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The Suncoast Grapevine

Newsletter of the Suncoast Native Plant Society, Inc.



Volume 26 Number 6

JUNE 2009

Designing A Landscape for Wildlife

Presented by Dr. Craig Huegel

Wednesday, June 17th at 7pm

Hillsborough County Extension Service



Providing for wildlife in the home landscape requires us to consider all aspects of habitat; food, water and cover. By incorporating those elements and directing our efforts at those species we most desire, we can turn our otherwise sterile, developed areas into landscapes where a diversity of birds and other wildlife can reside. Our mission, should we choose to accept it, is to transform the typical developed landscape into one more connected to the natural world.

Craig Huegel, Ph.D., has devoted much of his professional career to teaching the public about wildlife and their habitat needs. As a founding member of the Cooperative Urban Wildlife Program at the University of Florida, he lectured and wrote extensively about Florida's wildlife and the native plant communities that support them and co-founded the University's *Backyard Wildlife Habitat Program*. Dr. Huegel has written two books for the Florida Native Plant Society, has served as the state's Education Chair, and helped to found the Pinellas Chapter. His newest book, Welcome Back Wildlife: Designing Landscapes with Florida's Native Plants is scheduled to be published by the University of Florida Press in 2010.

- 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

Florida Wildflower Foundation completes survey along St. Johns River to the Sea Loop trail

Lisa Roberts, Florida Wildflower Foundation

Native wildflower experts Jeff Norcini and Gil Nelson have completed a comprehensive survey of spring wildflowers along Florida's 260-mile St. Johns River to the Sea Loop cycling trail. The Florida Wildflower Foundation, which sponsored the survey, hopes to establish the route as the state's first wildflower trail in celebration of the 500th anniversary of Ponce de Leon's naming of our state *La Florida*, "Land of Flowers."



"The idea is to turn the Loop into a corridor of wildflowers in spring, summer and fall to make it a real celebration of wildflowers by 2013," said Terry Zinn, a wildflower grower and Foundation board member. "The survey is critical to establishing the status of native wildflowers on this scenic loop and also to identifying areas lacking wildflowers. The Foundation hopes to augment natural stands of wildflowers through proper management. It also plans to plant wildflowers on parts of the trail."

The Loop winds through some of the most wildflower-abundant areas of Putnam, St. Johns, Flagler, Volusia and Brevard counties. It presently consists of about 40 miles of paved and unpaved bike paths, with the remainder on roadways. Plans call for it to be completed as a bike trail by 2013.

"We documented almost 20 showy native wildflower sites, most of which were naturally occurring," Norcini said. "One discovery was a site on U.S. Highway A1A in St. Johns County, where we found a particularly wide diversity of natural wildflowers." Upon notification from Norcini, the Florida Department of Transportation designated it a wildflower site and will work with him to develop a management plan.

The Loop was ridden this fall by cyclists who joined organizer Bike Florida (www.bikeflorida.org) for a weeklong inaugural tour. A fall Loop ride also is planned. To view a video of the first organized cycling event along the route, visit www.youtube.com/watch?v=TifNXpp0YBQ&feature=channel_page.

USF Botanical Gardens 2009 Butterfly, Herb and Native Plants Fair Saturday, June 13th 10am-4pm Sunday, June 14th 10am-3pm

We will be promoting our Society at this yearly event. We will be handing out literature, educating the public, and selling books and seeds. If you are interested in volunteering, please give Troy Springer a call at 813-967-4538 or e-mail at troy@springerenvironmental.com.

The Gardens are located at 12210 USF Pine Drive.
Admission for adults is \$5, kids 6-13 are \$3,
parking and kids 6 and under are free.

- Submitted by Troy Springer

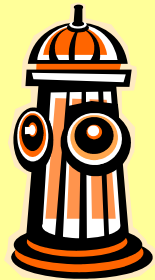


Fast Facts About Pet Waste

- ⇒ An average-size dog dropping produces 3 billion fecal coliform bacteria.
- ⇒ Research has shown that up to 95% of the fecal coliform found in urban stormwater comes from animals.
- ⇒ Observations of people walking their pets in public areas show that men are less likely to pick up after their dogs than women.
- ⇒ A new national survey says that 38 percent of dog owners don't clean up after their pets.

Top 5 Reasons People DON'T Pick Up After Their Pets:

- Because it eventually just goes away
- Just because
- Too much work
- Dog goes on the edge of my property, where I don't walk
- It's in my yard (where it doesn't bother anyone)



Top 5 Reasons People DO Pick Up After Their Pets:

- It's the law
- Environmental reasons
- Hygiene/health reasons
- Neighborhood courtesy
- It should be done



Four out of 10 U.S. households have a dog.
America's 71 millions dogs produce 29,000 tons of waste each day!
Pooches for the Planet
www.tbep.org



- Reprinted by permission from the Tampa Bay Estuary Program

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

- ⊗ Fred Mulholland
- ⊗ Mary Miller
- ⊗ Bob Upcavage

And Janida Thuemler provided the refreshments.



We appreciate it!



FLORIDA TRAIL ASSOCIATION OFFERS PERSONAL SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS WHILE HIKING

"It is dangerous to assume that just because you are on a trail in the wilds of Florida, you are removed from the two-legged dangers faced in urban areas. The people you may encounter on or near a trail represent the broad mix of society: the good, the bad and the ugly."

Visit their site at <http://www.floridatrail.org/Hiking/Hiker-Safety/Personal-Safety.html> to view the full article.



SUNCOAST CALENDAR

To submit information to the Calendar, email Bob Upcavage: 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



The Pine Lily, *Lilium catesbaei*, is the name sake of the nursery we will be visiting for our June field trip. Members have been able to purchase this lily at the nursery in years past, however most of have mixed luck with growing them in captivity. This flower is considered threatened due to habitat loss and over collection. See them in the wild at Flatwoods Park. —photo, Glenn Fleming

Pine Lily Buying Field Trip Saturday, June 20th 8am

Pine Lily Native Nursery is located near Ona. The drive to the nursery is pleasant through back country roads, during which we will travel through varied habitats. The nursery is in the middle of a pine flatwoods, and has a unique native plant selection. After the shopping is over, we will have lunch at Solomon's Castle.

We will meet at the county extension office (our SNPS meeting site) at 8:00am on Saturday June 20th. We will carpool from there to the nursery. Expect about an hour to an hour and fifteen minute drive from the extension office. For more information, contact Shirley Denton, or Troy Springer using the information on the back page.

NOTE: Solomon's Castle accepts cash only.



—Photo, courtesy Solomon's Castle.

Log on to <http://www.solomonscastle.org/> for more on the castle.

PLANT PROFILE

Common name: Turkey tangle fogfruit

Botanical name: *Phyla nodiflora* (L.) Greene

Synonyms: Capeweed, matchheads, carpetweed

Family: Verbenaceae (Vervain)

Zone: 5-11

Plant Habit: Trailing perennial herb

Habitat: Beaches, hammocks, disturbed areas

Size: 4 inches (h)

Leaves: opposite, stalked, obovate to spatulate, 3/4 in. long, toothed near apex

Bloom: Small, purplish to white, in long-stalked heads of 2-lipped, lobed flowers

Flowering time: All year

Distribution: Throughout Florida

Growing conditions

Light: Full to part sun

Water: Moist to dry

Soil: Average

Propagation: Stem cuttings and seeds

Maintenance: None

Availability: Occasionally from native plant nurseries

Comments: Larval food source for Phaon Crescent and White Peacock butterflies; mat-forming with prostrate, hairy stems; can be used as a ground cover

References:

Colvin, D.L., R. Dickens, J.W. Everest, D. Hall, and L.B. McCarty, undated, *Weeds of southern turfgrasses*: Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Gainesville, FL, 208 p.

Minno, M.C., Butler, J.F., and D.W. Hall, 2005, *Florida Butterfly Caterpillars and Their Host Plants*: University Press of Florida, Gainesville, FL, 341 p.

Taylor, Walter Kingsley, 1998, *Florida Wildflowers in Their Natural Communities*: University Press of Florida, Gainesville, FL, 370 p.

Wunderlin, R.P. and B.F. Hansen, 2003, *Guide to Vascular Plants of Florida*, second edition, University Press of Florida, Gainesville, FL, 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 Gilbert Fitzgerald



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.

Check pertinent category:

New Member Renewal

Name _____

Business name or organization _____

Address _____

City, State and Zip _____

Home phone _____ Email _____

- | | |
|--|---|
| <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

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George Kish 920-0853

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Kim Hutton 974-2329

Chapter Representative

Kristina Herz

Webmaster

Shirley Denton 986-6485

Conservation

Ron Chicone



Newsletter Submissions

Deadline for the next issue:

JULY 1

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



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: