you know a person but then you head off on a road trip. She's not fond of Yurts and doesn't even know how to operate a bathtub.

What you might not know about Juliet is that she still has that sense of wonder and wanting to know what things are; what their places are in the ecological scheme of things. She has a sense of discovery when she's in a habitat and just joy when she's in an intact habitat. She is wanting to know the frog calls and is always looking up the birds she's unfamiliar with. She's a happy camper when she's in an intact habitat. We're going to miss her, that's for sure. At least I am. It's not like we're going to be next door neighbors or anything."

We go back to the Bok days with remarks by **Debbie Chayet**, an ecologist with the Pinellas Chapter.

"I first met Juliet when she was the assistant curator at the Bok Tower Center for Rare and Endangered Plants. She helped her manager bring volunteers and federally endangered *Chrysopsis floridana*, Florida Golden Aster, to my conservation lands at work. We planted the *Chrysopsis* as part of a large project to reintroduce the endemic listed species to its historical range. When Juliet was promoted to Rare Plant Specialist, she and volunteers assisted with the annual data collection and monitoring of the *Chrysopsis*. Juliet was the perfect choice for FNPS executive director. Her stewardship of native plants as well as natural ecosystems and endangered flora, will be sorely missed in this state. I wish her the best in her move north. Her dedication and knowledge will be hard to replace!"

**Chris Matson** is a little bit more recent addition to Juliet's life but, like Debbie, is still tied to Juliet via plant conservation.

"Juliet has always shown optimism about each workday and has found ways to keep the relationships with landowners as charged with good vibes as possible. Her laugh is infectious and combined with her sunscreen she has a spirit about her that would make mimes break their silence in joy."

**Laura Bennett-Kimble** is a dedicated plant rescue volunteer on our Central Florida rescues.

"That laugh!

I think the first time I met Juliet was at a Pine Lily-hosted state FNPS meeting, where I was helping in the background as a relative newbie to FNPS. Her energy put me at ease immediately, and I was impressed with her knowledge, collaborative spirit and leadership at the meeting. I got to know her better when I began participating in native plant rescue projects, and I was so impressed by her knowledge of plant species and ecosystems. And, while this kind of volunteer work is an emotional roller coaster because of the reasons we're doing it (salvaging species to be relocated elsewhere in a last-ditch attempt to preserve the species and genetics of plant communities before their homes are destroyed for development), Juliet's can-do, yet realistic attitude and positive energy made me want to continue with the work. And that laugh! Oh my gosh, I can remember more than once when I'd be working by myself, carefully uprooting plants for relocation and finding myself sagging into sadness for the fate of Florida's wild areas. Then, I'd notice muted conversation and Juliet's uninhibited laugh suddenly ringing out across the habitat. Every time, it perked



Juliet at the podium during the 2015 Conference. Photo by Ginny Stibolt.



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me up, made me smile, and kept me going. Juliet, you will be missed by not just the people you've known here, but by the nature of Florida – the plants and their habitats you have worked so hard to preserve and protect. You are a force of nature.”

**Deborah Curry**, President of Marion Big Scrub Chapter and a huge part of the success of both our *Dicerandra cornutissima* monitoring on the Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway and our Warea Area project just sent me a boatload of photos with some moderately cryptic captions. The following photo is my favorite – Juliet is shading her lovely complexion from the sun while talking to land managers at a site on the Cross Florida Greenway about starting a project to annually monitor a population of the endangered *Dicerandra cornutissima*.



**Susan Carr** is the Treasurer of the FNPS board.

“Juliet has a long and varied history with FNPS, as a member of the organization and the board, a contractor, and most recently, FNPS's first staff Executive Director. She shall be remembered as one of FNPS's most important trailblazers, as she “blazed” a trail through so many metaphorical forests of FNPS's organizational development with passion and zeal. (The “forests” being comprised of native species of course!)

