



# Sabal minor

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

## **MAY – JUNE 2023 | VOLUME 25, NUMBER 3**

From the Executive Director: Welcome to Summer! Fingers crossed for a calm season | *Lynda Davis*.....2

2023 FNPS Research Grants | *Paul Schmalzer, PhD*.....2

Love those beach dunes | *Roger Hammer*.....3

14<sup>th</sup> Annual Landscaping with Florida Natives Tour | *Jane Higgins, Conradina Chapter*.....4

The Plea of *Papilio polyxenes* | *Ellen Nielsen, Pawpaw Chapter*.....5

Native wildflowers on display at ArtWalk in St. Petersburg | *Jenny Bleackley*.....5

Friends of Maclay Gardens 2023 Tour of Gardens, Tallahassee, Florida | *Fritz Wettstein and Nia Wellendorf, Magnolia Chapter*....6

Our Ecological Landscape | *NaMa, Broward Chapter*.....7

Naples Field Days Report | *Valerie Anderson, Director of Communications and Programming*.....8

James ‘Jim’ Albert Rodwell, 1939-2023.....10

The Allen G. Wise Research Fund is open and accepting donations.....10

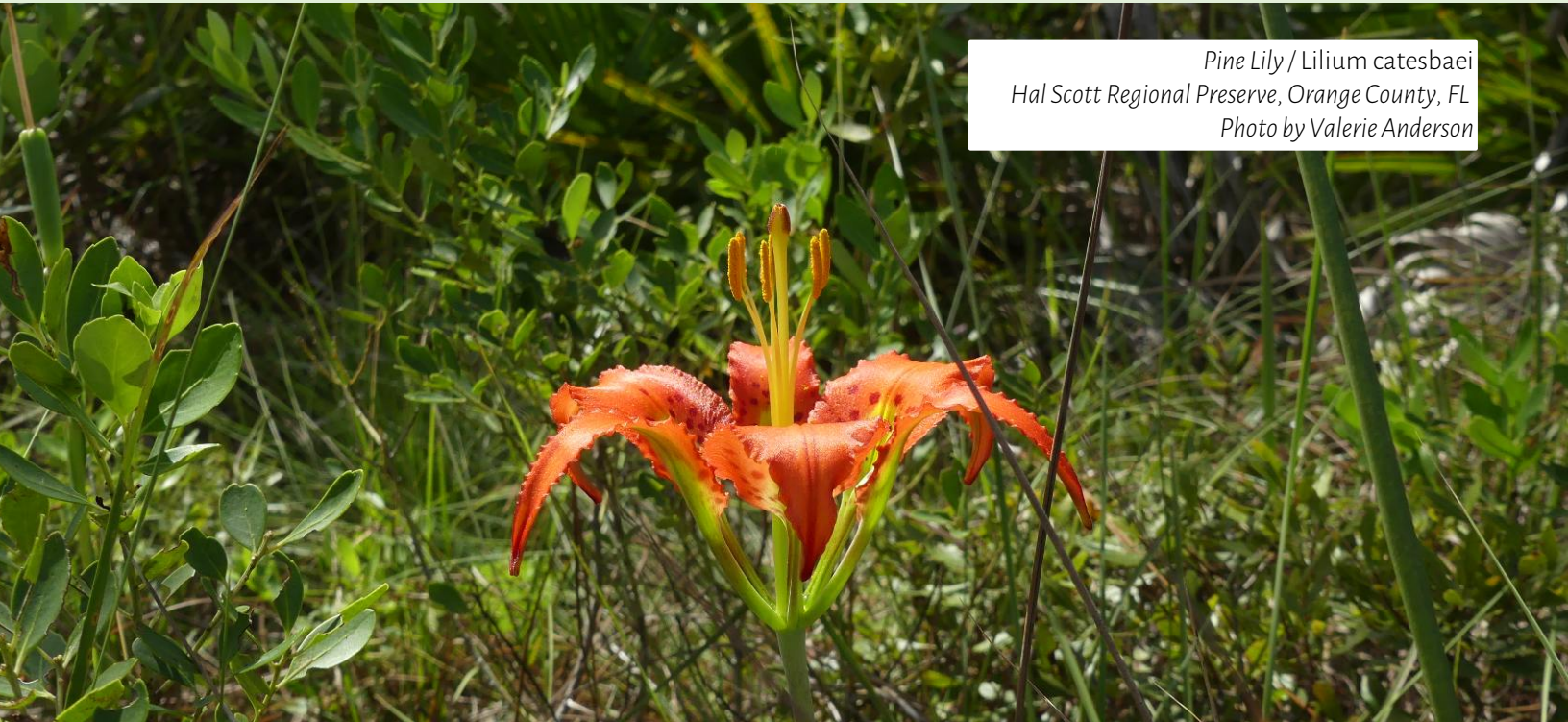
2023 Annual Meeting Report | *Valerie Anderson, Director of Communications and Programming*.....10

Have you heard? Working in the Weeds: A new podcast on aquatic & invasive plants | *Christine Krebs, Paynes Prairie Chapter*...12

Don't forget to apply for a 2023 FNPS Landscape Award!.....12

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.



*Pine Lily / Lilium catesbaei*  
Hal Scott Regional Preserve, Orange County, FL  
Photo by Valerie Anderson



## From the Executive Director: Welcome to Summer! Fingers crossed for a calm season | Lynda Davis



We've had a fantastic couple of months. Our virtual conference was a great success. Thank you to the Conference Committee, volunteers, and staff for all your hard work bringing it together. The virtual conference was followed by the 3 Field Days – weekends, hosted by Chapters, in Naples, Tallahassee, and Sanford regions, filled with great field trips and a chance to mingle with other plant nerds.

Our season was peppered with the challenges of this year's Legislative Session. There have been many Action Alerts shared with our members – thank you to all who got involved. A full update of outcomes will be available soon – and a summary was presented at our Annual Meeting on June 17th.

Our Landscape Awards are now live. Please visit our [Landscape Awards page](#) for more information. We're so excited to see all your amazing native plant landscaping projects.

As we are in the middle of Summer, our Annual Meeting (10am June 17<sup>th</sup> – [blog post](#) | [watching link](#)) was our most recent major event. Our slate of nine board members were elected by a vote of the membership

I thought I'd share a photo from the field trip I attended to the Geneva Wilderness Area, hosted by the Cuplet Fern Chapter. A beautiful *Bejaria racemosa* (Tarflower) in bloom. Gorgeous!



Tarflower, *Bejaria racemosa*, in bud and bloom at Geneva Wilderness Area during the 2023 Annual Conference Sanford Field Days

## 2023 FNPS Research Grants | Paul Schmalzer, PhD



The Science Advisory Committee selected three projects to recommend for Endowment Research Grants in 2023. The recommendations were approved by the FNPS Board of Directors. These grants are funded by earnings on the FNPS Endowment and contributions by Chapters and individuals. The 2023 Research grants are going to:

Clayton Hale, University of Georgia. "Assessing the extinction risk of the imperiled shrub *Fothergilla milleri*."

Fernando Rocha Vento, Northwestern University. "Genetic diversity in rare *Oncidinae* orchids of South Florida."

Elizabeth White, University of Florida. "Comparative phylogeography of the species *Xyris*: A model for understanding the factors that shape genetic structure in the North American Coastal Plain."

The Science Advisory Committee also administers the Cornelia McNamara grant, which has been funded by a donor. This is the third year this grant has been awarded. The 2023 Cornelia McNamara award is going to:

Madeline Bednar, Miami University (Ohio). "Conservation genetics of *Sarracenia rubra* subsp. *gulfensis*, a petitioned pitcher plant of the Florida panhandle."



Miller's Witchalder, *Fothergilla milleri*. Photo by Rick Cantrell.



Elliott's Yelloweyed Grass, *Xyris elliottii*, in Volusia County. Photo by bogcheetos CCO



Gulf Pitcherplant, *Sarracenia rubra* ssp. *gulfensis* in Walton County. Photo by Isboutwell. CCO

## Love those beach dunes | Roger Hammer



I had an idyllic childhood growing up in a beachfront home in Cocoa Beach back in the 1950s and into the first half of the 1960s, when sea oats (*Uniola paniculata*) and saw palmetto (*Serenoa repens*) lined the upper dunes, while railroad vine (*Ipomoea pes-caprae*) and bay bean (*Canavalia rosea*) crept along the edge of the upper dunes above the high tide line. Gopher tortoises, six-lined racerunners, black racers, and beach crabs were common along the upper dunes and there were shorebirds galore. In the early 1950s my brother and I could walk a mile or more down the beach and the only footprints in the sand were ours, but those days quickly vanished as Cape Canaveral began booming (literally), Ron Jon's Surf Shop opened, and condos replaced sea oats along the beach.

But Florida is still today famous for its beaches, and there are still some pristine beaches left in coastal state and county parks, and especially the gloriously undisturbed beaches that line Cape Sable in Everglades National Park. If you ever want to pitch a tent and spend some time in blissful solitude with marvelous sunsets over the Gulf, paddle a canoe or kayak from Flamingo in Everglades National Park eleven miles west to Cape Sable. It remains one of the most beautiful beaches in all of Florida and covers 15 miles of the southwestern tip of mainland Florida.

