



September-October 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:**

#### **September 13th Meeting: Plant Propagation presented by Adah Weitzel,**

Pasco County Master Gardener. This will be a demonstration by Adah, a native Floridian, of the basic techniques or propagating from cuttings and seeds. After becoming a Master Gardener in 2005 this became her passion. 90% of her yard is a direct result of all she has learned and she creates 300-400 plants a year for the annual Master Gardener plant sale. Come prepared with a kitchen garbage bag and tie and about 4 small bags for seeds as she plans to bring bunches of stuff to share!

#### **Field trip: SUNDAY September 18th, at 10am, Cypress Lakes Preserve** in Ridge Manor.

Cypress Lakes Preserve is part of the Environmentally Sensitive Lands Program. The walk will be lead by Jim King, Conservation Lands Specialist, who manages the Hernando County's Environmentally Sensitive Lands preserves. (contd p.2)

#### **October 11th Meeting: Craig Huegel "Native Plant Landscaping for Florida Wildlife"**

Craig Huegel is a wildlife biologist, ecologist, and author of the book by the same name. -As we lose our native habitats to development, it becomes increasingly important to add wildlife value to our urban landscapes. Learn to easily create an attractive landscape that is also an inviting habitat for our native wildlife...birds, butterflies, and more,,,using Florida's native plants! Books will be available for sale and autographing.

**October 15<sup>th</sup> Fall NCC Native Plant Sale: Land O'Lakes Community Ctr., 5401 Land O'Lakes Blvd./US 41, Land O'Lakes, 34639: Saturday from 10am-2pm** We will again give central and east Pasco residents and opportunity to purchase native plants closer to home. There will be free literature, books for sale and plant profiles to help buyers put the plants in the right place. **Volunteers needed! Please sign up at the next meeting or contact Coordinator Peggy Gretchen at 813-991-4812 or email her at: [herculesmpg@earthlink.net](mailto:herculesmpg@earthlink.net)**

**Field trip SATURDAY, October 22nd , 11am, Hiking a Florida Sandhill in Hudson by Fortier Specialty Nursery.** Elaine Fortier, a member of the Nature Coast Chapter of the Native Plant Society, has graciously invited us to a hike on her property, a natural sandhill and a native nursery. Bring binoculars, field guide and sturdy walking shoes; there are no paths. Elaine will give us the history of the property and point out interesting native plants. For those who prefer less walking, a visit to the nursery sitting in the shady cabana and watching the butterflies provides a great alternative. There will be plants for sale at the nursery. Take a sack lunch for a picnic. Beverages and dessert will be provided.(contd p.4)

Welcome new members: Bonnie Bell, Terry Donovan,  
James Goeke, Marylin Flanagan, Liz Keeler  
Thanks renewed members: Eva Bailey, Corinne Flanagan



### **Chapter contact information**

#### **OFFICERS:**

President: Julie Wert (727)863-1363 [aripekajule@verizon.net](mailto:aripekajule@verizon.net)  
Vice President: B. J. Fread (813)317-7088 [fireinthecat@yahoo.com](mailto:fireinthecat@yahoo.com)  
Secretary: Jan Howie (727)848-7689 [janicehowie@aol.com](mailto:janicehowie@aol.com)  
Treasurer, Newsletter & Website Coordinator: Mary Horan (727)849-2335 [horansmo@earthlink.net](mailto:horansmo@earthlink.net)  
Chapter Representative: Marilyn Smullen (727)868-8151

#### **CHAIRPERSONS:**

Field Trip Coordinator/Plant Drawing Chair: Jonnie Spitler [rspitler@verizon.net](mailto:rspitler@verizon.net) (813)948-8472  
Newsletter Distribution: Dan Meahl [dmeahl@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:dmeahl@tampabay.rr.com) and Helen Bates (727)869-5847  
Newsletter Editor: Paul F. [underthemilkyway@verizon.net](mailto:underthemilkyway@verizon.net)  
Publicity Chair: Sandra Vanno (727)376-7663 [svanno@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:svanno@tampabay.rr.com)  
Membership: Doris Bareiss (727)842-3133 [wildcoffee@verizon.net](mailto:wildcoffee@verizon.net)  
Plant Drawing Chairs: Karen Aegerter (727)534-8625 and Teri Garrett (727)992-5339  
Historian: Shirley Koerner (727)848-8000 [koerner@verizon.net](mailto:koerner@verizon.net)  
Refreshments: Pat Kelly (352)588-0266 [patriciak03@gmail.com](mailto:patriciak03@gmail.com)  
Assistant: Naomi Love (269)719-0006 [naomii\\_gene@yahoo.com](mailto:naomii_gene@yahoo.com)  
Books: Sharon Holding (727)843-9771 [sharholdi@cs.com](mailto:sharholdi@cs.com)  
Government Affairs Coordinator: Peggy Gretchen (813)991-4812 [herculesmpg@earthlink.net](mailto:herculesmpg@earthlink.net)  
Program Coordinator: ([open position](#))

Chapter website: [pasconativeplants.org](http://pasconativeplants.org)

### **Field trip: SUNDAY September 18th contd..**

Jim is a native Floridian born in Panama City, graduated from UF with a BA in Forestry majoring in Wildlife Ecology. He will give a short talk when we arrive about the natural and land use history of the Preserve, habitat restoration plans and work accomplished to date. We will then walk and look for plants under Jim's guidance. According to Jim, there are so many interesting plants that walking a great distance will not be an issue.

**Directions:** The address of the preserve is 33241 Ridge Manor Bl. in Ridge Manor, FL 33523. Parking is limited to the sides of Ridge Manor Blvd. It is best to park on the north side across from the field and next to the preserve. From SR 50 heading east, turn left on Ridge Manor Blvd. (which is the second left after crossing the Withlacoochee River). It is the first gate on the left. Park on the left just before you get to the gate. From SR 50 westbound, and US 98 northbound, go north on Olancho Rd. (Shell station on the NW corner of the intersection of Olancho and SR 50). Olancho ends at the gate on Ridge Manor Blvd. Turn left and park on the right side of the road. The preserve is East of I75.

**Carpooling from the West side of the County:** Meet at 9:15 at the new Publix Shopping Center on the NW corner of the intersection of Hays Rd and SR 52, just west of the Suncoast Parkway.

**Carpooling from the East side of the County:** Meet at 9:15 at the Hampton Inn parking lot just east of the I75 entrance on SR 56.

## Plant profile: **American Beautyberry**

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

**Botanical Name:** *Callicarpa americana*

**Common Name:** American Beautyberry, Beautybush, French Mulberry

**Family:** Verbenaceae (Vervain or Verbena) OR Lamiaceae or Labiatae (Mint)

Note: This plant has traditionally been placed in Verbenaceae, but recent evidence indicates that it might be best placed with the Mints, Lamiaceae.

**Type of Plant:** Native, deciduous in N. Florida, evergreen in S. Florida, woody, small to medium size shrub with open, irregularly spreading habit, graceful arching branches, and brownish-gray bark.

Height: 4 – 8 ft. Width: 3 – 6 ft.:

### **How to identify:**

**Leaves:** Deciduous, opposite, simple, finely-toothed, aromatic, 3 – 6 in. long, ovate to elliptic, hairy below, with long stalks (petioles) and prominent veins.

**Flowers:** Small, somewhat inconspicuous, whitish-pink to lavender, borne on new growth in axillary clusters along the branches (at the leaf nodes). Flowering Time: Late spring – summer; April – October.

**Fruit:** Conspicuous, showy, small, bright pink-purple (magenta), rounded drupes (fleshy, non-splitting, usually one seed), borne in dense clusters along the branches in late summer – fall – early winter. Attractive to birds and other wildlife. Fruits not eaten will persist into winter.

**Habitat:** Flatwoods, hammocks – dry to moist (mesic), and roadsides.

**Distribution:** Common nearly throughout Florida and much of Eastern N. America Hardiness Zones: 6 – 11.

**Landscape Use / Wildlife Benefit:** Use as an ornamental specimen shrub for its attractive, abundant pink-purple fruits in the fall. Useful in shady sites and difficult areas – very adaptable! Plant in masses in mixed shrub beds, borders, foundations, or under trees. Good background plant for colorful perennials, or plant in front of evergreen trees or shrubs. Very useful in naturalistic landscapes, along woodland edges, and in roadside plantings and medians. May be severely pruned or even mowed yearly to yield much fuller plants. Beautyberry is a great plant for wildlife. The flowers may attract hummingbirds for nectar. Not especially attractive to butterflies. Pollinated mostly by bees. The fruits are eaten by birds and other wildlife; however, because the fruits are neither sweet nor juicy, they are not most preferred and may last well into winter

### **Cultivation:**

**Soil:** Prefers rich, organic. Tolerates a variety of slightly acid to neutral, well-drained conditions, including poor, sandy soils.

**Light:** Full sun – part shade – full shade. Will tolerate full shade, but not as attractive (leggy and fewer flowers and fruit). Produces more flowers and fruit in full sun, but leaves may turn yellow and grow more slowly. Partial sun and shade is ideal.

**Water:** Dry to moist. Drought-tolerant. Water to establish, then will generally survive on natural rainfall. Supplemental irrigation may be required during periods of drought in poor, sandy soils.

**Miscellaneous:** Fast-growing. Low salt-tolerance. Cold hardy. Lifespan usually under ten years, but often naturally propagated for a continuous presence in the landscape by self-sown seed. Maintenance: Severely prune annually to maintain a more compact form. Pinch back the growing tips of branches (tip-prune) in the spring for more fullness. Severely prune, nearly to the ground, in late winter. Will flower and fruit on new growth come spring. Note: A white-fruited form, *C. americana* var. *lactea*, is available. Combine with purple-fruited varieties for a most interesting and beautiful look!

**Comment:** Ripened fruit is used for making jellies. Will need lots of sugar, though, as beautyberries are not naturally sweet!

**Propagation:** Easily done by seed or cuttings.

**Availability:** See your FANN (Florida Association of Native Nurseries) Directory or [www.plantrealflorida.org!](http://www.plantrealflorida.org!)

### **References:**

Haehle, Robert G. and Joan Brookwell, Native Florida Plants, Houston, Texas, Gulf Publishing Company, 1999.

Huegel, Craig N., Native Plant Landscaping for Florida Wildlife, Gainesville, FL, University Press of Florida, 2010.

Nelson, Gil, Florida's Best Native Landscape Plants, Gainesville, Florida, University Press of Florida, 2003.

Osorio, Rufino, A Gardener's Guide to Florida's Native Plants, Gainesville, FL, University Press of Florida, 2001.

Taylor, Walter Kingsley, Florida Wildflowers in their Natural Communities, Gainesville, FL, Univ. Press of FL, 1998.

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

## **Chapter announcements:**

***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.

**Renew Memberships at meetings:** Mary Horan, NCC treasurer is able to accept membership renewals at our monthly meetings. This can save you the trouble of mailing in or doing an email renewal to FNPS. If bringing a check, remember to make it out to FNPS; but she will accept cash renewals as well.

Also, A St. Pete Times columnist wrote an [article](#) about Julie and Richard's yard!

And here's Paul's June album: <http://goo.gl/dnjJR>

Don't forget to check out the FNPS online shop at <http://floridanativeplantsociety.mybigcommerce.com/> . You can find that FNPS tee shirt or hat you've wanted while helping raise funds for FNPS!

## **Field trip SATURDAY, October 22nd contd...**

**Directions:** Fortier Specialty Nursery is located at 13047 Houston Ave., Hudson 34667.

**Carpooling from the West part of the county:** Meet in the Sweetbay Parking lot behind Burger King on U.S. 19 and Moog Rd. at 10:30 a.m

**Carpooling from the East part of the county:** Meet at the Big Lots parking lot at the intersection of SR41 and SR 54 in Land o Lakes at 10:15am

*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](http://www.fnps.org)  
Newsletter Publication  
Nature Coast Chapter of  
the Florida Native Plant Society  
5249 Bougenville Drive  
New Port Richey, FL 34652