I was board president when Juliet was hired as FNPS Executive Director, not that long ago! We quickly moved from a staff of zero to two, and later three. In that time, FNPS membership grew tremendously along with our mission related projects, environmental advocacy, and recognition as one of the few organizations devoted to native plants and habitats. Although not as obvious but nonetheless very important, Juliet moved FNPS operations into the modern era as we overhauled our governance, financial and digital infrastructure. These improvements really showed their utility during the global pandemic, during which FNPS's reach expanded. Through off this, Juliet was at the helm as our chief of operations, lead cat herder, and touchstone for our members and constituents.



Juliet and Jackie Rolly at a plant rescue in Clermont

I, along with many others extend heartfelt “thank you” to Juliet for her passion, devotion and hard work. I won't say “happy retirement” just yet, because I suspect there is more to come, be it in more northerly regions. Good luck Juliet, and thank you for all you've done for FNPS.”

**Rosi Mulholland** is a former land manager for SJRWMD and a very active rescue and restoration volunteer with us.

“I met Juliet because of one of the most impossibly persnickety plants in the universe – *Warea amplexifolia*. The secondary connection via The Native Plant Society came many years later. When I first met Juliet, I was working as a District Biologist for the Florida Park Service and lived in the Clermont area. Someone knew someone who knew someone, and I received a cold call from a person wanting me to come save their property from development. They lived on what was then the eastern side of Clermont “in the country”, down a dirt road off Steve's Road. “Please come save the gopher tortoises” was their plea. I agreed to meet them, knowing there was little I could do but commiserate about the waste of unfettered growth, and when I walked into the woods with them, I saw many delicate pinkish to lilac blossoms on a leaning herbaceous plant with heart-shaped clasping leaves. The petals almost fluttered in the



Juliet monitoring our rescue plants that came from Castle Hill. Photo by Rosi Mulholland.



light breeze, a very small-scale quaking aspen type movement. I knew this plant was very rare but wasn't exactly sure what it was, but I felt that rush of excitement that never gets old for those who truly appreciate the wonders of all things wild. Taylor's Guide to Wildflowers was quickly deployed; this was back in the 1980's before there was even the possibility of identifying something with a cell phone device – *Warea amplexifolia*!

This is a time when you called people, and one person knows this person, and that person knows this other person, and then you end up with a name and a phone number – Juliet Rynear, Bok Gardens – she's the *Warea* expert. Another cold call, this time from me, and I got to meet one of the most collaborative, positive, full of energy, and love of plants and natural areas conservation botanists ever. What an amazing connection for me for years to come! I couldn't believe there was even such an expert, and she shared her knowledge and passion with no worries that this collaboration would in any way diminish her. *Warea* knowledge sharing and commiseration and an appreciation and understanding of the incredible uniqueness of the rare high pine scrubby sandhills of the Lake Wales Ridge continues to the present day. The challenge of understanding *Warea amplexifolia* and establishing new populations has been one of Juliet's continuous quests.



Juliet instructing the Little Italy monitoring crew. Photo by Rosi Mulholland.

After working to try to manage a dying population of *Warea* in Lake County, I was so excited when, as the Native Plant Society Conservation Chair, Juliet included me in a group of Lake County land managers being asked to try to establish *Warea* on publicly managed lands. Trying to manage a *Warea* population has become no less frustrating, but there have been many monitoring days when the uninitiated person might think that those weird plant people are all playing some strange version of “M-A-R-C-O” – “P-O-L-O” without a pool. Except we are yelling “JULIET” for help with plant identification as we hover over many tiny, rare plants in search of *Warea* and other plant jewels.

It has been such a joy to spend time with someone who collects such a diverse assemblage of people who all share an interest in plants; with someone who shares knowledge without any frustrations that this is the umpteenth time I've helped you with that identification; someone who is always positive, passionate, professional, and just plain fun to be with in the woods. I wish Florida wasn't losing Juliet to Vermont, but it's her next great adventure, and I wish her all the best. I am most grateful for the years and visits to the field where we got to intersect and collaborate, and I know both of us will still share the elusive dream and hope that *Warea amplexifolia* will survive in at least a tiny handful of small populations, and that someone will unlock its mysteries.

