



Sabal minor

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

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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.

Fourvalve Mimosa / *Mimosa quadrivalvis*

A less-friendly species than the common landscaping plant, Sunshine Mimosa / *Mimosa strigillosa*

Bull Creek Wildlife Management Area
Osceola County
Photo by Valerie Anderson



Message from the President | *Bonnie Basham*



Welcome to summer! And welcome to our new FNPS board members Ann Redmond of Magnolia Chapter as Vice President for Finance, Mary Anne 'Mac' Camacho-Viera of Tarflower Chapter as a Board member-at-Large, Gabriel Campbell of Lingleaf Pine Chapter as Board member-at-Large and Susan Lerner of Palm Beach County Chapter as Board member-at-Large. In addition, we welcome Patricia Burgos of Lake Beautyberry Chapter as the new Chair of the Council of Chapters. I want to thank Kara Driscoll of Naples Chapter, Jim Erwin of Tarflower Chapter, and Andee Naccarato of Naples Chapter for their service to the Society. Kara is the outgoing Council of Chapters Chair, Andee is an outgoing Director at Large and Jim is the outgoing Vice President for Finance. I join the remainder of the board in thanking them for their leadership and the dedication they provided to the Society.

I am delighted to hear that chapters are beginning to have in person meetings. It has been a long year and I know all of you welcome the opportunity to attend chapter meetings, visit with friends and learn about Florida native plants. I applaud all chapters who found a way to keep in touch with each other through zoom/virtual meetings and even virtual field trips. It seems to me that chapters might want to continue to host zoom chapter meetings so all our members will be able to participate more fully in your chapter's life.

I'm pleased to report that we have a new "good citizen" brochure in production, and, thanks to Patricia Burgos, our membership brochure has been translated into Spanish.

Finally, I end on the high note of telling you that our membership has increased substantially over this past year. If you are a new member, I welcome you. I am happy to hear from you if you have observations or questions about FNPS. (president@fnps.org)

Message from the Executive Director | *Juliet Ryneer*



It's going to be another hot and busy summer! Our restoration work continues in Polk, Orange, Lake and Marion counties and many thousands of plants will be planted in their new homes in July now that the summer rains have started. We also have many rescued plant populations that will be "going in the ground" once they have fully hardened-off. Thank you to everyone who has helped with these projects - all the FNPS volunteers, FNPS Director of Communications and Programming Valerie Anderson, Facebook fans, and staff from Green Isle Gardens, The Natives, Lake Louisa State Park, Florida Park Service, SJRWMD, SFWMD, Oakland Nature Preserve, DEP staff at Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway and Bill Frederick Park.



Sandhill rescue operation in Lake County



ATVs and Valerie Anderson's Baja helped us move plants from inside the rescue site to transportation vehicles.

Thanks to the hard work of Lilly Anderson-Messec, our Director of North Florida Programs, our *Torreya*Keepers project has had a great year and many properties have been surveyed. New *Torreya taxifolia* trees were discovered and number tagged and cuttings were collected for propagation and genetic safeguarding at Atlanta Botanical Garden's *Torreya* nursery. This summer, Lilly is working with private landowners to schedule survey dates in the autumn and winter months and to obtain the necessary permits and permissions.

Our Strategic Planning process is continuing. If you haven't answered the survey for Chapter Leaders, please check your email for the link. Currently, we are surveying our Facebook fans with a brief survey. You can check it out [here](#).

FNPS News and Notifications

Remembering Barrett King | Cate Hurlbut, Ixia Chapter President



FNPS Ixia Chapter member Barrett King died surrounded by the love of his family on Jan. 17, 2021. Barrett and Elizabeth were active chapter members, driving down from St. Marys, Georgia for Ixia activities. They were frequent volunteers, participating in many field trips and outreach events. Their cheerful, friendly, good nature made them a pleasure to be around. Shortly before Barrett's death, he and Elizabeth were happy to attend (zoom) the Ixia January meeting and reconnect with their native plant family.

Our condolences to Elizabeth and the rest of the family. Full obituary available at <https://www.tribune-georgian.com/obituaries/king>



2021 Grant Award Winners | Paul Schmalzer, Science Committee Chair



FNPS announced the award of three Endowment Research Grants and one Cornelia McNamara Grant at [the 2021 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 Tarflower Chapter for a contribution of \$1500 in honor of Sam Hopkins, to the Sea Rocket Chapter for a contribution of \$500, and to all who have contributed to the endowment.

The 2021 awards go to:

Caitlin Bumby and Charles D. Bell, Department of Biological Sciences, University of New Orleans. *Uncovering the true origins of a rare orchid endemic to Florida.*

Shelby Krupar, Department of Biology, University of Florida. *Genetic diversity and spatial genetic structure of *Guzmania monostachia* (Bromeliaceae) in Florida.*

Maria Pimienta, Department of Biological Sciences, Florida International University. *Diurnal and nocturnal pollination of *Guettarda scabra* (Rubiaceae) in the pine rocklands of south Florida.* This award is supported by the contribution of the Tarflower Chapter in honor of Sam Hopkins.

The Cornelia McNamara award is funded by a contribution from Chris Calder and is presented for the first time this year. The 2021 recipient is:

RESEARCH GRANT AWARD WINNER

Caitlin Bumby and Charles D. Bell

Department of Biological Sciences, University of New Orleans



For: Uncovering the true origins of a rare orchid endemic to Florida

Grant donor:

Sea Rocket Chapter



RESEARCH GRANT AWARD WINNER

Shelby Krupar

Department of Biology, University of Florida



For: Genetic diversity and spatial genetic structure of Guzmania monostachia (Bromeliaceae) in Florida

Grant donor:

Sea Rocket Chapter



RESEARCH GRANT AWARD WINNER

Maria Cleopatra Pimienta

Department of Biological Sciences, Florida International University



For: Diurnal and nocturnal pollination of Guettarda scabra (Rubiaceae) in the pine rocklands of south Florida

Grant donor:



Tartflower Chapter in honor of Sam Hopkins



CORNELIA MCNAMARA GRANT AWARD WINNER

Gage LaPierre

School of Forest, Fisheries, and Geomatics Sciences, University of Florida



For: Seed mixture strategies in groundcover restoration of pine savannas

Grant donor:

Chris Calder, Cuplet Fern Chapter



Landscape Award Winners | Ron Blair, Landscape Committee Chair



This year we had applications for four of our categories: Butterfly Garden, Restoration, Residential, and Institutional. The winners were announced at our 2021 Annual Members Meeting, you can watch the presentation [here](#). We're pleased to present the four winners in each category below:

Butterfly Garden Award of Merit – Ed Yarborough Nature Center, Seminole County

The Ed Yarborough Nature Center at the Geneva Wilderness Area in Seminole County by Cuplet Fern Chapter won our Award of Merit. Cuplet Fern had this to say about the background of the project:

In 2006, county staff, community and school volunteers helped design and install a native plant garden. Plants came from Green Images Nursery, off Taylor Creek road, in eastern Orange County. In 2009, a small water feature was installed. The water feature later evolved into a self-contained, natural filtered system showcasing local wetland plants and providing water for migrating wildlife. In 2010, local native plant volunteers took on the responsibility of maintaining the garden and in 2011, the Cuplet Fern Chapter officially took on yearly maintenance.

Check out our [Flickr album](#) for more photos of the garden.

BUTTERFLY GARDEN LANDSCAPE AWARD OF MERIT

Ed Yarborough Nature Center
Geneva Wilderness Area, Seminole County



Restoration Award of Merit – Wood Stork Pond at the Shores of Long Bayou Condominiums, Pinellas County

The Shores of Long Bayou Condominium association, led by the indefatigable Ernie Franke, have received funding from their HOA, the Tampa Bay Estuary Program, and the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council to perform this work. The ultimate goal of the project was to restore tidal flushing to the mangroves surrounding Wood Stork Pond. Ditches dug decades ago to drain land or control mosquitoes had filled in and were choking the mangroves. Removing invasive plants and dredging the canal provide the life-giving brackish flushing needed to guarantee mangrove longevity. Many habitats in Florida, cleared of invasive plants, flourished after re-connecting with the bay. In this case, mangroves surrounding Wood Stork Pond are connected by a thread, via a tidal stream to Long Bayou in the Tampa Bay estuary. The HOA is committed to maintaining the absence of invasive trees in the watershed. If you'd like to learn more about the process of this restoration, check out Ernie's [presentation at our 40th Annual Conference](#).

Check out our [Flickr album](#) for more photos of the Wood Stork Pond restoration project.

Residential Award of Merit – Adams Residence, Lake County

When the Adams purchased the house in 2014, the yard was identical to the other 109 houses in the neighborhood, with irrigated lawns on all sides of each house, manicured loropetalum (*Loropetalum chinense*) hedges, and three palm trees (*Syagrus romazoffiana*). The design was done in collaboration with Marc Godts of Green Isle Gardens. Site preparation and installation was completed February to March 2014. Pamela Adams keeps pots of dune sunflower (*Helianthus debilis*) on hand to share with neighbors in hopes of stirring interest in native gardening. Plants on site are native to a number of upland habitats throughout the state and were selected to fit the neighborhood and status as a corner lot rather than representing a single original native plant community of Lake County.

Check out our [Flickr album](#) for more photos of the Adams Residence landscape.

Institutional Award of Excellence – Sopchoppy Depot Park, Wakulla County

The small city of Sopchoppy, in Wakulla County, established Sopchoppy Depot Park in 2015 as a multi-purpose park on city property. The Park lies just across the main street from a historical restoration of the town's defunct rail depot, now a museum. At the inception of the native garden project in early 2018, the Park featured entrance landscaping (without native-plant emphasis), an asphalt walking path of ring configuration 150 feet across, a stormwater pond, a children's playground, and two picnic pavilions.

At the invitation of Sopchoppy's mayor in early 2018, a team of volunteers coordinated by a member of the Sarracenia Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society assembled to further envision the mayor's idea for native-plant landscaping for the Park.

Check out our [Flickr album](#) for more photos of the Sopchoppy Depot Park.

RESTORATION LANDSCAPE AWARD OF MERIT

Wood Stork Pond

Shores of Long Bayou Condominiums, Pinellas County



RESIDENTIAL LANDSCAPE AWARD OF MERIT

Adams Residence

Groveland, Lake County



INSTITUTIONAL LANDSCAPE AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Sopchoppy Depot Garden

Sopchoppy, Wakulla County





Tallahassee, FL, June 30, 2021-- Have you ever been in the park or on a trail somewhere in Florida and seen a tree that just looks so unusual you're sure it must be one of a kind? Or have you wondered how to have a beautiful, subtropical landscape in Florida without all the water and pesticides you're told it needs to remain beautiful? Or maybe there's some eye-catching flower you already have in your garden but aren't sure what it is and how to keep it alive? If you've answered yes to any of these questions, then you've needed advice from a Florida Native Plant Society member!



Luckily, the 5,000+ members of the Florida Native Plant Society (FNPS) spread across 33 chapters all over the state stand ready to help and encourage your interest in native Florida plants. Their efforts will soon be enhanced through a fundraising and awareness campaign called "Show your pride in Natives," which is represented in an official new Florida vehicle license plate. The "Florida Native" plate was created by noted Florida [artist](#) Peter Agardy and features a wooded scene fashioned entirely of familiar Florida native plant species. Vouchers for the Florida Native license plate can be bought at any county tax collector's office in Florida or through the [Florida Native Plant Society](#). The cost of the voucher is \$33, and as soon as 3,000 vouchers are sold, the plate will be printed and buyers will receive a new license plate for their voucher.

Sales of the new Florida Native license plate, which is one of 33 new plates introduced this year, will help the FNPS achieve its mission of research, preservation, and restoration of Florida native plants. The society regularly conducts rare plant surveys and plant rescues all over the state, and performs many types of restoration projects, such as removing and controlling nuisance species, reintroducing natives onto protected lands, collecting, propagating and introducing native plant seeds, and managing native habitat on public lands. The organization also advises land managers, homeowners, and landscape professionals on the use and care of natives in the landscape, and works with groups and communities to help create and manage environmentally sustainable landscapes.

"The work of the FNPS is so broad and extensive that you will see us along a roadside removing rare Florida native plants before a road is paved, or out restoring native habitat," said society president Bonnie Basham (of Tallahassee). "Florida native plants are critical for pollinators, wildlife and people, and the purchase of our tag will help us save the real Florida for future generations."

The plant in the center of the camouflage-styled plate is the species that serves as the symbol for the FNPS, the Saw Palmetto (*Serenoa repens*), a shrubby palm species that grows the entire state of Florida, and is used by more than 100 bird species, 27 mammals, 25 amphibians, 61 reptiles, and countless insects as food and/or vegetative cover. The berries are important bear food, and the fan-shaped leaves have been widely used for thatch roofing, baskets, and mats by Native American tribes in Florida.

Other species painted on the tag by artist Peter Agardy include native pines, oaks, tillandsia, and the Greenfly Orchid. Also known as (Florida explorer William) Bartram's Tree Orchid (*Epidendrum magnoliae*), the plant grows mostly in hammocks and swamps from south-central Florida north, typically on live oak and magnolia trees.

“As a Florida native, outdoorsman and wildlife artist, I was honored to capture and create some of Florida’s unique and native landscapes within the artwork for this license plate,” Agardy said. “From our pines to our oaks and other species of our native hammock habitat, our fragile ecosystem is always under attack, and I could not be happier to partner with the native plant society for this collaboration.”

The Florida Native Plant Society (FNPS) preserves, conserves and restores the native plants and native plant communities of Florida. Since the 1980s, this organization has been advocating for increased protection for threatened and endangered plants and plant communities. FNPS encourages the planting of native plants in home, commercial, and institutional landscapes. It is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit membership organization with over 5,000 members in 33 chapters statewide. To learn more, please visit us at <https://www.fnps.org/>

Articles

Suncoast Chapter visits Split Oak | *Stephen Dickman, Director-at-large*



On Saturday May 8th, 2021, FNPS members from two chapters enjoyed a wagon ride tour through the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission’s Split Oak Forest Preserve courtesy of FWC Land Manager Bryan Ames. Bryan was acting as our guide and driving the FWC F-150 towing the outreach wagon through the diverse plant communities at Split Oak. And yes, wagon rides are by nature bumpy, dusty and squeaky (it’s all part of the experience) it made accessible this outstanding 1,689 acre preserve!

Bryan is an accomplished fire manager as well and has been instrumental in initiating fire return intervals appropriate for the habitat. Bryan provided a map detailing the preserve’s burn history within each management unit. The result is an extremely well-managed natural area. Our route leads us through beautiful stands of longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris*) and Saw Palmetto (*Serenoa repens*) flatwoods.

Plentiful were patches of Blackseed needlegrass (*Piptochaetium avenaceum*), among healthy populations of FLA endemics the Florida Feathershank (*Schoenocaulon dubium*).

Bryan mentioned he’s been on the lookout for Toothache grass (*Ctenium aromaticum*) and we may have located a small population of it (identified by bi-colored leaves)



Split Oak's flatwoods. Split Oak is designated as a [reference site](#) for the scrubby flatwoods natural community.



Florida Feathershank in Split Oak Forest. Photo by Valerie Anderson.

And nearby was a colony of hooded pitcher plants (*Sarracenia minor*) at the first cypress swamp we stopped at.

Hooded pitcher plants were also nestled in the ecotonal zone from flatwoods to a cypress strand swamp and ephemeral flatwoods pond providing habitat for an impressive stand of Leconte’s flatsedge (*Cyperus lecontei*).

Bryan was gracious with his time spent with us. When one of us would shout “Stop please” and “Calopogon!” Bryan would calmly oblige.

The chance to see several state-threatened Manyflowered Grasspinks (*Calopogon multiflorus*) is always exciting!

It was warm in the full sun so the ride under the canopy of mature live oak hammocks was welcomed! Looking up you can see the canopy provides habitat for an array of epiphytes including the Florida Butterfly Orchid (*Encyclia tampensis*) preparing to flower. Numerous were Florida endemic airplants: Mantee River Airplants (*Tillandsia simulata*)



Florida Fairy Milkweed in Split Oak. Photo by Valerie Anderson.

and Florida Airplants (*Tillandsia floridana*) and their larger, more widely distributed brethren: Cardinal Airplants (*Tillandsia fasciculata*) and Giant Airplants (*Tillandsia utriculata*). My friend Janet and I were so enthralled with epiphytic ferns at we didn't notice the ground nesting yellow jackets we tread upon!

It's all part of the experience!

This hammock features several double trunked Live Oaks (*Quercus virginiana*) which have "split" and succumbed to the forces of wind and gravity. Some of the oaks survive this ordeal and continue growing as oaks do. The Preserve's name sake is an immense live oak perhaps a few hundred years young with its two trunks now parallel to the earth. Each trunk has sprouting secondary branches the size of... well trees!

As the FNPS 2021 virtual conference was less than a week away our tour had the flavor of a conference field trip.



The namesake of the park, a Live Oak tree that split down the middle several hundred years ago and survived. Photo by ecologist and professional photographer, [Danny Gooding](#).

A Plant Rescue at Bridgeview | Greg Braun, Martin County Chapter



June 14th was a typically hot and muggy day, but the rains held off as volunteers from the Martin County Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society and Martin County Master Gardeners worked hard to rescue native plants from the soon-to-be cleared Bridgeview project in southwest Stuart.

With permit-in-hand from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS), by the end of the day, dozens of Largeflower Falsrosemary (*Conradina grandiflora*) and hundreds of threatened and endangered *Tillandsia* airplants (*T. utriculata* and *T. balbisiana*) had been found and salvaged. Scrub plants are notoriously difficult to successfully relocate, so we are particularly glad that the Master Gardeners shared their knowledge and expertise.

The *Tillandsia* were relocated into suitable habitat at Martin County's Delaplane Peninsula Preserve. The False Rosemary will receive some tender loving care before being re-located to the wild. In addition to rescuing the plants that are designated Endangered and Threatened, we appreciate that the property owner was also willing to allow other native plant species to be salvaged. So, the genetic material for some palmetto (*Serenoa repens*), goldenrod (*Solidago fistulosa*), Shortleaf gayfeather (*Liatris tenuifolia* var. *quadriflora*), netted pawpaw (*Asimina reticulata*) and Devil's-tongue (formerly prickly pear) cactus (*Opuntia austrina*) will also go to good homes.



Hundreds of *Tillandsias* ready for a safe new home. Photo by Anne Cox.



Left: Largeflower False Rosemary (*Conradina grandiflora*) in all of its glory.

Right: Margo Caldly with potted rescued plants. Photos by Greg Braun.

Native Plant Field Day: A New Event by the Dade Chapter | *Steve Woodmansee, Sanna O'Sullivan and Patty Phares*



The Dade Chapter FNPS has held a free public event, “Native Plant Day”, annually (almost!) since 1991, with several hundred attendees enjoying programs, walks, displays, plant and merchandise sales, raffles and lots of mingling. This year, when it was cancelled for the second time due to the pandemic, we were feeling the loss of connection with those who

would have attended, including members and non-members, old friends and new. The chapter board still wanted to have an event, something which could adhere to COVID-19 restrictions, celebrate being outside with native plants, and maintain Native Plant Day’s function of being a free educational link to our members and the public. More than ever, we were reminded of our instinct to relish the outdoors. It is always great to be in the field, but our experiences are elevated further when we connect with other native plant enthusiasts and appreciate our collective efforts. “Native Plant **Field** Day”, a collection of fourteen field trips on March 27-28, 2021—all free and open to the public, was born.

Trips visited conservation lands and gardens from north Miami-Dade County to the Florida Keys, led by volunteers who were experts in their arenas. Discussion on the trips included identification of flora and fauna, propagation, gardening, ecology, rare plant research, restoration and management, history and lots more. Many of the conservation lands are normally closed to the public, and were specially made available to us.

The planning was largely by a committee of three, who handled site selection, recruiting trip leaders, compiling trip descriptions, writing announcements, and online registration. Registration was via Eventbrite, with a description of each trip provided on the registration website, along with a map showing all locations identified by a letter and color coded by day (patterned after the FNPS conference!). A dedicated Native Plant Field Day email account was created, and each registrant was sent an email with their complete trip information. This was done manually by a volunteer.

The 120 participants included members, non-members who had attended past Native Plant Days, students, friends and children. Many had never attended our monthly field trips. Attendees and leaders enjoyed the experience and many requested that the event be repeated.

We deem this event a success and envision doing it again! We could have fewer trips with more registrants per trip than COVID restrictions allowed. There were few problems, the main one due to Eventbrite’s generic reminders to registrants, which included the entire date of the two-day event and confused some people. But we have learned and know what to improve.

If you would like us to share our documents and tips with you, please contact DadeFNPS@gmail.com with “Native Plant Field Day” in the subject line. Our notes might help get you started with your own version, a great event even without a pandemic!



Tour group at Big and Little George Hammocks





As plant sales, one of the chapter's chief fundraisers, were canceled this spring, plants raised by the Petal Pushers for the events continued to grow, oblivious to the ongoing pandemic. What to do? Perhaps, the propagators postulated, the chapter should have a plant sale of its own. On the last weekend of April, the prescience of that proposal was made abundantly evident.

By that time, the Petal Pushers' list of plants had grown to more than 400, representing some 50 varieties. To supplement these offerings, and with the advice of President Katie Tripp, almost 200 commercially grown plants were purchased. When all those plants filled the hallways of the Piggotte Community Center on the day before the sale, the concern on everyone's minds was whether anyone would come to buy them.

It was a worry for naught. As a beautiful day began to unfold, crowds began to arrive. And they bought. And bought. And bought! So many native plants found new homes, happy to be out of their pots and doing their jobs of providing shelter and sustenance to pollinators and birds.

The day would not have been possible without the members who turned out in force to help, lugging and tugging plants out of the Piggotte Center and arranging them in their locations, then hauling and carrying purchases to people's cars. And thanks must also go to the City of South Daytona, which allowed us to use the Piggotte Center and its grounds, and whose Parks and Recreation Department was on hand with giveaways and information about programs for kids. The Southeast Volusia Audubon Society was another valuable partner, manning a booth with information about how native plants support birds.

The overwhelming turnout for the event was beautiful evidence of a deep love of our native plants and Florida's continually challenged environment.



Hernando Chapter Hosts Cleanup at the Native Plant Garden | Janet Grabowski, President



The Chapter has been conducting what seems to be a never-ending campaign to remove invasive weeds and other troublesome plants from the Native Plant Demonstration Garden we maintain at the Nature Coast Botanical Garden in Spring Hill. Planted areas of the Garden that we are maintaining include a well-established sandhill area, an area with native wildflowers and shrubs, and a shady area by the man-made pond. We recently began to clear unwanted understory herbaceous and woody plants from a hammock area in preparation for planting additional native vegetation.

Alice Smith, Garden Coordinator, leads a core group of volunteers including myself, Kelly Ostrenga, Ellen Kulver, and Lorri Volkman on Saturday mornings to work on weed problems and other garden maintenance issues. We also send out a call to other members of the Chapter periodically for a workday to concentrate on larger issues. For example, on the west side of the pond there are areas where we have not had sufficient manpower to clear.



Loyal volunteer Kelly Ostrenga has become a native plant enthusiast through her work at the Native Plant Demonstration Garden



Work to reduce the canopy and manage exotic plant species requires diligence and perseverance. Volunteers Jason LaRoche, Heather Sharkey, Past President Vincent Morris, me and Alice Smith are shown at a previous workday.



Kari, Eric, Levi and Iris Myers with Tuberous Sword Fern plants extracted from the Native Plant Garden

The workers who showed up on our June 5th workday included the

usual suspects of core garden working group members Alice, Janet, and Kelly and board and committee members Jason LaRoche (Secretary), Heather Sharkey (Chapter Representative), and Cindy Liberton (Communications Chair). In a previous edition of Sabal Minor Cindy wrote about the Viva Florida grant the chapter received from the Florida Wildflower Foundation to increase wildflowers' presence in the Garden. Due to setbacks (including COVID), we had not expended all the funds allotted for planting wildflowers, and Cindy needed to gather information to write up an extension request. We started by examining the wildflower planting areas, noting what plants had been lost due to the unusually dry spring, and made plans for plants to purchase to augment our wildflower installation.

After this task was completed, we spread out over the garden area and began to work. Kelly worked on the wildflower planting areas, removing various types of smaller weeds. Jason started clearing plants and debris from along the chain link fence that surrounds the garden. Many stumps of trees and shrubs that had been cut back in previous workdays resprouted, so Heather sprayed these with herbicide. Alice and I were tackling the new crop of air-potatoes (*Dioscorea bulbifera*) and greenbriar (*Smilax* spp.) that had emerged in the hammock area. Yes, we know that greenbriar is a native plant, but its vining, prickly stems are not welcome in this managed garden where people can be injured by them.

Then we had a pleasant surprise. The Myers Family, Eric and Kari and their children Levi and Iris, had read about the workday in our electronic newsletter and decided to spend the morning volunteering with us at the Garden. We had written in the

newsletter about the uncleared section west of the pond that was overrun with tuberous sword fern (*Nephrolepis cordifolia*) and they wanted to help remove the ferns. Cindy worked with the Myerses to attack this area. Thanks to their work a 50 square foot area of the garden is now free of tuberous sword fern plants. Cindy had Iris demonstrate to all of us how skilled she became at getting up the ferns along with all of their balls (tubers). This makes us hopeful that regrowth of the ferns will be limited.

Magnolia Chapter Restores Gholson Nature Park Trails | *Ethan Voegelé, Chapter Representative*



It has been nearly three years since hurricane Michael devastated parts of the Florida Panhandle and Southern Georgia. Many of the areas impacted have yet to fully recover. If you have ever set off on I-10 heading west from Tallahassee, you notice the power that was behind this storm; tulip poplars and water oaks snapped in half as if they were toothpicks. Silviculture and forested land alike, all leveled with few trees left standing. As a result of the storm impacts many parks and trails throughout the region have been closed due to the potential risks associated with hanging tree limbs and broken trees. Angus Gholson Nature Park is one of these places. With 125 acres of slope forest, seepage streams, and floodplain forest the park is home to the endangered *Torreya* tree and Fringed Campion located on the banks of the Apalachicola River. Several trails have persisted throughout the park, however due to the large number of downed trees and damaged footbridges, the city of Chattahoochee has held that these trails are to remain closed. As part of the Magnolia Chapter's obligation to encourage and restore these unique habitats, the Chapter board unanimously voted to donate funding for the clearing of trails to provide access to the rest of the park as well as new signage to promote the unique habitats present in the park.

September 25, 2021, marks the 100th birthday of legendary botanist and conservationist Angus K. Gholson Jr., for whom the park is named. Attached is a flyer detailing the celebration and remembrance of Angus K. Gholson Jr. which will be held at the park. The Magnolia Chapter is planning to contribute to the event and the continued preservation of these unique forest types found only on the eastern banks of the Apalachicola River. If you would like to contribute to the event or attend the celebration, please feel free to reach out to us at magnoliafnps@gmail.com.



Angus Gholson Nature Park before Hurricane Michael



Angus Gholson Nature Park after Hurricane Michael

Sea Rocket Relaunch Report | *Linda Sackman, Sea Rocket Chapter President*



As humankind seems to be cautiously, but enthusiastically resuming in-person interactions... so is our chapter! We will be holding a physical Board meeting at the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary and an all-member-invitation went out for an annual picnic at Fox Lake on July 18th, 12 - 4pm, if you'd like to join us.

Our mission is very much alive and welcome in the community, as evidenced by our rising membership numbers, which have increased at a rate approaching 50% year-to-date. We are thrilled to see this renewed interest in native plants and support of our environment!

We are adding a new, larger venue to accommodate the new crowds and come 4th Wed in September, we will be meeting at 6:30 (for social time, meeting itself starts at 7) at Brevard County Extension UF/IFAS Office 3695 Lake Drive, Cocoa. We have a wonderful lineup of local speakers: Tim and Anna from Native Butterfly Plant Nursery will speak on "What you plant matters", Lisa Ruckman on "Planting native yards, even in HOAs" and Cate Hurlbut will introduce us to edible natives.

We felt this was an excellent opportunity to harness the new wind in our sails on multiple fronts: We are rebranding - holding an all-member vote on a new logo design. Check them out!



Sea Rocket's Laura Covell plays the ukelele and sings at the inaugural Sea Rocket Sprouts event June 21st, 2021



Sea Rocket Sprouts attempt to photosynthesize their personal favorite food

We are also re-thinking the format and content of our regular programs and reaching out to new demographics:

In addition to our long standing and popular guided hikes, we launched a more casual, shorter, more approachable, evening "walk and talk" which we organize every second Thursday of the month at 6:30. Our venues vary, from obscure local parks to short strolls in sanctuaries. Everyone is welcome to enjoy a walk in the park with other like-minded native plant nerds.

Another spurt in our programmatic growth is establishment of Sea Rocket Sprouts Troop, a child-centric outdoor experiential learning (and by child we mean the literal as well as the inner). While we do some botany / natural history, the focus is on appreciation of plants and intentional remembering how deeply we belong to this planet. We aspire to ignite love and awe for wild places, in times where just about everything else can be Googled. To that end, we turn to learning through storytelling and sensory awareness, adults and kids of all ages are integrated and participating equally in exploration and activities. We plan to hold this event quarterly, celebrating the wheel of the year, meeting on Spring and Fall equinoxes and Winter and Summer solstices.

Our pilot event happened June 21st - we had live entertainment, Laura played her ukulele and sang songs and then we hit the trail. We were having a great time, but momma Nature had other plans; we learned about three plants and got chased out of the trail by lightning and wind. Until next time!

Sea Rocket is also expanding on our long-standing partnership with Enchanted Forest Sanctuary through assistance with two grants: one from the Florida Wildflower Foundation that will enhance the butterfly gardens around the education building and the other from Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council to remove exotic invasive plants and replace them with natives and educate the public on how they impact natural areas and the economy of Florida. We have also successfully recruited new volunteers to provide regular upkeep / watering / weeding to further beautify the Butterfly garden which we maintain.

Last, but most certainly not least, we continue our native plant sales, which came back as a roaring success. Our next plant sale will be held September 25th!

Checking in with Chuck Roux & Green Isle Gardens Field Trip Report | Jim Erwin, Tarpaper Editor



Chuck Roux's yard has taken on a life of its own, generating its own stories – maybe its own ecosystem – as Chuck, ever the eclectic, over forty years has added plants he likes, wet and dry, sun and shade, as natives interact with non-natives, as new seeds wash ashore or blow in on five (so far) hurricanes.

Chuck's pride in the Leafless-beaked Lady Orchid (*Sacoila lanceolata*) is justified, but in addition to this unusual and threatened Florida native, a visitor finds all kinds of surprises. Take this five-minute touch and go tour of just a bit of the unexpected [CLICK HERE](#).

The biodiversity of the Roux's yard is surprising. It is a botanical zoo, a refugium for plants disappearing from the wild. We need many such yards. Backyard biodiversity is an emergency goal: preserve biodiversity in our back yards as the Anthropocene sweeps away the wild natural world. The hope for backyard biodiversity is aspirational. In the Roux's yard it is reality.



A Clematis bloom dips delicately downward in Chuck and Sarah's backyard.



Leafless-beaked Ladies Tresses Orchid (*Sacoila lanceolata*) blooming profusely in Chuck and Sarah's backyard.

Green Isle Gardens Field Trip Report

Every plant Tarflower sells at the Leu Gardens Plant Sale comes from Marc Godts' Green Isle Gardens Native Plant Nursery where Marc gave us a tour for our March field trip. The tour showed us some of what it takes to start native plants from seed and cuttings, to keep those new plants alive, and to prepare them for an increasing variety and number of customers.

In the picture below, one of the trays is tagged "*Helianthus radula* 1/19." These Rayless Sunflower seeds were planted Jan. 19. Today, two months later, there is about 20% germination in the tray. These seeds usually take two weeks to germinate but require a longer photoperiod (the amount of sunlight in a 24-hour period), germination will increase as we are now getting into longer days.

There are no shortcuts – we just have to wait on the sun; but sometimes there is a way. No one had a way to shorten the long germination time for Gopher Apple (*Geobalanus oblongifolius*) seeds until a few years ago when Marc, for whom gardening was still a hobby, reduced the germination time to two weeks. Noticing that seeds germinated very nicely in a sunbaked pile of mammal scat, he piled seeds into a bucket where a single day of decomposition both broke down the protective outer coating and built up the needed heat.

"It was all trial and error, back then and still is," Marc says, indicating two trays filled with damp green sphagnum moss. "We dust these with tillandsia seeds", there are literally hundreds of baby *Tillandsias* in the trays. He shrugs, "We'll see what happens."

Because trays of seeds and cuttings in the greenhouse dry out at different rates, each cup in each tray is watered by hand, the experienced hand touching each cup every day, to decide whether or not to water it. Cuttings are rooted in the mist house. Mist machines fill the greenhouse with fog for two minutes, twice on the hottest days. The mist house is regulated by a humidistat that keeps the humidity at around 50% and 60%.

The majority of the plants come from cuttings, not seed, because it takes too much time to collect and start enough seed to meet the rapidly growing demand for natives. The cuttings come from reusable 'mother' plants, perhaps only one in the case of particularly rare species.



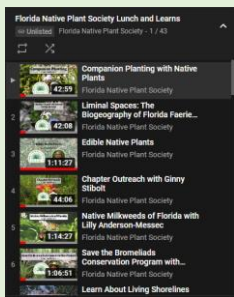
This cloning from a limited number of mother plants can limit genetic diversity compared to production from seed, thus the need to keep expanding seed collection. But limiting diversity can be good: when providing plants for restoration projects, the staff uses just a few mother plants taken from the area to be restored just in case evolution has tuned the genetics for success in that particular spot. Besides, plants from other areas may bring diseases to which they are resistant but plants in the restoration area are not. At the other end of the genetic diversity spectrum are the thousands of plants Marc sells to new developments. Because these plants will face harsher unpredictable conditions, he sends greater genetic diversity for resilience.

Some things are not trial and error. Florida natives in general are tuned for acidic soils and must have good drainage. The greenhouse growing medium for these seeds and cuttings is 50% Canadian peat and 50% perlite. When the greenhouse plants are ready to be repotted for sale, Green Isle uses a mixture of 80% pine bark fines, 5% other wood, 3% Canadian peat, 7% sand (more, if going to restoration), perlite, and Dolomite to lower pH to 5.5 from 7.5. Pick up a handful of potting soil and it feels weightless; open your hand in a breeze and it blows away. Plants ready for sale are irrigated with well water that has a high pH between 7.9 and 8.2, Sulfuric acid is added to reduce the pH to 6.5. To reduce viruses, fungi, bacteria and other plant pathogens, hydrogen peroxide is injected into the well water

During the tour, a question opened the can of worms of species identification. Marc had said that the location of every Fringe Tree is known, and every year he collects seed from each. In essence, the question was: "How can you be sure which *Chionanthus* you have, the rare sandhill *C. pygmaeus* or *C. virginicus*?" Marc sort of sighed and said the best advice he had was not to go by phenotype but by where an individual tree is growing, plus, the two can hybridize (thus the sigh). There are a lot of fuzzy species names. Marc noted that Just recently it was suggested that gaillardia is not native. Botanists and taxonomists debate constantly.

Over the last two years commercial sales at Green Isle Gardens has grown dramatically. Green Isle Gardens sent out 500,000 plants last year. Many of the new customers are large developments wanting to go native with their landscaping. Marc has this month bought 20 acres adjoining the nursery, doubling its size. He plans to build an off-the-grid house to rent to people who need a break from the grid and want to know about farming. He plans to add wildflower meadows, seed plot areas and hiking trails for folks to visit.

This is all good news for Green Isle Gardens, and it is good news for the business, and for all of us who have been waiting for years for the world out there to catch on: we were all about native plants before native plants were cool. Times are changing. We may be entering a time when, increasingly, people have ears to hear our message. Maybe we should ramp up our educational efforts. *Thanks to Marc Godts and April McClain for proofing this article*



We now have 48 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 ten videos.

Did you miss our two 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](#).

I am so sorry to report the passing of one of the Nature Coast Chapter's most knowledgeable members, Eileen C. Hart, June 22, 1942—June 15, 2021. — Molly Hays, President, Nature Coast Chapter

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](#).



The [latest issue](#) of Tri-Ology, the newsletter of the FDACS Division of Plant Industry is out and it contains a new carrotwood (*Cupaniopsis anacardioides*) record for the state from Hendry County.

We now have twenty chapters with their own YouTube Channels! Congratulations to Hernando and Sea Rocket Chapters who started their channels in May!

Check out the chapters, watch some videos, and subscribe:

[Citrus](#) - [Conradina](#) - [Cuplet Fern](#) - [Dade](#) - [Hernando](#) - [Ixia](#) - [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.

If your chapter already has a YouTube Channel with some videos uploaded but want to get more watch hours, may I suggest that for your Chapter meetings you add *chapters* to the videos to make them easier to navigate for your viewers? For example, you can put a marker when the presenter starts talking after your chapter business is done.

Here is the [YouTube how-to page](#) on chaptering your videos. I chaptered Tom Diggs' *Summer-farewell: The evolutionary & biogeographic history of the Southeastern Dalea species* Lunch and Learn if you would like to see an example.

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.