In addition to sea oats and saw palmettos, there are some hardy, salt-tolerant trees that grow along Florida's coastlines, and one is well-known to any Floridian — the seagrape (*Coccoloba uvifera*). Female trees produce pendent spikes of small, round fruits that turn purple when ripe, and they can be eaten out of hand, made into jams or jelly, or even used to make wine. Beekeepers even place hives near seagrapes to harvest seagrape honey.

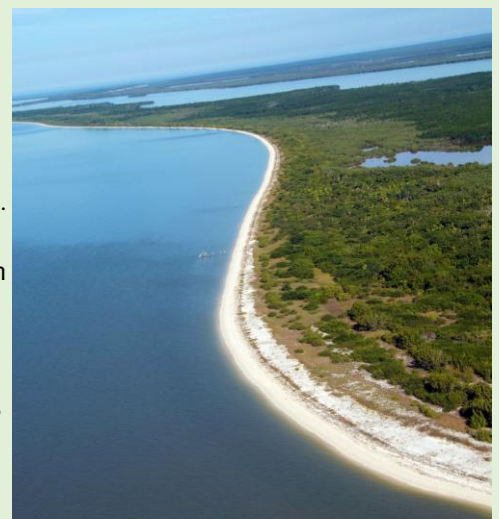
One of my very favorite shrubs that grows on beach dunes from Pinellas and Brevard counties south along both coasts into the Florida Keys is bay cedar (*Suriana maritima*). I was the manager of Castellow Hammock Nature Center, a 120-acre park and preserve in southern Miami-Dade County. I worked there for 30 years until I retired in 2010. One morning I received a call from a reporter who worked for the Keynoter, a newspaper for residents of Key Biscayne, and she was writing an article about beach dune plants, so she asked over the phone what my favorite beach dune plant was, and I told her bay cedar. Well, unfortunately I didn't spell it for her because when the article came out, she wrote that my favorite plant that grows on the dunes of Key Biscayne is "base eater!" It's a lovely shrub, to about 6' tall at maturity, with soft, pale green, linear leaves and small, but attractive, yellow flowers that butterflies visit.

Another dune plant that shares the identical same range as bay cedar is inkberry (*Scaevola plumieri*) with dark green, shiny leaves that somewhat resemble a peperomia. It forms a low, sprawling shrub, typically only 3' tall or less. The flowers are white and appear to have been cut in half, and they produce small, black fruits that gulls eat. There is an introduced species from the Pacific region called beach naupaka (*Scaevola taccada*), and it quickly became a popular coastal landscape plant within the same Florida range as the native inkberry. It becomes a large, rounded shrub with light green leaves and white fruits, and is a listed Category I invasive species in Florida. There is a Hawaiian legend about beautiful princess Naupaka who came down from the mountains one day and met a young, handsome fisherman on the beach, and both fell in love. But, since she was a princess and he was only a fisherman, their love for each other was forbidden, so she took a flower, tore it in half, and each of them kept their half of the flower to remind them of their love. After that, all of the plants produced half flowers.

Other dune plants worth an honorable mention are dune sunflower (*Helianthus debilis* subsp. *debilis*), beach star (*Cyperus pedunculatus*), beach croton (*Croton punctatus*),



Sea Oats (*Uniola paniculata*). Photo by Roger Hammer.



Cape Sable by air. Photo by Roger Hammer.



Inkberry (*Scaevola plumieri*). Photo by Roger Hammer.



beach peanut (*Okenia hypogaea*), beach creeper (*Ernodea littoralis*), beach sandmat (*Euphorbia mesembrianthemifolia*), beach morning-glory (*Ipomoea violacea*), and beach false foxglove (*Agalinis fasciculata*).

If you go, don't forget your beach umbrella.

## REFERENCES:

Hammer, Roger L. *Complete Guide to Florida Wildflowers*. 2018. Globe Pequot Press, Guilford, CT.

Institute for Systematic Botany, Florida Plant Atlas, <http://www.floridaplantatlas.usf.edu>

Nellis, David W. *Seashore Plants of South Florida and the Caribbean*. 1994. Pineapple Press, Sarasota, FL

## 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Landscaping with Florida Natives Tour | Jane Higgins, Conradina Chapter



The Conradina Chapter in South Brevard County is getting ready for its 14th Annual Landscaping with Florida Natives Tour on Saturday, Oct. 14, 2023 from 9 am – 4 pm showcasing native landscapes in the area. It's a great mix of both commercial and residential properties to inspire everyone to plant native wherever they work, play, or live. Last year we sold over 360 tickets and over 80% of those attendees were not yet FNPS members so this has become an important outreach event for the chapter to grow its membership.

Fourteen years ago Maple Street Natives was able to hold a free native landscaping session at their nursery to introduce people to native plants. This was an invaluable education for those people new to natives and the landscapes they were about to tour. The hard work of the early volunteers has helped this tour grow tremendously to where we're planning to share Dr. Tallamy's important message and introductory landscaping information to up to 300 people in the Sept. and Oct. time frame to get everyone ready for the tour.

