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The Suncoast Grapevine

Newsletter of the Suncoast Native Plant Society, Inc.



Volume 26 Number 8

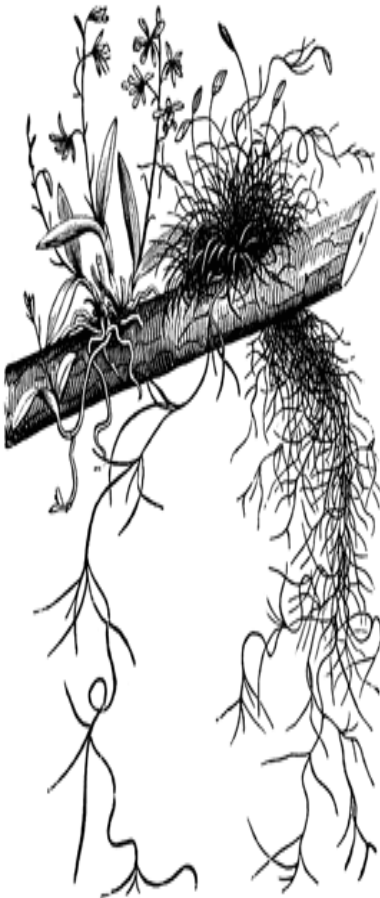
AUGUST 2009

Florida's Orchids

Presented by Prem Subrahmanyam

Wednesday, August 19, 2009 @ 7pm

Hillsborough County Extension Service



Our guest speaker for August 19 is Prem Subrahmanyam, an orchid aficionado and award-winning photographer, whose works have appeared in many magazines, textbooks, educational displays, orchid society newsletters, and brochures, as well as several key websites devoted to information about orchids and native plants. Over 20 years of field observations, and driving untold miles and cataloguing native orchid localities across the state, have gone into the making of his presentation.

Prem also maintains a website devoted to educating the public about Florida's native orchids:

www.flnativeorchids.com

Prem Subrahmanyam makes his living as a software engineer, primarily in the field of 3d simulation and video game development. He is also a graphic designer and 3-d computer animator. His most widely seen animations can be found in the series "Florida, the Outdoor Adventure" and "Florida Takes to the Trails", both of which have aired on PBS nationally. He has also worked on or contributed to 3d effects shots for many broadcast and film publications.

- 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

August Meeting – Should we host the 2012 FNPS conference?

We'll have a (hopefully brief) business meeting after the program this month to discuss potentially hosting the 2012 FNPS conference. Suncoast is one of the oldest FNPS chapters and one of the few located where there are adequate facilities to host a conference – yet this chapter has never hosted one. We have great potential field trip locations. As a locale, our area led the state in developing local conservation programs (such as our Hillsborough County ELAPP program that buys conservation lands), a comprehensive plan that includes strong measures to protect natural habitats (the Hillsborough County Significant Wildlife Habitat and Essential Wildlife Habitat portions of the plan and supporting ordinances). We have SNPS people who led in the development of parks with strong nature orientation. We have SNPS people active in the management of our natural habitats (SWFWMD, Hillsborough County, City of Tampa, etc.). We have chapters to our immediate north (Nature Coast a.k.a. Pasco) and Hernando, who have not had the opportunity to share in hosting a conference due to lack of facilities.

The question is, would we be interested in doing this?



- Submitted by Shirley Denton

Cordell Site Fieldtrip



July's SNPS fieldtrip was located in northern Manatee County. The Cordell Site, owned by SWFWMD, is scrub and Little Manatee River floodplain, thus providing quite a diverse habitat. The Cordell site is also the location of a Florida goldenaster restoration project which SNPS members took part.

Some of the plants seen were tarflower, sweetbroom, butterfly weed, sweetbay magnolia, scrub olive, magnolia bay, scrub hickory and all the scrub oak species. The common night hawk and Eastern towhee were some of the birds viewed.



Please enjoy more beautiful Cordell color photos posted by members on the chapter's website. Many thanks to Bob Upcavage for volunteering his time as leader and providing access to the site!

- photos and submission by Mike Fite

Non-Native Species Amnesty Day

On Saturday, November 7th, the City of Plant City will be partnering with Busch Gardens Tampa Bay and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FFWCC) to host a Non-Native Animal Amnesty Day. On this day, anyone can turn in any sort of exotic animal, no questions asked. The animal will be re-homed to prequalified adopters if the animal is healthy enough.

The Suncoast Native Plant Society has given a grant to the City of Plant City to fund their "Alien Invaders!" summer exotic species coloring contest. The grant covered printing costs for 500 coloring sheets. The contest is for children entering 2nd-5th grade, and the drawing highlights several invasive plants. The winner will receive 4 free tickets to Dinosaur World. Please email severidge@plantcitygov.com for more information!



-photo, myfwc.com

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO PARTICIPATED IN OUR SUCCESSFUL JOINT MEETING DURING THE MONTH OF JULY! THE PLANT AUCTION RAISED APPROXIMATELY \$80 FOR OUR CHAPTER!

WE'D LIKE TO THANK HARRIET WRIGHT, FRED MULHOLLAND, JAMES WHEELER, TROY SPRINGER, AND BOB UPCAVAGE FOR DONATING PLANTS FOR THE AUCTION.



Dead River Field Trip: August 22nd

Our August field trip will be to Dead River, a Hillsborough County Park along the Hillsborough River. This park is blessed with mature floodplain forest and a lovely trail along the river. We'll walk the trail and maybe do a bit of off-trail walking through the floodplain. Plan on walking 1-2 miles, length dependent on the group and on trail conditions. The park has a nice picnic area for a snack or lunch. Plan to meet at 9:00 am at the park.

Directions: Take US 301 north from I-4 toward Hillsborough River State Park and Zephyrhills. Dead River Road is about 10 miles north of I-4 on the left. The park is at the end of Dead River Road. For more information:

<http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/recreation/areas/lh-deadrivers.html> .

Directions (from the Hillsborough County Extension Service): Head north on CR 579 (Mango Rd) approx. 5 mi. When you get to US 301, turn right onto US 301 for approx. 5.8 mi. Make a left onto Dead River Road (you should see a smallish sign for the park on US 301). The park is at the extreme end of the road.

-Submitted by Shirley Denton

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
- ♣ **August 19—Prem Subrahmanyam:**
Florida Orchids



FIELD TRIP REPORT: CORDELL TRACT



Editor's Note: I accidentally looked over Shirley's email, and assumed that I didn't have a field trip report. Oops! Mike Fite saved the day with his report on the earlier page, but I'd like to run Shirley's as well. I've also added a sneak peek of the photos that are on our website. Visit the site and see the rest!



Bob Upcavage led our July field trip. For mid-summer, he chose scrub! A hardy group of Suncoast members braved the sun. We checked out the Florida goldenasters that Suncoast helped to plant in June – all were looking healthy and growing well. We checked out the scrub, and a seep slope, and the river floodplain. Birds abounded. Cameras clicked. Favorite subjects included blooming loblolly bays, Tarflower, and the river. John Miller got a great photo of a scrub milkweed (*Asclepias curtissii*). Check our web site (<http://www.SuncoastNPS.org>) for photos contributed by participants.

—Submitted by Shirley Denton, photos by John Miller

PLANT PROFILE

Common name: Florida Butterfly Orchid
Botanical name: *Encyclia tampensis* (Lindl.) Small
Family: Orchidaceae (Orchid)
Zone: 9-11
Plant Habit: Epiphyte, evergreen
Habitat: Swamps, wet hammocks
Size: 8-12 inches (h) excluding flower
Leaves: Long
Bloom: Yellowish-green with white lip; rose-purple area at center of lip; 1-2 inch flowers on tall, thin stalk
Flowering time: Spring-fall
Distribution: Central and south Florida

Growing conditions

Light: Sun to part sun
Water: None
Soil: None
Propagation: Seed, division of pseudobulbs
Motility: Rare, by wind-blown seeds
Maintenance: None
Availability: Occasionally from native plant nurseries
Comments: Flowers typically in large numbers and very showy

References:

Osorio, Rufino, 2001, *A Gardener's Guide to Florida's Native Plants*: University Press of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, 345 p.
Haehle, Robert G., and Joan Brookwell, 2004, *Native Florida Plants, Revised Edition*: Taylor Trade Publishing Company, Lanham, Maryland, 400 p.
Taylor, Walter Kingsley, 1992, *The Guide to Florida Wildflowers*: Taylor Publishing Company, Dallas, Texas, 320 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 Betty Wargo and Allen Boatman



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

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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

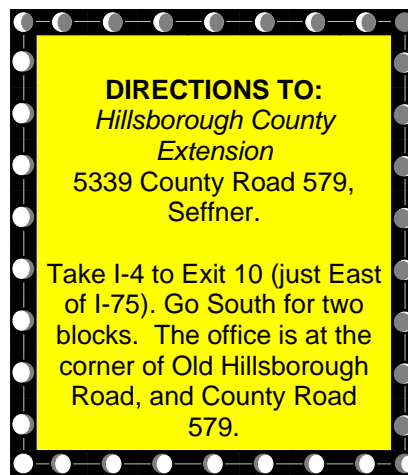
Deadline for the next issue:

SEP 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



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

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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: