

**September-October
2016**

Nature Coast Chapter meetings, field trips, and activities are open to FNPS members and the public alike.



A Message from the President

Celebrate
FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT MONTH
October 2016

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.

Our Nature Coast Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society is a very busy chapter, taking on impressive projects, forming active committees, building up funds for conservation, education and other FNPS needs, acquiring new members and doing our best to help FNPS move ahead.

Every one of you has a talent that you can use to keep us moving. Whether it is providing a dish for our monthly meeting, doing physical labor to keep native gardens in check, planning an event, supporting conservation activities, or handling administration duties, your expertise and help is a valuable asset to our chapter. We have not even scratched the surface of finding all the talent available. Every time I ask someone if they can help with something, the response is wonderful. If you have not been asked personally, please speak up and let us know about your talents, expertise and ideas. There is so much we can do to support our mission if we all pitch in a

little bit. Also, if you think you would like to be part of the Executive Committee, we meet the 4th Tuesday of every month at 6:30pm at Upper Cotee Preserve, and everyone is welcome.

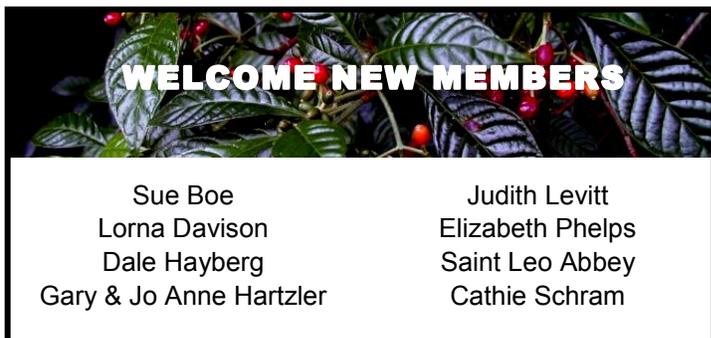
October is Florida Native Plant Month and Commissioner Starkey will be presenting the resolution either at the BOCC meeting or at our meeting on October 11th. The Plant Sale to be held on October 22nd, including a presentation by Craig Huegel at 11am, plus a Children's Activity Center headed by Katie MacMillen, will be the culmination of FNP Month for our chapter. This is a great opportunity for everyone to encourage friends and family to become members and support our chapter.

You heard Mary Ellen Gotto speak about the volunteer hours program started by FNPS recently. In order for FNPS to get monetary grants for some of the projects they are under-

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Meetings/Programs

Date: September 13

Speaker: Dr. Alan R. Franck

Program: An Overview of Botany Research at USF Herbarium

An Herbarium is a building that holds a systematically arranged collection of dried plants. The University of South Florida Herbarium, founded in 1958, holds 285,000 specimens from around the globe. Of that number more than 100,000 are Florida specimens collected by a multitude of individuals throughout Florida. The oldest herbarium specimens at USF were collected by Ferdinand Rugel in the 1830s but some European herbaria have Florida specimens from the 1700s. On average, the USF collection grows by about 5,00 specimens per year, the majority from Florida.

Speaker Bio: Dr. Alan Franck is the curator of the USF Herbarium in Tampa. A native of Ohio, he moved to Florida in 2004 to enter graduate school at USF. His current research at the herbarium focuses on the traditional classification of plants (taxonomy) and distinguishing their form and specific structural features (morphology). He is also researching the taxonomy problems of endangered and endemic plants in Florida.



To suggest a program contact Pat Kelly at (352) 588-0266 or patriciak03@gmail.com

Message from the President (cont'd)

taking, we need to show that we have active people and how much time they spend doing volunteer work. Every meeting you attend is counted toward these hours. So please just check off your name at the table at each meeting and you will be counted. Also, any time you spend weeding or planting at a public place or for others, talking to folks about FNPS or doing any volunteering for the chapter or FNPS should be passed on to Mary Ellen via her email address: (mefgotoh@aol.com).

