

www.suncoastnps.org

The Suncoast Grapevine

Newsletter of the Suncoast Native Plant Society, Inc.



Volume 28 Number 9

September 2011

ELAPP: The Unauthorized Tour

Presented by Stephen Dickman
Wednesday, September 21st @ 7pm
Hillsborough County Extension Service

This month's program will be by Stephen Dickman, an Environmental Specialist II with the Conservation Services Section of the Hillsborough County Parks, Recreation, and Conservation Department. He will describe several native plant habitat restoration projects on Hillsborough County Environmental Lands Acquisition and Protection Program (ELAPP) properties. He'll share photos of the before, during, and after stages of the restoration process with beautiful photos of our local native plants.



Stephen has worked in the Parks, Recreation, and Conservation Department of Hillsborough County for nearly 15 years. His responsibilities include the full range of land management activities: conducting plant and animal surveys for rare, threatened, endangered, and invasive species; monitoring the progress of habitat restoration; and conducting prescribed (controlled) burns. When you have questions about the natural areas in Hillsborough County, Stephen can provide the answers (just ask my Botany students).

As a photographer, Stephen developed a keen eye for details. Through his experience photographing plants, he acquired his botanical skills through many happy hours identifying plants in the field with a dichotomous key in one hand and 10x lens in the other. He continues to expand his botanical knowledge by attending conferences, workshops, classes, field trips, plant sales, and occasional visits to USF Herbarium. Stephen also served as president of the Suncoast Chapter FNPS in 1999 and 2000.

Join us for this photographic tour of some of Hillsborough County's finest wildflowers in their natural habitats!

Submitted by Daphne Lambright



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

**Field Trip Report:
Weeki Wachee River
Saturday, August 20, 2011**

Last month's field trip to the Weeki Wachee River was one of the few paddling field trips that Suncoast offers to our members. Our normal field trip coordinator was unable to lead the trip, so I volunteered to round up the troops. Joel Jackson offered to let me join him in his very nice two man kayak, and I accepted the offer. We were joined by Bob Williamson in his single kayak, and Bunny Worth and Ruth Scalera teamed up in a canoe.

We hit the water at 8:30 in the morning, and were pretty much by ourselves on the river. The river is absolutely beautiful and crystal clear for most of the run. We saw blooming cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*) right off the bat. The swamp dogwoods (*Cornus foemina*) were some of the finest examples I have seen and seemed to be one of the dominate species along the river banks. It was also peculiar to see sand pine (*Pinus clausa*) growing just a few feet from a sweet gum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) in some places.

There were plenty of photo opportunities along the way, and I was tempted to jump out of a few trees that were 'modified' for such sport. Joel continued to encourage me to do so, but in the end, I (for once) let better judgment prevail, though we did witness a few youths jumping from a tree at the end of the run.

Towards the latter part of the run, development has obviously altered the river and the water quality began to decline. Traffic started to pick up as well. However, it did not detract from the whole experience, and all of us had a great time. Once the outfitters picked us up and returned us to our vehicles, we realized what a good decision it was to get on the water early - the parking lot was packed! It seems that Weeki Wachee State Park is a popular place for folks to visit.

Thanks to all of our participants for making this a memorable trip! Hope you join us next time!



- Submitted by Troy Springer; photos by Joel Jackson



USF UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH FLORIDA

Botanical Gardens

presents

2011

Fall Plant Festival

October 8 & 9

Saturday 10am-4pm

Sunday 10am-3pm

\$5.00 General Admission
Children under 12 and
USF Botanical Garden members
admitted free.

Over 60
Vendors!

