



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

July 13th Meeting: "Orchid's of Florida" presented by Don "Woody" Wood

Don, a past president of the Orchid Society of West Pasco, is a land surveyor who got interested in orchids in 1978 and has been working with them ever since. He will talk about native Florida orchids as well as those you can grow in your own back yard, discuss ways to grow them, bring in different growing mediums, and have orchids and supplies for sale. Bring your questions to this interesting program.

July 18th Field Trip: Sunday trip to Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary in Naples, FL to see the "Ghost Orchid" and it's environment.

see page 2 for details. Those planning to go should put their name on the sign up sheet or call 727-849-2335 so we can give the Sanctuary staff a number estimate.

August 10th 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, 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!

August 15th Field Trip: Sunday at 10 a.m.m: A visit to Maria Valentine's Yard

- details page 2.

September 25th: Nature Coast Chapter Fall Native Plant Sale: Saturday from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Founders Day Celebration at Sims Park in downtown New Port Richey. see page 4 for more information or contact Coordinator Julie Wert at 727-863-1363 or by e-mail at: aripekajule@verizon.net



Renewed Members: Marjorie & Burt Golub, Ann Farrow Johnson, Brightman Logan, Naomi Love, Ted Nenninger, Donald & Marilyn Pratt, Maria Valentine

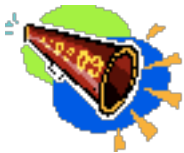
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Announcement - Position opening: CHAPTER NEWSLETTER EDITOR:

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. The lack of interest is disappointing and may mean the end of our newsletter.

Field Trip Information

July 18th Field Trip: Sunday - Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary in Naples, Florida:

Paul Francois will lead our group to see the Ghost Orchid and other native orchids, plants, birds and other sanctuary wildlife. Entrance fee is \$10 a person/\$5 for current Audubon members. Things are laid out along boardwalks so walking is easy, but bring head covering, sunscreen and bug spray. We will bring a cooler for beverages and can eat in the picnic area or you can get snacks in a vending area. Carpooling: We will meet behind Burger King at US 19 & Moog Rd. at 7 a.m.; please use the sign up sheet at the meetings so we have an accurate head count or call 727-849-2335 to get on the list; Carpool drivers will be reimbursed for gas by the chapter. Estimate 9-10 hours for the entire trip. See Website: www.corkscrew.audubon.org for more details on the Sanctuary.

August 15th Field Trip: Sunday - 10 am: A visit to Maria Valentine's yard

Maria's small yard backs on a shallow lake, which has varied, mostly native vegetation, and provides habitat for many species of insects, birds, amphibians, reptiles and several mammals. The yard itself is mostly shaded under oaks, dry, with some seasonal sunny areas. Maria has been adding native plants for 3 years, and now has a butterfly/hummingbird garden covering the entire front yard. Some should still be in bloom in August. Tour will begin at 10, and will take less than one hour. Visitors are welcome to bring lunch and drinks and eat inside after the tour--or out on the deck if it's not too hot. Bring binoculars for birding and dragonfly/butterfly watching. Carpool: Because of limited parking, carpooling is necessary. To carpool, meet by 9:40 at Winn-Dixie on the SE corner of Moon Lake Road and SR52. We will also shuttle as needed. and directions will be given to carpool drivers.

SPIDER ORCHID by Peggy A. Gretchen, FNPS Member, Pasco MasterGardener

Botanical Name: *Habenaria odontopetala*, *H. floribunda*

Common Name: Spider Orchid, Toothed Rein Orchid, Toothpetal False Reinorchid,
Mignonette Orchid

Family: Orchidaceae (Orchid)

Type of Plant: Native perennial colonial terrestrial orchid; slowly spreading by seed, or by plantlets produced at ends of roots if growing conditions are favorable. **Height:** 12 – 24 in. **Width:** Individual plants narrow.

How to Identify: Leaves: Alternate, simple, smooth, elliptic to lanceolate on an erect, smooth stem.

Flowers: Small, whitish-green to yellowish-green, in densely flowered terminal, cylindrical racemes. 3 inner petals, with 2 obscure teeth (dentate), and with lowermost petal or lip unlobed and narrowly spoon-like. A slender, up to 1 in., tubular projection or spur, called a “rein”, curves downward behind the lip. 3 outer sepals: wing-like lateral sepals and a cup-shaped or hooded dorsal (rear) sepal. **Flowering Time:** Fall – winter (late August – February). **Fruit:** An ellipsoid capsule which splits to release dust-like seeds.

Habitat: Common in moist to wet pine flatwoods, hammocks, and swamps.

Distribution: Widespread throughout central and south Florida. Also Mexico, West Indies, and Central America. **Hardiness Zones:** 8 – 10.

Landscape Use: If you can purchase or propagate this lovely native orchid, grow it in a moist and shady spot; give it some room to spread. Look for it in hammocks and wetland areas on field trips!

Cultivation: Soil: Prefers rich, organic soils. **Light:** Part shade- full shade. **Water:** Moist to wet.

Miscellaneous: Will spread vegetatively if given adequate space, and form large clumps or colonies.

Propagation: By seeds or division

Comment: There are 5 Florida native species of *Habenaria* or False Reinorchids. *H. odontopetala* is common in Pasco County. Other species include *H. nivea*, *H. quinqueseta*, *H. repens*, and (rare, southwest Florida only) *H. distans*.

References:

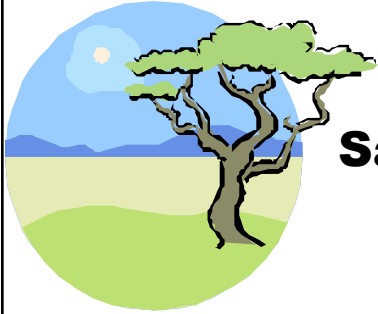
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Wunderlin, Richard P., Guide to the Vascular Plants of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, University Press of Florida, 1998.



Nature Coast Chapter

Fall Native Plant Sale

**Saturday, Sept. 25th - 10 a.m.- 4 p.m.
at Founders Day Celebration**

in Sims Park, downtown New Port Richey

Location: by West Pasco Historical Society

Staff Volunteers needed; see signup sheet at August meeting

Our booth, in front of the West Pasco Historical Society, will provide educational literature besides selling native plants, wildflower seeds and books. This has become an annual event for our chapter and provides an opportunity to add more native plants to your landscape while we are still benefitting from seasonal rains. There will be time to browse Sims Park and enjoy the fellowship of other members. This is a really enjoyable event.

“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

5249 Bougenville Drive

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**NEXT NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE: Aug. 1st**

