

# The Suncoast

Suncoast Native Plant Society,



Volume 21 Number 7

JULY 2004

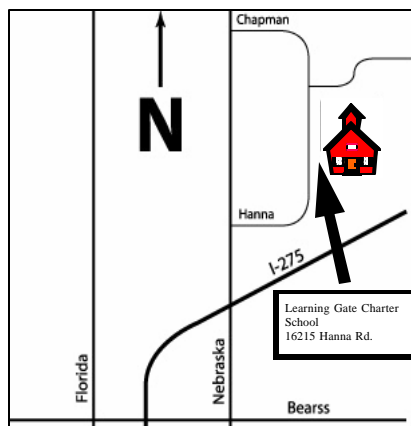
## July 21 Pot Luck Dinner and Meeting (at the Learning Gate Charter School)

### HORTICULTURE OF BUTTERFLY PLANTS

by Craig Huegel, Ph.D.

Insects add interest to gardens, bringing the excitement of motion and color. Many insects add beauty as well, and perhaps the most beautiful are the butterflies. For our July 21<sup>st</sup> program, which will be shared with the Audubon and Sierra clubs, Dr. Craig Huegel will give a presentation on the plants that supply the needs of adult as well as juvenile butterflies, and the horticultural practices we can use to attract these beauties to our gardens and persuade them to stay. Craig is well qualified by training and experience to advise us in this area: among his publications is the excellent Butterfly Gardening with Florida's Native Plants.

After earning a B.A. in Zoology and a M.S. in Wildlife Ecology at the University of Wisconsin and a Ph.D. in Animal Ecology at Iowa State University, Dr. Huegel followed a career path that led from the University of Kentucky and the University of Florida to Pinellas County, where for twelve years he was Director of the Pinellas County Environmental Lands Division, and manager of the 8,000 acre Brooker Creek Preserve. His books, which include the above mentioned butterfly gardening book and Florida Native Plants for Wildlife (currently in process of revision), are standard references for Florida native plant gardeners.



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.

## **Message from the President**

As you can see by the description on page 1, our July meeting is one you do not want to miss. Dr. Craig Huegel, who is always entertaining to say the least, is our speaker. Members from Audubon and the Sierra Club will join us at the meeting and they will tell us about their programs and activities. We will also have a pot luck dinner, so bring something unusual that will provide 6 servings or so. If you have extra seedlings growing in your yard, I encourage you to bring them to the meeting to give to our guests. If you are bringing plants for the plant raffle, please bring 1-gallon size plants or larger. If you have any gardening books that are cluttering your bookshelves, you are welcome to place them on the raffle table or donate them to our library.

I am looking forward to a really fun time and I hope you will join us at the July meeting.

**George Kish**



### **Join the Sierra Club for a Field Trip to the Florida House, July 17!**

The South County Sierra Club committee will take a field trip to the Florida House Learning Center, in Sarasota, on Saturday, July 17th. The Florida House is a demonstration project to highlight readily available products and procedures that really work to reduce every homeowner's impact on the environment in southwest Florida. The yard features native plants and xeriscaping.

The group will meet to carpool from Ruskin to Sarasota and back. The meeting place will be the parking lot of the shopping center at the northwest corner of I-75 and 674 (College Ave), near the Buddy-Freddy's, in Ruskin. Departure time is 12:30 pm sharp. The Center is open from 1pm-4pm, so we should be back in Ruskin no later than 5:00pm. There is no charge.

Questions? Contact Rob Heath (813-671-0957), or Mariella Smith (813-645-4218).

The Florida House is a non-profit joint venture of the Sarasota County Cooperative Extension Service, the Sarasota County Technical Institute, and the Southwest Florida Water Management District. For more detailed information, check out the Web site at <http://sarasota.extension.ufl.edu/>

## PLANT PROFILE

**Common name:** Gopher Apple

**Botanical name:** *Licania michauxii* Prance

**Family:** CHRYSOBALANACEAE (Coco-Plum Family)

**Plant Habit:** A woody groundcover, or sub-shrub, with underground stems

**Size:** 9-24 inches in height, densely spreading, in time, over several square feet.

**Leaves:** Often mistaken for young oak trees: evergreen, alternate, leathery, oblong to 4.5 inches with a bristle tip, shiny and conspicuously white-veined above, whitish pubescence beneath.

**Inflorescence:** A terminal cluster of small, greenish white, fuzzy flowers with 5 sepals and petals and many stamens.

**Fruit:** A smooth, white, sometime pink-tinged, drupe to 2 inches long.

**Habitat:** Common in the sandhills.

**Flowering time:** Spring to summer, and sporadically throughout the year.

**Distribution:** Throughout Florida, north to South Carolina, west to Mississippi

**Light:** Bright sun.

**Soil:** Dry, sandy soil

**Propagation:** By seed.

**Maintenance:** None.

**Availability:** Several native plant nurseries.

**Wildlife:** The fruit is attractive to wildlife.

**Comments:** This plant, once established, withstands heat and drought. It makes a hardy groundcover in poor, sandy, well-drained soils of sandhills, scrubs, coastal dunes as well as roadsides.



*Licania michauxii*  
Photo by Shirley Denton

### References:

Nelson, Gil, 2003, **Florida's Best Native Landscape Plants**, University Press of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, pp.200-201.

Osorio, Rufino, 2001, **A Gardener's Guide to Florida's Native Plants**, University Press of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, pp. 196-197.

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

**Information compiled by Carmel vanHoek**

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

## SNPS GARDEN CREW IMPROVES ENTRANCE TO USFBG

TAMPA—July 8, 2004. A few members of SNPS met on Thursday, July 8th at 8:00 A.M. pulling weeds and exotics, applying fresh mulch as well as removing a 7 foot Golden Rain Tree while enduring the summer heat for 2 hours at the entrance to the University of South Florida Botanical Gardens. Many kudos go to Dawn Barton, Shirley Brown, Mike Fite, Barbara Hawkins, Bitha Woodrich, all from SNPS, and Mary Nelson, friend of Barbara and Bitha.

The entrance was designed and planted by SNPS members a few years ago with native plants; it has matured into a beautiful demonstration garden. The Botanical Garden is an ideal place to show off these native plants, and would greatly assist our goal of encouraging native plantings in Central Florida. This demonstration garden is seen by many gardeners, especially during the Spring & Fall Festivals. However, like all gardens it requires maintenance, and staff at the gardens has been cut to the bone.

Laurie Walker, director of the Gardens, would love to see us remove exotics from the Wetlands on the West side adjacent to the lake. She envisions a myriad of wetland plants that would enhance the beauty of the area. Additionally, the scrub habitat has several exotics and weeds that need to be removed.



Gardners in action: (From the left) Dawn Barton, Barbara Hawkins, Mike Fite, Ruth Nelson and Bitha Woodrich. Shirley Brown is behind the camera.

Regular maintenance on a monthly basis from SNPS members shouldn't be too difficult if several members sign up to help. If you are interested in signing up for a turn during the year, please call Shirley Brown, Chair of the Liaison committee to the USFBG at 977-0454. She is at the Botanical Gardens most Thursday mornings; come by and see what needs to be done. August 5th looks like a good day for her.

### **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.

### **A Big Thank You**

Thanks to those who contributed Raffle plants at the last meeting, Joanne Kitchen, Harriett Wright, Shirley Brown and Fred Mulholland.

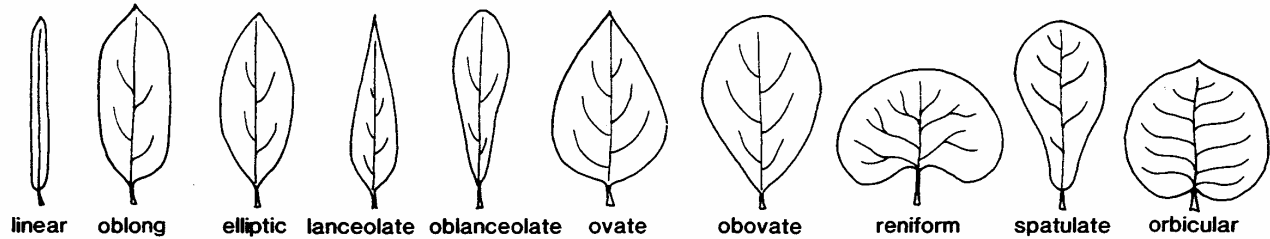
Remember, you get a free raffle ticket when you donate plants for the raffle. This month, one gallon plants only for the raffle.

# “BOTANY 101” Simplified

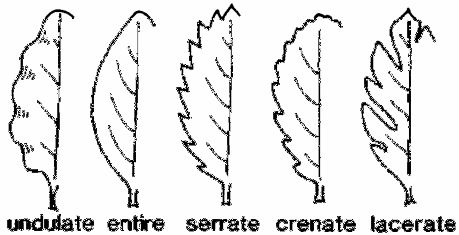
These drawings should help you identify natives.

## ILLUSTRATED GLOSSARY

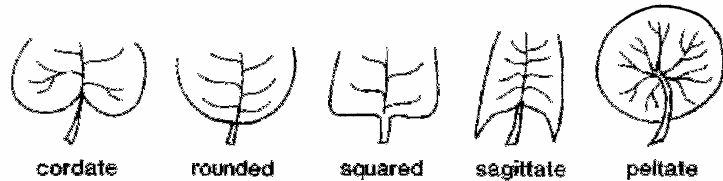
### LEAF SHAPES



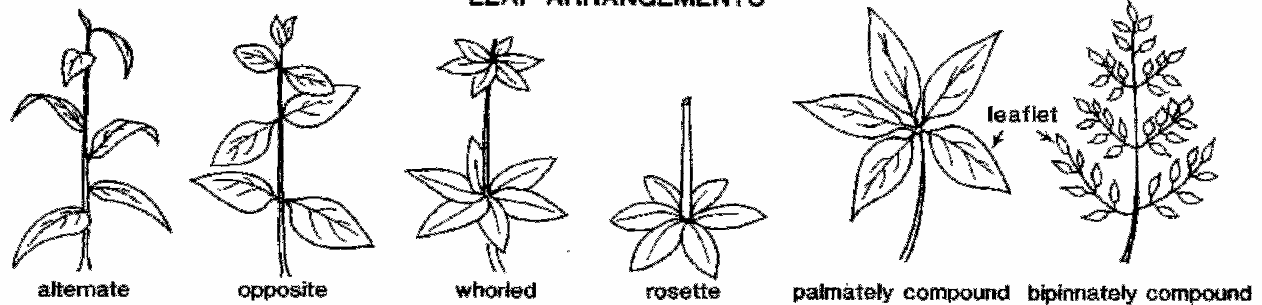
### LEAF MARGINS



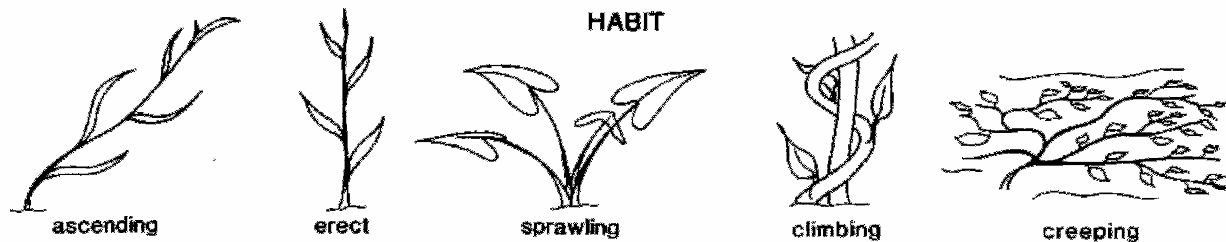
### LEAF BASES



### LEAF ARRANGEMENTS



### HABIT



# Suncoast Calendar

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

**JUL 21   AUG 18   SEP 15   OCT 20**

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

**AUG. 4** "Florida Native Orchids" by John Beckner will present a program about Florida's native orchids,

**AUG 8** Field trip to Marie Selby Gardens to see its orchid collection with **John Beckner**.

**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**

**JUL 16** - 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.

**JUL 17 & AUG 14**- Rain Barrel Workshop 9:00 - 10:00 am

**AUG 21** - Landscape Design Class 9:00 - 12 noon

## **SELBY GARDENS** 941.366.5731

**JUL 27** - Noon Time Lecture Series: 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm; "Orchids of Ecuador" by Wesley Higgins, Ph.D.

## **CHINSEGUT NATURE CENTER**

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

**AUG 10** 9:00 am – 11:00 am. Wildlife Signs and Tracking by Chris Belden.

**USF BOTANICAL GARDEN** 974-2329.

**JUL 24 - FLORIDA'S NATIVE ORCHIDS** with Louis DelFavero 10:00 - 11:15 am. Small fee required.

**JUL 31 - Bonsai Class** 10:00 - 1:00 registration fee of \$50.00 non-members/\$40.00 for members. Limited class size.

**JUL 31 - Papermaking Class** 10:00 - 2:00 registration fee of \$25.00 non-members/\$20 for members.

## **SNPS 2004**

### **FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE**

We are in need of a Chairperson. En Lieu of a Chairperson could several members sign up for organizing a trip for one month? September is in the planning stages. Any Volunteers? Speak to George Kish, phone number on page 8.

**JUL 17** See insert on Page 2.

**AUG** \_\_\_\_\_

**SEP** Herbarium Visit and USFBG - Dick Wunderlin, Mike Fite & Shirley Brown.

**OCT** \_\_\_\_\_

**NOV** \_\_\_\_\_

## 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:** Bio-prospecting 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

## 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

## Newsletter Submissions

**Deadline for the next issue:**

**Aug 2**

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.

**Stamp**



**Please deliver to:**