



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. See page 4 for contact information.

July – August 2014

July 8 Meeting 7:00 P.M., Land O' Lakes Community Center

Speaker: Barbara Hines

Program: Native Plants/Native People

Presentation of native plants that have been used as medicine and food in Florida by prehistoric people and early settlers. The talk will also touch on how plants are used in many of our pharmaceuticals showing that we are not as far removed from using plants medicinally as we think.

Bio: Barbara Hines is the Outreach Coordinator of North Central Florida; Florida Public Archeology Network. She is a Registered Professional Archeologist specializing in historic archeology. Her interests include the turpentine and lumber industry, Florida architecture and Southeastern Indian communities after European contact.

August 12 Meeting 7:00 P.M., Land O' Lakes Community Center

Speaker: Movie Night with Popcorn

Program: Florida Wildlife Corridor Expedition

Join four explorers as they trek their way from the southern tip of the Florida Everglades to the Okefenokee Swamp in Georgia; covering 1000 miles in 100 days in an effort to raise awareness about protecting wildlife corridor opportunities.

Bio: The Florida Wildlife Corridor project is a collaborative vision to connect remaining natural lands, waters, working farms, forests and ranches from the Everglades to Georgia, protecting a functional ecological corridor for the health of people, wildlife and watersheds.

Field Trip: Sunday, July 13, 2014

Greathouse Butterfly Farm 11:00 a.m. located at 20329 NE State Road 26, Earleton, FL 32631; followed by a stop on the way home at **Claudia Larson's Micanopy Wildflower Nursery**, located at 210 SW 1st St, Micanopy, FL 32667. There is a cost of \$12 per person for the Butterfly Farm tour. Bring your lunch for a picnic on the property before we head to Claudia's Nursery.

Greathouse Butterfly Farm produces 45+ species of Florida native butterflies and supplies butterflies to exhibitors all across North America. Zane Greathouse started Greathouse Butterfly Farm ten years ago. Zane was a fifth grade teacher and believed children learn best with "hands-on" experiences. Greathouse Butterfly Farm is truly a family farm. Zane and his daughter, Ana, work together to make the Butterfly Farm a magical place to visit. The Butterfly Farm 15 miles east of Gainesville is located in a pecan grove that Zane's grandfather planted. These pecan trees are almost a hundred years old and are still producing yummy pecans. The live butterflies are raised for exhibitions, releases, movies, educators and they sell and ship butterflies and butterfly pupae to customers all across North America. This will also be a wonderful photo opportunity. Photographing butterflies in the wild is a challenging hobby. There are so many variables involved with trying to get the perfect shot of a butterfly. At Greathouse Butterfly Farm, they can control some of these variables to raise our chances of taking beautiful photos.

Directions: We will meet to carpool at the Racetrac Gas Station, 30480 Cortez Blvd, which is at exit #301 of I75, (Ridge Manor, US98/SR50) at 8:30am. From there, travel north on I75 to exit 358 turn Right on 326E, left on US301N toward Starke and Right on SR26E to the Butterfly farm which will be on the right. After lunch, we will travel together to Claudia's Wildflower Nursery at 210 Sw 1st St, Micanopy.



Summer Kayak Trips



TWO kayak trips are planned for this summer.

Honeymoon Island to Caladesi Island, Thursday, July 24, 2014 at 9:30am. We will meet at Sail Honeymoon Inc, located at 61 Causeway Blvd, Dunedin, FL 34698. We will kayak to Caladesi which is about a 15 minute ride according to the folks at Sail Honeymoon. We can spend the day at Caladesi, which has been rated America's #1 beach several times, kayaking, walking on the beach, hiking the nature trail, swimming and sunning. Either bring lunch or buy on the island. Those who wish to return earlier might go to lunch at Frenchy's on the Causeway. The cost to rent a single kayak is as follows: 2 hrs-\$30; 4 hrs-\$40; or all day-\$55. No reservations are accepted.

Directions: Take either U.S. 19, Alternate 19, or Belcher Rd. south to Curlew Rd. and turn right (west). Curlew turns into the Dunedin Causeway.

Hillsborough River, Sargeant Park to Morris Bridge Park, Sunday, August 17, 2014 at 9:30am. We will meet at Canoe Escape on the Hillsborough River at Sargeant Park, 12702 US 301, Thonotosassa, FL 33592. On this trip we step back in time, see the Hillsborough as the Indians did and feel nature's embrace. It is a 4 mile trip, about 2 hours. We will explore Flint Creek, observe wading birds and paddle under large oaks and cypress trees. This is a totally wild section of the river, loaded with wildlife. Those with their own kayaks can self-shuttle since the trip is 4 miles by road. For those renting, there are only 3 solo kayaks available and many tandems. Rental fee for solo kayak for this 2 hour trip is \$46; tandem kayak is \$49 or \$24.50 per person. There is a \$2 fee to park at Sargeant's Park. We will need payment by the August meeting to make reservations and insure availability. Bring your lunch to picnic at the park after the trip.

