

October  
2012



Newsletter of the Palm Beach County Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society

CONTENTS

Chapter Notes ..... 2

Gardening with Natives..... 3

B.O.D. Meeting Notes.....4

Woody Groundcovers.....5

Events.....6-7

A Message from the Pres.....8

Announcements.....9

October Chapter Meeting

Joint meeting with the Sierra Club Loxahatchee Group

Tuesday, October 16

Doors open at 7pm

Program starts at 7:30

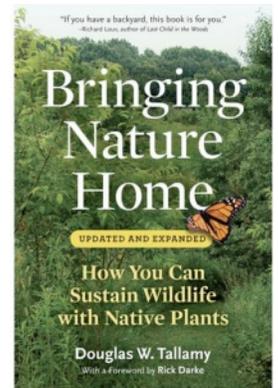
Native plant drawing follows the program

Public welcome • No reservations needed • Refreshments • Free admission



Join us on Tuesday the 16th for a program packed with information on the benefits of landscaping with native plants. We will be viewing a video of an FNPS presentation featuring Douglas Tallamy, author of the book *Bringing Nature Home*. His research at the University of Delaware highlights the importance of introducing native plants to our urban and suburban communities.

*Dr. Tallamy is currently Professor and Chair of the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware in Newark, Delaware, where he has written more than 65 research articles and has taught insect taxonomy, behavioral ecology, and other subjects. Chief among his research goals is to better understand the many ways insects interact with plants and how such interactions determine the diversity of animal communities.*



*Bringing Nature Home* won the the Garden Writer's Assoc. Silver Medal

For more info on this book: <http://plantanative.com/index.html>

NOTICE



The Palm Beach Chapter of the FNPS Board of Directors has determined that, due to increasing costs, **The Dahoon** newsletter will be primarily distributed by email beginning January 2013. A limited amount of hard copies will be available at the monthly chapter meetings. Please contact Lynn Sweetay for any questions or if you do not have an email address.



**The Palm Beach County Chapter of the FNPS** meets on the third Tuesday of every month at the University of Florida/IFAS Mounts Building Auditorium 531 North Military Trail, West Palm Beach

For more information, please call or email  
**561-247-3677**

[palmbeach@fnpschapters.org](mailto:palmbeach@fnpschapters.org)

*The Florida Native Plant Society promotes the preservation of our native flora through education and conservation. To attract wildlife, promote water conservation and prevent the further introduction of non-native pest plants, the society encourages the cultivation of nursery-propagated Florida native plants and promotes their use as ornamentals in public and private landscapes.*

## Membership Update

Our chapter has 160 members as of September 30, 2012. We have 2 new members this month. Warm welcomes to **PETER COYLE** and **LARRY C. SMITH**.

13 memberships renewed or rejoined in September. **MOLLY MUNRO** renewed as a supporting Member. Renewing or rejoining individual members are **PHYLLIS L. ASHLEY, PETER NEBE, CLAUDIA WITTERS, CLINT OSTER, KATHARINE MURRY, HARRY WINKLER, LINDA McCANDLESS, and JACQUELINE KADISH**. Our renewing family members are **BUFFIE JUDD, RYAN AND FRANCESCA LEAVENGOOD, MR. AND MRS. MATTHEW MIERZWA, and ERIC AND JEANNE WASSER**.

### Membership at a Glance

Business	6
Contributing	5
Donor or Family	29
Individual	106
Library	1
Life	2
Not for profit	4
Student	3
Supporting	4
<hr/>	
Total	160

### How Can I Become a Member of the Florida Native Plant Society ?

You can join on-line . .

[www.fnps.org/pages/fnps/membership\\_appl.html](http://www.fnps.org/pages/fnps/membership_appl.html)

Membership forms are also available at the chapter meeting held every 3rd Tuesday of the month at the Mounts Botanical Garden auditorium in West Palm Beach

**Tell a friend!**

## Chapter Notes

submitted by  
F. Leavengood, Sec.

### PBC Chapter Meeting - Held on Tuesday, Sept. 18 - 7:30pm Annual Meeting of the General Membership

#### Vote on Revisions to the Chapter Bylaws

Pres. Brenda Mills reviewed the needed bylaw revisions (posted in the August Dahoan) and called for a vote to approve these revisions. Ryan Leavengood made a motion to approve the bylaws, Lynn Sweetay seconded the motion. Brenda called for any discussion-there was none. A vote was taken and the bylaw changes were unanimously approved.

