



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.



Rescued Wire Plant / *Stipulicida setacea*
Bill Frederick Park, Orlando, FL
Photo by Valerie Anderson

Message from the Executive Director | *Lynda Davis*



Ahh Florida's seasons – they are their very own thing! Every year I get caught off guard by the arrival of Spring. This year though (at least in Tampa) the arrival of the great 'yellowing' was a firm indication that Spring was here. Rivers of yellow pollen covered everything in my yard for weeks - and of course the allergies that accompany! Now that the pollen has abated a little, this time of year is so special. I hope you are getting out and enjoying all that Florida's native communities have to offer.

This Spring, our team is firmly focused on delivering our Annual Conference. If you haven't reserved your space yet, please do. The virtual conference is packed with fantastic speakers, including author Jeff VanderMeer and The Homegrown National Park's Doug Tallamy. Most importantly though, I'd like to encourage you to attend one of our Conference Field Days, in either Sanford, Tallahassee, or Naples. Hosted by our Chapters, these 3 weekends each have amazing and unique programs, with chances to explore that area and to network and socialize. Tickets for the Field Days are limited, so please reserve yours soon. Lastly, we have some great benefits for our conference sponsors this year, including features in our Palmetto and complimentary tickets to our virtual conference. Please do contact me about anyone you know who would like to become a sponsor. You can find out more about our conference by visiting <https://www.fnps.org/conference/2023>

Please also contact me about visiting your Chapter. It is so inspiring to meet our members. Recently I attended a Tarflower Chapter meeting. They were so kind to host me – I learned so much about their Chapter and the area. Whilst in the area, I also visited Boggy Creek Airboats, who kindly made a donation to FNPS last year. They are continuing their commitment to creating native plant educational displays and signage for their visitors, which is fantastic. Thanks to them for hosting me – and for giving me my first ever airboat ride! It was such fun.

New Council of Chapters Officers Announced | *Melanie Simon, Chair*



The Council of Chapters announced the results of the recently held officer elections:

Council Chair – 1 year term – Melanie Simon

Melanie, President of the Passionflower Chapter, has been serving as Council Secretary since 2020 and has been serving as Chair for the past year. She has been elected to serve an additional year as Chair.

Council Vice Chair – 2 year term - Lisa Stanley

Lisa is a member of the Pinellas Chapter and a native West Virginian where she had a 4-acre wildlife sanctuary, was a volunteer eastern box turtle tracker, and a part-time mushroom hunter. After retiring from the Army in 2022, she came to St Petersburg, where she's building her native backyard to encourage reptile, bird, and bee inhabitants.

Lisa previously volunteered for several years as an Outings Leader for the Sierra Club, a Fundraising and Finance Committee member with the Lion's Club, various roles at the American Red Cross, and numerous veteran organizations. Lisa loves to spend her spare time admiring the natural world and wants to share her love for native biodiversity through habitat restoration. She holds a Master's of Science in Nonprofit Management from Northeastern University, and currently works in technology.

Council Secretary – 2 year term – Megan Prats

Megan Prats is the owner and founder of Smarty Plants Nursery. Smarty Plants Nursery is 7 year old, 1.25 acre nursery located in Homestead, FL that grows 7 gallon South Florida Native Shrubs for the wholesale market.

In addition to being a member of the FNPS Dade Chapter, Megan is also a long-term member of FANN and has made educational materials for FANN's social media to promote more demand for native plants in landscaping. Megan wholeheartedly believes that native plants are always the best option for the landscaping customer because when the customer goes native, everyone wins - the grower, the landscaper, the customer, and the Earth. She passionately believes in the FNPS mission and vision and wants to help further the mission by being a part of the Council of Chapters.

