



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

September 14th Meeting: Botany Basics: Identifying and Keying Out Plants. It's Not Hard!

Presented by Anne Schmidt, MS, Botany & Conservation Biology, past President of our chapter and Policy and Legislative Chair for FNPS. Come learn the basic botany terminology and steps that will help you to identify and key out Florida's native plants. You CAN talk the talk and Annie can make it fun and interesting!

September 18th Field Trip, Saturday at 9am: Honeymoon Island State Park, Pinellas Co.

Note: Saturday trip! Honeymoon Island ensures there will always be interesting flora and fauna to see, such as love vine, gray nickerbean, ospreys and gopher tortoises. Our field trip leader will be Carmel VanHoek who will guide us through the use of a plant ID key to identify plants. She says there will be lots of nice ones to see in September. Plan on bringing a sack lunch and your bathing suit, and we'll take a dip and have a beach party! **details page 2..**

September 25th: Nature Coast Chapter Fall Native Plant Sale:

Saturday from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. ROCKtemberfest Fall Festival (formerly the 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

October 12th Meeting: The Beauty of Florida's Sandhill Community

Presented by Craig Huegel, PhD, member of Pinellas Chapter of FNPS, author of Butterfly Gardening With Florida's Native Plants and Florida Plants for Wildlife, former Administrator of Pinellas County's Environmental Lands Division from 1992-2004, and environmental consultant. Dr. Huegel will provide an in-depth look at one of Florida's most beautiful natural communities; the Florida Sandhill. Sandhills are one of the most diverse ecosystems in North America, but are now globally imperiled. Join us for a very visual tour of some of its most interesting plants and wildlife.

October 17th Field Trip: Sunday at 10 a.m: Aripeka Sandhill in Hudson, FL

Carpooling: Meet at 9:30 a.m. at Save-A-Lot in the northeast corner strip mall at the corner of US 19 and SR 52. Directions: We will meet at 10 a.m. at the front gate on CR 595. (Continued...)



New Members: Bob Schmidt

Renewed Members: Theresa Dillon, Daniel Meahl (thanks!)

Notice to members: The chapter needs you! There are important jobs that need to be delegated to members like you: currently we need a field trip planner. Email addy's below..

CHAPTER CONTACT INFORMATION:

CHAPTER WEBSITE: www.pasconativeplants.org

OFFICERS:

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Field Trip Coordinator: (open position)

CHAIRPERSONS:

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Field Trip Information

September 18h Field Trip, Sat. at 9am: Honeymoon Island State Park, Pinellas Co.

(continued...) Carpooling: meet behind Burger King, SE corner of US19 & Moog Rd. at 915am. Directions: US19 S. to Curlew Rd, Turn right (West). Curlew becomes Causeway Blvd. west of Alt 19. The park entrance is at the end of the causeway. There is an entrance fee, so we meet first to consolidate vehicles. We'll rendezvous at 9:45 a.m. in the parking lot behind McDonalds on the NW corner of Alt 19 and Causeway Blvd to ensure we have an optimum consolidation of vehicles. There is a park entrance fee of \$4 for a vehicle with one person, or \$8 per vehicle with 2-8 people. Once inside the park, follow the signs to the picnic area and regroup at the far end of the parking lot at 10am.

October 17th Field Trip: Sunday at 10 a.m.: Aripeka Sandhill in Hudson, FL

This 210 acre property is a fairly recent ELAMP acquisition. The purchase protects this important wildlife corridor, which had been zoned for development. Our guide will be NCC member and Aripeka resident Richard Stauffer. The area includes both sandhill and wetland habitat. Waking should be relatively easy, and the diversity should be spectacular. We will be out about two hours. There are no facilities. Carpooling: Meet at 9:30 a.m. at Save-A-Lot in the northeast corner strip mall at the corner of US 19 and SR 52. Directions: We will meet at 10 a.m. at the front gate on CR 595. The gate is on the north side of the road, approximately ½ mile west of US19. Take US19 to CR595. Turn west. Go ½ mile to the gate, which will be on your right. (If you pass the gate, you will end up in the historic town of Aripeka.)

Plant Profile

by Peggy A. Gretchen, FNPS Member, Pasco MasterGardener

Standing Cypress

Botanical Name: *Ipomopsis rubra*

Common Name: Standing Cypress, Spanish Larkspur, Skyrocket

Family: Polemoniaceae (Phlox)

Type of Plant: Native biennial or winter annual, taprooted, with leafy, pubescent (covered with soft hairs) stem. Will reseed in the garden if free from mulch and debris. Height: 3 – 5 ft. or more with good care. Usual Width: Individual plants narrow.

How to Identify:

Leaves: Alternate, sessile (lacking a stalk or petiole), finely divided into many thread-like segments, Delicate, fern-like appearance.

Flowers: Showy, red to reddish-orange, about 1 in. long, trumpet-shaped, 5-lobed, in a terminal, elongated cluster. Sepals tubular, 5-lobed. 5 Stamens. Produces large quantity of flowers in a very short time, for a dramatic display. Rarely, a plant is found with pink, salmon, or yellow flowers. Flowering Time: Typical biennial form blossoms in summer – fall (June – November). Early spring in annual forms.

Fruit: A capsule.

Habitat: Dry pinelands and sandhills, coastal uplands, beach dunes, and ruderal (disturbed) sites, i.e. dry, sandy fields.

Distribution: Carolinas to Texas, and North and Central Florida (including Pasco County) Hardiness Zones: 7 – 9.

Landscape Use: One of our most beautiful native wildflowers, especially if you love red in the garden! Excellent plant to attract butterflies and hummingbirds for the nectar. Plant in mass for a spectacular display in any sunny, well-drained site. Plant with blazing star (*Liatris* spp.), wild petunia, pennyroyal, or other dry-site loving wildflowers.

Cultivation:

Soil: Sandy, well-drained, neutral to alkaline.

Light: Full sun (best) – light shade.

Water: Prefers very dry conditions. Water to establish, then only when showing stress by still drooping early in the morning. Drought-tolerant.

Miscellaneous: Moderate salt-tolerance. Remove spent plants after they go to seed. Moderately spreading by self-sown seed.

Propagation: By seed. Seeds germinate during cool, moist weather in the fall.

Comment: After brief rosette stage, new plants somewhat resemble dwarf, columnar cypress trees, hence the common name, Standing Cypress.

References:

Haehle, Robert G. and Joan Brookwell, *Native Florida Plants*, Houston, Texas, Gulf Publishing Company, 1999.

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

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

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

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.

Nature Coast Chapter

Fall Native Plant Sale

Saturday, Sept. 25th - 10 a.m.- 4 p.m.

at ROCKtemberfest Fall Festival

in Sims Park, downtown New Port Richey

Location: by West Pasco Historical Society

Staff Volunteers needed; see signup sheet at Sept. 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.

This newsletter will find a place for your field trip write-ups and photos - or at least photo links. Nobody wrote about our spectacular trip to Corkscrew Sanctuary. I made a short film of the day which can be found here: youtube.com/user/yourboypaulie

“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

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



FNPS Website: www.fnps.org