Date: October 11

Speaker: Gregg Jones

Program: Rainbow's End Native Plants - From Advocating for a NO Irrigation Landscape to a Native Plant Nursery Business

When we purchased an 11 acre horse farm in Wesley Chapel that was landscaped with nothing but slash pine and a few old and worn out exotic plants, we decided to rework a large portion of the property with natives. Because of the difficulty in finding native plants and their high cost, we learned how to propagate the plants ourselves. Soon we had more plants than we could use, neighbors and friends began to buy our excess supply, and from there we created the business. I'll talk how easy it is to create a beautiful landscape that requires no irrigation and discuss how to overcome some common problems - making natives work on a wet piece of property, how to coexist with a large population of hungry deer, and my evolving ideas on pesticide and herbicide use.

Speaker Bio: Gregg Jones has a PhD in Hydrogeology and worked for the Southwest Florida Water Management District for 22 years. He's an expert on water supply issues across the country and what he learned about the tremendous amount of water used for residential turf irrigation led him to advocate for the use of native plants to create landscapes that require no supplemental irrigation.



Speaker: Karen Watrous

Program: How to Start a Wildflower Garden

Do you want to incorporate native flowers into your yard but are not sure the best way to go about it? Start a Wildflower Garden! This presentation lays out the steps from planning to completion of a native wildflower garden - including plant selection, site preparation, installation and maintenance. The pollinators will be a-buzz with joy.

Speaker Bio: Karen Watrous has been a Pasco County Master Gardener since 2012 and a member of the Nature Coast FNPS since 2014. She currently edits the Nature Coast newsletter. When not working at her job at a local big-box garden center, Karen propagates and sells native plants in her home nursery - "Karen's Wildflowers" in Land O' Lakes.

There is something I forgot to mention. We always have a good time because YOU are terrific! Thank you.

Jonnie Spittler

Field Trips

Paddle With the Manatees on the Homossasa River

Riversports Kayak
5297 S. Cherokee Way 352-621-4972

Friday, September 16th
9:30 AM



This was June's field trip, but was rained-out.

It will be a fun adventure to watch the manatees and catch some glimpses of wild native shrubs growing along the river. We will watch the monkeys on Monkey Island at the beginning of the

trip and then paddle upstream to Homosassa Springs State Park where the wild manatees gather. (We will not be entering the park.) We can have lunch at the Yardarm at Riverside Resort across the parking lot from Riversports Kayak.

Please email field trip leader, Gail Parsons, if you plan on attending. gailpar1@verizon.net

Cypress Creek Preserve (Central Pasco)

5550 Parkway Blvd, Land O' Lakes 34639
(approximately ¾ mile north of Pine View Middle School)

Saturday, October 22
10 AM

We will be looking for Blazing Star and Goldenrods in bloom. Parking is on side of road so we will meet at the (old, now closed) Kmart parking lot on Collier Parkway & SR 54 to carpool. Meet in the parking lot at 9:30AM. This site is on the west side of Cypress Creek wellfield (still part of the wellfield just separated by Cypress Creek) and is owned by South-west Florida Water Management District.

Bring water and snacks. Lunch at local restaurant.

Please let trip organizer, Gail Parsons, if you plan to join us. gailpar1@verizon.net

Plant Sale Volunteers Needed

Saturday October 22nd

8am—3pm

VOLUNTEERS needed for set-up, sale, and tear-down. No experience required! Please sign up at the next Nature Coast Chapter meeting or contact Peggy Gretchen at herculesmpg@hotmail.com

Or (813) 991-4812.

THANKS AND HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!



***Thank you Bob DePizzol for
the fantastic easel you made!
For the chapter.***

Chapter Representative News



As an enthusiast of Florida native plants, do you ever wish everyone you knew “got it”? Except for the friends in our Chapter, have you felt alone in your enthusiasm?

Good news! There are people all over our state with the same passion and commitment. And we’re starting to reach out to each other for support and the added benefits of sharing the mission. People are sharing their experiences on social media, like the FNPS Blog. Go ahead, click on this link! Read about Janet Bowers of the Suncoast Chapter, right down the road from Nature Coast, and her quest for milkweeds. <http://fnpsblog.blogspot.com/2016/07/my-quest-for-milkweeds.html>

Another way we are sharing experiences is having more get-togethers with other Chapters in our area. People came from other Chapters to participate in our Yard Tour last spring. They have shared field trips with us. And we’re joining with Pinellas, Suncoast and Citrus to have a fun holiday celebration event. You can join with others that have similar interests and have a great time! We’ll be sending out the flyer with more details and program descriptions later but for now:

**Save the Date for the Native Plant Holiday
Mini-Workshop!**

On **Saturday December 3rd** Nature Coast, Pinellas Suncoast and Citrus Chapters of FNPS will join Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve to host an informal workshop at the Preserve. Our emphasis will be on fun and fellowship! It’s free but we have to register. Registration is open now open via EventBrite–
[Link](#)

Landscaping/Garden News

WHAT YOU MISSED – July meeting

Craig Huegel, PhD, gave another entertaining and informing talk on native plants for shade gardens.

- Plants’ food source is photosynthesis; sun is necessary for photosynthesis. Even a shade garden requires some sun.
- Depending upon the plant, either morning or (late in Florida) afternoon sun is best; midday sun can be brutal for ‘shade’ plants and for us.
- Shade and sun change with the seasons as the earth shifts its angle to the sun.
- Deciduous trees, which lose their leaves in the winter, open up the ‘floor’ under them. This provides more sun for the spring bloomers. Evergreen trees provide shade all year.
- Canopy can be trimmed up to provide more light.
- There is a correct way to prune. The best way to trim trees is to use a **certified** arborist! A drive-by or lawn service

Here's the Agenda:

10:00–11:30 a.m.

Auditorium: Intro to Plant Identification with James Stevenson of UF/IFAS Pinellas Extension

Classroom: Using Native Plants in the Landscape, some Basics of Designing and Maintaining the Natural Landscape with Bruce Turley of Wilcox Nursery

11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Lunch in the auditorium and porch: Lunch will be a pot-luck- bring your favorite side dish!

12:30 p.m.–2:00 p.m.

Auditorium: How Roots Work with Dr. Craig Huegel – plus a hike

Classroom: Designing Your Natural Landscape, a Hands-on Primer with Bruce Turley of Wilcox Nursery, Limit 20- bring several drawings of your yard, pencil and paper. R.S.V.P to Katy, kroberts9130@gmail.com for a space.

Gazebo: Grapevine Wreath making with the Friends of Brooker Creek. Free to FNPS members, \$15 for non-members.

Plan to join in on all the activities available to members of FNPS, all over the state. Bring your family and friends and help them “get it”. See you there!



usually does not know the correct way to trim or prune limbs and will do irreparable damage to a valuable tree.

- To establish new plants under existing plants, start with a smaller one. In a short time, they will be as large as a larger potted plant. They will take a bit longer and require more water and TLC because of the competition with the other established root systems. Once established, less water and less maintenance will suffice to keep the shade garden sustainable.

Craig then gave a short photo list of some plants that can handle less sun, more shade. There is too much information to convey in a 45 minute talk. His program inspired me re-read his book [Native Plants for Shady Landscapes](#).

Craig will be presenting a program at our fall plant sale, the fourth Saturday of October, the 22nd 2016 from 11am-12pm .

BOOKS



Summer is Florida's fallow time. When it is too hot to be outside, get inspired by a book. We are getting a shipment of books! What a great chance to start or add to your library. If you read Peggy Gretchen's plant profiles or my column, we use a lot of the same reference books. In my opinion, the best two books to start with are Gil Nelson's **Florida's Best Native Landscaping Plants – 200 Readily Available Species for Homeowners and Professionals** and Craig Huegel's **Native Plant Landscaping for Florida's Wildlife**.

Nelson's book is eye-candy. There are beautiful illustrations of the 200 plants in his book. The photographs are a close-up of the plant, then the plant, then its use in landscapes. The information is pertinent for every gardener.

In Dr. Huegel's book, the first third is important landscaping information. There is a green paged list of which wildlife (birds) prefer which plants. The rest of the book is information on native trees, understory and shrubs. These are the foundation plantings for your landscape. His second book of the 'series' is **Native Wildflowers and Other Groundcovers for Florida Landscapes**. Like Nelson's book, it is a drool-over, "I want that plant" book.

Do realize there are over 2200 na-

tive to Florida plants; no one book can cover all of them. That is why my library keeps growing. More books to explore, more plants to learn. I get a lot of inspiration from these books.

After hearing Craig speak at our July meeting, I re-read his book, **Native Florida Plants for Shady Landscapes**, the third book of his 'series'. I find his talks humorous. He has so much information to share. His books are as enjoyable to read as is listening to his lectures.

Another great book for your library is Rufino Osorio's **A Gardener's Guide to Florida's Native Plants**. It is out of print but we were able to get a few copies.

To start a butterfly garden, start with Pamela Traas's **Gardening For Florida's Butterflies**. Expand your knowledge with Marc Minno's **Florida Butterfly Gardening**. Both books tell larval and nectar foods and show egg, larva, chrysalis and adult stages of Florida butterflies. Marc was one of our guides on my trip to Cuba in May 2016.

There are more landscaping ideas in Walton's & Schiller's book **Natural Florida Landscaping** and in Ginny Sibolt's **The Art of Maintaining a Florida Native Landscape**. Ginny was our guest speaker at last year's plant sale.

The books cost very little for the

valuable amount of information they contain.

Of course, the books to tote on field trips are by Walter Taylor. The photo-field guides: dragonflies, butterflies, wildflowers are not as comprehensive as the books, but are a lot lighter and easier to fit in a satchel. They are a quick reference source.

I use all these books constantly as references. We are only in this world once, we may as well avail other peoples' research and knowledge to learn about it. It keeps our minds curious, active and (hopefully) youthful.

I love books. They are like good friends, always there. Over the decades of interest in native plants, I have come to know most of the authors and consider them friends. It is certainly more fun to support friends and learn stimulating information about what has become a passion than to give \$\$\$ to a big box store. Those are not my favorite charities. Support your local authors, your local native plant grower and enjoy learning with the native plant society. It is non-partisan to participate.

Grow America, Plant Native Plants.
Happy, AJ

MORE BOOKS

They say every person who crosses south over the Florida state line should have to read Patrick Smith's **A Land Remembered**. Good news; it is now required reading in Florida high schools; unfortunately, it is an abridged edition. The story is a white man's history of Florida's development. It describes the devastating hurricane across Lake Okeechobee which led to the dikes and levees being built by the Army Corp of Engineers. That attempt to control nature by straightening the Kissimmee River and draining the Everglades has led to the problems created by man today. It is costing more to fix the problem than it did to create it.

Their Eyes Are Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston is a black person's perspective of the same hurricane. Zora Neale Hurston writes in beautiful prose everyone should read. I just

read her book, **Seraph on the Suwanee** about the marriage of a white couple. Good literature is colorless and timeless. Here is an excerpt of Arvay, the wife's experience of a realization of a long leaf pine forest.

".... The music outside did something strange and new to Arvay. The strains induced pictures before her eyes. They conjured up odors and tastes. Streams of colors played across the sky for her and she tasted exotic fruits. Looking out into the white moonlight of the night, she saw the trees and the woods for the first time from the inside. The sky-scraping pines became feeling beings standing there forever watching, and watching, and whispering with their branches in a rumbling song. They were the tree-men with their many toes probing the earth. The giants who stood forever on one foot and waited."

GARDENING TIP

Lots of water, especially for you but not always for plants. Midday wilt – some plants conserve energy and water in the middle of the day by wilting. **DO NOT WATER.** The symptoms of over-watering are the same as underwatered = wilt. If a plant is wilted in the morning, it does need water. It is best to water in the morning as evening watering often promote fungus. Don't know what to say about the afternoon rains.



COME LEARN WITH US!!! LEARN ABOUT NATIVE PLANTS AND HOW TO PLANT THEM

Nature Coast is putting in a demonstration garden in the front of our meeting place, Land O'Lakes Community Center. Join-up to learn about (and suggest) what plants will fit in that eco-envrion. What are the soil requirements for the right native plant in that place? Maybe help shop for the plants, then learn how to properly plant them. Many hands make less work and more fun.

We will have a preliminary meeting at the LOLCC garden to share ideas, then a shopping spree, then a planting day. Be part of the process!

Contact Annie at annjohnson.eotrf@gmail.com or 352-518-0545, please leave a message.

Hernando Chapter
will have a fall plant sale on
Saturday, September 24,
9:00 am - 1:00 pm at
Chinsegut Hill Retreat, Brooksville.

Local native plant growers will be on hand to supply species for your west central Florida landscape. Plant and garden experts will be on hand with exhibits, including mosquito control.

Tours of the grounds from 10:00 - 11:00 am; Tours of the Manor House will be \$5.00. Come early for the best selection!

CHAPTER DIRECTORY

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Plant Sale: Peggy Gretchen	813.991.4812	herculesmpg@hotmail.com
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The mission of the Society is to promote the preservation, conservation, and restoration of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida.

Nature Coast Chapter of the **FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY**

NATIVE PLANT SALE

OCTOBER 22, 2016

10AM-2PM

Presentation 11am—noon

“Native Plant Landscaping for Florida Wildlife”

by Craig Huegel, Ecologist/naturalist, author of 5 books and a professor at St. Petersburg University

- Children's Activity Center
- Hundreds of quality nursery-grown plants!
- Books for sale.
- Pasco Master Gardener information table.

Land O' Lakes Community Center
5401 Land O' Lakes Blvd (Hwy 41)

pasconativeplants.org

e-mail: naturecoastfnps@gmail.com

Or contact Peggy Gretchen for more info: herculesmpg@hotmail.com (813) 991-4812

<http://www.fnps.org/>

www.facebook.com/PascoNativePlants

GOLDENRODS

By Peggy A. Gretchen
FNPS Member
Pasco Master Gardener

Botanical Name: Solidago spp.

Common Name: Goldenrods

Family: Asteraceae or Compositae

Type of Plant: Native perennial wildflowers; herbaceous, mostly erect, summer and fall flowering. There are 19 native species (one with 2 varieties) of goldenrods in Florida, many of which are found in native plant nurseries and used in Florida landscaping. **Height:** 2 – 6 ft., depending on species. **Width:** Individually narrow, to about 2 ft. Some species spread into large colonies by underground rhizomes. Often self-seeding. Isolated plants rarely form viable seed.

How to Identify:

Leaves: Alternate, linear to lanceolate (lance shaped) to elliptic, entire or toothed. Often dormant in winter. The leaves of Sweet Goldenrod are distinctively curled and sweetly anise-scented when cut or bruised, unique among Goldenrods.

Flowers: Showy, bright yellow, spike-like branching racemes (panicles) at the ends of stems. A raceme has stalked flowers, with disk and ray florets and typically growing on one side of the stem, emerging off a main axis. **Flowering Time:** Summer - FALL.

Fruit: Tiny, inconspicuous achenes – a one-seeded, non-splitting hard fruit with a thin wall separable from the seed. They ripen in fall and persist into winter.

Habitat: Sandhills, flatwoods, hammocks, dunes, tidal marshes, bogs, roadsides, and disturbed areas, depending upon the species.

Distribution: Goldenrods are native throughout the eastern U.S. and Florida.

Hardiness Zones: 6 – 10.

Landscape Use / Wildlife Benefit: Excellent perennial wildflower for use in wildflower and butterfly gardens; also along roadsides, in sunny meadows, or sunny woodland edges. Try at the back of a border. Try mixing with other native wildflowers such as Blazing Star (*Liatris* spp.), Florida Paintbrush (*Carphephorus* spp.), and Ironweed (*Vernonia* spp.), to name a few. Also, mix with native clumping grasses. The profuse bright yellow flowers provide great summer and fall color and attract butterflies, bees, and other pollinators for nectar. Seeds may be eaten by birds.

Cultivation: Hardy and adaptable!

Soil: Sandy, well-drained. Acidic to mildly alkaline.

Light: Full sun usually best to partial sun/shade.

Water: Dry to moist. Drought-tolerant.

Miscellaneous: Perform annual pruning to remove old flower stems. High salt-tolerance.

Goldenrods are often unfairly blamed for hay fever (due to ragweed) and other fall allergies.

Propagation: By seeds or cuttings or division of rhizomes.

Availability: Florida native nurseries or plant sales.

See www.plantrealflorida.org!

Some commonly available Goldenrods: Pinebarren Goldenrod (*Solidago fistulosa*), Sweet Goldenrod (*S. odora* var. *odora*), Chapman's Goldenrod (*S. odora* var. *chapmanii*), Seaside Goldenrod (*S. sempervirens* or *S. mexicana*), Wand Goldenrod (*S. stricta*), Pineland or Twistedleaf Goldenrod (*S. tortifolia*).

References:

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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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