



Sabal minor

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

MARCH – SEPTEMBER 2022 | VOLUME 24, NUMBER 2

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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.

Encyclia tampensis, Tampa Butterfly Orchid
Split Oak Forest WEA, Orange County
Photo by Valerie Anderson



Introducing our new Executive Director Lynda Davis



What a warm welcome I've had from you all – thank you! I am so grateful to be your new Executive Director, especially at a time of great momentum for the organization. I've worked with many non-profits over the years, but the history, dedication, and sheer knowledge and talent of the folks who work and volunteer for FNPS are unparalleled.

My first couple of weeks in post have been a whirlwind, spent listening, learning, and meeting many of our people. I'd like to thank Bonnie Basham for her kind support throughout the process and Mark Kateli for creating a flawless on-boarding process. There are so many people to thank for making my transition so smooth – I hope you all know who you are and how grateful I am.

Over the next few months I am looking forward to getting out across the State, meeting our Chapters and members, seeing the amazing work we are doing, and developing meaningful relationships with our partners and supporters. My role is to harness all our knowledge and potential and to tell our stories, so more people can learn about our native plants, their importance to our environment, and what they can do to help.

Please get in touch and share your stories with me!

Message from the President | *Mark Kateli*



Hello everyone, I'm Mark Kateli, your Florida Native Plant Society President. Though I'm more productive behind the scenes, I realize I've become a bit of a household name in Central Florida- especially with longtime members. I'm blessed to serve the creative and active Cuplet Fern Chapter of Seminole and West Volusia. I've been a member of FNPS for 12 years and I credit a lot of my native plant knowledge to the generous forerunners, mentors, and friends that happen to be members just like you.

You can dust for my fingerprints all over the five Central Florida counties of Lake, Seminole, Orange, Volusia, and Osceola- this is where I call home. I've enjoyed spearheading a lot of events (no exaggeration)- outreaches happen to be a passion and prowess of mine. From the rare plant count, hosting a micro-conference, creating native plant demonstration gardens, organizing native plant Spanish talks, one-of-a-kind field trips raising money for causes, to a native plant art oasis; I've officially lost track of everything I've churned-out. They're just part of breathing at this point. Though, their sweet successes have likely brought me to this special moment in time.

My drive within FNPS remains broad and diverse with an education-centered fire. I relish in innovative, yet executable ideas that help keep our nonprofit on the lips of people across the state. My mentorship style is equal parts trailblazing and patient as I'm a king and queen maker of those that put in the work. It would be very remiss of me if I didn't state how much love I have for this Society- some of the most memorable events could not have happened without a shared, higher vision: there is no greater Florida native plant collaborator than an FNPS member, no entity more faithful in support than a sister chapter.

I strongly align myself with kindhearted thinkers, and attract them to productive projects they can personally champion. If you're a focused, decisive, yet creative soul that is enthralled by our plants, I must hear from you. Email me at mkateli@fnps.org as I enjoy networking and furthering native plant mindfulness- from the field, garden, kitchen counter, interior design, music, games, podcasts, and beyond. I wear the 'Plant Nut' badge proudly just like you. Find me and my telltale straw hat somewhere out there making a difference.



At Allen David Broussard Catfish Creek State Park earlier this year- one of my favorite winter places. It also holds the title of my very first field trip with FNPS from years ago.



Teaching Boy Scouts the ropes on plant rescue and relocation in Seminole County.

Welcome to our new board members!

We'd like to welcome and thank our new Board members. We'd also like to encourage you all to consider joining one of our FNPS Committees. Whether your interests lie in conservation, education, science, policy, communications, finance, landscaping, our conference, or supporting our Chapters, we'd like to hear from you!

Please email Lynda at executivedirector@FNPS.org if you would like more information.

Virginia Overstreet

Suncoast Chapter (Tampa, Hillsborough County), FNPS member 2008-present

I am the President of the Suncoast Chapter and also represent the Suncoast Chapter on the Council of Chapters. I have been a Florida Master Gardener Volunteer since 2001 and a Florida Master Naturalist since 2018. I enjoy helping homeowners select native plants for their landscapes and teaching them about the different types of wildlife that are supported by the plants in their gardens. I enjoyed working on the regional insert for the new "Good Citizen Guide to Natural Florida". I would enjoy working on the FNPS Landscape Awards.



I don't have a scientific background like many members of FNPS, but I have a strong enthusiasm for native gardening to support wildlife and to conserve water.

