

# The Suncoast Grapevine

Newsletter of the Suncoast Native Plant Society, Inc.



Volume 26 Number 5

MAY 2009

## Plants for Attracting Native Hummingbirds

Wednesday, May 20th 2009 at 7pm  
Hillsborough County Extension Service

Cliff Brown, a Suncoast Native Plant Society member, will be our May guest speaker. His presentation will focus on how to attract and keep hummingbirds coming to your garden by plant selection and garden design. Cliff will also demonstrate how native hummingbird plants can be blended and mixed with other non-nuisance non-native plants.

Cliff is a native Tampan that moved to Temple Terrace in 1964. He received an Associates Degree in Horticulture from HCC in 1991 and worked at the USF Grounds Department for six years before moving on to Eureka Springs, a Hillsborough County Park. Cliff retired from Hillsborough County in 2007 and is now involved with the *Tree and Landscape Committee* at the Extension Service, *Temple Terrace Garden Club*, and *Temple Terrace Preservation Society*. He also serves as president for the *Friends of the Temple Terrace Parks and Recreation Department*, which along with the *Preservation Society* is actively raising funds to rebuild the Bat Tower of Temple Terrace. He lives in Temple Terrace and cultivates native plants, *Tillandsia* species, and orchids and observes the hummingbirds in his garden.

- Submitted by Bob Upcavage



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 Report: Jennings's Tract Saturday, April 18th

Saturday's SNPS hike was at the Jennings's Tract a.k.a Cypress Creek West, an ELAPP property. Steve Dickman (Shirley had the weekend off) led the hike through historic pasture land where many gopher tortoise burrows were seen and down to the dry hardwood swamp hammock. The morning was cool and some of the hikers were wearing long sleeve shirts. You know how guys are Gail? They are bunch of wussies anyway.

The jeep trail continued east, to a pasture, near I-275 and a large billboard where the Florida's lottery flamingo was standing guard. In this area the group was treated to seeing a swallowtail kite. Earlier, before joining the main group, I walked in to do a little solo bird watching. I saw several thrushes (hermit?), northern parula, prairie warbler, blue grosbeak and a couple of palm warblers.

The group departed this cow habitat, taking a N/S 'road' into the floodplain. Steve pointed out many of the native hammock trees and ferns. We walked further in the floodplain, into sort of a bowl area, enjoying the serenity of old logged cypress tree stumps, maples, and swamp buttonbush. There were many downed fantastic 'lunch' logs here. Steve found a *Tillandsia* that had the Mexican weevil still munching away. This provided a photo op, so great the weevil died from flash exposure, without anyone having to remove their lid!

When it was time to go, Steve gave us the option of returning to the trailhead via the jeep trail that we had used earlier, going through all those beautiful humongous magnolias or a chance to use our 'hand held devices' and go off trail to our cars.

There was not a moment of hesitation, since all of us had more education than common sense, we headed west through the woods, with our navigation tools at the ready, leaving a perfectly good road, so that the animals could enjoy it in peace once again.

The Boys Hiking Club was represented by myself and Jumpin' Joel Jackson. SNPS Members Ron Gilbert and Ron Thuemler also attended.



- Submitted by Mike Fite, photos courtesy Mike Fite and Joel Jackson



**2009 FNPS Annual Conference: Wake Up and Plant the Natives!**  
May 21-24

West Palm Beach Marriot

[http://www.fnps.org/pages/programs/programpg\\_no\\_pic.php?keyword=Conference](http://www.fnps.org/pages/programs/programpg_no_pic.php?keyword=Conference)

*Note: Our Chapter will not be having a field trip this month so that any potential field trip leaders may attend the conference.*

## Spring Plant Sale - Thank You!

The spring USF Botanical Gardens Plant Sale took place April 11 and 12. Fourteen folks volunteered their time to help make this a successful event. On Friday, April 10, the set-up crew – comprised of **Cliff Brown, Ron Chicone, Mike Fite, Sally Sun** and **Bob Upcavage** – assembled at USF Botanical Gardens around 9:30 a.m. Our largest vendor, Nature Coast member **Dave Barnard**, owner of Cypress Acres Nursery, was already there with his wildflower delivery. We helped him finish unloading the plants. We then set up the tables and arranged the plants on them. **Cliff** and **Troy Springer** also brought some plants; and a couple of members (**Loretta Hodgdon** and **Bob Upcavage**) donated plants for the sale. **Troy** set up the “outreach” table in the back of SNPS’s area.

