



# ZAMIA

The Naples Chapter Newsletter  
Florida Native Plant Society

November 2017

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## Upcoming Zamia Events:

**Wednesday, November 15, 7 P.M. PRESENTATION:** Introduction to Florida scrub: Linking fire, fauna, and native vegetation **Location:** Naples Botanical Garden Kapnick Center, 4820 Bayshore Drive.

**Presenter:** Stacy Smith (Archbold Biological Station)  
Feel free to bring a snack to share at 6:30pm!

**Saturday November 18<sup>th</sup>, 11 A.M. FIELD TRIP:** Archbold Biological Station

**Location:** 123 Main Dr., Venus, FL, 33960

**RSVP:** [naplesnativeplants@gmail.com](mailto:naplesnativeplants@gmail.com)

**Cost:** \$5 members, \$35 nonmembers

<http://www.archbold-station.org/>

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### Board:

**President** – Patsy McDonald;  
[patsymcfield@gmail.com](mailto:patsymcfield@gmail.com)

**Vice President** – Karyn Allman;  
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**Director at Large** – Brian Bovard  
[bbovard@fgcu.edu](mailto:bbovard@fgcu.edu)

**Logo:** Elizabeth Smith

**Our mission:** *To promote the preservation, conservation, and restoration of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida.*

### Visit our website:

[naples.fnpschapters.org](http://naples.fnpschapters.org)

### Follow us on Facebook!

<https://www.facebook.com/FNPSNaples/>

### A Message from the President

It seems as though most seasonal residents have returned and the pace in Naples & Collier County has picked up. Thankfully, much of the hurricane debris has been collected although there is much work to be done to restore landscaping and structures.

In early October, we had a well-attended, good presentation by Dexter Sowell, the former biologist at the Picayune Strand State Forest (PSSF) on the Lee Williams Road fire (early March 2017) and its aftermath. While the effect of the fire itself could be considered similar to a hot, controlled burn the excessive rainfall and Hurricane Irma exacerbated the negative effects of the fire. While summer is normally the rainy season this summer the area near PSSF had approximately 86" of rain between

June 1 thru Sept 30. The normal average is 55". The heavy rainfall further weakened the trees damaged by the fire. Seedlings that were just beginning to regrow were flooded. The winds from Hurricane Irma did damage some of the red cockaded woodpecker (RCW) trees. The trees were snapped off where the woodpecker boxes had been inserted. Here's link to a video to remind everyone of the fire.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aNOUPaYd9kc>

On **November 15th**, we will have Stacy Smith from Archbold Biological Station coming to talk to the Naples Native Plant Society. Her talk will be: Introduction to Florida Scrub: Linking fire, fauna, and native vegetation. For those of you unfamiliar with Archbold Biological Station here is a link to its webpage:  
<http://www.archbold-station.org/index.html>

The mission of Archbold is to build and share the scientific knowledge needed to protect the life, lands, and waters of the heart of Florida and beyond. Archbold is comprised of 8,800 acres of very special Florida scrub ecosystem. It is home to the Florida Scrub Jay, the only jay endemic to Florida.

The meeting starts at about 6:30pm and her talk will be at 7pm at the FGCU-Naples Botanical Garden Kapnick Center in the Beuhler Auditorium.

Then on **Saturday, Nov. 18th** there is a field trip to Archbold Biological Station for a hike with their Director of Education, Dustin Angell. Hopefully with a chance to see their scrub jays, which, if you have never done this, is quite an experience. For this we will be onsite at the Biological Station from 11am-1pm. [There is a Liability Release form that needs to be completed ahead of time online at the following link:](#)

[http://www.archbold-station.org/html/vinfo/tours\\_registration.html](http://www.archbold-station.org/html/vinfo/tours_registration.html)

We are requesting a donation of \$5 per member since we are being charged for this tour. This year Karyn Allman is going to be coordinating field trips. Please email her your RSVPs to [naplesnativeplants@gmail.com](mailto:naplesnativeplants@gmail.com) (with subject matter Field Trip) and your contact information. Karyn's phone # is 239-357-7421. Please contact her for details or questions.

\*\*\*\*For the upcoming trip to Archbold, please contact Karyn if you are able to provide a place in your car or desire to carpool.

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting on Wednesday, November 15th.

Save the date for our signature event on **Tuesday February 13th**. We are meeting at the Naples Botanical Garden Cafe for drinks, food and a presentation by Reed Noss, UCF.



