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The Suncoast Grapevine



Newsletter of the Suncoast Native Plant Society, Inc.

Volume 19 Number 6

June 2002

June 19

Sailing Down My Golden River: A Virtual Journey with Gene Cleversey

Gene's Rivers Program reviews some of the issues concerning Florida's rivers. With slides he will take us along the Withlacoochee River and identify some of the flora and fauna of the river system. Again with slides we will take a "reflective" journey down the river to the tune of *Sailing Down My Golden River* with Pete Seeger. For a fitting conclusion, Gene will distribute the lyrics of some Florida river songs and we will join in a Sing-along.

In 1970, along with his wife Barb and their two daughters, Gene Cleversey left upstate New York and settled in Boca Raton, where he worked for IBM as a design engineer. He soon became actively involved with environmentally oriented groups in Florida, including the Boca Raton Audubon Society, the Gumbo Limbo Nature Center which he served as president from its beginning in 1974 until 1983, and the FNPS, helping to establish the Palm Beach Chapter in 1980. During the 70's and early 80's he was closely associated with Marjory Stoneman Douglas, the Everglades conservation activist and author of the influential *The Everglades: River of Grass*. He continues to follow her lead in keeping "an eye on those scoundrels in Tallahassee".

In 1982 he retired to Brooksville, and turned his attention to environmental education, establishing an environmental education presence in the Hernando County schools, working with the Florida Division of Forestry and the Florida Game Commission to increase environmental education services, and helping to establish the Chinsegut Nature Center. He has taught wildlife, environmental, and nature topics at Elderhostels, and currently presents programs of nature topics for the USF Learning in Retirement Division and other groups.

-- Contributed by Harriett Wright

Highlights

Agro-ecology conference.....	4
Calendar.....	3
Directory.....	6
Little Manatee River canoe trip.....	5
Membership application.....	2
Message from the chair.....	2
Mulholland field trip....	4
Plant profile.....	5
Programs for 2002.....	2
Volunteer needed for Education Chair.....	4
Welcome new and renewing members.....	5

Message from the Chair

I am always amazed with the dedication and commitment that our volunteers invest (from the long list of people who help at the USF plant sales or outreach activities to the Board and the committee chairs) to make our chapter great.

I hesitate to recognize individuals because I don't want to detract from the contributions of all our great members, but I do want to acknowledge a few folks who have gone beyond the call.

The Spring 2002 Plant Festival at USF was the best ever in plant sales for our chapter. All of us who volunteer at this event know that it would not happen without the hard work and dedication of **Sally Sun**. Sally coordinates our chapter's participation in this event twice a year - year after year.

In May, **Ken and Susan Albritton's** landscape was a stop on the Eco-Gardening Tour, an event by the Hillsborough County Extension Service. Ken and Susan hosted over 100 participants who toured their native landscape during this one-day event.

These are just two examples of the hard-working folks who make me proud to be part of the Suncoast Native Plant Society!!

George Kish

Programs for Suncoast Chapter Meetings in 2002

By Harriett Wright and Dick Wunderlin

Jun 19 Journeys on Florida's Rivers
by Gene Cleversey

Jul 17 Project GreenHouse –
Sustainable Living in Florida by Brian
Marc Schatz

Aug 21 Project Planning Using
Natural Landscaping by David Connor

Sep 18 Plant Communities in Florida
by Bobby Hattaway

Oct 16 Come Into My Parlor – Spiders
of Florida by Francia Smith

Nov 20 Principles of landscaping with
native plants by Bill and Nancy Bissett

Florida Native Plant Society Membership Application

Membership in the Florida Native Plant Society enables you to receive their wonderful quarterly magazine The Palmetto. Joining the FNPS also entitles you to membership privileges in the Suncoast Native Plant Society, Inc. and a subscription to their monthly newsletter *The Suncoast Grapevine*. Contact the membership chair, George Kish at (813) 920-0853.

Detach and mail to: Suncoast Native Plant Society, P.O. Box 82893, Tampa, FL 33682-2893

Name _____

Business name
or organization _____

Address _____

City, State and Zip _____

Home telephone _____ Work
telephone _____

E-mail and/or FAX _____

New Member

Renewal

Check pertinent category:

Individual \$25

Full time student \$15

Library subscription \$15

Family or household \$30

Contributing \$40

Donor \$250

Not-for-profit
organization \$50

Business or
corporate \$100

Supporting \$100

Make check payable to **FNPS**.

Suncoast Calendar

June 15 Author Pam Traas talks about Butterfly Gardening at the USF Botanical Garden. Call 813-974-2329 for information.

Jun 19, 7 pm. Journeys on Florida's Rivers by Gene Cleversey. Suncoast chapter monthly meeting at the USF Westside Conference Center.

June 22 Little Manatee River canoe field trip. Call Steve Dickman at 813-936-7268 for information. See page 5 for details.

July 11, 9 a.m. Habitat Restoration Walking Tour at Chinsegut Nature Center, 23212 Lake Lindsey Rd. (Rt. 476), Brooksville. Learn about habitat restoration techniques used by biologists to restore wetland and upland habitats. Call 352-754-6722 for information.

July 13 -14 Tropical Plant Festival at the USF Botanical Garden. Call 813-974-2329 for information.

Jul 17, 7 p.m. Project GreenHouse – Sustainable Living in Florida by Brian Marc Schatz. Suncoast chapter monthly meeting at the USF Westside Conference Center.

July 20 Landscaper and Bromeliad grower, Tom Wolfe, talks about Bromeliads in the Landscape at the USF Botanical Garden. Call 813-974-2329 for information.

Aug 2-3 Bromeliads at the USF Botanical Garden. Call 813-974-2329 for information.

Aug 7, 7:30 pm. Backyard Wildlife by Craig Heugel, Pinellas Chapter, FNPS, at the Sunstar/EMS building at 12490 Ulmerton Road, Largo. Call 727-544-7341.

August 13, 7 p.m. Florida's Hummingbirds by Kristin Wood. Learn through slides about the natural history of Florida's hummingbird species and how to attract them to your yard. Chinsegut Nature Center, Brooksville. Call 352-754-6722 for information.

Aug 21, 7 p.m. Project Planning Using Natural Landscaping by landscape designer, David Connor. Suncoast chapter monthly meeting at the USF Westside Conference Center

Aug 24 Plant Buying Trip to a local native nursery. Call George Kish at 813-920-0853 for information.

Aug 31-Sep 1 8th Annual Cactus and Succulent Society Sale, Show, and Auction at the USF Botanical Garden. Call 813-974-2329 for information.

Hillsborough County Master Gardener Plant Clinics. Call 813-744-5519 x146 for information about locations or visit their website: hillsborough.extension.ufl.edu/calendar.htm. Upcoming clinics:

June 15 Buy Green and Save

July 13 Landscape Design Game

July 27 Rain Barrel and Water Wise Workshops

Note: Events in bold are presented by the SNPS.

Mulholland Field Trip ("Party")

The day started out with showers but the rain was welcome. By the time the first guest arrived, the sun was shining and it was getting warm. The rain had turned the pine mulch to a bright red background for all the plants. Everyone enjoyed seeing the five native poison plants especially the poisonwood (*Metopium toxiferum*) and manchineel (*Hippomane mancinella*) both from South Florida. After touring the yard, the guests gathered under the blue shelter for refreshments. (The wine, cheese and crackers were very popular.) By the time the free plants were loaded in their cars, twenty-three members had participated. Many of these were new members of Suncoast. A good time was had by all.

-- By Fred and Barbara Mulholland

Welcome New and Renewing Members

New	Mark Bossard Pam Latham
Renewing	John and Janelle Borden Mel and Shirley Brown Cliff Brown Mary Cross Carl Crosson JoAnn Hoffman Joel and Barbara Jackson Michael Keller Alyson Utter Craig Watson Rene Wiesner Brown

Volunteer Needed for Education Chair

The Board of Directors is seeking a volunteer to fill the Education Chair. The duties of the Education Chair are to coordinate and participate in educational activities, to advise the Board about educational opportunities, and to promote the mission of the Florida Native Plant Society through educational activities.

If you are interested in the Education Chair position, please contact a Board member (telephone numbers are on page 6).

Agro-Ecology Conference

The 4th Agro-Ecology Conference, sponsored by the Florida Center for Environmental Studies of Florida Atlantic University, will be held January 15-17, 2003 at the World Golf Village in St Augustine FL.

The conference theme is "Restoration and Stewardship" (of Public and Private Lands).

The conference will highlight medium to small range projects - what's being done, techniques used, tools used, etc. Also presented will be "Native Seed Usage in Restoration: collection, impacts, raising seed on public lands, etc.

Conference agenda and information will be coming late summer/early fall from the Center for Environmental Studies. Their website is: www.ces.fau.edu/ (click on the Agro-Ecology link).

Contact information:
JoAnn Jolley, Assistant Director
Florida Center for Environmental Studies
3932 RCA Blvd. Suite 3210
North Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410
(561) 691-8554 (561) 691-8540 (fax)
Email: jjolley@CENTAURI.CES.FAU.EDU

-- Contributed by Bruce Healy

USF Parking Permit Required for Chapter Meetings

Parking permits are required - USF security is enforcing parking rules. Parking permits are \$2.00 and may be purchased at the main entrance to USF or at permit machines located along the west side of the School of Public Health Building.



PLANT PROFILE

Common name: Lizard's Tail
Botanical name: *Saururus cernuus* L.
Family: Saururaceae
Type of plant: Aquatic perennial herb.
Size: 12-36 inches (h).

Leaves: Alternate, simple, ovate, pointed, heart-shaped, entire, up to 6 inches long and 3 inches wide, drooping.

Flower: White, drooping, showy spikes up to 6 inches long.

Flowering time: May to September.

Fruit: Wrinkled, somewhat fleshy, small fruit.

Habitat/distribution: Margins of shallow standing water or streams; swamps, marshes; zones 8-10.

Landscape use: Accent plant in water garden or pond margin; can be adapted to ordinary garden conditions but extra moisture will be needed..

Cultivation:

Soil: Rich, organic soil or muck.

Light: Full to part sun.

Water: Very wet to seasonally flooded or standing water.

Propagation: By division.

Availability: Some native plant nurseries.

References:

Osorio, Rufino, 2001, *A Gardener's Guide to Florida's Native Plants*: University Press of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, 345 p.

U.S. Department of Agriculture, No date, *Southern Wetlands Flora: Field Office Guide to Plant Species*: USDA Soil Conservation Service, South National Technical Center, Fort Worth, Texas, U.S. Geological Survey Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center home page, Jamestown, ND, www.npwrc.usgs.gov/resource/1999/soutflor/soutflor.htm.

Little Manatee River Canoe Field Trip

On June 22 we will have a field trip down the Little Manatee River. We will meet at Camp Bayou at 8:30 a.m. I reserved 10 canoes for the trip; the canoes are the property of the County's Parks and Recreation Department and there is no rental fee.

Only ten canoes are available, which translates to twenty spaces; it would be advisable to make reservations. For folks who plan to participate in the field trip, please call me at 813-936-7268 to reserve a canoe. Paddles and floatation devices will be provided. Those who wish to bring their own kayaks or canoes are welcome to do so.



**Information compiled by George Kish
Botanical Drawing from USDA**

Directions:

Go south on either Highway 41 or I-75 to Ruskin.

From I-75 : Take Exit 46, drive west on 674 to 24th St. SE and make a left (south). Drive 3 miles to Camp Bayou, on the left.

From Hwy 41: Travel east on College Ave. (674) for 2 miles to 24th St. SE, make a right. Drive 3 miles to Camp Bayou, on the left.

- - **By Steve Dickman**

Directory

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Vikki Sinclair 989-2896

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Newsletter editor

George Kish 920-0853

Programs

Richard Wunderlin 977-6484

Harriett Wright 908-9398

Publicity

Harriett Wright 908-9398

Refreshments

Lucy Hoyt 960-3178

Education

Betsy Davis 973-8524

Book Sales

Sally Sun 935-1312

Newsletter Submissions

Deadline for the next issue:

June 25

Please send articles and original artwork for The Suncoast Grapevine to the editor, George Kish, by the **deadline** of each month (earlier, please, if not typed). Text should be in MS Word; graphics should be in a standard graphic format. Previously published artwork should be accompanied by a letter of permission from the original publisher.

Mail:..... SNPS, Inc.
P.O. Box 82893
Tampa, FL 33682-2893

Email:...gkish@tampabay.rr.com

Meeting Location

Suncoast Native Plant Society, Inc. meets the third Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the Westside Conference Center, first floor, located on the USF campus at Banyan & Cypress. Entrance is at the north end of the building.



SNPS Address

The main address for communication is:

Suncoast Native Plant Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 82893
Tampa, FL 33682-2893

Any correspondence sent to this address will be forwarded to the appropriate officer or committee member.

The SNPS web address is:

www.fnps.org/chapters/suncoast

Grapevine Subscription

You may subscribe to the Suncoast Grapevine (not including membership in the SNPS or the FNPS) for \$10 per year. Contact George Kish at 920-0853.

Stamp

Please deliver to: