



FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Conservation Committee

Board of Directors Meeting

May 18, 2017

Westgate River Ranch, 5:30pm

Submitted by Juliet Rynear, Conservation Chair

Date: 5/12/2017

Chair: Juliet Rynear

Vice Chair: Annie Schmidt

Please welcome our newest committee member Linda Conway Duever. Linda was one of FNPS's founders and founder of the Paynes Prairie chapter. She served on the FNPS board for many years and has made numerous presentations at FNPS conferences and chapter meetings. She was the first Plant Ecologist for the Florida Natural Areas Inventory and developed the terrestrial and palustrine aspects of the FNAI Natural Community Classification, mapped the best examples, and wrote a series of Palmetto articles describing these communities and promoting scrub conservation. While Linda still does consulting work through Conway Conservation LLC, her primary focus now is developing Mockernut Hill Botanical Garden (MHBG) as a training center for management of Florida land trust properties and other small preserves. There, she burns, pulls weeds, plants seeds, and teaches Strategic Vegetation Management (SVM) methods employing understanding of plant ecology in land management. Linda has invited every FNPS chapter to come to MHBG for a field trip.

Members:

David George, Dr. Susan Carr, Steve Woodmansee, Dave Feagles, Jackie Rolly, Scott Davis, Richard Moyroud, Rosalind Rowe, Steve Dickman, Dr. Alan Franck, Dr. Shirley Denton, Jude Simpson, Jim Buckner, Todd Angel, Mike Jenkins, Margitta Claterbos, Jane Pope, Molly Taylor, Candace Arnold, Ann Johnson, Dr. Loran Anderson, Leigh Brooks, Dr. Amir Khoddamzadeh, Theresa Lutz, and David George.

Subcommittee for Dan Austin Award for Ethnobotany: Chris Lockhart, Winnie Said, Dr. Amir Khoddamzadeh, and Kristine Stewart.

Motion: to approve the pursuit of emergency funding (\$5,000 or more) to cover costs of relocation of intact sandhill species at the Castle Hill property (pending landowner consent) to FNPS partner sites (publically protected and managed sandhill restoration sites).

Background: similar to the Seminole State Forest Warea Tract, the Castle Hill site is one of only 4 remaining intact, biodiverse sandhill sites in central Florida on the Lake Wales Ridge. Only 2 of these sites are publically protected. Last year, FNPS received permission from the new landowner to collect seeds and cuttings of plant species prior to development. Since 2005, FNPS and Archbold Biological Station have documented more than 120 plant species at the site, 22 of which are endemic to Florida

and 10 of which are state and/or federally listed species. In June of 2016, the landowner's representative agreed to notify FNPS when development was imminent. At the present time, the representative no longer works for the landowner, and attorneys for the landowner are requesting a rezoning that will allow development of the entire property (no room for landscaping) and the rezoning of an FDOT water-retention pond for development, which would require more than ½ of the remainder of the property to be converted to a new FDOT water-retention pond. FDOT has approved the request.

Conservation Grants

- We received 8 applications for 2017. Please help me thank the following Committee members for reviewing the applications this year: Dr. Alan Franck, Michael Jenkins, Scott Davis, Dr. Susan Carr, Annie Schmidt, and Jim Buckner.
- On April 27th, the FNPS Board of Directors approved the Conservation Committee's recommendation to approve an award of in the amount of \$5,000 to Dr. Gary Knox for the project: "Exploration into the biology and ecology of the Florida-endangered *Magnolia ashei* (Ashe's magnolia)."

Dan Austin Award for Ethnobotany

- Following the latest advertisement of the Dan Austin Award for Ethnobotany in the most recent issue of the Palmetto, we are pleased to announce that nearly \$3,500 has been donated for the award and we will be able to offer it in 2018. The announcement and application are currently available on the FNPS website:
http://www.fnps.org/assets/pdf/awards/dan_austin_award_guidelines_final.pdf

Please help us thank the following supporters for their generous contributions:

Dick Workman
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Thomas Gire
Sarah Davis Dean
Sonya Guidry
Nature Coast Chapter of FNPS

US Fish & Wildlife Service – Florida Rare Plant Conservation Endowment (FRPCE)

The Temporary Board (TB) will have a telephonic conference with Andy Walker, President and CEO of the Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida (FWFF) on June 20th. The TB will address unknown management costs and the Foundation's lack of promotion of plant species. If the answers are satisfactory and approved by the TB, then the next step will be to meet with FWFF and hammer out a

legal framework for fiscal sponsorship. If the answers do not allay concerns, then National Tropical Botanical Garden (NTGB) will be approached and the process repeated.

About FFWF: <http://www.fishwildlife-florida.org/about-us/>

Andy Walker, President and CEO, who acts as the chief fund raiser, is a 28-year veteran of The Nature Conservancy and Bat Conservation International and has raised more than \$100 million in private and \$775 million in public funds over the course of his career.