Photo by Mark Hutchinson <http://fnps.org/plants/plant/muhlenbergia-capillaris>

### **Native Plant of the Month** **Muhly grass (*Muhlenbergia capillaris*)**

Somewhere along the way, a rumor got started that Florida's native plants aren't pretty. Perhaps the import of such a variety of show-stopping tropical plants relegated the natives to the background. It's true many native plants go through understated phases, but at the right time they can be as pretty as a picture. Muhly

grass, whose flowering heralds our transition into autumn, is the perfect example.

If you thought you recently saw low-hanging pink fog in the distance, chances are masses of blooming muhly grass caught your eye. This grass grows wild in Florida's wetlands, but has been adopted by the landscaping industry to spruce up roadsides and medians. This time of year, tiny mauve flowers erupt from its gracefully bowing stems. A breeze in the air tousles the pink strands into waves. The overall effect is like an impressionistic painting done in pastels.

The widespread planting of muhly grass in urban areas allows passersby to get an up-close feel for the plant. If you find yourself walking along clumps of muhly grass, gently run your fingers over the flowers. The collective blooms are so soft and light, your hands barely register the touch. Notice how many stems clump together at the base and spray upwards. The close-growing stems create endless hiding places for smaller creatures, like ladybugs or grasshoppers. As a native species, even a grass as ornamental as muhly fits seamlessly into our ecological landscape.

- Andee Naccarato  
article originally published in *Fort Myers News-Press*

### SAVE THE DATE!

The 2018 FNPS Annual Conference will be held May 17–20, 2018 at the Miccosukee Resort in Miami. Make your reservation today to secure your discounted rate. For more information, visit [www.fnps.org/conference](http://www.fnps.org/conference). The theme for the conference this year is RENEWAL:



Resurrection Fern (*Pleopeltis michauxiana*) by and in memory of Dr. Marjorie Brown

### Remembrance Gathering in Honor of Susan Gallagher

Family and Friends are gathering in remembrance and celebration of Susan Gallagher who passed away recently. The gathering will be at her house 77 Center Street, Naples 34108 on Saturday November 25<sup>th</sup> between 1 - 5 p.m. All are invited to celebrate and remember Susan. Susan was a long-time member of Naples Chapter of FNPS.

### Other Upcoming Local Events:

#### November 30<sup>th</sup> Florida Friendly Landscaping for Community Associations Workshop 1- 3 p.m. FREE EVENT.

Learn University of Florida's powerful principles for sustaining healthy landscapes. For more information and to register go to:

[http://collier.ifas.ufl.edu/calendar.shtml#November\\_2007](http://collier.ifas.ufl.edu/calendar.shtml#November_2007)

#### Friends of the Fakahatchee: Biologist-led Swamp Walk

**When:** Sat, November 11, 9:30am – 2:30pm

**Where:** Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park.

**Description:** Led by experienced park biologists, participants wade in cool water up to their waists for half a day observing the native wildlife and plants in the Fakahatchee Strand. For additional IMPORTANT information and to purchase tickets, please visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/friends-of-fakahatchee-4741210771?ref=eorgbtn>

## New Membership Form

**Renewals should be made via notices sent out by FNPS. This is done automatically. This membership blank is for new members only. Mail to FNPS/PO Box 278/ Melbourne FL 32902-0278, or go to [www.fnps.org/](http://www.fnps.org/)**

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail\_\_\_\_\_

Business\_\_\_\_\_

Chapter\_\_\_\_\_

## Membership Types

Student\_\_\_\_\_ \$15

Individual\_\_\_\_\_ \$35

Family/Household\_\_\_\_\_ \$50

Contributing\_\_\_\_\_ \$75  
(\$25 to Endowment)

Business\_\_\_\_\_ \$125

Non-Profit\_\_\_\_\_ \$50

Supporting\_\_\_\_\_ \$100

Donor\_\_\_\_\_ \$250

Lifetime\_\_\_\_\_ \$1000

Library (public/non-profit; subscription  
to *Palmetto* only)\_\_\_\_\_ \$15

FNPS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Your dues payment is tax deductible. To provide funds that will enable us to protect Florida's native plant heritage, please consider joining or renewing at the highest level you can afford.

The Florida Native Plant Society is registered as a charitable organization in Florida (Reg No. CH3021).