



Sabal minor

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

JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2022 | VOLUME 24, NUMBER 1

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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.



Pilobolus rigida, Florida Pennyroyal
Split Oak Forest WEA, Orange County
Photo by Valerie Anderson

Introducing our Interim Executive Director Shelley Sharp



Shelley Sharp is a nonprofit consultant focused on strategic planning and organizational assessments. She is also available to serve as an Interim Executive Leader for nonprofit organizations throughout Florida.

Ms. Sharp was most recently Chief Executive Officer of the Ryan Nece Foundation, a community impact organization focused on developing the next generation of community leaders. She was recognized for her commitment to the success of teens in the foundation's youth leadership development program. She led the board of directors, staff, and volunteers in mentoring teens learning about social challenges and in sharing the Power of Giving through volunteerism and philanthropy. She developed a deep knowledge of the issues facing the community by partnering with the many nonprofit and social services agencies throughout Tampa Bay.

Ms. Sharp has extensive experience in information technology and the telecommunications industry. Prior to joining the Ryan Nece Foundation she was a marketing executive at IBM and AT&T. She holds a B.A. degree in mathematics from Washington College and a M.B.A. from George Washington University where she focused on strategic planning and international marketing.

In an effort to support her community she has served on the boards of Pepin Academies, LAMPLighters, A Brighter Community, Autism Speaks Tampa Bay and the University of Tampa Corporate and Community Partnership. Ms. Sharp has completed the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay's Non-Profit CEO Leadership Program and Leadership Tampa program. In 2020, she received the Tampa Connection "Betty Tribble Citizen of the Year" award for her contributions to the Tampa Bay community.

She holds certificates in nonprofit financial management, board governance, volunteer management and grant writing. She recently completed the University of South Florida Muma College of Business certificate programs in DEI in the Workplace (2021) and Post-Crisis Leadership (2020).

Shelley enjoys visiting museums and historic homes and gardens, boating, playing Pickleball, and attending Broadway shows.

As a pickleball enthusiast, Shelley travels throughout Florida to attend tournaments and often visits botanical gardens and historic homes as well. She is now looking forward to visiting FNPS Chapter events and workshops too.

Message from the President | *Bonnie Basham*



Welcome to 2022 and thank each of you for making 2021 such a great success! Our membership continued to grow, (now 5,500+ members), Lunch and Learns saw more and more participants each week, and our annual appeal was a tremendous success. For those of you who have not yet donated to the FNPS appeal, you still have the remainder of January to make your donation.

Your FNPS board has hired an Interim Executive Director, Shelley Sharp, who will help us hire a permanent Executive Director. Your Education Committee, headed by Wendy Poag, has published a "Good Citizen's Guide to Florida." Also, the Education committee is working on translating all our brochures into Spanish.

Please take a moment to reserve your FNPS Florida Native license plate. We must have at least 3,000 "plate reservations" by October before the state will start production on our FNPS plate. Once we have 3000 reservations, the state will begin producing the plate and FNPS will receive \$25/plate to assist us in our mission to preserve, restore and conserve Florida native plants and native plant habitat. Follow this link <https://forms.fnps.org/license-plate-voucher> to reserve your plate today. I'm sure I don't have to remind you that each day brings a new threat to our native plants and native plant habitat as forests and scrub habitat are cleared for a new development, a new road and/or a new shopping area. Please reserve your plate today and join your FNPS chapter's members' commitment to preserve natural Florida. If we don't reserve 3,000 plates by October, 31, 2022, FNPS may never have this opportunity again.



