

www.fnps.org/chapters/suncoast

The Suncoast

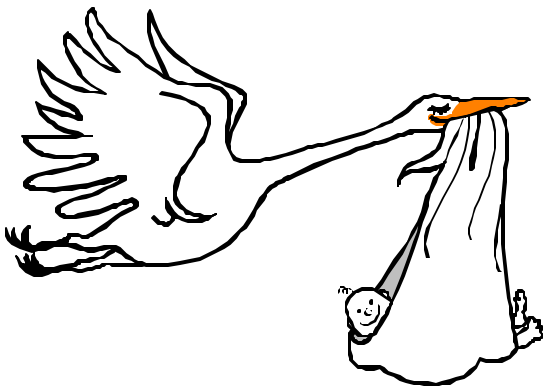
Suncoast Native Plant Society,



Volume 21 Number 12

DECEMBER 2004

The Board of Directors wishes each and everyone of you a **joyous** holiday season and a **blessed** New Year!



*Our next meeting
will be
January 19, 2005*

Election of the 2005 Board of Directors

The membership of The Suncoast Native Plant Society elected the following Board of Directors for 2005 at the November 20, 2004 meeting:

Amee Bailey
Shirley Brown
Pat Clauser
JoAnn Hoffman
George Kish
Bob Scheible
Harriett Wright

Congratulations to the new Board! The new Board of Directors met on December 8 and elected the following officers for 2005:

President	George Kish
Vice-President	Harriett Wright
Secretary	Amee Bailey
Treasurer	Pat Clauser
Chapter Representative	Amee Bailey

The Year in Review

By Shirley Brown

Here is a list of what you enjoyed this past year or missed this past year.

Programs

- Jan Talking with the Animals
by Bill Thomas
- Feb Smart Growth by Miki Renner
- Mar Earth Etiquette by James Mendenhall
- Apr Clever Plants Interacting with Canny Bugs
by Mark Deyrup
- May Members' Forum sharing their experiences
- Jun The Conservation Program at Historic Bok
Sanctuary by Cheryl Peterson
- Jul The Horticulture of Butterfly Plants
by Craig Heugel
- Aug Cancelled due to the hurricane
- Sep Florida's Fire Ecology by Carl Weekley
- Oct Life History of the Gopher Tortoise
by Ray Ashton
- Nov Bio-prospecting for Medicinal Plants
by Maureen Bonness.

Events and Field Trips

- Mar Florida Natural History Weekend
Full Moon River Walk
- May "You-Dig" Plants part at the Mulhollands
- Jun Brooker Creek Grand Opening Celebration
- Jul Potluck Dinner
SNPS Garden Crew USFBG entrance cleanup
- Aug Buying Trip to Environmental Equities
- Sep Fred Howard Park in Tarpon Springs
- Oct USF EcoArea
SNPS Garden Crew USFBG entrance cleanup
- Nov Herbarium Visit and tour at USFBG
Botanical Gardens Native Day
SNPS Garden Crew USFBG entrance cleanup

Plant Profiles

- January Woolly Sunbonnets (*Chaptalia tomentosa*)
- February Chickasaw Plum (*Prunus angustifolia*)
- March Pine-Hyacinth (*Clematis baldwinii*)
- April Jack-In-The-Pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*)
- May Powderpuff (*Mimosa strigillosa*)
- June Piney Woods Dropseed (*Sporobolus junceus*)
- July Gopher Apple (*Licania michauxii*)
- August Spider Lily (*Hymenocallis latifolia*)
- October Bird Pepper (*Capsicum annuum*)
- November Scrub Palmetto (*Sabal etonia*)

Programs For 2005

By Harriett Wright

January 19, *Brian Schatz*: WMNF Project. A native plant demonstration garden for Tampa.

February 16, *Warren Clark*: History of Native Gardening in Florida.

March 16, *Carl Weekley*: Florida's Fire Ecology. The history of fire in Florida ecosystems, and the consequences of fire suppression, particularly in scrub and sandhill communities. How fire structures these pyrogenic communities, how a few endemic species respond to fire, and devices used at Archbold Biological Station to measure fire's intensity.

April 20, *Mark Hostetler*: Why the Hell Should I Mow My Lawn?: Thoughts, Issues, and Research on Developing Eco-Intelligent Communities

May 18, *Bobby Hattaway*: Plant Family Recognition Techniques for the Amateur.

June 15, *Pinellas Chapter*: Landscaping and Gardening with Native Plants.

July 20, *Katie Sieving*: Behavioral Facilitation by Titmice in Winter Flocks. Joint meeting with Sierra and Audubon.

August 17, *Sid Taylor*: Historical Commercial Exploitation of *Pinus* in *The Land of Flowers*. An expose of Naval Stores and turpentine Distillation.

September 21, *George Kish*: Native Grasses of Florida

October 19, *John Tobe*: Pitcherplants of Florida

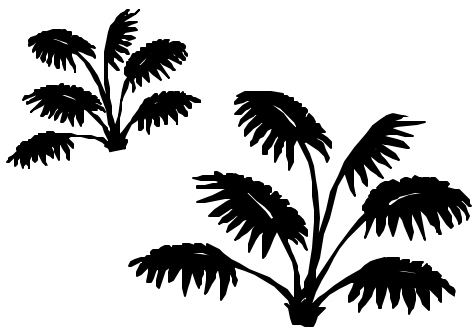
November 16, *Steve Farnsworth*: Pseudonatives: Plants that are passed off as natives but aren't.

NEED MULCH?

Tampa's Solid Waste Dept has free mulch, lots of it, as a result of the debris collection from the hurricanes. Tele no. is 813-348-1111.

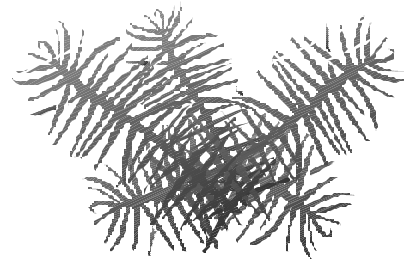
Attention Committee Chairs!

Please bring your committee reports to the January 19th meeting or you can email them to Ameer Bailey at Aturtle2C@aol.com.



HAPPY? FRIENDLY? OUTGOING?

The Board of Directors needs you. We are looking for a volunteer who is a friendly outgoing person who can devote some time to head up the Membership Committee. Our enrollment has been decreasing steadily over the past months and years and we would like that to change. Please, Please call George Kish at 920-0853 and don't be shy!



CORRECTIONS

My apologies to Maureen Bonness for the wrong formatting in her biography last month. Here is a reprint of the entire message.

BIOPROSPECTING FOR MEDICINAL PLANTS

By Dr. Maureen Bonness

All plants produce specialty chemicals that enable them to live in their natural environment. Some chemicals are attractants, many are defense weapons, others help the plant cope with various environmental stresses. Humans have learned to capitalize on the bio-activities of these natural products for medicines, providing us with life-saving drugs such as morphine and the anticancer vinca alkaloids. The search and subsequent harvesting of plants for new botanical drugs has led to very controversial issues about conservation, ethics, and property rights over biological organisms. Simultaneously, the grow-

ing market for medicinal herbs has led to increased collection of wild plants that sometimes threaten conservation of native species.

Maureen Bonness, who earned her Ph.D. in botany at the University of Texas at Austin, has had a varied and fascinating career, including a position as lecturing naturalist on a ship specializing in natural history tours to remote areas of the globe. She also served as research assistant on various ecological projects including biogeography of Mexican cactus species, community ecology of desert toads, and dispersal of the melaleuca weevil. For her academic pursuits, she engaged in research on biochemistry within medicinal plants, including cloning genes and biotechnological applications. She currently serves as an environmental consultant, an adjunct professor of Environmental Biology at Florida Gulf Coast University, a Natural Areas Manager of a 200-acre preserve, and an active volunteer at Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary.

Suncoast Calendar

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

JAN 19 FEB 16 MAR 16

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

JAN 5—Rally for the Ocklawaha River by Karen Ahlers (See article on page 5)

BOK TOWER You may want to visit the website, boktower.org to see the devastation that the Hurricanes did to their garden.

LOWRY PARK ZOO

(813) 935-8552, ext. 239. or

www.lowryparkzoo.com/events/home/
Florida's Amazing Eco-Adventure Camp

December 27-31, 2004

Registration Code: K21227 grades K-2,
351227 grades 3-5

Join us to learn about Florida's amazing Ecosystem. This camp will include an awesome boat ride down the Hillsborough River for a chance to see some incredible native Florida animals in their natural habitats. Please call 813-935-8552 ext. 232 for more information or fax 813-933-7949

Reindeer Magic

Date: December 21, 22, or 23

Time: 9 am to 11 am

Fee: Members \$20 Non-members \$22

Registration Codes:

Tuesday Dec. 21: RM1221

Wednesday Dec. 22: RM1222

Thursday Dec. 23: RM1223

It's the most magical time of the year. Santa and his helpers have been working hard all year long to make special gifts for all of the good boys and girls. Santa will be making a special stop at the Lowry Park Zoo to help us celebrate his biggest helpers, the reindeer. This special class will include fun facts about the reindeer, a carriage ride, a visit to see Santa and the reindeer, and a photo opportunity to have your picture taken with real live reindeer and Santa

Birds of Prey Camp

January 3, 2005

Registration Code: K20103 grades K-2, 350103 grades 3-5

Some can see 8 to 10 times better than we can. Some can hear you coming long before you see them. Who are they? The Spirits of the Sky, better known as the birds of prey. Learn about the incredible birds that are part of our Show Staff. Make a food enrichment for them, take in a show, and visit their

exhibits from behind the scenes of the Zoo. Call 813-935-8552 ext. 232 for more information or fax 813-933-7949

SIERRA CLUB (TAMPA GROUP) 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

SIERRA CLUB (SOUTH HILLSBOROUGH GROUP) First Thurs. of each month, 7:00 pm, Camp Bayou Outdoor Learning Center, 4202 24th St. SE, Ruskin. Call 813-645-4218.

