



ZAMIA

The Naples Chapter Newsletter
Florida Native Plant Society

October 2016

Upcoming Zamia Events:

Tuesday, November 8, 7 P.M. *Presentation:* Up on the Rooftop Ecosystems Grow: Native Species and Green Roof Design in SW Florida.
Location: Naples Botanical Gardens Kapnick Center.
Presenter: Eric Foht (Naples Botanical Gardens) and Brian Bovard (FGCU).
Feel free to bring snacks to share at 6:30pm!

Saturday, November 12th, 9-11 A.M. *FIELD TRIP.* Visit a Green Roof in Naples!
Location: Meet at the Naples Botanical Gardens Kapnick parking lot at 9 AM. 4820 Bayshore Drive.

*This trip is limited to Naples Chapter FNPS members only, maximum 8 people.
RSVP: Call Jean Roche at 330-730-1516 or email naplesnativeplants@gmail.com

Board:

President – Patsy McDonald;
patsymcfeld@gmail.com

Vice President – Karyn Allman;
yarn42@gmail.com

Secretary – Daniel Cox; danieljcox1990@gmail.com

Treasurer – Jonathan Jensen; JJofWianno@msn.com

Director At Large (Conservation Chair) – Andee Naccarato; andee225@gmail.com

Newsletter: Karyn Allman; yarn42@gmail.com

Chapter Representative to FNPS - Aimee Leteux;
paintedpony175@aol.com

Director at Large- Chad Washburn;
cwashburn@naplesgarden.org

Director at Large – Brian Bovard
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.*

For more info visit our website:

naples.fnpschapters.org

Follow us on Facebook!

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Naples-Chapter-of-the-Florida-Native-Plant-Society/165459220146254>

A Message from the President

The Board is pleased that the schedule of lectures and field trips are in your hands. We will be adding some additional field trips, lectures, workshops and expeditions. So check on Facebook and our Webpage.

Many thanks to Andee Naccarato for her informative lecture and organizing the field trip

to Six Mile Cypress Slough. It was a beautiful day and we had an excellent turn out. Go to our Facebook page to look at the pictures. It definitely opened more of my senses to the experience of being outdoors.

Upcoming events:

Please be sure to come to Green Door Nursery on **October 29th** to hear a lecture (cost \$8) and buy some plants. We get 10 percent of the sales proceeds. Following the lecture, please come to the **Pot Luck Picnic at Sugden Park Pavilion Three**. Bring enough to share!

Mini Banquet:

Please mark your calendars for **February 1, 2017**. The event will be held at the Beach Club located at 2900 Gordon Drive. Look it up on Google Maps - the Club has a rule that I cannot mention its full name. Chad Washburn (Deputy Director of the Naples Botanical Garden) will be giving a lecture on Landscaping with Native Plants. We will be serving wine, beer, refreshments and heavy hors d'oeuvre. Hopefully, this will be a successful effort to introduce ourselves to a larger community and raise some money for our programs. The suggested voluntary donation is \$50 per person. Invite your friends, it is a lovely setting. Specific RSVP information will be provided soon.

Field Trips, Cost and Expeditions:

While it is true that as a Chapter we don't charge for field trips for members, often the facility will charge a use fee. For example, the Forest Service charges \$2 per person for the trip to the Picayune Pump station. We are

responsible for collecting these fees.

Historically, our field trips have involved hikes and we relied on members to provide their own transportation. In the future we may plan more ambitious expeditions which would involve vehicle transportation such as buses or swamp buggies. We haven't yet firmed up such plans but if we did so, a reasonable cost would have to be requested of the participants.

Memberships:

Our success as a Chapter relies on our members. Your best way to recruit is to be personal. Four of my friends have joined just recently because they hear how excited I am to participate in this great organization. It is best to strike while the iron is hot and the easiest way to sign up new members is to go to the FNPS State webpage and use the button "**Join Now**". Help the new member input the correct information, especially selecting the "Naples Chapter".

Donations:

Chapters receive only a minimal amount from the State organization based on membership dues. In order to continue presenting our programs and expanding our projects to preserve and protect native plants, we need direct donations to our Chapter. I've asked several of my friends and families to donate to our chapter instead of giving presents. The easiest way to make a contribution to our Chapter is to go to our Facebook page and use the "**Donate Now**" button. Cash and checks are also appreciated - the check should be payable to "Naples Chapter FNPS".

--Patsy McDonald, President Naples Chapter FNPS

NATIVE PLANT OF THE MONTH



Saltgrass (*Distichlis spicata*)

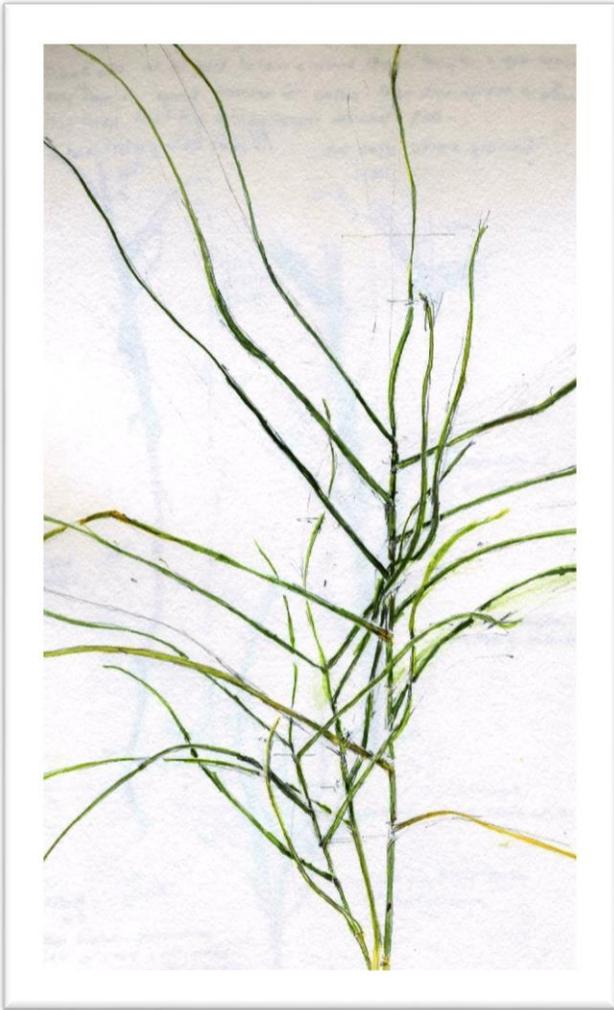
Distichlis spicata is a native perennial grass that grows in a variety of soils and elevations throughout much of the continental U.S. and Canada. Saltgrass tolerates not only high levels of alkalinity and salinity, but also oxygen-poor mucky soils. It also grows in freshwater situations. It takes drought well enough to be used as a lawn grass in western states, and the FNPS also recommends it as a turf-grass substitute. It does not grow well in shade.

Saltgrass is an important part of the marsh ecosystem. According to the US Forest Service, saltgrass is associated frequently with *Salicornia*, (glasswort), *Cladium* (sawgrass), *Juncus roemerianus* (black rush), and *Spartina* (cordgrass). It also occurs in large monocultures. Along with Black Rush it is dominant in the salt marshes of the Big Cypress Swamp. *Distichlis* also grows in fresh water environments. There is some debate over whether coastal and inland plants are the same or different species.

Saltgrass forms dense mats of finely-textured leaves and stems, which can grow to nearly 3 feet tall, but are more routinely 6 -16 inches. The alternate leaves can reach 10 centimeters in length. The plants are dioecious, meaning that individual plants produce either seed or pollen, but not both. Sometimes it grows in large patches of purely staminate or purely carpellate plants. It flowers and sets seeds several times during the summer growing season. The inflorescence is beige, and not showy. It usually is propagated by rhizomes and stolons, but there is some spread through seed dispersal.

In my yard, *Distichlis* grows at the bottom of a dry slope in all-day sun. It receives no direct irrigation, which most likely accounts for the fact that in approximately 15 years 2 small pots

left over from a talk on native grasses have spread to an area only about 7x13 feet. It doesn't seem to compete too well with drought-tolerant invaders like crabgrass, so some weeding is required to keep it attractive in these conditions. It turns brown in winter. It stays low enough that no mowing is required.



Saltgrass is the larval host of several skippers, including the salt marsh and obscure skippers in our area. It provides cover and nesting area for birds, small mammals, insects, spiders and reptiles, as well as marine invertebrates. Wildfowl eat the seeds and new growth. As it

decomposes, its "stored nutrients provide a steady source of food for clams crabs, and fish." *Distichlis* is also the alternate host for a type of red rust that infests spinach (Skaradek). In my yard mourning doves browse in it.

Depending on growing conditions, saltgrass has medium to high forage value. Its dense mat of roots and stolons enables it to tolerate grazing and trampling. The USDA factsheet reports, "Saltgrass along the Atlantic coast was the primary source of hay for the early colonists." Large parcels of public land and pastures are managed by fire. Lightning frequently starts fires in the salt marshes, and accordingly, large parcels are managed by periodic burning (Yarlett).

The pollen of saltgrass can cause some people respiratory distress. *Distichlis* pollen to treat respiratory allergies homeopathically is available on the Internet.

The US Forest Service considers it outstanding for controlling wind and water erosion, and it is an important part of coastal restoration projects. It also has promise for use on metal-contaminated soils, except those containing copper.

When it grows in saline conditions *Distichlis* excretes salt on both surfaces of the leaves.

The Ohlone people of California used it as a salt source (Labiste). The annual loss of cropland worldwide due to increasing salinity is an increasingly serious problem. It is caused by, among other things, population growth and excessive withdrawal of fresh groundwater. Because of its salt-excreting faculty, *Distichlis* possibly could be used in phytoremediation to reclaim agricultural soils.

In landscaping this grass would be a great buffer plant along seawalls, swales and lake edges. As mentioned, it is receiving growing interest as a turf alternative. Recommendations are to treat it like Bermuda grass.

--- Jeanette Atkinson, FNPS Naples Chapter

Sources:

Hasanuzzamen, Nahar, et al. "Potential Use of Halophytes to Remediate Saline Soils." Google to find article. Hyperlink not working.

Hauser. *Distichlis spicata*. US Forestry Service. The URL has been changed, and I have been unsuccessful in finding this article on the new site. Google "*Distichlis spicata*," and you will find it.

Labiste. "California Indians – The Ohlone Peoples: Botanical, Animal, mineral Resources. www.primitiveways.com.

Skaradek, Miller. USDA/NRCS Plant Fact Sheet. [Saltgrass *Distichlis Spicata* \(L.\) Greene](#)

Yarlett. *Common Grasses of Florida and the Southeast*. Florida Native Plant Society. 1996. p.107.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES!

Volunteer at the North Collier Regional Park

Collier County Parks and Recreation reached out to the Naples Chapter for assistance with updating an existing butterfly garden at North Collier Regional Park (15000 Livingston Rd). If you are interested in volunteering for this project, contact Andrea Naccarato (239-218-0802) for further details.

Celebrate
FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT MONTH
October 2016

For the second year in a row, the City of Naples made a Florida Native Plant Month proclamation for October! See our Facebook page for a copy of the Proclamation.



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

FNPS 2017 Endowment Grant Research Awards and Conservation Grant Awards

The Florida Native Plant Society maintains an **Endowment Research Grant** program for the purpose of funding research on native plants. These are small grants (\$1500 or less), awarded for a 1-year period, and 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 grants (\$5000 or less) are 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), click on 'Participate/Grants and Awards'. Questions regarding the grant programs should be sent to info@fnps.org.

Application deadline for the 2017 Awards is March 3, 2017. Awards will be announced at the May 2017 Annual Conference at the Westgate River Ranch Resort, River Ranch, Florida. Awardees do not have to be present at the Conference to receive award.

The Florida Native Plant Society 2017 Conference, "CONNECTIONS"

May 18-21, 2017

Join us on a safari to wild Florida at the 37th Annual Florida Native Plant Society 2017 Conference. You will see plants and plant communities found nowhere else in the world! Retreat to an ancient landscape of old beach ridges, wild prairies, panther habitat, and islands of subtropical trees in central-south Florida.

Our theme is "Connections" and our venue is located in the heart of the historic Everglades watershed.

We are in negotiations with world-class speakers, including Dr. Susanne Simard who has received great renown for her research on the underground networks in forests that are characterized by interconnected webs of fungi and roots that facilitate communication and interaction between trees and plants.

Amazing field trips will be offered within the Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge, including Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park, Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area, Lake Wales Ridge State Forest, Disney Wilderness Preserve, Lake Kissimmee State Park, KICCO Wildlife Management Area, Lake Arbuckle State Park, and South Florida Water Management District's Kissimmee River Restoration Project.

Reserve your lodging, RV and camping spots soon! There is a limited number of each room type available, so to make sure you get the accommodations you prefer and make your room registrations now. For the complete details and hotel contact information, visit our [2017 Conference website](http://www.fnps.org/conference/2017). (<http://www.fnps.org/conference/2017>)

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).