All the best my friend and don't forget the sunscreen,

*Rosi M*

**Jan Allyn** is another throwback to Juliet's Bok days.

“I first met Juliet when she and Cindy Campbell came to Pinellas County from Bok Tower Gardens as part of research into the endangered Florida goldenaster, *Chrysopsis floridana*, in 2010. They brought hundreds (and hundreds!) of 1-gallon seedlings which we volunteers planted in a cleared area on the McKay Creek Preservation 2000 property near the Florida Botanical Gardens in Largo, and at Weedon Island Preserve in St. Petersburg. We carefully tagged each seedling with a numbered metal tag as we put it in the ground. Each fall thereafter for several years, Cindy and Juliet would return to collect data about the plants. We native plant nerds would help them to record data about the health and reproduction status of the plants that they had lovingly raised and transported here. Early November was the ideal time to do this, when the plants were in full flower. Standing in a big patch of them is wonderful, as the bright flowers exude a lovely lemon scent that attracts pollinators. The plants at McKay Creek are in a rather inaccessible area so I don't know how they're doing, but the ones at Weedon Island are still going strong and park manager Pam Leasure reports that they now sometimes bloom twice a year!

Attached photo: Juliet with volunteers at Weedon Island. Photo taken 11/5/2011.”





**Linda Eastman** is with Martin County Chapter and as a more peripheral person in Juliet's life still has some great things to say about her.

"Juliet is certainly awesome! She had spoken at one of our meetings about her work conserving rare plants. A couple of years later, I had taken over scheduling the program. I am sharing the [attached communication](#) with Juliet that Ellen Broderick and I had then. It documents the "wondering" that started me on the track of a theme for our upcoming (2016-17) speaker season. Juliet was so kind and informative in her explanation! I remember thinking how generous a soul to have taken such time and care to help almost strangers understand the concepts embodied in our mission so that we could pass them on to our chapter members. Even better, she agreed to speak at our first meeting of the season and introduce the concepts herself. We were very lucky to have that opportunity and will surely miss her."

**Marlene Rodak** is with the Coccoloba Chapter and worked with Juliet on the Conference Committee for years.

"My favorite Juliet story was when we were working on the conference at River Ranch. There's an incredibly stressful time at all conferences when we have to sign off on the catering orders. They are very specific and detailed down to when the food is put out, where it's placed, how long it stays in place, along with the number of mouths it will feed. The slightest mistake means that a hundred or so of our favorite native plant friends are complaining to us. That, along with all the other details and decisions needed as we arrive to the conference venue cause blood pressures to escalate and brain matter to bounce off the inside of the skull.

So, when I arrived, Juliet was there. She was pale. Her eyes were bouncing in their sockets. She was struggling terribly.



*Juliet is pointing out the endangered species *Bigelowia nuttallii* / Nuttall's Rayless Goldenrod at Bok Tower during a Martin County Chapter field trip*



On that day, I introduced Juliet to the half glass of wine. We met in my room where I poured her just a smidgen of our ruby-colored best friend. We sat together, sipped and relaxed. When it medicinally calmed us, we left the room to conquer the world.

Many years ago, The Coccoloba Chapter visited Bok Tower on a field trip. Juliet was our host.

She took us around and showed us the garden, her work and the rare plants. It was amazing.

That day, I can distinctly remember thinking, "WOW! They are so lucky to have her."

Later, when she started working with FNPS, I was beside myself with joy for FNPS. She has done so much to set our course. WOW! We are so lucky to have her."

**Melanie Simon** is the President of the Passionflower Chapter and has worked closely with Juliet on our Central Florida rescues.

"My memories of Juliet are primarily from rescues and habitat restoration work. Not only did she do a tremendous job organizing the outings, she is a hard worker! "



*Juliet with the tools of the plant rescue trade. Photo by Jackie Rolly.*



**Mark Kateli** is President-Elect for the Florida Native Plant Society.

Juliet Rynear came into our society at a very formative stage. We were still small compared to today- hovering a little over 2 thousand members. I remember as I was there- a younger yours truly had applied for the contractor position himself.

