

MCFNPS Currents October 2012

Our October 2nd MCFNPS meeting was highlighted by Mike Yustin, Martin County Environmental Resources Specialist who was our guest speaker. His presentation "Environmental Lands" detailed his work to transform the land back to its original native habitat. Clearing out the invasive plants and trees, and finally replanting with natives.

On Saturday October 6, 2012 the Martin County Native Plant Society were re-introduced to the native plants growing along the Beachwalk-Pasley trail. Our guide was Mike Yustin. As we went through the Maritime Hammock we were overshadowed by the Wild Lime, Mastic, Bolly, Sea Grape, the peeling red-barked "Tourist" tree (Gumbo limbo) and entangled by the Coin-vine. Mike pointed out the pointy spines of the Hercules Club, the down-pointing leaves of the Marbleberry, the juicy fruit on the Fiddlewood (which would be an excellent replacement plant for the golden dewdrop), the up-pointing leaves of the Myrsine, and the entangling Passiflora subarosa (Corky-stem passion vine). Heading to the ocean Mike noted that the trees are shorter in this Coastal Strand habitat and were interspersed with lush Bay Cedar, red-headed Muhly grass, crawly Railroad vine, and shiny Silver saw palmetto. On the beach side we passed the native Scaevola loaded with juicy black fruit, the Silver croton (beach tea), the low growing Beach star and the glowing Beach sunflower. This is only a sample of what we observed, handled, and smelled during our two hour walk with Mike in the three coastal habitats on this sunny, warm, beach-going day in Martin County.



Sea lavender



Native Scaevola



Sea Purslane



Coontie

On Tuesday, October 30, Steve Woodmansee, the president of the FNPS, will be the speaker at our MCFNPS meeting. It is held at the Environmental Studies Center in Jensen Beach and begins at 7pm. Come, join us, and learn more about the natives of Martin County and become one yourself.