Travis MacClendon

Magnolia Chapter (Blountstown, Calhoun County), FNPS member 1991-present

[excerpted from his resume by Shirley Denton] Travis MacClendon graduated from the University of Southern California with an M.S in Scientific and Technical Management. In 1982 he left the United States Air Force having reached the rank of Major. He then worked for two major aerospace corporations as a computer systems analyst, and then retired at the age of 52. Interesting work assignments were with the Patriot Missile System, the F-14D Fighter Aircraft, Star Wars, and the Joint Strategic Targeting and Reconnaissance System. He also wrote an environmental column for a monthly newsletter while living on Long Island.



Mr. MacClendon has been a life-long amateur ornithologist and has journeyed frequently to all continents of the world in pursuit of listing birds. He's a mad dogs and Englishman type in the field in regards to keying out vegetation. He now resides in Blountstown where his passions (in conjunction with his wife Karen) include restoring a large old field to a longleaf pine forest, building an incredible bird viewing wall, and creating a herbarium of plants native to Calhoun County, recording many that were previously unknown in the county.

Mr. MacClendon has held various offices in the Audubon Society at local and state levels to include Chapter President. He has been the Conradina Chapter President and VP of Finance for FNPS. He started a legacy program which was carried further forward by a later occupant of that position, Devon Higgenbotham.

Chris Moran

Magnolia Chapter (Tallahassee, Liberty County), FNPS member 2020-present

I have over 30 years experience as a CPA in Florida. I have spent the majority of my career working with not-for-profit organizations and local governments. I have audited dozens of trade associations including the Florida Bankers Association, Florida Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Florida Home Builders Association. Being in Tallahassee makes it critical to becoming an expert in the industry. I have a vast amount of experience as an auditor, and a consultant, and as a member of professional associations. I have served on at least 5 other not-for-profit boards (Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra, Apalachicola Riverkeeper, Rainbow Center, and several sports boards) I have recently opened a small plant nursery specializing in native plants.



Sean Patton

Serenoa Chapter (Sarasota, Sarasota County), FNPS member 2018-2019, 2022-present

"Honestly, I never imagined I would be running for FNPS leadership - I graduated from New College of Florida in 2015 with a degree in Marine Biology, studying the organisms that rely on our native flora as opposed to the plants themselves. I was first introduced to those native plants that would eventually become the cornerstone of my career during my first post-grad position in private lake management, regulating invasive plants and "nuisance" natives alike. For those two years of working as a private biologist and witnessing traditional land and lake management techniques, I observed crucial gaps in our conventional methods which inspired my development of the Multimodal Biological Control system. The MBC system includes utilizing a diversity of native plants, animals, and strategic design to promote the restoration of native habitats and reduce the use of herbicides and pesticides. Stocking Savvy, my ecological research and restoration company was born from this model and continues to this day. I am proud to say that our team has restored hundreds of thousands of native plants and fish to the wild.



In addition to managing my company, I am a member of the Society of Wetland Scientists and coordinator of the Sarasota Manatee EcoFlora Project, which involves cataloging every plant in those counties and teaching the public about the importance of native plants. My staff and I are staunch advocates of native plants and all the wonderful species they support. We channel this advocacy through physical plantings, public education, scientific research, and restoration of our native ecosystems in both the public and private sectors.

While I may not have been working with FNPS and our great diversity of native species as long as many others, I offer a unique perspective through my focus on wetlands and aquatic plants, as well as an ecological approach to restoration and protection of our native plants. Currently, no aquatic specialist is on the board of FNPS, despite the immense value of our state's aquatic habitats and the increasing need for aquatic-focused education and action. I feel this specialty, combined with my business, restoration, and youth advocacy background, makes me a strong candidate to help push for the preservation and restoration of our native plants.

Tim Keating

Passionflower Chapter (Minneola, Lake County), FNPS member 2020-present

I have been a supporter of the use of native plants since I first encountered the concept and budding movement in the early '80s. By that time, I had done odd jobs tending residential landscapes and by 1984 was brought on as a foreman by a nascent landscape company, Cahill Landscape Design.

Having begun fighting for the environment in the 1970s, including six years as an Environmental Commissioner in my hometown (the youngest appointed official in the town's history), I shifted focus back to environmental advocacy, co-founding Rainforest Relief in 1990, and directing that organization for twenty-five years.

As Rainforest Relief wound down, I returned to landscaping in 2008 as a designer, using only native plants. Over the next ten years, I became Jersey City's staunchest advocate for green-infrastructure and native-plant landscaping. A design and installation completed in 2017 in Pershing Field Park set the bar for native plant rain gardens in the city.



I became a board member of Pershing Field Garden Friends and later co-founded Leonard Gordon Park Conservancy, continuing to advocate for native plants and green infrastructure. The Master Plan for Leonard Gordon Park, completed in 2019, reflected the results, with numerous areas designated for rain gardens and a commitment to re-grading and re-planting parts of the heavily sloped park to mitigate runoff, as well as the city turning to my newly-formed company, Earthbilt Landscapes, for a number of native-plant designs.

