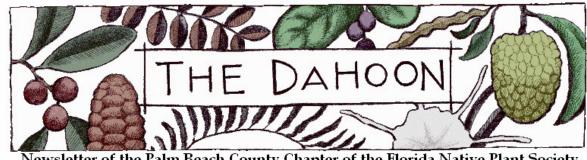
March 2013



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



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# March Chapter Meeting

**Tuesday, March 19** Doors open at 7pm Program starts at 7:30 Native plant drawing follows the program

Public welcome • No reservations needed • Refreshments • Free admission

THE BENEFITS OF VERMICULTURE IN SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPING Dennis de Zeeuw, FCHP

Join us on the 19th for a presentation by "sustainable cultivator" Dennis de Zeeuw on the benefits of vermiculture —the use of specially bred earthworms to aerate soil and convert organic matter into compost. Dennis will provide instructions for building your own worm farm and discuss the benefits of using worm castings to create a sustainable landscape.

Born and raised in Orlando, FL, Dennis de Zeeuw is a true Florida

native. After receiving an M.B.A. from FAU, he followed his passion for biodiversity, nature, and the benefits of sustainability and founded Sustainscape, Inc., He is a certified Florida Horticulture Professional as well as a Florida Master Naturalist. An active member of the Palm Beach Chapter FNPS and the Florida Nursery Growers and Lanscape Association, he believes native plants are key to a sustainable



solution in any landscape. Dennis applied his experience with composting and vermiculture to an existing organic fertilizer that uses minerals extracted from sea water, resulting in the production of a unique organic formula utilizing an onsite worm farm.



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.

# Membership Update

The Palm Beach County Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society has 157 members as of February.

Please welcome our newest members: Fatima NeJame, Deborah Moroney, and Richard Stowe.

### HABITAT FOR HUMANITY PROJECT

With the aid of a donation from the Chastine Foundation, the Palm Beach County Chapter of the

**FNPS** was fortunate to be able to provide funding and expertise for the design and installation of one of Habitat for Humanity's first all-native



home landscapes in Palm Beach County. Dedication cermonies were held on Feb. 22 and were attended by representatives from our chapter. We would like to acknowledge Kristi Moyer for her leadership role in the project, **Brenda** Mills for coordination, Rob Hopper for his expertise towards the design, plant selection and installation, Indian Trails Nursery and Pine Jog for their generous plant donations, and Wellington Garden Club for funding support. This was an inspiring collaboration between the Native Plant Society and a number of local volunteer groups. Sincere thanks to all who participated.



Photos: R. Hopper and L. Sweetay

# Chapter Notes

### Summary of February 2013 PBC Chapter Meeting

submitted by F. Leavengood, Sec.

On Tuesday, February 19, the PBCCFNPS welcomed chapter member **Chris Lockhart** who gave an informative presentation on the core curriculum and the benefits of the Florida Master Naturalist Program. Highlights included an overview of the three ecosystem modules included in the program: Freshwater Wetlands, Coastal Systems, and Upland Habitats.





Rob Hopper hosts the Native Plant Drawing

Our monthly plant drawing was held following the speaker program. Plants donated this meeting were Goldenmane Tickseed (*Coreopsis basalis*), Swamp Twinflower (*Dyschoriste humistrata*), and Bird Pepper (*Capsicum annuum*) from **Jeff and Susan at Native Choice Nursery**; a Florida Boxwood (*Schaefferia frutescens*), two Poeppig's Rosemallow/Fairy Hibiscus

(*Hibiscus poeppigii*), a White Violet (*Viola primulifolia*), a Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*), a Coffee Colubrina (*Colubrina arborescens*), and a Crabwood (*Gymnanthes lucida*) from **Gene Sanchez**. A round of applause goes to **Meredith Trim** and **Hilde Goldstein** for coming early and holding the door at the Mounts Building before the meeting and for providing the delicious refreshments, and to **Steve Chase** and **Jackie Kadish** for providing much needed garden maintenance at our Native Demonstration Garden.

Additional Thanks to .....



