

# The Suncoast

Suncoast Native Plant Society,



**Volume 21 Number 6**

**JUNE 2004**

## **June 16 Meeting (at the Learning Gate Charter School)**

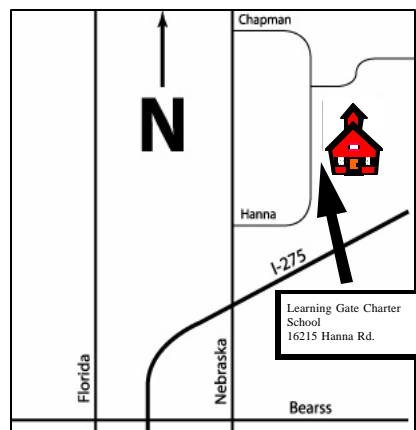
### **THE CONSERVATION PROGRAM AT HISTORIC BOK SANCTUARY**

By Cheryl Peterson

Scrub communities in Florida contain an unmatched diversity of endemic species. In central Florida, the ancient scrub of the Lake Wales Ridge is one of the most critically endangered ecosystems in the world: the central ridge alone harbors twenty-three federally endangered or threatened species. Nearly 80% of the ancient scrub communities of central Florida have been lost to development. Cheryl Peterson's mission, as Conservation Manager of Historic Bok Sanctuary, is the conservation of Florida's rare and endangered plants. To this end she has established a basic molecular genetics lab, where projects are being developed to augment traditional conservation efforts through the use of molecular techniques.

Cheryl came to Historic Bok Sanctuary in November 2002 from Fort Pierce, where she spent 4 ½ years at Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute, studying marine biodiversity and invertebrate genetics. She earned her master's degree at Florida Tech in Melbourne, where she did her thesis work on the endemic mint genus *Conradina*, comparing the essential oil compounds of each species using GC-MS, comparing leaf surface structure using the Scanning electron microscope, and developing a tissue culture propagation protocol for *C. etonia*, the rarest *Conradina* species.

Her avocations have included taking naturalist training courses, learning about and conducting educational walks on native edible plants, and leading workshops on native skills and philosophy.



--- Contributed by Harriett Wright

## **Message from the President**

It looks like the Cypress Mulch brochure is getting wide circulation. Many other FNPS chapters have distributed the brochure along with numerous Extension Service offices. The brochure is also on the Tampa Bay Estuary Program's web site.

This past week, I was interviewed by Jason Holland of the Osceola News Gazette regarding melaleuca and FloriMulch. He plans to write an article about the advantages of using FloriMulch instead of cypress mulch.

FloriMulch is distributed by Forestry Resources, Inc. in Fort Myers (www.gomulch.com). In 1983, Forestry Resources, Inc. was formed with a single mission: to do something to slow the spread of the much detested melaleuca tree. They explored several uses for melaleuca but settled on developing a landscape mulch and introduced it as FloriMulch. The "gomulch" web site has a list of retailers across Florida who carry FloriMulch. In the Tampa Bay area, FloriMulch can be purchased at Cypress Creek Landscape Supply in Tampa, Holly's Farms in Lutz, Wilcox Nursery in Indian Rocks Beach in Largo and at area Albertson's grocery stores. I called the Albertson's at West Hillsborough Avenue and Sheldon Ave. and they have 2 palettes of FloriMulch. The cost is 2 bags for \$5.00, competitively priced with pine bark nuggets. Fred Spriggs said the Albertson's on North Florida Ave. has FloriMulch.

I'd like to think that our brochure has had something to do with increasing the availability of melaleuca mulch in our area (keep asking your favorite garden center for FloriMulch and continue to act surprised that they do not stock such a great product).

I would like to pay special thanks to all who participated in making the Cypress Mulch brochure a reality - especially Mariella Smith, who spear-headed the project and convinced the Board to support it.

**George Kish**

## **FIELD TRIP ("PARTY")**

### **The Mulholland Method**

The Suncoast Native Plant Society's May field trip was the tenth annual garden party at Barbara and Fred Mulholland's house and was attended by about 31 Adventure Associates. The Mulholland's yard, if it can be called that, is really a botanical garden of Florida's native plants not only from our west central area but also from the northern and southern climes of our state. Interestingly enough there are several specimens that perhaps not every gardener would want such as: poison ivy, poison oak, poison sumac, poisonwood and manchineel. These plants and the other natives could be seen by walking the nature trail made from pine straw which intertwined the garden thus eliminating the need for turf grass or lawnmower. Additionally, there is a beautiful pond which creates a habitat for aquatic plants. The pond's water quality is maintain without the use of a pump- relying on the pond's plants to clarify the water, the fish to eat any mosquito larvae and the bullfrogs. Yes, the bullfrog's job is to keep in check any exotic lizards which dare to trespass in Florida's Eden.

One goal of the Florida Native Plant Society is to promote the use of native plantings which was well served at this event. The Mulhollands provided many already potted native plants for the taking and generously offered to share cuttings from others. Since the event was well attended by many "regulars" and new members alike garden tips were shared which provided solutions to many garden problems.

We also discovered that some of the members do not drive at night nor do fieldtrips and therefore this was one way to participate with the Society. Perhaps those of us who drive to our monthly meeting might call and offer a ride to other members. Thank you very much Barbara and Fred for sharing some of the secrets of your Florida garden.

**Submitted by Mike Fite**

## PLANT PROFILE

**Common name:** Piney Woods Dropseed

**Botanical name:** *Sporobolus junceus* (P. beauv.) Kunth

**Family:** POACEAE (Grass Family)

**Plant Habit:** A perennial bunchgrass.

**Size:** Rounded clumps 1-3 feet tall and just as wide.

**Leaves:** Very slender, wiry and lacking hairs.

**Inflorescence:** A reddish-brown, pyramidal panicle, 4-6 inches; the branches in widely spreading whorls.

**Fruit:** A one-seeded spikelet whose seed drops freely when mature.

**Habitat:** Common in the sandhills of Florida.

**Flowering time:** Late spring to fall, and sporadically throughout the year.

**Distribution:** Common throughout the state and Coastal Plains.

**Light:** Bright sun.

**Soil:** Dry, sandy soil

**Propagation:** By seed. Will self-sow.

**Maintenance:** Cut foliage down to 1-2 inches above ground level every winter.

**Availability:** Several native plant nurseries.

**Wildlife:** None known.



© Shirley Denton, May 2003

### References:

Hitchcock, A.S., 1971, second edition revised by Agnes Chase, **Manual of the Grasses of the U.S.**, Dover Publications, Inc. New York, p. 423.

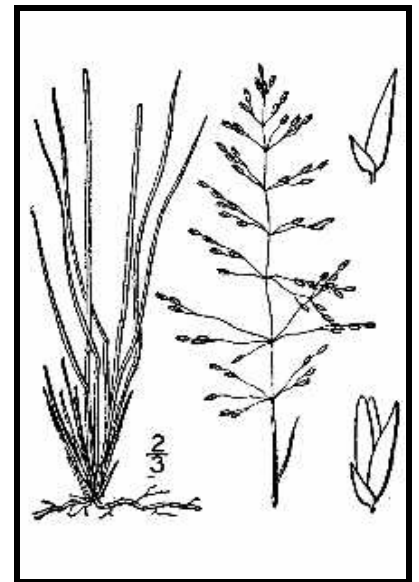
Osorio, Rufino, 2001, **A Gardener's Guide to Florida's Native Plants**, University Press of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, pp. 134-135, 140-141. U.S. Department of Agriculture, [http://plants.usda.gov/gallery/standard/spgr4\\_001\\_svd.jpg](http://plants.usda.gov/gallery/standard/spgr4_001_svd.jpg)

Wunderlin, R.P. and Hansen, B.F., 2003, **Guide To the Vascular Plants of Florida** second edition: University Press of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, pp. 226-227.

**Information compiled by Carmel vanHoek**

**Photo by Shirley Denton**

**Line Drawing by USDA**



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](http://www.fnps.org).

## New SNPS Committees

Two new committees have been established - the USF Botanical Gardens Liaison Committee and the Meeting Location Committee.

The purpose of the USF Botanical Gardens (USFBG) Liaison Committee is to foster a partnership between the Suncoast Native Plant Society and the USF Botanical Gardens to educate the public about native plant communities, landscaping, propagation, and conservation through outreach activities at the USFBG. By far, our greatest outreach activities are the Spring and Fall plant sales, directed by Sally Sun. The Committee will be asked to broaden our activities to include presentations about native plants as part of the USFBG's educational programs, assisting the USFBG with organizing a Native Plant Event (similar to others like the Cactus and Succulent event), and maintaining the beds at the entrance along with a display garden inside the USFBG. Shirley Brown has volunteered to Chair the committee. If you would be willing to serve on this committee, please call Shirley Brown at 977-0454.

The purpose of the Meeting Location Committee is to evaluate meeting locations using a set of criteria that addresses the concerns of our members. The Committee, chaired by Harriett Wright, has compiled a list of potential meeting locations and are in the process of evaluating the locations. The Committee will report to the Board about potential locations. Debbie Butts, Dawn Barton and Katherine Abbey are assisting Harriett, but additional assistance from other members would be greatly appreciated. Harriett can be reached at 908-9398.

## July Pot Luck Dinner and Meeting

Just a reminder that we are planning a pot luck dinner for our joint meeting with the Sierra Club and Audubon Society. Please contact Harriett Wright at 908-9398 about the dish you will bring to the July meeting. We also plan to give away seedlings to our guests, so if you have extra seedlings in 4-inch pots or smaller, please bring them to the meeting. The plant raffle for July will consist of 1-gallon or larger plants, so if you have any to contribute, please bring them too.

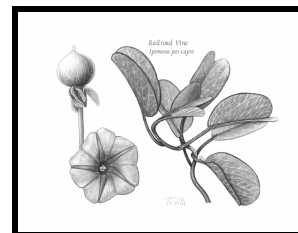
## GRANT AWARDED

A \$500.00 Grant has been awarded by the Board of Directors of SNPS for the maintenance of the *Atlas of Florida Vascular Plants Website*. The funding will help to maintain the website, to continue to make minor enhancements, and to incorporate additional features giving the site greater usability. The website is a comprehensive source of information on the 4,153 native and naturalized vascular plant species in the State of Florida and contains over 7,300 images of plants. The *Atlas* website is visited by a diversity of users throughout the state, nation, and the world.

The value to SNPS members is enormous. Since the site has accurate, scientifically documented information on all native and naturalized plant species in Florida, it enables individuals to make more accurate plant identifications and management decisions. To the average native plant enthusiast, looking for a plant that grows in his area and seeing the image of the species is much easier and cost effective than trying to work through the various identification manuals.

You can reach the site at:  
<http://www.plantatlas.usf.edu/>.

**The above information was gleaned from the Proposal written by Richard P. Wunderlin, Ph.D. Institute for Systematic Botany, USF**



Artwork by Susan Trammell

## A Big Thank You

Thanks to those who contributed Raffle plants at the last meeting, Ken Albritton, Betsy Davis, George Kish, and Fred & Barb Mulholland.

Remember, you get a free raffle ticket when you donate plants for the raffle. Next month, One gallon plants only for the raffle.

**An Invitation from  
Brooker Creek Preserve  
Environmental Education Center  
Tarpon Springs, Florida 34688**

***Grand Opening Celebration and Open House***

Saturday, June 19, 2004  
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Florida Pioneer Breakfast ----- 9:00 a.m.  
Ribbon Cutting and Art Dedication----- 9:30 a.m.  
Open House ----- until 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, June 20, 2004  
11:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Open all afternoon

Come join us for tours, demonstrations, exhibits,  
nature store, hikes, music, food and refreshments.  
Please wear comfortable attire.