Historically sites were primarily identified by Maple Street Natives since they were the only local native plant nursery. Now that we have grown to have more native nurseries and landscapers, our Landscape Tour Committee asks them for recommendations and then focuses on one or two areas. Occasionally we find an awesome native landscape and approach them to join us too. Then our hard-working committee of volunteers works to organize the event. In the past few years, we've added a popular free native plant giveaway.

On the tour, plants are labeled with QR codes and soft copy plant lists are provided with the brochure for people to take notes and learn about the plants easily. Homeowners and volunteers are available at each site to answer any questions that may come up. It's a great way to collect ideas and get inspired to make a difference in your landscape at home or work. And it's an awesome way to spend the day! Check out our new website at [brevardlandscapetour.org](http://brevardlandscapetour.org). Two awesome properties from the tour last year:

1. Heritage Park at Crane Creek is an affordable housing project on 15 acres with over 10,000 native individual plants across 150 unique species.
2. A home on the Indian River designed to support the lagoon with over 100 species of ground covers, grasses, wildflowers, shrubs and trees providing food and cover in the 16,000 sq ft garden.



*The 15-acre native landscape at Heritage Park at Crane's Creek. Photo by Carl Winebarger.*



*An Indian River Lagoon-adjacent home landscape that was on the 2022 tour. Photo by Carl Winebarger.*

## The Plea of *Papilio polyxenes* | Ellen Nielsen, Pawpaw Chapter

No! Please don't kill me!  
Don't pick me off and squash me under your heel!  
I plead guilty. I admit I devoured your parsley.  
If you'd planted dill, I would have eaten that too.  
I can't help it—remember that story you loved as a child?  
I'm a very hungry caterpillar.

Take time to admire my shiny segments,  
lime-green dotted with yellow and black.  
Notice how my sharp feet cling to the stalk.  
Observe the efficiency of my munching mouth.  
Soon, I'll wrap myself in a chrysalis like  
a folded green leaf. Meanwhile

your parsley will grow back, while I change and change again.  
You'll be rewarded when my butterfly self emerges,  
swallow-tailed, and cloaked in midnight velvet,  
fringed with gold and sapphires.  
I'll fly around your yard all day, pollinate your flowers,  
and never chomp another leaf.

This poem has previously been published in the Pawpaw Chapter newsletter and in Ellen's book, *Blue Flame*, published by Writers' Ink Press, Daytona Beach FL, 2022.



Black Swallowtail caterpillar (*Papilio polyxenes*) in Gainesville.  
Photo by lightbed, CCo.

## Native wildflowers on display at ArtWalk in St. Petersburg | Jenny Bleackley



As featured artist, British-American artist Jenny Bleackley will be presenting her *Florida Wildflower Series* within the framework of Alice Ferrulo's 'Something Blue' exhibit.

This defiant, dreamily beautiful ode to Floridian wildflowers debuted to the public during ArtWalk, Saturday June 10th, 6 to 9pm, at the Tully Levine Gallery. The exhibit will remain in the gallery through the month of June and will be accessible, Wednesday to Friday 10 am to 4pm. The Tully Levine Gallery is situated in the ArtsXchange Complex, 515 22nd Street South, St Pete FL 33712.

Jenny's series of panels started during lockdown, inspired by the wildflowers she discovered on walks around the state parks of Pinellas County. She is a self-taught, award winning, impressionistic watercolor artist who has mastered the art of using her medium on canvas, reimagining its traditional form with techniques that make it move in delightful and subversive ways. Taking over two years to complete, the panels became an urgent incarnation of what is real, natural and beautiful: a turning away from a political landscape ruptured by Covid and obfuscation of the truth; a turning towards the native beauty threatened by an undeniable climate crisis.

Jenny says of the panels: "It was a need to show there is something else going on in this world that can give us hope – the wildflowers that struggle to survive through the waves of extraordinary extremes of weather, from blazing heat to flooding. But also, to understand these are real problems – unlike the fabrications of political players with their own agendas."

She adds, "I'm enchanted by the wildflowers' beauty and determination to thrive. Their chaos, competing for the best light, provides a free style for me to paint."

The series embodies an acute appreciation of natural beauty suspended in time as the pandemic stopped the world in its tracks. The wildflowers are depicted in a representational yet unseasonal composition, climbing joyously up demanding tall, oblong canvases. The first six panels show the wildflowers painted out of their natural habitat; the final six move them back to their landscape roots as daily life opens back up and the artist's need for control dissipates.



Jenny in her studio with a dress printed from one of her native wildflower paintings.



## Friends of Maclay Gardens 2023 Tour of Gardens, Tallahassee, Florida | Fritz Wettstein and Nia Wellendorf, Magnolia Chapter

There is no better way to share a love for native plants than time spent with old and new friends at a garden party, and no better time for such gatherings than springtime. Continuing a tradition of long time FNPS member Eleanor Dietrich, who opened up her house and meticulously restored Tallahassee slope forest to friends each spring when her peach tree bloomed, Magnolia Chapter members Fritz Wettstein and Nia Wellendorf welcomed about 300 visitors to their native plant gardens as part of the Annual Tour of Gardens sponsored by the Friends of Maclay Gardens. This year the May 19th and 20th tours of seven magnificent Tallahassee area gardens helped introduce gardeners to a great diversity of North Florida's wonderful native plants grown and maintained in the two FNPS members' yards.

The Magnolia Chapter has a long-standing relationship with Maclay Gardens State Park through the native plant garden that the Chapter maintains within the State Park and by its partnering with the Park and Friends Group on invasive plant removal and other conservation work. The Chapter shares board members with the Friends of Maclay Gardens and expanded its native plant outreach with the organization through participation in the spring Tour of Gardens and fall fundraisers. It has sponsored the Tour, which celebrated its 28th year this month and has included several native plant-oriented yards over the past few years. This is the first year Chapter members are hosting the Tour at their residences.

With this winter's deep freeze taking down much of North Florida's citrus and tender ornamental garden plants (and hopefully an escaped python or two), by comparison the cold hardy native plant gardens have been thriving, earning starring roles in spring garden shows. To showcase native plants in residential gardens, FNPS Magnolia Chapter members were recruited to the Friends of Maclay Gardens 2023 Tour of Gardens. Nia and Shane and Fritz and Eve opened up their mostly native yards for the tour with the assistance of docents/interpreters James Cooper, Kole Dickinson, Bob Farley, Gail Fishman, Beth Grant, Ann Johnson, Michael Maldonado, Rayanne Mitchell, Ashley O'Neal, Helen Roth, Maddie Snuggs, Hannah Wellendorf and Vicki Woolridge. In addition to showcasing the wonders and utilities of native plant species in gardens, the tours were great opportunities for recruiting new members to the Florida Native Plant Society. Here are descriptions of the two member gardens:

### Downtown Tallahassee Cottage Garden and Urban Forest

The plantings and architecture of 520 Beverly St., located two blocks south of Leon High in downtown Tallahassee, blend Southern Living style with Urban Forest. Naturalistic plantings enclose a traditional Cape Cod style residence, create a layered forest of canopy oaks, subcanopy flowering trees, understory shrubs, palms and groundcover wildflowers, grasses and ferns, offer cooling shade and privacy, provide habitats for furry, feathered and scaly friends and with paths, walls and fences help shape intimate outdoor rooms just blocks from the Capitol. Careful plant selection, location and maintenance temper the natural chaos associated with growing wild plants in small front yards and make a case for the potential curb appeal, beauty and diversity of our native flora. Around back, the urban forest has been opened up for lawn, flowering ornamentals, and citrus plantings. The predominately native species of over 240 different plant species, several small water sources, abundant pollinator plants, a brush pile and hedgerow type side yards support a wildlife friendly environment that has matured and filled in over the two decades since the landscape was converted from centipede lawn and mature plantings of an older Tallahassee home. In addition to planting and care of native species, information was presented on the region's natural communities and native reptiles.



*A portion of the garden tour group. Photo by Nia Wellendorf.*

### The Garden of Nia and Shane at 1393 Manor House Drive, Tallahassee

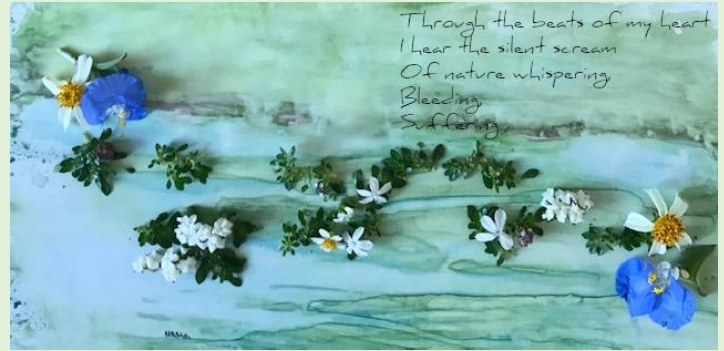
When Shane and Nia moved to their suburban 3-acre lot in 2018, the home was traditionally landscaped and the yard had wide expanses of lawn with some dense wooded areas. They first set to work removing invasive non-native plants from the wooded areas and stopped mowing the soggy bottomland at one end of the property. Hurricane Michael felled numerous trees in the front yard, which allowed them to create a wildflower grassland meadow, a striking scene when in peak bloom. Over the past 5 years, they have planted at least 50 native plant species and allowed others to come up from the seed bank. Most of the traditional landscape plants have been replaced with beneficial natives that bring joy to wildlife and humans alike.

## Our Ecological Landscape | NaMa, Broward Chapter

Summer is coming and with it, the rain is too!  
When it rains and you go to your backyard, which way does the rainwater go?  
Where is it going?

Have you ever thought that most the water that is leaving should remain in your backyard, infiltrate the soil and supply the groundwater as it happened naturally before the removal of vegetation for construction of cities?

Continue on reading to find out how to act in order for it to happen again.



With climate changes taking place in the world, the increase in extreme events has contributed to the socio-environmental disasters that we see reported by the media every day, such as floods, landslides, periods of prolonged drought and forest fires, among others.

Extreme weather events are those that exceed the expected variation from climactic norms, they directly affect the normal functioning of a community and are potentially dangerous. In addition, they affect the health of the population and bring many material losses, they harm the environment. These events are consequences of global warming, which can be mitigated with Ecological Landscaping, which focuses on reducing rainwater runoff, increasing rainwater infiltration into the soil, respecting nature and balance of the ecosystem functions of each element.

When the landscaping project is only concerned with aesthetics, the environment is often gradually left in the background, the native vegetation is usually removed, the natural landscape is irrevocably altered and the native fauna population is shifted towards generalists. Did you know that water is a "limited" natural resource?

Of all the consequences we have from climate change, water is the most affected. As the planet's temperature increases, the hydrological cycle, which is the movement of water between the atmosphere and the Earth's surface in its solid, liquid and gaseous states, changes.

Water evaporates from the oceans, rivers, soil and vegetation, condensing into clouds, It then infiltrates the ground, and often flowing visibly through rivers into the sea. Rain is primarily responsible for the entry of water into the hydrological cycle, but when this rainwater leaves the house to travel to the ocean, it may become contaminated.

Water resources depend on vegetation and the natural water cycle depends on the vegetation cover of the soil, as plants sequester carbon from the atmosphere through photosynthesis, absorb water from the soil and release it into the air through evapotranspiration, thereby cooling the planet's surface.

Now that you've come this far, is the connection between vegetation, water, and climate, clear?

We need to plant, by planting Florida's native species.

An important project was carried out by the UF Broward Extension Butterfly team, which during the period from May 2022 to April 2023 propagated and planted a very large variety of our native flora.

### References

Florida Field Guide to Low Impact: Rain Garden. <http://www.ffl.ifas.ufl.edu>

Florida GI-BMP - Friendly Best Management Practices for Protection of Water Resource by Green Industries Manual. <http://www.ffl.ifas.ufl.edu>

Green Infrastructure for Climate Resiliency - EPA-US Environmental Protection Agency. <http://www.epa.gov>

Global Risk Report 2022 - World Economic Forum. <http://www.weforum.org>

About the Author

NaMa is a multidisciplinary Artist.

She is specialized in Botanical Art & Illustration with Leadership Certificate, GI-BMP Certified Professional, FL MGV Certified, and Ecological Landscaping: Landscape Planning and Design Graduate degree.



## Naples Field Days Report | Valerie Anderson, Director of Communications and Programming

Finally I'm getting a chance to reflect on the wild and wonderful Naples Field Days of the 2023 Florida Native Plant Society Annual Conference; this was our first year since the pandemic that we've had any sort of in-person component to our Annual Conference. and I've really missed seeing everyone.

The Naples Chapter organized two days of native plant fun, with vegan-friendly food, plenty of caffeine, two guided hikes, and a pine needle basketry workshop. They were the first of our three regional Field Days to sell out and once I got there I understood why.

The early morning drive from Kissimmee had me road wary. I was navigating the rough streets of the failed Golden Gates Estates subdivision several minutes past the scheduled start time. Sweating, I pulled into a very Florida-esque rural/suburban driveway behind a wall of mostly-native vegetation several minutes past nine am.

This is Collier County's Robert E. Gore, III Preserve - a relatively small preserve carved out of exurbia that links the Florida Panther NWR to the Picayune Strand SF with a wildlife crossing under I-75. Protected basically by the passion and weirdness of Gore and his mostly-platonic friends, Conservation Collier has picked up the slack and has an aggressive willing-seller landbuying program for the hundreds of small lots around the preserve.

I was greeted by Connie Nagele and Linda Weinland, both grinning their ears off. They offered me a glossy, reusable name tag with their Chapter logo and the saw palmetto part of the FNPS logo, calmed me down, and directed me to the snacks and coffee and tea, arranged tastefully in Gore's former kitchen.

The hike was lead by Molly Duvall of Conservation Collier, but Linda Weinland stepped in when it was time to talk about and find zombie ants. Zombie ants are ants that have been infected with the cordyceps fungus. An infected ant climbs to a height of ~6', walks a little over halfway down a Needleleaf Airplant / *Tillandsia setacea* leaf, and then sits there while the fungus produces a reproductive stalk from the ants' head to release spores that will then infect another ant.

After a delectable smorgasbord for lunch we listened to a presentation by a staff member of the fStop Foundation, a outfit that sets camera traps mostly around South Florida followed by a presentation by the Cypress Cove Landkeepers, the nonprofit that spearheaded the protection of the Preserve after Dr. Gore passed and maintains the preserve and the education center.

The post-session snack spread was divine, with many vegan and vegetarian options, and I was honored to meet many Naples Chapter members. Christy Duff and Beth Courtright invited me to the opening of a funky new bar called The Burrow in the up-and-coming industrial section of town. They introduced me to a number of Naples young conservationists, whose names I forgot instantly. The beer was good and the people watching was even better, but I'm an early riser so I turned in before the band got going.



Linda Weinland takes over when it's time to talk about the zombie ant population she discovered in the Preserve



Zombie ant on Needleleaf Airplant (*Tillandsia setacea*)

The next day I headed down US 41 to Collier Seminole State Forest to film the Pine Needle Basketmaking workshop. I finally got to meet Riki Bonnema of Miami Botanical Garden after only seeing her on the Conservation Committee calls. In the photo below she's humoring me by showing me her basket.



State Park Biologist Maulik Patel presents to the combined group before co-leading the hike with Dr. Brian Bovard

I also got to see the very pregnant Chelsey and Chris Stevens of the Sunshine State Seekers and the illustrious Paul Rebmann before they headed off on the Pine Flatwoods Trail with biologist Maulik Patel.





Riki Bonnema, Dade Chapter, with her small but mighty basket.



Paul Rebmann stands in the back right of the combined group at Collier Seminole State Forest.

One of these days I'll get around to cutting that pine needle basketry video and putting it together, but for now it will relax on my hard drive as I ponder my most important lesson from this weekend, that event organizers that put themselves in the mindset of their attendees leave you with the most warm and fuzzy lasting memories.



No truer words have ever been written on a sticky note.

## 2023 FNPS Member and Supporter Survey | Melanie Simon, Council of Chapters Secretary



Your Voice Matters! FNPS needs your feedback to gain a clearer picture of how the organization can serve and improve engagement with our members and supporters while furthering our mission. In just a few minutes you can provide invaluable help to FNPS and earn an entry to a drawing for a free membership or renewal.

The survey asks questions about your membership, interests, preferences, and gives you a way for your voice to be heard if you have feedback or ideas. Your frank responses will help us plan and make positive changes.

The Council of Chapters will summarize all results at the Chapter and State level so individual responses are anonymous. When the results are tabulated you'll see how your Chapter compares to other Chapters and State averages.

This is a quick and easy way to help your Chapter and FNPS. Plus, if you supply your email address at the end of the survey, you will earn an entry into a drawing for one of six free annual memberships or renewals. If you don't need the membership you can give it to a friend, neighbor, another chapter member, or a complete stranger!

We want to hear from every FNPS member and supporter so we can more effectively advocate for what we all love - native plants and native plant communities.

Use the [survey link](#) or QR code to the right to take the survey.

Thank you!



## James 'Jim' Albert Rodwell, 1939-2023



*Jim in the wildflowers. Photo courtesy of Cocoloba Chapter.*

embraced the retirement beach town lifestyle. He could be found on his bicycle, in yoga class, serving on the Town of Fort Myers Beach committees (as chair of the Anchorage Advisory Committee, CRAB, and the Audit Committee), or enjoying Matanzas Pass Preserve. His interest in native plants led him to the Florida Native Plant Society where he served as Cocoloba Chapter Director and on the FNPS Conference Committee. He also became a Florida Master Naturalist. Being in the field photographing flowering plants and writing about them was a favorite passion. He was also passionate about citizen science.

After Hurricane Ian he and Dorothy were graciously housed and cared for in the home of Gisela and Kevin Ellsworth. Donations in his honor may be made to the Cocoloba Chapter, [fnpscocoloba.org](http://fnpscocoloba.org), 239.273.8945.