Meeting, January 6, 7:00 pm: Bernard Kaiser, Environmental Scientist with Hillsborough County Planning and Growth Management, will speak about how the County reviews the natural resources and wildlife on a property prior to rezoning and development. How does the County determine whether gopher tortoises, kestrels, scrub jays, or endangered Florida golden asters are living on a site that is targeted for development? What does the County do with that information? Come find out!

TAMPA AUDUBON SOCIETY (meets at the Audubon Resource Center at Lettuce Lake Park at 3 p.m.) See www.tampaudubon.com/fieldtrips.htm for some wonderful bird outings or 948-8516.

ST. PETERSBURG AUDUBON Call 544-0603 or website, stpeteaudubon.org/main.htm

DEC 11—Beginning Birding; 8:00 am;

DEC 18—Christmas Bird Count; 6:00 pm

SELBY BOTANICAL GARDENS

Selby Lights in Bloom; December 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, 19, 22, 23, 26; see website: www.selby.org/or 941-366-5731.

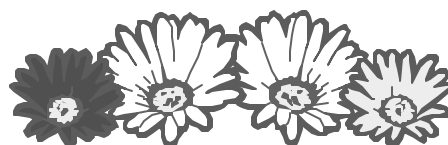
CHINSEGUT NATURE CENTER

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

DEC 14—Florida Waterfowl; 7:00 pm

JAN 8—Working Dogs in Action by Gary Morse.
10:00—12:00

USF BOTANICAL GARDEN 974-2329. The gardens will be closed between Christmas and New Years Day.



Rally for the Ocklawaha River: Come for Field Trips, Parties, and Tree Planting!

By Karen Ahlers

The ***Rally for the Ocklawaha River***, sponsored by the Putnam County Environmental Council, Inc. (PCEC) is a weekend full of great field trips, a big party and the beginning of "The People's Restoration." In short, it's an opportunity for you, your friends and family to have fun and make a difference in the ongoing struggle to restore the Ocklawaha River.

Here in Putnam County, almost daily we deal with the controversy in our backyard - the dammed Ocklawaha River and the resulting Rodman Reservoir. While we understand the apprehension of local officials and the business community that fear a negative economic impact if the river is restored, PCEC has planned a fun-filled weekend event to demonstrate the positive impacts of nature-based tourism that will result from a restored river.

To make this successful, we need you! We are asking supporters from across the state to come to Putnam County February 19-20, 2005 (President's Day weekend). We've created 50+ outings to satisfy a wide variety of interests and have enlisted the help of some of the best trip leaders in north central Florida including Gian Basili, Joyce King, Marc Minno, Rex Rowan, Bob Simons, and Lars Anderson. Great birders, botanists, naturalists, outfitters, and artists will be on hand to show you what makes this area so special. Come and enjoy the field trips and tours and please, spend a little money! We're asking participants to buy gas, eat at local restaurants, do a little shopping, or stay a night or two. We're asking you to be obvious: strap your canoes to the roof, wear your binocs 'round your neck, in other words, be conspicuous eco-tourists. PCEC will provide you with Ocklawaha restoration calling cards to leave everywhere you go and be sure to ask for and save your receipts.

Both Saturday and Sunday, you'll have the opportunity to participate in the kick-off of PCEC's "The People's Restoration" by helping us plant trees. Almost one square mile of the Ocala National Forest is flooded by Rodman Reservoir. Those lands will be exposed during this time due to a periodic drawdown for aquatic plant control and we've arranged with the US Forest Service to take this op-

portunity to begin the reforestation process. We'll provide the native trees and tools.

On Saturday night at 7:00 pm, join us at Ravine Gardens State Park in Palatka for a free, music- and fun-filled pep Rally for the River with live music by Florida's Troubadour Dale Crider and other well known Florida folk musicians. Renowned Florida author Al Burt will be our featured guest and cheerleaders from Florida's leading conservation groups will be on stage to encourage us all to achieve our goal of removing Rodman Dam and restoring the Ocklawaha River.

