

The Suncoast

Suncoast Native Plant Society,



Volume 21 Number 2

FEBRUARY 2004

February 18 Meeting (at the Learning Gate Charter School)

SMART GROWTH

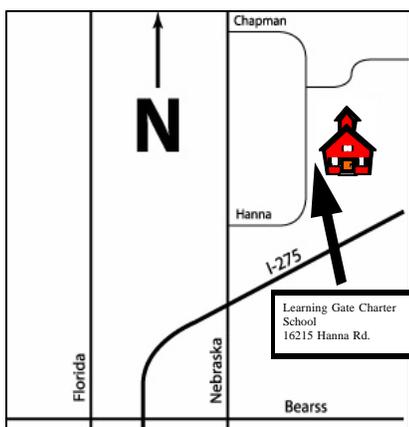
by Miki Renner

Increasingly, patterns of development throughout the nation are characterized by "sprawl", which results from the costly practice of abandoning infrastructure in developed areas only to rebuild it farther out, a process that eats up open space, prime agricultural lands, and natural areas, and requires the construction of more and more roads, so that more and more automobiles and trucks can add to our oil dependency and air pollution.

Smart Growth recognizes that growth, although inevitable, need not destroy our quality of life. It invests time, attention and resources in the restoration of community and vitality to urban areas and older suburbs. It is town-centered, transit and pedestrian oriented, and provides for a mix of residential, commercial, and retail uses. Smart growth is development that serves the economy, the community, and the environment.

Mikel (Miki) Renner, the senior planner at the Southwest Florida Water Management District, has twenty years of planning experience. Before coming to Swiftmud, she worked as a planner at county, regional, state, and federal levels. She has been on the Hernando County Planning and Zoning Commission for a number of years. As a resident of Florida for over 40 years, one of her major interests has been Florida's unique ecology.

- - - Contributed by Harriett Wright .



Plant Raffle Guidelines

By Harriett Wright

When you bring plants to the plant raffle, please sign the raffle sheet and record the number of plants you donated. Before the start of the raffle, we will offer first choice of a plant on the raffle table to our speaker, followed by plant donors in the order of the number of plants donated. After these selections have been made, we will begin the raffle.

Thank you to all the members who donated plants at the last meeting.

Message from the President

The Board is in the process of exploring alternatives to our meeting location at the Learning Gate Charter School. Betty Wargo has been a very generous host and the facilities are terrific. Unfortunately, some of our members must drive more than an hour to get to the meeting. As a result, we have lost participation by quite a few members. In 2002, we needed to leave the USF campus (remember the parking fees, the chair guy at 9 pm sharp, the complaints from USF about spilling "dirt", and the locked doors because of the school holiday and the hurricane closing?). Betty stepped forward to give us a place to meet so we could escape from the clutches of the USF administration. I am very grateful that she helped us in our time of need. When we moved our meetings to the Learning Gate Charter School in September 2002, we decided to give the location a try for 6 - 12 months. We went well beyond 12 months and the Board is seeking member's input about our meeting location. Folks who attended the last meeting were asked to complete a short questionnaire about our present meeting location and alternative meeting locations. Subsequently, Harriett Wright sent the questionnaire by e-mail to most members. For members who have not responded or who do not have e-mail addresses in our chapter database, a Board member will be calling you within the next couple of weeks. Our goal is to have responses from 100 percent of our members, so we can make a fair and equitable assessment of the meeting location issue.

Harriett will be compiling the results along with member's suggestions for alternatives to our present meeting location. The Board will then set up criteria for assessing each potential meeting location suggested (along with the Learning Gate Charter School) and develop an impartial priority list of meeting locations. We will definitely need help with this process - contact Harriett if you can help with some legwork. If you have not responded yet, please do so - we need your input!

George Kish

The Florida Native Plant Mural

project was created as an educational tool to increase the public's knowledge of native plants and the ecosystems in which they live in order to encourage their use in local landscapes to conserve water and reduce polluted runoff.

The mural is painted on a 250 feet long concrete retention wall that varies in height from approximately one to five feet and is located directly in front of the City of Titusville's Mourning Dove Water Production facility. The facility is located at 2836 Garden (also known as State Road 406) Street, Titusville Florida. The mural enjoys high visibility by residents and visitors alike, as Garden Street intersects with U.S. Highway 1 on the east and Interstate 95 on the west.

The mural illustrates the plant communities represented in Florida's various ecosystems such as scrub, hardwoods, pine flatwoods, wetlands, and coastal area. Each plant is labeled with its common name.

Two local artists were commissioned to paint the mural (Joy Merckson and Terry Giles). Their illustrations are based on two of the native plant books written by University of Central Florida Biology professor, Walter Taylor.

The mural has received mentioned in our local weekly paper, the St. Johns River Water Management District *Indian River Lagoon Update* publication and the Univ. of Florida's Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plant's *Aquaphyte*. The City of Titusville also received the FS/AWWA Water Conservation 2003 Awards for Excellence, Show of Excellence award in the Public Education Category for its mural.

Sounds like an interesting place to visit and perhaps mimic here in Tampa. Editor

PLANT PROFILE

Common name: Chickasaw Plum

Botanical name: *Prunus angustifolia* Marshall

Family: Rosaceae (Rose Family)

Plant Habit: A deciduous shrub or tree.

Size: 20 feet high or less; branches wide- spreading to 12 feet.

Leaves: Alternate, simple, lanceolate, to 3 in. long; the sides of the leaf frequently bent upward from the midrib to form a trough. Leaf margins are finely serrate, each tooth bearing a tiny red or yellow gland.

Bark: Dark reddish brown, scaly.

Inflorescence: Clusters of fragrant white flowers

Flowers: To 1in. wide, 5 white petals, multiple stamens.

Fruit: A red or yellow drupe to 1in long, juicy and edible but usually tart. Ingesting the seeds and other plant parts can cause cyanide poisoning.

Flowering time: Very early spring, before leafing out.

Habitat: Woodland edges, fencerows, disturbed sites.

Distribution: The coastal plain from central Florida to Mississippi and north to New Jersey.

Light: Full sun

Soil: Sandy, well-drained soil.

Propagation: Seed, stem cuttings, air-layering or suckers.

Maintenance: Little to none; watch for infestations of webworm and tendency to sucker.

Availability: Several native plant nurseries.

Wildlife: Edible fruit for birds and mammals; wildlife cover.

Related Species: Flatwoods or Hog Plum (not to be confused with *Ximenia americana* L. of the Olax family, also commonly named hog plum) has purple fruit ; while American plum is a larger, more upright tree with larger flowers and fruit.

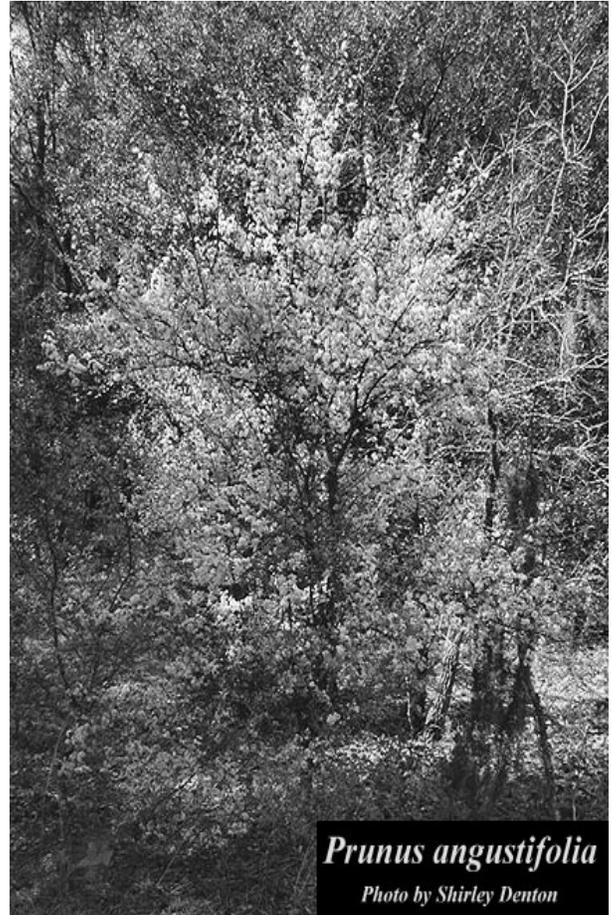
Comments: Chickasaw plum is a spectacular tree, one of the first to bloom in the spring. Its masses of snow white flowers contrast vividly against the dark bark of its trunk and wide-spreading branches.

