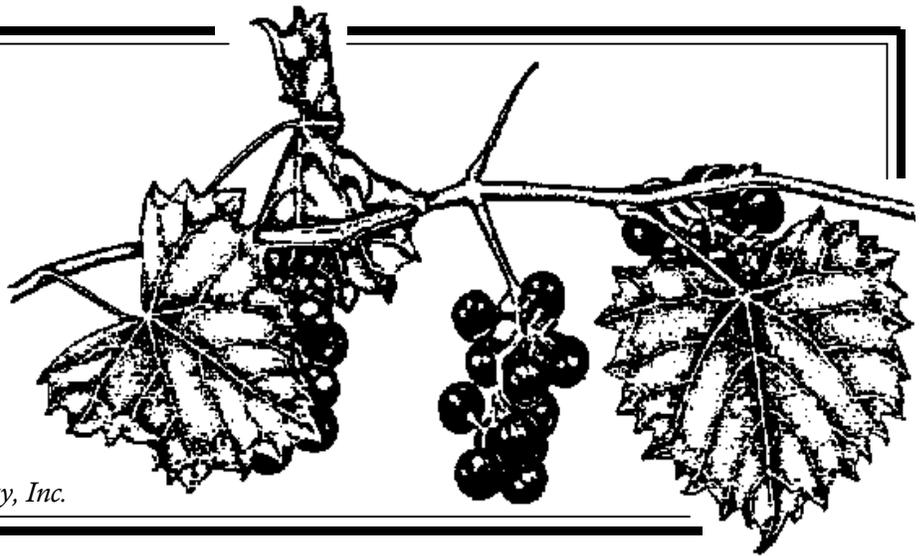


[www.fnps.org/chapters/suncoast](http://www.fnps.org/chapters/suncoast)

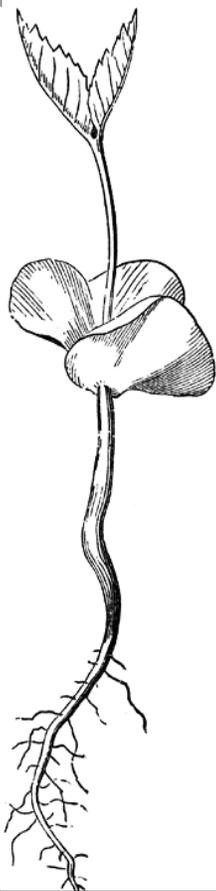
# The Suncoast Grapevine

*Newsletter of the Suncoast Native Plant Society, Inc.*



Volume 24 Number 5

MAY 2007



*May 16, 2007*

*7:00 pm*

*Hillsborough Extension Office*

## **Native Wildflower Gardening**

*Presented by Jeff Norcini*

There is nothing quite as breathtaking as a wild flower meadow in full bloom. When Florida gardeners try to duplicate that same effect in their landscapes, they find it is not as easy as it looks. Our May speaker, Jeff Norcini, will talk about issues and concepts (including native origin) that consumers should be aware of when gardening with natives.

Jeff Norcini is an Associate Professor of Environmental Horticulture with the University of Florida/IFAS. He earned a B.S. in Biology from Lock Haven University in 1979, and his M.S. (1983) and Ph.D. (1986) in Horticulture from Penn State University. Since 1996, he has been conducting a research and extension program that addresses commercial production and use of seed of pre-variety germplasm of locally adapted native wildflowers, with a minor emphasis on native grasses.

*Submitted by Mary Miller*



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)

## FIELD TRIP TO FLATWOODS PARK

**Troy Springer** and **Mary Miller** teamed up to provide thirteen members of the Suncoast Chapter with an enjoyable and educational field trip to the Flatwoods within the Wilderness Park/Lower Hillsborough Flood Detention Area. The site in northeastern Hillsborough County is located on Morris Bridge Road after you cross the Hillsborough River, going north toward Zephyrhills.

The field trip had two purposes: native vegetation viewing along the eleven mile paved bicycle trail, and to see what Mary Miller had been doing with her Tampa Audubon Society bluebird-monitoring program.

Our first stop was to check out an occupied blue bird box. Carefully, Mary opened the door and out flew a female blue bird. Inside were five brilliant blue eggs. Along the trail, we checked out other blue bird boxes. One of the nests had been attacked by fireants, much to the sadness of all present.

Risking our lives from speeding bicyclists, roller bladers, and (slower moving) overweight joggers, we continued along the asphalt path.

I give Latin names, but in high school my semester grades were 70, 71, 72 and 73 percent (would I be fluent if I had continued?). Among the plants and trees seen were: Daisy fleabane (*Erigeron strigosus*), Pennyroyal (*Piloblepsis rigida*), Black root (*Pterocaulon pycnostachyum*), Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*), our State Flower Coreopsis (*Coreopsis leavenworthii*), Rusty lyonia (*Lyonia ferruginea*), a terrestrial orchid – Spring Ladies' Tresses or Grass Leaved Ladies' Tresses? (*Spiranthes praecox?* or *vernalis?* However, I think it was the *praecox*. I got a real good look at it when photographing it, suddenly realizing that I didn't have a memory chip in my camera), Gaura (*Gaura angustifolia*), Beautyberry (*Callicarpa americana*), Winged sumac, Saw palmetto (*Serenoa repens*), Persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*), Longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris*), Saint Andrew's Cross (*Hypericum hypericoides*) and Low Bush Blueberry (*Vaccinium myrsinites*).

Other birds seen or heard were: Blue-gray gnatcatchers, Great crested flycatchers, Northern cardinals, Red shoulder hawk, White-eyed vireo and Eastern towhee, and a pack of mockingbirds laughing at us.

Beyond plants and birds, there were other surprises. "Jungle Troy" rushed over into the palmettos, quickly grabbing a Southern Black Racer to show to the excited plant freaks. **John Miller** and **Mike Fite** spotted a maturing (blue tail almost gone) Southeastern Five-Lined Skink. Also observed along the edge of a dried-up wetlands area were hundreds of shells of an invasive African "apple snail". They may provide food to local limpkins and other snail-eating birds and animals.

Join us for another fun-filled field trip! Look for the announcements on the website and in the newsletter.

*Submitted by John Miller; Photo courtesy Mike Fite*



*Saturday, April 28*

*Note to Flatwoods Park field trip participants...*

While it was disheartening to see that fire ants had killed two bluebird chicks, there was **good news** the following Wednesday when I monitored the 40 bluebird boxes. There were 3 new nests, a total of 35 eggs, 14 chicks, and 7 more chicks that had fledged, for a total of 46 fledged since March 2007.



*- Mary Miller*

### **Donate to Flatwoods Park**

The Native Garden at Flatwoods Park, a previous Suncoast Native Plant Society grant winner, could use a make-over. Here's your chance to become part of the park!

**James Wheeler** and **Mary Miller** have donated the following plants so far: Silk Grass, Firebush, Blue Curl, Goldenrod and Beach Sunflower. Plants must be native and able to survive hot, dry weather.

Please contact Mary Miller at [limpkin1945@verizon.net](mailto:limpkin1945@verizon.net) or by telephone at 813-960-8132 if you can contribute to this important project.

# Suncoast Calendar

To submit information to the Calendar, email Mary Miller: [limpkin1945@verizon.net](mailto:limpkin1945@verizon.net)

## Programs for 2007

- ♣ **January 17** – Charlie Pedersen:  
*Public Land Partnership Committee*
- ♣ **February 21** – Francia Smith:  
*Come Into My Parlor: Spiders*
- ♣ **March 21** – Cyndi Marks:  
*World of Bats*
- ♣ **April 18** – Shirley & Greg Williams:  
*Attracting Birds to Your Garden*
- ♣ **May 16** – Jeff Norcini:  
*Seed Biology and Production*
- ♣ **June 20** – Ray & Pat Ashton:  
*Upland Habitats*
- ♣ **July 18** – Jim Egan:  
*The Role of Mangroves in Storm Destruction*  
\*Potluck dinner meeting with Audubon and Sierra Clubs.
- ♣ **August 15** – Don Goodman:  
*Snakes of Florida*
- ♣ **September 19** – Dave Favre:  
*Gulf Coast Restoration Project*
- ♣ **November 21**— To Be Announced...  
\*Potluck dinner meeting with Audubon and Sierra Clubs.
- ♣ **December**—No Meeting

## Field Trips and Events

**May 19:** 11am; Crystal Springs Preserve - *Landscaping Your Yard for Wildlife Workshop I*. Taught by Debbie Butts, Suncoast Native Plant Society, and Rob Heath, Tampa Audubon. For more information:

[www.tampaaudubon.org](http://www.tampaaudubon.org)

**June 2:** 11am; Hillsborough Cooperative Extension Office – *Landscaping Your Yard for Wildlife Workshop II*. Taught by Debbie Butts, Suncoast Native Plant Society and Rob Heath, Tampa Audubon.

**October 13 & 14:** USF Fall Plant Festival. Suncoast Native Plant Society will be selling native plants.



## Natives and Wine and Cheese... Oh My!

### !!WINE & CHEESE PARTY!!

#### The Mulhollands

15410 Stonecreek Lane  
Tampa, FL 33613

**Sunday, May 20, 2007**

**1:00 PM to 5:00 PM**

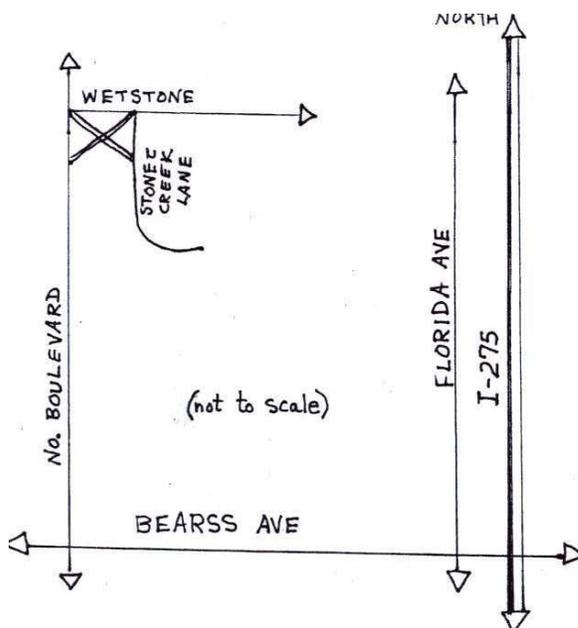
There are more than 200 species of native plants in the yard. An identification list will be provided that shows what and where they are located.

*See rare Florida Native trees*

### !!FREE POTTED PLANTS!!

It's a party, mostly outdoors, rain or shine, so dress casually. There is some seating outside, but a few extra lawn chairs would help. If you need more information call: (813) 962-7020.

### SEE NATIVE PLANTS IN SUBURBIA: ONE WAY TO DO IT WITHOUT A LAWN



## PLANT PROFILE

**Common name:** Elderberry

**Botanical name:** *Sambucus nigra* L. subsp. *canadensis* (L.) Bolli

**Synonyms:**

**Family:** Adoxaceae

**Zone:** 8 - 10

**Plant Habit:** Erect, suckering semi-evergreen shrub

**Habitat:** Pond margins, ditches

**Size:** 6-10 ft. (h x w)

**Leaves:** Compound, 5-11 leaflets

**Bloom:** Large heads of white flowers

**Flowering time:** Early Spring to mid-Summer

**Fruit:** Masses of small, dark purple berries

**Bark:** Gray

**Distribution:** Canada to Central America

### **Growing conditions:**

**Light:** Full sun

**Water:** Moist to wet

**Soil:** Average

**Propagation:** Seed, cuttings, root suckers

**Motility:** Root suckers; birds distribute seeds

**Maintenance:** Periodic root sucker pruning

**Availability:** Native plant nurseries

**Comments:** Flowers and berries are edible; berries are good food source for birds

### **References:**

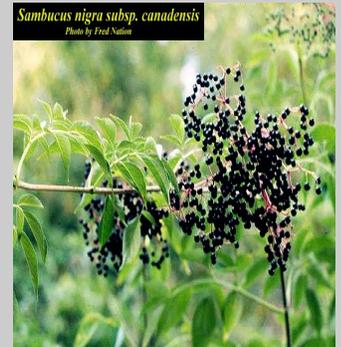
Osorio, R. 2001. **A Gardener's Guide to Florida's Native Plants**. University Press of Florida, Gainesville, FL.

Wunderlin, R.P. 2003. **Guide to Vascular Plants of Florida, Second Edition**. 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** George Kish

**Photos by** Gil Nelson, Matthew Merritt, Fred Nation, Allen Boatman, Patricia Howell



Spring Cleaning!

We're updating our membership lists.

Please make sure Harriett Wright is aware of any changes to your email address by sending an email to: [harriett@ix.netcom.com](mailto:harriett@ix.netcom.com)

## Plant Raffle Guidelines

- ≈ Please sign the raffle donor 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.

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

Special thanks to Wylene McMillan and Jackie Washburn for providing the refreshments at April's meeting.



We appreciate the **business memberships** from...

**Tampa Electric Company  
Manatee Center at the Big Bend Power Plant  
&  
Anderson, Lesniak Limited, Inc.**



*Your support means a lot to us!*

## MEMBERSHIP

### *New*

JEAN & RICHARD FRENCH  
KIM HUTTON  
WILLIAM LUCHSINGER

### *Rejoined*

RICHARD BROWN  
MARY MACARTHUR

### *Renewed*

MARY CROSS  
CARL CROSSON  
SHIRLEY R. DENTON  
STEVEN GRAHAM  
SHAWNA HIMELRIGHT  
JOEL & BARBARA JACKSON  
MICHAEL B. KELLER  
WILLOW LAMONTE  
ANN PAUL  
ALYSON UTTER  
ZOE LANYON SMITH  
PATRICIA TODD  
ALYSON UTTER  
EDDIE WALL  
WENDY VALLE

## 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 Chapter of the FNPS, 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 \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

### Check pertinent category:

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

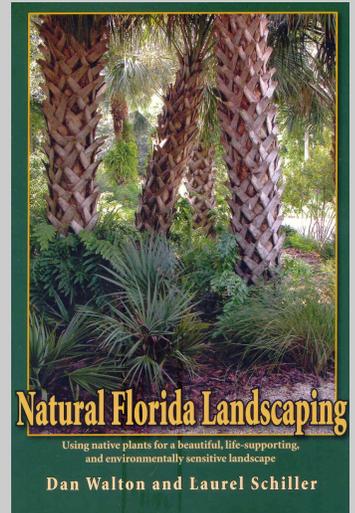
*Make check payable to* **FNPS.**

*Detach and mail to:*

**Suncoast Chapter of  
Florida Native Plant Society, Inc  
P.O. Box 1158  
Seffner, FL 33583-1158**

## Natural Florida Landscaping

By Dan Walton & Laurel Schiller  
Pineapple Press, Inc.  
P.O. Box 3889  
Sarasota, FL 34230  
110 pp., 2007, \$12.95 (plus shipping)



Dan and Laurel's new book (hot off the press), Natural Florida Landscaping, describes the use of native plants for a beautiful, life supporting, and environmentally sensitive landscape, was recently acquired for the Suncoast Chapter library. If you would like to see this book or to check it out, you can do so at one of our monthly meetings—just ask Vicki Sinclair.

Included are many plant-suitability tables and wonderful color photographs of plant settings. Sections on rethinking your Florida yard, creating a naturalistic plan, plants and how to use them, selection, planting, establishment, and care, as well as environmental challenges make this a handy book for the beginning and intermediate native plant enthusiast, but experienced individuals will also find it worthwhile.

Pineapple Press has a website where you can order your own copy: [www.pineapplepress.com](http://www.pineapplepress.com). The book is also available at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).

*Reviewed by John Miller*

## The Florida-Friendly Landscape Law

If you've moved into a deed restricted subdivision since October 2001, and your homeowners association is demanding that you maintain a lawn of Saint Augustine grass, even though you would much rather plant native ground covers, here's some good news for you: you have the law on your side. Take

a look at this page from the Online Sunshine web site:

[http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.cfm?](http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&Search_String=&URL=Ch0373/SEC185.HTM&Title=->2006->Ch0373->Section%20185#0373.185)

[App\\_mode=Display\\_Statute&Search\\_String=&URL=Ch0373/SEC185.HTM&Title=->2006->Ch0373->Section%20185#0373.185](http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&Search_String=&URL=Ch0373/SEC185.HTM&Title=->2006->Ch0373->Section%20185#0373.185)

Back in 2001, when Florida was in the middle of a serious drought, Sarah Romeo, who was then a member of the Florida



legislature, was told by her homeowner's association that she wasn't watering her lawn enough. "This is ridiculous," she thought. "We barely have enough to drink, and they want us to put it on the lawn." So she introduced the Florida Friendly Landscaping law, which was passed unanimously, and is now Chapter 373.185 of Title XXVIII. For those of you who don't have internet access, here's what it says: "A deed restriction or covenant entered after October 1, 2001, or local government ordinance may not prohibit any property owner from implementing Xeriscape or Florida-friendly landscape on his or her land." The statute defines "xeriscape" or "florida-friendly landscape" as "quality landscapes that conserve water and protect the environment and are adaptable to local conditions and which are drought tolerant . . ."

**I don't think Saint Augustine grass fits this definition.**

*Interpreted for your reading pleasure by Mary Miller*

## FNPS Grant Winner: Atlas of Florida Vascular Plants Website

The *Atlas of Florida Vascular Plants* <http://www.plantatlas.usf.edu> is a comprehensive source of information on the 4,201 native and naturalized vascular plant taxa in Florida. The front page scientific name search permits quick searches on all or part of a name. The user can also perform searches to generate a species list by county or plant family. Using the *advanced search tool* allows searches by scientific name, common name, family, or genus. Options include the ability to include all synonyms (permitting a search by all names in the literature) and to search by county, native or introduced, wetland status, whether or not the plant is endemic to Florida, FLEPC (invasive exotic) status, and Federally and State listed species, or any combination of these. Once a search result has been generated, clicking on the species name generates a page where you can click on "map" and it will generate a county by county distribution map of the species. Clicking on "images" allows you to select photographic images of that species for viewing. The *Atlas* now includes over 11,500 photographic images.

In 2006, we begin adding data from specimens in the USF Herbarium and images of the actual specimens. This information is searchable by means of a "specimen database" menu on the *Atlas* homepage. Also, when searching for a particular species, if a herbarium specimen is in the database, this is noted on the main page for the species and images of the specimens can be accessed at that location. Currently we have entered data from 17,000 specimens and all of the Florida specimens at the USF herbarium from 20 families (including the *Orchidaceae* and *Fabaceae*). The *Atlas* contains images of the specimens for most of these.

The ability to develop and maintain the *Atlas* website has been accomplished primarily with outside funding support. This past year, support was received from the **Southwest Florida Water Management District**, **South Florida Water Management District**, and the **Suncoast Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society**.

With accurate, scientifically documented, county by county distributional maps and other pertinent information on all native and naturalized plant species in Florida, the *Atlas* website is an invaluable resource, enabling individuals to make more accurate plant identifications and to make scientifically based management decisions. To the average native plant enthusiast, seeing the distribution of a species to determine what is in your area and an image of the species is much easier than trying to work through the various identification manuals.

The *Atlas* website is a part of the ongoing services provided for the public by the **USF Institute for Systematic Botany** and the **USF Herbarium**. The website receives nearly 6,000 visits a day from users all over the world.

*Submitted by Richard P. Wunderlin, Director, Institute for Systematic Botany & USF Herbarium*

## SHOP ONLINE AND RAISE FUNDS FOR FNPS

*The next time you need to shop online, check out [Giveline.com](http://www.giveline.com) and a portion of your purchase will be donated to FNPS!*

Giveline.com has over a million best-selling products, and every purchase you make generates a donation for FNPS. Giveline.com is an online store created for the community-minded shopper, offering more than a million products including books, movies, music, electronics, housewares, gifts and more.

**Every purchase generates a donation to FNPS.  
An average of 16% of sales will go directly to FNPS.**

The only difference between Giveline and other major online retailers is that every purchase earns money for our organization. Check it out and if you decide to buy, remember that FNPS will earn funds to support our mission!



We invite you to check out the store by clicking the following link:

<http://www.giveline.com/default.asp?v=V022626901>

(This is a special link that notifies the Giveline company that you are with FNPS)

FREE shipping for a limited time for new shoppers  
(Use discount code NCD07 during checkout)

*-Karina Veaudry, Executive Director*

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Troy Springer	707-1524
<i>Publications</i>	
Dick Wunderlin	977-6484
George Kish	920-0853
<i>Librarian</i>	
Vikki Sinclair	989-2896
<i>Membership</i>	
George Kish	920-0853
<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	
Shawna Himelright	757-9289
Mike Fite, Assistant	977-0892
<i>Programs and Publicity</i>	
Mary Miller	960-8132
<i>Refreshments</i>	
JoAnn Hoffman	671-2131
<i>Education</i>	
Betty Wargo	237-1509
<i>Book Sales</i>	
Sally Sun	935-1312
<i>USF Plant Sale</i>	
Sally Sun	935-1312
<i>USF Botanical Garden Liaison</i>	
Vacant	
<i>Chapter Representative</i>	
James Wheeler	571-5865
<i>Webmaster</i>	
Pat Clouser	662-7222

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Mary Miller	960-8132
Shawna Himelright	757-9289
Troy Springer	707-1524
Harriett Wright	908-9398
James Wheeler	571-5865

## Newsletter Submissions

Deadline for the next issue:

**JUNE 3**

Please send articles and original artwork for The Suncoast Grapevine to **Shawna Himelright**, by the **deadline** of this month. Text should be in MS Word; graphics should be in a standard graphic format (.jpg, .bmp, .gif). Previously published artwork should be accompanied by a letter of permission from the original publisher.

Email...

[shimelright@plantcitygov.com](mailto:shimelright@plantcitygov.com)

### DIRECTIONS TO:

Hillsborough County  
Extension  
5339 County Road 579,  
Seffner.

Take I-4 to Exit 10 (just East of I-75). Go South for two blocks. The office is at the corner of Old Hillsborough Road, and County Road 579.

## Meeting Locations

Suncoast Native Plant Society, Inc. meets the third Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the **Hillsborough Extension office in Seffner.**

## 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. Please be sure to indicate whether you'd like your newsletter delivered electronically or through regular mail.



Suncoast Chapter of Florida Native Plant Society, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1158  
Seffner, FL 33583-1158

Club logo:  
"Beach Sunflower"  
*Helianthus debilis*

**Please deliver to:**