Pine Rocklands: A Globally Imperiled Plant Community | *Roger L. Hammer, Dade Chapter*



Pine rockland habitat is one of the most floristically-diverse plant communities in Florida, and one of the most imperiled. In fact, it is regarded as a globally-imperiled plant community by the Florida Natural Areas Inventory, occurring only in southern Florida, several islands in the Bahamas, the Caicos islands, and on the Isle of Youth

(formerly the Isle of Pines) in Cuba. In Florida, pine rockland habitat is found on the Miami Rock Ridge, which is the southern terminus of the Atlantic Coastal Ridge, plus there are isolated parcels of pine rockland habitat in the Big Cypress National Preserve in Miami-Dade and Collier Counties, and on Big Pine Key in the Florida Keys (Monroe County). Pine rocklands in Florida are characterized by oolitic limestone outcroppings with a single overstory tree—the South Florida slash pine (*Pinus densa*). This pine is what had been referred to as *Pinus elliotii*, or a variety of that species, as var. *densa*. But in the new Flora of the Southeastern United States (Weakley, 2022) they are now separated as distinct species, with the notable differences being that *Pinus densa* typically has 2 leaves per bundle, and the seedlings have a grass stage. Its range includes central and southern Florida. For *Pinus elliotii*, there are typically 3 leaves per bundle, and seedlings lack a grass stage. Its range includes northern central Florida northward across the southeastern United States. In the Bahamas and Cuba, this habitat is very similar except that the overstory tree is the Caribbean pine (*Pinus caribaea*) and there is an absence of saw palmetto (*Serenoa repens*) in the understory. On the southern mainland, saw palmetto is a dominant palm species in the understory, but on Big Pine Key in the lower Florida Keys, saw palmetto is practically non-existent.

What is interesting is that the understory of pine rockland in southern Florida is comprised of 66% tropical species. In the absence of fire, hardwood trees in the understory mature and form dense forests called hammocks. Hammocks on the southern Florida mainland are made up of 85%

tropical hardwood trees that range into the West Indies (including the Bahamas), and the tropical Americas. Some of these native tropical trees in the flora of southern Florida, such as West Indian mahogany (*Swietenia mahagoni*) and Jamaican dogwood (*Piscidia piscipula*), produce wind-dispersed seeds that can travel long distances in tropical storms and hurricanes that move through the Caribbean to southern Florida. Other tropical species, such as buttonwood (*Conocarpus erectus*), red mangrove (*Rhizophora mangle*), black mangrove (*Avicennia germinans*), and white mangrove (*Laguncularia racemosa*) arrived in southern Florida via favorable ocean currents. But one constant characteristic of tropical trees and shrubs that are components of the native flora of southern Florida, is that they produce small, fleshy fruits that birds eat, so migratory birds have influenced the make-up of southern Florida's native flora more than any other factor. This is why the contention that native plants are those that occurred here prior to European contact is bogus. Yes, explorers who arrived in sailing ships introduced plants from other parts of the world, and the coconut palm (*Cocos nucifera*) is the best example. But, if a bird feeds on seeds of a tree or shrub in the Bahamas during this year's spring migration, and deposits the seeds in the proper habitat here in Florida, and that plant grows and spreads naturally from seed, then it is just as native to Florida as a live oak, regardless if it got here before Columbus, or this past year.

Okay, back to pine rocklands. The principal reason this habitat is so imperiled in Florida is because it was the easiest to clear for development back in the day when the pines were harvested for lumber before being bulldozed by developers. It is estimated that 185,000 acres of pine rockland once covered Miami-Dade County, and less than 4,000 acres remain today outside of Everglades National Park. The largest parcel remaining is Long Pine Key in Everglades National Park, that covers some 19,000 acres of the 1.5-million-acre park, and then there is the 8,500-acre Key Deer National Wildlife Refuge on Big Pine Key in the lower Florida Keys that is mostly pine rockland. Other parcels in Miami-Dade County occur at Navy Wells Pineland Preserve, Camp Owaissa Bauer, Larry & Penny Thompson Park, the Deering Estate at Cutler, Tamiami Pineland Preserve, and other smaller parcels within the Miami-Dade County Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department.

The term “Dade County pine” was actually a lumberman's term for the wood, not the tree, which became an advertising ploy so buyers would know that the lumber is much harder than it is from the same species of pine harvested further north, because pines in rockland habitat of Miami-Dade County grew much slower and, therefore, produced denser wood. Many homes built from Dade County pine lumber in the early 1900s are still standing today. The term “slash pine” alludes to the V-shaped slash made in the trunk of pines in the Southeast, with a can placed just beneath the cut to collect the sap oozing from the wound. The sap was then used to make varnish and other products.



Pine rockland habitat on Long Pine Key in Everglades National Park. Photo by Roger Hammer.

Some of Florida's rarest plant species occur in pine rocklands, and these include the deltoid spurge (*Euphorbia deltoidea* subsp. *deltoidea*), wedge sandmat (*Euphorbia deltoidea* subsp. *serpyllum*), Carter's flax (*Linum carteri* var. *carteri*), Small's milkwort (*Polygala smallii*), Cape Sable thoroughwort (*Chromolaena frustrata*), Carter's orchid (*Basiphyllaea corallicola*), Keys partridgepea (*Chamaecrista keyensis*), silver palm (*Coccothrinax argentata*), and others.

Fire is the maintenance tool of pine rockland habitat, which kills or severely prunes invading hardwoods, recycles nutrients, and exposes the ground so seeds can germinate. So, for all of you lovers of native wildflowers, go visit a pine rockland a couple of months after fire and enjoy the renewal as wildflowers bloom in profusion. I hope to see you out there.

The FNPS Landscape Awards are back! | Patricia Burgos, Interim Chair of the Education & Landscape Committee



This year saw the revival of the Landscape Committee with enthusiastic members coming together to realize the FNPS vision to provide education and information about native plant landscapes to the public. The new committee members also recommended merging the Education and Landscape Committees (ELC) considering given that they share objectives and projects.

It is therefore the Education and Landscape Committee's pleasure to announce the Showcase the Beauty of Native Plants FNPS Landscape Awards for 2023. The committee is seeking applications that will demonstrate native landscapes across the state. From residential to commercial landscapes and from large-scale restoration sites to small-scale wildlife and butterfly gardens, the ELC would like to encourage chapters, businesses, professionals, and individuals to nominate their own landscapes or to seek out these showcase landscapes that can serve to highlight the benefits of native plants.

The deadline for submission is August 1, 2023. A link to the application and submittal requirements can be found on the FNPS website, Facebook page and YouTube channel.

Winners will be announced on October 1, 2023, kicking off the FNPS' campaign to promote October as Native Plant Month and highlighting events and promotions scheduled for the month at different chapters.



Native Plant Demonstration Garden signage at the City Hall of Sanibel. 2022 Landscape Award of Excellence - Institutional Category

Upcoming articles in The Palmetto will provide a "deep dive" into the Landscape Award's criteria, highlight the Education and Landscape Committee, recall past winners of the Landscape Awards, and describe exciting future projects. Stay tuned and look for more information about the awards on the FNPS website at www.fnps.org!

Braiding Sweetgrass and Pastoral Song – A Review and Comparison | Laurie Brooks, Dade Chapter



Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants (Robin Wall Kimmerer. Canada: Milkweed Editions, 2013) and

Pastoral Song: A Farmer's Journey (James Rebanks. New York: Custom House, 2020)

These are two books worth reading together or back-to-back. They are both so beautifully written that I found myself reading sections aloud to my mother. They are both written by people with firsthand knowledge of what nature and the land can teach us as well as knowledge attained in the academic setting. Kimmerer has a PhD in plant ecology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and Rebanks has a double first in history from Magdalen College, Oxford.

Pastoral Song as the subtitle describes is the journey of a farmer in the Lake District of England who inherits a family farm and business that no longer resembles the place that his grandfather taught him to love and care for. He begins his farmer's journey with a definition of pastoral as both an adjective that relates to rural life and scenes or the care of souls, and a noun – a poem or idyl that describes the life and manner of shepherds. The book is divided into three sections. Nostalgia looks back at the land he grew up on during summer vacations with his grandparents. In the second section, Progress, he describes the industrialization of farming that takes place after his grandfather dies and he and his father struggle to make their rented farmland pay for itself

in the modern world. Finally, in Utopia he returns to his grandfathers farm which according to his banker is too big for a hobby; too small to make much money. Here he begins to see that old traditions and diverse crops and livestock are better for the land than the industrialized monocultures of the surrounding large-scale farms. One of my favorite passages:

“I have worked here my whole life, but I am only now beginning to truly know this piece of land. I stumble across a field at a different time of day, or in a different light, and I feel as if I have never seen it before – not the way it is now. The more I learn about it, the more beautiful our farm and valley become. It pains me to ever be away; I never want to be wrenched from this place and its constant motion. The longer I am here, the clearer I hear the music of this valley; the Jenny Wren in the undergrowth; the Scots pines creaking and groaning in the wind; the meadow grasses whispering. The distinction between me and this place blurs until I become part of it, and when they set me in the earth here, it will be the conclusion of a lifelong story of return. The “I” and the “me” fade away, erode with each passing day, until it is an effort to remember who I am and why I am supposed to matter. The modern world worships the idea of self, the individual, but it is a gilded cage; there is another kind of freedom in becoming absorbed in a little life on the land. In a noisy age, I think perhaps trying to live quietly might be a virtue.” (p. 216-217).