In Memory of Rick McDonnell | Cindy Liberton, Hernando Chapter

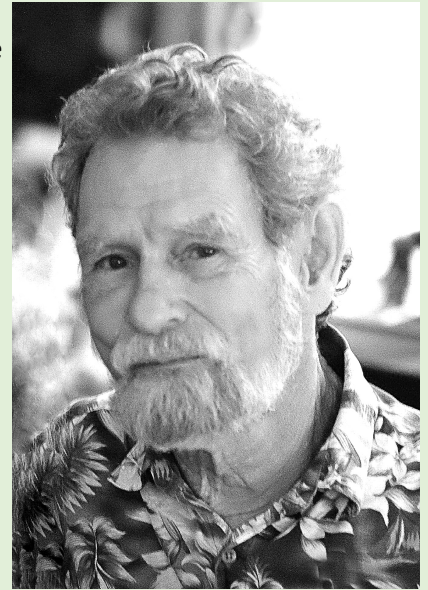


On December 8 2021 Hernando Chapter lost a big part of the heart of its native plant community. Our friend Rick McDonnell died from complications of pneumonia after a lengthy hospitalization. He was 74 years old.

Many of Rick's FNPS friends know him first as a nurseryman. In the early 1980s Rick started a small commercial nursery in Brooksville Florida which became Hickory Hill Native Nursery, Inc.. He was a longtime member of both the Florida Association of Native Nurseries and the Florida Native Plant Society. Hickory Hill Native Nursery has always been a participant in the Hernando Chapter's plant sales and a key source of native plants in our area.

"We always looked forward to Rick's arrival on plant sale day— the van loaded to the top with all our favorites— his famous wild coffee, coral honeysuckle and coralbean, sunshine mimosa with some wild garlic thrown in for fun. He had the most interesting wetland plants— native hibiscus, swamp mallows and string lilies."

—Cindy Liberton, Hernando Chapter



There was a lot more to Rick's story. (Thanks to Jaime Hendry for filling in some details.) Rick was born May 9th, 1947, in Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin. His family moved to St. Petersburg, Florida when he was eight. After high school he apprenticed at his father's company, McDonnell Plumbing, and was a lifelong member of Tampa's UA Local 123. In the 1960s he served one tour of duty in the U.S. Navy. But from early childhood, Rick's main passion was exploring nature and collecting artifacts and fossils.

"Rick was a smart, industrious man. He loved native plants, his wife Jaime, and his friends, not necessarily in that order. I was fortunate to count myself among his friends. He will be missed."

—Jim Clayton, Hernando Chapter

Starting in his early teens, he participated in several archaeological field studies, culminating more recently in several summer field seasons at the famous Topper archaeological site, sponsored by the University of South Carolina. After obtaining an AA from St. Petersburg J.C., Rick earned his B.A. in Anthropology at University of South Florida. It was here he met Jaime, his love and partner for the next 44 years.

Music was another cornerstone of Rick's life. Many knew him as the man with a harp who knew how to get down with the Blues and lift you up in the process. Rick was a joy to know, whether the context was musical, grown in pots or carved in stone. We miss our friend, but celebrate a life well-loved.

"Rick was a viciously kind-hearted, friendly, funny, and happy guy that made him magnetic. His storytelling was legendary. He was sincerely fascinated by the people he knew and made us all feel just as special as he was."

—Jason LaRoche, Hernando Chapter



Kathleen 'Kay' Brennan, 1944-2021 | *Sally Channon & Sandy Mann, Palm Beach County Department of Environmental Resource Management*

Dedicated, detail-oriented, determined – these descriptive words and phrases probably spring quickly to the minds of all who knew Kay. She was a person who lived a life of service to her church and community; all of us who love the natural world were part of the community that benefited from her service.

One of the first hires of the newly created Palm Beach County Department of Environmental Resources Management in January 1988, Kay spent the early portion of her 24 year career with the County diligently identifying and acquiring environmentally sensitive lands for the County's Natural Areas Program. She spent the later portion of her career working on related ordinances, and management plans to keep acquired environmentally sensitive lands in their natural state. In January 1988, the County did not own any environmentally sensitive lands. Today it owns and/or manages over 31,600 acres of environmentally sensitive lands. We often sing the praises of those who champion great concepts, but sometimes forget the "behind the scenes" workers. Kay was an amazing "behind the scenes" worker.