Remember those receipts you were asked to save? Bring them to the pep rally so we can tally them up for our report back to local officials. ***THIS IS A CRITICAL PART OF OUR STRATEGY!*** Concern over the local economy is one of the main reasons proponents of Rodman cite for keeping the Ocklawaha River dammed. We need your help to demonstrate that there is more to nature-based tourism than bass fishing.

Your participation will support restoration efforts by:

- demonstrating the economic impact of nature-based tourism on the local economy;
- dispelling the myth that this is a local issue and proving that the Ocklawaha River is an important resource for all Floridians;
- reinvigorating activists and thanking those who have fought this battle for decades;
- giving legislators the evidence of public support needed to fight this battle in Tallahassee and Washington;
- educating and motivating activists state-wide; and
- strengthening local supporters who have no representation in Tallahassee on this issue.

There's more information on this event at the Florida Native Plant Society website at <http://www.fnps.org/pages/homepage/home.php>. Reservations for field trips are required. We will gladly send you maps, calling cards, and other pertinent information.

We need a big crowd to make this work and are counting on the support of like-minded folks that are equally frustrated over the decades we've spent working on this issue.

Hope to hear from you soon!

For more information go to www.fladefenders.org/events or contact Karen Ahlers, Putnam County Environmental Council, (352) 546-3560 or

Holiday Open House at Camp Bayou

Take a break from the holiday hype and enjoy a fun-filled day in the 'wilds' of Camp Bayou on Saturday, December 11, 2004.

The Camp Bayou Outdoor Learning Center will open an hour earlier at 9 am. A schedule of activities is planned, but we'll have on-going activities such as arts and crafts, nature-themed videos and more. Admission is free but donations are always appreciated. Activities marked with an asterisk (*) are limited to 10 participants and children under 12 must be accompanied by a parent. You may pre-register at the Visitor's Center.

- 9:00 - Center opens; Birdwatching walk*
- 9:30- Terrestrial Insects workshop*
- 10:00 - Fossil Museum opens; kids can dig for fossils for a fee
- 10:30- Slideshow- "Camp Bayou evolves..."
- 11:00 - Fundraising Brunch- \$5/person in the Pavilion
- 11:30- Aquatic Insects workshop*
- noon- Cart tour of Camp Bayou *
- 12:30 pm- Native Plant tour and Propagation workshop*
- 1:00 Brunch ends; Butterfly ID walk
- 3:00 Open House ends- Happy Holidays!!

The Camp Bayou Outdoor Learning Center is open from 10am - 3pm, Thursday through Saturday. The Visitor Center has information about the Paleo Preserve's Fossil Museum, the Nature Center, Eagle Audubon's Butterfly Garden as well as other local interests and exhibits. Camp Bayou is located 3 miles south of SR 674 at the end of 24th St SE in Ruskin. It is a partnership between the Ruskin Community Development Foundation and Hillsborough County Parks, Recreation and Conservation.

For more about Camp Bayou, visit the website at <http://campbayou.org> or call 813-641-8545.

Early Warning

The first "Give A Day For The Bay" workday for 2005 will be **Saturday, January 15, 2005 at the Cockroach Bay Aquatic Preserve** near Ruskin in south Hillsborough County. We'll be potting more than 3,000 pine seedlings for use at Cockroach Bay and other conservation lands throughout the county.

For more details call or email:

Nanette Holland, Public Outreach Coordinator

Tampa Bay Estuary Program

100 8th Ave. S.E.

St. Petersburg, FL 33701

727-893-2765 phone 727-893-2767 fax e-mail: Nanette@tbep.org phone: 813-363-5438



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.

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 mention in the local weekly paper, the St. Johns River Water Management District *Indian River Lagoon Update* publication and the University 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.

Does anyone out there know of a blank wall that we could consider for commissioning a piece of artwork to highlight native plants here in Tampa Bay?

Please email me at srbrown11@msn.com with any suggestions.

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"/> Library subscription \$15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Business or corporate \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family or household \$30 | <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting \$100 |
| <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

Vicki Sinclair 989-2896

Membership

Vacant

Newsletter editor

Shirley Brown 977-0454

Mike Fite, Assistant 977-0892

Programs

Harriett Wright 908-9398

Publicity

Ameé Bailey 863-206-3439(c)

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(c)

Meeting Location

Harriett Wright 908-9398

USF Botanical Garden Liaison

Shirley Brown 977-0454

Newsletter Submissions

Deadline for the next issue:

Jan 3

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

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

Pat Clouser 662-7222

Chapter Representative

Ameé Bailey 662-5954

Board Members

Ameé Bailey 863-206-3439

Shirley Brown 977-0454

Pat Clouser 662-7222

JoAnn Hoffman 774-5519 x 139

George Kish 920-0853

Bob Scheible 626-6815

Harriett Wright 908-9398

Stamp



Please deliver to: