
Sabal minor January-February 2018 issue



A bimonthly newsletter for the members of the Florida Native Plant Society

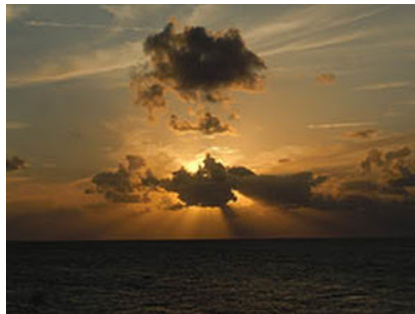
January – February 2018 | Volume 20, Number 1

We want to share your news with FNPS members.

With this issue, the *Sabal minor* will be distributed as a readable email message. This change means a PDF file no longer needs to be opened, an issue is no longer restricted to four pages and more photographs can be included. A PDF version will be created for the website and for those who wish to print the issues. Chapters are encouraged to print copies of the newsletter to have on hand at their monthly meetings for members who do not have email addresses.

This issue includes the President's Message, News from the Executive Assistant, Annual Conference Announcement, Committee Reports, Featured Plants, Tours (with a portion of the proceeds donated to FNPS), Chapter Happenings: Reports and Events, and Social Media Links.

Maran Hilgendorf will be producing the 2018 issues of the *Sabal minor* newsletter. Please send your suggestions to make this newsletter more valuable to you and, **by February 15**, submit articles for the March–April issue to FNPS.Sabalminor@gmail.com.



President's Message

Catherine Bowman, President

The Society ended 2017 poised and prepared for an exciting 2018. At board meetings we learned that we are in fine financial condition for us to begin to hire staff who can help us to expand our mission programs, activities, information exchange between chapters, and fundraising, while relieving some of the burden from many of

our dedicated volunteers who seem to take on more and more responsibility each year at the state and chapter levels. I give many thanks to all of you for your hard work in 2017 on behalf of Florida's native plant communities and to all of you who gave generously of your time and money.

I encourage you to make a little time to visit each chapter's website and see what you all are doing. I know that numerous chapters also work together on projects, field trips and meeting speakers. As we approach the changes that will make us even stronger, I ask and invite you to look for new ways to participate and share your ideas. As Past President Anne Cox reminded me recently, "Our face-to-face meetings are important for maintaining and growing our membership through workshops, networking and information exchange as well as

socializing and providing the working relationships needed among the Chapter and Board members.” We are having the **Annual Retreat** at Archbold Biological Station on the **weekend of February 11** and, I invite you to attend and help shape the Society’s future if you are considering becoming a leader in your chapter or as an officer, membership manager, newsletter editor or webmaster. (Contact Juliet Rynear at fnps.executive.assistant@gmail.com. Space is limited so priority will be given to Council of Chapters representatives, FNPS board members and contractors.) If you have missed any of the accomplishments of the Policy and Legislation, Conservation, Membership, Communication, or Landscape Committees, you can catch up and learn how you can participate in 2018. I look forward to talking to you about your local projects – I wish there was space here for me to share what I have learned that I am sure is just a tiny bit of what you are actually doing for native plants in your chapter, the Council of Chapters, or as a part of one of the state committees. I will mention a few of the highlights:

The **Policy and Legislation Committee** (Eugene Kelly, Joan Bausch, Susan Carr, Scott Davis, Dave Feagles, Jono Miller, Karen Moser, Laura Reynolds and Winnie Said) would like to know if your chapter has participated in the Chapter Challenge to Take Your Legislator on a Field Trip. With the recent start of the legislative season, the Committee will be tracking a number of legislative efforts, top among these being the FNPS proposed bill (SB370) that would provide a minimum of \$100 million per year for Florida Forever land acquisition projects.

Marlene Rodak and this year’s great **Conference Committee** (Juliet Rynear, Cameron Donaldson, Jim Rodwell, Maran Hilgendorf, Mark Kateli, Patty Phares, Richard Brownscombe, Rod Tirrell, Shirley Denton, Sondra Driscoll, Winnie Said, and Stephanie Dunn) have been planning since early last year for us to learn about and experience some of what makes the Everglades, the Keys and the south beaches special and vulnerable. Registration is likely to be open for the conference by early February – hope you can join us at the Miccosukee Resort and enjoy the presentations, workshops, field trips, plant sale, vendors, silent auction, plant ID contest, social events, the local people and our visitors. Please submit your nominations for individual volunteer Green Palmetto awards for Education or Service to Juliet Rynear or Catherine Bowman and, please submit your applications for the Annual Native Plant Landscape Awards to info@fnps.org right away (in addition to nice plaques, they have cash awards this year). Help us showcase native landscapes!