Moving to Central Florida has ushered in an exciting, challenging chapter for me, embarking on this new J-curve of learning the native plants and how to best incorporate them into landscapes, restoration, and advocating for their use and continued thriving in the wild. I look forward to working with the Florida Native Plant Society to help keep Florida beautifully wild.

2022 Green and Silver Palmetto Award winner profiles

Green Palmetto Awards for Service

Stephen Dickman, Suncoast Chapter

Steve Dickman, a native of Tampa, has been a member of the FNPS since March 1996. He has served on the Suncoast Chapter's board in numerous positions, including President, and is currently a Director at Large and Field Trip Coordinator. He is an Environmental Lands Management Technician with the Hillsborough County Department of Conservation and Environmental Lands Management (CELM). Steve coordinates field trips for the Suncoast chapter and he recently participated in a site visit to the University of South Florida Forest Preserve, an area that was considered for development.



Tamie Diener-Lafferty, Tarflower Chapter

Ms. Lafferty is being recognized for taking on the running of the Chapter's Backyard Biodiversity Day event in 2021 and continuing to serve as BBD Director in 2022. Tamie volunteered to direct BBD after having just become an active member of the Florida Native Plant Society. She successfully organized a committee to plan the Backyard Biodiversity events. The 2021 BBD was the most well attended in the event's eight-year history, with over 1400 visitors. Tamie organized Tarflower and community volunteers, food vendors, the band, and specific volunteers to work with the plant sale, the hike leaders, speakers, and workshop presenters. Her service to the Chapter is outstanding.



Mable 'Tina' Patterson, Suncoast Chapter

Mable (Tina, as we know her) Patterson, a native of Tampa, has been a member of FNPS since 2014. She has served as Secretary of the Suncoast Chapter since 2016. As a retired middle school math teacher, Tina knows how to motivate, organize, and educate people around her. She maintains chapter records, board meeting minutes, and provides reports to FNPS with impressive detail. Tina serves a major role in the Suncoast Chapter's partnership with Lettuce Lake Regional Park in Hillsborough County. She manages a monthly workday at the native garden maintained by the Suncoast Chapter. Tina also organizes the chapter's annual camping trips. These popular trips are often attended by members of other chapters as well.



Anna Pepper, Tarflower Chapter

Anna is being recognized for valiantly taking on the running of the Chapter's Backyard Biodiversity Day event in 2020! Anna brought her organizational skills and event planning experience to the annual event at a particularly challenging time. Planning typically begins in January or February; and Anna kept the process moving through months in which many of us were not sure that we would be allowed to hold a large public event. Anna wanted to make sure that all preparations were made – the band, sponsors, exhibitors, speakers, hike leaders, children's activities – and coordination with Mead Botanical Garden and City of Winter Park staff.



Steven W. Woodmansee, Dade Chapter

Steve has been the Dade Chapter's tireless native plant guru for over 20 years, an engaging and generous fount of knowledge about South Florida flora, fauna, and natural areas. He is widely respected for his skill as a professional biologist, a teacher, and for his lifelong (native Miamian) connection to nature. He readily shares his "plant wisdom" with the Dade Chapter and wider community through presentations, field trips, and articles- both on his own time and professionally. His efforts give the next generation of experts a boost, educate (and entertain) us all, and bring new members to FNPS.



Silver Palmetto Awards

Janet Grabowski, Hernando Chapter

Janet is currently the President of the Hernando Chapter. She retired from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service in 2020 with 28 years of service. She worked for the agency as the manager of the Brooksville Plant Materials Center (PMC) from 2005 until her retirement. Prior to her stint at Brooksville, she was a biologist and agronomist at the Jamie L. Whitten PMC in Coffeeville, Mississippi. During her tenure with USDA, she conducted research that led to the commercial release of several native plant selections used for ecological restoration, erosion control, and livestock forage. She grew up in Decatur, Illinois, and received her BS and MS degrees in Horticulture from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She began her professional career at Tarrant County College, working as an instructional assistant in the Horticulture Department.



John Benton, Lake Beautyberry Chapter

John joined FNPS as a Lake Beautyberry chapter member in 2015 and has served in many chapter leadership positions including President, VP, and currently Treasurer. He was appointed as both the Conservation Chair and Bylaws Committee Chair in August 2021. The updated FNPS bylaws were ratified by the membership this past June. He is also chairing the newly formed Governance Committee. In April 2021, John retired from a 35-year career with the FL Fish and Wildlife Commission as a Fisheries Scientist working on aquatic systems management and research throughout the state. John was an elected member of the Eustis city commission from 1992 to 2004, which included two years serving as mayor of the city.



