



# The Nature Coastline

Newsletter of the Nature Coast Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society

*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 with entrance off the courtyard on the south side of the building*



**January - February 2014**



## **Meeting Events**

**January 14, 2014** 7:00 P.M., Land O' Lakes Community Center

**Brian Nelson** will be talking about the issue of exotic invasive plants, with emphasis on those which are a problem in Pasco Co. and what we can do about it!

Brian is the Vegetation Management Manager for South West Florida Water Management District. He is responsible for managing the vegetation on 265,000 acres of land and 25 public water bodies. Before that he coordinated the state aquatic plant control program for the Florida Department of Natural Resources. He has a B.S. in Limnology (fresh water bodies) from the University of Central Florida and has been active in the effort to control exotic and invasive species on land and in the water since his graduation from college in 1980. He is a member of the Pest Control Council, the Florida Invasive Species Partnership and Brian is also a member of the Hernando Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society.

**February 14, 2014** 7:00 P.M., Land O' Lakes Community Center

**Keith Wiley**, the manager of Pasco's Endangered Land Acquisition and Management Program, will be giving a progress report on conservation in Pasco county.

ELAMP was created in 2004 for purchasing environmentally sensitive lands throughout the County by either fee title or less-than-fee methods. Funding is provided through a portion of the Penny For Pasco surtax. Partnerships with state and federal

agencies are sought to supplement the Penny funds. Since 2005, approximately 2,300 acres have been acquired. Keith will be giving us a brief update.

The Program's objectives are to protect natural communities including uplands and wetlands, connect natural linkages, conserve viable populations of native plants and animals, protect habitat for listed species, protect water resources and wetland systems, protect unique natural resources, enhance resource-based recreational opportunities and expand environmental education opportunities.

Keith Wiley holds a BS in Wildlife Biology from Colorado State University. He has worked on the Shortgrass Steppe Long Term Ecological Research project located in Colorado collecting data on grazing, land cover and community processes. While with FWC's Waterfowl section, he spent many hours and days driving and boating around the state working on the Mottled Duck hybridization research project. After moving back to Florida, he took a job as a wetland scientist reporting and maintaining on numerous wetland mitigation projects throughout the Tampa Bay region. Between 2005-2010, Keith worked as a Wildlife Biologist for the Hillsborough County Natural Resources Section. Since 2010, he has been the Program Manager of Pasco County's Environmental Lands Acquisition and Management Program. Along with this responsible, he oversees other aspects of the County's Regional Conservation Strategy including the implementation of various natural resource regulations and policies.



### *Field Trip: January 18, 2014*

**Saturday, 10:00am, January 18, 2014 to Serenova Tract of Starkey Wilderness Preserve, located at 14900 SR 52, Land o Lakes, FL 34638.** This tract of the Starkey Wilderness Preserve is part of the northernmost section of the park. It consists of 6,533 acres with 18 miles of multiuse trail available. Julie Wert, our president and Russell Watrous, our chapter representative, will guide us on a leisurely walk to observe the diverse plant communities and native plants in the area. The weather should be cool and comfortable for an educational, enjoyable walk. Bring binoculars and camera to see the hawks and other birds, your native plant book to look up plants along the way and wear appropriate shoes and clothing. Lunch will be at Beef O'Brady's on SR52 after our walk.

**Directions:** The entrance to the Serenova Tract is at 14900 SR 52 which is located across from Hays Rd in Land o Lakes on the south side of SR52. Turn onto the dirt road at the gate and drive to the parking area. We will meet at 10:00am



### *Field Trip: February 20, 2014*

**Thursday, 9:00am, February 20, 2014 at Ellie Schiller Homosassa Springs State Park located at 4150 S Suncoast Blvd, Homosassa, FL 34446.** Deb Tribbey, a chapter member and volunteer at the State Park, along with her husband Bob, will be our guides.

We will have a tour of the gardens with many native plants as well as a behind the scenes tour of the animals in the park. We will take the first boat ride into the park, walk around the springs, the river, the gardens, the wildlife areas and see at least two programs. The entire

walk around the park is only a little over a mile. It is easy, educational, beautiful and entertaining. There is a very nice refreshment stand to purchase snacks or you may bring your own water and snack. We will finish up before 2pm and have lunch at Grumpy Gators. The cost for the tour is \$10. Please let Jonnie know at 813-948-8472, as soon as possible if you will attend because Deb needs to make the arrangements at the park. Deb's cell phone for emergencies that day is 727-858-0529.

**Directions:** Meet at the Visitor's entrance at 9:00am located at 4150 S Suncoast Blvd which is Hwy 19 in Homosassa. Going north it is on the left side of Hwy 19 just past the light at Burger King. Turn at the State Park sign.



### *A Message from the President*

On Saturday, November 16, I attended another FNPS Board of Directors meeting that was part of the laborious process of birthing a new, updated Florida Native Plant Society. It isn't over yet and that baby still is making it's way into the world, coaxed by the dedicated and heroic members of the Board of Directors.

Funded by a grant secured by Executive Director Kellie Westervelt, the BOD began in February of 2013 a process to streamline the organization with the end goal of allowing it to become stronger and more relevant, with new and better ways to accomplish the Society mission.

Our mission of conservation, preservation and restoration is a difficult one, especially in the current political climate. Now, more than ever, Florida needs advocates for native plants that are the basis for a healthy life on our planet. Stay tuned for news of the event!

Speaking of staying tuned, our Chapter has many interesting programs and field trips planned for 2014. Native plant gardening, invasive plants, conservation, local parks and preserves and history are just some of the topics we'll be hearing about. Hope to see you there!

The cool days of winter have many of us inside but we can still pursue our passion for native plants with a wonderful tool available to us on our computers. Take a few minutes and type in or click on [www.fnps.org](http://www.fnps.org). Start with the home page and read the news as it relates to FNPS.

Salt Marsh on the Nature Coast : Photo by Julie Wert taken on recent kayak trip on Nature Coast



## **Announcements**

**Free book with new memberships:** We are having a special on new memberships this year. New members will get a book about native plants with their new membership! So tell your friends, family and neighbors that now is the time to become a member and reap the benefits!

**Plant Identification Course:** at recent meetings you heard me talk about the plant identification class that several of us took at Brooker Creek Preserve this past summer. It's being offered again in January and is well worth the time, trip and \$20 that covers the printed material. The instructor is excellent and makes the tough subject of learning new terms and how to use them to ID plants seem easy. class dates: Jan. 11 through March 29.

Register: <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/ufifas-extension-advanced-plant-identification-6-part-series-tickets-7442912953?aff=eorg> , from the Brooker Creek site <http://www.brookercreekpreserve.org/>

## **Spring Plant Sale : MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

Our Nature Coast Chapter Spring Native Plant Sale will be held on Saturday, March 29, 2014, 10 AM-2 PM. Note: Our new location will be the Harvester United Methodist church on Collier Parkway, near SR 54.

## Plant Profile:

# DAHOON HOLLY

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

**Botanical Name:** *Ilex cassine*

**Common Name:** Dahoon, Dahoon Holly

**Family:** Aquifoliaceae (Holly)

**Type of Plant:** Native evergreen small tree. Erect with straight trunk and with slender, spreading to ascending branches and a densely foliated, narrow crown. Sometimes shrub-like (multi-trunked). **Height:** 20 – 40 ft. **Width:** 8 – 30 ft.

**How to Identify:**

**Bark:** Smooth; light gray.

**Leaves:** Alternate, oblong, leathery, shiny medium to dark green above, paler below, to 5 in. long. May be toothed (not spiny).

**Flowers:** Small, white; borne in dense, showy clusters. Male and female flowers borne on separate trees (dioecious). **Flowering Time:** Spring.

**Fruit:** A reddish-orange to bright red drupe (one-seeded berry), ¼ in. in diameter; borne in dense, showy clusters on female plants. Male plant needed nearby for good fruit production. Fruits borne in fall and winter and may persist for several months. Eaten by birds; however, not edible for humans – toxic.

**Habitat:** Common in flatwoods, wet hammocks, swamps, and pond margins.

**Distribution:** Nearly throughout Florida, including the Keys. Coastal Virginia south to Florida and west to Louisiana. **Hardiness Zones:** 7 – 11.

**Landscape Use / Wildlife Benefit:** Useful as a specimen tree, especially for smaller areas. Plant in groups, with both male and female trees, to ensure showy fruit display (or with other male and female hollies of different species). Adaptable. Well suited for difficult sites such as road rights-of-way, medians, and the edges of ponds, swales, and banks. The bright red berries make an attractive and showy display in fall and winter and are eaten by songbirds.

**Cultivation:** Very adaptable.

**Soil:** Prefers moist to wet, acid to slightly acid with pH 3.5 to 6.5. Adapts to drier soils.

**Light:** Full sun – part sun; fairly shade-tolerant.

**Water:** Average to flooded moisture conditions. May need irrigation in drier sites, especially to establish; however, once established, quite drought-tolerant! Performs best when consistently moist to seasonally wet.

**Miscellaneous:** Salt-tolerant. Moderate lifespan, generally less than 50 years.

**Propagation:** By seeds or cuttings. Seeds will germinate in a few weeks – no dormancy.

**Availability:** See your FANN (Florida Association of Native Nurseries) Directory or [www.plantrealflorida.org](http://www.plantrealflorida.org)!

**Comment:** There are at least 11 hollies native to Florida, many used in landscaping.

**References:**

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

Huegel, Craig N., Native Plant Landscaping for Florida Wildlife, Gainesville, Florida, University Press of Florida, 2010.

Nelson, Gil, Florida's Best Native Landscape Plants, Gainesville, Florida, University Press of Florida, 2003.

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

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

**New Members:** John Kelley of Dade City  
**Welcome!** Alice Gellweiler of New Port Richey  
Diane O'Dell of New Port Richey

**Chapter contact information** E-mail; [naturecoastfnps@gmail.com](mailto:naturecoastfnps@gmail.com)

**OFFICERS:**

President: Julie Wert 727.863.1363 [aripekajule@verizon.net](mailto:aripekajule@verizon.net)  
Vice President: Annie Johnson 352.518.0545 [annjohnson.eotrf@gmail.com](mailto:annjohnson.eotrf@gmail.com)  
Treasurer: Stephen Joyce 813.767.3131 [savinhillbill@gmail.com](mailto:savinhillbill@gmail.com)  
Chapter Representative: Russell Watrous 813.996.7692 [russelljwatrous@yahoo.com](mailto:russelljwatrous@yahoo.com)  
Secretary: Sharon Holding 727.843.9771 [sharholdi@cs.com](mailto:sharholdi@cs.com)

**CHAIRPERSONS:**

Newsletter Editor: Russell J Watrous 813.996.7692 [russelljwatrous@yahoo.com](mailto:russelljwatrous@yahoo.com)  
Publicity Chair: Sandra Vanno 727.376.7663 [svanno@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:svanno@tampabay.rr.com)  
Membership: Annie Johnson 352.518.0545 [annjohnson.eotrf@gmail.com](mailto:annjohnson.eotrf@gmail.com)  
Refreshments: Pat Kelly 352.588.0266 [patriciak03@gmail.com](mailto:patriciak03@gmail.com)  
Books: Sharon Holding 727.843.9771 [sharholdi@cs.com](mailto:sharholdi@cs.com)  
Conservation Chair: Jan Howie 727. 848.7689 [janicehowie@aol.com](mailto:janicehowie@aol.com)  
Program Coordinator: Pat Kelly 352.588.0266 [patriciak03@gmail.com](mailto:patriciak03@gmail.com)  
Field Trip Coordinator: Jonnie Spitler 813.948.8472 [rspitler@verizon.net](mailto:rspitler@verizon.net)

**Chapter website:** [pasconativeplants.org](http://pasconativeplants.org)

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](http://www.pasconativeplants.org) and click on the FB logo, so easy.

***Spring Plant Sale*** : MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Our Nature Coast Chapter Spring Native Plant Sale will be held on Saturday, March 29, 2014, 10 AM-2 PM. Note: Our new location will be the Harvester United Methodist church on Collier Parkway, near SR 54.



*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](http://www.fnps.org)

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