*Directions to Brooker Creek Preserve:*

From south Tampa - Follow the Courtney  
Campbell Causeway (SR60) west and turn north  
(right) onto McMullen Booth Road (CR611). The  
name of this road changes to East Lake Road north  
of Tampa Road (CR752). Continue north to  
Keystone Road (CR582) and turn east (right).  
Travel approximately 2.5 miles to the Brooker  
Creek Preserve Environmental Education Center  
entrance. Follow the one-mile drive to the Center.  
From north Tampa - From N Dale Mabry Hwy  
(SR597), turn west onto Van Dyke Road (CR685A)  
and travel to Gunn Hwy (CR587). Turn north  
(right) and continue 1.4 miles to Tarpon Springs  
Road (CR582). Turn west (left) and travel  
approximately 5.1 miles to the Brooker Creek  
Preserve Environmental Education Center entrance.  
Follow the one-mile drive to the Center. From  
Pinellas County - Go north on US19 to Tarpon  
Avenue E. (CR582) and turn east (right). Pass  
through the traffic signal at East Lake Road  
(CR611) and continue for approximately 2.5 miles  
to the Brooker Creek Preserve Environmental  
Education Center entrance. Follow the one-mile  
drive to the Center.

**Welcome New and Renewing  
Members**

**NEW**

**John (Jay) Allen  
Beverly Ardisana-Morrow  
Michael Ehrlich  
Gary Floyd  
David Knapp**

**REJOINED  
Patricia Todd**

**RENEWED**

**Rob & Rebecca Degraaf  
Steven Graham  
Richard Gross  
Jane Halil  
Barbara Hawkins  
Jay R. Heidt  
Jo Johnston  
Daphne Lambright  
Nannette Lehr  
Teresa Nesman**

Thank you for your continued support of the  
Suncoast chapter of the Florida Native Plant  
Society!!

**Mulholland Party Report**

The "You Dig & Pick a Pot" Party was a huge  
success enjoyed by thirty-three attendees from the  
Suncoast Native Plant Society and other clubs. Dr  
Wunderlin provided answers to questions  
concerning plant identifications, etc. The weather  
was great - sunny and bright. Plenty of refreshments  
were provided and everyone had a good time. Let's  
do it again!

Fred & Barbara Mulholland

# Suncoast Calendar

**REGULAR MEETINGS OF SUNCOAST NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY** at the Learning Gate Charter School, 16215 Hanna Road, in Lutz. 7 PM

JUN 16 JUL 21 AUG 18 SEP 15

## **SNPS 2004 FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE**

We are in need of a Chair person. Please volunteer

## **PROGRAMS AND EVENTS at the FNPS**

**Pinellas Chapter:** (Moccasin Lake Nature Park, 2750 Park Trail, Clearwater; 727-544-7341); Weds; 7:30 pm

**JUL 7** "Planting for Gopher Tortoises"

**JUL 10** - Tour of Boyd Hill Nature Park

**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 PROGRAMS**

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

No Scheduled events

**ST. PETERSBURG AUDUBON** Call 582-2461 or website, [stpeteaudubon.org/main.htm](http://stpeteaudubon.org/main.htm)

No Scheduled events until September

## **LOWRY PARK ZOO**

**JUN 25** - Summer Safari Night 5:00 - 8:30 pm.

## **HISTORIC BOK SANCTUARY**

**MAY 1 - JULY 31** - "The Flora of La Florida"  
Susan Trammell exhibits in two media: traditional botanical watercolor and more abstract macro photography.

## **HILLS CO. MASTER GARDNER**

**PROGRAMS.** Call 813-744-5519 x144 for information about locations or website:

[hillsborough.extension.ufl.edu/calendar.htm](http://hillsborough.extension.ufl.edu/calendar.htm).

Pre-registration required.

**JUN 12, 22 & JUL 10** - Landscape Design Workshops, 9 am - 12 noon.

**JUN 19 & 26** - Compost Happens, Rain Barrel & Water Wise Workshops. 8, 9, & 10 am

**JUN 22** - Landscape Design Workshop, 9 am

## **CHINSEGUT NATURE CENTER**

(352)754-6722 or website: [/floridaconservation.org/chinsegut/schedule.html](http://floridaconservation.org/chinsegut/schedule.html)

**JUN 26** Introductory Archery Workshop 9:00 - 11:00 am

## **USF BOTANICAL GARDEN** 974-2329.

Workshops begin at 10:00 am. Small fee required.

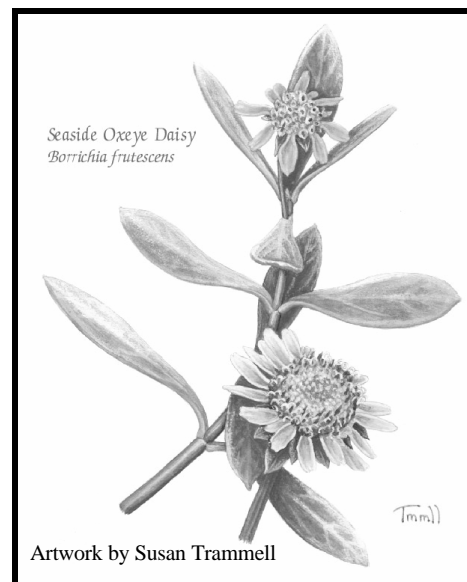
**JUN 19** - Butterfly Gardening Workshop

**JUN 20** - Nature Walk in the Gardens 9:00 - 10:30 am

**JUN 26** - Book Binding Workshop 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

**JUL 10** - Tropical Plant Fair 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

**JUL 11** - Tropical Plant Fair 10:00 am - 3:00 pm with workshops



## **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.

## SUNCOAST NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY PROGRAM 2004

**January 21:** *Talking With the Animals*, by Bill Thomas, photojournalist. How to get up close and personal with animals in the wild.

**February 18:** *Smart Growth*, by Miki Renner, Senior Planner at Swiftmud. Replacing current sprawl-dominated development with town-centered planning that serves the economy, the community, and the environment.

**March 17:** *Earth Etiquette*, by James Mendenhall, Park Naturalist with the Florida DEP, Division of Recreation and Parks. Strategies to make our presence in the natural world less offensive and more positive for all concerned.

**April 21:** *Clever Plants Interacting with Canny Bugs*, by Mark Deyrup, Senior Research Biologist, Archbold Biological Station. Fascinating relationships between native plants and insects.

**May 19:** *Members' Forum*. What we're doing in our gardens.

**June 16:** *The Conservation Program at Historic Bok Sanctuary*, by Cheryl Peterson, Conservation Manager of Bok Sanctuary. Using molecular genetics to augment the more traditional conservation efforts on rare plant species in north and central Florida.

**July 21,** joint meeting with Audubon and Sierra: *The Horticulture of Butterfly Plants*, by Craig Heugel, manager of Brooker Creek Preserve in Pinellas County, How to grow the plants that butterfly larvae love to munch.

**August 18:** *The Ericaceae in Florida*, by Michael Kenton, owner of Environmental Equities native plant nursery. Members of the Heath Family in Florida: how to identify them, how to grow them, and where to get them.

**September 15:** *Florida's Fire Ecology*, by Carl Weekley, Research Biologist, Archbold Biological Station. Fire is a central force defining most Florida ecosystems from marshes to xeric uplands.

**October 20:** *Life History of the Gopher Tortoise*, by Ray Ashton, of the Ashton Biodiversity Research & Preservation Institute.

**November 17:** Bioprospecting for Medicinal Plants by Dr. Maureen Bonness, Issues surrounding the search and subsequent harvesting of plants for new botanical drugs.

## 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

Vacant

### Publications

Richard Wunderlin 977-6484

### Librarian

Vikki Sinclair 989-2896

### Membership

George Kish 920-0853

### Newsletter editor

Shirley Brown 977-0454

Mike Fite, Assistant 977-0892

### 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

### Meeting Location

Harriet Wright 908-9398

### USF Botanical Garden

Shirley Brown 977-0454

## Newsletter Submissions

**Deadline for the next issue:**

**July 5**

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

**Suncoast Native Plant Society, Inc.**

**P.O. Box 82893**

**Tampa, FL 33682-2893**

## 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](http://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-president

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

**Stamp**



**Please deliver to:**