

The Suncoast Grapevine

Newsletter of the Suncoast Native Plant Society, Inc.



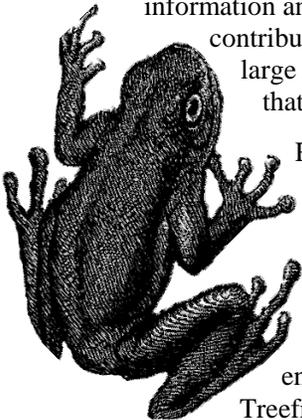
Volume 26 Number 12

DECEMBER 2009

December: No Chapter Meeting
Happy Holidays!

Help Native Frogs: UF/IFAS Citizen Science Project

When three-inch long treefrogs start to show up in toilets, birdhouses, and mailboxes, you can imagine the dismay of the Floridians who find them! For years, these citizens have been asking Dr. Steve Johnson at the University of Florida for information and advice about these pesky frogs. Not only are they a huge nuisance to humans, but they are also contributing to the decline of native treefrogs. In many suburban areas, native treefrogs disappear after these large invaders move in. But there is hope – some devoted nature lovers who remove Cuban treefrogs report that the smaller native green and squirrel treefrogs have started to return.



Recently, Monica McGarrity, a biological scientist who works with Dr. Johnson, decided to offer concerned citizens an opportunity to get involved in studying these frogs. By visiting the project webpage (http://ufwildlife.ifas.ufl.edu/citizen_sci.shtml), citizens can learn how to collect data and report their efforts to manage Cuban treefrogs to the University of Florida. The website gives detailed information on how to capture, identify, and humanely euthanize these invasive treefrogs. Floridians who are helping to manage these frogs can send (email, mail, or fax) photos and measurements of each euthanized frog, along with information about where, when, and how it was captured. They are also encouraged to provide information about native treefrog sightings. Each participant will receive a “Cuban Treefrog Citizen Scientist” certificate.

Cuban treefrogs do especially well in suburban areas, replacing native treefrogs, and managing them could help native species to survive in these areas. Researchers at the University of Florida will use the information from this study to evaluate the success of Florida’s concerned citizens’ efforts to manage Cuban treefrogs. This information will also give insights on the ecology of this species as it continues to spread in the southeastern U.S.

—Submitted by M. McGarrity

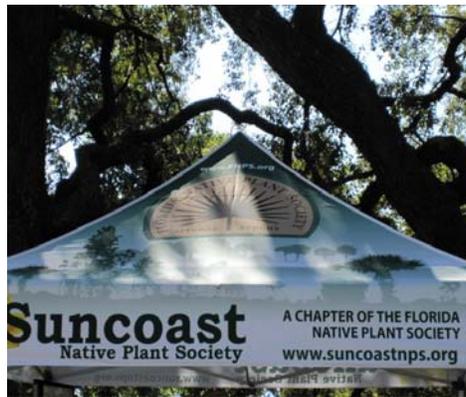
Thank you to November’s plant donors:

**Fred Mulholland, Harriett Wright, Susan Watson,
James Wheeler, Mary Miller, Rick Krikorian**

Thanks for providing the refreshments, Lucy Fuchs!



Fall Plant Sale Photos



Member of the year: Shawna Everidge

Shawna has been putting together our newsletter for a few years, and has done a wonderful job. A lot of time and work goes into our newsletter, all of which has been voluntary. Also, Shawna led a team to have an exotic animal amnesty day here in Tampa. Suncoast was a proud supporter of that effort, and exposed Suncoast to a broader range of people.

- Submitted by T. Springer, photo of SNPS booth @ Amnesty Day, D. Piper

SNPS is looking for new books to add to our member library. If you've seen a new Florida native plant- or habitat-related book, send an email with the book title and author name to daphne.lambright@verizon.net with SNPS Book in the subject header. Thank you!

The Florida Native Plant Society's 30th Annual Conference
Rooted in History, Forever Blooming
May 20-23, 2010
Tallahassee, Florida

Join us in Tallahassee, a city rich in natural and cultural history, as the Magnolia Chapter hosts the 2010 Annual Conference. This will be a special 30th anniversary conference that honors our Florida Native Plant Society history and celebrates the plants, people and places of Tallahassee and the Big Bend Region. Over 400 people are expected to attend the 4-day conference.

PLANTS

There will be an enjoyable variety of field trips, tours and workshops to choose from on Thursday and Sunday. Discover the unique native plants of upland glades, ravines, karst, savanna and other plant communities on field trips led by expert local guides and in workshops on plant Identification, plant propagation and maintenance. Attend presentations on the latest in native plant science, landscaping and other topics.

PEOPLE

Friday and Saturday enjoy keynote speakers and educational sessions at the Leon County Civic Center. Featured keynotes are Dr. Betty Smocovitis, internationally-known botanical historian from UF; Landscape Architect Darryl Morrison, who will showcase uses of fire and other natural processes in nationally recognized native plant designs; and June Bailey White, writer and National Public Radio commentator from southern Georgia, who will read new stories with accompanying photos by Gil Nelson.

Get reacquainted with Bill Partington and the people who started the first gathering of native plant enthusiasts in 1980. Meet folks from Florida and other southeastern states who share a common vision of native plant protection

PLACES AND EVENTS

Experience special places, including the 22nd floor of the Florida Capitol, with its fantastic 360° views, Goodwood Plantation and Tall Timbers Research Station. Enjoy the annual FNPS Landscape Awards, silent auction, FNPS Jeopardy, and musical entertainment by local bands 'The Weeds' and the 'Mayhaws.' Famous local authors will be on hand for book signings. Native Nurseries of Tallahassee will also be celebrating a 30 year anniversary with a reception and open house on Sunday. Special programs are being planned for youth as well.

