



July-August 2011

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, Hudson, 34667. The hall is one mile west of Little road on the south side of State Road 52 next to St. Michael's Catholic Church. Parking for the Fellowship Hall is at the rear of the property. Executive Committee meetings are held on the 4th Tuesday at 6 p.m. at the New Port Richey Library, 5939 Main St. in New Port Richey, 34652. Executive Committee meetings are open to all members; ask at the circulation desk for room location.

Meetings and Events:

July 12th Meeting: Annual Open Forum: Chapter members are the speakers this month as they share what garden activities they have been involved with this past year and any special yard, community or environmental projects, or problems they have tackled. Visitors are invited to come listen, bring in questions about their yard, or just enjoy the snacks!

Field trip: Sunday July 17th, 9:30am to 12pm Tom Ungaro's yard at 7521 Kickliter Lane, in the Wilderness subdivision in Land o Lakes and Cypress Acres Nursery 8632 Ehren Cutoff Rd in Land o Lakes. As members of the NPS all know, gardening with natives is one way we can help offset the loss of natural areas. (contd p.2...)

August 9th meeting: Dr. Robert L. Knight will speak to the Nature Coast Chapter. His presentation entitled "Florida Springs--The Original Native Plant Community" will cover Florida's water needs, the ecology of the spring systems, threats to the springs that include nutrient issues, and what needs to be done to restore these precious Florida resources. Springs and spring fed rivers provide an essential water source for Florida residents, untold hours of recreation for kayakers and canoeists, fishermen, tubers, and those who just wish to appreciate their beauty. They also provide a warm haven for manatees during the winter months. (contd p.4...)

August 13th Chapter Potluck Picnic at Gulf Harbor Beach Club: Saturday 11am til 2pm or later. Families are welcome, bring a dish to share and there will be a sign up at the June and July chapter meetings. The beach has shelters that are shaded and picnic tables under the shelters. If you want to sit in the sun, bring your own beach chairs. There are restrooms and changing rooms available. (contd p.4...)

Welcome new members: Bruce Garley, Marie Bryce.
Renewed members: Marjorie & Bert Golub, Pat Kelly,
Gail & Colleen McGlone, Donald & Marilyn Pratt,



Chapter contact information:

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Program Coordinator: ([open position](#))

We still need a Program Coordinator! Please consider making a modest donation of your time to our chapter and volunteer to do this important job.

Chapter website: pasconativeplants.org

Field trip: Sunday July 17th (contd...)

This month we can see a suburban yard that is Florida Friendly incorporated with native plants, fits into a subdivision and brings life, vitality, and beauty to an otherwise ordinary neighborhood. Tom Ungaro, master gardener, has worked with his Homeowners Association to transform his ordinary yard to a wonderful native garden.

Dave Barnard of Cypress Acres Nursery has the plants to get the job done. So after getting ideas from Tom's garden we will be able to buy some plants to add to our own gardens. Dave specializes in 1 gallon flowering natives as well as a few non-native butterfly plants. He will be on hand with descriptions and advice. Plants will be available for \$3.00 each.

Directions to Tom Ungaro's home at 7521 Kickliter Lane: Take SR 52 to US 41, turn south on US41 to the Wilderness subdivision, which is directly across from Land I Lakes High School, make a left into the subdivision and travel 1 mile to Kickliter Lane. Tom's house is on the left. From Tom's house to Cypress Acres Nursery we leave Kickliter Lane and turn LEFT, travel to Ehren Cutoff, make a left on Ehren Cutoff and a right at Cypress Acres Nursery at 8632 Ehren Cutoff Rd.

Plant profile:

Frog-fruit

by Peggy A. Gretchen, FNPS Member, Pasco Master Gardener

Botanical Name: Phyla nodiflora, Lippia nodiflora

Common Name: Frog-fruit, Turkey Tangle Frogfruit, Matchheads, Matchweed, Carpetweed, Capeweed

Family: Verbenaceae (Vervain)

Type of Plant: Native evergreen, prostrate, creeping, flowering perennial wildflower / groundcover. **Height:** Rarely more than 4 – 6 in. **Width:** Often forming extensive mats.

How to Identify:

Leaves: Small, dark-green or purplish, opposite, stalked, oblanceolate to obovate or spatulate, smooth, margins toothed near the apex, base tapered. Stems prostrate, creeping, rooting at the nodes, often streaked with or entirely purple.

Flowers: Small, purplish-white or pinkish-white, in tight, long-stalked heads., arising from the leaf axils or at the end of a branch. **Flowering Time:** All year. Mostly in summer – fall.

Fruit: Dry, separating into 2 nutlets.

Habitat: Damp, sandy soils – beaches, hammocks, and disturbed sites such as ditches and wet lawns.

Distribution: Throughout Florida.

Landscape Use / Wildlife Benefit: Excellent low-growing groundcover for open, moist, sandy areas. Will attract butterflies! Larval host plant for the common buckeye, phaon crescent, and white peacock butterflies. Nectar plant for many small to medium size butterflies. Try growing one in a hanging basket!

Cultivation:

Soil: Sandy.

Light: Full sun (best) – light shade.

Water: Dry – wet. Prefers moist.

Propagation: By stem cuttings. Will also root at the stem nodes.

Availability: See your AFNN (Association of Florida Native Nurseries) Directory or www.afnn.org!

References:

Daniels, Jaret C., Your Florida Guide to Butterfly Gardening, Gainesville, Florida, University Press of Florida, 2000.

Taylor, Walter Kingsley, The Guide to Florida Wildflowers, Dallas, Texas, Taylor Publishing Co., 1992.

Tobe, Dr. John D. et al., Florida Wetland Plants An Identification Manual, Tallahassee, Florida, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, 1998.

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

August 9th meeting: Dr. Robert L. Knight (contd...)

Dr. Knight is currently a consulting environmental scientist, an adjunct professor in the Department of Environmental Engineering Sciences at the University of Florida, and the founder and director of the Howard T. Odum Florida Springs Institute. This is a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting the springs science necessary for the restoration and wise management of these systems. He has many published articles and is the author of the book, Treatment Wetlands.

August 13th field trip (contd...)

Swimmers should be aware that it is rocky getting in the water, so you may want to bring water shoes. You are allowed to bring alcoholic beverages, but there are very strict rules about no glass on the beach. Come for a day of food, fun, and if you desire, water and sun. Directions: Take 19 to Florimar and turn west. Florimar is between Trouble Creek to the south and Marine Parkway to the north. Follow Florimar all the way to the Gulf. It makes a sharp right turn at one point. You will come to the huge houses and the road circles. The entrance to the Beach Club is on the circle. Tell the guard at the gate that you are there for the Native Plant party. We will be in the large shelter towards the north part of the beach. If we have a large turn out, we may have to car pool so that we don't occupy too many parking spaces on the beach.

Chapter announcements:

From Chapter President Julie Wert:

As usual the 2011 Conference had something for everyone. The silent auction, chapter merchandise and various vendors gave us plenty to peruse between speakers. The best shopping was the plant vendors with an excellent selection of unusual and hard to find plants for sale. There was a wide choice of field trips, and of course, the business of the Society and the social events.

The Conference also had a variety of speakers and topics for a wide range of interests. The plenary speaker on Saturday was Mari Margil from the Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund (CELDF). Her message was powerful and encouraging.

Mari told us how our current laws make environmental harm possible by codifying it under the authority of the Commerce Clause, which grants exclusive authority over "interstate commerce" to Congress. Environmental protection cannot be attained under a structure of law that treats natural communities and ecosystems as property. (contd..)

CELDF has assisted communities to craft and adopt new laws that change the status of natural communities and ecosystems from being regarded as property under the law to being recognized as rights-bearing entities. Mari spoke of communities and cities that the CELDF has helped rewrite laws to grant rights to the ecosystems that sustain them and give the people that live there the right to protect them.

The CELDF helped Ecuador to re-write that country's constitution. Ecuador became the first country in the world to codify a new system of environmental protection based on rights,

leading the way for countries around the world to make this necessary and fundamental change in how we protect nature. Read about their work at <http://www.celdf.org/>

Don't forget to check out the FNPS online shop at

<http://floridanativeplantsociety.mybigcommerce.com/> . You can find that FNPS tee shirt or hat you've wanted while helping raise funds for FNPS!

Celebrating Our Public Lands Along Florida's Nature Coast by Joe Murphy

Joe Murphy is a conservation campaign consultant for non-profit groups in Florida. He and his family live in Florida's Nature Coast.

It is more important than ever to celebrate the natural wonders of our public lands. Florida's rich natural heritage is woven through the wild places that all of us own together, and that are managed for us in trust by our local, state, and federal governments. These amazing natural places, places that define what it means to be a Floridian, are the birthright of every Floridian and belong to future generations as they belong to us.

My wife and I recently adopted two children and one of the most incredible and enjoyable things our new family has shared together is time spent exploring and enjoying our public lands. These places helped our new family bond, and helped introduce our children to their natural heritage.

The legacy being passed to them was passed to me by my parents and grandparents. I want my children to see a Florida Black Bear in the wild; I want them to fish clean waters, hike through longleaf pines, hear birds and frogs calling, and pass those experiences on to their children.

We should all work to ensure that our public lands are valued and protected, and that our grandchildren know the Florida our grandparents knew. Each generation must protect the right of the next generation to know and love natural Florida.

Anyone who hunts, fishes, paddles, sails, snorkels, birds, rides horses, hikes, or otherwise recreates on our public lands understands what an incredible resource they are and how valuable they are. We must continue the work to acquire new public lands and manage our current public lands for their highest conservation value.

Our public lands provide tremendous public benefits at little cost to Floridians. They help filter our water, protect our communities from flooding, provide critical habitat for wildlife that we love, and create economic activity through recreation and eco-tourism.

In the Nature Coast they provide some of the best and most sustainable (contd...) economic development opportunities we have. People come here to explore and enjoy nature and the amazing mosaic of wetlands, uplands and sandhills, rivers, and coastlines we are blessed with. Our public lands nourish our spirits, and our economy.

Let us resolve to spend more time outside under the sun or the moon and in and on the waters, trails, and back roads of our public lands. Let's take our kids out into the woods and share with them all the wonders of nature. Our public lands are our children's public lands, and they bind generations together in a shared love of nature. All of us have the responsibility to be good stewards of our public lands, and future generations will thank us for protecting their natural heritage.



Photos from Julie Wert: (left) McKethan Lake field trip and (right) May field trip finds members grouped around "Joan," the art of the yard of Chris Storch.

Paul's May album: goo.gl/VEc5l

Field Trips are really fun times! You learn a lot about native plants and the group often goes out for lunch too! If driving is a problem check with Jonnie ,our field trip coordinator, and she can often connect you to a driver.

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



FNPS Website: www.fnps.org
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Nature Coast Chapter of
the Florida Native Plant Society
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