References:

- Nelson, Gil, 2003, **Florida's Best Native Landscape Plants**, University Press of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, pp.272-273.
- Schuler, Stanley, 1965, **How To Grow Almost Everything**, M. Evans and Company, Inc., New York, N.Y.
- Small, John Kunkel, 1972 reprint, **Manual of the Southeastern Flora**, Hafner Publishing Co., New York, N.Y., pp.647-649.
- Wunderlin, R.P. and Hansen, B.F., 2002, **Atlas of Florida Vascular Plants** (<http://plantatlas.usf.edu/>) [S.M. Landry and K.N .Campbell(application development), Florida Center for Community Design and Research] Institute for Systematic Botany, University of South Florida, Tampa.
- Wunderlin, R.P. and Hansen, B.F., 2003, **Guide To the Vascular Plants of Florida** second edition: University Press of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, p302.

Information compiled by Carmel vanHoek

Photograph by Shirley Denton



Prunus angustifolia

Photo by Shirley Denton



The Florida Native Plant Society was organized in 1980 to promote the preservation, conservation, and restoration of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida. For more information about the Florida Native Plant Society, please visit our web site: www.fnps.org.

SNPS Budget for 2004

INCOME	Budget 2003	Actual 2003	Budget 2004
Membership	1,000.00	1,051.70	1,000.00
Book Sales	700.00	266.25	500.00
Plant raffle/sales	150.00	381.00	250.00
Event Sales-net	2,000.00	1,575.35	1,800.00
Royalties	400.00	414.41	400.00
Donations	0.00	0.00	0.00
Misc. Plant Sale	0.00	0.00	0.00
Reserve	900.00	0.00	2,000.00
Total	5,150.00	3,688.71	5,950.00
EXPENSES	Budget 2003	Actual 2003	Budget 2004
Administration	400.00	258.86	250.00
Newsletter	2,200.00	2,094.85	2,200.00
Book Purchases	400.00	0.00	400.00
Programs	600.00	607.33	800.00
Grants	900.00	700.00	1,500.00
Publications Comm.	0.00	1,364.25	50.00
Field Trip Comm.	0.00	9.08	25.00
Education Comm.	200.00	0.00	25.00
Donations	250.00	861.00	300.00
Library	200.00	0.00	0.00
Misc. /Outreach	0.00	0.00	400.00
Total	5,150.00	5,895.37	5,950.00

Electronic Newsletter?

Because of concerns over cost and our desire to use less paper, the Board is considering distributing the newsletter by e-mail to members who prefer an electronic version to a paper version.

So far, only seven members indicated an interest in receiving the newsletter by e-mail. Please help us save a few trees. If you are interested in receiving the newsletter by e-mail, please contact: gkish@tampabay.rr.com.

Announcements from the Board of Directors:

- 1 All committee reports are past due.
- 2 Volunteers needed for Earth Day events in March – Contact George
- 3 A committee was formed to discuss the possible change of SNPS Meeting location
 - Meeting Location Surveys are due by March 22
 - Contact George or Harriett to participate on this committee
 - Committee will discuss among other things
 - Member Surveys
 - Establish criteria for any location
 - Compare alternative locations
 - Recommend location to Board of Directors

MEETING PLACE POLL

We're in the process of conducting a poll to see how our members feel about the possibility of moving to a more centrally located meeting place. If you haven't given your opinion yet, please email your answers to the following questions to Harriett Wright, harriett@ix.netcom.com, or phone Harriett or George or another board member. (See phone numbers on the back page.)

