



# ZAMIA

The Naples Chapter Newsletter  
Florida Native Plant Society

December 2017

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## Upcoming Zamia Events:

### Tuesday December 12<sup>th</sup>, 7PM

**Presentation:** Freedom Park Stormwater Wetlands: Water Quality and Hydrology.

**Presenters:** Taylor Nesbit and Lauren Griffiths

These are two of Bill Mitsch's (Eminent Scholar and Director, Everglades Wetland Research Park) graduate students. Taylor is a student at FGCU getting her Masters Degree. Lauren is a graduate of FGCU and getting her PhD at the Univ. of South Florida.

**Location:** Kapnick Center at the Naples Botanical Garden.

Feel free to bring a snack to share at 6:30pm.

### Wednesday January 10<sup>th</sup>, 7PM

**Presentation:** Rx Fire: what is it good for...? Absolutely everything.

**Presenter:** Maulik Patel, Collier Seminole State Park

**Location:** Kapnick Center at the Naples Botanical Garden.

**\*\*\*Please note that the January monthly meeting is Wednesday night and not Tuesday.**

Feel free to bring a snack to share at 6:30pm.

**SAVE THE DATE!** Please plan to join us on **Tuesday February 13<sup>th</sup>** for a presentation by Reed Noss. Reed Noss is a Conservation Biologist who is a writer, photographer, and speaker. In 2017 he retired as a Provost's Distinguished Research Professor, Pegasus Professor, and Davis-Shine Professor at the University of Central Florida. He is active in the Florida Institute for Conservation Science and is an editor for the Journal of Natural History Education and Experience.

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## Board:

**President** – Patsy McDonald;  
patsymcfeld@gmail.com

**Vice President** – Karyn Allman;  
yarn42@gmail.com

**Secretary** – Daniel Cox; danieljcox1990@gmail.com

**Treasurer** – Mary Kate Rooney; mkr2222@gmail.com

**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** - Lewis Barrett  
lbarrett@naplesgarden.org

**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

Happy Holidays to all. I hope in this season of giving, members would consider going to our Facebook page and contribute even a token amount to our organization. Its only through our members involvement that we are able to fulfill our mission as part of the Florida Native Plant Society. I know Irma had a terrible impact on Naples ecosystem and residents. The community is still in recovery. As an organization we have the opportunity to advocate replanting using native plants and rely on your contributions to spread the message.

FYI - Here's a link to a plant atlas that you can use to identify Florida plants.

<http://florida.plantatlas.usf.edu>

I know I need all the help I can get when I am looking at natives. This is a link you can access on your phones.

*Recap* - We had a well-attended presentation on the impact of fire on the flora and fauna at the Archbold Biological Station in mid-November. We followed up with a very interesting trip to the Station. The most interesting thing I learned was that saw palmettos are clonal colonies that can be thousands of years old. Here's a link that describes it in detail.

<http://www.indefenseofplants.com/blog/2017/1/25/ancient-saw-palmettos-in-the-heart-of-florida>

Upcoming Presentations - On Tuesday, December 12th, we are having our regularly

scheduled meeting with a presentation by two FGCU students. We like to encourage young scientist to share their findings. Wednesday, January 10, we will continue with our theme of disruption in the ecosystem with a talk by Maulik Patel (Collier Seminole) on **RX Fire: What is it good for. . .? Absolutely everything!!**

Tuesday, February 13th is our premier event to be held at Naples Botanical Garden Cafe and Kapnick Hall. The Speaker will be Dr. Reed Noss (UCF) and the topic will be **Florida Needs Fire!** We will be sending invitations to members and non-members. Catering will be by Lurcat, heavy hors d'oeuvres and drinks will be served. Tickets will be sold for \$50.

Member Involvement - Sometime during the first week of January we are going to have a gathering at my house to celebrate the season and address envelopes for invitations to our Feb. 13th program. Stay tuned for further details.

Naples Garden Show - March 23 & 24, 2018. For the first time ever, we are going to have a display at the Naples Garden Show, Education Exhibits. This will give us a great opportunity to educate the public about the native plants, their importance in habitat and landscaping. We will be looking for volunteers to join us at the exhibit on Friday, March 23 and March 24. We will also be asking for members to help set up the exhibit on Wed March 22 and Thurs March 23. Stay tuned for further details.

Baker Park Update - We are partnering with the City of Naples as to the Native Garden within Baker Park. The main part of the Native

Garden will be a large hill overlooking the Gordon River. The Board has committed to paying for a sign describing the importance of native plants in the ecosystems and for landscaping purposes. Unfortunately, Irma has delayed construction on Baker Park so the garden will not be complete nor will the sign be erected until Spring 2019. However, this gives us lots of time to consider our input and involve members in this exciting project.

Best regards for a Happy Holiday Season.

Patsy McDonald  
President  
Naples Native Plants  
Naples Chap. FNPS

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## Meet the Naples Native Plant Board

*For the remainder of the 2017-2018 season, the Zamia newsletter will introduce you to a Board member.*



Lewis Barrett has lived in Naples for the past 12 years. He attended FGCU, pursuing a BS in Biology, and graduated in May of 2016. Lewis has worked as a Native Plant Specialist at the Naples Botanical Garden for the past year, and is a board

member of the Native Plant Society because of his interest in the conservation of local imperiled plant species.



Photo: Shirley Denton,  
<http://regionalconservation.org/beta/nfyn/plantdetail.asp?tx=melanive>

## Native Plant of the Month Snow squarestem (*Melanthera nivea*)

Regardless of the temperature outside, the arrival of the winter season elicits visions of snow. Without the hope of real snow falling from the sky, retail stores in Southwest Florida may decorate with cotton balls and paper snowflakes to put customers in the mood. Meanwhile, a native wildflower called snow squarestem provides natural wintery décor in the wilds of Big Cypress.

Like a little mound of shoveled snow, this wildflower produces a collection of white flowers (“florets”) the size of a nickel at the top of its stem. In fact, the white-as-snow appearance of the florets partially inspired the botanical name of this plant. Spanish speakers will easily translate the word *nivea* to mean “snowy.”

The second half of the botanical name, *Melanthera*, describes a structure within each

floret that is as black as coal. Just as melanin is a pigment that darkens our freckles, *Melanthera* describes dark-colored anthers, the flower structures that produce pollen. The black anthers sprinkled within the inflorescence of snow squarestem lead some to call this wildflower “salt and pepper.”

As with most things, the snow squarestem is not simply black or white. Before the blooming of the florets, the unopened buds blush as pink as cheeks in the cold. The outer ring of florets blooms first like a miniature white wreath. Whether the air feels balmy or chilly this winter’s day, consider exploring a wild preserve to discover a “snowy” gift.

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

### Other Upcoming Local Events

#### 2018 Moonlight on the Marsh Distinguished Lecture Series

Kapnick Center at Naples Botanical Garden

THURSDAY JANUARY 18, 2018 at 7PM.  
Xuechu Chen, Ph.D., Associate Professor, School of Ecological and Environment Sciences, East China Normal University, Shanghai, China and Jung-Chen Huang, Ph.D. Professor, School of Environmental Science and Engineering, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, China  
TITLE: “China’s management of the Yangtze River Delta and Shanghai coastline in response to climate change”

## 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/)**

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### 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)