Robin Wall Kimmerer, a botanist and member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation similarly divides her book in sections but hers are based on the Planting, Tending, Picking, Braiding and Burning of the Sweetgrass. She describes a similar journey to the one described by Rebanks in relearning the teachings of the plants and animals of the natural world. Tribal myths and legends passed on through oral traditions from grandparents and tribal elders form a counterpoint to the answers received using scientific tools and methods learned in an academic setting. She quotes E. O. Wilson and Rebanks quotes Wendel Berry. Both books talk of the need for reciprocity in caring for the land and the need to have an appreciation of the gifts of nature. Here is Kimmerer’s list of what might be included in her nation’s unwritten guidelines for the “Honorable Harvest:”

“Know the ways of the ones who take care of you, so that you may take care of them.

Introduce yourself. Be accountable as the one who comes asking for life.

Ask permission before taking. Abide by the answer.

Never take the first. Never take the last.

Take only what you need.

Never take more than half. Leave some for others.

Harvest in a way that minimizes harm.

Use it respectfully. Never waste what you have taken.

Share.

Give thanks for what you have been given.

Give a gift, in reciprocity for what you have taken.

Sustain the ones who sustain you and the earth will last forever.” (p. 183).

Kimmerer talks of the place of ceremony in Indigenous tradition and how celebrations often focus on other species and the cycle of the seasons. She feels that migration during colonial times disconnected people from the land and that the ceremonies and celebrations that were maintained relate to family and culture. She feels that there is wisdom in regenerating ceremonies to form bonds with the land.

“To have agency in the world, ceremonies should be reciprocal co-creations, organic in nature, in which the community creates ceremony and the ceremony creates communities. They should not be cultural appropriations from Native peoples. But generating new ceremony in today’s world is hard to do. There are towns I know that hold apple festivals and Moose Mania, but despite the wonderful food, they tend toward the commercial. Educational events like wildflower weekends and Christmas bird counts are all steps in the right direction, but they lack an active, reciprocal relationship with the more-than-human world.

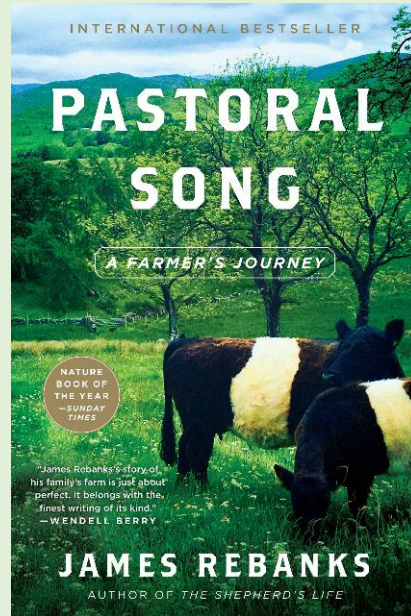
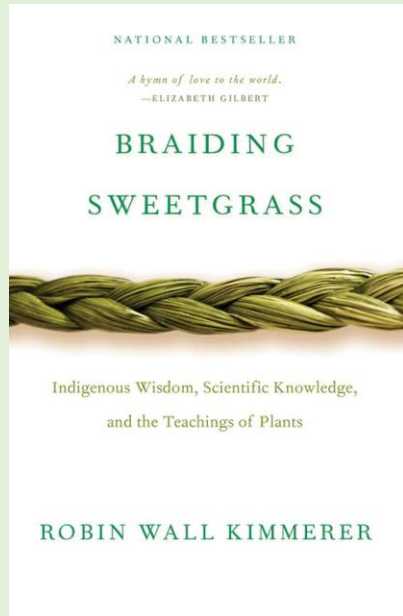
I want to stand by the river in my finest dress. I want to sing, strong and hard, and stomp my feet with a hundred others so that the waters hum with our happiness. I want to dance for the renewal of the world.” (p. 250-251).

One final quote from Braiding Sweetgrass that will surely resonate with our native plant enthusiasts:

Naturalist E. O. Wilson writes, “There can be no purpose more inspiring than to begin the age of restoration, reweaving the wonderful diversity of life that surround us.” The stories are piling up all around in scraps of land being restored: trout streams reclaimed from siltation, brownfields turned into community gardens, prairies reclaimed from soybeans, wolves howling in their old territories, schoolkids helping salamanders across the road. If your heart isn’t raised by the sight of whooping cranes restored to their ancient flyway, you must not have a pulse. It’s true that these victories are as small and fragile as origami

cranes, but their power moves as inspiration. Your hands itch to pull out invasive species and plant the native flowers. Your finger trembles with a wish to detonate the explosion of an obsolete dam that would restore a salmon run. These are the antidotes to the poison of despair.” (p. 339).

A final note for fellow bibliophiles – these two books were complemented in my reading spree last year by the addition of Karen Armstrong’s *Sacred Nature* which explores similar themes found in Eastern traditions and an alternate history/science fiction work by B. L. Blanchard called *The Peacekeeper: A Novel* that echoes many of Kimmerer’s sentiments and traditions from a Chippewa perspective.



The 2023 Annual Conference – Virtual and In-Person! | Athena Phillips, Conference Committee Co-Chair



We are continuing with virtual presentations for our main conference sessions this year but with three in-person field days around the state for you enjoy. You can go to one, two, or all three during the month of May!

We are pleased to unveil our conference art by Naples Chapter member Kara Driscoll. They thoughtfully chose plants that spoke to our theme – ADAPTATIONS and wrote up the following on their species selection:



Vanilla barbellata: I included this species because Vanillas are among the few orchid species that disperse their seeds via animals. Recent research shows that the scent of the fruit/seeds attracts Eulossine bees which collect the seeds. Seeds are also consumed by small mammals and birds. Passing through the digestive system scarifies the seeds, stimulating germination. Our native worm-vine orchid very likely also disperses its seeds via animals, especially since the fruits are brightly colored when ripe and seeds are suspended in jelly, much like cactus seeds. Sources: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/34490689/>, <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/36521493/>

Liatrix gholsonii: *Liatrix gholsonii* is a species endemic primarily to Florida's bluff and ravine ecosystems in the region of Apalachicola. I wanted to include this species not only due to the beautiful lavender color gradient it has as it blooms, but also as tribute to the wonderful Dr. Loran Anderson.

Calopogon multiflorus: While I know I've already included one orchid, I had to include this species because I consider it the flagship species of fire-dependent plants since it blooms almost exclusively within two to four weeks of a burn.

Sarracenia sp.: *S. flava*, *S. rosea*, *S. psittacina* - I just had to show off a sample of the rainbow of pitcher plant diversity that inhabits the state. I felt that any discussion about plant adaptations must discuss carnivorous plants in some form since they've evolved to obtain nutrients from insects due to the extremely harsh and nutrient poor conditions they live in. Carnivory is found in multiple genera: *Sarracenia*, *Utricularia*, *Pinguicula*, *Drosera*, and the newly added *Triantha*.

Cheiroglossa palmata: I had to include at least one fern in here. Hand fern is found in south Florida as an epiphyte almost exclusively growing in the "bootstraps" of cabbage palms in hydric hammocks. It is thought to be highly dependent upon mycorrhizal fungi as it is unable to survive transplantation.

Nymphaea jamesoniana: One of many aquatic flowering plants found in the state, this species is currently considered endangered. It is a night-blooming species, likely possessing a strong floral scent released at night to attract nocturnal pollinators such as moths.

Everglades Coalition Update | Joan Bausch, FNPS Everglades Coalition Representative



The **Everglades Coalition Winter Quarterly meeting** was held Thursday Jan 26, 1:00-4:15 pm, at Fort Lauderdale Marriott Coral Springs Hotel and Convention Center. There were 52 member attendees: many in-person, others virtual.

The agenda included a vote for a new member for the Coalition- Vote Water, whose rep is Gil Smart.

Teams which reported:

- Growth (Jane West)
- Restoration Implementation (Cara Capp)
- Energy (Rhonda Roff and George Cavros), and
- Wildlife (Jacki Lopez) with 2 voting items— a resolution to protect critical habitat for the bonneted bat from development & sea level rise and a resolution to increase protection for the West Indian Manatee and their habitat.

A report on the RECOVER program: the USACE introduced the new RECOVER-SW FL module with a video.

The next Quarterly (Annual) meeting is tentatively scheduled for Friday, April 21, 2023. Election of board members whose terms are expired will take place at this meeting. The 2024 conference is projected for January 25-27, 2024 at Bonita Springs, FL to be hosted by Conservancy of South FL.

Everglades Day in Tallahassee has been canceled due to date conflicts. The EvCo board is planning a new committee to cover replacing Everglades Day in Tallahassee.

The 38th Annual Everglades Conference: A Watershed Moment for America's Everglades

- Total attendees - 361: 340 in person, 21 virtual
- Sponsors - 32 total
- 20 scholarship students, sponsored by National Parks Conservation Association

The EvCo Board decided to offer sponsorships with table spaces only for levels @ \$500+. FNPS originally had budgeted to be Sawgrass sponsors at \$250. I reported in January that we would not be able to have a table this year. After seeing my report in *Sabal minor*, a member of the Broward Chapter, Missy Belsito, decided to contribute the additional \$250 so FNPS could have a table at the Conference! Arrangements were made and we had a table! Thank you Missy!

If the FNPS Board decides we should indeed have a table in following years, we can start planning now for next year in Bonita Springs. The Society might want to increase our budget or find a way to solicit funds to reach \$500. I recommend the Good Citizens Guide to Natural Florida — that would be an awesome give-away at our table. Lynda Davis was not able to attend but she asked her board if anyone could attend. I was delighted to find that Ann Redmond, a former FNPS president, flew in from Tallahassee to attend the EvCo Conference!!! Thank you Ann for coming!!

The Conference staged five panels each day with appropriate panelists for the topic. First panel on protecting remaining habitat- in particular the Miami-Dade area's development pressures. Second panel presented a status report on restoration progress. This panel included Curtis Osceola of the Miccosukee Tribe who reported seeing areas of deeper water/ more sawgrass and spike rush; alligator nests were widely distributed rather than contracting into the central sloughs. And he noted wading birds were moving back, seeing white ibis and wood storks, indicator species, rather than egrets and herons.

We saw slides of the restored Kissimmee River floodplain completely flooded! It is no longer a fast-moving canal into Lake Okeechobee; it's a wonderful wide river floodplain that can accommodate whatever water is available to flow south.

The Florida Wildlife Corridor was part of the final panel for Friday. Mallory Dimmit explained that they are focusing on rapidly developing areas, in a “tier” of corridors by “urgency” levels of conversion risk and an ecological network priority. Ranches are key to connectivity/ biodiversity. Ranchers should be paid for the ecosystem services. I questioned her after her talk about Florida Forever. She had positive things to say.

Notable speakers/attendees were Deb Haaland from Dept of Interior -speaker at Saturday dinner, Michael Connor, US Army speaker at Friday lunch, and US Rep Debbie Wasserman Schultz, who was also the awardee of the Public Service award this year.

OUTSIDE Collab Report | Sue Egloff, The Villages



Timothee Sallin, from OUTSIDE, a sustainable landscape collaborative, spoke at The Villages Chapter meeting in May of 2021. Members were excited to hear the project's goals. The realization of these goals would solve many of the problems our community faces as we attempt to landscape with native Florida plants.

Goals include:

1. Promote a statewide collaboration around sustainable landscape practices.
2. Increase nursery supply of Florida native and Florida resilient plants.
3. Grow industry competencies in sustainable landscape maintenance.
4. Support local governments to evaluate landscape codes for effectiveness.
5. Collaborate with state agencies to encourage green infrastructure projects.
6. Quantify economic impacts and ecosystem services.
7. Partner with the development community to implement sustainable landscapes holistically.
8. Work with existing developments and HOA's to retrofit sustainable landscapes holistically.
9. Develop a holistic sustainable approach to the landscape transaction from design to implementation to maintenance.
10. Educate communities to expand perceptions of what landscapes can provide.