In 1988 Kay was the main staff person overseeing the inventory and classification of remaining naturally vegetated land in the County. All of this work occurred before there was Google Earth, before there was an online Atlas of Florida Plants (in fact before there was a World Wide Web!), even prior to decent rectified County-wide aerial images. Today, when a few well placed GIS inquires can spew out (mostly) accurate data on ownership, land use and zoning on top of an aerial image of half-foot pixel size for any parcel, it is hard to imagine, or recollect, exactly how much dedication, determination and orientation to detail that took. Kay excelled at coordinating with outside contractors, other County departments, outside agencies and citizen committees – four in all. She was an excellent writer and editor, and someone with a wickedly dry and wry sense of humor. Her fingerprints are all over the County's Natural Resources Stewardship program from applications for grant funds, to many of the management plans, to the extensive resource library staff still uses on a daily basis.

A zoologist by training (M.S. from Iowa State University), Kay was a long time member of the Native Plant Society and generous in her support of causes close to her heart. Kay retired from the County (a second time) in 2013, still single, still hard working, still highly organized and detail oriented (she left specific instructions requesting attendees wear green to her funeral service!) until she died on December 19, 2021. Soon there will be a memorial bench at Delray Oaks Natural Area, the site where Kay volunteered her time following her retirement – come sit on it – it is bound to be in a spot with lots of native plants.



Kay at one of PBC ERM's staff Halloween parties

Edgar 'Gar' Reed, 1945-2021 | *Virginia Overstreet, Suncoast Chapter*



The Suncoast Chapter lost a beloved former member in November - Gar Reed. Gar and his wife Eileen joined FNPS in 2012, and almost immediately, Gar raised his hand at a business meeting and volunteered to run for a board position. He then became our Treasurer, and he was a very good one. Gar and Eileen became active members. They took on managing an abandoned native garden at the University of Florida building on the Hillsborough Community College campus in Plant City. Gar also came on many field trips. We will remember Gar and Eileen joining some of our earliest chapter camping trips. Several years ago, Gar and Eileen moved to Bradenton, but until recently they maintained membership in our Suncoast Chapter.

Gar also served as the coordinator for our plant sales at the USF Botanical Gardens. He always ensured this important fundraiser was a success. We will miss his friendship, quick wit, dry humor, and his love of natural Florida.



Gar and his wife Eileen at Kissimmee Prairie Preserve

2022 Endowment Grant Research Awards | *Paul Schmalzer, PhD*



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), click on 'What We Do/Awards and Grants'. Questions regarding the grant programs should be sent to info@fnps.org.

Application deadline for the 2022 Awards is March 4th, 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.

Call for Nominations – Awards | *Valerie Anderson, Director of Communications and Programming*



It's the time of year to nominate deserving people for a Palmetto award! At the Annual Conference, the Florida Native Plant Society bestows various awards to members and chapters for their contributions to our mission. The Palmetto awards were established in 1984 by Sherry Cummings, Palm Beach Chapter (then FNPS President), to further the mission of the Florida Native Plant Society by encouraging and acknowledging the contributions to conservation of natural areas and native plants, and educating to these objectives.

HOW TO SUBMIT A NOMINATION

1. Identify the award for which you are submitting the nomination:
 - Service/education,
 - Science, or
 - Outstanding chapter of the year.
2. Provide the name of the individual or chapter that you wish to nominate.
3. In narrative format, provide an explanation of at least 150 words in length that explains what the individual or chapter has done to merit this important recognition.
4. E-mail the Word or Text document to communications@fnps.org.

Award winners also receive a plaque and acknowledgment on our website and social media.

The deadline for submitting a nomination is **March 31st, 2022.**



Registration for the 41st Annual Conference is now open!



We're holding an all-virtual conference again this year but with additional opportunities for networking and more speaker sessions than last year. We'll have the online silent auction again, run by Jenny Welch and a similar, but more regionally-inclusive plant ID contest.

Registration is \$50 for the whole weekend of programs and is free for full-time students who are also members of FNPS. Register [here](#).

Our keynote speakers are:

Dr. Emily Coffey

Torreya and other rare plant conservation cooperation with FNPS

Ginny Stibolt

Building better gateways to Florida's biodiversity

Larry Weaner

Growing, planting, and maintaining native plants

Juliet Rynear Honored by FNPS Board

At the December 16, 2021 meeting of the Board of Directors of the Florida Native Plant Society, the board voted unanimously to proclaim that retired Executive Director Juliet Rynear is a Champion of Plant Conservation and that the 12.5 acres of land that the Society owns is designated as the Juliet Rynear Warea Tract.



**OFFICIAL PROCLAMATION BY
THE FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY**

WHEREAS, the Florida Native Plant Society's mission to preserve, conserve and restore the native plants and native plant communities of Florida is an enormous challenge given our state's high rate of land development and population growth, and our status as an astonishing hotspot of plant biodiversity and endemism; and

WHEREAS, success in achieving our mission requires a dedicated, conscientious, imaginative, tenacious, and multi-faceted "hands on" effort; and

WHEREAS, Juliet Rynear has epitomized those qualities required to successfully achieve our mission throughout her tenure as the Society's Executive Director; and

WHEREAS, the Society's membership, level of engagement, public recognition, effective collaborations and overall success have expanded greatly under Juliet's guidance and management; and

WHEREAS, Florida's native plants and native plant communities have benefited in ways both measurable and immeasurable from Juliet's service as Executive Director of the Florida Native Plant Society; and

WHEREAS, Juliet's service to the Society will be remembered with pride and appreciation as she embarks on new adventures and to face new challenges.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of Directors and the Council of Chapters of the Florida Native Plant Society proclaim, proudly and without reservation or qualification, that Juliet Rynear is a *Champion of Plant Conservation* and that the Society's property in Marion County, which is dedicated to the preservation of a significant population of *Warea amplexifolia*, will henceforth be known as the

JULIET RYNEAR WAREA PRESERVE

in recognition of her contributions to native plant conservation in Florida. So sayeth the elected leadership of Florida Native Plant Society and which we hereby affirm by affixing our signatures herein, on this date of December 16, 2021.

Bonnie Basham, President, Board of Directors

Patricia Burgos, President, Council of Chapters





Florida's population grew from 18.8 million residents in 2010 to 21.5 million in 2020 and is projected to increase by over 300,000 per year. As Florida's population continues to grow, and more land is developed to accommodate this growth, it will be vitally important for nature and wildlife that homeowners provide some habitat on their own property, whether small or large. Homegrown National Park™ is a term coined by Doug Tallamy and is the key to his call-to-action to create diverse, productive ecosystems in our yards:

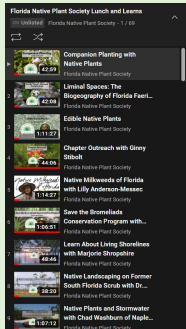


"Our National Parks, no matter how grand in scale are too small and separated from one another to preserve species to the levels needed. Thus, the concept for Homegrown National Park, a bottom-up call-to-action to restore habitat where we live and work, and to a lesser extent where we farm and graze, extending national parks to our yards and communities."

Go to the [Homegrown National Park](https://HomegrownNationalPark.org) website to learn more about this grass-roots call to action. On the website you can:

- Watch short videos on subjects from how to get rid of non-native plants to light pollution to cultivars to killing mosquitoes to "Why is Reducing the Area of Lawn Important?" on the ["Ask Doug"](#) page.
- Register your property on the ["Get on the Map!"](#) page.

Et cetera



We now have 69 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-seven 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](#).

Recent back issues of the *Palmetto* are 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](#).

Peggy Lantz was the first editor of our quarterly magazine, the *Palmetto*, and is a founding member of the Florida Native Plant Society. She's just launched a beautiful new website promoting her books and writing: <https://peggysiaslantz.com/>

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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.