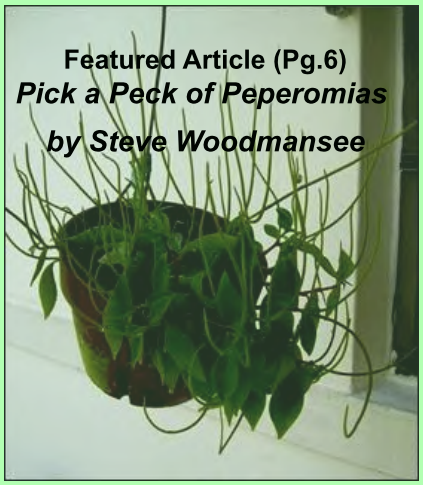
April
2013

THE DAHOON

Newsletter of the Palm Beach County Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society



Featured Article (Pg.6)
Pick a Peck of Peperomias
by Steve Woodmansee

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April Chapter Meeting

Tuesday, April 16

Doors open at 7pm Program starts at 7:30
Native plant drawing follows the program

Public welcome • No reservations needed • Refreshments • Free admission

EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON FLORIDA PLANT COMMUNITIES

Chris Lockhart, Habitat Specialists, Inc.

There has been a lot of news recently about climate change, expected sea level rise and related topics. Florida, especially South Florida, is particularly vulnerable to these changes, partly due to our low elevation and partly due to the porous limestone substrate. Have there been shifts in vegetation here yet? How can you tell? Chris will address these questions and describe some of the factors related to climate change that are affecting various Florida plant communities. Our climate indeed is changing around us as we have experienced floods, drought, unseasonably warm and cold periods in recent years. Join us to learn more about how these climate shifts are affecting our flora and national networks that are using citizen science to track changes in plant life cycles.

Chris is president of Habitat Specialists, Inc. and current FNPS Conservation Chair for our chapter. Originally from Indiana, she got her bachelor's degree from Purdue University and her Master's from FAU. She has been active in the fields of plant ecology and environmental education in Florida for over 15 years, conducting invasive species surveys, vegetation monitoring, coordinating the Palm Beach County Envirothon and more recently, looking at effects of climate change in Florida.

The Palm Beach County Chapter of the FNPS
meets on the third Tuesday of every month at the
University of Florida/IFAS Mounts Building Auditorium
531 North Military Trail, West Palm Beach
For more information, please call or email
561-247-3677
palmbeach@fnpschapters.org

The Florida Native Plant Society promotes the preservation of our native flora through education and conservation. To attract wildlife, promote water conservation and prevent the further introduction of non-native pest plants, the society encourages the cultivation of nursery-propagated Florida native plants and promotes their use as ornamentals in public and private landscapes.

Naturescaping and Dark Skies Festival

by Lindy Cerar

This year's Naturescaping, an annual MacArthur Beach festival dedicated to creating Florida-friendly landscapes that conserve water, protect water quality and create wildlife habitat, moved to March 16th instead of mid-April. This earlier date provided a cooler festival that blended well with the dark skies theme. The theme brought awareness of light as a form of pollution that affects the fauna, especially the nocturnal ones. One of the presentations in the Education Center Classroom told how the stadium lights at FAU proved to have a deleterious effect on sea turtle nesting at Gumbo Limbo. Once confronted with evidence of this problem, FAU complied by changing their lighting to a new dark-sky friendly variety that shines the light downward to minimize nightglow. There were over 50 vendors ranging from great native plant vendors to Busch Wildlife with their captivating owls and snakes to flowers made from recycled plastic bottle. Our booth sold plants donated by our members and helped visitors learn more about our Chapter and native plants. Our booth was staffed by **Lynn Sweetay, Lindy Cerar, Judy Kadish, Judy Trammel, Fran and Ryan Leavengood, Deborah Coleman, and Cathy Beals.** The plants we sold were donated by many of the booth volunteers in addition to **Livia Pepper,Chris Lockhart**, **Native Choice Nursery, and Linda Haunert**. **Winnie Said** and **Brenda Mills** helped as needed as they were nearby obtaining signatures for Florida's Water and Land Legacy petition drive. It was a beautiful spring day and we had the Conch Stomp Band playing lovely blue grass music within earshot of our booth.

Chapter Notes

Summary of March 2013 PBC Chapter Meeting

submitted by F. Leavengood,Sec.

On Tuesday, March 19, 2013, the Palm Beach County Chapter of the FNPS welcomed chapter member **Dennis de Zeeuw** as our speaker. Dennis gave an informative presentation on Sustainable Landscaping and Vermiculture. We learned from Dennis that to make conventional sterile landscapes more sustainable we should change the plants as well as our maintenance practices. Examples include using rain barrels to conserve water, and making changes to the soil by choosing organic fertilizers such as vermi-compost from worm castings or ocean solution derived from seawater, instead of traditional chemical fertilizers. Dennis gave us tips on setting up our own vermiculture systems based on what he has done using Redworms (*Eisenia fetida*). Dennis described his setup for making worm casting tea which can be applied directly on plants as a foliar spray. He also described how to make a slurry of worm castings and rainwater to apply directly around the plants as a fertilizer. We also learned how Dennis keeps his worms happy by giving them "worm A/C" using towel covered bottles of frozen water. Lastly we learned that chlorinated tap water should not be used on the worms as it can injure them and that it is best to use rain water or at least let tap water sit out for 48-72 hours before "bathing" the worms, allowing the chlorine to evaporate from the water.

After the presentation, our monthly plant drawing was held. Plants donated this meeting included White Passion Vine (*Passiflora multiflora*) and two Fairy Hibiscus (*Hibiscus poeppigii*) from **Gene Sanchez**, two Tillandsia species from **Michael Manna**, Locust Berry (*Byrsonima lucida*), Lancewood (*Ocotea coriacea*), and Gopher-apple (*Licania michauxii*) from **Jeff Nurge and Susan Casamento from Native Choice Nursery**, and many other plants that were left over from donations for Naturescaping: Tropical Sage (*Salvia coccinea*), Bahama Coffee (*Psychotria ligustrifolia*), Dune Sunflower (*Helianthus debilis*), Gumbo Limbo (*Bursera simaruba*), Climbing Aster (*Aster carolinianus*), Horsetail Scouring Rush (*Equisetum hyemale*), Rouge Plant (*Rivina humilis*), Spiderwort (*Tradescantia ohiensis*), Florida Keys Thoroughwort (*Koanophyllon villosum*), Bahama Maidenbush (*Savia bahamensis*), Beach Creeper (*Ernodea littoralis*), Black Nightshade, (*Solanum americanum*), and Coral honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*) with some bonus plants in the pots (Paradise Tree (*Simarouba glauca*), Soapberry (*Sapindus saponaria*), and Black Nightshade (*Solanum americanum*)).

Carl Terwilliger hosted the Native Plant Drawing

Gardening with the Natives

by Jeff Nurge

www.FloridaNativeGardening.com

ELDERBERRY
(*Sambucus Canadensis*)

Why we love it: The next time you're traveling down the road this time of year, look off to the side and chances are you'll see Elderberry growing in a low area or roadside ditch. With its leaves that lend a tropical look and cluster's of white flowers that resemble Queen Ann's lace this plant sticks out in our local landscape. The flowers give way to masses of small dark edible berries. Yes, this is the same Elderberry that wines and jellies are made from. But the main benefit to include this plant in your landscape is the food and shelter it provides to wildlife.

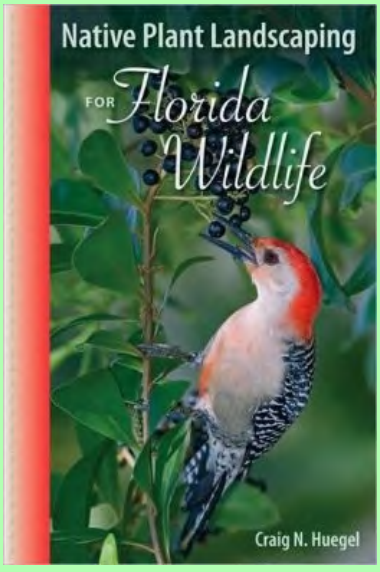
How to grow it: Elderberry grows from 8 to 20 Feet tall in full sun to light shade. Normally growing in the wild in moist soils this plant is very adaptive in cultivation. Elderberry can be quite drought tolerant in nutrient poor soils. I established my plant in just such a location and it has thrived without any supplemental watering or sprinkler system. Elderberry is a fast grower and can cover a lot of ground to due its ability to sucker vigorously. To keep it under control and maintain its appearance cut all root suckers off at the ground.

Photos by Carol Warren www.wildlifearoundus.blogspot.com

Where to buy it: Elderberry plant is grown by native plant enthusiasts and is not commonly cultivated for the nursery trade. However, visit the association of Florida Native Nurseries at www.afnn.org. This site provides a snapshot of plant offerings at local nurseries, so call around.

Book Signings at the FNPS Annual Conference

Craig N. Huegel will be signing books on Friday 5/17 and Saturday 5/18. He's the author of "Native Wildflowers and Other Ground Covers for Florida Landscapes;" "Florida plants for wildlife: A selection guide to native trees and shrubs;" and "Butterfly Gardening with Florida's Native Plants." ***Ginny Stibolt*** is on the conference committee and will be signing her books on Friday and Saturday. She's the author of "Sustainable Gardening for Florida;" and "Organic Methods for Vegetable Gardening in Florida." ***Jaret Daniels*** will be a speaker on Friday and will be signing books on Friday and Saturday. He's the author of "Butterflies of Florida Field Guide" (Our Nature Field Guides); "Wildflowers of the Southeast Field Guide;" "Your Florida Guide to Butterfly Gardening: A Guide for the Deep South;" "Wildflowers of Florida Field Guide" (Field Guides (Adventure Publications)); and more.



Annual Native Plant Auction

COLORFUL UNCOMMON WILDFLOWERS
Callirhoe papaver
Lobelia cardinalis
Phlox pilosa
Seed Packets: Baptista alba, Dalea carnea, Ipomopsis rubra, Lythrum alatum, Linaria canadensis, Rudbekia mohrii

DAISIES
Berlandiera pumila
Helianthus resinosus
Rudbeckia laciniata
Rudbeckia triloba
Solidago petiolaris
Seed Packets: Helenium amarum and Helianthus radula

MILKWEED COLLECTION
Asclepias incarnata
Asclepias perennis
Asclepias tuberosa
Asclepias verticillata

MINTS
Conradina canescens
Calamintha georgiana
Stachys floridana
Seed Packet: Hyptis alata

SHADE-LOVERS
Campyloneurum phyllitidis
Chasmanthium latifolium
Dicliptera quadrangularis
Smallanthus uvedalia

UNCOMMON SHRUB SPECIMEN PLANTS (separate auction items)
Celtis pallida
Crataegus flava
Hydrangea quercifolia

The Palm Beach County Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society is pleased to announce that the

2013 Native Plant Auction

will be held on

Tuesday, May 21st at 7:30 pm

at the

Mounts Botanical Garden Auditorium
West Palm Beach, FL

Save the Date....
You don't want to miss this popular event!

Featured Themes

- Colorful Uncommon Wildflowers
- Daisies
- Milkweed Collection
- Mints
- Shade Lovers
- and Uncommon Shrub Specimen Plants

Presented by

Rufino Osorio and Michael Manna

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Additional items will be offered in the Silent Auction
Rare plants • Books • Crafts • Garden Items

Silent Auction Plants -
Set of Liatris chapmanii, L.garberi
L. savannensis with seed of L. elegans
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KNOW YOUR FOE

By Hilde Hartnett

Rosary Pea (*Abrus precatorius*)

Photo: Rufino Osorio
http://rufino-osorio.blogspot.com/

This dainty climbing vine may look benign, but beware: it produces a deadly toxin. A single one of its seeds -- brilliant red with a black dot on one end – may be enough to kill a person. And its impact on Florida ecosystems is toxic, too. Introduced here as an ornamental sometime before 1932, it is now found in 27 Florida counties, mostly in the south and central parts of the state. The rosary pea invades scrub, pinelands and hammocks, growing up and over trees and shrubs and crowding out native plants.

The toxin in the plant, called abrin, is found only in the seeds, and is released when chewed and swallowed. Birds are known to eat the seeds and disperse them without ill effect.

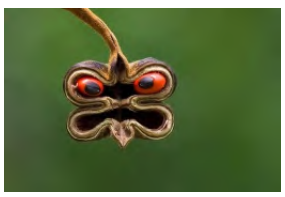
The rosary pea gets its name from its seeds, which are so uniform in size that they have been used as rosary beads, in jewelry making, and as weights for measuring on scales. Originally from India and parts of Asia, the plant's roots have been used for a variety of medicinal purposes. The plant is also known as ``crab's eye,'' because of the distinct look of the seeds, ``blackeyed susan,'' and ``precatory bean.''

Photo: Allen Boatman
Atlas of Florida Vascular Plants

A perennial, twining vine, the rosary pea has alternate compound leaves with no terminal leaflet, and grows 10 to 20 feet. The flowers are small, pea-like and violet to pink in color. The fruit is also pea-like – a flat pod 1 ½ to 2 inches long. The roots grow deep, making it hard to remove by hand, and it thrives after fires.

Rosary pea is classified as a Category 1 Invasive by the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council, meaning it is ``altering native plant communities by displacing native species, changing community structures or ecological functions, or hybridizing with natives.'' It is also listed as a Florida Noxious Weed, making it illegal to cultivate, transport, import, or collect without a permit.

Recognizing this plant and pulling it out by the roots is the most effective way to help stop its spread in small areas. Chemical controls are effective when used in the fall prior to seed set. For more information visit the sites listed below.



Sources: Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants, University of Florida, IFAS: http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/node/23
University of Pennsyvania Poisonous Plants Home Page: http://cal.vet.upenn.edu/projects/poison/plants/pprosar.htm

by Steve Woodmansee

PICK A PECK OF PEPEROMIAS

Cypress Peperomia (*P. glabella*)

Baby Rubberplant (*P. obtusifolia*, formerly *P. floridana)*

Photo: Roger Hammer

Florida is such a cool place for native plants. We have all kinds of subtropical delights, many not found anywhere else in the continental U.S. One such group of plant delights are Peperomia species. This genus lacks an adequate common name for my tastes (Wikipedia lists the common name for all Peperomia as "Radiator plant"), so I prefer to refer to them as Peperomias. They belong to the Piperaceae (Piper Family), which does indeed contain the perfectly palatable piquant spice Black Pepper (*Piper nigrum*). The genus Peperomia, consisting of almost half the species within the Piperaceae at over 1500, is found throughout tropical regions of the world. Peperomia species are prolific in part due to their tiny seeds which can be carried far and wide on wind currents. Most are epiphytes, or airplants which grow on branches of other trees, and are typically non-parasitic. Epiphytes derive their nutrients and moisture from the air, fallen leaves, and limited detritus found on the limbs of trees. Given this, they are generally well adapted to prolonged periods of drought, although humidity is a must. Some Florida species of Peperomia also grow on floating logs in cypress swamps.

Florida is home to eight species of Peperomia, six of which are native. Interestingly, one of the species, *P. rotundifolia*, was discovered less than 15 years ago. All the native Peperomia are rare in nature, and all but one are listed as Endangered in Florida. Peperomia flowers are barely visible individually, and number in the hundreds, if not thousands along a long spike, visually reminiscent of a rat's tail. They generally have coriaceous (thickened) leaves (for retaining moisture), and thrive in areas of low levels of light. Habitats Peperomia populate include swamps and tropical hammocks. In the landscape, Peperomia prefer pendulant pots, however some larger leaved species may also serve as a ground cover. You may even be inclined to try them out as epiphytes in your trees, or around limestone rocks surrounding a water feature (do not submerge them though).

Steve Woodmansee is a biologist, native plant expert, instructor at Miami Dade College, chair of the Dade Native Plant Workshop, president of FNPS, a former president of the Dade Chapter, frequent contributor to Tillandsia, co-author of Rare Plants of South Florida, and speaker for many organizations. His business, Pro Native Consulting, specializes in environmental services in addition to selling native plants. steve@pronative.com

This article was reprinted with permission from the Dade County Chapter of the FNPS

Chapter Events

Saturday, April 13
9am – 1pm
Mounts Botanical Garden
Exhibit Hall A
559 North Military Trail
West Palm Beach, FL 33415

Please register with the contact person for this event.
Office 561-233-1757

Going Native…Bringing Butterflies & Nature into Your Yard
Planting Florida natives is the low maintenance and eco-friendly way to bring birds and butterflies into your yard. In this short symposium, you'll delve into the fascinating connection between south Florida's butterflies and native plants and learn about native substitutions for common exotics. Stop by the native plant sale to purchase some of your new "must haves," and stay for Mounts "Butterfly Fest." Included: a guided tour of Mounts native plant collection and tips for developing a native wildlife habitat in a homeowners association.

Tuesday, April 16
5:30 – 7:30pm
Mounts Botanical Garden
531 North Military Trail, WPB

Chapter Board of Directors Meeting
All members are invited to attend our Chapter's Board of Directors meeting before our regular 7:30 chapter meeting.

Tuesday, April 16
7:30 – 9pm (doors open at 7)
Mounts Botanical Garden
531 North Military Trail, WPB

Chapter Meeting: Effects of Climate Change on Florida Plant Communities -*Chris Lockhart, President of Habitat Specialists Inc., and Conservation Chair of our FNPS Chapter*, will discuss how climate change is affecting Florida and what the plant communities can tell us about this imminent change

Free Admission • Refreshments • Native Plant Drawing
Public Welcome • No Reservations Needed

Saturday April 20
9am-12
Clayton Hutchenson Building
559 N Military Trail, WPB

Volunteer Event - Native Plant Demo Garden Maintenance
Come and learn from experts as you help us maintain our Native Plant Demonstration Garden. It's a great opportunity to ask questions, identify plants and take home cuttings for your garden. Work parties are held on the Saturday following our monthly meetings. Drop by anytime between 9:00 am and noon to learn, socialize and enjoy the open air. Don't forget to bring your garden tools!

Tuesday, May 6
Starts at 6pm
Mounts Botanical Garden
531 North Military Trail, WPB

Floral Design Workshop with Steve Chase
Containers, flowers and other supplies will be provided. Please bring your own clippers. Requires a $10 fee in advance. Registration for workshop will be held at next chapter meeting.

Tuesday, May 21
5:30 – 7:30pm
Mounts Botanical Garden
531 North Military Trail, WPB

Chapter Meeting: Annual Native Plant Auction
Don't miss this exciting opportunity to enhance your landscape with premium native plants and support your local FNPS chapter at the same time! Funds support our chapter. ***Details on Page 4.***

Other Events

Earth Day Peace Jam
Saturday, April 13 noon- 9pm
Lake Worth Cultural Plaza
414 Lake Ave. & M St.
This is a community-level festival featuring local environmental awareness, outdoor activities, the arts, crafts, exhibits, kids games and an exciting line up of live acoustic and jam bands.

Earth Day Celebration and Native Plant Sale
Saturday, April 20 10 am - 2 pm
at the Environmental Studies Center,
2900 NE Indian River Drive,
Jensen Beach, FL.
The theme for the day is
"Healthy People, Healthy Planet: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Restore."

MJ Aagerstoun presents on EcoArt at Broward County Regional Library, April 24

Aagerstoun will speak about the role that EcoArt can play in bringing attention to and fighting the causes of climate change as well as the need for artists to assist in presenting the world with warnings and solutions to major environmental issues. Her talk will also encompass the history of "Earth Art" and the connections between the 60's based movement and EcoArt's current and future projects.

Meet and greet with the artist will begin at 5:30pm
This is a free event

Loye Barnard
"FLOR 63: Mangrove Spiderlily"

2013 Florida Native Plant Society Conference
"Celebrating La Florida; the Land of Flowers,"
May 16th - May 19th
at the University of North Florida in Jacksonville

REGISTER ONLINE NOW
EARLY BIRD RATE ENDS APRIL 15

For more information:
fnps.org/conference/2013

Penny G. Anderson
"FLOR 86: Shootingstar (Primula meadia)"

Cortada to present *FLOR500* during Florida Native Plant Society 33rd Annual Conference

FLOR500 is a participatory art, nature, and history project created by Miami artist Xavier Cortada to commemorate Florida's quincentennial in 2013. The project marks the importance of the moment when the history of our state changed forever and gives us a glimpse of what its landscape was like 500 years ago.

Five hundred Floridians will be invited to depict 500 native wildflowers – the same ones that grew in our state when Juan Ponce de Leon landed in 1513 and named it "La Florida"–from "flor," the Spanish word for flower. A team of scientists is selecting the 500 flowers. The artwork, along with information about each flower, will be posted on ***www.FLOR500.com***.

Students from 500 schools across the state's 67 counties (across 8 regions) will then plant 500 wildflower gardens dedicating them to one of 500 important Floridians selected by a team of historians. These 500 new native habitats will help support Florida's biodiversity. Based at the FIU | College of Architecture + The Arts | Office of Engaged Creativity where he serves as artist-in-residence, the effort furthers Cortada's long-standing commitment to eco-art projects that engage community and expose human impact on the environment.

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Ryan Leavengood

Announcements

A Call for Community Service from Mike Fitzpatrick:
Newly elected Boyton Beach City Commissioner for District 3

Please contact him if you are interested in helping to enhance the Greenways Program in Boyton Beach. **(561) 632-9578**

Deadline for Public Comments on 3rd Phase of SFWMD Land Assessment is April 22nd

This is your opportunity to participate in the assessment process and have your opinion heard. The deadline for individuals to submit comments on phase 3 properties in the East Coast Assessment Region is April 22nd.

The South Florida Water Management District is conducting a comprehensive assessment of the nearly 1.5 million acres of land owned by the agency. The assessment is being conducted in phases, with the first phases considering only the 750,000 acres to which the agency holds title, and subsequent phases considering lands over which the agency holds easements or other less-than-fee-title interest.

FNPS submitted comments on the intial assessments, which focussed on the Upper Lakes Region and the Kissimmee/Okeechobee Assessment Region, and we will continue to review the District's proposals as the process progresses.

For more information or to participate in the land assessment process
http://www.sfwmd.gov/portal/page/portal/xweb%20protecting%20and%20restoring/land%20assessment

Florida Master Naturalist Program
at the Pine Jog Environmental Education Center.

The Conservation Science Special Topic begins April 17th. Advanced registration is required. For more information, class schedule, and to register, visit:
www.masternaturalist.ifas.ufl.edu

The Southeast Florida Scrub Ecosystem Working Group
will be meeting at the Hobe Sound National Wildlife Refuge
April 24th, 2013, 10:00AM-3:00PM
to provide input to the Refuge on their scrub management.
The agenda includes a morning field trip and afternoon discussion.
Please contact Anne Cox if you are interested in attending
annecox@bellsouth.net

The Dahoon is published monthly
(except July and December)
by the Palm Beach County Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society.
Submit content to dahooned@gmil.com

Visit us on the web
www.palmbeach.fnpschapters.org
561-247-3677