- 1) Are you satisfied with the location of our current meeting place or would you prefer one that is more centrally located?
- 2) If you do not now come to meetings, is it because the meeting place is too far away, or for some other reason (i.e. time constraints)?
- 3) Would you be likely to come to meetings more often if our meeting place were more centrally located?
- 4) If you do come to meetings now, would we be likely to lose your attendance if we move?
- 5) Do you feel that having a more centrally located meeting place would justify a budget expenditure to pay for it, if necessary?
- 6) Can you make a suggestion or recommendation for a new meeting place?
- 7) Would you be willing to serve on a committee to select a new location?

The Deadline for this survey is March 22! Why wait, do it today!

Suncoast Calendar

REGULAR MEETINGS OF SUNCOAST NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY at the Learning Gate Charter

School, 16215 Hanna Road, in Lutz. 7 PM
FEB 18 MAR 17 APR 21 May 19

SNPS 2004 FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE Field trips begin at 9:00 am. Contact Steve Dickman, 813-936-7268 for more information. Trails are rated moderate unless noted. Dates subject to change.

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS at the FNPS Pinellas Chapter: (Moccasin Lake Nature Park, 2750 Park Trail, Clearwater; 727-544-7341); Weds; 7:30 pm
Mar 3 Trail Snacks: Edible Native Plants by Katy Roberts.

SIERRA CLUB (Meets second Wednesdays at Chamberlain High School) Meeting time is 7:30 pm with a new member & guest orientation at 7:00. (813) 253-3555

TAMPA AUDUBON FIELD TRIPS

They meet 7 times a year on Saturdays at Lettuce Leaf Park off Fletcher. Call 983-0258.

Feb 13-16 The Great Backyard Bird Count see: <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/> for details.

Feb 21 "Bird Rescue and Rehabilitation" by Lee Fox

BROWARD AUDUBON Call 954-776-5585.

Jan 17-19

ST. PETERSBURG AUDUBON Call 582-2461

Feb 17 -Meeting topic: Attracting Birds to our Backyards, Jan Anschuetz

LOWRY PARK ZOO

This year's Karamu will be held Saturday, April 3, 2004 in the Lowry Park Zoo's Saunder's Pavilion. Phone (813) **935-8552**, ext. **239**, for details. By invitation only.

HISTORIC BOK SANCTUARY

Until Feb 29 —Historic Landscapes of Florida from the University of Miami School of Architecture. Call 863.676.1408, ext. 16

HILLS CO. MASTER GARDNER PROGRAMS. Call 813-744-5519 x144 for information about locations or the website: hillsborough.extension.ufl.edu/calendar.htm.

Feb 10 – Basic Orchids, Darry & Peggy Eggleston: 7 pm
Feb 10 – Container Gardening, Lucy Hoyt & Dawn Barton: 7 p.m.

Feb 12 – Landscaping with Natives, Lucy Hoyt: 10 a.m.

Feb 12 – MG's Secrets & Shortcuts, Pat O'Shea: 10 am

Feb 12 – Camellias, Eileen Hart: 10 a.m

Feb 17 – Native Plants/Invasive Exotics: 7 p.m.

Feb 18 – Begonias, Eileen Hart: 10 a.m.

Feb 19 – Backyard Habitat, JoAnne Whale: 10 a.m

Feb 21 - Landscape Design Workshop, Marina Pryce: 9 am; Pre-registration is required, (813) 744-5519 X144.

Mar 2 – Lawn Care, Harry Dalvine: 7 p.m.

Mar 8 – Herbs, Lucy Hoyt & Pat Harris: 7:30 p.m.

Mar 9 – Butterfly Gardening, The Egglestons: 7 p.m.

Mar 9 – Wildflowers, Eileen Hart: 7 p.m.

Mar 11 - Lawn Care, Harry Dalvine: 10 a.m

Mar 11 - Memory Plants, Martha Hall: 10 a.m.

Mar 11 – Composting, Lisa Strange: 10 a.m.

CHINSEGUT NATURE CENTER

Mar 2 - Wild Turkeys of Florida, Roger Shields 7:00 pm

USF BOTANICAL GARDEN 974-2329

Feb 15 - Nature Walk in the Gardens 9:00-10:30 am

Feb 27 & 28 - Begonia Bonanza 9:00-4:00 Lectures and Begonias galore.

Feb 14, 21, 28, Mar 6, 13, 20 - Orchid Classes 10:00-11:15 am

HELP THE EDITOR

Is anyone out there who could be my assistant? I would love for someone to pick up the Grapevine from the printer, affix the labels and stamps and take them to the post office each month. I would provide you with the labels. Perhaps, you could buy the stamps and submit the cost to the treasurer. I've been using Kinko's on Fowler at 30th.

Please call Shirley Brown, 977-0454, if you can help me.

Field Trip Announcement:

When: Saturday, February 21st 8:30am

Where: Cockroach Bay Canoe Trail

We will meet at the Cockroach Bay Aquatic Preserve Field Office. Ten canoes are available, and space is limited to two people per canoe, so we can accommodate twenty people on this field trip.

Directions: From Tampa go south on U.S. Hwy. 41 through Ruskin and over the Little Manatee River bridge. After crossing the river, drive past one traffic light, and continue about one mile to Cockroach Bay Rd. Turn right. Go about two miles to Gulf City Road, turn right. (We are NOT going to the public boat ramp.) The Cockroach Bay Aquatic Preserve Field Office is one mile on the right. From the field office we will be escorted (via a county truck) to the restoration areas, where the canoes will be readied to launch. (It will be harder to accommodate personal boats on this trip, due to the location of the launch.)

Experience the maze of red mangrove trees as we paddle through tunnels composed of intermingling prop roots and branches. The canoe trail takes paddlers through a series of shallow lagoons that support sea grasses.

Here, one may encounter roseate spoonbills, herons and egrets. Perhaps the illusive mangrove cuckoo may be seen. We will have the opportunity to go ashore on one or more of the Cockroach Bay Islands and check out the local flora.

Be prepared to get wet. Please bring: Drinking water, something to snack on, hat and sunscreen, and a change of dry clothes just-in-case.

Call Stephen Dickman at 936-7268 to reserve your place in a canoe.

Saturday, March 6th in the PM.

Interested in a moonlight hike at Dead River Park on the Hillsborough River?

Call the phone number above and let me know.

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.

New Member Renewal

Name _____

Business name or organization _____

Address _____

City, State and Zip _____

Home phone _____ Work phone _____

E-mail and/or FAX _____

Check pertinent category:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> Not-for-profit organization \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Full time student \$15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Business or corporate \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Library subscription \$15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family or household \$30 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contributing \$40 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Donor \$250 | |

Make check payable to FNPS.

Detach and mail to:

Suncoast Native Plant Society

P.O. Box 82893

Tampa, FL 33682-2893

Activities & Committee Chairs

Field trips

Steve Dickman 936-7268
Cliff Brown 988-3211

Publications

Richard Wunderlin 977-6484

Librarian

Vikki Sinclair 989-2896

Membership

George Kish 920-0853

Newsletter editor

Shirley Brown 977-0454

Programs

Harriett Wright 908-9398

Publicity

Ameé Bailey 863-206-3439

Refreshments

Lucy Hoyt 960-3178

Education

Betty Wargo 237-1509

Book Sales

Sally Sun 935-1312

USF Plant Sale

Sally Sun 935-1312

Conference

Ameé Bailey 863-206-3439

Newsletter Submissions

Deadline for the next issue:

March 1

Please send articles and original artwork for The Suncoast Grapevine to the editor, Shirley Brown, 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:...srbrown11@msn.com

SNPS Address

Meeting Location

Suncoast Native Plant Society, Inc. meets the third Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the **Learning Gate Charter School, 16215 Hanna Road, Lutz.**

SNPS Web Address

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.

Officers & Board of Directors

President

George Kish 920-0853

Vice-presidents

Harriett Wright 908-9398

Secretary

Ameé Bailey 863-206-3439

Treasurer

Fred Spriggs 935-1312

Chapter Representative

Ameé Bailey 662-5954

Board Members

Ameé Bailey 863-206-3439

Cliff Brown 988-3211

Steve Dickman 936-7268

George Kish 920-0853

Bob Scheible 626-6815

Fred Spriggs 935-1312

Harriett Wright 908-9398

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

Stamp



Please deliver to: