



ZAMIA

The Naples Chapter Newsletter
Florida Native Plant Society

October 2018

Upcoming Zamia Events:

Saturday October 13th

Annual Potluck!

Location: Freedom Park (1515 Golden Gate Pkwy, Naples)

Time: 5pm

RSVP: naplesnativeplants@gmail.com

(*please indicate what dish you plan on bringing to share)

Saturday October 20th

Field Trip: In Search for Orchids with Coccoloba Ft. Myers Chapter of FNPS

Location: Fakahatchee Strand Preserve Ranger Station (137 Coastline Dr, Copeland (Naples)).

Recommended gear: Long pants, long sleeves, water, mosquito repellent, close toed shoes (*Yes, we will likely be wading in water!)

Time: 10am

RSVP/Register: *Spaces are limited, register soon! FNPS members only**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/wade-the-fak-field-trip-hosted-by-coccoloba-chapter-fnps-tickets-35241609603> or call 239-273-8945

Tuesday, November 20 (Please note the November meeting will be the third Tuesday of the month)**

Presentation: Native Plant Landscaping

Presenter: Jenny Evans (Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation)

Location: Naples Botanical Garden Kapnick Center.

Feel free to bring a snack to share at 6:30pm. The presentation will begin at 7pm.

Board:

President – Daniel Cox;

danieljcox1990@gmail.com

Vice President – Karyn Allman;

yarn42@gmail.com

Secretary – Karyn Allman

Treasurer – *TBD

Newsletter: Karyn Allman;

yarn42@gmail.com

Chapter Representative to FNPS - Kara Driscoll

k.dreamflow@gmail.com

Director at Large- Chad Washburn;

cwashburn@naplesgarden.org

Director at Large – Brian Bovard

bbovard@fgcu.edu

Director at Large – Andee Naccarado,

andee225@gmail.com

Logo: Elizabeth Smith

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

For more info visit our website:

naples.fnpschapters.org

Follow us on Facebook!

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

A Message from the President

Last year was a great year! We learned a whole lot about how disturbance affects ecosystems and how some of our most cherished native plants require disturbance to thrive. We owe a special thanks to our dedicated Board Members who made it possible! They are, Patsy McDonald as President, Karyn Allman as Vice President, Mary Kate Rooney as Treasurer, Brian Bovard

as Director at Large, and Chad Washburn as Director at Large.

We are pleased to announce that this year Naples Botanical Garden has joined our Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society as a Non-Profit Member. Naples Botanical Garden (NBG) has served as a host site for our general meetings for years. If you have only visited the garden to attend our meetings, then you are missing out! Not only is NBG a wonderful place of beauty, it is also becoming a leading plant conservation organization for the tropics and subtropics. We thank them for their support and welcome them to the Chapter!

In late April 2018, the Naples Native Plants Board of Directors reached out to the membership for feedback about our programs and activities. We have used that feedback to help craft this season's upcoming meetings. In general, the schedule will feature alternating traditional meetings and field trips. Please refer to the listing of our presentations set forth in this newsletter for details.

Do you have ideas that could help make the chapter better and are willing to become involved? Let us know!

We hope to see you at the Potluck on Saturday, October 13th at Freedom Park! Be sure to bring a friend!

Danny Cox
President

OCTOBER IS NATIVE PLANT MONTH!

During the upcoming Naples City Council meeting on October 17th the City will make a Native Plant Proclamation. This is the fourth year that the City of Naples has encouraged residents of Naples to learn more about the environmental and cultural benefits of Florida native plants.

Please take this opportunity to tell your family, friends, and neighbors about native plants and the upcoming events this season with Naples Native Plants.

Yes, South Florida Has Seasons!

People often lament that there are no seasons in Florida, especially South Florida. I'll admit they are subtle, but they do exist. The big divide is wet vs. dry, but there are other changes as well. October is a transitional month - it may be wet, dry, or both.