It was her independent streak that set her apart from the competition. It attracted many early on- communicative, proactive, and ultra passionate about plants. These attributes made her integrate into the larger membership quickly and become a household name within the Florida native plant ethos. She will always be the first of her position- a contractor initially, then becoming one of the first full-time staff members of the Society.

I have always known her to be hardworking and one that truly believed in the persistence of our beloved nonprofit. It is indeed one of the highest attributes that any employee can possess- when you truly love what you do, it will nourish you even in challenging times, and will power you as you toil away. She formed many memories with me- one of them being the multi-year Castle Hill plant rescue (see the footnote) that I initially participated in, and recently began sending my interns to. What she learned about plants, she passed on to me; and in turn, I passed on to others. This act is the essence of our organization. It is through these memories and many more that I stand better informed in my own FNPS approach today.



Juliet has set the bar for what is needed from the next Executive Director. It is in our nature to compare candidates with the person who held the position prior. Our expectations are clearer thanks to her time and dedication.

Her retirement definitively ushers in the end of an era within our society as we advance into the next phase of growth that continues to spur our mission forward and keeps us at the forefront of native plant thought. I join many of you who are reading this as I say goodbye. But it isn't cause to be disheartened- rather, a cherished moment as she will be remembered within our fold; which in itself has secured her legacy for the years to follow.

I end with a quote for Juliet from those who knew her best and would agree that her heart and mind would resonate with:

The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well. - Ralph Waldo Emerson



A short video encapsulating the memory of one of the last plant rescue dates at Castle Hill with Juliet can be found here: [https://youtu.be/D6bDaKC\\_j6g](https://youtu.be/D6bDaKC_j6g)



*Juliet, Marlene Rodak, and myself at the 2017 FNPS Conference. I was tasked with the catering menu and transported the keynote speaker from Orlando to Westgate River Ranch. Marlene and Juliet tag-teamed the bulk of the operations that year. Conference was a special time- being equally a social experience as it was educational; especially for niche plant enthusiasts like us.*

**Lilly Anderson-Messec** is the Director of North Florida Programs for the Florida Native Plant Society:

“

Working with Juliet has been a wonderful experience, and I truly mean that. I have often been just flabbergasted by how supportive and encouraging she has been. That support has really made me want to excel in my work for FNPS. It has also given me the confidence to give more input and to be more creative in my work. The first year I worked with her, I would get a sinking feeling when I saw she was calling me...I was expecting I had done something wrong or made some mistake - but I was continually pleasantly surprised by her support and respect. Juliet has always treated me with respect, and as an equal, and it has made my experience at FNPS an incredibly positive one. I really appreciate her long term visions and goals she put forth for the future of FNPS, and I am excited to see those come to fruition. I will truly miss her.

And some thoughts of my own:

I've had an incredibly varied, sometimes confusing, but always compelling time getting to know Juliet over the past four years. I have three categories of my experience with Juliet: 1. shock 2. Deep admiration 3. Trying so hard to be just a bit closer to her.

1. The first time I remember going out in the field with Juliet was to set research plots for the Blushing Scrub Balm monitoring in Polk County. I was still trying to figure out what my job was and I was just filled with anxiety so I nearly had a panic attack when I heard Juliet yell 'OOOOHHH BAMBINO' and drop into a deep squat with her face near the ground. I asked her if she was ok and freaked out for a moment until I realized she was happily admiring the small D. modesta baby she was hovering over.
2. Before I had my own camera equipment, I was borrowing stuff from the videographer who filmed at the 2018 Conference, Craig Duddles, and I harassed Juliet into explaining, on camera, why we were rescuing plants and what value these particular plants had that we had to expend so much energy rescuing them. A clip from that extensive interview is available here: <https://youtu.be/5MNeGNPGa-c>. I didn't understand the significance of the Castle Hill site and I didn't understand why the genetic diversity of the rare plants on this site was important to save.

3. Juliet knows how to run FNPS. She knows conservation, she knows how to motivate people, but she just didn't want to be bothered too much by her very enthusiastic underling. Early on in working for her I couldn't stop talking during field days, and I felt like field days and a few precious days where we worked together at her house were license for me to call, email, and text her as much as I wanted. It didn't take too long for her to stop responding to most of my texts. The next field day I asked if I was calling her too much. She said, uh, yes.