The Conference Hotel is the DoubleTree Hotel, 101 South Adams Street, Tallahassee, FL 32301. Reservations are being accepted at 850-224-5000.

For more conference details see <http://www.fnps.org/pages/conference/>

Join us in May 2010 for the FNPS 30th Anniversary!

District asks homeowners to "Skip a Week" of irrigation this winter

The Southwest Florida Water Management District recently launched a new campaign to encourage residents who irrigate their lawns to "Skip a Week" of watering during the cooler months of December, January and February.

According to research by the University of Florida, grass doesn't need to be watered as often during the cooler months. In fact, one-half to three-quarters of an inch of water every 10–14 days is sufficient.

"Over-watering in the winter can encourage pests and disease in your lawn," said Sylvia Durell, Florida-friendly landscaping project manager. Skipping a week of watering is as easy as "off" for residents with irrigation timers. "Turn the timer to 'off' for the week that you want to skip, and 'on' for the week that you want to water," said Durell.



OFFICER OF THE YEAR: DAPHNE LAMBRIGHT

As Treasurer, Daphne was very busy taking care of the nuts and bolts of our organization. She always took care of the details that I would often overlook. Daphne also led the charge to create a land partnership with the South West Florida Water Management District. This allows Suncoast to be a part of monitoring sensitive land and contribute in conducting plant surveys, and monitoring plant community changes from the result of changes in land management.

I want to thank all members who have participated in meetings, field trips and events. I want to give a special thanks to those that volunteered their time to be on the Board, chair committees, and helped in all the work that makes the Suncoast Native Plant Society what it is today.

—Submitted by T. Springer



Board of Directors, 2010:

- ☞ Daphne Lambright
- ☞ Shirley Denton
- ☞ Troy Springer
- ☞ Ron Chicone
- ☞ Kristina Herz
- ☞ Fred Mulholland
- ☞ Gail Parsons

Survival in the Scrub

As you may recall, on June 9th of this year SNPS participated in the restoration of the Federal and State Endangered *Chrysopsis floridana* (Florida goldenaster). This drought-tolerant attractive wildflower is a Florida endemic only known to occur in Hillsborough, Hardee, Manatee, and Pinellas Counties. Over 1,000 goldenasters were planted that day in the desert-like scrub habitat of Little Manatee River Southfork Tract preserve in northern Manatee County. The sponsors of that effort, Bok Tower Gardens (BTG), Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD), and US Fish and Wildlife Service are not just interested in planting goldenasters, they want to know how these introduced populations are faring. Are they surviving, and expanding, or are they struggling and declining? So on November 17th they conducted a monitoring of all the populations established on the Southfork Tract. Organized by Cindy Campbell of BTG, participants attempted to relocate all of the planted goldenasters (including those planted in previous years) and document their condition. Detailed data including plant height, number of stems and health of each plant was recorded on data sheets. All this collected information is currently being processed by the staff of Bok Tower Gardens. Over a 5-year monitoring period this data will help determine how successful restoration these efforts have been. Using this information, federal and state agencies can evaluate whether the Florida goldenaster can be removed from the endangered species list. Although the data are still being interpreted, these goldenasters appear to be doing very well. There were some dead plants and some sickly plants but most looked healthy and many were covered in bright yellow flowers.



The goldenaster is important as a species but is equally important in its role as a unique representative of Florida's fascinating scrub habitat. The habitat on the Southfork Tract (a SWFWMD property) is a wonderful expanse of open canopy, white sand scrub that is being managed by SWFWMD Land Manager William VanGelder. Agencies protecting natural land in Florida are under increasing pressure to cut staff and open preserves to potentially harmful uses like cattle grazing and ATV riding. Our chapter is working with SWFWMD on projects like this to support the conservation and proper management of native plant communities on public lands. FNPS volunteers are welcome to sign up for future events and spend some quality time in the scrub. Contact Daphne Lambright, daphne.lambright@verizon.net or Ron Chicone, rchicone@yahoo.com for more information.

—Submitted by D. Lambright & R. Chicone, photo by Steve Dickman

PLANT PROFILE

Common name: Eastern red-cedar

Botanical name: *Juniperus virginiana* L.

Synonyms: Formerly named *Juniperus solidicola*, Small (Bailey)

Family: Cupressaceae (Cedar)

Zone: 1 – 10 (hardiness zone map - 2006)

Plant Habit: Slow-growing, erect evergreen tree

Habitat: Beaches, coastal hammocks, shell mounds

Size: 20-60 ft. (h) by 10-30 ft. (w)

Leaves: Prickly needles on young plants; small, green, scale-like with maturity

Bark: Reddish brown, exfoliating

Fruit: Female cones are bluish-purple, berry-like; male cones are yellowish; cones appear in fall

Distribution: Throughout Florida

Growing conditions

Light: Full sun

Water: Drought tolerant

Soil: well-drained, neutral to alkaline

Propagation: Seed, cuttings

Motility: Birds spread seeds

Maintenance: None

Availability: Native plant nurseries; garden centers in November and December

Comments: Young trees are conical and often sold as Christmas trees; may cause dermatitis to sensitive skin; host for cedar-apple rust – should not be grown near haws or crabapple; provides excellent cover, food, and nesting sites for birds



References:

Nelson, Gil, 2003, *Florida's Best Native Landscape Plants*: University Press of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, 412 p.

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

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

Photo by Bob Upcavage

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"/> Individual/Renewal \$35 | <input type="checkbox"/> Not-for-profit organization \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Full time student \$15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Business or corporate \$125 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Library subscription \$15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family or household \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> Donor \$250 |
| <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

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George Kish 920-0853

Librarian

Vikki Sinclair 989-2896

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Troy Springer 967-4538

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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:

JAN 3

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: