

The Suncoast Grapevine

Newsletter of the Suncoast Native Plant Society, Inc.



Volume 25 Number 3

MARCH 2008

March 19, 2008

7:00 pm

Hillsborough Extension Office

Forest Sustainability: Tampa Bay Watershed

Presented by Rob Northrop



What happens when rural forests become urban forests? How can urban forests remain healthy with rampant development? One local organization that is studying this issue is the *Tampa Bay Watershed Forest Working Group*. They are a collaboration of research scientists, public and private natural resource managers and planners learning and exchanging information about the sustainable management of the forests (rural and urban) within the ecological boundaries of the Tampa Bay watershed. They have been in existence for one and a half years and have produced a DVD, distributed nationwide, that completed an ecological analysis of the City of Tampa's urban forest. The group has acquired funding to begin a long-term ecological assessment of the urban forest within the City of Tampa and in the adjacent sub-basin watersheds. The success of the *Tampa Bay Watershed Forest Working Group* is one model for how to begin solving problems associated with sustainable forest management in the face of rapid urbanization.

Our speaker, Rob Northrop, is a forest ecologist with the University of Florida/Hillsborough County Extension. He was technical leader in the watershed forestry in the *Chesapeake Bay Restoration Program*, Executive Director of the *Governor's Executive Committee on Forests and Wildlife in Maryland* from 1988 – 1995, Director of the *Alliance for Maryland's Forest*, and adjunct faculty at the University of Delaware from 1989 – 2004 in wildlife conservation, conservation biology, and the human dimensions of wildlife conservation. He is also a folk singer. *-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

March 22nd Field Trip
Two-Mile Prairie Tract
Johnson Pond
Withlacoochee State Forest
Citrus County

The March 22nd (Saturday) Two-Mile Prairie Tract field trip in northern Citrus County will be hosted by Mary & John Miller. The hike(s) involve a 2.6-mile roundtrip along a trail to Johnson Pond (***Great Florida Birding Trail Program*** [West Section guidebook, page 15] if you have one). We will eat lunch at a shelter, so please be sure to bring food and water. The hiking surface is loose sand; wear good boots. The terrain is moderately hilly, but nothing difficult.

Two-Mile Prairie is on the Upland Ridge, with excessively drained soils that are sandy throughout. Longleaf pine and turkey oak abound. Plants on the uplands will be grasses, legumes and herbaceous types. Around Johnson Pond, there will be wetlands plants although the pond is presently almost dry.

We may finish the day by going an additional ¼-mile down Highway CR 39 to a very short (0.5 mile) trail, the Oxbow Trail to the Withlacoochee River. This site has somewhat poorly drained sandy soils. It is, in part, on the floodplain of the river, with a dense canopy of oaks, magnolias and hickories. Portions may be wet, with associated wetlands plants.



The vegetation in the two areas is expected to be quite different. However, we have never been in early spring. We cannot predict what is to be seen. Binoculars for birding are recommended; both sites are great settings.

We will all meet at the Millers' lake cabin on Lake Tsala Apopka off of SR 200 at 10 AM for coffee and doughnuts. For the location, **Google** -- 3815 E. Garnet Lane, Hernando, FL 34442, in Citrus County. There is no phone at the cabin. If you get lost, call cell 813-326-1193. Travel time from the north side of Tampa to the cabin is approximately 1-½ hours (75-80 miles). Please call John Miller at 813-960-8132 if you will be attending for headcount purposes.

Submission and photos by John Miller

Estuaries to Uplands... Celebrating Florida's Native Plant Heritage
Florida Native Plant Society Annual Conference
May 14-18, 2008

- Field trips to over 20 locations highlighting native plant communities, native trees, shrubs and wildflowers led by botanists and local plant specialists.
- Native plant sale providing locally grown trees, shrubs and wildflowers throughout the event. Hundreds of new native plants for home landscapes!
- Educational exhibit tables; many vendors
- The latest news in conservation, preservation and restoration of Florida native plant communities
- Workshops for landscape design, making plant specimens, nature photography, scientific information regarding the "Real Florida" and much more.

Registration available online at: <https://www.eventville.com/Catalog/EventRegistration1.asp?Eventid=1003337>

SUNCOAST CALENDAR

To submit information to the Calendar, email Mary Miller: limpkin1945@verizon.net

Programs for 2008

- ♣ **January 16—Jennifer Roberts:**
Hillsborough County Invasive Species Task Force
- ♣ **February 20—Laurel Schiller:**
Landscaping With Natives
- ♣ **March 19—Rob Northrop:**
Forest Sustainability: Tampa Bay Watershed
- ♣ **April 16—Mary Miller:**
Bluebirds and Boxes
- ♣ **May 21—Phil Compton:**
Restoring the Hillsborough River With Native Plants
- ♣ **June 18—Sylvia Durrell:**
Dealing With Florida's Drought
- ♣ **July 16—Jeff Klinkenberg:**
Preserving Old Florida
- ♣ **August 20—To Be Announced**
- ♣ **September 17—Shirley Denton:**
The Zen of Native Plant Photography

- June 14 – 15 –Butterfly, Herb & Native Plant Fair,** USF Botanical Gardens.
Call Kim Hutton at (813) 974-2329.
- June 21 – Native Plant Buying Trip to Sweet Bay Nursery** (near Parrish). Buying trip also includes easy tour of nearby forest habitat. Details to be announced.
- July 4 – 6 – Fakahatchee Strand.** In addition to viewing ghost orchids in bloom in Fakahatchee Strand, spend one day at Corkscrew Swamp. Details to be announced.
- August 24 – Alderman Ford County Park.** A moderate two mile hike to see floodplain and xeric habitats. Details to be announced.
- September 20 – Photography Workshop.** Practice your photography skills in an area where native wildflowers are in full bloom. Details to be announced.
- October 11 – 12 – Fall Plant Festival,** USF Botanical Gardens. SNPS will sell native plants. To volunteer, call Sally Sun at (813) 935-1312.

Field Trips and Events

- March 15 – Landscaping workshops – basic and native,** USF Botanical Gardens.
Contact Kim Hutton at (813) 974-2329.
- March 22 – Two Mile Prairie Tract, Withlacoochee State Forest, Citrus County.** Contact John Miller (813) 960-8132.
- April 12 – 13 –Spring Plant Festival,** USF Botanical Gardens.
SNPS will sell native plants.
To volunteer, call Sally Sun at (813) 935-1312.
- April 19 – Bluebirds and Flatwoods.** View bluebirds in nesting boxes and native plants at Flatwoods Park on Morris Bridge Road. Contact Mary Miller (813) 960-8132.
- May 15 – 18 –Uplands to Estuaries: Celebrating Florida's Native Plant Heritage,** Florida Native Plant Society Annual Conference, Manatee Convention Center, Palmetto, Florida.
- May 24 –Crystal Springs.** View examples of native restoration at this once public park. Easy walk. Details to be announced.



Plant Profile

Common name: Tampa Verbena

Botanical name: *Glandularia tampensis* (Nash) Small

Synonyms: Tampa mock vervain

Family: Verbenaceae (Vervain)

Zone: 9 – 10A

Plant Habit: Upright, short-lived, perennial wildflower

Habitat: Clearings in moist hammocks

Size: 2 feet x 2 feet

Leaves: Alternate Opposite, oval, lance-shaped or lobed, usually with toothed margins

Bloom: Five lobed, rose-pink to purple one-inch flowers in flat-topped clusters

Flowering time: Late winter and spring

Landscape use: Mass plantings; butterfly gardens

Growing conditions

Light: Part to full sun

Water: Drought tolerant after establishment

Soil: Average with some organic matter

Propagation: Seed, stem cuttings

Motility: Spreading by self-sown seeds

Maintenance: Removal of spent plants at end of growing season

Availability: Native plant nurseries, occasionally from other nurseries

Comments: Nectar source for butterflies; endangered species along with *Glandularia maritima* (seaside verbena); endemic to Florida peninsula; frost tolerant; profuse blooms in late winter and early spring; deadhead to encourage continued blooming; plant becomes withered-looking in the fall – can be severely pruned or pulled out; numerous seeds near parent plant will germinate in spring.

References:

Osorio, Rufino, 2001, *A Gardener's Guide to Florida's Native Plants*: University Press of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, 345 p.

Traas, Pamela F., 1999, *Gardening for Florida's Butterflies*, Great Outdoors Publishing Co., St. Petersburg, Florida, 134 p.

Wunderlin, R.P and B.F. Hansen, 2003, *Guide to Vascular Plants of Florida, Second Edition*: University Press of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, 787 p.

Wunderlin, R.P. and B.F. Hansen. 2005. *Atlas of Florida Vascular Plants* (<http://plantatlas.usf.edu/>).

Information compiled by George R. Kish

Photos by Shirley Denton, Betty Wargo, Glenn Fleming



Volunteer for the Spring Plant Sale

The USF Botanical Gardens Spring Plant Sale takes place April 12 and 13. A sign-up sheet will be passed around at the March monthly chapter meeting. If you are unable to make the meeting and wish to help, please call Sally Sun at 935-1312. We need volunteers for set-up Friday morning, April 11; and to work the sale Saturday, April 12, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Sunday, April 13, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. We hope to have enough volunteers so that no one has to work more than once. We appreciate your participation!

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.

Thanks to February's Donors:

**Ron Gilbert, Jan Means,
Mary Miller, James Wheeler**

The following species were donated. This is a little bit about what we know of them:

Dune (Beach) Sunflower—*Helianthus debilis*, has attractive yellow to pale yellow flowers that bloom throughout the year. Grows in full sun and has wildlife value for birds and butterflies. Can be used as a ground cover, border, mass planting or edging.

Necklace Pod—*Sophora tomentosa*, has yellow flower spikes and blooms periodically throughout the year. Grows in full sun and has wildlife value for butterflies. Can be used as a specimen plant, trimmed as a tree or used in mass plantings. Seeds are dangerous to eat.

Wild Coffee—*Psychotria nervosa*, has glossy green leaves and small red fruit that resembles a coffee bean. Grows in part sun or shade and has wildlife value for birds. Can be used as a specimen, hedge or border.

Information summarized from www.hort.ifas.ufl.edu.

MEMBERSHIP

New

Ron Gilbert, Brandon

Renewed

Casey Beavers, Polk City
Kathleen Frazier, Tampa
Mariella Smith, Ruskin
Debra Backes, Valrico
Kathy Beck, Lutz
Debbie Butts, Plant City
Shawna Everidge, Plant City
George Kish, Odessa
Jennifer Marriott, Riverview
Robert Scheible, Tampa
Dianne Stevens, Dover
Carmel VanHoek, Tampa
Diane Willis, Tampa



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 Florida Native Plant Society and a subscription to their monthly newsletter *The Suncoast Grapevine*. Contact the membership chair, Harriett Wright, at 908-9398.

New Member Renewal

Name _____

Business name or organization _____

Address _____

City, State and Zip _____

Home phone _____ Email _____

Check pertinent category:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Member/Gift \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> Not-for-profit organization \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual/Renewal \$35 | <input type="checkbox"/> Business or corporate \$125 |
| <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 \$50 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contributing \$75 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life \$1,000 | |

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**

Activities & Committee Chairs

Field Trips

Shirley Denton 986-6485

Publications

Dick Wunderlin 977-6484

George Kish 920-0853

Librarian

Vikki Sinclair 989-2896

Membership

Harriett Wright 908-9398

Newsletter Editor

Shawna Everidge 757-9289

Mike Fite, Assistant 977-0892

Programs and Publicity

Mary Miller 960-8132

Education

Troy Springer 967-4538

Book Sales

Sally Sun 935-1312

USF Plant Sale

Sally Sun 935-1312

USF Botanical Garden Liaison

Kim Hutton 974-2329

Chapter Representative

James Wheeler 571-5865

Webmaster

Pat Clouser 662-7222



Newsletter Submissions

Deadline for the next issue:

MARCH 31

Please send articles and original artwork for The Suncoast Grapevine to **Shawna Everidge**, 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...

severidge@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



Officers & Board of Directors

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Mary Miller

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Shirley Denton

The SNPS BOD meets regularly.

Call Harriett Wright for exact locations.



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P.O. Box 1158
Seffner, FL 33583-1158

Club logo:
"Beach Sunflower"
Helianthus debilis

Please deliver to: