



ZAMIA

The Naples Chapter Newsletter
Florida Native Plant Society

December 2016

Upcoming Zamia Events:

Tuesday, January 10, 7 P.M. *Presentation:* Red-Cockaded Woodpeckers in Picayune Strand State Forest.

Location: Naples Botanical Gardens Kapnick Center.

Presenter: Monica Folk (Wildlife Ecologist at Milliken Forestry Company, Inc.).

Join us for snacks at 6:30pm!

Saturday, January 14, 9 -12:30 P.M. *FIELD TRIP – Picayune Strand State Forest*

Location: Meet at the Forestry Office in the Picayune, 2121 52nd Ave SE, Naples at 9:00 am.

Join us in visiting the Picayune Strand to learn about an ongoing hydrologic and habitat restoration project. This trip will include a tour of one of the pump stations installed as part of the hydrologic restoration.

Cost: Cost \$2 by Forestry for all participants. \$45 for nonmembers.

RSVP: **Space is Limited. Call Jean Roche at 330-730-1516 or email naplesnativeplants@gmail.com.

Board:

President – Patsy McDonald;
patsymcfeld@gmail.com

Vice President – Karyn Allman;
yarn42@gmail.com

Secretary – Daniel Cox; danieljcox1990@gmail.com

Treasurer – Mary Kate Rooney; mkr2222@gmail.com

Director At Large (Conservation Chair) – Andee Naccarato; andee225@gmail.com

Newsletter: Karyn Allman; yarn42@gmail.com

Chapter Representative to FNPS - Aimee Leteux;
paintedpony175@aol.com

Director at Large- Chad Washburn;
cwashburn@naplesgarden.org

Director at Large – Brian Bovard
bbovard@fgcu.edu

Logo: Elizabeth Smith

Our mission: *To promote the preservation, conservation, and restoration of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida.*

For more info visit our website:

naples.fnpschapters.org

Follow us on Facebook!

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Naples-Chapter-of-the-Florida-Native-Plant-Society/165459220146254>

A Message from the President

The Board and I would like to wish all members a Happy Winter Solstice and New Year. I understand that there was a problem

with the gate at the Botanical Gardens for the November lecture. If the gate is closed please text me at 410-218-1396 or Karyn at (239) 357-7421 or Jean at (330) 730-1516. I apologize for any inconvenience.

Exciting news!! We have a you tube video up that describes our chapter and its activities. Go to You tube and search for <https://youtu.be/jSfEoOVtCow>. Or you can search You Tube under Florida Native Plant Society Naples Chapter. Send the link to your friends!

Events: Please look to the schedule of events posted on our webpage. For the December 13th meeting there will be an additional short presentation about the Marco Island Nature Preserve and Bird Sanctuary. This is one of the last remaining large plot of land on the Marco Island, which is home to numerous native plants and wildlife species. We are looking to working with this group to develop volunteer activities as to plant surveys and possibly developing a butterfly garden with native plants.

The Field trip to the Pumping Station in the Picayune Forest is going to be very interesting. Please sign up because enrollment is limited. RSVP: Call Jean Roche at 330-730-1516 or email naplesnativeplants@gmail.com

Attached to this letter is an invitation to the February 1st presentation. Please read that invitation and RSVP as soon as possible.

Land Management Volunteer Opportunities

- Please go to the FNPS webpage <http://www.fnps.org/committee/partners> for a description of the land management process and a schedule of committee meetings. I have participated in 4 land management reviews, each taking two days. Although it is a big commitment, its fun to do the tours of the properties and work with the professional managers. Its a great way to visit all over the

state. I strongly encourage people to participate.

Board Change - Jonathan Jensen was removed as treasurer. Sadly, he was not performing the duties required by the bylaws and there were some other troubling issues. Mary Kate Rooney, who is a professional auditor for Chicago Title company, was selected as treasurer. She will maintain the books and report to the board, while our long time board member Aimee Leteux will be handling billing, etc.

Save the Date -

*You are invited by Patsy McDonald
+ Harold Nussenfeld to a
Presentation by The Naples Native
Plant Society*

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1st,

6:00 - 8:00 P.M. Birds, Bees &

Butterflies - Landscaping with

Native Plants for our Flying Friends.