Winnie Said, Cathy Beals, Stephanie Duncan, Judy Tramell, Lynn Sweetay, Deborah Crawford, and Jackie Kadish



for staffing our chapter booth at the 14th Annual Everglades Day event (Feb. 9th) at the Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refulge —a very eventful day for native plant outreach! \_\_\_\_\_ Photos: C. Beals and W. Said

### Field Trip Notes - MacArthur Beach State Park



Saturday, Feb. 16 turned out to be a beautiful day for a field trip to MacArthur Beach State Park, and we were fortunate to have Dr. George Rodgers as our guide. Dr. Rodgers specializes in plant identification and classification and serves as chairman of the Horticulture Department at Palm Beach State College. We "botonized"

our way through the stunning coastal hammock to the equally stunning beach. Native plants encountered along the way included: Mastic (*Sideroxylon foetidissimum*), Blackbead (*Pithecellobium keyense*), Limber Caper (*Capparis flexulosa*), Paradise Tree (*Simarouba glauca*), Graytwig (*Schoepfia chrysophylloides*), Beach (Marsh) Elder (*Iva imbricata*), and Sea Lavender (*Argusia gnaphalodes*). A great learing experience was had by all thanks to Dr. Rodgers' vast knowledge of Florida's native landscapes.





Photos: W. Said

# Gardening with the Natives

### MARLBERRY (Ardisia escallonioides)

Why we like it: Marlberry or Marble-Berry is a native plant with many attributes. It is evergreen with darker green leaves above that are a shiny 3 to 6 inches long. Either flowers or fruits are present throughout the year. The flowers range from white to pink peaking in the fall creating a wonderful appearance of freshly deposited mounts of snow. The flowers are followed by black fruits about ¼ of an inch in diameter which are highly prized by hungry birds. Marlberry is an excellent start or addition to a native yard.

**How to grow it**: Marlberry normally grows as a shrub under trees in light to moderate shade however it can be highly adaptive and drought tolerant once established in full sun. It can be maintained with period trimming to form a hedge or left to it's own to become a small tree ranging in height from 6 to 15 feet and usually taller than broad. The soil can be poor in nutrients but requires some organic material to thrive. Marlberry propagates itself by seed usually underneath the parent plant.



Marlberry in full bloom in Jeff's yard



Red-bellied Woodpecker on Marlberry tree Photo: Christina Evans (cgstudios)

Where to buy it: If you are interested in finding native plants, visit the Association of Florida NativeNurseries at www.afnn.org, but don't stop there.The site provides only a snapshot of the offerings atlocal nurseries, so call around.by Jeff Nurgewww.FloridaNativeGardening.com

# FNPS Board of Directors Meeting and Retreat

### submitted by Brenda Mills, Palm Beach County Chapter Representative

### **Board Meeting**

The FNPS Board met Friday, February 8, prior to the two-day retreat. Each committee and officer reported on their activities by submitting a report and presenting at the meeting. All reports are available on the forum for members to review. The highlights are listed below:

• Donor Perfect Online is up and running. The add-on Constant Contact was approved to enable emailing from the Donor Perfect Online data. New features accessible from the webpage will added over times uch as unique mailing lists.

• The Annual Report will be ready in April. However, there will be no request to the Chapters for information. The Chapter newsletters will be the source to create the 2013 report. To that end, the Executive Director should be on the distribution list for the newsletters.

• The Annual Fund raised \$8,700.

• A nominating committee has been formed to fill vacant positions on the Board.

• The Board is seeking a CPA able to complete a GAAP audit. Please let the President know if you have a recommendation.

• The next Board meeting will be May 16th at the start of conference.

• At the conference, a Chapter booth will be available to sell items. One option is notecards with your Chapter's flower or plant that can be produced on demand. Online registration is now open.

### **Board Retreat and Strategic Plan**

The Executive Director secured a grant to hire professional consultant to conduct an assessment of the organization and management of FNPS, make recommendations and facilitate development of a strategic plan. The assessment included interviews with selected members, a survey of all members and review of other materials like the by-laws. A hard copy of the report was distributed.

The consultants found indicators that FNPS is at a plateau; it cannot grow with its current organization and decision-making methods. Indicators leading to this conclusion include: disconnect between chapters and Board, resources not being leveraged, no strategy to align Chapters to reach larger/collective goals or mission, and member dues alone cannot sustain the organization. Discussion of the size of the Board, number of Committees, ability to make decisions, role of the committees and Board ensued.

The next day and a half was spent developing the basic outline of a strategic plan that would be implemented by aligning the Board, Committees, Chapter activities to fulfill the strategic plan. The consultants

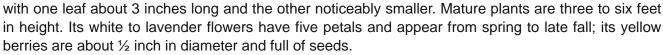
facilitated input from the Board to identify several priority areas, for example education, conferences, and partnerships, then to identify the implementation steps. At the end of the second day, discussion circled back around to how to implement the strategic plan given the previous day's conclusions about the FNPS' current plateau that inhibits its growth.

To enable moving the organization forward, the discussion led to the constraints to change, specifically the by-laws which dictate the current organizational structure among other items. The only way to change the by-laws is by a vote of the members. The question was called and approved to bring a vote to the members at the general meeting in May. The members will be asked to allow the by-laws be amended by a majority of the Board. Background, rationale and the exact wording of the question will be detailed in materials forthcoming from the President.

# KNOW YOUR FOE

**Twin Leaved Solanum** (*Solanum diphyllum*) is yet another shrub imported for ornamental purposes that "escaped" from gardens and lawns and is now showing up in yards, natural areas and other places across south and central Florida. A member of the nightshade family, the plant is related to potatoes, tomatoes and eggplant, but is likely poisonous to humans.

Also called Amatillo and twin leaf or two leaf nightshade, this fastgrowing evergreen is native to Mexico and Central America. It gets its name from its well-defined leaf pairs that grow from a single node. The dark green leaves grow in mismatched pairs,



Twin Leaved Solanum is hardy; it thrives in sun, shade and everything in between. It is drought tolerant, and after a freeze it will resprout from the root. Propagated by seed, researchers have found that 75-85 percent of seeds sprout, so it quickly becomes established once the berries drop. Seeds, which are dispersed by birds and bats, can be viable for up to two years in as little as an inch of soil.

This plant was cultivated in Florida in the 1960s, and had spread to many natural areas by 1967. It has been documented from Miami-Dade to Volusia County on the east coast of Florida, as well as in several central and west coast regions of the state.

The twin leaved Solanum is listed as a category II invasive by the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council, meaning it has shown the potential to disrupt native plant communities. It is also a problem in Texas.

Learning to recognize this plant so you can pull it up before it spreads is the easiest way to control it. IFAS publications suggest that herbicides containing Aminopyralid might be effective, but as of 2011, no research on chemical controls had been conducted.

Hilde Hartnett Goldstein is a freelance writer with a special interest in the Florida environment.

Did you know that FNPS provides lists of native plant species appropriate for landscaping in your area? You can explore the entire list, identify species that thrive in specific conditions (salt tolerance, water use, etc.), that provide habitat for butterflies and wildlife, and that are native to your particular area. Descriptions and photographs are provided. For more information, and to access the interactive map.... *http://fnps.org/plants* 

# By Hilde Hartnett







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#### by Rufino Osorio

Guava rust forming purple pustules on allspice. © 2011 Joel Lau. Used by permission. www.flickr.com/photos/53193377@N02



Guava rust producing its distinctive bright yellow spores. © Brown and Harmon; University of Florida IFAS Extension.

# **GUAVA RUST**

The tropical fruit, guava, is native to Brazil and is susceptible to guava rust, a fungal infection that is also native to Brazil. Probably through the international commercial trade in guavas, guava rust was spread to other parts of South and Central America and, in 1977, was discovered on allspice in Miami-Dade County from where it spread to Broward, Collier, Hillsborough, Lee, Martin, Palm Beach, and Pinellas counties.

Guava rust, *Puccinia psidii*, is unusual for a fungal rust disease in that it has an extremely wide host range and appears capable of infecting nearly every genus in the myrtle family (Myrtaceae). The disease is a serious economic threat to guava and eucalyptus plantations and it has decimated the Jamaican allspice industry. Since species in the myrtle family are a key component of many tropical and subtropical forests, guava rust also poses a serious ecological threat to native forests throughout both the New World and Old World tropics. Originally confined to the Western Hemisphere, guava rust is now well established in Hawaii and Australia, from which regions it is likely to spread to other Pacific Islands, New Zealand, Asia, and Africa. Its presence in Australia is regarded with much dread since the myrtle family is a dominant family in that country and one out of every ten native species of flowering plants in Australia is a member of the Myrtaceae.

Guava rust is particularly insidious since genetic DNA testing has detected its presence in pollen and asymptomatic foliage as well as on the clothing and other objects of persons that have merely visited areas in which the disease is present. Due to the fact that improved cultivars of eucalyptus are commonly shipped from one eucalyptusgrowing region to another, guava rust is now poised to spread to very part of the earth capable of supporting its growth.

