



THE NATURE COASTLINE

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 in Hudson(34667). (One mile west of Little Road on the south side of SR 52 next to St. Michael's Catholic Church). Parking for the Fellowship Hall is at the rear of the property.

Executive Committee meetings will be held the 4th Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. at the New Port Richey Library, 5939 Main St. in New Port Richey, 34652. Meetings are open to all members; ask at the circulation desk for room location.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

Nov. 7th Get Outside Day at Starkey Wilderness Preserve: 9:30am-2pm

at the Starkey Wilderness Preserve - Serenova Tract . For info on the Preserve go to: <http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/recreation/areas/starkey-serenova.html> The Serenova Tract is located just one mile west of the Suncoast Parkway on S.R. 52 (gate on south side of the road). Visitors will have the opportunity to participate in guided hikes and scavenger hunts. NCC will have an info booth with free literature and raffle.

Nov. 10th Meeting & Election of Officers: "Preserving the Nature Coast"

NCC members Jan Howie, Florida Master Naturalist, Gorgon O'Connor, park ranger, and Julie Wert, member of Gulf Coast Conservancy, present an overview of the coastal areas of the Nature Coast (from Pasco County to the Big Bend) with emphasis on estuarine communities. It then focuses on Pasco County, with a look at coastal and upland communities currently designated as parks or preserves between US 19 and the Gulf. They will discuss the threats and challenges regarding the preservation of these priceless habitats. Election of officers for 2010 will precede the program. Join us for light refreshments and the native plant drawings!

Nov.15th Field Trip Sunday, at 9am: Pasco Palms Property off Strauber Memorial Highway in Holiday - see page 2 for details.

Dec.8th 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 and a small tree will be part of the plant drawing; members should bring decorations for the tree. 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.) Returning by popular request is the non-narrated digital slide show. Put together by Susan Vaughn from photos, many taken by members, it includes a collage of native plants and natural plant communities, birds, butterflies and fun field trip outings which will run in the background while we eat, socialize and exchange gifts. Don't forget, spouses are invited!



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NEW MEMBERS

Rosemary Fisher
Scott Fisher
Alice Fogg

RENEWED MEMBERS

Helen Bates Barbara Hoffman
June Long Gorgon O'Connor
Marilyn Smullen Julie Wert
Richard Stauffer

Add this special meeting to your calendar: Mon., Nov. 9th

The Hernando Chapter of FNPS is having Dr. Walter Kingsley Taylor, noted author of many Florida native plant references, as their guest speaker in November. He is a retired Botany professor from the University of Central Florida and a wonderful, humorous speaker. He will be talking about the varieties of our Florida grasses and his book A Guide to Florida Grasses will be available for purchase. You won't want to miss this one or the great refreshments they serve!

The chapter meets at 6:30 p.m at the Hernando County Cooperative Extension Office at 19490 Oliver St., Brooksville, FL 34601. (turn R.off Hwy 41 just past the fairgrounds and follow the road until it splits; take the left fork into the grounds and extension building is left of the parking area.

Field Trip Information:

Sept. 12th Field Trip Photos: Hiking a Florida Sandhill in Hudson by Fortier Specialty Nursery. This was really enjoyable for our members, despite the rain. Go to: <http://beta.kodakgallery.com/gallery/creativeapps/slideShow/Main.jsp?token=347103827703%3A1496493152> for a look at the pix that were taken.

NCC Nov.15th Field Trip:Sunday, at 9am
Pasco Palms Property off Strauber
Memorial Highway in Holiday

Ron Daniels will lead us as we explore this 2009 ELAMP acquisition. This 117 acre parcel is across the road from Eagle Point, a 670 acre parcel acquired in 2006. Both parcels consist primarily of

salt marsh with some upland areas. Conditions are unknown, so come prepared for anything!

Carpooling required: Parking near the access point is extremely limited so we will meet in the parking area in the Trouble Creek Shopping Plaza on the SE corner of Grand Blvd. and Trouble Creek Road in New Port Richey to consolidate vehicles. Meet there at 9am. The property is about 5 minutes away. Ron says we should be done by noon.

No scheduled field trip for December - Here are some outdoor options

Most of us are pretty busy during this month. However, if you have company in town, you might consider making a trip to Tarpon Springs. Manatees show up in Spring Bayou during the colder months, and should be there by December. They are best viewed at low tide. They leave the bayou at high tide to feed. Spring Bayou is located in Craig Park, one block west of Alt 19. From Alt.19, turn west (right if coming from the north) on Tarpon Ave. Go one block and turn left onto Spring Blvd., then follow the road around to the right until you find parking, which may be limited, but is free. While at the bayou, visit the Heritage Museum - open Tues., Thurs., Fri. from Noon to 4pm. There is a History Wing and an Ecology Wing. Admission is \$3. Call (727) 937-0686 for more information. And, of course, there's always the Sponge Docks and the aquarium.

There are several other 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. Thurs.- Sun. Web links: <http://www.friendsofbrookercreekpreserve.org/hike.htm> and <http://www.pinellascounty.org/Environment/pagesHTML/envlands/el1010.html>

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: 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/> For Heritage Village call 727-582-2211; website: <http://www.pinellascounty.org/heritage/> Trees and Traditions Festival from Nov. 27th - Jan.3rd.

Other Interesting Activities:

Master Gardener Programs: For a complete calendar go to: http://pasco.ifas.ufl.edu/events_calendar.shtml

Nov. 3rd at 6:30 - 7:40 p.m. Beneficial Bees at the Hudson Area Branch Library, 8012 Library Road, Hudson 34667 Bees are important part to our food supply and garden enjoyment. Come learn more about what bees do and how to encourage them in the garden for maximum enjoyment.

Nov. 14th at 9 - 11a.m. Florida Wildflowers presented by Elaine Fortier, NCC president and owner of Fortier Specialty Nursery. Held at Land O'Lakes Community Center at 5401 Land O'Lakes Blvd 34639. (on Highway 41 on the west side of the highway).

Dec. 1st at 6:30 - 7:40 p.m. Preparing the Garden for Cold Weather at the Hudson Area Branch Library. Florida does have some cold weather so discover how to protect your plants from harmful freezes.

Announcements from FNPS

FNPS Members,

Here are (4) ways to fund raise for the Florida Native Plant Society.

1. If you or someone you know is a state employee, the Florida State Employees' Charitable Campaign (FSECC) will be contacting you to request that you sign up. So that you know, there is an option to choose the Florida Native Plant Society as your charitable organization choice. Please forward this information to anyone you know who is a state employee.

2. Those public agency employees who have employers that offer Earthshare can also select FNPS as the Charitable organization. For more information on Earthshare go to: <http://www.fnps.org/> and click on the EarthShare link in the top right hand corner. FNPS is seeking an Earthshare Coordinator, please contact Vice President of Finance, Steve Woodmansee at smwood@bellsouth.net

3. As individuals, we can use a search engine and do our shopping online through GoodSearch and raise funds for FNPS by just doing every day business. The Florida Native Plant Society is also a member of GoodSearch. Just go to the site <http://www.goodsearch.com/> choose FNPS, Melbourne from the pull-down menu and complete your internet searches from that site. GoodSearch will donate \$1 per search to FNPS and you'll be financially helping FNPS without spending a penny.

4. From the same website as GoodSearch, you can also participate in GoodShop. Many members make purchases online. Nearly very large and small stores ranging from household goods, clothing, hiking/camping equipment, sporting clothes, office supplies, etc. are represented. By shopping at the online stores you would normally shop at anyway, go through GoodShop, select FNPS, Melbourne and FNPS receives up to a 15% of the sales prices in a donation.

Here is a good way to help FNPS while doing your regular online shopping or business activities!

FNPS Landscape & Restoration Awards Application - Deadline March 5, 2010

Each year at the Annual Conference, FNPS gives awards for high quality native plant landscapes. If you have a home, business or school site landscaped primarily with native plants, you can apply for one of our landscape awards (presented at our annual conference). Categories also include Mitigation and Restoration projects. A copy of the application instructions and application form are provided on pages 5 & 6.

If you have questions ask our Chapter Rep. Susan Vaughn who has assisted other members in compiling a successful application. For a small chapter we have won a surprising number of awards.

Florida Native Plant Society Landscape Awards Program March 5, 2010 Application Deadline

2010 Award recipients will be honored at the Florida Native Plant Society's annual conference, held at the Leon County Civic Center in Tallahassee on May 22, 2010. First place winners receive complimentary conference registration on Saturday (hotel not included) and admission to the Saturday night awards banquet where the awards will be presented. Second and third place winners will receive complimentary admission to the Saturday night awards banquet.

MINIMUM CRITERIA

- 1) 75% Florida native plant species
- 2) Minimum 2-year grow-in period before submittal
- 3) No plants listed on the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council's (FLEPPC) Category I and II lists (www.fleppc.org)

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

All applications must include the following:

- 1) Application form (Include a copy on submittal CD)
- 2) Entry fee (check or money order, see application form)
- 3) Drawing or planting plan, labeled with numbers to correspond to photos
- 4) Ten (10) color photos maximum: Note: *Photos may be used in FNPS presentations.
 - Photos must be slides or high-resolution digital photos on CD only
 - Photos must showcase landscape design and project elements
 - Photos must be numbered to correspond with drawing/planting plan
- 5) Maximum two-page narrative (12 point text with one-inch margins) describing the project.

Narrative must be included on the CD and must address the following judging criteria:

- Statement of pre-existing conditions, including extent of native plants
 - Native landscape concepts and goals
 - Relationship to local native plant communities
 - On-site preservation of existing native plants (if applicable)
 - Maintenance/management planning
 - Creative solutions to significant obstacles
 - Educational component
- 6) Plant list including botanical names. List any existing plants preserved with approximate size. Species diversity is encouraged.

NOTE: Application materials will not be returned

**Florida Native Plant Society
Landscape Awards Program - APPLICATION FORM**

Applicant Name/Relationship to Project: _____

Project Name: _____

Project Location (City & County): _____

Daytime Phone #: _____ Evening Phone #: _____

Email address: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, ST, Zip Code: _____

EXACT NAME(S) ON PLAQUE (if awarded) (ALL THAT ARE APPLICABLE AND WHAT IS DESIRED)

Designer: _____

Installation Contractor: _____

Owner: _____

Maintenance: _____

PROJECT CATEGORY (check one)

- Residential:** single family home **Residential:** multi-family / large-scale developments
- Commercial:** business / Office
- Institutional:** governmental agencies, churches, schools and non-profit organizations
- Ecosystem Restoration:** private or public efforts to restore or enhance Florida ecosystems
- Mitigation:** private or public efforts to create or enhance ecosystems as part of mitigation
- Transportation:** streetscapes, median and/or right-of-way designs
- Wildflower/Butterfly Garden:** publicly or privately created wildflower and/or butterfly garden
- Preservation:** public programs and/or private efforts to preserve native ecosystems or vegetation

ENTRY FEE (check one)

- Non-profit, school or government** (no entry fee)
- Amateur/Homeowner** (\$30.00 entry fee)
- Professional Design** (\$150.00 entry fee)

I have reviewed this completed entry form and do not object to the submission, judging or publication of this material.

Property Owner's Name: _____

Property Owner's Signature: _____

MAIL or overnight delivery this form with entry fee and all application attachments by March 5, 2010 to: FNPS Landscape Awards, 2112 Helen Street, Melbourne FL 32901

Please note that the Landscape Awards Committee reserves the right to reassign a project's category if deemed appropriate.

YAUPON HOLLY by Peggy A. Gretchen, FNPS Member, Pasco MasterGardener

Botanical Name: *Ilex vomitoria* **Common Name:** Yaupon, Yaupon Holly **Family:** Aquifoliaceae
Type of Plant: Native small to large evergreen shrub or small tree, upright, usually multi-trunked, an oval form, densely foliated, with irregular dense branching, and smooth, grayish-white bark.

Height: 8 – 25 ft. **Width:** 5 – 15 ft. Dwarf cultivars are 3 – 5 ft. tall ('Nana', 'Schellings Dwarf').

How to Identify: **Leaves:** Alternate, dark green, glossy, leathery, oval to oblong, with scalloped margins, about ½ - 1 in. long. **Flowers:** Tiny, white, 4 – lobed, borne in dense clusters. Male and female flowers on separate plants (dioecious). Flowering Time: Spring (March to May). **Fruit:** A small, bright red berry or drupe with 4 seeds in fall and winter. Produced on female plants only. Need male in vicinity to pollinate females. Most cultivars produce showy fruit that persists well into winter. Both ornamental and wildlife value.

Habitat: Hammocks, flatwoods, swamps, floodplains, coastal habitats and dunes. **Distribution:** New Jersey southward to Florida Panhandle and peninsular Florida and west to Texas. Frequent in North Florida to south-central peninsula. **Hardiness Zones:** 7 – 10.

Landscape Use / Wildlife Benefit: Use as a specimen or accent large shrub or small tree or for a large screen or hedge. When pruned or when using dwarf cultivars, excellent for foundations, borders, or low hedges along patios, walkways, and roadsides / medians. Get the female for her ornamental red berries and give her plenty of sun to ensure a bumper crop for winter viewing pleasure. Then put the males in shady spots, such as under live oaks, where you need some evergreen foliage. Provides excellent cover and nesting for songbirds and other wildlife, while the berries are an important food source. Larval plant for Henry's elfin butterfly.

Cultivation: Adaptable ! **Soil:** Prefers moist, but well-drained. Will tolerate a wide range of soils, including highly alkaline and saline soils (salt-tolerant). **Light:** Full sun – part sun/shade – full shade.

Water: Moist, well-drained conditions preferred. Drought tolerant once established.

Miscellaneous: No maintenance required, but may be pruned to any desired height or shape. Moderately fast growing . Long-lived. Salt-tolerant. Generally hardy. Virtually pest free. May colonize to form a thicket. Fruit production requires both male and female plants. Several species of holly (*Ilex*) are native to Florida; Yaupon is the most widely used. More than 30 cultivars of Yaupon Holly are known, 8 of which are available in Florida. There are weeping cultivars, female cultivars with especially heavy production of red or yellow berries, and dwarf cultivars. 'Nana' is a dwarf female, 'Schellings Dwarf' is a dwarf male.

Propagation: By seed – fresh, scarified (optional), or double stratified (may take two years to germinate), or by semi-hardwood cuttings.

Comment: Yaupon Holly leaves contain a high level of caffeine. Native Americans made a potent "black tea" from the foliage as a cathartic purge, hence the species name: *vomitoria*.

References: Haehle, Robert & Joan Brookwell, *Native Florida Plants*, Houston, TX, Gulf Pub. Co., 1999.
Huegel, Craig N., *Florida Plants for Wildlife*, Orlando, Florida, Florida Native Plant Society, 1995.
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Osorio, Rufino, *A Gardener's Guide to Florida's Native Plants*, Gainesville, FL, Univ. Press of FL, 2001.
Taylor, Walter K. *Florida Wildflowers in their Natural Communities*, Gainesville, FL, Univ. Press of FL, 1998.
Wasowski, Sally with Andy Wasowski, *Gardening with Native Plants of the South*, Dallas, TX, Taylor Pub. Co., 1994.

Wunderlin, Richard P., *Guide to the Vascular Plants of Florida*, Gainesville, FL, Univ. Press of FL, 1998.

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Submit newsletter articles to E-mail:
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**NEXT NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE: Dec. 13th**

Calendar

<p>November 3rd: Master Gardener Program at the Hudson Library at 6:30 - 7:40 p.m. “Beneficial Bees”</p> <p>November 7th: Get Outside Day at Starkey Wilderness Preserve - Serenova Tract: 9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.</p> <p>November 9th: Hernando County Chapter Meeting at Hernando Extension Office at 6:30 p.m. - Dr. Walter K. Taylor presents “Florida Grasses”</p> <p>Nov. 10th Meeting & Election of Officers at 7:30 p.m.: “Preserving the Nature Coast” presented by Jan Howie, Gorgon O’Connor, and Julie Wert.</p> <p>Nov. 14th: Master Gardener Program at Land O’Lakes Community Center at 9 a.m. Elaine Fortier will present “Florida Wildflowers”</p> <p>Nov.15th Field Trip at 9 a.m.: Pasco Palms Property off Strauber Memorial Highway in Holiday</p> <p>Dec. 1st at 6:30 - 7:40 p.m.: “Preparing the Garden for Cold Weather”_at the Hudson Library.</p> <p>December 8th Annual Holiday Pot Luck Dinner at 7:30 p.m.: Join us for good food, Christmas tree and native plant drawing, and a good time with friends.</p>

“The purpose of the Florida Native Plant Society is the preservation, conservation, and restoration of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida.”

**Nature Coast Chapter of FNPS
Newsletter Publication
5249 Bougenville Drive
New Port Richey, FL 34652**