*On a trip to the Hatchneha Unit of the Everglades Headwaters NWR to document the population of Florida Milkweed / *Asclepias feayi* I set up a camera to film us and am motioning for Juliet to start talking.*

## **2019 Pine Lily Rescue Followup** | *by Sande Habali, Chapter Representative, Pawpaw Chapter*



Pawpaw members ventured deep into Longleaf Pine Preserve via ecobuggy to do a second-year monitoring of the small population of pine lily (*Lilium catesbaei*) plants we rescued from SR 44 in New Smyrna Beach in 2019.

Unfortunately, most of the wooden stakes were down and of the 13 small red flags, only two plants showed evidence of a lily leaf. We knew from the outset that pine lily relocation would be difficult as this slow-growing species is very picky about its sun/shade and hydric environmental conditions. You can read more about the rescue in the [Sabal minor Vol 21\(6\)](#) and the [November 2019 Pawpaw Press](#).

We will continue to monitor our efforts, knowing it may take several years to see the rescued plants.

The Pawpaw chapter continues to “adopt” SR 40 west of Ormond Beach and maintains cleanup and wildflower identifications 4 times a year. Thanks to member Peter Sigmann and Department of Transportation project manager Mark Kean, this area has been designated by the Florida DOT as a wildflower area on both sides on SR 40. Signs will be posted in November and the area will be mowed once a year from the edge of the pavement to the right-of-way in December. A siting of a Pine lily during the September cleanup sparked imaginations as to what else may grow when given a chance.

Florida Native Plant Month has gotten off to a busy start for the chapter, with the Hometown News interviewing Doug Hunt for an article that appeared on Oct. 1 under the headline, “Native plants bring beauty and health to landscapes”:

<https://bit.ly/3B9Gyr7>. The same day, Lindley's Nursery and Garden Center started running a series of daily videos highlighting native gardens in our area featuring interviews with Karen Walter, Dave Anderson, and Doug. They will run throughout the month. Things kicked off with Karen at the Marine Discovery Center: <https://bit.ly/3BgxnFe>.

Native Plant Month ended with a native plant sale in the parking lot of the Piggotte Center in South Daytona. In addition to our outreach table for FNPS, we welcomed Audubon of SE Florida, the city of South Daytona, and Paul Rebmann nature photos. Plants for the sale were provided by members, Natural Beauty Native Plants, Green Isle Gardens, and Lindley's Garden Center. We thank all who participated to make this a successful event!





OUTSIDE is a sustainable landscaping collaborative organized with the goal to work towards a more vibrant, healthy, and sustainable future for all Floridians by increasing the adoption of sustainable landscaping practices including native plants – very much in line with FNPS goals.

The 2021 OUTSIDE event, held on October 21 and 22 at Cherry Lake Tree Farm in Groveland, brought together people representing many industries: academics, developers, environmental engineers, government agencies, home builders, landscape architects, landscape contractors, landscape maintenance companies, nursery growers, horticulture product providers, landowners, and more.

Panels discussed specific actions and solutions to shift the Florida landscape paradigm in master-planned communities. While there are a lot of moving parts to reach the goal of adoption of more sustainable landscaping, the primary challenges and opportunities are:

1. Money (Developers and homeowners want to maintain property value and marketability);
2. Expectations of “look” (Florida green grass and palm trees are expected, homeowners feel landscape sends a message about the owners/occupants);
3. Maintenance (requires different plant knowledge, training and equipment - need density of sustainable landscapes - scale - to make “new” maintenance practices feasible);
4. Availability of plant material (much plant shopping is still done at big box stores and native nurseries are still not widespread); and
5. Regulation (water use and landscape codes can help spur a transition).

This large group (over 125 participants) with a common goal was invigorating, as was Doug Tallamy's keynote speech. What seems particularly promising is that participants are positioned to promote change at a much broader and higher level than any single FNPS chapter. On the bright side, younger generations may be more sophisticated buyers who are receptive to a more holistic view of home landscapes.

