



The

Suncoast Native Plant Society,

Volume 22 Number 2

FEBRUARY 2005

**February 16 Meeting
(at the Learning Gate Charter School)**

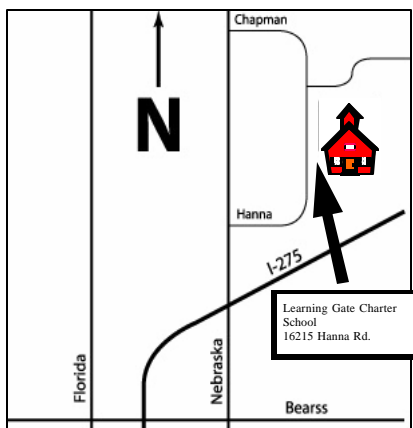
NATIVE PLANTS: THE HISTORY OF THEIR USE IN FLORIDA

Presented by Dr. Warren Clark

Throughout history the people of Florida have found many ways to make use of the diverse native flora around them. Dr. Warren Clark has researched these uses, and at our February meeting he will share what he has learned. He will also highlight some remarkable people who had a vision for a better Florida. Warren will illustrate his presentation with artifacts and his own original cartoons.

Warren Clark was born and raised on the banks of the St. John's River in north Florida, and now lives

on the shore of the Hillsborough River. As an historian, Warren created the Lewis and Clark Explorations cartoons which have run in over 50 newspapers in Florida. He also teaches Florida History occasionally at Eckerd College and for Elderhostels. He is deeply committed to social justice which has led him to serve as President of the WMNF board, Director of SHARE Tampa Bay, City of Tampa's Liaison to the Homeless Coalition, and, currently, Pastor of First United Church (UCC) of Tampa.



- - - Contributed by Harriett Wright

President's Message

On January 22, 2005, the City of Temple Terrace commemorated Florida Arbor Day by dedicating the Serena Park Native Trees Arboretum.

Dana Carver, Temple Terrace Parks Planner and Suncoast Chapter member, organized the event and arranged for the planting of many beautiful specimen trees and shrubs including Southern magnolia, Southern red cedar, chickasaw plum, slash pine, loblolly pine, and several other trees and shrubs. The dedication program included comments by Temple Terrace officials and short talks by Dana Carver, Marina Pryce, Bob Dir, and Suncoast member Cliff Brown. TREE, Inc. donated 150 slash pines for the event, thanks to Suncoast members Bob Scheible and Wil Moriaty - founders of TREE, Inc.

Dana Carver talked about the value of native plants and having a place where citizens can view native trees and shrubs. Marina Pryce, Hillsborough County Extension, discussed the role of native plants in Florida-friendly landscapes. Bob Dir, Hillsborough County Forester, described trees that weathered the hurricanes (for example, live oak, cabbage palm) and trees that did not weather the hurricanes (for example, laurel oak, queen palm). Cliff Brown described Temple Terrace's rich heritage of beautifying neighborhoods with trees.

Several members represented the chapter at our display. Ken Albritton, Cliff Brown, Harriett Wright, and Troy Springer handed out information about the FNPS and answered a few questions about native plants. They also took home a few 4-inch pots of Tampa Verbain, grown from cuttings taken by yours truly, as a token of my appreciation for volunteering for the event.

George Kish .

A Big Thank You

Thanks to those who contributed Raffle plants at the last meeting, Joanne Kitchen, Doug McDowell and Lucy Hoyt.

Remember, you get a free plant before the raffle begins when you donate plants for the raffle.



FIELD TRIP

SAVE THE DATE

February 19 9:00 am

Violet Cury Nature Preserve: a leisure walk/wheelchair participant outing

The Suncoast Native Plant Society's field trip will be held on February 19 at the Violet Cury Nature Preserve. This 160-acre parcel's dirt nature trails traverse pine flatwoods, oak hammocks and meander around freshwater marshes. There is also a small picnic area near Flynn Lake for our enjoyment.

Please join the SNPS on this 2 mile/2 hour relaxing native Florida adventure. We will meet at 9:00 AM at the preserve's Sinclair Hills Road and 19th Street entrance.

Directions: Sinclair Hills Road runs east and west and is located between Nebraska and Livingston Avenues. The intersection of Sinclair Hills Road and Nebraska Avenue is about one quarter mile north of Bearss Avenue. The intersection of Sinclair Hills Road and Livingston Avenue is about one half mile north of Bearss Avenue and there is a traffic light here.

Closed toes footwear and bottled water to drink are recommended.

The preserve is moderately wheelchair accessible. Call Pat Clouser at 662-7222 for additional information on this issue.

Other questions ??? Please contact Mike Fite at 977-0892 or Dan Duerr at 920-4735.

Submitted by Mike Fite

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.

NOXIOUS WEED DISPERSED IN FLORIDA PINE STRAW

Recently Japanese climbing fern was discovered in pine straw shipments at 2 Home Improvement stores in Okaloosa County in Northwest Florida. The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Division of Plant Industry (FLDACS/DPI) issued stop sales on these shipments and the trailers were removed by the supplier. At one of the locations, the 1st replacement shipment was also contaminated with Japanese climbing fern. It was issued a stop sale by FLDACS/DPI and has been removed. Currently, pine straw at both locations appears to be free of any climbing fern. The destinations of the contaminated shipments are unknown.

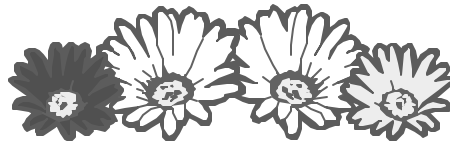
This movement of Japanese climbing fern in pine straw shipments is, most likely, not an isolated event, and the continuation of this practice will only lead to the further spread of this Category 1 invasive species. If you live in an area where pine straw is being sold and are comfortable

in identifying climbing fern, as a concerned citizen, a friendly stop by your local pine straw distributor might be in order. If you find Japanese climbing fern in baled pine straw, you may call FLDACS/DPI and make a report ((352) 372-3505). They will send out an agent who will inspect the pine straw and, if climbing fern is documented, a stop sale order will be placed on the shipment. However, if you do find a contaminated shipment, you need to report to FLDACS/DPI ASAP. In Okaloosa County, pine straw is a favorite mulch used in landscapes and some distributors can sell a shipment of ~1000 bales in 2 days.

The majority of local businesses selling pine straw are probably unaware of the noxious weed/invasive species problem with climbing fern and most should be eager to correct the situation. Any educational material such as brochures with pictures are excellent visual aids to pass on to business owners, store managers, or employees.

Be aware of this problem if you intend to purchase this mulch.

Submitted by: Dennis Teague via JoAnn Hoffman



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!

Please, we need you!

Volunteers Still Needed

Take home Dune Sunflower and/or some Solidago

The weeds and spare natives are taking over in the Native plant area of the front entrance bed at the USF Botanical Gardens.

We need to meet regularly. First Saturday of the month sounds good to me. I'll be there March 5th. Please call Shirley Brown, 977-0454 **or** send an email to srbrown11@msn.com **or** meet me there at 9:00 am.

Suncoast Calendar

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

FEB 16 MAR 16 APR 20

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

MAR 2—Trail Snacks: Edible Native Plants

MAR 6—Brooker Creek Field Trip

FNPS HERNANDO CHAPTER: Meets first Monday of the month at county Extension service, 19490 Oliver St., Brooksville; 6:30 pm.

MAR 7—Spring Environmental Center

FNPS PASCO CHAPTER: Meets monthly on second Tuesday; 7:30 pm at St. Marks Fellowship Hall, 7922 State Road 52, Hudson, FL

MAR 8—Marine Life in the Hudson Channel

TAMPA SPRING EXPO 2005: FEB 25-26 For Information, Tampa Bay Wholesale Growers, 813-655-1914 or www.tbwg.org

BOK TOWER www.boktower.org/whatsnew

Camellias—mid-December through mid-March

Azaleas—mid-February through mid-March

Pinewood estate—now open for a small fee

CHINSEGUT NATURE CENTER

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

MAR 3—Learning Tree Workshop 9:00-3:00

MAR 8—Incredible Edibles 10:00 am

MAR 15—Swallow-tailed Kites 7:00 pm

LOWRY PARK ZOO

For information, (813) 935-8552, ext. 239. or www.lowryparkzoo.com/

MASTER GARDENER PROGRAMS Call 813-

744-5519 for details and locations or website:

www.hillsborough.extension.ufl.edu/HomeHort.

FEB 14—Ferns 7:00 pm

FEB 15—Vegetable Gardening 7:00 pm

FEB 19, MAR 5—Compost Happens, Water Wise & Rain Barrel Workshop: 8:00 to 11:30 am.

FEB 19 & MAR 10—Landscape Design Workshop 9:00-12 noon

FEB 23—Camellias in Florida 10:00 am

MAR 5—Florida Lawn Care 10:00 am

MAR 15—Butterfly Gardening 7:00 pm

ST. PETERSBURG AUDUBON Meets at Science Center, 7701 22nd Avenue North, St. Pete; For information call 727-384-0027 or website, www.stpeteaudubon.org/main.htm

FEB 15—The Future of Wood Storks in a Changing Landscape; 7:00 am

SELBY BOTANICAL GARDENS see website:

www.selby.org/or 941-366-5731.

JAN 8 through APR 3—The Flowering Amazon by Margaret Mee

SIERRA CLUB: meets Wednesdays at 7:00 PM Mort Park Center, 1815 148th Ave. East, Tampa; For information: 813-253-3555 or 727-824-8813.

USF BOTANICAL GARDEN 974-2329.

Volunteer orientation last Saturday morning of the month 10:00.

FEB 25-26—Begonia Bash 9:00—4:00

MAR 5—Starting date for Botanical Illustration classes. 9:00 to 12:00 noon.



PLANT PROFILE

Common name : Florida Air Plant

Botanical name: *Tillandsia simulata* Small

Synonyms: None

Family: Bromeliaceae

Plant Habit: Epiphytic on branches, limbs, and trunks of various tree species or occasionally terrestrial on humus

Habitat: Hammocks and swamps

Size: 20-40 cm tall, rarely to 60 cm

Leaves: Pale gray-green tinged with red, linear, slightly recurved outward

Inflorescence: Spike green or red or red-tinged bracts; petals violet, 4-5 cm long

Flowering time: Spring and summer

Distribution: Levy, Putnam, and Flagler Cos. south to DeSoto and Highlands Cos.

Light: Filtered light

Propagation: Seeds or removal of offsets (pups)

Maintenance: Removal of old flowers and leaves; easy to grow on wood, cork, or osmunda slabs once established

Availability: Not commercially available

Comments: Of Florida's 16 species of native bromeliads, this is the only one that is endemic. All of Florida's native bromeliads are being attacked by the invasive, exotic Mexican bromeliad weevil.



References:

- **Save Florida's Bromeliads: Conservation of Endangered Airplants Through Biological Control and Seed Collection.** <http://savebromeliads.ifas.ufl.edu>
- Wunderlin, R.P. and B.F. Hansen. 2003. **Guide to the Vascular Plants of Florida.** University Press of Florida, Gainesville, FL.
- Wunderlin, R.P. and B.F. Hansen. 2005. **Atlas of Florida Vascular Plants** (<http://plantatlas.usf.edu/>).

Information compiled by Shirley Brown and Dick Wunderlin

Photograph 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**.

Big Thank You

If it weren't for the many members of SNPS, the job of the Editor would have been much more time consuming. As the saying goes, "Many hands make light work."

So a huge THANK YOU goes to Mike Fite for stamping, labeling and posting the newsletter promptly each month.

Additionally, several members submitted articles in 2004, including Harriett Wright, George Kish, Carmel vanHoek, Mike Fite, Ameer Bailey, Steve Dickman, Fred Spriggs, Betty Wargo, Mariella Smith, Fred Mulholland, Wendy Quigley, Sally Sun, and Dan Duerr for which I am greatly thankful.

Regretfully, Carmel vanHoek deserves a well-earned break from submitting the Plant Profile after four years. George Kish, former editor, and I have appreciated immensely her timely submission each month.

If anyone is interested in learning more details about Native Plants and their communities, submitting the Plant Profile is a great way to do that. Call me at 977-0454 if you are interested in assisting me.

Your Editor

A River Runs Through It 2005 Community Fair

This annual event will be held on Saturday, March 19, 2005 from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Hillsborough River State Park, 15402 Highway 301 North, Thonotosassa, Parking Lot #3. We are planning to have a booth at this event and will need volunteers to answer questions about native plants during the event.

There will be a sign-up sheet at the next meeting with details and a map. This will be a great opportunity to get our message out about native plants and native plant landscaping.

. . . Submitted by George Kish

Attention All Members

DO WE HAVE YOUR CORRECT EMAIL ADDRESS?

Have you been receiving the occasional email from SNPS? If not, there are several possible reasons:

- 1. You don't want us to bother you.
- 2. You don't have a computer.
- 3. You have a computer, but don't have email.
- 4. You have email, but didn't give us your email address.
- 5. You gave it to us, but made a typo.
- 6. We made a typo.
- 7. You changed it and didn't tell us.

Here's what to do :

For numbers one through three, do nothing.

For numbers four through seven, send an email to harriett@ix.netcom.com. Put "SNPS email list" in the subject line so I won't mistake it for spam. Thereafter, you will receive timely meeting reminders and various tidbits of useful information.

Submitted by Harriett Wright.....



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, William Lorenzen: Tampa Bay Conservancy Project.

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.

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"/> Donor \$250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contributing \$40 | |

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:

FEB 28

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.

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