



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 7:00 p.m. at Land O' Lakes Community Center, 5401 Land O' Lakes Blvd (US 41), Land O' Lakes, FL 34639 in the back meeting room. Entrance is off the courtyard on the south side of the building. See page 4 for contact information.

November – December 2014

Meetings

November 4

7:00 P.M. Land O' Lakes Community Center

*Note: This is NOT the normal 2nd Tuesday of the month.
This meeting is on the 1st Tuesday in November*

Speaker: **James Moll**

Program: **Florida Bugs: The Good, The Bad and The Ugly**

Beauty is in the eye of the beholder, and the old expression “the only good bug is a dead bug” is far from the truth! Many insects are beneficial and essential to the environment. Learn to tell the difference between friend and foe.

Bio: Jim Moll was born and raised in southeastern Wisconsin (Milwaukee). His life-long interest in horticulture began at an early age. Jim received his Bachelors' of Science degree in horticulture from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1988. In 1989, he moved to the island of Kauai and interned at the National Tropical Botanical Garden. After the internship ended, he took a job at a local nursery on the island and continued to learn about tropical horticulture.

Jim has worked at the Scott Arboretum of Swarthmore College and Bok Tower Gardens in Lake Wales Florida. For 13 years, he served as Urban Horticulture Extension Agent for Hernando County. Jim now serves the residents of Pasco County as the Florida-Friendly Landscaping Program Coordinator by answering gardening questions, and teaching Florida-Friendly gardening classes and putting on rain barrel workshops.

When Jim is not working, he enjoys cooking especially Thai food and listening to a good jazz record.

December 9

7:00 P.M., Land O' Lakes Community Center

The December meeting is a “**Holiday Party**” to relax and enjoy the good company and the season! Bring a favorite dish to share at the potluck! Native plants, some books, and a small tree will be part of a drawing. We welcome everyone!



Nature Coast Chapter Plant Sale

Saturday, October 18
10 AM to 2 PM

Harvester United Methodist Church
2432 Collier Parkway, Land O' Lakes

Field Trips

Tillis Hill

Sunday, November 16, 2014 9:30am

Tillis Hill is part of the Withlacoochee State Forest north of Brooksville, off Stagecoach Trail (CR480). Sid Taylor, Ranger with the Florida Forest Service and Park Naturalist, will be our guide. Sid has led many of our trips and is one of the most knowledgeable and fun people we could have as a leader. She is the Ranger in charge of Tillis Hill and recommended this trip at this time of year because of the recent burning in the forest. We will see what native plants are growing. Hopefully, we will spot some spectacular species. Make sure to bring your wildflower book, magnifying lens, binoculars! Dress appropriately and have your bug spray and water. **Note: this is archery hunting season; wearing bright orange might be a good idea.*

We will picnic at the recreation area by the Day Use Parking Lot. A cooler will be available for those needing to keep lunch cool.

Directions:

From West: take US19 or Suncoast Pkwy to US98. Travel east on US98 to CR491 (Citrus Way); Left (north) on CR491 to CR480 (Stagecoach Trail). Right (east) onto CR480, and go 2 miles to Tillis Hill sign (will be on the on right); Left (north) on FR13 for 1 ½ miles to asphalt. Follow asphalt uphill 0.2mi and make FIRST right into “Day Use” parking lot at Tillis Hill.

From East: take US41 north through Brooksville to US98. Travel west on US98 to CR 491 (Citrus Way) and follow directions above.

There is no field trip planned for December.

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We are now on Meetup.com, a social networking site that announces events such as meetings and field trips. Check it out:

<http://www.meetup.com/Nature-Coast-Native-Plant-Society/>  
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Floral City Bike Trip

September 14, 2014



A Message from the Chapter President

How many people actually think about a mission statement? Let's read and think about the mission of FNPS: "the conservation, preservation and restoration of native plants and native plant communities".



I have good news! There is one simple thing we can all do that will be a huge step on the road to further that mission! We can all vote YES on Amendment 1. By doing that, we are saying we believe in the mission and are taking the future of Florida's environment, and by extension, that of our own and our children's future into our hands.

Amendment 1 says that we think environmental land conservation programs are so important that we don't want to rely on the whims and politics of our legislators. It says that one third of taxes collected on real estate transactions for 20 years must go to conserve land and protect our water, as promised in the past.

Florida voters have already committed to conservation programs in the form of Preservation 2000 and Florida Forever. However, our elected officials diverted the money from the trust funds set

up by these programs. Amendment 1 restores the funds, and our trust in commitment to conservation of programs that protect our fragile state.

We can encourage our friends, family and coworkers to vote by telling them about Amendment 1. Tell them this is more important than Amendment 2 and should have as much thought and attention. Share this article from the Miami Herald and the Tampa Bay Times:

<http://www.tampabay.com/news/politics/stateroundup/amendment-1-promises-to-save-floridas-threatened-lands/2199610>

and the endorsement by the Tampa Tribune:

<http://voteyeson1fl.org/sections/news/5421d51675c9a12c11000059>.

Thousands of volunteers from all over the state, many of them from FNPS, accomplished the monumental task of getting 700,000 signatures to get this on the ballot. We can join them in our support for the FNPS mission by voting YES on Amendment 1 on Nov 4.

Julie Wert, President Nature Coast Chapter

Cypress Acres Wildflower Nursery

"End of the Season" Sale

November 15th and 16th

9am-2pm

All 1 gallon pots will be \$3.

8632 Ehren Cut-Off

Land O' Lakes, FL 34639

813-388-3111 • dbarnard5@tampabay.rr.com

Plant Profile Quiz

How much do you think know about the plant featured in this newsletter, Scarlet Calamint? See full profile on page 5 for the answers.

1. True or False: Scarlet Calamint may be semi-dormant in winter.
2. How much moisture does it prefer: a constantly wet site, slightly moist, or dry site?
3. In which habitat are they found?
 - a. Scrub
 - b. Sandhills, dunes
 - c. Coastal hammock
 - d. All of the above



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Scarlet Calamint

Shirley Denton, Florida Native Plant Society

If you would like to receive or stop receiving the Nature Coast Chapter newsletter by mail, call or email: karen_watrous@yahoo.com: 813-528-2368

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Plant Profile: SCARLET CALAMINT

by Peggy A. Gretchen
FNPS Member
Pasco Master Gardener

Botanical Name: Calamintha coccinea, Clinopodium coccineum, Clinopodium macrocalyx

Common Name: Scarlet Calamint, Red Basil

Family: Lamiaceae or Labiatae (Mint)

Type of Plant: Native evergreen perennial shrub; dwarf, woody trunk, stiffly erect, loose-branched. May be partially deciduous and semi-dormant in winter.

Height: 1 – 3 ft., max 4 ft. **Width:** about 2 ft.



A.D. Lewis, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

How to Identify:

Leaves: Opposite, small, oval, entire, about ½ in. long, blades slightly broader upward. Square stems. Evergreen. Aromatic.

Flowers: Showy, usually bright red, tubular, solitary or clustered, 1 – 2 in. long, in the upper leaf axils. Corollas (petals) two-lipped; 2 upper lobes shorter than 3 lower lobes. Color may vary from yellow to orange to deep red. Calyces (sepals) two-lipped, reddish-tipped. The flowers are larger than in any other species of Calamintha native to Florida. **Flowering Time:** Spring – Late Fall, April – November. May flower year round. Flowers when small.

Fruit: Nutlets – small, hard, dry, usually one-seeded. Do not open to release seed.

Habitat: Occasional in scrub, sandhills, dunes, and coastal hammocks.

Distribution: Southwestern coastal Georgia west to Mississippi. Florida Panhandle, North and Central Peninsula. Native to Pasco County. **Hardiness Zones:** 8 – 9.

Landscape Use / Wildlife Benefit: A beautiful dwarf shrub for open, sandy sites in full sun. Use as a low border, in a mixed shrub bed with other woody mints, rosemarys (Conradina species), or other dwarf xeric shrubs, or massed as a single species. The red tubular flowers will attract hummingbirds and butterflies for nectar. Usually hummingbird pollinated.

Cultivation:

Soil: Sandy, very well-drained.

Light: Full sun.

Water: Keep on the dry side after established. Cannot tolerate excessive irrigation. Do not overwater. Drought-tolerant.

Miscellaneous: Plant them no closer than 2 ft. apart and allow for open space between them. Do not crowd. Prune old flowering stems at the end of fall.

Propagation: By seed or cuttings.

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

References:

Huegel, Craig N., Native Wildflowers and Other Groundcovers for Florida Landscapes, Gainesville, Florida, University Press of Florida, 2012.

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

Taylor, Walter Kingsley, Florida Wildflowers, A Comprehensive Guide, Gainesville, Florida, University Press of Florida, 2013.

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



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Nature Coast Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society
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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