Jenny Welch, Sparkleberry Chapter

Jenny is a native Floridian who grew up on the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge in Titusville, Florida. This inspired her to want to save the native plants and animals that development is usually destroying. Jenny is the Silent Auction Chair for FNPS Annual Conference and a volunteer with Audubon Hog Island where she advocates for native plants. She is the past president of Sparkleberry Chapter FNPS, the past president of Pine Lily Chapter FNPS, and the past education chair of Kissimmee Valley Audubon Society. She continues to work with schools, nature parks, medical facilities, and other businesses to educate them about the harmful effects of rodenticide-baited traps.



Michelle Birnbaum, Pinellas Chapter

Michelle is a professional archaeologist who lives across the street from the new Gladys Douglas Preserve in Dunedin. She read a story in the Tampa Bay Times in August of 2020 reporting that Pulte Homes had a contract to buy the property. She went by herself to the corner of Keene Road and Virginia Avenue to wave a “save the Gladys Douglas Hackworth property” sign, and ignited a citizen movement that led to purchase of the property by local government for preservation. Before moving to Florida, Michelle worked in cultural resource management in the Midwest for ten years and received her PhD from the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee. Michelle enjoys long walks on the beach and working to preserve undeveloped land in Pinellas County from development.



Nichole Mattheus, Pinellas Chapter

Nichole is a biologist and activist based in Dunedin. She led the charge to protect the Gladys Douglas Hackworth property. Nichole and Michelle Burnbaum were among the first Dunedin residents to raise awareness of the pending sale of the property to national builder Pulte Homes. In the fall of 2020, through social media, press coverage, speaking at commission meetings and public protests, they mobilized support for the purchase of the land by the city and county, and gained the support of The Suncoast Chapter of the Sierra Club and Blue-Green Connections.



Rebecca Wellborn, Pinellas Chapter

Rebecca has been a member of FNPS since 2012, and has served in past years as Treasurer, Volunteer Coordinator and Communications Chair of the chapter. She currently supports the board by managing social media, the membership database, promotional materials, and publishing the newsletter. Rebecca served as a United States Peace Corps volunteer in the country of Jamaica from 1996 – 1998, where she helped establish a community-based environmental NGO in the rural parish of Trelawny. She has been a full-time Realtor since 2004.



Inspired by the efforts of Michelle Birnbaum and Nichole Matthews, she mobilized the Pinellas Chapter and FNPS in support of preservation of the Gladys Douglas property. She produced the *Save the GDP* Concert & fundraiser in January of 2021, which raised of \$30k in just three weeks. Following the purchase of the property by the City of Dunedin and Pinellas County, Rebecca spearheaded an application for a 2021 FNPS Conservation Grant to conduct a floristic inventory of the property, to aid development of a management plan, which is currently underway.

Pete Dunkelberg, Tarflower Chapter

Pete has been an FNPS member with the Tarflower Chapter since 2005. Pete has a deep passion for visiting Florida's natural areas and educating as many people as possible about the features that are unique to each of our public lands. Pete regularly spends hours each month scouting field trip locations and coordinating with land managers to introduce members and guests to his favorite places and inspire us to love and protect them. Without Pete's dedication and hard work in all seasons of weather, Tarflower would not continue to have wonderful field trips that educate generations about the magic and the vulnerability of our natural areas.



In addition to arranging and enticing us to participate in field trips, Pete is one of the first to arrive at all manner of Chapter events.. We know that we can depend on Pete to work with the V. P. of Events to organize all the event materials – tents, table, supplies – and move it all from storage to setup throughout each year.

Pete also serves as Tarflower's Science Chair and has spoken at Chapter meetings about climate change and helped us begin to understand how we might each make a difference. He is an avid photographer of native plants and the wildlife that depend on them. We love and appreciate Pete's enthusiasm about helping us to identify native plants and wildlife.

2022 Endowment Grant Research Awards | Paul Schmalzer, PhD



FNPS announced the award of three Endowment Research Grants and one Cornelia McNamara Grant at the 2022 Annual Meeting.

