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The Suncoast Grapevine

Newsletter of the Suncoast Native Plant Society, Inc.



Volume 29 Number 5

MAY 2012

Sea Grass Recovery

Presented by Jim Anderson
Wednesday, May 9th @ 7pm
Hillsborough County Extension Service



They say, “necessity is the mother of invention” and in 1995, Jim Anderson was “in need”.

Jim, a sod farmer and nurseryman, was “locked out” of his favorite fishing and water skiing area because of sea grass damage. Instead of just finding another place to enjoy the water, he decided it was time to take action so he developed a system of filling cloth sleeves with sand and seed to fill the ruts left by boat propellers in the shallow waters of Tampa Bay. The seeds took root as the sleeves disintegrated. In pursuit of his hobby, Jim had founded Seagrass Recovery.

Today, Sea grass Recovery has a wide variety of patented inventions and services that provide a rapid and cost-efficient means for replanting and restoring damaged areas. They are proud to play a significant role in sea grass restoration on both the Atlantic and Gulf coasts.

Join us on May 9th to hear the intriguing story of how one man made a difference!

- Submitted by Devon Higginbotham



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

Pilgrim in the Land of Alligators A Book Review

In Klinkenberg's 2008 book, Pilgrim in the Land of Alligators, Jeff takes us on a hop, skip and a jump down memory lane to meet an arresting array of characters from Florida's more colorful past.

For those that are new to the Sunshine State: these are probably not people you have encountered before, like Al Tomaini, the circus giant at 8' 4" that started Giant's Camp Restaurant in Gibsonton along with his diminutive wife, Jeanie who was just 2'6". Or Ricou Browning, the original Gill Man from the film *Creature from the Black Lagoon*.

Those of us who grew up in Florida vaguely remember the old tales, but the magic is Klinkenberg's way of telling the story; like Babe Ruth's fear of alligators while training in St. Pete in the springtime - or Marjorie Rawling's life and writings in Cross Creek - or William De Turk the Carilloner at Bok Tower Sanctuary.

And if you are the adventurous sort, you will enjoy hearing about Greg Whidden, the wild hog catcher that used dogs to run down the feral varmints and then went in single handed to tie up the furious beasts.

So, come along for the ride and meet the weird and wonderful, eclectic mix of quirky characters from Florida's past through these 208 colorful pages that Klinkenberg has assembled for his dear readers.



Jeff Klinkenberg, author and Tampa Bay Times columnist, is the Keynote speaker at our conference on May 18th - one more reason why you won't want to miss our conference!

- Submitted by Devon Higginbotham

Preserving the
Natural Heart of
FLORIDA
FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
32nd Annual Conference
May 17-20, 2012
John R. Trinkle Center, Plant City Florida

WMNF Native Landscape Workday A Success!

I want to give a big **Thank You** to the SNPS volunteers who came out to WMNF and worked hard installing native plants. **Janet Bowers, Vicki Sinclair, Mike and Barbara Fite, John Walter, and Lara** (my fiancé) are awesome gardeners, they got right to work and knew exactly what to do. Together with WMNF volunteers **Gail Carroll** - who has been indispensable in making this project work - and her husband **Paul Carroll**, we were able to get all the plants installed in the right locations. We were also able to supply them with drip-lines from the irrigation system that has been totally refurbished and redesigned for water conservation by Paul. It looks great, and I'm really proud that SNPS has stepped up to support WMNF in their efforts to establish and maintain a native landscape that demonstrates a real commitment to the environment.

Our additions to the station include some great wildflowers like *Penstemon multiflorus*, *Flaveria linearis*, *Calamintha*, *Ruellia* and *Silphium*. We planted some *Amorpha fruticosa*, *Callicarpa* and *Yucca filamentosa*, as well as grasses and a few vines, *Eragrostis*, *Muhlenbergia* and *Bignonia capreolata*. We even did a butterfly garden with some good host plants like *Asclepias tuberosa*, *Passiflora suberosa*, and *Gnaphalium* among others.

Afterward, Paul was an excellent tour guide for our walk through of the WMNF station which is impressive; it's state of the art and very eclectic. If you don't know about WMNF, they are listener-supported, commercial-free, community radio. Their programming includes a grassroots local emphasis and their mission embraces the importance of environmentalism. The majority of their budget - 70% - is provided by donations from individual listener-supporters. They don't get funding from a university or a big company. As they say on the website, "In an age when a few large corporations own the majority of media outlets, and newsrooms are shrinking across the country, community radio is more important than ever."

- submitted by Ron Chicone; photos will follow in next month's Grapevine

Announcements

- ☆ Thank you to all who came out and helped at the USF
- ☆ Botanical Gardens Spring Plant Sale! **Janet Bowers**
- ☆ contributed the attached photo of **Ron Huston, Troy Springer and Fred Mulholland** during the calm before the storm, prior to opening on Saturday morning. These events are always a huge production, and the money we earn is essential to our yearly activities – we cannot thank all of our volunteers and members who came out to purchase enough!
- ☆ Don't forget to register for the 2012 Conference in Plant City May 17th - 20th. The Saturday night social (May 19th) at Crystal Springs still has tickets available!
- ☆ The Suncoast Conference Committee can still use some Conference volunteers! Contact **Troy Springer** if you can help at 813-967-4538 or troy@springerenvironmental.com.
- ☆ The USF Butterfly, Herb and Native Plant Fair is June 9th & 10th (Saturday and Sunday). We could use some outreach volunteers to share information about the Suncoast Chapter. We will not be selling plants, just providing information . Please sign up at an upcoming meeting if you are interested.
- ☆ The 2 winners of the 2012 FNPS Conference ticket raffle were **JoAnn Hoffman** and **Marsha Curl**. Congratulations!
- ☆ Welcome to our newest member, **Dorothy Musial**, who joined at the USF Spring Plant Sale!
- ☆ Thank you to **Barbara Fite** for doing the refreshments at the April meeting; and to **Harriett Wright, Bob Williamson** and **Fred Mulholland** for donating plants for the auction.



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Newsletter Submissions

Deadline for the next issue:

JUNE 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

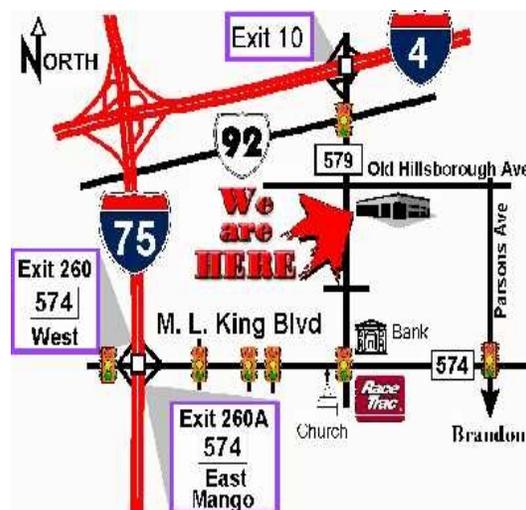
Take I-4 to Exit 10 (just east of I-75). Go south for two blocks. The office is at the corner of Old Hillsborough Road and County Road 579.

Meeting Location

The Suncoast Native Plant Society, Inc. meets the third Wednesday of the month @ 7pm @ the Hillsborough County Extension Service office in Seffner.

SNPS Web Address

<http://www.SuncoastNPS.org>



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