Directions: Take I75 south to Fowler Ave and exit right. Take Fowler to 301 and turn left (north). In 3.7 miles, Sargent Park is on the left.

A Message from the Chapter President www.fnps.org

The 2014 Conference was fun, fascinating and had many excellent learning experiences. I wish I could share everything but I'll select a few tidbits for this limited space.

From "Why People Don't "Get It?" The Psychology of Embracing Native Plants". Russ Hoffman, formerly a practicing psychologist, led us through the steps people take in adopting changes to traditional ways of thinking, such as replacing a green lawn (open space) with a native landscape. We learned strategies to make our groups and missions more successful.

Mr. Hoffman told us about the work of Joan Nassauer. "Cues to care" signal to others about the humans responsible for a landscape and make the novel more familiar. Put an orderly frame on a messy ecosystem and

it's more acceptable. Two native landscaped yards together have been shown to get more compliments because people like sameness. The marketing term "Filter Zone" is more acceptable than "No Mow Zone".

From "Native Plant Boot Camp; Basic Training" with Jenny Evans we learned why native plant landscapes are good practice. The right plant, right place is essentially understanding the ecology of your landscape at different seasons. Factors such as sun, shade, wet, dry, PH, make the difference in what species are used and how it effects wildlife and water quality. Jenny says tidiness is over rated and anything you put on your yard can end up in our water somewhere.

Dr. J.C. Cahill, from the PBS program "What Plants Talk About" showed us how plants behave, even if they don't think or feel. His research shows plants can detect if they're growing near kin or strangers and change their behavior accordingly.

Dr. Bill Hammond gave us incentives to "Go Native" with new evidence about Nature Deficit Disorder. Experiences in nature and with plants are critical to our learning, creativity and healthy development, as well as the future of ourselves and our society.

Dr. Don Chambers gave us the scientific basis for the recent climate change report. He presented the overwhelming evidence of unequivocal global warming and rising seas. The scientist from USF said that even if we stopped using fossil fuels now there would continue to be warming through the century from the current heat gain in our oceans.

The 2015 Conference will be in Tallahassee in mid April. Make plans now to attend and enjoy the beauty of north Florida in the spring!

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***Plant Profile:* BIRD PEPPER**

by Peggy A. Gretchen
FNPS Member
Pasco Master Gardener

Botanical Name: *Capsicum annuum* var. *glabriusculum*

Common Name: Bird Pepper, Cayenne Pepper, Red Pepper

Family: Solanaceae (Nightshade)

Type of Plant: Native evergreen dwarf shrub, densely branched; flowering and fruiting year-round, except for extreme dry or cold spells. **Height:** usually 1.5 – 3 ft. **Width:** 1.5 – 3 ft. or more.

How to Identify:

Leaves: Small, alternate, entire, dark green, ovate.

Flowers: Small, white, rotate (spread radially and in one plane), borne singly in leaf axils. **Flowering Time:** Year-round, except during extreme dry or cold.

Fruit: A small, bright red, nearly rounded (subglobose) to elongated berry, each less than ½ in. in size. These tiny “chile peppers” are dark blackish green when immature, and ripen to a bright red. They are edible and fiery hot to taste! Very attractive to birds. Occur year-round, except during drought and frost/freeze.

Habitat: Shellmounds, coastal hammocks, and dry, disturbed sites.

Distribution: Occasional in peninsular Florida and the Keys. This wild ancestor, from which our common sweet and chile peppers were derived, is native throughout a wide range in the New World tropics and subtropics. The Florida variety is *glabriusculum*. **Hardiness Zones:** 8B – 11.

Landscape Use / Wildlife Benefit: An unusual addition to your Florida landscape which may be planted simply for its attractive and ornamental foliage, flowers, and fruit. Or plant to enjoy the edible pepper-like fruits, if you like it hot! Or plant to attract and feed the birds. They like it hot, too!

Cultivation:

Soil: Well-drained.

Light: Full sun – shade.

Water: Dry – moist. Highly drought-tolerant.

Miscellaneous: Usually pest and disease free. Cold-hardy.

Propagation: Easily grown from cuttings. Seeds germinate poorly unless they have passed through the digestive tract of a bird. Best results obtained by the ambient method of seed germination.

Availability: Green Isles Gardens in Groveland or see your FANN (Florida Association of Native Nurseries) Directory or www.plantrealflorida.org!

References:

Nelson, Gil, *The Shrubs & Woody Vines of Florida*, Sarasota, Florida, Pineapple Press, Inc., 1996.

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.



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... *so easy!*



Newsletter Publication
Nature Coast Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society
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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