To test and showcase the use of native plants, Cherrylake planted two native plant demonstration gardens – one “natural” and one “formal” - at “The Edge” along Cherry Lake Road. The purpose is to learn more about the production, use, and maintenance requirements of specific native plants. It will be interesting and educational to follow the plantings throughout the coming seasons.

Between March-October 2021 Cherrylake conducted a survey of native plants to explore familiarity with the plant and potential to increase use. The survey results are available at <https://outsidcollab.com/plant-survey/results-pdf>

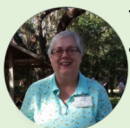






The recent month-long, online public survey launched by St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) regarding the future of the Kirkpatrick Dam and Rodman Reservoir resulted in 10,482 responses. Initial analysis of the results indicated overwhelming support for restoration. The survey results have been published and are available as raw data, along with other materials that are going along with the study on [this purpose-made SJRWMD page](#). We are thrilled that a vast majority (86.5%) of survey respondents supported restoring the Ocklawaha to a free-flowing condition. As you know, this was a complicated survey to answer with written answers to each of the four survey questions, making quantitative analysis of the survey responses challenging. There really wasn't a way to look at the results and know how many responses came from FNPS members, but I did see one response that mentioned "FNPS" just scanning thought the table. The Free the Ocklawaha Coalition for Everyone (FORCE) group that we are a member of is planning to engage a professional survey group to produce a more detailed analysis of the full survey responses. We're heartened that survey responses came from people from 66 out of the 67 Florida counties and that such a strong majority of the stakeholders supported restoration. We wanted to share these results with you as soon as possible and let you know that we're expecting some action on this during the legislative session just a few months away. Read the full press release and watch a short video [on the Free the Ocklawaha website](#).

## Wings in the Garden – A Celebration of Native Plants & Pollinators | Janet Grabowski, President, Hernando Chapter



The Hernando Chapter hosted a fun educational event we called "Wings in the Garden" at the Nature Coast Botanical Gardens (NCBG) in Spring Hill, Florida on Saturday, October 23rd. In a previous edition of *Sabal minor*, I wrote about the Viva Florida Grant awarded by the Florida Wildflower Foundation that enabled the Chapter to introduce wildflowers into the Native Plant Garden at the NCBG. This event was our opportunity to show everyone the improvements made to the Native Plant Garden in the last two years using this grant funding and to also celebrate Native Plant Month.

In addition to planting wildflowers and other native plants, we also included new signage that allows visitors to learn more about features of the Native Plant Garden. We have labeled the plant species with high quality metal signs that include their common and scientific name. These signs will give visitors the information they need to ask for those interesting plants that they discovered at the Garden when they go to the nursery. The Chapter also developed colorful interpretive signs (right) that are scattered throughout the Garden. These signs tell the story of Hernando County's plant communities and why people should include native plants in their landscapes.



At the registration booth for the Wings in the Garden event, Joyce Reinhart and Miki Renner (right) met attendees and directed them to the next stop on the tour. We had five stops where speakers informed the attendees about various plant topics and provided educational literature. At the first station, Vince Morris and Jason LaRoche spoke about sandhill plant communities and the importance of fire to maintain these communities. Visitors then moved along the path to the next stop where Cindy Liberton talked about the Viva Florida Wildflower Grant and showed examples of the wildflowers that the Chapter planted in the Garden as a part of the grant. Then they moved along to the pollinator station manned by Alice Smith, who showed them which native plants benefited various pollinators. At the next stop, Jim Clayton and I helped people pick out small wildflower seedlings grown in individual peat pots for them to take home with them. At the next stop Jon Hoch provided information on the importance of native plants to birds and other wildlife. At the final station, Heather Sharkey provided information about invasive plants and the toll these plants take on our native plant communities.



Joyce Reinhart and Miki Renner man the registration booth at Wings in the Garden at Nature Coast Botanical Gardens



Although attendance was a little lighter than we had hoped, the Chapter board decided that it was still a worthwhile event. We plan on making this our annual Native Plant Month event. Next year, based on this year's work, we will have most of the logistics worked out and we hope to make a greater push to advertise the event.

## **A Report on the Lake County Wildflower Festival** | *Melanie Simon, President, Passionflower Chapter*



The Lake County Wildflower Festival, held on October 2, 2021, was planned to increase awareness of Florida native plants and native plant communities that feed and shelter wildlife, protect watersheds and filter drinking water, and provide wonderful recreational opportunities. Co-hosted by the Passionflower and Lake Beautyberry chapters of the Florida Native Plant Society, the Lake County Wildflower Festival was an outdoor, family-friendly event. In addition to shopping for beautiful native trees, shrubs, vines, groundcovers and wildflowers, activities included presentations, exhibitors, tours, a craft table, and food. Special thanks go to Green Isle Gardens, who provided the site for the event and generously donated a portion of plant sale proceeds.

The event drew and educated people new to native plants as well as native plant enthusiasts and had a positive impact for FNPS as well.

- People served: over 500
- Attendance at educational presentations: 129
- Plant sales:
  - 1,865 plants
  - 253 plant sales receipts
  - 78 new nursery customers
- New FNPS members joined: 15+
- License plate voucher sales: 4
- Funds raised to support the FNPS mission: ~ \$4,500
- FNPS and support volunteers: 48 volunteers and over 300 volunteer hours

Volunteer speakers and exhibitors who provided educational information to festival attendees included Dr. Craig Huegel, and representatives from Florida Wildflower Foundation, Florida Forest Service, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Lake County Conservation Council, Lake County Office of Parks & Trails, University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, Florida Scrub-Jay Trail, Oklawaha Valley Audubon, International Dark-Sky Association, Yaupon Brothers Tea Co., and Green Isle Gardens. Volunteers from FNPS, Disney VoluntEars, Lake Minneola High School, and Future Farmers of America provided support running the event. Photos by Peg Urban, Katrina Stephenson, and Peggy Cox



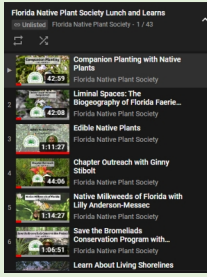
LAKE COUNTY

# Wildflower Festival

AND NATIVE PLANT SALE



## Et cetera



We now have 62 Lunch and Learns available to members of the Florida Native Plant Society – they're collected in an easy-to browse [YouTube playlist](#).

If you'd like to share our Lunch and Learns with friends or family, please share the [public YouTube playlist](#), which consists of twenty-one videos.

Did you miss our five FNPS After Hours presentations? These are monthly informal evening programs, our first was on a Wednesday evening and our second was on a Saturday evening. They're public, so share them at will! [Here's the playlist](#).

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Recent back issues of the Palmetto our now available to members on [our Google Drive](#). You can still search for individual articles on [the website](#).

This latest edition of FDACS' Tri-Ology publication, includes a new county record of Southern Frank's Sedge / Broad Scaled Sedge / *Carex aureolensis* submitted by M Janie Echols. Patti J. Anderson and Alex de la Paz compile the Botany section of this publication. Read it [here](#).

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We now have twenty one chapters with their own YouTube Channels!

[Citrus](#) - [Conradina](#) - [Cuplet Fern](#) - [Dade](#) – [Hernando](#) - [Ixia](#) – [Longleaf Pine](#) - [Mangrove](#) - [Marion Big Scrub](#) – [Martin County](#) - [Naples](#) - [Pine Lily](#) – [Passionflower](#) - [Pinellas](#) – [Sarracenia](#) - [Sea Rocket](#) - [Serenoa](#) - [Suncoast](#) - [Sweetbay](#) - [Tarflower](#) - [The Villages](#)

Don't have a YouTube Channel? I can help you get set up, just [email me](#) and we'll get started. I can help you upload meeting recordings or field trip videos as well.

We also have a new channel for just chapter leader and volunteer education called [FNPS Tools and Materials](#).

###

Past issues are available on [our website](#). Please consider submitting an article to the Sabal Minor - email the editor to discuss your story ideas – [sabalminor@fnps.org](mailto:sabalminor@fnps.org).