#### Election of Officers

Director at Large, Susan Lerner presented the following slate of nominees to serve a one-year term of office for 2012-2013: *President* - Lynn Sweetay, *Vice President* - Lindy Cerar, *Treasurer* - Stephanie Duncan, *Secretary* - Francesca Leavengood, *Chapter Representative* - Brenda Mills, *Conservation Chair* - Michael Manna, *Directors at Large* - Susan Lerner, Kristi Martin-Moyer, and Ryan Leavengood

There being no nominations from the floor, on a motion by Lynn Cox, seconded by Kathy Walters and carried unanimously, the nominees were approved by the membership.

#### Treasurer's Report

Stephanie Duncan summarized Chapter finances. See page 4 for details.

#### Speaker Program:

The Palm Beach County Chapter of the FNPS was treated to a very informative presentation on Pan's Garden given by Daniele Garson, Director of Pan's Garden for the Preservation Foundation of Palm Beach. Daniele's presentation enlightened us on the history of this 1/2 acre in Palm Beach that was transformed from a derelict building and parking lot to an inspirational native garden in 1994 after Lydia Mann purchased and donated the land to the Palm Beach Preservation Foundation. Even with its small space the garden demonstrates both wetland and upland native habitats and serves as an example of how natives found throughout the state can be used to create a beautiful landscape. Visitors to the garden are greeted at the entrance by a statue of Pan cast in the 1890's. They can also enjoy the beautiful fountain which was constructed from a rescued wall originally part of Casa Apava, a Palm Beach estate designed by Abram Garfield in 1918. Besides being open to the public and being used for events from musical performances to weddings, the garden also supports an educational program four days a week for the students of Palm Beach County. A field trip is scheduled for Saturday, October 20, 2012 at 10 am for members to visit the garden as a group.

After Daniele's presentation our monthly plant drawing was held. Plants donated this meeting were: Bahama Strongbacks (*Bouyeria succulenta*), Pale Passionflower (*Passiflora pallens*), Scorpion's Tail (*Heliotropium angiospermum*), and Crabwood (*Gymnanthes lucida*) from Gene Sanchez. A White Salvia (*Salvia coccinea*) and a Scorpion's Tail from Cindy Bush. A Sea Lavender (*Argusia gnaphalodes*) and Blue-eyed Grass (*Sisyrinchium angustifolium*) from Susan of Native Choice Nursery. Lastly, a Paurotis Palm (*Acoelorrhaphe wrightii*) with a Slash Pine (*Pinus elliottii* var. *densa*), and a Dwarf Palmetto (*Sabal minor*) with a Slash Pine from Lynn Sweetay.

#### Thank You

to Gene, Cindy, Susan, and Lynn for donating plants for the September plant drawing, and to Nan Owens for the delicious assortment of refreshments she provided for the September meeting.

We had to take a rain check on garden maintenance this month- literally! Although Steve Chase and Jackie Kadish were ready to get out there and weed and groom the garden, it was raining buckets and maintenance had to be cancelled.



## Gardening with the Natives

by Jeff Nurge  
www.FloridaNativeGardening.com

### Dahoon Holly (*Ilex cassine*)



**Why we like it:** There are many native trees that thrive in moist to wet soils but none as widely cultivated and attractive as the Dahoon Holly. Standing typically anywhere from 10 to 25 feet tall this tree is much taller than broad. With an irregular crown of 2 to 4 inch oblong evergreen leaves the Dahoon Holly's yellow to white flowers bloom off and on throughout the year with the peak time in the spring. The female tree produces an abundance of red and occasionally yellow berries that ripen in the fall. It's best to have at least two trees to ensure one will produce berries as they are distinctly male and female. There is a natural hybrid called East Palatka Holly (*Ilex x attenuate*) discovered in 1927 in Florida that has the ability to set fruit without the presence of a male tree nearby. The berries on both species are highly prized by many forms of wildlife.

**How to grow it:** For ideal planting locations take a tip from the Dahoon Holly's natural areas of swamp margins and moist forests.

You'll want to place the Dahoon Holly in a mixture of rich organic soil covered with mulch in an area that stays consistently moist, ideally the low spot in your yard. As with a number of native trees it is desirable if its "feet" are in the shade and its "head" is in the sun. However, it can as a normal course tolerate short periods of drought throughout the year once established. Many municipalities have mandated the use of Florida native plants in many city owned properties as well as roadside swales, parking lots and roadway mediums. The Dahoon Holly is chosen for its ability to fit into all these spaces and endure water runoff as well as scheduled irrigation with minimal pest and disease problems.



Cat bird eating Dahoon berries

**Where to buy it:** This plant is available at native nurseries, including Meadowbeauty in Lake Worth. To find other nurseries that carry it, visit the association of Florida Native Nurseries at [www.afnn.org](http://www.afnn.org), but don't stop there. The site provides only a snapshot of the offerings at local nurseries, so call around.

### Have a favorite Blog? Please let us know about it!

This recommendation comes from PBCC FNPS member Ann Weinrich.....

Dr. George Rogers, botanist and professor at Palm Beach State College in PBG, has a great blog called **Treasure Coast Natives**. It comes out almost weekly and he tells of places in our areas to see native plants. It has great photos, good information and features a fascinating new plant each time. It can be found at:

<http://treasurecoastnatives.wordpress.com/>

## Treasurer's Report

by Stephanie Duncan

Our chapter's financial statement through August 31, 2012 indicates that we are financially sound. Our expenses match our income, with the exception of grant revenue.

**Income**

Our chapter received, at the beginning of the year, a gift of \$5000 to be used for development of a landscape design suitable for homes constructed by Habitat of Humanity. Chapter members Rob Hopper and Brenda Mills have been working with Habitat of Humanity to fulfill the gift's intent, and expect to spend the funds in the upcoming fiscal year. The balance of our income is from book sales, monthly plant drawings, plant sales at outreach events, the annual auction, and a stipend we receive from the state FNPS.

**Expenses**

The majority of our expenses are related to publishing the Dahoon and printing materials for outreach events, including the yearly calendar of events. Conference meeting and travel expenses are appropriated for chapter representation at the four yearly board meetings held by the state FNPS. We also made donations to Snook Island, FANN publication and McArthur Park for the butterfly garden.

For more detail please contact  
Stephanie Duncan at  
duncan694@aol.com

## Board of Director's Meeting

Palm Beach County Chapter FNPS  
submitted by Fran Leavengood, Sec.

SUMMARY OF THE BUSINESS MEETING held at Mounts Botanical Building on Tuesday, September 18, 2012 from 5:30pm-7:20pm (followed by the regular annual meeting).

ATTENDEES: Brenda Mills, Lindy Cerar, Lynn Sweetay, Susan Lerner, Kristi Martin-Moyer, Stephanie Duncan, Fran Leavengood, Winnie Said, Myrna Sossner, Nancy Sloane, and Ryan Leavengood

President, Brenda Mills called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm and requested board and chair reports. Director Kristi Martin-Moyer discussed a project she is working on at Pine Jog as a possible use for some of the grant money our chapter received from the Chastain Foundation. Treasurer Stephanie Duncan submitted the financial statement and since Mike Manna was unable to attend she discussed new brochures for the society and the demonstration garden. Chapter Rep Lynn Sweetay discussed the closing of the FNPS store and some issues regarding field trips and insurance that recently came up. VP Lindy reported on the MacArthur beach butterfly garden and President Brenda Mills asked for any discussion regarding the bylaw changes to be voted on at the meeting. Brenda also asked Susan Lerner to announce the slate of candidates and run the election of next year's board members at the general annual meeting following the business meeting. Brenda also discussed that the current bylaws have the president position limited to a three year term in order to keep new people and fresh ideas coming into the board. Kristi commented that having terms longer than one year seem better to help keep momentum going. The board voted to continue to support the FANN at \$100.00 as we did last year and it was discussed and decided that we would plan to have the regularly scheduled business meeting for October even though we were meeting in September. Stephanie wants to propose a 2013 budget at the October meeting. It was decided that at this time we will not plan to reschedule the submerged aquatic field trip due to the insurance issues that Lynn discussed. The Pan's garden field trip will be rescheduled and Kristi will coordinate this with Daniele from Pan's garden this evening so it can be announced. Winnie discussed adding the email and phone numbers for the Board of Directors to the other board members contact information page in the Dahoon since it had not been added previously and new information was collected from all board members present. Stephanie also discussed collecting photographs for the Dahoon and annual report and Winnie offered to take photos. Lynn mentioned that Cathy Beal's annual report for our chapter was described as best in the state by Ann Cox, FNPS Land Management Partners Chair. Matt King was not present but improvements to the website were discussed and Director Ryan Leavengood will be looking into using the templates provided by the state to help improve the chapter site. The possibility of changing the Dahoon to completely digital once the site has been improved was discussed as a way for the chapter to save money and be more environmentally friendly.

*An expanded version of business meeting minutes is available for review on our chapter webpage: [www.palmbeach.fnpschapters.org](http://www.palmbeach.fnpschapters.org)*

## WOODY GROUNDCOVERS

By Steven W. Woodmansee

Groundcovers are landscape plants that are short in stature (generally less than 2 feet in height), while are capable of covering the ground in lieu of turf (grass). There are many native plants in cultivation which are capable of this function, most of them sun loving species, however not all are long-lived. Some exceptions are those which are woody. Three excellent drought tolerant woody ground covers are **Quailberry** (*Crossopetalum ilicifolium*), **Gopher-apple** (*Licania michauxii*), and **Horizontal Coco-plum** (*Chrysobalanus icaco*).

**Quailberry** is a long time favorite among Dade native plant enthusiasts. It is caespitose (clumping in one place rather than spreading underground) and has a habit of long sprawling woody branches, generally not obtaining a height of more than 1 foot. These branches are covered in prickly dentate (toothed) leaves. Flowers are solitary and small, and barely noticeable, however fruits are a delightful red color and can be found on it through the year. It resembles a shrunk holly (*Ilex* spp.), however is not at all related to hollies, as it is in the tropical plant family the Celastraceae and does not tolerate freezes, while hollies belong to the generally temperate Aquifoliaceae. Unlike hollies, quailberry is not dioecious (with male and female individuals), so all plants have the capability of producing fruit. Although urban uails are downright rare if not absent, other birds do eat the fruits. Once established, it is a tough plant, even known to grow on solid limestone such as found in its native habitat Pine Rockland where it is threatened. Like all Pine Rockland species, it is best not to use mulch with this species, although pine needles are acceptable in formal plantings. It can even be used to grow on the tops of rock walls or in boulders so long as plants are started very small.



Photo: IRC

**Gopher-apple** is a slow growing native ground cover found in pineland or scrub habitats throughout Florida, so it is tolerant of occasional freezes. Like quailberry, it is an upland species and does not tolerate long periods of freshwater inundation. The main stem is underground, sending out rhizomes, and given time can spread over great areas. Branches are usually less than 1 foot in height, however some wild specimens have grown to over 3 feet tall. Leaves are ovate in shape and are greenish with yellow veins. Flowers are fragrant and creamy white, and found in a paniculate inflorescence (cluster of flowers) that are terminal (at the ends of the branches) at spring-time. Fruits are whitish-pink, large about the size of a large date, with a large single seed. It gets its name due to the fact that native gopher tortoises eat the fruit. Gopher tortoises get their name by their habit of borrowing in sandy soil. Fruits are edible, tasty when ripe, and generally occur August -September. It is in the Chrysobalanaceae, a plant family which is a cousin to the rose family (Rosaceae). Like roses, plants in this family have branches with lenticels, which are elongate pores on the stems often whitish in color. Plants in this family also attract lots of pollinators. It is best to plant several together, as it can take a long time for a single plant to fill in a space. Like Quailberry, it is best not to use mulch with this, although pine needles are acceptable in formal plantings.



Photo: IRC

Continued on Page 7

## Chapter Events

**Tuesday, October 16**  
5:15 – 7:15pm  
Mounts Botanical Garden  
531 North Military Trail, WPB

### **Palm Beach Chapter Board of Directors Meeting**

Members are invited to attend and participate

**Tuesday, October 16**  
7:30 – 9pm (doors open at 7)  
Mounts Botanical Garden  
531 North Military Trail, WPB

### **Chapter Meeting: Benefits of Native Plants (Video)**

Douglas Tallamy, Chair of the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware

*Free Admission • Refreshments • Native Plant Drawing  
Public Welcome • No Reservations Needed*

**Saturday October 20**  
311 Peruvian Avenue  
Palm Beach, FL

**Field Trip: Pan's Garden** - Led by Daniele Garson, Garden Director, who presented an overview of the garden at the September meeting. The tour starts at 9 a.m. on Saturday, October 20. Take Okeechobee Boulevard over the bridge to Palm Beach Island, make the 3rd right (south) onto Hibiscus Avenue, go 4 blocks then head west to 311 Peruvian Avenue.

**Saturday October 20**  
9am-12  
Clayton Hutchenson Bldg.  
559 N Military Trail, WPB

### **Volunteer Event - Native Plant Demo Garden Maintenance**

Come and learn from experts as you help us maintain our Native Plant Demonstration Garden. It's a great opportunity to ask questions, identify plants and take home cuttings for your garden. Work parties are held on the Saturday following our monthly meetings. Drop by anytime between 9:00 am and noon to learn, socialize and enjoy brunch in the open air. Don't forget to bring your garden tools!



**Saturday, November 3**  
9am – 5pm  
Mounts Botanical Garden  
531 North Military Trail  
West Palm Beach

### **Mounts Botanical Garden Fall Plant Sale**

Come visit your Palm Beach Chapter of FNPS at Mounts Fall Plant Sale. We'll have tips for your native garden, plant ideas, friendly faces plus you can visit our native plant demonstration garden right at Mounts.



**Tuesday, October 16**  
7:30 – 9pm (doors open at 7)  
Mounts Botanical Garden  
531 North Military Trail, WPB

### **Chapter Meeting: Endemics & Exotics in MacArthur Beach & Nearby State Parks**

Presented by, Art Carlton, Park Ranger and others



## Other Events

### Sustainable & Authentic Florida Conference October 17- 19

Just a reminder that some FNPS members might be interested in this unique Oct. 17-19 event on Anna Maria Island exploring how sustainable & authentic Florida can transform our economy and make it more dependent on preservation than destruction:

<http://www.sustainableandauthenticflorida.com/program/>



### Boktoberfest Plant Sale

October 20, 2012

Bok Tower Gardens - National Historic Landmark

1151 Tower Blvd. Lake Wales, FL 33853 / 863.676.1408



One of Florida's most unique Octoberfest celebrations, the 4th annual plant sale has grown into a celebration that features free admission to Bok Tower Gardens, a Biergarten, live entertainment, German food, face painting, pumpkin painting, prizes and more. The **Heartland Chapter of the FNPS** will be selling native plants and books featuring native plants. Visit [www.boktoberfest.com](http://www.boktoberfest.com) for more information on this free event!

## Woody Groundcovers *(cont. from page 5)*

In the same family as Gopher-apple is **Coco-plum**. There is a natural coastal form of coco-plum which is termed "horizontal", due to its habit of staying short and spreading latitudinally across the ground. It is not rhizomatous, and can be fairly large for a ground cover, sometimes over 4 feet in height. Leaves are broadly ovate (roundish) and dark green. Flowers and inflorescences greatly resemble Gopher-apple occurring at spring-time, while fruits are larger being the size of a small plum, and generally colored white with greenish to pinkish tinges ripening in late summer to early fall. Fruits are also edible. It is naturally found in low areas of coastal strand or coastal scrub habitats of Florida. It is much faster growing than Gopher-apple and can tolerate higher amounts of mulch. Taller branches of the plant can be trimmed in order to promote horizontal growth.

*Steve Woodmansee is a biologist, native plant expert, instructor at Miami-Dade College, chair of the Dade Native Plant Workshop, president of FNPS, a former president of the Dade Chapter, frequent contributor to Tillandsia, co-author of Rare Plants of South Florida, and speaker for many organizations. His business, Pro Native Consulting, specializes in environmental services in addition to selling native plants. [steve@pronative.com](mailto:steve@pronative.com)*

Reprinted from the Tillandsia - newsletter of the Dade County Chapter of the FNPS

### Coco-plum



Photos:

<http://www.regionalconservation.org/>

**The Institute for Regional  
Conservation (IRC)**

Natives for your Neighborhood

**PBC Chapter FNPS  
Board of Directors**

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Garden Chair- Steve Chase  
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**Board Vacancy**

We currently need someone to serve as PBCC Conservation Chair

Duties of the C.C. include investigating and reporting to the PBCC FNPS on issues involving native plants and/or their habitats that may require action by the membership.

Please contact Lynn Sweetay if you are interested in this position.

**A Message from the President**

**A New Year**

*Lynn Sweetay*



Since our annual meeting is held in September we do not need to wait until January to begin a New Year! As members of FNPS you know we are a strong organization, both locally and at the state level, and accomplish much in the way of education, conservation and preservation.

Like a chain however we are only as strong as our individual links. This year let's strengthen the chain. We have about 160 members currently. If each member chose one thing to do this year besides just attending meetings then we would grow by 160 times. Everyone does not have to do everything, but if each of us does one new thing we will grow. Here is a small list of things you can do:

- ☺ bring refreshments
- ☺ volunteer to hold the door open
- ☺ spend one Saturday working in our garden at Mounts
- ☺ attend a field trip
- ☺ bring a neighbor to a meeting
- ☺ talk to someone outside the society about native plants and their importance
- ☺ attend an outreach event
- ☺ grow a native plant and bring it for our table or plant exchange
- ☺ give a native plant to a friend
- ☺ take charge of an office or event
- ☺ join a state committee (land management review, landscape, annual report)
- ☺ send a photo or article to the Dahoan
- ☺ volunteer to organize and keep track of our "stuff"
- ☺ use Goodsearch and Goodshop

*Think about what talents you bring to us and let us know what you can do!*

## Announcements

### FNPS 2013 Endowment Grant Research Awards and Conservation Grant Awards

**FNPS Endowment Research Grants** fund research on native plants. These are small grants (\$1500 or less), awarded for a 1-year period, and are intended to support research that forwards the mission of the Florida Native Plant Society which is "to promote the preservation, conservation, and restoration of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida."

**FNPS Conservation Grants** support applied native plant conservation projects in Florida. These are small grants (\$1500 or less) awarded for a 1-year period. These projects promote the preservation, conservation, or restoration of rare or imperiled native plant taxa and rare or imperiled native plant communities. To qualify for a Conservation Grant, the proposed project must be sponsored by an FNPS Chapter.

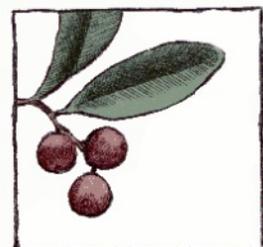
Application guidelines and details are on the FNPS Web site ([www.fnps.org](http://www.fnps.org)), click on 'Participate/Grants and Awards'. Questions regarding the grant programs : [info@fnps.org](mailto:info@fnps.org)

Application deadline for the 2013 Awards is March 1, 2013. Awards will be announced at the May 2013 Annual Conference in Jacksonville. Awardees do not have to be present at the Conference to receive award.

### A Message from FNPS Administration

The spectacular *2011 FNPS Annual Report* is complete! Read about all our accomplishments in the preceding year; it will make you proud to be a member.  
[http://fnps.org/assets/pdf/pubs/2011\\_annual\\_report.pdf](http://fnps.org/assets/pdf/pubs/2011_annual_report.pdf)

The Dagoon is published monthly except December by the Palm Beach County Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society. Newsletter subscription is included in membership fees paid to the FNPS.



Visit us on the web  
[www.palmbeach.fnpschapters.org](http://www.palmbeach.fnpschapters.org)  
[www.fnps.org](http://www.fnps.org)

### Call for Research Track Papers and Poster Presentations Florida Native Plant Society 2013 Conference

The Florida Native Plant Society annual conference will be held at University of North Florida, Jacksonville, Florida, May 16-19, 2013. The Research Track of the Conference will include presented papers on Friday, 5/17 and Saturday, 5/18. The poster session will be on Saturday 5/18.

Researchers are invited to submit abstracts on research related to native plants & 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).

Abstracts of not more than 200 words should be submitted as a MS Word file by February 1, 2013. Include title, affiliation, and address. Indicate whether you will be presenting a paper or poster.

Email submissions to:

**Paul A. Schmalzer**  
[paul.a.schmalzer@nasa.gov](mailto:paul.a.schmalzer@nasa.gov)

For information about our chapter  
call  
561-247-3677

Promoting the preservation, conservation,  
and restoration of the native plants and  
native plant communities of Florida

Florida Native Plant Society  
Palm Beach County Chapter  
534 29th St.  
West Palm Beach, FL 33407



Newsletter of the Palm Beach County Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society