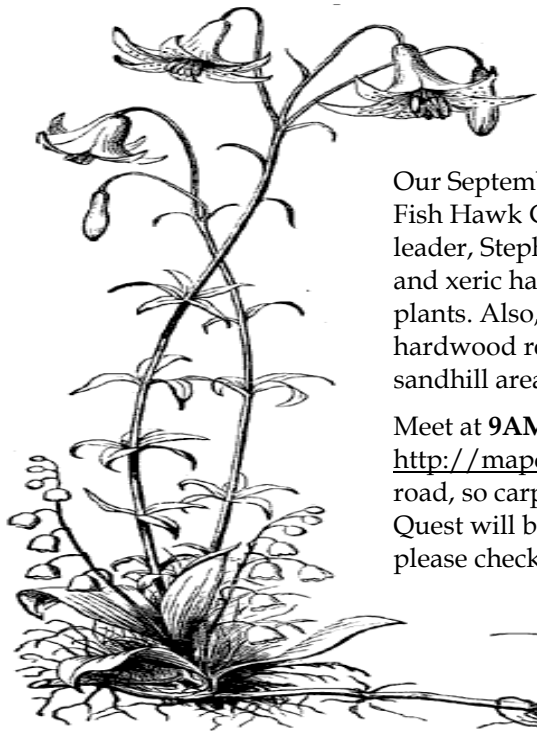
HUGE
SCARECROW
Contest

Still the Bay Area's Largest Fall Plant Sale

There will be a wide assortment of plants available such as crotons, aroids, gingers, orchids, begonias, bamboo, bonsai, fruit trees, cactus, palms, native plants, plumeria, African violets, bromeliads, herbs, succulents, and carnivorous plants.

Call 813-974-2329 or website: www.cas.usf.edu/garden
for more information.

St Petersburg Times Partnership

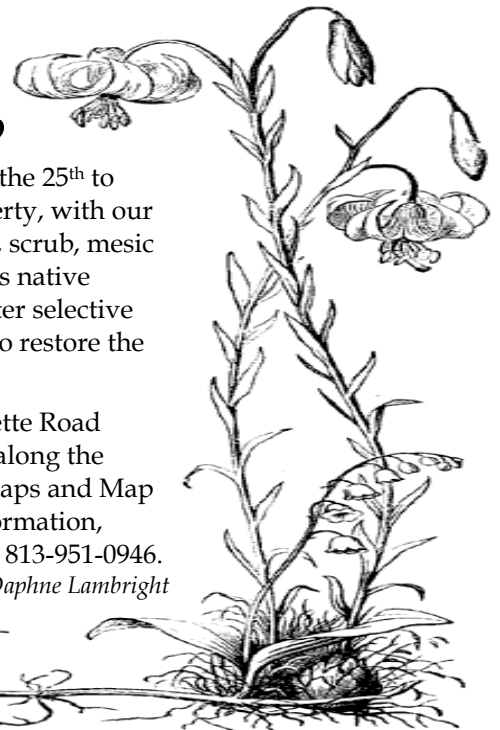


September Field Trip

Our September field trip will be on **Sunday** the 25th to Fish Hawk Creek Preserve, an ELAPP property, with our leader, Stephen Dickman. We'll see sandhill, scrub, mesic and xeric hammocks habitats with numerous native plants. Also, examples of sites before and after selective hardwood removal and prescription burns to restore the sandhill areas.

Meet at **9AM** Sunday, at the site, 16118 Boyette Road <http://mapq.st/onNEC5>. We'll be parking along the road, so carpooling is encouraged. GoogleMaps and Map Quest will both get you close. For more information, please check our website or give me a call at 813-951-0946.

- Submitted by Ron Huston and Daphne Lambright



Announcements

New Books Added to the Library

The SNPS library has acquired two new books - Best Native Plants for Southern Gardens - Gil Nelson and Bringing Nature Home - Doug Tallamy. Both books are well worth checking out. A DVD of Doug Tallamy's talk at an FNPS meeting is also available in our library. He will be the keynote speaker at the 2012 conference on Saturday, May 19, and has a important message for all backyard gardeners. Mark your calendars now and be sure to register for the conference in the spring!

Calendar items

- ☆ 9/24 Plant City Garden Club Sponsored Plant Sale, Downtown Train Depot 9am-3pm, SNPS will be selling books and seeds
- ☆ 9/25 field trip with Steve Dickman
- ☆ 10/8-9 USF plant sale - contact Troy to sign up to help, we still need volunteers!
- ☆ 10/15 Boktoberfest at Bok Tower Gardens with large plant sale from 8am-6pm

- Submitted by Janet Bowers

Seeking SNPS Board Members for 2012

The nominating process has begun for our next SNPS board of directors. Some current board members will continue to serve, but we will need several fresh faces. If you are interested in serving your chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society in this way, please call me at 813-908-9398, or email me at hw@tampabay.rr.com.

- Submitted by Harriet Wright



PLANT PROFILE

Common name: Common buttonbush

Botanical name: *Cephalanthus occidentalis* L.

Family: Rubiaceae (Madder)

Plant Habit: Medium-sized, deciduous, understory shrub

Habitat: Swamps, floodplains, lake margins

Size (h x w): 10 ft. by 8 ft.

Leaves: Opposite or in whorls of 3 or 4, simple, elliptical 3 to 6-inch long leaves

Bloom: Sessile; round ball of white flowers

Flowering time: Spring to fall

Fruit: Dense ball splitting into 2-4 nutlets

Bark: Reddish-brown and smooth; becomes ridged and furrowed with age

Distribution: Throughout Florida; eastern Canada to Florida and west to Texas

Growing conditions

Light: Part shade

Water: Wet

Soil: Organic

Propagation: Seed, stem cuttings

Motility: Self-sown seedlings and root suckers

Maintenance: Occasional pruning for shaping

Availability: Native nurseries

Comments: Obligate wetland plant - occurs almost always under natural conditions in wetlands; excellent understory shrub along a wetland

References:

- Osorio, Rufino, 2001, *A Gardener's Guide to Florida's Native Plants*: University Press of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, 345 p.
- Tobe, J.D. and others, 1998, *Florida Wetland Plants: an Identification Manual*: Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Tallahassee, Florida, 598 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, 2011, *Atlas of Florida Vascular Plants*: University of South Florida, Institute of Systematic Botany (<http://plantatlas.usf.edu/>)

Information compiled by George Kish, photo 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"/> 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

Ron Huston 951-0946

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George Kish 920-0853

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Vikki Sinclair 989-2896

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USF Plant Sales

Troy Springer 967-4538

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Kim Hutton 974-2329

Chapter Representative

Troy Springer 967-4538

Webmaster

Shirley Denton 986-6485

Conservation

Open

Newsletter Submissions

Deadline for the next issue:

OCT 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.

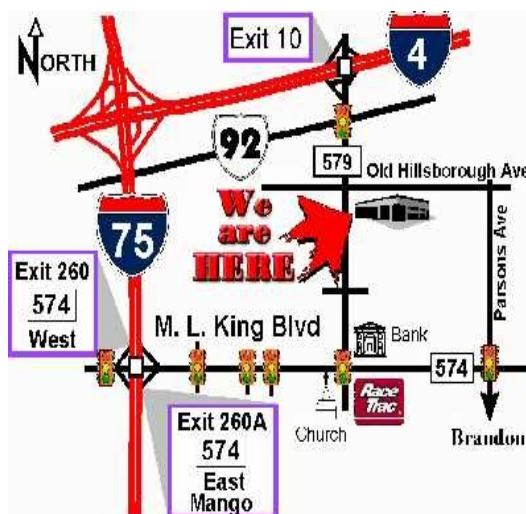
Email...

severidge@plantcitygov.com

DIRECTIONS TO:

Hillsborough County
Extension
5339 County Road 579
Seffner

Take I-4 to Exit 10 (just east of I-75). Go south for two blocks. The office is at the corner of Old Hillsborough Road and County Road 579.



Board of Directors

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Vice-president

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Board Members

Ron Huston

RonLHuston@cs.com

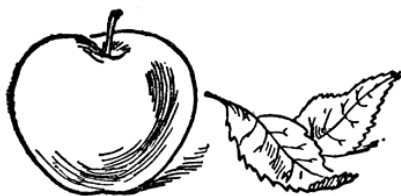
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