### The Allen G. Wise Research Fund is open and accepting donations



*Allen with his family.*

Allen Wise owned Shady Oaks Gather All, an old-style roadside retail plant nursery on Highway 301 in Sumterville, Florida. A member of the Florida Association of Native Nurseries (FANN) for 20 years and a member of the Florida Native Plant Society for fourteen years, Allen was always eager to volunteer at native plant shows and other events boosting the industry, even when operating from his wheelchair. Offering a mix of native and Florida-friendly plants, Allen was active with the Sumter County Master Gardeners; he put together a native plant exhibit annually at the Sumter County Fair. He served as president of the former Sumter Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society, his friend Nancy Dwyer wrote a [lovely obituary](#) for him in 2021. Allen's friends have established [this fund](#) within the [Native Plant Horticulture Foundation](#) to honor his memory. Donations are used to support research projects that expand and strengthen the native plant industry that Allen loved.

### 2023 Annual Meeting Report | Valerie Anderson, Director of Communications and Programming



Did you miss the 2023 Annual Meeting? It was jam-packed with information, ran for an hour and a half, and is available to watch again [on our YouTube Channel](#).

Before the pandemic, we always held our Annual Meetings during the Conference, at the two I attended (2017 River Ranch and 2019 Crystal River) they were early Sunday morning. These are annual membership meetings, we vote to approve the minutes of the last Annual Meeting, vote for new officers, and on any bylaws revisions if we've had any Governance Committee action that year.



The pandemic and associated lockdowns were really starting to affect us in Florida as we were canceling the 2020 conference, we switched gears, pushed the annual meeting to June. I found an office in Orlando that we could all get together and set up a camera, microphone, lighting, and used an online platform called StreamYard to bring in presenters who weren't able to be there in person. It's a [fun recording](#) to watch.

We continued with a separate Annual Meeting and Conference in 2021 as we ran our first-ever online conference. As we rode staff transitions through 2022 and 2023 we continued with the cheaper and easier online conference, but this time using my patented<sup>1</sup> combination of zoom and OBS Studio.

Here are some highlights:

- New high of ~7k members, up from 5,800 at the time of the last Annual Meeting
- Nine board members voted in:
  - Athena Philips for Vice President for Administration
  - Chris Moran, Treasurer
  - Adam Arendell, Director
  - MaryAnn 'MAC' Camacho-Viera, Director
  - Deborah 'Deb' Curry, Director
  - Susan Earley, Director
  - Jane Graham, Esq., Director
  - Gage LaPierre, Director, and
  - David Martin, Director
- At least six recent scientific journal papers have been published from projects supported in part by FNPS research grants.
- Three Endowment Research Grants and one Cornelia McNamara Grant were awarded (recipients are on p2)
- The 2023 Conservation Grant was awarded to The Villages Chapter to improve Claspig Warea (*Warea amplexifolia*) habitat at Lake Griffin State Park.

You can read more about our new board members, read the 2022 minutes, and review the full committee reports in the Annual Meeting [post](#).



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<sup>1</sup>Definitely not

## Have you heard? Working in the Weeds: A new podcast on aquatic & invasive plants | Christine Krebs, Paynes Prairie Chapter



Have you heard? The UF/IFAS Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants has launched a podcast on aquatic and invasive plants. The UF/IFAS Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants is a multidisciplinary research, teaching, and extension unit. The mission of the Center is to develop and disseminate strategies for addressing the impact of invasive plants.

Plenty of plants have plagued Florida's precious landscapes; these invasive species cause environmental and economic harm or harm to human health and safety. In this podcast series the co-hosts, Center Director Dr. Jason Ferrell and communication specialist Christine Krebs, discuss and clarify topics related to invasive plant management in Florida.

Some episodes we recommend getting started with are from our first season:

[What's the Deal with Invasives](#): Here we talk about why Florida is uniquely prone to invasives, the impacts of invasive plants, and management techniques used to keep our environment in balance.

[Florida's Lakes and Landscapes](#): This episode covers the nature of Florida's environment and how it is the perfect paradise for invasive species.

[Green Menace Pt. 1](#) & [Green Menace Pt. 2](#): These episodes tell the story of water hyacinth's invasion into Florida's waterways. We tell the story using excerpts from historian George E. Buker's paper titled: Engineers vs. Florida's Green Menace

The WITW podcast is available now on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Google Podcasts, Overcast, and Stitcher. Or listen directly on the podcast webpage at <https://podcasters.spotify.com/pod/show/ufifascaip>

New episodes of this series will be released every other Wednesday. Do you have topics or questions you would like us to discuss on this podcast? Email us at [caip@ifas.ufl.edu](mailto:caip@ifas.ufl.edu)

### Don't forget to apply for a 2023 FNPS Landscape Award!

The revamped Landscape Awards are now accepting applications from everyone from home butterfly gardeners to large institutional landscapes designers!

Winners will receive an annual FNPS membership, an attractive yard sign, and feature stories in the *Palmetto* magazine and the *Sabal minor* newsletter. Entry fees range from \$40 for residential gardens to \$100 for commercial landscapes. Apply [here](#).

