



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.

September – October 2014

Meetings

September 9

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

Speaker: **George Kish**

Program: ***Native Florida Plants for Drought- and Salt-Tolerant Landscaping***

Gardening in Florida's coastal and dry inland areas can be quite challenging, but if you use native plants, the payoff is huge: your yard will become a beautiful, low maintenance mecca for birds, butterflies, and wildlife. Coastal plantings must be tolerant of the alkaline, shelly, salty, xeric (droughty) sands typical of coastal areas. If you use reclaimed water for irrigation water, it may contain elevated chloride levels. Anyone living on the east or west coast of peninsular Florida may benefit from using salt-tolerant plantings described in this talk.

Bio: George Kish is an exotic transplant who escaped from cultivation and has become naturalized in the former Pine Flatwoods near Citrus Park. He earned a B.S. degree in Biology from Drexel University and a M.S. degree in Environmental Science from Rutgers University. George recently retired from the U.S. Geological Survey in Tampa and currently teaches science courses at St. Petersburg College. He is a past president of the Suncoast chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society and a past Director-at-Large of the state FNPS. George Kish recently co-authored the book, ***Native Florida Plants for Drought- and Salt-Tolerant Landscaping***, with Richard Wunderlin. George is also a co-author of the second edition of ***The Right Native Plants for Dry Places***.

October 14

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

Speaker: **Walter Taylor**

Program: ***Florida Wildflowers***

Dr. Taylor has led numerous field trips at the FNPS Conferences, given talks to many of the FNPS Chapters and written two widely used books on Florida wildflowers: *The Field Guide to Florida Wildflowers* and *Wildflowers in Their Natural Communities*. His program will be on his third book, ***Florida Wildflowers: A Comprehensive Guide***. Dr. Taylor will have books for sale and will be glad to sign a book for you.

Bio: Dr. Walter K. Taylor has lived in central Florida for 44 years and taught at the University of Central Florida for 35 years where he taught a variety of biology courses including Florida Natural History, Local Flora, and Florida Wildflowers. He is a member of several environmental and professional organizations. Since 2008, Taylor serves as a Board Member of the Florida Wildflower Foundation. Dr. Taylor and Karin, wife and companion for 45 years, have traveled widely throughout Florida, having visited all counties and nearly all State Parks seeking Florida's rich and diverse flora and fauna—the Real Florida—as well as Florida's early history.

Have you looked at the Chapter Facebook Page lately? No, you don't need to have your own FB page to look at ours! Just go to www.pasconativeplants.org and click on the FB logo.

Field Trips

Bike Ride on the Withlacoochee State Trail

Sunday, September 14, 2014, 9:30am

This is a new venture for our chapter. We are going to meet in Floral City to bike to the lovely Wallace Brooks Park in Inverness. The round trip is 14 miles. If you have never been on the Withlacoochee Trail, it is delightful and goes through rural scenery, is mostly shaded, and is uncrowded. If you don't feel you are able to bike 14 miles, there are benches and kiosks along the trail to rest. For lunch, we will go to Jan and John Howies' house on Tsala Apopka Lake, about a mile from the bike trail. Bring a sandwich for lunch and the Howies will provide drinks and side dishes.

Directions: from East Pasco: take Rt. 41 north to the only stoplight in Floral City and turn right onto Orange Ave. Turn right after a block and follow the signs for public parking behind the library. From West Pasco: take the Suncoast Pkwy. north until it ends and turn right (south) on Rt. 98. At the first intersection, turn left on Rt. 491. From Rt. 491 take the first right onto Rt. 480 (Stage Coach Rd.) Take this to Rt. 41 and turn left (north). (Note: Rt. 480 jogs to the left.) Go to the first stoplight and turn right onto Orange Ave. Take the first right and follow the signs to the public parking.

Aripeka Sandhill Preserve Wildflower Walk

Sunday, October 12, 2014, 9:30am

The Aripeka Sandhill Preserve is located at 18000 Aripeka Rd, Hudson, FL 34667. Aripeka Sandhills was acquired as part of the 7,136 acre Weekie Wachee Preserve managed by the Southwest Florida Water Management District. This property was purchased on Nov 8, 2007. Katie MacMillen, manager of the Upper Cotee Preserve of ELAPP, will lead our walk. We will find many fall wildflowers blooming, so bring your wildflower book, camera and binoculars. Always wear proper walking shoes and carry water. We will have a picnic lunch nearby at Julie Wert's beautiful home and award winning property in Aripeka after the walk, so please bring a dish to share and your beverage. We will have a cooler at the preserve for food storage.

Directions: take US Hwy 19 North to Hudson; left on Aripeka Road; or from the East, take Suncoast Pkwy north to County Line Rd, west to US Hwy 19 and South .7miles to Aripeka Road on the right. We will meet at the parking lot at 9:30am.

FNPS Plant Sale

NATURE COAST CHAPTER will host its
FALL FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SALE on
Saturday, October 18 from
10 AM to 2 PM at
Harvester United Methodist Church
2432 Collier Parkway, Land O' Lakes, 34639
(just north of SR 54).

We will have a variety of quality nursery grown native plants for sale, as well as books and the Pasco Master Gardener information table. Visit www.pasconativeplants.org.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! Please sign up at the September or October NCC meeting or contact Peggy Gretchen at herculesmpg@hotmail.com or 813-991-4812.

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

News

VOTE YES FOR AMENDMENT ONE: The Water and Land Legacy Amendment

While everyone has heard of Amendment Two, Medical Marijuana, also on the ballot this fall, Amendment One, The Water and Land Legacy Amendment, is of crucial importance to anyone who cares about the environment of Florida and its' wildlife. A no brainer, Amendment One will guarantee a steady stream of income for 20 years (about \$500,000/yr.) to fund environmental land purchases, water quality issues, provide protection for wildlife, and recreational lands, parks and beaches. And all of this for NO NEW TAXES! How is that possible? The money will come from the existing document stamp tax that people pay when they have real estate transactions.

Why do we need this? Florida has some very serious environmental issues. Among these, our magnificent springs are not so magnificent anymore and are choked with algae caused by pollution, and over pumping the Aquifer has caused water levels to decrease until some springs are no more. Our springs are like the "canary in the coal mine" indicating what is happening to our Aquifer and that is scary. Sprawl is gobbling up wildlife habitat and human habitat as well, with fewer and fewer places left where we can enjoy nature and recharge our souls. Now that the economy is recovering, large numbers of people are relocating to Florida, and we need to act now before Florida becomes nothing more than subdivisions and strip malls.

There are only two arguments against Amendment One that I have heard. One is that amendments to the state Constitution are not the way to proceed. Rather the legislature should legislate, not the people in the form of amendments. There is

some validity to this argument, but the amendment process is in the constitution to allow citizen initiatives when the legislature will not take action on issues that the people need. The current legislature has not seriously addressed the environmental problems in Florida. Instead, they took the money that had been spent for years on the Florida Forever program (an environmental land purchase program approved by voters and funded by the document stamp tax) and have put most of the money in the general fund.

The other argument against Amendment One comes from some of the legislators themselves. They don't want the amendment to pass because they don't want the money to be tied up. Essentially they want to have access to it and not be required to spend it on environmental programs. In this session, Senator Dean, Inverness, introduced an excellent bill that would provide important funding for the recovery of several of Florida's springs. It passed the Senate, but never even got to the floor of the House. This is why we need Amendment One.

Amendment One is endorsed by the Florida Native Plant Society, the Sierra Club, The Audubon Society, the Nature Conservancy, Florida Wildlife Federation, and many other organizations. In just 11 months volunteers gathered over 250,000 signatures to get this amendment on the ballot. Now we need your vote to make the 60% needed to get it passed! For more information, go to <http://voteyeson1fl.org/>

Jan Howie, Conservation Chairman

A Message from the Chapter President

Change Your Attitude with Native Plants

A few weeks ago I observed that an insect had eaten parts of the petals of my Cutleaf Coneflower, *Rudbeckia laciniata*. At one time I would have been upset about the plant losing some aesthetic beauty. Instead I thought of the insect population it was supporting and how the plant was doing its job. I took as much pleasure in that thought as I would have in the full beauty of the un-munched flower.

Last week I was weeding my wildflower garden, grumbling and getting hotter and crankier by the minute. I was mad because I had let it go so long, making a tough chore worse. Then I came to a particularly



robust patch of *Bidens alba*, better known as Spanish needles. I felt even more discouraged. Then I realized it was full of butterflies and other winged insects, all nectaring on those plants.

Suddenly I had the lighthearted thought that it was fine I had left all those “weeds” so long, since I was feeding all those useful creatures. An even happier thought, I didn’t have to pull them out yet since they were still doing their job! I assigned that patch of the wildflower garden to the *Bidens*, for now.



Floridata.com

This transformation of my attitude and how I view plants in the wild and in my garden was the result of the Doug Tallamy talk I heard at an FNPS Conference several years ago, and reading his book, *Bringing Nature Home*. At the time it was almost an epiphany but I admit it has taken some time to put it into practice.

I hope everyone gets to read this book for help transforming how you perceive your garden and our beautiful Florida ecosystem. You could even improve your attitude and the condition of your mental health. You won’t feel guilty about all the undone chores on a hot and muggy August day while you read it!

Julie Wert, President Nature Coast Chapter

Save the Date: **Florida Wildflower Symposium**
September 19 and 20
Bok Tower Gardens in Lake Wales

Doug Tallamy, author of *Bringing Nature Home*, will be the keynote speaker. Tallamy's appearance at the symposium banquet on Friday, Sept. 19, is just one of the event's highlights. On Saturday, Sept. 20, there will be presentations by regional experts on wildflowers, native plants, wildlife and butterflies, and a workshop during which participants can design their own native wildflower landscape. Information at www.flwildflowers.org.

Chapter contact information *E-mail; naturecoastfnps@gmail.com*

OFFICERS:

President: Julie Wert 727.863.1363 aripekajule@verizon.net
Vice President: Jonnie Spitler 813.948.8472 rspitler@verizon.net
Treasurer: Stephen Joyce 813.767.3131 savinhillbill@gmail.com
Chapter Representative: Russell Watrous 813.996.7692 russelljwatrous@yahoo.com
Secretary: Sharon Holding 727.843.9771 sharholdi@cs.com

CHAIRPERSONS:

Newsletter Editor: Karen Watrous 813.528.2368 karen_watrous@yahoo.com
Publicity Chair: Sandra Vanno 727.376.7663 svanno@tampabay.rr.com
Membership: Annie Johnson 352.518.0545 annjohnson.eotrf@gmail.com
Refreshments: Pat Kelly 352.588.0266 patriciak03@gmail.com
Books: Sharon Holding 727.843.9771 sharholdi@cs.com
Conservation Chair: Jan Howie 727.848.7689 janicehowie@aol.com
Program Coordinator: Pat Kelly 352.588.0266 patriciak03@gmail.com
Field Trip Coordinator: Jonnie Spitler 813.948.8472 rspitler@verizon.net

Chapter website: pasconativeplants.org

Plant Profile: **BROWNE'S SAVORY**

by Peggy A. Gretchen
FNPS Member
Pasco Master Gardener

Botanical Name: Clinopodium brownei, Micromeria brownei var. pilosiuscula

Common Name: Browne's Savory, West Indian Thyme

Family: Lamiaceae or Labiatae (Mint)

Type of Plant: Native perennial wildflower / low-growing and mat-forming groundcover, creeping to erect. Aromatic.

Height: 6 – 10 inches. **Width:** Will spread by slender rhizomes.

How to Identify:

Leaves: Opposite, stalked, broadest at the base, apices toothed. Stems angled square. Lemony scent when crushed.

Flowers: Small, solitary or paired, axillary with two-lipped, pale lavender petals. Upper lips two-parted, lower lips three-parted. Sepals tubular and nearly equal in size.

Stamens 4. **Flowering Time:** Spring – Summer – Fall.

Fruit: A small, dark purplish-red nutlet.

Habitat: Floodplain forests and wet, disturbed sites.

Distribution: Frequent in central and eastern Panhandle and Peninsula of Florida. **Hardiness Zones:** 8 – 10.

Landscape Use / Wildlife Benefit: This is an interesting, aromatic, low-growing wildflower which may be used as a low border, in a wildflower or butterfly garden, or as a groundcover when planted in groups or masses. The small flowers may attract small butterflies for nectar.

Cultivation:

Soil: Prefers fertile, organic. Most any will do, as long as there is enough moisture.

Light: Partial sun – partial shade best.

Water: Moist to wet required.

Miscellaneous: Easy to spread or propagate.

Propagation: By seed, cuttings, or layering. Stems will root at the nodes.

Availability: Cypress Acres Nursery in Pasco County. FNPS Nature Coast Chapter fall plant sale. See your FANN (Florida Association of Native Nurseries) Directory or www.plantrealfloida.org!

References:

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

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



Newsletter Publication
Nature Coast Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society
5218 Eagle Island Dr.
Land O Lakes Fl 34639

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