The chapter sponsored a virtual conference attendance in 2021 and in 2022 sponsored President Sue Egloff to attend the full three days of the conference. Sue's report is available on our website along with results of some of the progress towards the realization of their goals (link below). There are documents and videos available to use.

As a result of the conference, some Villages Chapter members are reading *Planting in a Post-Wild World*. The author of this book, Thomas Rainer, was the keynote speaker at the OUTSIDE Collaborative. This book was selected by the American Horticultural Society as one of the 2016 books of the year. A Florida native plant book club - what a good idea! Watch it [here](#).

This December, the Villages chapter took a field trip to the demonstration garden at Cherrylake . Jimmy Rogers, Farm Landscape Coordinator, spent several hours showing us their native demonstration gardens, discussing native maintenance and research projects that are planned and underway.

This year Green Isle Gardens is a sponsor. This native plant nursery is a major source of plants for native gardeners in The Villages. We are pleased to have their support for this project.

President Sue Egloff's conference report, OUTSIDE Collaborative Resources, and background on keynote speaker, Thomas Rainer, author of *Planting in a Post-Wild World* are available [here](#).

In Memory: Barbara Grigg, Lake Beautyberry Chapter | *Lavon Silvernell, Chapter Conservation Chair*



Barbara Grigg, Botanist and long-time member of Florida Native Plant Society, passed away on March 13, 2023 while in hospice. She had been an FNPS member for nearly 32 years and. In 2000, Barbara joined the founders of the newly formed Lake Beautyberry Chapter in Lake County, leaving the Tarflower Chapter in Orange County. In 2012 received the Green Palmetto Award for Education in 2012

They say no one is truly gone until there is no one left who remembers them; I remember Barb whenever I weed around her favorite highbush blueberry at the Lake UF/IFAS Discovery Gardens, the garden she planted and tended for years. Or, when my Indigo bush blooms in the Spring, I remember I fell in love with that plant at the Grigg's during a Chapter picnic.

Barb grew many natives and brought them to Lake Beautyberry Chapter meetings to share. Now, these plants are adding diversity to other landscapes. I often find myself passing on her words of wisdom, with an "as our Beautyberry Botanist Barb said".

The knowledge she shared, the plants she grew, and the memory of Barb will survive for a long, long time.

Over the many years, she raised native plants to share with our Beautyberry members, with the public at plant sales, and for groups that were restoring areas on public lands. She was always willing to share her knowledge and was our mentor on field trips as we explored the native plant communities of Lake County and beyond"

Barbara, and her husband Tony, were also faithful volunteers at Lake County's P.E.A.R. Park. For many years, rain or shine, they traveled one hour each way from their home in Sorrento to participate in their weekly volunteer work morning, restoring native habitats and creating and then maintaining a native plant demonstration garden. Because Barbara was such an incredible source of plant knowledge, and loved to share that with us, we were so fortunate to work with her, Barb also grew and donated many native plants for the restoration efforts and gardens at P.E.A.R. which added so much to the species diversity. She also kept us entertained at break time with her stories of growing up in "old Florida"

They always came prepared with their thermos of coffee, and pbj sandwich, Tony's favorite snack. He would serenade us with bagpipes as we worked, which was pretty cool. If we ever thought that maybe we should cancel work morning, when cold temperatures were predicted, she would scold us and say " but it's only going to be in the 30's!" And so, we would work.

Barb earned her Liberal Arts degree in Lakeland and then was offered a job at the Herbarium in Gainesville where she was given a free course in taxonomy. She then earned her Masters in Botany at the University of Tennessee, and when on to Duke for her PHD. Her thesis? "The Lichens of Florida" and some of her samples are stored in their herbarium.

Barb would laughingly tell us that it was her mother's (and that of others of her generation) mission to "subdue the wilderness" by removing natives and planting exotics. It was Barb's mission to restore it and add to native plant diversity. And did she ever!

Et cetera

Conference registration is [open](#), the Field Days are filling up, and merchandise is now available at [our store!](#)



Barbara in the Garberia (Garberia heterophylla) at PEAR Park, Lake County

