The Nature Coastline

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

MAY - JUNE 2019

In this issue:

Meetings/Programs

Lessons from the Landscape
by Julie Wert

Green Corner
by Jan Howie & Sharon Holding

Plant Profile:
Pineland Hibiscus
(Hibiscus aculeatus)
by Peggy Gretchen

A Message from the President

Learn, meet new friends with like interests and have some fun.....

Yes, that is what you can look forward to at this year's **Florida Native Plant Society State Conference**. We are very fortunate that it is being held in Crystal River, only an hour from Land O' Lakes. The conference starts Thursday morning May 16th, and ends Sunday afternoon May 19th.

I have been watching the process of organizing, attracting great speakers and planning wonderful field trips. The committee has outdone themselves planning a great conference for all of us. The venue is Plantation Resort at 9301 W. Fort Island Trail, Crystal River. It is a beautiful place with all the amenities. The conference starts with Wednesday evening gathering and Thursday morning going to the field trip of your choice.

Don't forget! We are sponsoring field trip G, Werner Boyce Salt Springs State Park in Port Richey. The Nature Coast Chapter is providing lunch for the attendees. We are excited about this because Richard Stauffer, our faithful NCC member, designed and built the FNPS kiosk to teach the public about the importance of native plants, and Mary Ellen Gotto, our vice president, keeps the kiosk up to date with information for the public.

See PRESIDENT, page 3

The Mission of the Florida Native Plant Society is to promote the preservation, conservation, and restoration of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida.

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 p.m.

Location:

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.

Chapter website: pasconativeplants.org
Chapter E-mail: naturecoastfnps@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/PascoNativePlants
twitter.com/NatureCoastFNPS
FNPS website: http://www.fnps.org/

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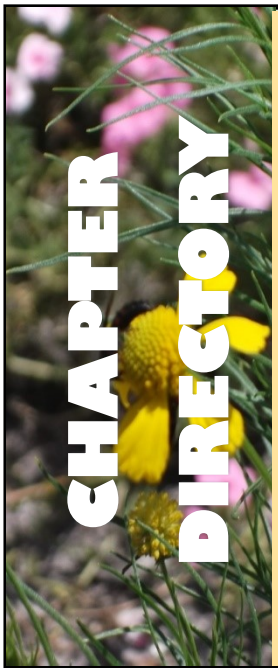
The Society fulfills its mission through:

- Support for conservation land acquisition
- Land management that enhances habitat suitability for native plants
- Education
- Public policies that protect our native flora, especially rare species
- Research on native plant species
- Encouragement of local landscaping practices and policies that preserve Florida's native plant heritage

To become a member go to FNPS.org and click on "Join/Support" at the upper right-hand corner of screen. Print form, complete, and mail form to FNPS, or call. You may also join at a chapter meeting.

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS
Gold $500
Patron $250
Business $150
Non-Profit $150
Supporting $100
Household $50
Individual $35
Full Time Student $15

OR BOOST YOUR SUPPORT by renewing as a Sustaining Member -- easy $10 monthly payments automatically and securely charged to your credit card. CREDIT CARD PAYMENT REQUIRED. No checks/invoicing. Sustaining membership remains in effect as long as you wish and your card number is valid.



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Meetings/Programs

MAY 14, 7 PM

Storm Readiness for Your Trees: Are You on TRAQ?

Speaker: Belinda Lambert

Mature, large, residential landscape trees are a source of many benefits to homeowners and wildlife, both on an individual scale (shade, nesting site, etc.) and on a larger scale (energy reduction, wind mitigation, increase property value).

Many large mature trees are removed either in advance of, or in the aftermath of, a storm event. This removal rate can be greatly reduced if proper planning and tree maintenance practices are adopted by the homeowner. Additionally, being informed about the formal tree risk assessment process can help prevent homeowners from falling prey to the fear-mongering approach used by many unethical tree removal companies after storm events.

Speaker Bio: Belinda received her BS in Forest Resources and Conservation from UF and her MS in Botany/Plant Ecology from USF. She retired in 2014 from Pinellas County Government, having worked there for over 35 years. The majority of her career was in the Public Works Department, overseeing the planning, planting, monitoring, and long-term land stewardship of wetland mitigation sites. She was also an adjunct instructor in Field Biology for St. Petersburg College for 6 years. Belinda has been a member of FNPS since 1993, an ISA Certified Arborist since 1998, and has held the Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (TRAQ) since it first became available in 2013.

JUNE 11, 7 PM

Native Wildlife Need Native Plants

Speaker: Joel Jackson

This program will document and give reasons for the decline of Florida wildlife. It will explain why native plants are better than non-native to support wildlife and give recommendations on some of the best landscape plants to accomplish that.

Speaker Bio: Joel is a Tampa native who became the first Peace Corps Volunteer from the Tampa Bay Area in 1962. He received a BA and MBS in Urban Management from the University of South Florida and worked with the City of Tampa's Parks Department as a planner and manager in several areas for many years. During that time he was instrumental in the design and building of Lettuce Lake County Park as well as 4 other large nature parks He also wrote the guidelines for Hillsborough County's "Environmental Lands Acquisition & Protection Program" (ELAPP) and has been on it's advisory committee for 31 years. Joel is an active member of the Tampa Audubon Society and the Florida Native Plant Society. In 2016 he received the FNPS "Palmetto" award for public service.

Field Trips

No field trips scheduled for May & June

PRESIDENT, from Page 1

There are lots of other great field trips to choose from either Thursday or Sunday.

Friday and Saturday are class days. I already know which lectures I am attending. Our own John Lampkin is giving a presentation on "Bugs and Bloomers", showing off his magnificent photos, wonderful and fun. Check out the speakers and pick the subjects with your interests in mind. If you want to volunteer for and get a break on registration, please do so. Check the available slots for volunteers.

So… Go to **fnps.org**, look for the conference information, register and plan on joining us for a great and educational time.

On other notes, our Spring Plant Sale was very successful at Harvester United Methodist Church. Pat Kelly and Peggy Gretchen did a beautiful job planning and providing the right plants and our wonderful volunteers helped everyone find the right plants for them.

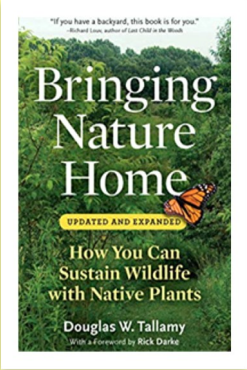
Our first quarter has been busy with outreach opportunities. We are spreading the word about our mission, restoring, preserving and conserving native plants and native plant communities of Florida.

Thank you for being members of the Nature Coast Chapter. Don't forget to renew and BRING YOUR FRIENDS. Thank you.

Jonnie Spitler

Lessons from the Landscape

By Julie Wert



A doctor's waiting room can be a good place to discover upscale trends. There are often magazines that a person would not customarily read. Perusing House Beautiful while waiting, with nothing else to do, can seem like an indulgence. The cover of a summer 2018 edition had a theme of "Vacation at Home". Despite my skepticism of the subject, I kept reading.

The middle of the magazine had a section titled "Unplug, Creating Balance by Stepping Outside". It promised to be a primer on personal enhancement with 4 pages of mini articles touting spending time outside, at home, for energy, peace and happiness. The most interesting was "Required Reading" with three books pictured. One of those was a book the Florida Native Plant Society and our Chapter has been promoting for several years.

"Bringing Nature Home" by entomology professor Doug Tallamy caught the attention of many FNPS members when he was the keynote speaker at two different conferences, several years ago. His message about the intricate web of plants, insects, birds and our well-being confirmed the importance of the FNPS mission. His demonstration of the importance of native plants and biodiversity to our local ecosystems that sustain life, even ours, validated our dedication to that mission.

Another section, "Natural Instincts" talked about the importance of eliminating pesticides and had tips for creating a healthy oasis by letting nature make decisions. Tip included creating pollinator gardens including water features, even just a dish, and putting in a bee hotel. Another was having a meadow garden and Do-Nothing garden, even letting you grass grow longer to provide habitat for the insects important to our ecosystems. Shocking stuff for a magazine that usually focuses on selling high end designer accoutrements for our homes!

The lesson from that magazine was the realization that FNPS and all the people working for the mission are trendsetters! We have been trying to get everyone to read "Bringing Nature Home "for many years. We had a State Fair exhibit this year with the theme of the importance of pollinators. We have been selling bee hotels at events. Many of us spend a great deal of our time and energy making the essential native plants available so others can change the way they view their landscapes. We already know native plants provide ecosystem services so important to our planet.