It definitely gets noticeably cooler and drier after September. Though we can have hot and humid days all year, the relative humidity does drop in the fall, and it just doesn't "feel" like summer any more. We can turn off the air conditioning and open the windows again. What a liberation! Skies tend to be a more intense blue, as the summer haze disappears.

Another sign of autumn is the same as "up north." The asters start blooming. The *Elliott's Asters* in our front yard got so blown and burned by Irma that they may not bloom this year, but late summer and autumn definitely are glory time for many members of the *Asteraceae*.



Naples Native Plants Members with Ginny Stibolt, freelance writer, botanist, and experienced gardener at the September 20th event with Coccoloba Chapter in Ft. Myers.



Aster elliotii - Elliott's Aster

plant, and various pollinators love it.

Autumn is the time Florida's beautiful native grasses come into bloom.

The chalky-silver/blue-green blades of Elliott's Lovegrass, *Eragrostis elliotii*, make it lovely even out of bloom. In late summer to early fall it sends up hundreds of tall, delicate, multi-branched bloom stalks that first bear tiny flowers, and later multiple seed heads (spikelets). In full bloom the plant seems to be covered with a fine white or golden-beige mist. I don't water it, so it turns brown, and may even disappear during winter. Maybe this year I will water one clump to see whether the foliage will persist. It will make a clump about 2-3 feet wide and tall.



Elliott's Aster is a diminutive plant, with heads no larger than a dime. You need a clump to have any garden impact, but that is not hard given the plant's suckering habit. In fact, unless you have room to spare, you will be pulling out plants regularly to keep it within bounds. The plant occurs naturally in swampy or marshy places. It grows in a lower area of my garden, which stays moister than the rest, but is scarcely swampy unless we have a particularly wet summer. During the winter, when we get little rain, it may go dormant and disappear entirely, the way northern perennials do to survive cold weather. In spite of its eagerness to take over the garden, it really is a charming



The blooms of Pink Muhly Grass, *Muhlenbergia capillaris*, are even more delicate and diffuse than those of Elliott's Love grass. Muhly grass comes into bloom a little later, though the showy times overlap. Muhly grass is one of our most beautiful native grasses. It likes seasonal moisture with a winter dry-down, so it is perfect for my yard. It has a more vase-like form than Elliott's love grass, and also grows taller.

The rising or setting sun shining through the flowers gives a golden sheen to their pink/purple coloration - one of the many beautiful sights provided by Florida native plants.

To quote Morton C. Winsberg, *Florida Weather*. (University of Central Florida Press, 1990, page 26): "{Those} who find Florida's climate monotonous ...might learn to use criteria other than temperature to differentiate one season from another." There are lots of signs that summer is over - we just have to get outside and look around us.



Carphophorus corymbosus (Chaffhead) - A Florida Native Plant in the Aster Family

- Jeanette Atkinson, Naples FNPS member.

From her blog 'Florida Backyard Sketchbook'

<http://flbysb.blogspot.com/>

Other Local Events

Naples Yard & Garden Show UF/IFAS Collier County Extension

Come join us at the annual NAPLES Yard & Garden Show on Saturday Oct 20th from 9 a.m.-4 p.m and on Sunday Oct 21st from 10 am-3 pm. Due to Hurricane Irma this year's show will be at Collier County Museum 3331 Tamiami Tr E, Naples, Fl. There will be plant vendors, horticulture merchants, educational lectures and much more. Admission is \$5.00 per person (kids 12 and under free).

For more info call (239) 352-4800 or Facebook/Naples Yard and Garden Show

Delnor Wiggins Halloween Themed Nature Fest

Saturday, October 27, 2018
10:00 am - 3:00 pm
Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park
11135 Gulfshore Drive
Naples FL 34108

Free with regular park admission

The Nature Fest offers attendees a day filled with interactive and educational activities for adults and children of all ages. Visitors will learn about Southwest Florida native plants and wildlife and be able to participate in a variety of activities. Activities will include interacting with live animals; face painting; completing Adventure Passports; making Halloween-themed crafts from natural materials; paddle boarding courtesy of Naples Beach Adventures; and story time with local children's author James Zwerneman.

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/

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).