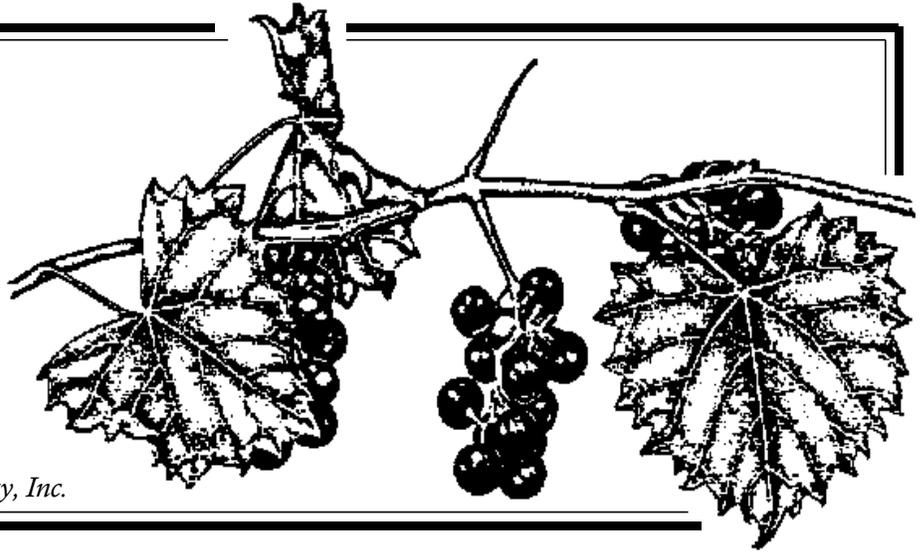


www.suncoastnps.org

The Suncoast Grapevine

Newsletter of the Suncoast Native Plant Society, Inc.



Volume 30 Number 5

May 2013



Open Mic Night
Presented by YOU



Wednesday, May 15, 2013 @ 7PM
Hillsborough County Extension Service

Even if you don't have a specimen yard like Troy's (shown in the picture), please come and share your yard with us. We can all learn from your successes and times when the results were not what you hoped for. Bring your pictures on a USB drive and plan to talk about 5-8 minutes. We will try to answer any questions that you have about natives. Looking for the perfect plant for a spot in your yard—come and get help from our members.

If you don't have natives in your yard but would like to try some— come for our native plant auction after the presentation. We usually have many great plants at a bargain price. Try some natives in your yard without making a big investment. We have native plant experts, light snacks and lots of friendly people!

- Submitted by Janet Bowers



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



USF Spring Plant Sale

Spring would not be the same without a plant sale at the USF Botanical Gardens. This year's sale which was held April 13th and 14th was put on by a very effective group of SNPS volunteers. Everything about this sale went very smoothly. It was perhaps one of the smoothest running sales that I have been involved with.

The BOD did a fantastic job making the necessary preparations before the sale. Never have the plants been so well labeled. We did a much better job of pricing the plants correctly, and we made some much needed refinements to our price tracking system. Also, this year we had a healthy roster of volunteers to adequately run the sale in every capacity. To top it off, the weather ended up being beautiful during the sale. There were some concerns that we would get rain, but luckily it never happened.

I want to thank Mike Fite, Bunny Worth, and Nancy Wright for setting up on Friday. We got so much done that afternoon that it made for a much less stressful Saturday morning. The display of plants looked great. Once the plants were set out, I made a last minute decision to purchase a few more plants. I am always nervous that I do not have a large enough inventory. I think it was a good decision.

Saturday morning we had our last delivery of plants to set out. We still had more plants to price and label correctly, set up our outreach display, and have our cashiers ready for business. This is typically some of the more harrowing moments of the sale where things can go wrong. This year there were only a few adjustments needed after the doors opened for business.

As soon as our doors opened, our cashier, sales, and outreach staff did a wonderful job taking care of customers, checking them out accurately and swiftly, and reorganizing the display as plants were sold. Thank you Janet Bowers, Gar and Eileen Reed, Harriett Wright, Mary Miller, Steve Dickman, Jane Halil, Joanne Kitchen, Fred and Barbara Mulholland, and Devon Higginbotham for all the work you did to make such an organized, efficient, and stress free day.

Sunday morning we got to work reorganizing the display. Many plant species were sold out by Sunday, but there were still plenty of plants to be had. Sales were a little slower than we had hoped, but we still managed to reduce our inventory. Once the sale was over, we had a nice sized crew to break down the display and get the unsold plants back in the trailer. A big thank you goes to Gar and Eileen Reed, Daphne Lambright, Shirley Denton, Janet Bowers, Vikki Sinclair, Amy Swancar, and Nancy Wright for running the sale on Sunday as well as breaking it down and hauling everything away. I would like to recognize our plant vendors Farnsworth Farms, Sweet Bay Nursery, Cypress Acres Nursery, Green Seasons Nursery, Pine Lily Nursery, and Springer Environmental Services for supplying our plants. Like always, we have one of the most diverse plant selections available for a plant sale. Also, thanks goes to Cliff Brown for donating the very nice Tillandsias. They were a big hit.

With all the preparations came great rewards. Sales were very brisk on Saturday, with the usual slow down on Sunday. It was not a record breaking sale like the miracle sale we had a few years ago, but because we had done our homework so well, it became a very profitable sale for SNPS compared to other years. Each year the sale is more refined, more organized, and easier to run. We seem to get better and better at it.

-Submitted by Troy Springer

Note from the Editor

I'm glad to see the plant sale over, we had more than 120 different species and I think we were only missing 1 profile. It's been an unusually wet April and my yard is looking amazing! I have lots of natives blooming, including coral bean, green eyes, skullcap, black-eyed susan, swamp dogwood, sparkleberry, coreopsis, coral honeysuckle, blanket flower, twin flower, Hercules club and penstamon. I hope you get a chance to go on the May 11 buying trip—I got some great plants there last year including a tarflower plant that is still alive (it is notoriously hard to grow).

See you at the state conference, I am looking forward to the journaling session as well as the great speakers and socials.



- Janet Bowers, Grapevine editor



Letter from the President

May 2013

The summer of 2011 my husband and I took a road trip to Denver. We were delivering our old Astro van to our son in California. The deal was we took it as far as Colorado and our son would drive it the rest of the way.

Along the way I couldn't help but notice the huge right-of-ways mowed by municipalities, some stretching the length of football fields. "It must be an incredible expense", I railed, "at a time when most counties and cities were strained financially, and it's so unattractive". I tried to consider the logical reasons like trees falling on the roadway in storms, but it still didn't make sense.

Then, last month, I received an email from the Florida Wildflower Foundation about their Roadside Wildflower Resolution. After reading the commitment, I forwarded it to our county commissioner and asked him what he thought. A couple weeks later, I was informed the Resolution was on the county agenda for adoption.

May 15th, Hillsborough County will be adopting the Florida Roadside Wildflower Resolution, making us the 25th county in the state to do so. This resolution commits to the conservation of roadside native wildflowers with efforts to reduce mowing to allow native wildflowers to flourish.

Join me and Lisa Roberts with the Florida Wildflower Federation on May 15th at County Center, at 1:45PM, when we take the first step toward the preservation of native plants on county roadways.

Devon Higginbotham

Thanks for helping with the April meeting to -



Joanne Kitchen for bringing the refreshments.
Fred Mulholland, Mary Miller & Harriett Wright for providing plants for the auction.

Fred did double duty as a donator and the auctioneer in Joel's absence.
There were some great bargains on the 37 plants for sale!

2013 Green Palmetto Award

The Suncoast chapter of FNPS is very proud to announce that we are the recipients of the 2013 Green Palmetto Award for the chapter category. We have been awarded this honor because of our immensely successful 2012 conference and we will be presented this award at the upcoming 2013 conference this month in Jacksonville. If you are planning to attend this year's conference, please make time to attend the awards ceremony!





Read any good books lately?

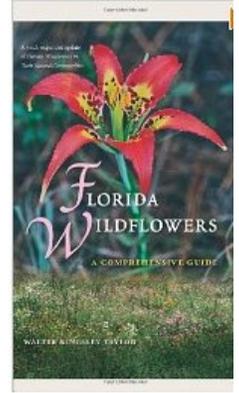
Dr. Walter Kingsley Taylor has a new book - Florida Wildflowers A Comprehensive Guide, the updated version of his Florida Wildflowers in Their Natural Communities. Devon and I heard him speak about it last month at the FNPS Heartland chapter meeting at the Circle B Bar Reserve. There was a big turnout to hear him, about 50 people attended. Along with many new photos, the book has updated plant community information and a new Wetland section. Dr. Taylor spoke about several areas in North Florida that are unique and have plants found nowhere else in Florida. Then he talked about Florida scrub, an area closer to home especially for Polk county. He highlighted some of the many re-classifications due to DNA analysis in his usual entertaining manner.

These changes include -

- Elderberries and Viburnums are now in the Adoxaceae family
- Milkweeds are now in Apocynaceae (not Asclepiadaceae)
- Scrophulariaceae species are now divided amongst 3 families
- Many of the Aster species' names have changed

Dr. Taylor scolded us but at the same time encouraged us to get out and visit more Florida natives, he was inspiring and it was great to hear him talk again. Devon and I bought copies of the book at the meeting. I recommend that everyone take a look at it and get a copy if possible. I will be ordering copies for SNPS to sell and hopefully one of them will become a part of the SNPS library.

-Submitted by Janet Bowers



Ink cartridges no longer needed

A special thanks to Susan Watson for all of her cartridge donations. Over the years, many people have donated to defray the Grapevine printing costs and we appreciate it. We no longer need them. Staples has changed their policy and now requires that we purchase cartridges from them to qualify for this rebate (and we don't).



Dates to remember

May 11 Buying Trip (**this is a week early**)

May 11 annual Letter Carrier's FOOD DRIVE for our local food pantries. Put your non-perishable donation in a bag by your mailbox

May 15 Hillsborough County Center, at 1:45PM, Hillsborough County will be adopting the Florida Roadside Wildflower Resolution

May 16-19 FNPS Conference—Jacksonville

June 8-9 Butterfly, Herb and Native Plant Fair at USF—please let Devon know if you can help man our booth. Hours are 10-4 Sat and 10-3 Sun. We will do outreach and sell seeds & books.

BOD news

- ☆ SNPS purchased a new PC recently, if you came to the April meeting then you saw it in action. Many thanks to Shirley Denton for recommending and buying the PC
- ☆ We got a larger order printed (1,000 copies) of our 'Intro to Natives' handout to save money and allow us to give copies to Lettuce Lake Park for distribution on the weekends.
- ☆ Devon gave another Natives talk on April 20





May 11 - Buying trip: Green Isle Gardens Native Nursery

Address: 11303 Florida 33, Groveland, FL 34736

Phone: (407) 948-8980

Time: We'll be meeting at **10:00 AM** at the nursery
Shirley Denton is the trip leader (986-6485)

Highway 33 is east of Lakeland, go north from I-4. Marc and Terry Godts are the owners and were very welcoming to SNPS last year. Don't forget to stop by the Red Wing restaurant for lunch before you drive home.

Please Note—this is the weekend before our Meeting



Fieldtrips

May 16-19 See you at the FNPS conference! Check out the great fieldtrips near Jacksonville.

June 22 Colt Creek State Park. Green Swamp east of Zephyrhills. We will visit a hammock with cabbage palms and ancient live oaks. This is a very easy walk (approximately half mile) on groomed trail with an opportunity to extend the walk several miles along trails through a variety of habitats (trail condition variable). Picnic area and restrooms available. Entry fee (\$4.00/car)

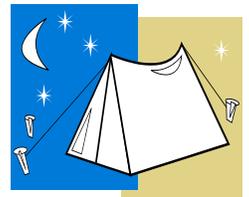
July 20 Cypress Creek Preserve. There are several good options available to us at this preserve located in North Tampa. We will choose the specific location depending on weather and site condition. Both options are shady

Aug 24 Upper Tampa Bay Park with a potential extension to an adjacent Hillsborough County Preserve. We will walk a trail that leads through coastal hammock out to a boardwalk through salt marsh. Expect a 2.5 mile walk. Restrooms and picnic area available.

Sept 21 Bell Creek Preserve. We will be looking for blooming pine lilies. We will also keep our eyes open for early fall bloomers. Florida golden aster is found at this site and there is the potential that a few may be in bloom (primary bloom time is October).

Oct 19 Lake Dan. There are excellent xeric uplands on this site as well as Lake Dan. This is a new addition to the Hillsborough County preserve system.

Nov 2-3 Overnight Camping Kissimmee Prairie State Park Camping. Reservations required. This weekend was chosen both for anticipated fall wildflowers and for dark skies. The park is noted for being a wonderful place for stars, and we are planning to be there at the new moon. The park features a broad expanse of dry prairie. **Please contact Shirley Denton and let her know if you are interested.**



Nov 16 Green Swamp— Fall wildflowers should be at their best. We will plan the specific location based on where recent burns have been conducted. **This trip is a week earlier than usual to avoid Thanksgiving week.**

Field Trip to Brooker Creek Headwaters Preserve April 20



The hardy travelers (Bunny Worth)

I had a bad attitude that week about this field trip knowing that the weather would be humid and sunny with off trail hiking through the open areas of mesic pine flatwoods and swamps. Thankfully, Mother Nature took pity on our group of six and provided us with temperatures in the low 70's, a gray cloudy day with a breeze. Perfect hiking weather and lousy picture taking weather!

Pitcher plant (Mike Fite)



Lady tresses (Mike Fite)

During the first segment, trip leader Steve Dickman took us to where the hooded pitcher plants live. There were many of them in the dry swamps. Yes, the swamps were dry. This means no mosquitoes! Some of the other plants seen were sundews, bachelor buttons, *Yucca filamentosa*, lady tresses orchids and liverworts. This concluded the first three and half hours of the hike.

Up next was an optional two hour trip into the swamps. Four of decided to go for it and we said goodbye to the other two trippers. Steve led us to some *Rose pogonia* ground orchids and Threadroot tree orchids. Many *Tillandsias* were also seen among the very stout *Smilax* vines.



Yucca filamentosa with buds (Mike Fite)

After returning to the trail head some of the group ate their lunch at the preserve's picnic table, thinking about the plants that they had seen and wishing that they could remember all their names.



Rose pogonia (Mike Fite)

-submitted by Mike Fite

Plant Profile

Common name: Lizard's Tail

Botanical name: *Saururus cernuus* L.

Family: Saururaceae

Type of plant: Aquatic perennial herb.

Size: 12-36 inches (h).

Leaves: Alternate, simple, ovate, pointed, heart-shaped, entire, up to 6 inches long and 3 inches wide, drooping.

Flower: White, drooping, showy spikes up to 6 inches long.

Flowering time: May to September.

Fruit: Wrinkled, somewhat fleshy, small fruit.

Habitat/distribution: Margins of shallow standing water or streams; swamps, marshes; zones 8-10.

Landscape use: Accent plant in water garden or pond margin; can be adapted to ordinary garden conditions but extra moisture will be needed.

Cultivation:

Soil: Rich, organic soil or muck.

Light: Full to part sun.

Water: Very wet to seasonally flooded or standing water.

Propagation: By division.

Availability: Some native plant nurseries.

References:

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

U.S. Department of Agriculture, No date, *Southern Wetlands Flora: Field Office Guide to Plant Species*: USDA Soil Conservation Service, South National Technical Center, Fort Worth, Texas, U.S. Geological Survey Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center home page, Jamestown, ND, www.npwr.usgs.gov/resource/1999/soutflor/soutflor.htm.

Information gathered by George Kish (from the June 2002 Grapevine)



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

Shirley Denton 986-6485
Steve Dickman 326-0221

Publications

Dick Wunderlin 977-6484
George Kish 920-0853

Librarian

Vikki Sinclair 989-2896

Membership

Debbie Butts

Newsletter Editor

Janet Bowers 759-2822
Mike Fite, Assistant 977-0892

Programs

Cliff Brown 810-3211

Publicity/ social media

Jabari Lee

Outreach

TBD

USF Plant Sales

Troy Springer 967-4538

USF Botanical Garden Liaison

Kim Hutton 974-2329

Chapter Representative

Devon Higginbotham 478-1183

Webmaster

Ron Huston 951-0946

Newsletter Submissions

Deadline for the next issue:

June 1 2013

Please send articles and original artwork for The Suncoast Grapevine to **Janet Bowers**, by the deadline above. **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-

jbowers27@yahoo.com

DIRECTIONS TO:

Hillsborough County
Extension
5339 County Road 579
Seffner

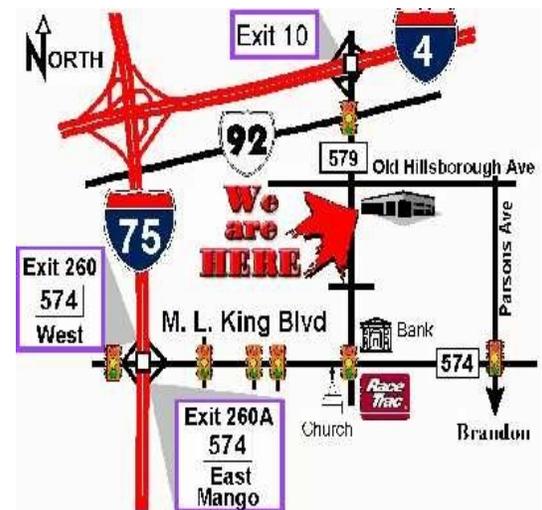
Take I-4 to Exit 10 (just east of I-75). Go south for two blocks. The office is at the corner of Old Hillsborough Road and County Road 579.

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>



Board of Directors

President

Devon Higginbotham
archiveproperties@gmail.com

Vice-president

Cliff Brown
Cliffbr@Tampabay.rr.com

Secretary

Janet Bowers
jbowers27@yahoo.com

Treasurer

Gar Reed
gar0426@yahoo.com

Board Members

Debbie Butts
debbutts1@verizon.net

Daphne Lambright
daphne.lambright@verizon.net

Suncoast Chapter of Florida Native Plant Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 1158
Seffner, FL 33583-1158



Please deliver to: