



THE NATURE COASTLINE

Nature Coast Chapter meetings, field trips, and activities are open to FNPS members and the public alike. Monthly meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at St. Marks Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall located at 7922 State Road 52 in Hudson(34667). (One mile west of Little Road on the south side of SR 52 next to St. Michael's Catholic Church). Parking for the Fellowship Hall is at the rear of the property.

Executive Committee meetings will be held the 4th Tuesday at 6 p.m. at the New Port Richey Library, 5939 Main St. in New Port Richey, 34652. Meetings are open to all members; ask at the circulation desk for room location.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

May 11th Meeting: "The Real Florida - Wild Beauty" presented by Katie MacMillen, Recreation Leader-Environmental Educator for Pasco Cty Environmental Lands Program

Central Florida's unique position leads to an amazingly wide variety of biological species of native plants, insects, birds, reptiles and amphibians, freshwater and marine life. Katie is bringing us a slide show program that will be the best-of-the-best of photos taken over a number of years by local photographer Anne-Marie Prokopiak. The plant photos focus largely on native plants, with a few non-natives as well. The program is accompanied by gentle, Hawaiian slack-key guitar. Come join us for this beautiful program, enjoy some refreshments and perhaps take home a native plant.

May 16th Field Trip: Sun. at 9 a.m.: Brooker Creek Preserve: see page 2 for details.

May 20th-23rd FNPS 30th Annual Conference "Rooted in History, Forever Blooming" at the Leon County Civic Center, 505 W. Pensacola St., Tallahassee, FL 32301

Phone: 850-222-0400 This conference honors our FNPS history and celebrates the plants, people and places of Tallahassee and the Big Bend Region. Hotel is the DoubleTree Hotel. Call 850-224-5000 for reservations. Ask for FNPS discounted rate of \$90 w/o tax until May 8th. For more details see chapter bulletin board or go to www.fnps.org for information on field trips, tours, workshops, and program of speakers and special meetings.

June 8th Meeting: "Gardening for Butterflies" by Marilyn Smullen, Nature Coast Chapter member and a past president of Pasco Cty Master Gardeners.

A Master Gardener for 13 years, Marilyn will tell us about how she became a butterfly gardener many years ago. Her store bought plants kept dying and there were few local books for reference except Craig Huegel's Butterfly Gardening with Florida's Native Plants. She found the help she needed in the Native Plant Society and slowly landscaped her yard for butterflies. As a Master Gardener she also helped with the development of the butterfly garden at the Hudson Regional Library on Fivay Road.

June 13th Field Trip: Sunday at 9am: A visit to Julie Wert's yard in Aripeka and nearby Boat Springs property: - details page 2.



Welcome New Members! : Mark Hardies, Diane Prekup, Johanna Lane, Robert & Patricia Liegel **Renewed Members: Rosemary Coyle, Paul Francois, Pat Kelly, Janice Howie, Nikki Janosch, Joyce Monahan, William Oehlecker, Becky Schaffer, Jennifer Seney, Lucy Shaw, Anne Schmidt and John Stites**



Announcement - Position opening: CHAPTER NEWSLETTER EDITOR:
Contact Mary Horan - she will help her replacement with learning how to do this but needs to step down after 5 years. This new format is usable in Word and can be sent in a .doc or pdf format making it possible for anyone to do the newsletter.

CHAPTER CONTACT INFORMATION:

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Field Trip Information

May 16th Field Trip: Sunday - 9am: Brooker Creek Preserve: A good place to see some of Florida's Wild Beauty is at Brooker Creek Preserve, an 8500 wilderness area in the northeast corner of Pinellas County. Our May field trip will be led by Carl & Kathleen Nichter, Interpretative Guides for Brooker Creek and Florida Master Naturalists. We will do the Flatwoods trail which is 1.5 miles long and using their plant survey list will look for Florida native plants. They will also tell us some of the history of this beautiful park. We will meet at the Education Center near the parking area. Directions: The Preserve is located at 3940 Keystone Road (CR 582), Tarpon Springs, FL 34688. Those coming on their own can go to: www.brookercreekpreserve.org for detailed directions. Those carpooling can meet behind Burger King at US 19 and Moog Rd. in Holiday at 8:30 a.m.

June 13th Field Trip: Sunday - 9 am: A visit to Julie Wert's yard & nearby Boat Springs

Julie's 5 acre property in Aripeka has diverse habitat and late-blooming wildflowers to attract butterflies. We will also tour the nearby Boat Springs property, a potential joint purchase by the Hernando and Pasco Counties Environmental Lands Programs. Afterwards we'll have a picnic; bring a dish to share. If needed we can shelter from heat or rain under her stilt house. Meet at 9 a.m. at Julie's; directions provided at the monthly meeting, in the e-mail reminder or call 727-863-1363.

Upper Cotee River Preserve Project: Volunteers Needed
Spring Planting Day! Saturday, April 17, 9 AM till finished.

Our chapter will add dozens of flowering perennials and groundcovers, plus some shrubs and flowering trees, to complete our landscape project for the front yard of the nature center. Please call or email Peggy Gretchen at 813-991-4812 or herculesmpg@earthlink.net so she will know how many people are coming!



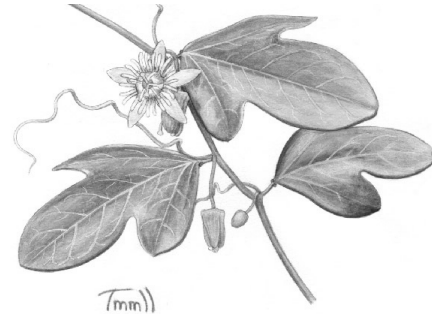
CORKYSTEM PASSION-VINE

by Peggy A. Gretchen, FNPS Member, Pasco MasterGardener

Botanical Name: *Passiflora suberosa*

Common Name: Corkystem or Corky-stemmed
Passion-Vine or Passionflower

Family: Passifloraceae (Passionflower)



Type of Plant: Native herbaceous perennial vine, twining by axillary tendrils, and with smaller greenish flowers and purple-black fruits, versus the more common and showy *Passiflora incarnata*, or Maypop, which has large purple flowers and yellow fruits. Will spread by self-sown seed or slowly by root suckers. **Height:** Prostrate or climbing. **Spread:** 3 – 15 ft.

How to Identify: **Leaves:** Alternate, entire or 3 – lobed. **Flowers:** Usually solitary in the leaf axils, yellow-green with some purple; petals lacking; about ½ in. wide. **Flowering Time:** Late spring – summer into fall; year-round in south Florida. **Fruit:** Purplish-black berry when mature in summer; edible (similar in size and shape to an olive).

Habitat: Hammocks, pinelands, rockland pinelands, coastal strand, shell middens, roadsides and ruderal (disturbed) sites.

Distribution: Nearly throughout Florida, primarily in the southern 2/3rds of the peninsula. **Hardiness Zones:** 8B – 11.

Landscape Use / Wildlife Benefit: Well-suited as a groundcover in sunny or shady sites or as a climbing vine on trellis, arbor, or fence. Larval host plant for the Zebra (formerly known as Zebra Longwing, Florida's state butterfly), Gulf Fritillary, and Julia butterflies. The fruits also attract birds. May be grown in large containers.

Cultivation: Easily grown in a wide variety of sites. **Soil:** Most any well-drained, acid to alkaline. Prefers fertile, organic soils, but tolerates poor, sandy soils. **Light:** Full sun – full shade; will flower and fruit better with at least partial sun. **Water:** Dry to moist. Do not overwater! Drought-tolerant and will survive on rainfall once established (Note: vines may take up to 3 years to establish). **Miscellaneous:** Prune as needed to control size. Does not tolerate regular mowing. Salt-tolerant. Dies back each winter and regrows each spring – with a passion!

Propagation: By seed (may take months to germinate), by root or stem cuttings, or by layering,

Availability: See your Association of Florida Native Nurseries (AFNN) Directory!

References:

Nelson, Gil, *Florida's Best Native Landscape Plants*, Gainesville, Florida, University Press of Florida, 2003.

Osorio, Rufino, *A Gardener's Guide to Florida's Native Plants*, Gainesville, FL, Univ. Press of FL, 2001.

Taylor, Walter Kingsley, *Florida Wildflowers in their Natural Communities*, Gainesville, Florida, University Press of Florida, 1998.

Trass, Pamela F., *Gardening for Florida's Butterflies*, St. Petersburg, Florida, Great Outdoors Publishing Company, 1999.

Wunderlin, Richard P., *Guide to the Vascular Plants of Florida*, Gainesville, Florida, University Press of Florida, 1998.

Report: Nature Coast Coalition Meeting by Jan Howie, Secretary NCC

On Sat., Feb. 27th I attended the third meeting of the Nature Coast Coalition. The coalition consists of several environmental organizations in the Nature Coast (from Wakulla Cty in the North to Pasco Cty in the South) who have come together to support each other with the environmental causes in their respective regions, and to bring a unified effort in support of the causes that we all share, such as off-shore oil drilling, clean water, Florida Forever, and managed growth. The idea is that the force of several voices together is more powerful than one or two alone.

Sue Mullins, lobbyist for FNPS and several other environmental groups, spoke and was very impressive not only in her knowledge of the functioning of the State Legislature but also of environmental issues facing the State. To influence our Legislature she suggested to visit the legislator in person when he/she is in town or write a personal letter that is brief and in big font. FAX's are good because staffers can't delete them or to ignore a lot of paper coming in. Group e-mails have little effect. It is better to write a personal e-mail message of 1-2 sentences and put "I support..." in the subject heading. Legislators read newspaper blogs, so it is good to blog to articles and editorials in them. They are all on Facebook and read what people write to them, as well as watch U-Tube videos. Extremely important issues will face the Legislature this session; we can try using these suggestions to have our voices heard.

Be sure to check out the new Nature Coast Coalition website: naturecoastcoalition.org. There are beautiful photos of the nature coast by nature photographer, Eric Zamora, and it is a great place to get informed about issues facing us.

“The purpose of the Florida Native Plant Society is the preservation, conservation, and restoration of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida.”

Nature Coast Chapter of FNPS

Newsletter Publication

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**NEXT NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE: June 13th**