The **Dan Austin Award Subcommittee** (Chris Lockhart, Winnie Said, Dr. Amir Khoddamzadeh, and Kristine Stewart) helped raise enough money to fund the Dan Austin Award for Ethnobotany. The first award will be granted in 2018 and announced at the Conference in Miami.

The **Membership Committee**, headed by Anne Cox, is working with the Council of Chapters, Shirley Denton, the Communications Committee and our new Social Media contractor Sarah Garcia on membership initiatives. They will have the new Membership Brochures available for you to pick up at the Annual Retreat in February, the Conference in May or at other in-person meetings.

The **Conservation Committee** (Juliet Rynear, Annie Schmidt, Linda Duever, Dr. Susan Carr, Steve Woodmansee, Dave Feagles, Jackie Rolly, Scott Davis, Richard Moyroud, Rosalind Rowe, Steve Dickman, Dr. Alan Franck, Dr. Shirley Denton, Jude Simpson, Jim Buckner, Todd Angel, Mike Jenkins, Margitta Claterbos, Jane Pope, Molly Taylor, Candace Arnold, Ann Johnson, Dr. Loran Anderson, Leigh Brooks, Dr. Amir Khoddamzadeh, Theresa Lutz and David George) had a successful fund raising event, primarily via Facebook, that resulted in receiving almost \$7,000 to fund our rescue and restoration work. FNPS is also working with conservation partners and concerned citizens to preserve an important piece of longleaf pine habitat. Working with partner, Putnam Land Conservancy, to acquire an undeveloped area of sandhill (home to a large population of *Clasping warea*). In Lake County, the Committee coordinated an emergency sandhill rescue in with FNPS members from 10 chapters (Tarflower, Heartland, Lake Beautyberry, Magnolia, Naples, Passionflower, Pawpaw, Pine Lily, Marion Big Scrub, and Suncoast). This resulted in more than 4,800 plants being rescued and nearly 700 being introduced onto our partner’s restoration sites, with more being hardened off for planting in late January and early February. The Conservation Committee and the Society are extremely grateful to our partners for all of their support: Green Isle Gardens Nursery, Oakland Nature Preserve, Lake Louisa State Park, St. John’s River Water Management District, Lake County Water Authority, Lake County Parks and Trails, and Mister Landscaper®. Throughout the state, the Conservation committee is working with the chapters to advance the *Asclepias* and rare species mapping projects.

With the hiring of a staff Executive Director, hopefully mid-2018 and adding staff as needed over time, we will be able to function as a stronger, more cohesive, more visible Society. In updating the FNPS Strategic Plan during 2017, Juliet Rynear, Susan Carr and Wendy Poag describe what I believe is our shared Vision for a future when:

- Residents and visitors know about and value Florida’s extraordinary native flora and native plant communities, which are essential to the healthy ecosystems that support wildlife and people.
- Residents and visitors enjoy access to Florida’s native plants in natural environments and human-made landscapes.
- The people of Florida and their elected representatives actively support the Society’s mission, through education, research, advocacy, land stewardship, conservation and restoration.
- The network of managed lands comprising remaining native landscapes is

strengthened and managed for the perpetuation of native flora. Native plant populations and communities are considered in future conservation and public land acquisitions and laws are strengthened to provide protection for rare and endangered native plant populations.

- FNPS is a leader in maintaining and providing reliable science-based information about Florida native plants, plant conservation and restoration.

I am excited about the future and grateful for my opportunity serve as President and to work with so many wonderful FNPS members on realizing this vision. I would like to thank Susan Carr for agreeing to fill the position of President after me; she will be a strong leader during this critical time of change. She has been invaluable in working with the board as President Elect this year as we continue to update our Strategic Plan and discuss our process of meeting not only our aspirational goals, but some critical organizational goals.

Happy New Year!

2018 Board and Council of Chapters meetings

Feb. 9 to 11 Annual Retreat of the Board of Directors and Council of Chapters
May 17 to 20 38th Annual Conference: Renewal!

More details are available at fnps.org/society/calendar.

News from the Executive Assistant **Call for Palmetto Award Applications for 2018**

Juliet Rynear, Executive Assistant

At the FNPS Annual Conference each year, FNPS acknowledges the significant contributions of members who have gone “above and beyond” to help the Society achieve its mission. Nominations for these prestigious awards must be received **by March 14**. They will be posted for voting on the Forum. Details on how to submit nominations are posted at FNPS.org.

The Society generally awards one **Green Palmetto Award** for service or education, science, or outstanding chapter. Contributions can be of regional or statewide significance. FNPS board members are not eligible for this award category. Any member can make nominations by contacting their chapter director or the FNPS president.

The **Silver Palmetto Award** is made by the FNPS president to the board member who has been of the greatest assistance during the past year.

Created in 1995, the **Mentor Award** recognizes distinguished individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the science and practice of native plant preservation, conservation and restoration. This award is the highest honor the Society can bestow and is reserved for lifelong or career-long contributions. Selection of award winner is by a vote of the FNPS Board of Directors.

Landscape Awards showcase the work with Florida’s native plant by landscape architects, designers, homeowners, business owners and restoration practitioners. New this year:

- \$200 award for “best of” in the residential single family category
- \$500 award for “best of” in the professional categories (residential multi-family, commercial, industrial, transportation or institutional)
- \$200 award for “best of” restoration or butterfly garden

Apply for one or more of our annual Landscape Awards: http://fnps.org/assets/pdf/awards/landscapeawardapplication_2017.pdf.



38th Annual Conference: May 17 to 20, 2018

Annual Conference

Marlene Rodak, Chair

Renewal is the theme of the FNPS 38th annual conference that will be held in Miami. Educational programs and workshops with dynamic speakers will be on Friday and Saturday. Workshops and field trips with knowledgeable guides to exciting out-of-the-ordinary natural places will be on Thursday and Sunday. There will also be native plant sale exhibits and vendors, author book signings, dinners and mixers, and more. Several types of credits are available. Learn more and register at <http://fnps.org/conference/2018>. Early registration rates, including lunch, begin at \$85 a day. **Before May 1**, book your sleeping room at the Miccosukee Resort and Gaming (500 SW 177th Avenue, Miami) by calling (305) 925-2586, use code GNPS518. If you have questions, contact Marlene at rodakma@msn.com or (239) 273-8945.

Looking for a low-cost way to attend? Volunteer to coordinate volunteers, silent auction, game night, plant ID contest or onsite vendors. If interested, email conference.fnps@gmail.com.

Science: Call for Research Track Papers and Poster Presentations

Paul Schmalzer, Chair

The Research Track at the FNPS Conference will include presented papers and a poster session on Friday, May 18 and Saturday, May 19. Researchers are invited to submit abstracts on research related to native plants and plant communities of Florida including preservation, conservation, and restoration. Presentations are planned to be 20 minutes in total length (15 min. presentation, 5 min. questions). **By February 1**, send an abstract of not more than 200 words as a MS Word file by email to paul.a.schmalzer@nasa.gov. Be sure to include the title, affiliation and address and whether you prefer to present a paper or poster.



Membership Committee

Anne Cox, Chair

The new membership brochure will be available at the FNPS Retreat at Archbold Biological Station in February. We ask that a representative from each chapter pick up a supply.

At the August 12 Board of Directors meeting at Florida Forestry Training Center, an FNPS Membership Brochure Committee was formed to discuss redesigning the brochure. Marjorie Shropshire, *Palmetto* editor, volunteered to create the new design. Other members included Juliet Ryneer, Shirley Denton, Jonnie Spitler and Anne Cox.

Although the latest colorful and exciting membership brochure was attractive and an improvement over the former "green" brochure, we needed to revise several membership categories so that they would be compatible with our database structure. In December, the Committee made recommendations to the Board that were designed to

simplify and improve the membership categories, provide multiple membership choices in fewer categories and avoid confusion in the FNPS database. These revisions will be incorporated into the 2018 brochure, on the web site and by Administrative Services.

In September, 5,000 copies of the former brochure were ordered and Administrative Services mailed out 4,500 for October Native Plant Month. A second printing of 5,000 was made of which 3,500 were handed out at the November Board and Council of Chapters meeting. We appreciate chapters for communicating their needs and encourage comments and suggestions.

We will order 10,000 copies of the new brochure. The brochure will only be available for distribution to the chapters at face-to-face meetings, including at Annual Retreat in February, the Annual Conference in May, and at the August and November meetings. We encourage Chapters to inventory their supply, maintain an ample supply and to keep the membership committee informed of brochure needs at least two months before more are needed.

Our face-to-face meetings are important for maintaining and growing our membership. These include workshops, networking and information exchanges as well as socializing. They provide the working relationships needed among the Chapter and Board members. Please be sure to attend the Annual Retreat at Archbold Biological Station on Feb 9 to 11.

The retreat is open to all members who want to be involved with FNPS and promote our mission.

Contact Anne Cox (<http://www.fnps.org/contacts>) for more information on the FNPS Membership Committee.

New membership levels

Lifetime: \$1,000 (Individual/multi-person memberships only)

Multi-person (1 shared address, 1 *Palmetto* magazine): \$50, \$100, \$150, \$250, \$500

Individual: \$35, \$50, \$100, \$150, \$250, \$500

Full-time student: \$15

Sustaining: \$10/month charged monthly to your credit card.

Library subscription: \$35

Business/Nonprofit Recognition Service: \$100

Additional **donations** may be made to support the endowment fund or general fund.

To renew or join, visit the website at <http://www.fnps.org/forms/membershipform>.

Please call administrative services at (321) 271-6702 to set up a sustaining membership.

Business/Nonprofit Recognition Service is an added benefit to individual or multi-person membership. FNPS will recognize your business or nonprofit organization in the FNPS Annual Report and place a link to your website on the FNPS website at www.fnps.org.



Jim Buckner shows off Claspig Warea plants at a parcel preserved and managed by Putnam Land Conservancy.

Conservation Committee

Juliet Rynear, Chair

Thank you to everyone who donated to our #GivingTuesday fundraiser on Facebook for our land acquisition project (the Warea Partnership Project) to preserve rare sandhill habitat, home to a large population of Claspig Warea (*Warea amplexifolia*).

Due to the success of our Citizen Science Project to Map Rare Plant Species, we were able to share GIS data with our conservation partner, Putnam Land Conservancy. Working together we have identified an undeveloped area of sandhill that, if protected, will preserve important wildlife habitat and a natural corridor between publically-protected conservation lands. The project area is home to numerous rare plant and animal species including critically endangered Claspig Warea (*Warea amplexifolia*), the Florida Sand Skink (*Plestiodon reynoldsi*), Florida Black Bear (*Ursus americanus floridanus*), Gopher Tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*) and Sherman's Fox Squirrel (*Sciurus niger shermani*).

The project area is one of the last remaining intact pieces of the longleaf pine ecosystem that once covered 90 million acres from Texas to the Carolinas. Despite being reduced to fewer than 3 million acres, the remaining lands still contain some of the most diverse plant and animal communities in the world.



Canna flaccida. Photo by Sammy Tedder.

Featured Plant *Canna flaccida*

Sammy Tedder, Sarracenia Chapter

Golden Canna, also called canna lily or Bandana of the Everglades, can be found in Wakulla and Franklin Counties along the edges of rivers, ponds, swamps and wet ditches. This plant can be up to four feet tall with bright yellow flowers about three inches across. The broad vertical leaves are up to two feet tall and six inches wide with a wide base tapering to a point at the top.

Suggest a plant for the next issue by sending an email to FNPS.Sabalminor@gmail.com.



Magnolia ashei.

Conservation Grant

In May 2017, FNPS awarded a \$5,000 Conservation Grant to Dr. Gary Knox and Gardening Friends of the Big Bend for their project "Exploration into the biology and ecology of the Florida-endangered *Magnolia ashei* (Ashe's magnolia)." The study addresses pollination, seed predation, plant injury and potential disease threats of *M. ashei*. These key factors collectively determine Ashe's magnolia survival, fecundity and reproduction, and may impose significant negative pressures on *M. ashei* populations.

Magnolia ashei was named **2017 Plant of the Year by The Garden Club of America**. The plant is a deciduous understory shrub or small tree native to eight counties in Florida. It is listed as endangered by the Florida Department of Agriculture due to a small population and restricted area of growth. It was nominated by a member of Late Bloomers Garden Club in Jacksonville.

The Garden Club of America annually awards the Freeman Medal to a native plant that is under-utilized but worthy of preservation, propagation and promotion. Learn more at <https://www.gcamerica.org/gca-awards-plant-of-the-year-nominate>.

Tours

A portion of the proceeds will be donated to FNPS. For more information, including pricing and itinerary, contact Devon at (813) 478-1183, indigotravelcompany@gmail.com or www.indigotravelcompany.com.



Coastal Dunes Tour March 9 to 12, 2018

There are only a few places on our planet Earth with Coastal Dune Lakes and Florida is one. Walton County has 15 coastal dune lakes, functioning as nature intended, interlaced along the coast just feet from the Gulf of Mexico, yet they remain fresh water for most of the time.

Above: Topsail Hill Preserve State Park.

Appalachian Tour May 6 to 11, 2018

Embark on an adventure to the Appalachians to botanize, socialize and explore the mountains on this trip to a temperate rain forest. Discover the amazing world of the spruce-fir forests of the southeast with local expert guides. (This trip was rescheduled due to Hurricane Irma.)

Chapter Happenings

Visit <http://www.fnps.org/society/calendar> to see more meeting information.



Above: Young royal palm growing in the forested wetland. Photo by Joan Bausch.

Cocoplum

Joan Bausch

Members began a new tradition at their December meeting with a twist on the traditional Holiday Potluck dinner — a vouchering workshop and a family-friendly potluck picnic at Halpatiokee Regional Park near Stuart. Longtime FNPS member and ecologist Greg Braun conducted the workshop, explaining that as he pursued his work in Martin County cataloging habitats, he became aware that a variety of plants, including some species that are common in the county had not yet been “vouchered” in a herbarium. A statewide database for the county-by-county distribution of plants in [Atlas of Florida Plants](#).

Having received advance permission from Martin County's Ecosystem Restoration and Management Division, Greg showed the two specimens he and program chair, Linda



Above: Denny Girard built the early trails at Cedar Point Environmental Park in Englewood. A trail is named after him and his late wife, Pat. Photo by Bobbi Rodgers.

Mangrove

Carolyn Gregsak

Kate Borduas will give a presentation on The Role of Cooperation in Evolution at the chapter meeting on **February 15**. Kate is an active member in local, regional and national Audubon organizations. She led the Venice Golf and Country Club Audubon International Bio-blitz team to winning two back-to-back global biodiversity challenges. The Bio-blitz is a species-counting competition designed to create awareness among golfers and the general public about the environmental value of the habitats supported by golf courses.

As a Florida Master Naturalist and Certified Interpretive Guide, she leads birding and wildflower walks throughout Charlotte and Sarasota County. She is an active member in both



Naples

Karyn Allman

On Tuesday, **February 13**, Reed Noss will give a presentation on why Florida habitats need fire. He is a conservation biologist who is a writer, photographer and speaker. In 2017 he retired as a Provost's Distinguished Research Professor, Pegasus Professor, and Davis-Shine Professor at the University of Central Florida. He is active in the Florida Institute for Conservation Science and is an editor for the Journal of Natural History Education and Experience. Tickets for this presentation are \$50 with heavy hors d'oeuvres and drinks served. [Learn more](#) and register. [Email](#) for ticket information.

Meetings are held from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Naples Botanical Garden, [4820 Bayshore Drive](#) in Naples. Presentations begin at 6:15 p.m.

he and program chair, Linda Eastman, had collected earlier in the week. Then he led us on a "treasure hunt" to a tall royal palm (*Roystonea regia*) in the dense swamp where it had certainly not been planted for ornamental purposes. We got close enough to photograph the plant, gather seeds/flower parts and a fallen frond on the ground, found a seedling under the shadow of its decades-old parent and selected a frond from a nearby young royal palm for collecting.

The previously unvouchered plants that are to be sent to the USF herbarium are royal palm (*Roystonea regia*), shell mound prickly pear cactus (*Opuntia stricta*), and gray nickerbean (*Guilandina* [formerly *Caesalpinia*] *bonduc*). One we did not find was smallspike false nettle (*Boehmeria cylindrica*).

an active member in both the Mangrove Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society and the Peace River Butterfly Society.

The evening will also include a birthday celebration of Denny Girard, a long-time member of the Mangrove Chapter. Denny has made outstanding contributions to the knowledge, identification, and preservation of the natural world of the Gulf Coast of Southwest Florida. He has been a resident of Southwest Florida for more than 50 years and his nature photography is well known to area enthusiasts. He was a major contributor to the *Atlas of Florida Plants*, which includes Southwest Florida flowers found in the wild, including garden escapees. Denny has published two collections of poetry, as well as stories and articles in local newspapers.

Meetings are held at Lemon Bay Park, [570 Bay Park Blvd.](#) in Englewood. Doors open at 6 pm. Presentations begin at 7 p.m.



Nature Coast

Jonnie Spittler

For the second year, the chapter is creating a competitive exhibit in the Horticulture Center of the Florida State Fair in Tampa. Our first year exhibit "Why Plant Natives?" was awarded third place. It is a wonderful opportunity to reach out to thousands of people during the 12-day event. Our theme this year is "Create Backyard Habitat." We will provide information to the public about the three essentials of food, shelter and water that we need to have a healthy habitat. Karen's Wildflowers, one of our local nurseries, will sell native plants during the event.

The Florida State Fair runs from February 8 to 19. If you would like to volunteer for a few hours to staff the exhibit and interact with the public, email jspittler1120@gmail.com. We

Palmetto

Carlton Rowell

Andy Taylor will present on the important topic of how our environmental and ecological knowledge can be effectively communicated to Legislators to assist them in creating informed legislation during the meeting on **February 7** at 7 p.m. Also, conversation and Q&A, free refreshments, and a native plant silent auction.

Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of every month at the Moccasin Lake Nature Park, [2750 Park Trail Lane](#) in Clearwater. Learn more.

Serenoa

Cynthia Watts

The chapter will host its monthly field trip on **January 20** at 9 a.m. at Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary in Collier County. Walk the 2.25-mile boardwalk through flat woods, prairie, marsh and the largest old growth bald cypress forest in North America with a wide variety of plants and animals, especially birds, to charm and fascinate. Bring a lunch to enjoy afterwards.

The Sarasota Fire Fest will be on **January 27** at the T. Mabry Carlton Preserve. Fire Fest 2018 provides a first-hand look at how prescribed burns protect our communities and property from wildfires, as well as maintain Florida's natural ecosystems for present and future generations. There will be prescribed burn demos, helicopter water drops, games for kids,

need about 60 people to spend about three hours at the booth. Volunteers are given free admission to the fair.

guided nature walks, free food and more. Free fun for the whole family.

On **February 19** the monthly meeting will be held at the Marie Selby Botanical Garden at 7 p.m. Elizabeth Gandy, Department of Botany at Selby Botanical Garden. Liz, former District Four Biologist with the Florida Park Service, will tell us about the unique tropical vegetation found on shell mounds, which date back hundreds of years and are a feature of coastal landscapes.

The **February 24** field trip at 9 a.m. will be to Madira Bickel Mound, an archaeological treasure in Manatee County. Ken Alvarez, author and former Florida Park Service manager, will guide the trip. Though the Native American site is only 100 by 170 feet, the flora, much of it tropical, will amaze. Afterwards, visit nearby Emerson Preserve to picnic and hike.

The Serenoa Spring Wildflower Festival and Plant Sale will take place on **April 14** at Sweet Bay Nursery, [10824 Erie Road](#) in Parrish.

The *Sabal minor* is the organizational newsletter for the Florida Native Plant Society, providing FNPS members with updates, events and reminders. Sabal minor is usually released by the first of January, March, May, July, September and November. The deadline for the March–April 2018 issue is February 15, 2018.

Sabal minor editor, Maran Hilgendorf, fnps.sabalminor@gmail.com

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