

[www.suncoastnps.org](http://www.suncoastnps.org)

# The Suncoast Grapevine

*Newsletter of the Suncoast Native Plant Society, Inc.*



Volume 27 Number 1

JANUARY 2010

## Annual Chapter Planning Meeting

Wednesday, January 20, 2010 @ 7pm  
Hillsborough County Extension Service

To further educate our members of the inner workings of our organization, the Board of Directors has decided to conduct at least one formal business meeting a year. This month's meeting will be dedicated to discussing Suncoast Native Plant Society's financials and to present our members with the proposed budget for this year (*see page four for an early look*). Now is the time to voice your opinion on how our chapter is operated.



Committee chairs will come up and ask for input from our members about some of the programs that Suncoast is involved in. We will also take this time to see if there are new programs that Suncoast would like to pursue. Lastly, there are some committees that need to be filled. If you are interested in becoming more involved in our organization, now is a good time to join a committee that you are interested in.

One of the projects that Suncoast completed last year was to further develop of our outreach program. We received a \$1000.00 grant from FNPS for this project, and had a custom canopy top built to advertize FNPS and our chapter. If you did not have a chance to see the new canopy top at last year's fall plant sale, we will be displaying it at this month's meeting.

**We will still have our usual social period, refreshments and our plant auction. Please take this time to see what Suncoast has planned for the future and become an active participant in protecting the native plant communities of Florida!**

*- Submitted by Troy Springer*



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)

## Caladesi Island Field Trip

Our last field trip was at a place that has been one of my favorite local natural destinations, Caladesi Island State Park. When we arrived, we were given the VIP treatment. Carmel Van Hoek, our fieldtrip leader, had a plant list prepared of all the known plants on the island and the park ranger gave us an overview of what we might see as we explored the island. As an added bonus, Terry Fortner, the great granddaughter of Henry Scharrer, was there to show us some of the important historical features of the island.

The park ranger drove our group to the Scharrer home site in order to shorten our walk. We looked like a bunch of refugees crammed in the back of the park service truck as we drove through the interior of the park on our way to the home site. Once there, we began to explore the island on foot. Carmel was very knowledgeable about the plant species on the island, and some of the notable plants that we encountered were Florida mayten *Maytenus phyllanthoides*, Myrsine *Rapanea punctatum*, Coinvine *Dalbergia ecastaphyllum*, Beach tea *Croton punctatus*, and many others.

One of the more notable moments of the trip was when we visited the famous harp tree, a pine tree that splits into two trunks about five feet from the ground. This tree is the site of many historic pictures taken by the Scharrer family. We then took a stroll down the beach, in which we had the opportunity to do a little birding and shelling. The weather was marvelous that day. It was just a little overcast, and standing on the beach was almost like standing on a lake edge. It was the calmest conditions I have seen on the beach at Caladesi.

Caladesi is one beautiful place, and if you were not fortunate enough to have made this field trip, I would highly recommend that you pay it a visit. Our next field trip to a new location is just around the corner, and I encourage you to join us.

*Submitted by Troy Springer*

*Photos by Gil Nelson, Betty Wargo, Walter K. Taylor and Dennis Gerard*



### Next Field Trip: Saturday, January 23, 9:00 am Lettuce Lake Park

Winter is here in force and most of our native plants are dormant. Some lose their leaves. Some die back to the ground. A few dare to bloom! We'll walk the boardwalk and recreation trail at Lettuce Lake (on the north side Fletcher Ave. west of I-75) looking at plants in their winter modes – inspecting buds, fruits, rosettes, and other winter ID features. This is a great time of year to watch birds from the boardwalk, so come to look for limpkins, egrets, anhingas, warblers, and other birds as well as plants. Plan to meet in the first parking lot (left side of the road). Expect an easy 1.5 mile walk.

*Submitted by Shirley Denton*

## Welcome to our newest Suncoast Members joined in 2009!

- |                        |                        |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| ☼ Michele Booth        | ☼ Martha (Bunny) Worth |
| ☼ Alston Barrow        | ☼ Don Phillips         |
| ☼ Jonathan Wilson      | ☼ Devon Higginbotham   |
| ☼ Bonnie Dyson         | ☼ Rick Krikorian       |
| ☼ Val Cugat            | ☼ Mindy Moss           |
| ☼ Teresa Rosen         | ☼ John Ruiz            |
| ☼ Shannon Kitson       | ☼ Beverly Millar       |
| ☼ Richard Rauscher     | ☼ Allan Feldman        |
| ☼ Jean Hehn            | ☼ Luisa Falck Lazzara  |
| ☼ Vivian Kilgore       | ☼ Yvette Wilmath       |
| ☼ Leslie Zambito       | ☼ Ryan Iacovacci       |
| ☼ Nina Singh           | ☼ Nancy Wright         |
| ☼ Ron and Nancy Huston | ☼ Marci Wilcox         |
| ☼ Margaret Evans       | ☼ Michael Langevin     |



## And thank you to our renewing membership...

- |                                |                                 |                           |                   |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Richard and Trevetta Wunderlin | Jeff Ryan and Sheila Gobes-Ryan | Mary MacArthur            | Frank and         |
| Rita Lassiter                  | Kim Friedland                   | Joel P Cleveland          | Lucy Fuchs        |
| Mike & Barbara Fite            | David Gordon and Vivienne Handy | Patti Girard              | Todd and          |
| Jane N. Pugh                   | Merrilee A. Wallbrunn           | Mark Bossard              | Marie Greer       |
| Debbie Butts                   | Mariella Smith                  | Eddie Wall                | Rachel Longstaff  |
| Alyson Utter                   | William and Lenna Stone         | Rob Degraaf               | Gail Parsons      |
| Carmel C. Vanhoek              | Carlos Frey                     | Daphne Lambright          | Frances Wolf      |
| Joel and Barbara Jackson       | Steve Dickman                   | Jennifer Marriott         | Richard Valentine |
| Fred and Barbara Mulholland    | Harriett Wright                 | Rose Porter               | Ron Gilbert       |
| Richard and Sydney Brown       | Lucy Hoyt                       | Casey J Beavers           | Suzy Saraceno     |
| Loretta R. Hodgdon             | John and Mary Miller            | Janet Bowers              | Ron and           |
| JoAnn Hoffman                  | Lorraine Barry                  | Dan Duerr                 | Janida Thuemler   |
| Jane Halil                     | Mary Cross                      | M. (Troy) Springer        | Kate Johnson      |
| Diane W. Willis                | Amy Swancar                     | Kathleen O. Frazier       | Nancy Sappenfield |
| Betty Wargo                    | Mary Serina                     | Becki Stafford            | Shirley Pearsall  |
| Robert and Cindy Upcavage      | George R. Kish                  | Robin Carey               | Ron Chicone       |
| Shirley R. Denton              | Cliff Brown                     | James Wheeler             | Ilka Baier        |
| Jay R. Heidt                   | Margaret Belcher                | Yvette Killian            | Marcia Curl       |
| Lee R. Miller                  | Becky Sanguedolce               | Shawna Everidge           | Susan Watson      |
| Hugh and Cora Harless          | Keith and Jan Moyer             | Jonathan Toner            | Paulette Lane     |
| Vikki Sinclair                 | Marilyn Lewis                   | Gail Kruetzman            | Bob Williamson    |
| Virginia Payne                 | Patricia B. Alexander           | Michael Sutton and Alyssa |                   |
| Gayle F. Bertelstein           | Cy and Joanne Spurlino          | Getzoff                   |                   |
| Kevin W. Love                  | Jan and Jeff Means              | Wendy Anastasiou          |                   |
| Debra T. Backes                | Patricia Todd                   | Kristina Herz             |                   |
| Burns and Cathy Creighton      | Kenneth P.C. Kwo                | Allen Burdett             |                   |
| Teresa M. Nesman               | Rene Wiesner Brown              | Jean French               |                   |
| Kathy Beck                     | Carl Crosson                    | Emily and James Nelson    |                   |
| William F. Hand                | David Zapanick                  | Linda Fairbanks           |                   |
| Susan F. Johnston              | Edward H Stein                  | Bev Griffiths             |                   |



## SNPS Draft 2010 Budget

	2009		2010	2009 to 2010
	Budget	Actual	Budget	<u>% Budget Change</u>
<b>Revenue:</b>				
Membership dues	\$1,200	\$1,309	\$1,200	0%
Inventory Sales: Books	\$1,200	\$838	\$800	-50%
Inventory Sales: Seeds	\$1,200	\$1,109	\$900	-25%
Inventory Sales: Misc (t-shirts, etc.)	\$0	\$0	\$0	No Budget Amt
Special Event Fundraising: USF Plant Sales	\$7,500	\$8,037	\$8,000	7%
Contributions, gifts, grants: Plant donations	\$400	\$833	\$800	50%
Contributions, gifts, grants: Other Donations	\$0	\$1,050	\$0	No Budget Amt
Other revenue: Royalties	\$100	\$37	\$25	-75%
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$11,600</b>	<b>\$13,014</b>	<b>\$11,325</b>	<b>-2%</b>
<b>Expense:</b>				
Program Services: Newsletter expenses	\$1,450	\$785	\$1,125	-22%
Program Services: Grants	\$1,000	\$800	\$1,000	0%
Program Services: Education & Outreach	\$500	\$252	\$400	-20%
Program Services: Library	\$200	\$0	\$200	0%
Program Services: Publication committee	\$0	\$0	\$0	No Budget Amt
Program Services: Field Trip committee	\$200	\$0	\$200	0%
Program Services: Meeting expenses	\$400	\$583	\$1,100	175%
Management & General: Administration	\$700	\$959	\$1,000	43%
Management & General: Registration, Fees, Lic	\$700	\$156	\$200	-71%
Special Event Fundraising: Direct expenses	\$4,700	\$5,506	\$5,800	19%
Inventory Sales: Book purchases	\$700	\$0	\$250	-64%
Inventory Sales: Seed purchases	\$800	\$1,027	\$700	17%
Inventory Sales: Misc. purchases	\$0	\$0	\$0	No Budget Amt
<b>SNPS Equipment/Furniture</b>	<b>\$450</b>	<b>\$1,647</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>-100%</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$11,600</b>	<b>\$11,515</b>	<b>\$11,775</b>	<b>2%</b>



## PLANT PROFILE

**Common name:** Blue porterweed

**Botanical name:** *Stachytarpheta jamaicensis* (L.) Vahl

**Synonyms:** Trailing porterweed, Joee

**Family:** Verbenaceae

**Zone:** 9B-11

**Plant Habit:** Low, spreading ground cover

**Habitat:** Dunes, shell middens, pine rocklands, disturbed sites

**Size:** 2 ft (h) by 3 ft (w)

**Leaves:** Light green or gray-green, sometimes blushed with a tinge of purple; generally smooth and oblong, 1 to 4 inches long, with coarsely-toothed margins

**Bloom:** Nearly every day, a few small blue flowers bloom in a whorled arrangement, starting at the bottom of each flowering, quill-like, 5- to 10-inch long spike.

**Flowering time:** All year

### Growing conditions

**Light:** Full to part sun

**Water:** Dry to moist; intolerant of wet conditions

**Soil:** Sandy to slightly organic

**Propagation:** Self-seeding, cuttings, air layering of rooted stems

**Motility:** Usually near the parent plant

**Maintenance:** Trim back several times per year to maintain optimum flowering; cut back after frost when new growth appears

**Availability:** Native plant nurseries

**Comments:** Blue porterweed is often confused with several exotic species that are sold as native.

The exotic species are erect shrubs to 6 ft., with glossy, dark green leaves, and flowers varying from deep blue to reddish; very sensitive to cold – easily withers from a light frost.

### References:

Wunderlin, R.P. and Kish, G.R., *The Right Plants for Dry Coastal Places: Native Plant Landscaping with Salt Tolerant Plants in Central Florida* (except from draft manuscript).

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

Photo by Roger Hammer



## 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

Gail Parsons

### Publications

Dick Wunderlin 977-6484

George Kish 920-0853

### Librarian

Vikki Sinclair 989-2896

### Membership

Shirley Denton 986-6485

### Newsletter Editor

Shawna Everidge 659-4298

Mike Fite, Assistant 977-0892

### Programs and Publicity

Shirley Denton

### Outreach

Fred Mulholland

### USF Plant Sale

Troy Springer 967-4538

### USF Botanical Garden Liaison

Kim Hutton 974-2329

### Chapter Representative

Troy Springer

### Webmaster

Shirley Denton 986-6485

### Conservation

Ron Chicone

Daphne Lambright

Bob Upcavage

## Newsletter Submissions

Deadline for the next issue:

**FEB 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](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

Shirley Denton

### Secretary

Ron Chicone

### Treasurer

Daphne Lambright

### Board Members

Gail Parsons

Fred Mulholland

*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:**