



The Nature Coastline

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

November-December 2011

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, Hudson, 34667. The hall is one mile west of Little road on the south side of State Road 52 next to St. Michael's Catholic Church. Parking for the Fellowship Hall is at the rear of the property. Executive Committee meetings are held on the 4th Tuesday at 6 p.m. at the New Port Richey Library, 5939 Main St. in New Port Richey, 34652. Executive Committee meetings are open to all members; ask at the circulation desk for room location.

Meetings and Events:

November 8th Meeting: Sid Taylor, Park Naturalist and Historian for the Withlacoochee State Forest, will present "History of Naval Stores and the Turpentine Industry in Florida". "Cat-faced" pines were once a prominent feature in the SE landscape. (contd..)

Field Trip November 20, Sunday, Jay B Starkey Wilderness Park, 10am.

Please take note that this is not the regular weekend after the meeting. We will be participating in the ECOFEST of Pasco County by taking a nature hike to be led by our own chapter member, Paul Francois. Paul knows Starkey very well and will point out many interesting native plants. We will meet at the Education Center (10500 Wilderness Park Rd., New Port Richey 34655) where we will begin our walk at 10am. (contd...)



December 13th Annual Holiday Pot Luck Dinner:

We encourage you to bring a favorite dish to share at the pot luck. Please indicate on the sign up sheet on the refreshment table at the Nov. meeting, how you will be adding to the pot luck (beverages, entree, salad, side dish, dessert, etc.) Native plants, some books, and a small tree will be part of the drawing; members should bring decorations for the tree. (contd...)

Field Trip December 15, 2011, Thursday to Bok Sanctuary located at 1151 Tower Blvd, Lake Wales, FL 33853. Christmas is a special time at Bok Towers and we have the opportunity to join together and enjoy the beautiful gardens and Christmas decorations as well as the music from the Bell Tower. Established in 1929, by Edward W Bok as a gift to the American people, the 50-acre garden was designed by noted landscape architect Frederick Olmstead. (contd...)

Welcome new members: Barbara Stinson, Kathy Sanborn, Carmela Schron, Patricia Watrous, Alyssa and Ray Vinson

And renewed members: Helen C. Bates, Barbara Hoffman, Hattie Lee, Marilyn Smullen, Christina Storch, Julie Wert and Richard Stauffer.



Chapter contact information

OFFICERS:

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Program Coordinator: (open position)

Chapter website: pasconativeplants.org

November 8th Meeting contd.

The Naval Stores industry today has been pushed aside by the use of by-products from the milling of paper pulp. Florida had its heyday in pine tree gum extraction in the beginning of the 20th century. The industry actually dates back millennia. Remember Noah being commanded to "pitch (the ark) within and without with pitch"? Archival photographs used here, some that date back to the 1890s, show the distillation of turpentine spirits and production of rosin and describe their many historical and contemporary uses. Join us to find out more on this chapter of Florida's natural history.

Field Trip November 20th contd.

The public is invited and we hope to promote protecting and using native plants by our enthusiasm and knowledge. There will be lots of other eco-friendly activities at the site to round out the trip. The website for ECOFEST is www.PascoEcoFest.com to find out about the other activities that weekend.

Directions: From the East, to reach Starkey Park travel west on SR 54 and from the South travel East on SR 54 to Starkey Blvd and go North, then East on Wilderness Rd. From the North and West, to reach Starkey Park travel South from SR 52 on Little Rd, to Decubellis and go East, then South on Starkey Blvd and East on Wilderness Rd.

Plant profile: Wild Hoarhound

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

Botanical Name: 1.) *Ageratina aromaticum*
2.) *Ageratina jucunda*

Common Name: Wild Hoarhound, 1.) *A. aromaticum*: Lesser Snakeroot
2.) *A. jucunda*: Hammock Snakeroot

Family: Asteraceae (Aster or Daisy)

Type of Plant: Native perennial wildflower, fall-blooming. Stems woody at the base. Branches opposite and hairy. Height: to 3 ft. Width: 1 – 2 ft.

How to Identify:

Leaves: 1.) Opposite, stalked, ovate, margins with round teeth, leaf bases round. 2.) Opposite, stalked, triangular, margins sharp-toothed.

Flowers: 1.) Small, white, in showy clusters. White disk florets. Ray florets lacking. Corolla with dense, long hairs. Flowers are wonderfully fragrant! 2.) Same, except corolla smooth and flowers are only slightly fragrant. Flowering Time: Late summer – fall – early winter.

Fruit: An achene – one-seeded, non-splitting, hard, with a thin wall separable from the seed

Habitat: 1.) Sandhills, dry or moist flatwoods, hammocks, and disturbed sites; occasional 2.) Sandhills, hammocks, and dry, disturbed sites; frequent.

Distribution: 1.) North and central Florida. 2.) Florida peninsula west to central panhandle.

Landscape Use / Wildlife Benefit: A lovely addition to any Florida wildflower garden. The *A. aromaticum*, especially, will fill the fall air with fragrance; it has a wonderfully sweet scent. Plant in masses for a showy, white-blooming display in late summer through fall and into winter. The white, aster-like flowers will provide nectar for butterflies.

Cultivation:

Soil: Sandy to organic, well-drained.

Light: Full sun to part shade (best).

Water: Dry to moist

Propagation: By seed or cuttings.

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

References:

Taylor, Walter Kingsley, The Guide to Florida Wildflowers, Dallas, Texas, Taylor Publishing Co., 1992.
Wunderlin, Richard P., Guide to the Vascular Plants of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, University Press of Florida, 1998.

Chapter announcement:

We still need a Program Coordinator! Please consider making a modest donation of your time to our chapter and volunteer to do this important job.

Notes from chapter President Julie Wert:

Mark Hutchinson, a member of the Hernando Chapter, has been posting his **Native Plant Owners Manuals** on the FNPS forum. They are excellent and very detailed, with everything you could ever want to know about the plant plus beautiful photos. The link to the forum is <http://www.fnps.org/smf/index.php/board,7.0.html>, then look for the post by Mark with NPOM + a plant name, for instance NPOM – Eastern Gamagrass.

While you're on the FNPS site, and maybe thinking about gifts for Christmas, I encourage you to go to the FNPS site <http://www.thefnpsshop.com/> where you can find everything from art to tees. Check out the "Light Switch and Socket Covers" under "Shop By Product" – very cool!

Our Chapter elections are in November. If you're interested in having a vote or volunteering to be more active in the Chapter, the November meeting is the place to be. We still have several positions open, including Secretary and Speaker Chair. We need your ideas, energy and support. Call or email me to talk about it

We'll be having an "unofficial" field trip in December, organized by our great Field Trip Chairperson Jonnie, to Bok Tower. So if you have to work, give yourself a Christmas gift of a day off during the week and go with us. The Endangered Species garden will make it worth the trip.

December 13th Annual Holiday Pot Luck Dinner contd:

There will also be a voluntary gift exchange for those who wish to participate. Bring something garden related for about \$10. Mark if gender specific. Our digital slide show of native plants and natural plant communities, birds, butterflies and fun field trip outings will run in the background while we eat, socialize and exchange gifts.. And for those still shopping for holiday gifts, our books will be available as well as Pat Kelly's 2012 desk calendars "Cherishing Florida - original photographs" . Don't forget, spouses are invited to join the festivities!

Field Trip December 15, 2011 contd:

We will meet at 8:30am at the designated car pool location and travel the 1 ½ hour ride to Lake Wales. We will have time to wander the grounds before our tour which begins at 11:45am at Pinewood, to be led by a docent from the sanctuary describing the endangered species garden and the native plant garden as well as the several other beautiful gardens. Seasonal shuttle service is available as well as mobility carts to view the gardens. **Admission and tour is free on this day.** There is a place to eat on the grounds or if the weather is mild you can pack a lunch and eat on one of the outside picnic tables.

Carpooling: We will meet at one location at 8:30am on Thursday: at the Dairy Queen on SR 54 just West of I75 at the SR 54 exit. Please contact one of the chapter officers if you are needing a ride to the carpool location. We will have maps for the drivers who will be reimbursed for gas expenses.

News From FNPS:

Hernando Chapter is co-hosting the 2012 FNPS Conference and could use help

They will need lots of help getting ready for the 2012 FNPS Conference, Conserving the Natural Heart of Florida, which they are co-sponsoring with the Suncoast Chapter. The conference will be held at the Hillsborough Community College Trinkle Conference Center in Plant City, May 17-20, 2012. This would be the perfect time to sign up assist in planning, leading field trips, registering visitors on site, identifying sponsors, etc. Let their board know you are interested at hcfnps@gmail.com Next Conference Planning Meeting: October 22, Saturday, 10:00 am Lutz Branch Library 101 W. Lutz - Lake Fern Rd Lutz, FL

Guidelines for Contributing Photographs to FNPS Reports

A picture really is worth at least a thousand words, and a good annual report includes MANY pictures. Each chapter should do its utmost to appoint a photographer for every event, especially for events where members are working with plants. After all, plant people, what kinds of pictures do YOU like to look at? Exactly! Plant pictures. But we need pictures that show people in action. Show your members on field trips, planting things, weeding, selling plants, teaching about plants, etc. Maybe appointing a photographer could be a routine part of your secretary's job. Or a committee head could do it for their event. Think about it ahead of time and ask someone to take pictures.

Make sure that your photos are being taken in a high resolution - low resolution is fine for online use, but if a photo goes to the printer for hard copy, it must be high resolution. Last year, we had to cut one of our favorite photos from the printed report because it wasn't in high resolution. Remember, for printed copies:

- set your digital camera to shoot the highest resolution possible
- do not try to increase the resolution with a photo editing application
- do not use cell phone cameras
- send photos as JPEGs
- include caption for each photo and credit the photographer

The New and Wonderful FNPS Handbook

Have you taken advantage of the new web-based FNPS Handbook?

Thanks to the prodigious and creative innovator, Cindy Liberton, the new handbook is a living document that can be changed easily to reflect new information and developments. It is available to everyone who needs it, instantly, with no trees or printing costs wasted!

Located under 'Society Resources' on the left side of the FNPS homepage (www.FNPS.org), the new handbook contains a wealth of information with a search bar, live links, and answers to the questions that have had you scratching your head for years. It is a fully public document; we have nothing to hide and everything to share related to our society!

Take a look at the FNPS Handbook and make use of the many tips and suggestions for chapter programs, membership and field trips. Learn about the Conference, see how the Society's governance is set up, download materials you can use at your chapter meetings and more. It's a handy thing!

Reminders:

From the Sabal Minor: Don't forget whatever you need for your sustainable native garden—whether it's native plants, professional help or local advice and assistance—you can find it on www.PlantRealFlorida.org, a new native plant and service locator serving retail customers, developed by the Florida Association of Native Nurseries (FANN).

Pix: In the mood for pix? <http://goo.gl/pCPfE>

Holiday Visitors? - Here are some activities:

There are several areas that provide opportunities for outdoor activities for holiday visitors. Here are the phone numbers and links to the web pages for several nearby locations.

1) Hiking trails information at Brooker Creek Preserve: 727-453-6800; Trails open at 7 a.m. 7 days a week. Web links:<http://www.friendsofbrookercreekpreserve.org/hike.htm>

2)USF Botanical Garden: Web link: <http://www.cas.usf.edu/garden/visiting.htm> For more info on upcoming events call 813-974-2329

3) Nature Coast Botanical Gardens in Spring Hill: open 7 days a week from dawn to dusk; 352-683-9933 Web link: <http://naturecoastbotanicalgardens.com/default.aspx> Check closer to the holidays regarding dates for their Annual Holiday in the Gardens Program.

4) Florida Botanical Gardens and Heritage Village in Largo. For the botanical gardens call 727-582-2100 ; website: <http://www.flbg.org/> Holiday Lights in the Gardens: Nov.25th-Jan.1st For Heritage Village call 727-582-2123; website: <http://www.pinellascounty.org/heritage/> Trees and Traditions Festival on Dec. 3rd 11am-3pm

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

Newsletter Publication
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the Florida Native Plant Society
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