



Announcing a Special FNPS Research Grant: The Barbara Grigg Grant **for the Study of Bryophytes, Pteridophytes, and Lichens**

The Florida Native Plant Society (FNPS) is excited to announce a **special grant opportunity outside of our regular funding cycle**, focused on advancing research into Florida's spore producing flora—including **bryophytes, lichens, ferns and fern allies**.

About the Grant

This special research grant is dedicated to the memory of **Dr. Barbara Grigg**, an extraordinary botanist, educator, and long-standing member of the Florida Native Plant Society. A devotee of Florida's lesser-known native plants, Barbara earned her Ph.D. in lichenology, writing her dissertation on *The Lichens of Florida*. She brought that same passion into her decades of service with FNPS.

Barbara joined the Florida Native Plant Society in the early 1990s and helped found the Lake Beautyberry Chapter in Lake County. Through her leadership and generosity, she guided the creation of a native plant garden at the Lake County Horticultural Learning Center, propagated hundreds of container-grown native species for FNPS members, and enhanced many public and private landscapes with rare and locally sourced plants. In 2012, she was honored with the **Green Palmetto Award for Education**.

Her influence extended far beyond horticulture. Barbara and her husband Tony volunteered for years at PEAR Park, where they restored native habitat, mentored new volunteers, and enriched species diversity with their homegrown collections. She was a beloved field trip leader, mentor, and friend—fondly known by many as the "*Beautyberry Botanist*."

Barbara's journey in botany took her from a Liberal Arts degree in Lakeland, to free courses in taxonomy at UF's Herbarium, a Master's from the University of Tennessee, and ultimately, a Ph.D. from Duke University. Her work, her spirit, and her vision for restoring Florida's native species and natural landscapes continue to inspire our mission.

This grant, offered outside of our regular cycle, will honor Barbara's personal research interests by funding a two-year project focused on the study of bryophytes (mosses, liverworts and hornworts), pteridophytes (ferns and fern allies) or lichens. This targeted research grant recognizes the vital ecological role these little-known and understudied plant groups play in supporting Florida's natural systems. The selected project must advance our understanding of the life history and ecology, conservation, or restoration of these species in nature.

This one-time special grant will provide \$5,000 per year for two consecutive years to a single researcher, for a total of \$10,000 in funding.



Research Focus Areas May Include:

- Life history and/or ecology
- Educational or citizen science-integrated research
- Species inventories and/or occurrences in under-surveyed areas
- Population studies or mapping of rare or endemic species
- Autecological study of community associations, or indicator species roles
- Threat assessments and conservation prioritization
- Taxonomic or phylogenetic studies, including DNA barcoding
- Role as bioindicators in air quality assessments or climate change impacts

Who Should Apply?

- Academic and independent researchers
- Graduate students with faculty sponsors
- Nonprofits or agencies working in collaboration with specialists

Collaborative and inclusive projects, especially those involving early and mid-career scientists, students, or community engagement, are strongly encouraged.

Grant Summary

- **Amount:** \$5,000/year × 2 years = \$10,000 to cover direct costs. Salaries can be covered by this grant if they are directly tied to the specific activities of the project. General administrative salaries are not covered.
- **Awarded to:** One selected 2 year project
- **Deadline to Apply:** September 15, 2025
- **Deliverables:** A final report and presentation to FNPS members, an annual summary of research activities/findings, submission of an article for publication in the *Palmetto* and an overview presentation at the 2027 FNPS Biennial Conference.

Why This Grant Matters

Bryophytes, pteridophytes and lichens are known to be sensitive indicators of environmental stress and change, yet have received insufficient attention among botanical researchers. By increasing our knowledge of these species in Florida, FNPS can strengthen our ability to advocate for whole-ecosystem conservation, protect hidden biodiversity, and support the ecological resilience of our native landscapes.



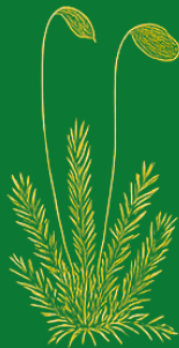
 **Apply Now**

Applications and full details are available at <https://www.fnps.org>

Questions? Contact us at info@fnps.org



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SPECIAL RESEARCH GRANT
BRYOPHYTES, PTERIDOPHYTES, & LICHENS



Apply: www.FNPS.org

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