Presently, ten genera of the myrtle family occur in Florida outside of cultivation and guava rust has been recorded on one or more species of seven of these genera: eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus*); melaleuca and callistemon (*Melaleuca*); Simpson's stopper (*Myrcianthes*); allspice (*Pimenta*); guavas (*Psidium*); rose-myrtle (*Rhodomyrtus*); and Java-plum, and rose-apple (*Syzygium*). So far, there are no reports of guava rust affecting stoppers, *Eugenia* species, in Florida, although it has severely affected several native Hawaiian stoppers. Guava rust does infect brush-cherry, a commonly cultivated Australian plant in South Florida that was formerly regarded as a stopper (*Eugenia myrtifolia*), but brush-cherry has since been identified as *Syzygium paniculatum*. Determining which species are susceptible, resistant, or immune to guava rust is complicated by the fact that there are genetically distinct strains of guava rust and a plant that is resistant or immune to one strain may be susceptible to a different strain.

Continued on next page

#### Guava Rust continued from page 6

Young foliage and flower buds produced during periods of high humidity or rain when the temperature ranges from 55 to 77 degrees Fahrenheit (13 to 25 degrees Celsius) are most likely to become infected with guava rust. Hardened, mature foliage that is more than 40 days old is resistant to infection and guava rust significantly declines, at least in south Florida, once temperatures regularly exceed 77 degrees Fahrenheit. The most commonly recommended preventative measure is to avoid overhead watering of members of the myrtle family since the splash of rain drops is the principal means by which the disease is spread. Avoiding overhead irrigation of myrtaceous plants in South Florida is especially important during late autumn, winter, and spring when temperatures in the 55 to 77 degree range regularly occur.

The presence of guava rust in Florida now makes it especially important to carefully and thoroughly inspect all members of the myrtle family (Myrtaceae) before introducing them into a garden since, as with all diseases, preventing infection is more effective than treating an established infection. Although the only native plant on which guava rust has been found is Simpson's stopper (*Myrcianthes fragrans*), the disease is highly variable and strains that can infect other native genera in the myrtle family—*Calyptranthes, Eugenia*, and *Mosiera*—may occur in the future.

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# A Message from the FNPS Policy Chair

#### Dear Member:

We in the Florida Native Plant Society have long known that the single best way to protect native plants - and native wildlife, too - is to protect the places where they live. That is why FNPS is a strong advocate for land conservation and an enthusiastic supporter of Florida's land acquisition programs. That is why FNPS has formally endorsed the Water and Land Legacy Initiative. And that is why we need your help NOW.

The Water and Land Legacy Initiative will help restore life to Florida's land protection programs by placing a critically important conservation amendment on the 2014 ballot that would ensure funds are directed to land protection. But volunteers are needed to gather the signatures necessary to place the Initiative on the ballot!

# Will you sign up to volunteer today?

# Go to the Legacy Campaign website at

*http://www.floridawaterlandlegac y.org/volunteer* to learn how you can volunteer and help make land conservation a reality again in Florida.

This is our chance to make sure that state lawmakers will invest in conservation. This is our chance to conserve native plants, protect our water resources, restore important natural areas like the Everglades, and safeguard our springs and other environmental gems for future generations. This is our chance to ensure that Florida's conservation lands will be properly managed far into the future.

Please visit the Water and Land Legacy Initiative website to learn more about the campaign and sign up to volunteer today. Florida needs your help. Thanks for everything you do to conserve native plants.

With Appreciation, Eugene Kelly, Policy Chair

# Chapter Events

# NatureScaping at MacArthur Beach State Park

MacArthur Beach State Park opens its gates for a day of learning about and celebrating Florida's natural treasures, teaming up with PBC ERM for the NatureScaping & Dark Skies Festival. This year, the event will have a special focus on light pollution and how it impacts local sea turtle populations, other creatures, and even plants.

The day will feature a variety of educational programs and guest speakers, native plant vendors, live animal shows, artwork, children's crafts, food, live music, a raffle, and much more.

Representatives of local environmental organizations will be on hand with lots of information on sustainable living, and finalists from this year's photography contest will be on display.

Laura Sanorgorski of Florida Yards and Neighborhoods will give a presentation on native plants at 11 a.m.; FREE entrance to the park.

Visit the PBCCFNPS booth at NatureScaping We will be selling native plants!

# Chapter Meeting: The Benefits of Vermiculture in Sustainable Landscaping - Dennis de Zeeuw, FCHP Free Admission • Refreshments • Native Plant Drawing

ree Admission • Refreshments • Native Plant Drawin Public Welcome • No Reservations Needed

Saturday March 23 9am-12 Clayton Hutchenson Building 559 N Military Trail, WPB

Saturday, March 16

10 AM TO 3 PM It for Nature Lovers of All Ages!!!

ark Skies

**Tuesday, March 19** 7:30 – 9pm (doors open at 7)

Mounts Botanical Garden

531 North Military Trail, WPB

10 a.m. to 3 p.m.



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!

<b>Tuesday, April 16</b> 5:30 – 7:30pm Mounts Botanical Garden 531 North Military Trail, WPB	<b>Chapter Board of Directors Meeting</b> All members are invited to attend our Chapter's Board of Directors meeting before our regular 7:30 chapter meeting.
<b>Tuesday, April 16</b> 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 Presented by Chris Lockhart, Plant Ecologist
<b>Tuesday, May 6</b> 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. Save the Date!!

# Volunteer Event - Native Plant Demo Garden Maintenance

# Other Events

# HOSTED BY THE FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF NATIVE NURSERIES (FANN) THURSDAY-FRIDAY, APRIL 4-5, 2013 IN KISSIMMEE, FLORIDA

Florida's first all-native plant tradeshow. See Florida's finest growers of native plants along with a few select green allies serving the horticulture and landscape industry. *http://www.nativeplantshow.com/* 

Going Native...Bringing Butterflies & Nature into Your Yard April 13, 2013 9:00 am – 1:00 pm Exhibit Hall A559 North Military Trail West Palm Beach, FL 33415 Members: \$35 \* Non-Members: \$40 PBC Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society

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.

# THE NATIVE PLANT SHOW

All the plants, all the professionals, all in one place.

for more information: http://www.mounts.org



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

# Earth Day Celebration and Native Plant Sale

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



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." Plant Sale will be hosted by the **Cocoplum Chapter of the FNPS**.

arts, crafts, exhibits, kids games and an exciting line up of live acoustic and jam bands.

# 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 SAVE \$25/DAY

Do not wait to register onsite if you want to participate in field trips. Lunches provided for online (advance) registrants only.

Keynote Speakers: Jim Draper, Roger Hammer, and Tom Hoctor

For more information: fnps.org/conference/2013



"Large Passion" by Jim Draper (Jacksonville, Florida), oil on canvas, 48 by 60 inches

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

# Announcements

# A Message from the Palm Beach County Dept. of Environmental Resources Management

Please thank the Palm Beach Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society Board and Members for their continued support of the Lake Worth Lagoon Initiative. We greatly appreciate the Chapter's continued participation in the Lake Worth Lagoon Initiative Speakers Bureau and ongoing efforts to increase awareness about Florida-Friendly Landscaping practices (and so much more!).

I am writing to confirm that the Chapter will be listed as a partner under PO-4: Florida-Friendly Landscaping in the Draft 2013 Lake Worth Lagoon Management Plan Update that will be released for public comment in May 2013 at the LWLI Symposium.

Also, if any local FNPS members would like to be added to our Lake Worth Lagoon mailing lists they can sign-up at www.LWLI.org. Just click on the "Join our Mailing List" link in the left hand column. They'll have the option to sign up for general LWL news and/or Working Group (Public Outreach, Water, Habitat) email lists.

Alyssa Dodd, Environmental Analyst, Public Outreach Section

### FNPS Review and Comments on SFWMD Surplus Lands Assessment; Kissimmee-Okeechobee Deadline March 18

The South Florida Water Management District has begun an assessment to identify lands that should be declared surplus and sold back into private ownership. The first stage of the assessment focused on the Upper Lakes Region of the Kissimmee River Valley. The agency is now accepting comments on the second phase of assessments, which highlight the Kissimmee-Okeechobee properties, through March 18. FNPS submitted comments during the first phase and will continue to be engaged as the District completes its assessment and public review process. If members wish to comment on the individual parcels being assessed in this round, or future rounds, they can go to *http://www.sfwmd.gov/portal/page/portal/xweb%20protecting%20and* 

> **NEW: Florida Master Naturalist Program** at the Pine Jog Environmental Education Center.



%20restoring/land%20assessment

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 Dahoon is published monthly (except July and December) by the Palm Beach County Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society. Promoting the preservation, conservation, and restoration of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida

> Florida Native Plant Society Palm Beach County Chapter 534 29th St. West Palm Beach, FL 33407



# How Can I Become a Member of the Florida Native Plant Society ?

You can join on-line . . *www.fnps.org* 

Membership forms are also available at chapter meetings

### 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