We are helping to create natural connections that sustain life. The FNPS mission is a step on the path to modifying the consequences of climate change. By stepping up to help and getting involved in our Nature Coast Chapter you can be a guru of transforming our communities. If we get tired and discouraged, we can take heart knowing our instincts are correct. After all, the readers of the fashionable House Beautiful magazine are just now getting the news!

For a short YouTube video about Bringing Nature Home click: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NTbPNwNIoLs

For another short video featuring the value of our native Prunus tree species click: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k0_3BNFv_hY

Bee log homes, town houses and condos will be for sale at future events and at the Conference in May. Crafted by Richard Stauffer, all proceeds will go to the Nature Coast Chapter.

This new column is to provide us with a forum to share information about products that are "green" in some way in that they are less harmful to the environment than the normal products that we use.

The idea is for us to share information about "green" items. If you have a product or products you would like to share with the membership: email Jan Howie janicehowie@aol.com or shrnholding @gmail.com

INCLUDE basic product information, such as what it is used for, where it is found, how much it costs, and advantages and disadvantages of the product.

PHOTO: If you can, send a photo of the item or items

This month's environmental tip came from my nephew and his family, and I am delighted to find out they are paying attention to the environment. This product is for Keurig users and those who use other single serving coffee machines. This comes from San Francisco Bay Gourmet Coffee Company. Instead of a plastic cups, which we know are not good to put in our garbage, these pods have the coffee in a soft biodegradable fabric, so we can drink as much coffee as we want and be guilt free.

Price: Amazon has a box of 36 count for $15.99. Costco has a box of 100 for $32.99 and different varieties of 80 count for either $32.99 or $34.99. The San Francisco Bay Company has on their website 100 count for $36.99 as well as many other selections.

Advantages: At a reasonable price, you can shed your guilt about throwing those plastic cups in the trash. Think about how many you throw away in a year.

Disadvantages: The top of the pods have a plastic ring that holds everything together. It is much smaller than whole cup, but it is plastic. Also, when you buy large amounts of the pods, they are packaged in plastic bag with 10 in a bag, and I don't know if these bags are biodegradable.

We need suggestions from the members. With our environmentally savvy membership, I would be surprised if many of you are not already using products that are gentle to the earth, and also have habits that save water and power. SHARE THEM WITH US.

Hoping to hear from you.
Janice & Sharon

End of Spring Sale

Cypress Acres Nursery

June 15, 2019
9 AM—1 PM

8632 Ehren Cutoff
Land O' Lakes

Dave Barnard
813-406-3313

UF/IFAS Pasco Extension Programs

Registration recommended. For more free programs & to register, visit
https://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/events/?location=pasco

This is just a few of the programs that UF/IFAS has to offer during May & June

Earth Day Celebration

Monday, April 22, 2019
12:00 PM – 3:00 PM
One Stop Shop Stallings Building
15029 14th St., Dade City, FL 33523

Pet adoptions, free trees and native flowers, mosquito control, gardening, recycling information and much more! The purpose of the event is to increase environmental stewardship education and share information with county citizens about mostly free county and state services. .

Caring for Your Trees

Saturday, May 11, 2019
9:00 AM – 10:30 AM
Land O' Lakes Heritage Park
5401 Land O' Lakes Boulevard
Land O' Lakes, FL 34639

Trees require proper care to enhance their beauty, extend their life and create maximum shade. This seminar will give you the skills you need to know to turn the trees in your yard into the pride of your landscape. Come and listen to this certified arborist explain the importance of trees.

Preparing Landscapes for Hurricane Season

Tuesday, June 4, 2019
6:30 PM – 7:30 PM
Land O' Lakes Branch Library
2818 Collier Parkway
Land O' Lakes, FL 34639

With the 2019 hurricane season fast approaching, prepare your trees and landscapes with guidance by an experienced certified arborist including lessons learned from past storms.

Gateway to research-based
Florida Gardening practices:
http://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/lawn-and-garden/

Suncoast Chapter FNPS Field Trip

Sunday, April 28, 2019
Green Swamp West
9 AM - 12 PM
http://www.suncoastnps.org/

We will walk through a shady area of the Southwest Florida Water Management District's Green Swamp West Tract. This will be a walk of about 2.5 miles over relatively easy terrain and should take 2-3 hours. The walk will be through a pine flatwoods and upland hammock. The Green Swamp has a large diversity of plants and insects. There is something to see in every month on this trail. Blueberries and huckleberries abound, and they should be ripe in April. Blackeyed susan, *Coreopsis*, *Piriqueta*, *Clematis baldwinii*, *Polygalas* and other wildflowers are expected.

Janet Bowers will be the informal leader, she has visited many times since May 2018 when she went on a Heartland Chapter field trip there. Here is a link to the website for the Green Swamp West Track. This is an area we have not visited as a chapter so it will be something new to see. A SWFWMD map for Green Swamp West can be downloaded from https://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/recreation/green-swamp-west-tract.

We will meet at the McNeil entrance located off SR 471. To find it from northern Hillsborough County, go east from Zephyrhills on CR. 54 and then south on US 98, or from southern Hillsborough, head over to Lakeland via I-4 and go north on US 98.

SR 471 goes north from US 98. On SR 471, Pass Colt Creek State Park (east side of road) and cross the Withlacoochee River. Parking is on the left just after the bridge and the "Welcome to Sumter County" sign.

Wear long pants and close-toed shoes. Insect spray is recommended for deterrence of ticks and flying annoyances. Bring water. Hat and sunscreen are recommended. No bathroom facilities.

Contact : Tina (Mable C) Patterson, SNPS secretary , mablepatterson@hotmail.com or 305-298-6381, call or text (please leave name and message)

PLEASE CONTACT TINA FOR MORE DETAILS IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND.

PINELAND HIBISCUS

By Peggy A. Gretchen
FNPS Member
Pasco Master Gardener

Botanical Name: Hibiscus aculeatus
Common Name: Pineland Hibiscus, Comfortroot
Family: Malvaceae (Mallow)

Type of Plant: Native herbaceous perennial, usually multistemmed from a woody base, with a shrubby erect to frequently prostrate (stems) habit. Dormant in winter and will die back to ground with first frost. The roots of this plant contain copious mucilage and have been used medicinally as a soothing agent, hence the common name Comfortroot.
Usual Height: 2 – 3 ft., rarely to 6 ft. Width: 3 – 5 ft.

How to Identify:
Leaves: Alternate, 2 – 3.5 in., ovate to lanceolate, deeply 5 lobed with reduced 3 lobed leaves associated with the flowers, coarsely toothed along the margins. Stems and leaves are rough in texture from numerous prickly star-shaped hairs. The scientific name aculeatus means prickly. Dormant in winter.

Flowers: Showy, creamy white (when fresh) to yellow to pinkish with age and a dark purplish-red throat, 2 – 4 in. in diameter, 5 petals with unusual pleated texture and scalloped edges. Solitary flowers in upper leaf axils. Each flower opens in the morning for one day, closes by afternoon. Mallows are recognized by the column-like arrangement of their fertile flower parts. Numerous stamens with short-stalked anthers are united into an elongated tube around the style. No other group of plants in the region is so adorned. Flowering Time: Summer – Early Fall. June – September. May last for several months.

Fruit: Conspicuous tan, dry, hard, ovoid capsule which is about 1 in. and hairy. Splits at maturity to expose numerous brown seeds with pitted surfaces. Ripen quickly.

Habitat: Moist to wet pine flatwoods, open savannas, bogs, edges of sloughs, and wet disturbed sites, including ditches and roadsides.

Distribution: North Florida south to Lake County in the central peninsula.
Hardiness Zones: 8 - 9

Landscape Use / Wildlife Benefit: This beautiful native hibiscus is well-suited to and will adapt to average garden conditions. With its showy, distinctive flowers and long bloom period in summer into early fall, it will make an interesting accent in the landscape, given sun and moist to wet conditions. Even better, plant Pineland Hibiscus in small groups of 3 – 5 and mix with taller wildflowers and native grasses, all adapted to similar site conditions.

Cultivation:
Soil: Prefers sandy, acidic.

Light: Full sun – partial sun. In less wet soils, prefers filtered sun or partial sun/shade, especially midday and in summer.

Water: Prefers moist – wet. Tolerates seasonal flooding. More drought-tolerant than most native hibiscus. In average soil, may need irrigation in summer and during drought.

Miscellaneous: Prune annually to the ground as the plant goes dormant in the late fall/winter.

Propagation: By seed or cuttings. Will slowly spread by self-sown seed.

Availability: Florida native plant sales and Florida native nurseries.
See www.plantrealflorida.org!

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