Location: Port Royal Club, North

Terrace, 2900 Gordon Drive, Naples

34102.

Presenter: Chad Washburn (Deputy

Director, Naples Botanical Garden)

and a Naples Chapter Board Director will share his knowhow related to landscaping with native plants at home with an emphasis on helping our Flying Friends. He has many years of experience in the field and is a much sought after speaker on the subject.

Heavy Hors d'oeuvres, wine, beer and drinks will be served.

Recommended voluntary donation \$50 per person requested.

It would be very helpful if the donations were made in advance - either by check payable to Naples Native Plants sent to our Past President Jean Roche, 2110 Arielle DR APT 105 Naples FL 34109 or by going to our Facebook Page, Naples Native Plants and use the "Donate" or "event" button. Business casual dress required. No blue jeans.

RSVP by Jan. 25th: Call Jean Roche at 330-730-1516 or email naplesnativeplants@gmail.com or Facebook "event" button.

NATIVE PLANT OF THE MONTH



Galactia, the Milk Peas

Milkpeas, in the genus *Galactia*, are widespread in Florida and much of the United States. The genus occurs mainly in the Americas, especially the southeast and south-central US, West Indies and Mexico. Four species are native to Asia, Africa and Australia.

The genus name is derived from the Greek *galaktos*, “milk,” due to the milky sap in some species. (The Florida species do not have milky sap). ISB lists 12 species and a possible hybrid in Florida. Four species, *G. elliotii*, *G. regularis*, *G. striata*, and *G. volubilis*, are vouchered for Collier County. Nesom lists 21 species for the US, with 13 represented in Florida.

The milkpeas in my yard appear to be *G. regularis*, *G. volubilis*, or both. According to Nesom the taxonomy of *Galactia* is somewhat confused, even controversial, especially so when it comes to these 2 species. Both have alternate, 3-foliolate leaves, with fruits and stems displaying varying degrees of hairiness.

Nesom writes, “The distinction between *Galactia volubilis* and *G. regularis* is subtle but examination of hundreds of collections provides a basis for considering them separate entities. “... Flowering times coincide and there is overlap in habitat, allowing opportunities for hybridization, but the relative stability of the two forms suggests that some kind of reproductive isolation is in effect...” He goes on to say that the most “prominent distinction” between the two is leaflet shape. “The leaves of *G. volubilis* also tend to be thinner and glaucous* on the abaxial** surface.”

He mentions that two collections from the Fakahatchee Strand Preserve have particularly large leaves, but are “best identified as *Galactia volubilis*.” (p. 25) That fits with my observation that the size and general vigor of the *Galactias* in my yard seem to vary according to availability of moisture and hours of direct sunlight exposure,

Many milkpeas don’t attract much notice because they tend to be small, relatively few-flowered, with either a sprawling or twining habit. When young, they may appear delicate and innocuous, but in fact, they become a menace in the garden in a short time, due to prolific seed production. Once entrenched it is difficult to eradicate. It quickly scrambles over its support plant, blocking sun and twining so tightly around stems that it actually starts cutting into them and choking circulation. Stems with the diameter of large thread prove surprisingly strong. A good healthy vine has no trouble pulling a small-to-medium tree branch downwards. Over time the vine develops a relatively deep, carrot-like taproot or a series of taproots. Even in sandy soil it isn’t easy to dig out the taproot. Any form of eradication involves collateral damage to the plant you want to save, which makes it especially problematic when it infests groundcovers.

I made the accompanying drawing from sketches of different plants before I realized that I might be dealing with more than one species. However, the species in the drawing most closely resembles *G. volubilis*, due to its long flowering stalk, size of flower, and mostly oblong-to-lanceolate leaf shape. The seedpod as drawn may not be typical.



Several plants of *G. volubilis* in a pot with a trellis could make an attractive display, and the flowers attract numerous small pollinators.

However, great care would be necessary to keep it from spreading. Birds and possibly insects eat the seeds. It is possible that grubbing animals like skunks could eat the smaller, less woody taproots. Milkpea is a legume, and most legumes are associated with nitrogen-fixing bacteria in their roots. As yet I have been unable to ascertain whether local species of *Galactia* are associated with such bacteria, though I haven't seen any typical root nodules.

Minno and Minno (1999) list the milkpeas vouchered for Collier County as larval host plants for Ceraunus and Cassius Blues, the Gray Hairstreak, Silver Spotted Skipper, Zarucco Dusky Wing Skipper and the Long-Tailed Skipper. Because of the long taproot, milkpea species would likely regenerate quickly after brush fires.

Apart from personal observations or as otherwise noted, the information in this article is derived from Guy L. Nesom, **Taxonomy of *Galactia* (Fabaceae) in the USA**. Phytoneuron 2015-42: 1-54. Published 15 Jul 2015. ISSN 2153 733X.

<http://www.phytoneuron.net/2015Phytoneuron/42PhytoN-GalactiaTaxonomy.pdf>. - www.phytoneuron.net

(If this link does not work, Google the title of the paper).

Marc and Maria Minno. *Florida Butterfly Gardening*. University Press of Florida. 1999.

***Glaucous** = covered with a fine, waxy, whitish or bluish coating that rubs off easily.

****Abaxial** = the side of an organ facing away from the axis; dorsal.

Definitions from Wunderlin. *Guide to the Vascular Plants of Florida*. University Press of Florida. 1998.

- Jeanette Atkinson, Naples Chapter
FNPS member

A Passion for Public Lands

Wendy Poag, Chapter Representative for Lake Beautyberry, has written a paragraph summarizing her Powerpoint presentation to the Board of Directors and Council of Chapters at the November 5th meeting at Cedar Point Environmental Park. The presentation was about getting involved in land management of public lands:

The Society fulfills its mission in many ways, including supporting conservation land acquisition and management of those lands that enhances the diversity of our native plants as well as the health of our native ecosystems. As Society members we have unique opportunities to use our knowledge and passion to help usher along the stewardship of our public lands. Aldo Leopold (1887–1949) championed environmental stewardship based on a land ethic "dealing with man's relation to land and to the animals and plants which grow upon it."

As shareholders, would you like to know more about public land ecology and stewardship?

Would you like to play a role in ensuring the health and beauty of ecosystems long into the future? If so, we invite you to attend a program "A Passion for Public Lands" which will be coming soon to your local chapter.

The steps to becoming an active participant in public lands stewardship aren't difficult and we guarantee they will introduce you to interesting ecological concepts and the fascinating relationships between plants, the ecosystems in which they thrive and other species.

We hope that you are now curious enough to want to know more about the management of your local public lands and will take a step forward in getting to know them better...stay tuned for meeting program dates.

Local Event

2017 Moonlight on the Marsh
Distinguished Lecture Series

THURSDAY JANUARY 19, 2017

Presenter: Leon P.M. Lamers, Ph.D., Professor of Aquatic Ecology & Environmental Biology, Institute for Water and Wetland Research, Radboud University, Nijmegen, The Netherlands.

TITLE: "The Dutch solution to floods: Live with water, don't fight it".

Location: Everglades Wetland Research Park, Florida Gulf Coast University
Kapnick Center at Naples Botanical Garden
Naples, Florida.

New Membership Form

Renewals should be made via notices sent out by FNPS. This is done automatically. This membership blank is for new members only. Mail to FNPS/PO Box 278/ Melbourne FL 32902-0278, or go to www.fnps.org/

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Business _____

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Membership Types

Student _____ \$15

Individual _____ \$35

Family/Household _____ \$50

Contributing _____ \$75
(\$25 to Endowment)

Business _____ \$125

Non-Profit _____ \$50

Supporting _____ \$100

Donor _____ \$250

Lifetime _____ \$1000

Library (public/non-profit; subscription
to *Palmetto* only) _____ \$15

FNPS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Your dues payment is tax deductible. To provide funds that will enable us to protect Florida's native plant heritage, please consider joining or renewing at the highest level you can afford.

The Florida Native Plant Society is registered as a charitable organization in Florida (Reg No. CH3021).