The Endowment Research Grants are funded by earnings of the FNPS Endowment and contributions from Chapters and individuals. Thanks go this year to the Sea Rocket Chapter for a contribution of \$500 and to all who have contributed to the endowment. The 2022 awards go to:

Carolina Baruzzi, School of Forestry, Fisheries and Geomatic Sciences University of Florida. *Understanding associations between soil biota and *Aristida beyrichiana* to promote longleaf pine savanna restoration practices.*

Gabriel Benson, Department of Biology, University of Central Florida. *Refining the restoration protocol for a foundation species of seagrass.*

Alan Franck, Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida Herbarium. *Desmodium incanum is a rare native species restricted to Miami-Dade County in Florida and it is not the common, weedy species throughout Florida (which should be called *D. mauritanum*).*

Katherine Wolcott, Department of Biology, University of Miami. *3D pollination biology of South Florida's rockland endemic, *Ayenia euphrasifolia*.*

The Cornelia McNamara award is funded by a contribution from Chris Calder and is presented for the second time this year. The 2022 recipient is:

Alicia McGrew and Isaac Todd, Mattie M. Kelly Environmental Institute, Northwest Florida State College. *Collaborating for Florida's carnivorous plants: Mining data to expand field-based documentation of carnivorous plant communities.*

Ponce de Leon Springs State Park field trip | Lizzy Jenny, Longleaf Pine Chapter



In November 2021, Longleaf Pine Chapter and Sweetbay Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society conducted their first-ever combined Chapter field trip in an attempt to reach out to more folks interested in experiencing native plants in the panhandle. Organized by Longleaf Pine Chapter Vice President, Kimberly Bremner, and Sweetbay Chapter President, Jody Wood-Putnam, and led by Jim Burkhalter, Curator of the University of West Florida Michael I. Cousens Herbarium, the group convened on Ponce de Leon Springs State Park in Holmes County.

With 22 people in attendance, the group identified approximately 108 different species on the excursion. The park boasts nine distinct habitats across the 406 acres of land; from the beautiful Sandy Creek amongst the mixed hardwood forest (*Magnolia grandiflora*, *Vaccinium arboreum*, *Quercus michauxii*, etc.) to the upland pine forest on the south side of the park (*Panicum virgatum*, *Eupatorium capitifolium*, *Solidago odorata*, etc.) our members enjoyed the great botanical diversity and good company of new friends.

As outgoing President of Longleaf Pine Chapter and Mother to a budding young naturalist, this trip was a particularly sentimental culmination of my time with the FNPS. Ever since my first field trip with Longleaf Pine Chapter, my young son, Matias, has accompanied me. At times, his presence diminished my ability to focus on my own education, but what I sometimes lost there, I gained in enjoyment as I watched him grow and develop a fondness for plants and nature hikes since the age of one and a half. On this last trip of ours, his curiosity and engagement were more evident than ever. At one point, he pointed out a grass and asked me and several others around us what it was. I honestly had no idea (nor did I think it looked particularly interesting, to be quite honest). Nonetheless, he was determined to find out. I told him he would have to ask Jim (our botanical expert). Before I knew it, he plucked the grass from the ground and went running up to the head of the group to seek Jim's expertise. Now, please understand; this was the first time he had ever done such a thing as to pull the entire plant from the ground, root and all. I do not condone that behavior and we did discuss later, that in the future, he should not pull an entire plant from the ground while trying to identify it, so please pardon this mistake as he was only 3 at the time and very eager. Upon chasing down Jim, he showcased his grass and asked Jim to identify it, but low and behold, Jim was stumped. This, my friends, does not happen often. For anyone who knows Jim Burkhalter, you would know he has a nearly encyclopedic mind for plant identification, Carl Linnaeus history, old movies, and Pink Floyd lyrics, but Matias stumped him on this grass. Luckily Jim does not accept defeat. He bagged the grass and brought it back to the University of West Florida (UWF) for proper identification by keying it out after the field trip. A few days later Jim called to tell me that the grass, which he referred to as the wimpy, nerdy, little grass, was *Agrostis perennans* (autumn bent grass). While this is a common species throughout North America, it is not common in Northwest Florida. In fact, he was surprised to discover that he did not already have a specimen in the UWF Herbarium, and so he decided to mount Matias' plant and enter it into the official Herbarium collection for Holmes County, Florida!



Longleaf Pine and Sweet Bay Chapters joint field trip to Ponce de Leon Springs State Park.



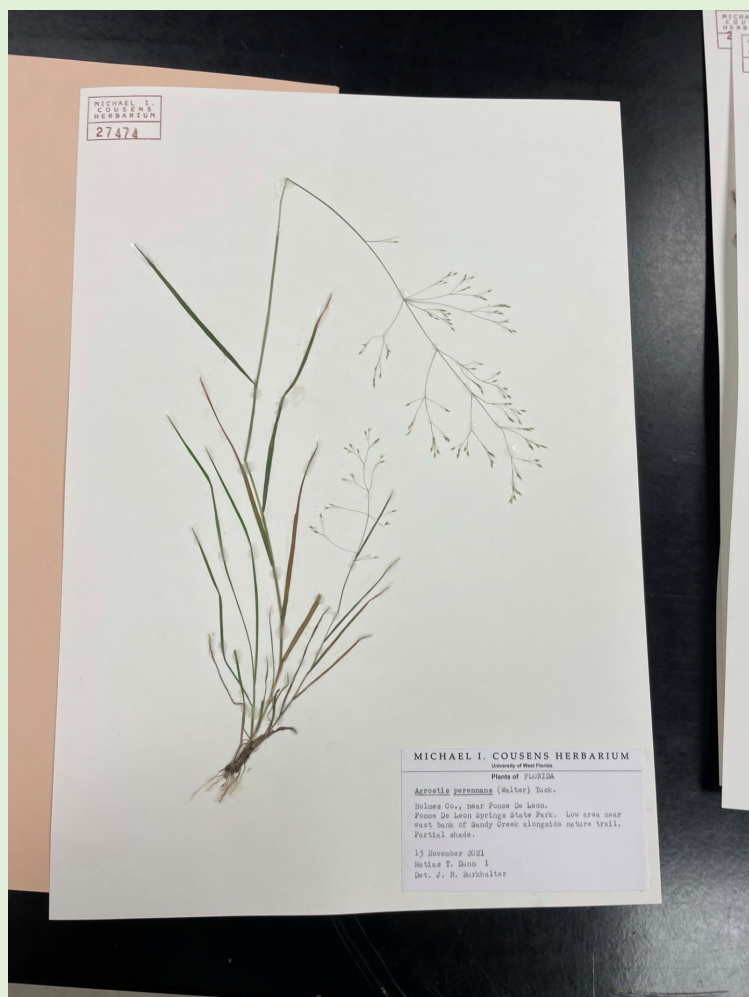
Jim Burkhalter and Matias Dunn mounting *Agrostis perennans* in the University of West Florida Herbarium.

On Monday, 22 November, two days before our family packed up and moved on from Pensacola with our next Navy job, Matias and I visited Jim at the UWF Michael I. Couzens Herbarium. Accompanied by Duane Tant and Kimberly Bremner, we had a behind-the-scenes tour of the amazing work that Jim has accomplished over his 48 years as curator of the herbarium and the more than 27,500 specimens he maintains. As promised, he had beautifully mounted Matias' specimen of *Agrostis perennans* from Ponce de Leon State Park and even listed Matias T. Dunn as the collector along with Jim Burkhalter, the identifier.

As mother and Longleaf Pine Chapter President, I couldn't have been prouder of the accomplishment and really, all our time in Pensacola over our brief two and a half years. As Chapter President I learned a tremendous amount about the incredibly extensive biodiversity of my temporary Florida panhandle home, while also connecting with so many brilliant plantsmen and women in the area. To join forces with our neighboring Chapter and have such an awesome last trip really sealed my experience. I am so proud to have had the pleasure and opportunity to have been a part of the Florida Native Plant Society. I look forward to seeing the Longleaf Pine Chapter continue to grow as a botanical leader in the panhandle, led by our new President, Kimberly Bremner! Furthermore, I look forward to taking these experiences with me and my family as we move on to our next duty station with the Navy and mine and Matias' next stage of our botanical careers.



Jim Burkhalter, Matias Dunn, and Lizzy Jenny displaying the new *Agrostis perennans* specimen at the Herbarium.



Newly mounted *Agrostis perennans* herbarium specimen.



Jim and Matias in the field together.



A simplified volunteer hours reporting system was introduced this year and Chapter Volunteer Hours Coordinators have really stepped up to report hours. This is great news since volunteer hours are used as qualifications in grant applications and proposals; as matching funds for grant payments; to substantiate FNPS credibility, and to demonstrate the effectiveness and impact of a very active and dedicated group championing the FNPS mission.

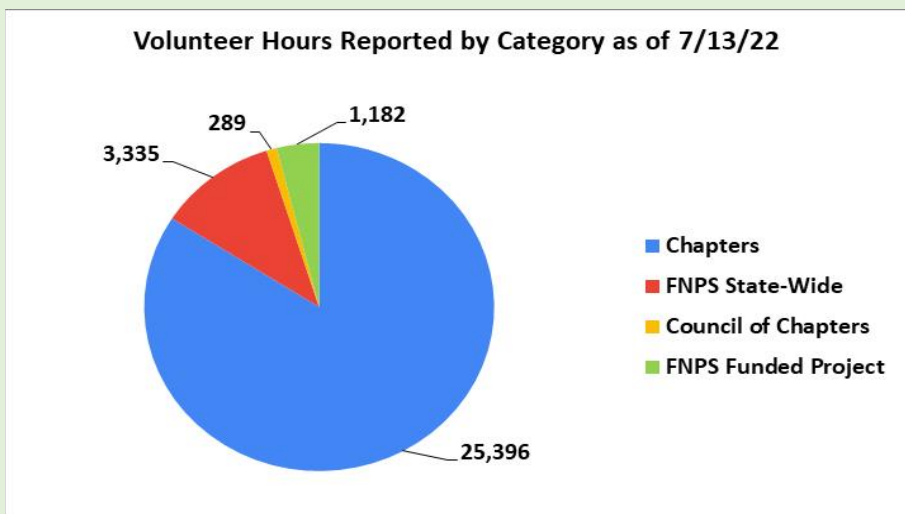
An ongoing record over time showing improvement and growth is essential for us to take advantage of future funding opportunities. A total of 23,009 hours were reported in 2020, 36,377 hours were reported in 2021, and 30,202 hours have been reported so far for 2022.

The value of volunteer hours in each state is calculated by Independent Sector, a national organization that serves the charitable sector. This year the estimated value of each Florida volunteer hour is \$27.68. That means FNPS is on track to record well over \$1 million in volunteer support for 2022. Impressive!

The vast majority (84%) of total FNPS volunteer hours are contributed by chapters whose mission-focused activities include Education Programs (19%), Field Trips (16%), Outreach Events (15%), Native Landscaping (13%), Habitat Restoration (5%), Communications (5%), and Conservation & Research (2%). The remaining 25% of reported hours represent the vitally important work of chapter officers and coordinators who keep chapters running, grow membership, and organize activities.

The snapshot of total hours reported by each Chapter below may not include completely up-to-date hours since chapter reporting schedules vary. However, they provide a picture of how active a chapter has been. To compensate for chapter size, a volunteer hour-per-member metric is used for comparison.

How can you help? Serve as the Volunteer Hours Coordinator for your chapter! It will only take a few hours a month and you'll be helping your Chapter and the overall organization in a very significant way. This is a particularly important role if your chapter has not been reporting hours. You can not only help on an ongoing basis, you can "catch up" your chapter. Training is available.



Volunteer Hours Reported by Chapter as of 7/13/22					
Chapter	Total hours	Hrs/Member	Chapter	Total hours	Hrs/Member
Mangrove	2,449	19.67	Conradina	484	2.44
Pawpaw	3,123	16.31	Serenoa	594	1.93
The Villages	3,086	15.82	Paynes Prairie	594	1.85
Sweetbay	1,035	14.89	Tarflower	584	1.46
Coccoloba	2,015	10.92	Marion Big Scrub	42	0.93
Ixia	1,908	9.40	Magnolia	168	0.87
Longleaf Pine	1,012	9.32	Nature Coast	67	0.48
Hernando	755	8.44	Pinellas	146	0.28
Sarracenia	653	8.12	Pine Lily	14	0.23
Passionflower	722	6.78	Heartland	9	0.10
Lake Beautyberry	925	5.98	Broward (Coontie)	0	0.00
Suncoast	1,370	5.98	Dade	0	0.00
Sea Rocket	769	5.59	Eugenia	0	0.00
Citrus	810	5.47	Palm Beach County	0	0.00
Martin County	728	4.76	Sea Oats	0	0.00
Naples	658	4.29	Sparkleberry	0	0.00
Cuplet Fern	679	2.89	Grand Total	25,396	4.41

Mangrove Chapter celebrates its 35th anniversary | *Linda Manley, Chapter Representative*



Although the weather outside was gray and drizzly on February 8, 2022, inside the Cedar Point Visitor Center in Englewood, all was bright and sunny as over 30 members and former members gathered to celebrate the 35th anniversary of the Mangrove Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society. Chapter President Linda Manley introduced the current Board members and gave brief descriptions of their positions. Committee member Linda Wilson introduced special guest Dave Wilson, a founding member, and committee member Bobbi Rodgers introduced Al Squires, longtime walk leader and chapter officer. Both shared stories of days gone by, including the time before Mangrove became affiliated with the Florida Native Plant Society. Other longtime members added vignettes from their own memories.



Al Squires, Linda Manley, and Bobbi Rodgers chat over the water cooler



A special display commemorating Denny Girard who used to lead hikes with Al

A running video loop of old photographs offered a starting point for many conversations. People browsed the giant binders of old newsletters, meeting minutes, newspaper clippings, and publications, and some took home vintage copies of the FNPS magazine, *The Palmetto*. A special display commemorated Denny Girard, whose walks with Al Squires were fondly known as The Denny and Al Show. Those attending rekindled old friendships and formed new ones, recognizing that everyone present held the common belief in the importance of native plants. As the afternoon wore on, people shook hands, exchanged hugs, made lunch plans, and promised to stay in touch. Perhaps the best part of this day is what happens in the few days afterward, as people reminisce about the past and remember good times with good friends.



Recent publications from projects supported in part by FNPS Grants | *Paul Schmalzer, PhD*



Brittany Harris received a research grant in 2016. She and Dr. Suzanne Koptur have a recent paper from this project:

Harris, B.M. and S. Koptur. 2022. Facilitated fecundity in sand flax: Pollination in an endangered herb of pine rocklands. *Flora* 289: 152041.

Milton Diaz-Toribio received a research grant in 2018. He and Dr. F.E. (Jack) Putz have a recent paper from this project:

Diaz-Toribio, M. and F.E. Putz. 2021. Below-ground carbohydrate stores and storage organs in fire-maintained longleaf pine savannas in Florida. *American Journal of Botany* 108, doi:/10.1002/ajb2.1620.

Brittany Harris presented her work on Sand Flax (*Linum arenicolum*) on June 10, 2022 to our members during a Lunch and Learn. You can watch the 50-minute presentation and Q&A [here](#).

Barb Siebel's phenology database for Cedar Point Environmental Park | Linda Manley



In January of 2012, Barb Siebel, a Mangrove Chapter member and Florida Master Naturalist thought that recording the blooming and seeding times of native plants in the park would be a valuable undertaking, with the goal of tracking emergence over time. The park manager at that time, Bobbi Rodgers, agreed and the plan was hatched.

Supported and assisted by members of the Mangrove Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society, Bobbi, Al Squires, Lois Cantwell, and Linda Wilson, the surveys began that month. Since then, plant surveys have been conducted every month, never missing a month in the ten years of observations. Over the years, many other chapter members have assisted, and in July 2020, responsibility for the surveys was officially transferred to the Mangrove Chapter.

The 130 acres of Cedar Point Environmental Park have eight named trails, each about 1 to 1½ miles long. Four trails are currently surveyed each month. A bald eagle's nest located in the park makes two additional trails off-limits during nesting season, but those two trails are included in the surveys during the remaining months. Barb's goal is to have enough volunteers to survey the entire park and recruitment efforts are ongoing. Currently, each survey requires about 16 volunteer hours. People walk the trails in groups of two, both keeping sharp eyes out, with one recording the sightings on an established plant list. Additional helpers would increase the number of volunteer hours donated to the park.

With the exception of occasional outliers when a flower blooms far out of season, no gradual changes have been shown in blooming times or seeding times, a surprising outcome. The plants most commonly recorded are *Bidens alba* (Spanish needle), *Oenothera simulans*, formerly *Gaura angustifolia* (southern bee blossom), and *Desmodium* sp.

(tick trefoil). Unusual plant sightings include *Acalypha gracilens* (slender three-seeded mercury). After a brush fire in 2014, many *Eustoma exultatum* (seaside gentian) popped up, but gradually disappeared as the landscape recovered.

Barb and her crew also track land animals, marine animals, and birds. Cedar Point has been tracking birds since 1994, and Barb reports that bird sightings decline every year. Unusual birds recorded include the occasional yellow-billed cuckoo, two mangrove cuckoos in 1994, a black scoter in 2014, and sporadic magnificent frigate birds that are blown off-course in storms. The surveyors recorded otters once, as well as giant red crabs.

In addition to recording sightings, Mangrove Chapter has adopted the onsite pond through the Adopt-A-Pond program. Each month they pick up trash as they identify the plants on the trail surrounding the pond. Barb noted a recent serious problem with poaching of crabs along the Jeep Trail. Such illegal actions can permanently damage the stability of the environment.

The 63-page database, consisting of 322 entries over the 120 surveys conducted, is available electronically upon request to environmental organizations interested in the data. Contact Mangrove Chapter via its website to request further information.



Barb Siebel and Linda Manley botanizing together

Have you considered including FNPS in your will? | Valerie Anderson



Did you know that August is National Make-A-Will Month? We all need a will to be sure our wishes are known and understood. The easiest two ways to write a will are to consult an attorney or to use an online will-creation service.

If you think this is a good time to create or update your will, please consider joining the others who have helped The Florida Native Plant Society by including a legacy gift in yours. Have you already included The Florida Native Plant Society in your will? Please let us know so we can thank you for your generosity and trust in FNPS and its mission. If you've restricted your gift, it would help us to be aware of that. If your gift is unrestricted it will be used to support FNPS' top priorities.