On Saturday, most of the volunteers arrived around 8 a.m. The last of our deliveries arrived at 7:30 and those of us who got there early scurried to get the plants off the truck and into position. In all, we had about 1,000 plants comprising of 100 species of trees, shrubs, ground covers, wildflowers, ferns and vines; a very nice selection of plants, indeed. The Botanical Gardens members were let in at 9:30 a.m., and the public at 10 a.m. On hand to assist were (all day) **Cliff Brown, Steve Dickman, Jane Halil, Daphne Lambright, Fred Spriggs, Troy Springer** and **Sally Sun**; and (morning) **Margo Funk, Mary Miller** and **Harriett Wright**.

On Sunday, because it was Easter, the Gardens opened an hour later, so the gates opened at 10:30 a.m. We had less than half of the plants left. **Debbie Butts, Ron Chicone, Sally Sun** and **Troy Springer** were there all day. At the close of the sale – 3 p.m. – we also had to disassemble our area; **Cliff Brown** arrived to give a hand with this.

**Troy**, with the help of the other volunteers, staffed the “outreach” table both days. Lots of folks visited; some bought books and/or seed packets, and many walked away with lots of information.

A big **“Thanks!”** to everyone who gave up part of their weekend to help make the plant sale successful. As a thank-you, each volunteer was given a wildflower of their choice.

Financially, we had gross sales of \$5, 082 (in round numbers) and netted about \$1, 917. The various events throughout the year, and especially the semiannual plant sales, are vital to SNPS. Part of the purpose of SNPS is educating the public about native plants. The earnings from these sales help to pay for grants, special speakers’ expenses, the newsletter, and educational projects throughout the area. If you can find a few hours to volunteer next fall, your help would be appreciated. It’s a great way to learn about Florida’s native plants; and it’s even fun!!

*-Submitted by Sally Sun*

### The following people donated plants for the auction at the April chapter meeting:

- ☼ **Fred Mulholland**
- ☼ **Mary Miller**
- ☼ **Harriett Wright**
- ☼ **James Wheeler**
- ☼ **Bob Upcavage**



**And Pat Alexander provided the refreshments.**

**We thank you so much for your volunteerism!**



### MODEL FERTILIZER ORDINANCE

The Tampa Bay Estuary Program has coordinated the writing of a draft Fertilizer Ordinance that may or may not be adopted by Hillsborough County this summer. If this ordinance goes into effect, certain landscaping practices on private property may change.

*View the Ordinance:*

[www.tbptech.org/Fertilizer/FertilizerHomePage.html](http://www.tbptech.org/Fertilizer/FertilizerHomePage.html)

*EPC Website Review:*

[www.epchc.org/LandscapeManagement.htm](http://www.epchc.org/LandscapeManagement.htm)

*On Our Pond Article: (page 5)*

<http://www.hillsborough.wateratlas.usf.edu/upload/documents/AAPNewsletter2009-Spring.pdf>

# SUNCOAST CALENDAR

To submit information to the Calendar, email Bob Upcavage: [eco@upcavage.cnc.net](mailto:eco@upcavage.cnc.net)

## Programs for 2009

- ♣ **January 21—George Kish:**  
Plant Phenology and Climate Change
- ♣ **February 17—Juliet Rynear:**  
The Rare Plant Conservation Program at Bok Towers
- ♣ **March 18—Don Roberts:**  
The Coastal Conservation Association
- ♣ **April 15—Troy Springer:**  
The Native Landscaping Trade
- ♣ **May 20—Cliff Brown:**  
Plants for Attracting Native Hummingbirds
- ♣ **June 17—Craig Huegel:**  
Designing a Landscape for Wildlife
- ♣ **July 15—Karina Veaudry:**  
The Status of Conservation in Florida



## WINE and CHEESE Party May 17th

1-5pm

Hosted by the Mulholland's  
15410 Stonecreek Lane

Map and additional information in  
April's Grapevine issue, pg. 4  
[suncoast.fnpschapters.org/  
newsletters/2009/2009-04-  
Lupinusdiffusus.pdf](http://suncoast.fnpschapters.org/newsletters/2009/2009-04-Lupinusdiffusus.pdf)

## Field Trip Report: Apalachicola National Forest—April 24-26

A small but enthusiastic group spent a weekend in the wilds of the central Panhandle. Some of us camped. Some of us stayed at an old hotel that lacked both an office and basic amenities that most of us consider basic to hotel lodging – but all of us loved the ambiance of old north Florida.

We spent Saturday in the field with leader Josh Hofkes who took us to a mesic forest complete with torreyia, Florida yew, blooming Ashe's and pyramid magnolias, then on to Hosford bog and white-topped pitcher plants (blooming), and a great savanna near Sumatra with trumpet pitcher plant, parrot pitcher plants (blooming), and gulf coast pitcher plants, orchids (*Calopogon barbatus*, *C. pallid*, *Pogonia ophioglossoides*), and many other wonderful rare plants.

A first time plant for several of us was Harper's beauty (*Harperocallis flava*), a rare lily. Sunday, we found our way to Tate's Hell and the dwarf cypress boardwalk. There, bird-watching and wading into a cypress wetland where we were often taller than old trees was a treat!

Field trip attendees included Ron Thuemler, Dr. Shirley Denton, and Jan and Jeff Means.

-Submitted by Shirley Denton, photos courtesy Shirley Denton and Ron Thuemler

More photos available online! Visit <http://www.SuncoastNPS.org> !



## PLANT PROFILE

**Common name:** Elliott's milkpea

**Botanical name:** *Galactia elliottii* Nutt.

**Synonyms:** None

**Family:** Fabaceae (Legume)

**Zone:** 8B-11

**Plant Habit:** Evergreen trailing vine

**Habitat:** Scrub, Sandhill, and dry Flatwoods

**Size:** 6 inches (h)

**Leaves:** Shiny, dark green, alternate, pinnately compound with 5-9 leaflets

**Bloom:** White, pea-like flower

**Flowering time:** April to October

**Fruit:** Compressed, hairy, linear pod

**Distribution:** Peninsular Florida

### Growing conditions

**Light:** Partshade to full sun

**Water:** Dry

**Soil:** Sandy

**Propagation:** Seed

**Motility:** Little

**Maintenance:** None

**Availability:** Occasionally from native plant nurseries; not currently listed on the AFNN web site.

**Comments:** Elliott's milkpea is the only white-flowered milkpea in Florida.

### References:

Denton, Shirley and Diane Willis, 2008, *The Field Identification Guide to Plants Used in the Wetland Assessment Procedure*, second edition: Southwest Florida Water Management District, Brooksville, Florida, 57 p.

Taylor, Walter Kingsley, 1998, *Florida Wildflowers in Their Natural Communities*: University Press of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, 370 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, 2007, *Atlas of Florida Vascular Plants*: University of South Florida, Institute of Systematic Botany (<http://plantatlas.usf.edu/>)

**Information compiled by George R. Kish, photos by Shirley Denton**



## 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 SNPS also entitles you to membership privileges in the Suncoast Native Plant Society and a subscription to their monthly newsletter *The Suncoast Grapevine*. Contact the membership chair, Shirley Denton, at 986-6485.

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:

**FNPS**

**P.O. Box 278**

**Melbourne, FL 32902-0278**

## Activities & Committee Chairs

### Field Trips

Shirley Denton 986-6485

### Publications

Dick Wunderlin 977-6484

George Kish 920-0853

### Librarian

Vikki Sinclair 989-2896

### Membership

Shirley Denton 986-6485

### Newsletter Editor

Shawna Everidge 757-9289

Mike Fite, Assistant 977-0892

### Programs and Publicity

Bob Upcavage

### Outreach

Troy Springer 967-4538

### USF Plant Sale

Vacant

### USF Botanical Garden Liaison

Kim Hutton 974-2329

### Chapter Representative

Kristina Herz

### Webmaster

Shirley Denton 986-6485

### Conservation

Ron Chicone



## Newsletter Submissions

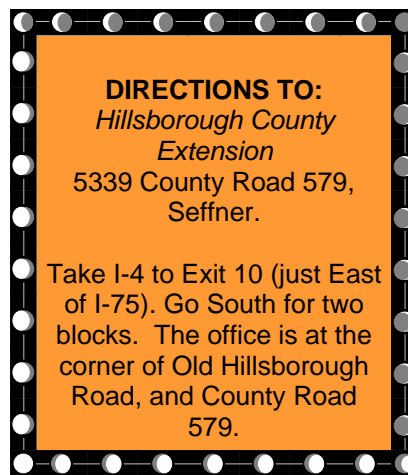
Deadline for the next issue:

**JUNE 2**

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](mailto:severidge@plantcitygov.com)



## 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:

<http://www.SuncoastNPS.org>



## Officers & Board of Directors

### President

Troy Springer

### Vice-president

Bob Upcavage

### Secretary

Kristina Herz

### Treasurer

Daphne Lambright

### Board Members

Shirley Denton

Ron Chicone

*The SNPS BOD meets regularly at a variety of locations. If you are interested in attending a BOD meeting, please check the location at a monthly membership meeting or call Troy Springer at 813-967-4538.*

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

**Please deliver to:**