

www.suncoastnps.org

The Suncoast Grapevine

Newsletter of the Suncoast Native Plant Society, Inc.



Volume 30 Number 9

September 2013



Photo by Shirley Denton

The Rose Family

Presented by Dr. Craig Huegel

**Wednesday, September 18, 2013 @ 7PM
Hillsborough County Extension Office**

Local author, Dr. Huegel will be our September speaker. He will be speaking about the rose family which includes the hawthorns, some of his favorite plants. Dr. Craig Huegel is an ecologist/naturalist with extensive training and experience in wildlife and plant ecology, natural lands management, growth management and the impacts of urbanization on natural resources, ecological interpretation, and environmental education.

He founded the Wildlife Cooperative Extension Program at the University of Kentucky and cofounded the Urban Wildlife Cooperative Extension Program at the University of Florida. As Administrator of Pinellas County's Environmental Lands Division, Dr. Huegel directed the development of natural resource inventories, land management and restoration plans, public-use trails, and educational programs, as well as providing administrative direction to a complex program.

Currently, he owns his own environmental consulting business and serves as an adjunct instructor at St Petersburg College's Baccalaureate Biology program where he teaches a wide variety of natural sciences courses. He has written four books related to native plants and wildlife, has contributed significantly to a number of other books and publications, and has written extensively in scientific and general publications on a wide range of conservation topics.

- submitted by Cliff Brown



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 Fall Plant Sale

It's that time again, the SNPS semi-annual fund raising, plant sale needs Your support. October 12-13 is the actual sale.

We need people to help set up Thursday and Friday. Saturday and Sunday cashiers and people to help the shoppers are needed as well as helpers to pack everything up Sunday afternoon. Plant specialists can help with the plant profiles preparation and matching to the plants for sale.

Please contact Troy Springer at (813) 967-4538 for more information and to sign up.



ELAPP Photo Contest Unlocks Hillsborough County Natural Treasures – Photos Due By Sept. 27

Unlock Hillsborough County's natural treasures by participating in the 2014 Environmental Lands Acquisition and Protection Program's (ELAPP) Calendar Photo Contest that highlights Hillsborough County's ELAPP sites. All photographers both amateurs and professionals, are invited to submit photos.

Photographs must be submitted via email from Aug. 23 – Sept. 27 to Ross Dickerson, Parks, Recreation and Conservation Department. Voting on the County's Facebook page runs from Aug. 26 – Oct. 4. Qualifying photos will be posted on the County's Facebook Page on a weekly basis. The public can vote for their favorite photos.

Prizes include a guided canoe tour at Cockroach Bay, a guided bird tour of a County Preserve, a guided nature walk at a County Preserve, a prize from the Carrollwood Cultural Center, and more. Besides being included in the 2014 ELAPP Calendar, the top 12 photos could be featured in County Center, posted on the County's website, and used in other Hillsborough County publications.

From Hillsborough County website- www.hillsboroughcounty.org



Thanks for helping with the August meeting to -

Cliff Brown & Janet Bowers for providing plants for the auction.

Debbie Butts & Cliff Brown for bringing the refreshments

Note from the Editor

We have several people signed up for the Overnight Fieldtrip but would be happy to see more people sign up. I was very leery about camping until June 2012, the only camping I had done was with the Girl Scouts as a teenager. My keen desire to attend the multi-day Bonnaroo music festival gave me the first taste of camping. Yes, there were some things (like the port-o-lets) that were less than wonderful but I had an air mattress and a leak free tent so life was good. If you haven't been camping in a while, don't let that stop you from experiencing the outdoors with some other great plant lovers. The skies are prime at Kissimmee Prairie for star gazing and at a minimum, you will have stories to tell about the adventure. Please consider joining us, we have had a great year of fieldtrips and this will be another one not to miss.

- Janet Bowers, Grapevine editor



I often think Suncoast NPS is kind of like Wikipedia. We are full of volunteers with a wealth of knowledge, willing to share it with others.

No matter how difficult the question, I am always amazed that one of our members will have the answer to some obscure question posed by a homeowner at the USF Plant Sale. While I am hemming and hawing (that moment when my mouth stalls for a moment while my mind searches for anything intelligent to say), someone standing by my side will know a *Sagittaria lancifolia* from a *Sagittaria latifolia*, or whether a particular Privet is male or female.

On field trips there are always several very knowledgeable members assisting us not-so-well-informed, with a thoughtful, "glad I could help" attitude. It's impossible NOT to learn something new from our speakers who volunteer their time to share what they know from years of study and research.

Let's not forget the plant un-loaders, cashiers, plant labelers, table erectors, snack bringers, planners, supply procurers, set up crew, clean-up crew, sign makers, librarian, plant propagators, drivers, writers, printers, website people and those that keep us on track, up to date and out of trouble.

My hat goes off to all of you! Thanks for being so generous with your time and so willing to share. For the past 30 years, Suncoast has been helping Hillsborough move toward a more natural, native environment and protecting those that still exist. In some small way, I believe, we are helping to save the world.

If everyone does a little, no one has to do a lot (geez, now I sound like my mother).

Margaret Mead, the Cultural Anthropologist, once said, "**Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.**"

Devon Higginbotham



Bok Tower News

One a recent trip across the state on Route 60, I stopped to check one of my favorite places. As a Ridge Ranger volunteer, I spent many hours at Bok Tower weeding and helping Cindy Campbell as needed. You may think of Bok as full of exotic flowering plants but the endangered plant garden and the area around it is filled with natives. Several things were blooming when I stopped there a few weeks ago- *Liatris* and *Scrub buckwheat* being the most obvious.

There is a new garden on the drive up to the main parking lot. Sponsored by the Florida Wildflower Foundation and other donations, it has wildflowers such as *garberia*, *partridge pea* and other scrub plants.

--submitted by Janet Bowers



Read any good books lately?

I'd love to hear from other readers - what plant or science book are you reading? I recently re-discovered the FNPS Sabal Minor newsletter. I think I lost track of it when it stopped getting mailed to me and was only on-line. I actually printed out the 2013 editions and read them all. I enjoyed reading the Chapters' section and state wide news about progress being made in preserving and restoring natives. Give it a read!

-submitted by Janet Bowers

New on the FNPS.org website

Check out the Florida map where you can see parks, gardens and other Hot spots that highlight natives in the state. You can find the maps under the RESOURCE tab ('Hot spots' & 'Gardens with Natives'). While you are at FNPS, be sure to read the FNPS blog. If you are a Facebook user, please 'like' FNPS and the Suncoast chapter of FNPS.

Hernando Chapter Meeting

The October 7th meeting speaker is Brian Smith of the Florida Greenways & Trails Foundation. Brian's presentation will be an overview of the coast-to-coast trail project. This project will connect 14 existing trails and provide a trail opportunity for people to travel from the East Coast to West Coast of Florida. Beginning in the Space Coast area the trail will eventually connect with the Pinellas Trail on the west coast. Brian's presentation will review the project, its goals, and the means by which these goals will be accomplished. He will also discuss ways that groups such as the Florida Native Plant Society can help.

Our regular monthly meetings are held at 7:00 PM, on the first Monday of the month at the Hernando County Mining Association Enrichment Center, 800 John Gary Grubs Blvd., Brooksville, FL 34601. Come as early as 6:30 for a bite to eat and a bit of socializing. Questions should be directed to hcfnps@gmail.com.

-submitted by Mark Hutchinson

Boots on the Ground: 2013 Audubon Assembly

When: Friday, October 25-26, 2013

Where: Innisbrook Resort and Golf Club, Palm Harbor, Florida

(30 minutes from downtown Tampa)

What: The 2013 Audubon Assembly is a celebration of the people who put their "boots on the ground" for conservation. Get inspired and get involved in citizen science, habitat stewardship, and grassroots advocacy.

To register, or for more information, please visit:
<http://bit.ly/AudubonAssembly2013>

-submitted by Jonathan Webber



Dates to remember

Sept. 17 Carlton Ward at the Seffner Public Library, 5:30

Sept. 28 National Public Lands Day

Sept. 28 Plant City Garden festival

Oct. 4-6 2nd Annual Wings and Wildflowers Festival in Tavares, FL

Oct 5. Pinellas Chapter- 7th Annual Native Plant Landscape Tour

Oct 12-13 USF Plant Sale



September 21 - Bell Creek Preserve

Location: Address: 11910 Tucker Rd, Riverview Fl 33569.
Time: 9:00 AM



Marion Rodgers Middle School is on Tucker Rd. A Walk-through entrance to preserve is at the dead end of Tucker Rd.

Surrounded by an ocean of houses, the Bell Creek Preserve is an area of nearly 600 acres and hosts a mix of habitats including scrub, sandhills, flatwoods, pasture, freshwater marsh, ponds and seepage slopes. Some endemic and listed plant species calling Bell Creek Preserve home include the endangered Florida golden aster (*Chrysopsis floridana*), the threatened Sandhill spiny pod (*Matelea pubiflora*) and nodding pinweed (*Lechea cernua*). But the primary goal will be to observe the threatened Catesby's lily (*Lilium catesbaei*) in bloom. A meadow harboring a healthy stand of pine lilies is slightly less than a mile's walk from the dead end of Tucker Rd.

A hat and sunscreen are suggested.

Field trip co-chair - Shirley Denton 986-6485



Upper Tampa Bay Fieldtrip - August

It was evident by the mangroves and tiny crabs that we were close to salt water. Our trip to Upper Tampa Bay park was quite different than our inland trips. Despite the heat, we had a good time on the 3 short walks through different habitats. On the Otter Trail, we saw false indigo, ironweed, lots of coral bean, white top aster, morning glories, liatris and goldenrod.

There is an air-conditioned nature center with some nice aquariums and other displays. The building makes for a good 'cooling off' stop.

We also noticed a somewhat overgrown 'Butterfly garden' full of natives (including Spanish needles). Porterweed, good looking fire bush, necklace pod, coral honeysuckle and some other plants seemed to be part of the original design. Luckily, there was no SNPS sign so we didn't feel responsible for the heavy duty weeding that was needed.

On the Eagle trail, a few of us saw Sea Oxeye daisy, more mangroves and buttonwoods. Please see our MEETUP group site for more photos.

-submitted by Janet Bowers

Future Fieldtrips

(Field trip info is also listed on suncoastnps.org and Meetup!)

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.

Oct 25-27 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, be prepared to pay for a campsite.**



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.**

Flowers of the Aster Family

A friend of mine who used to give plant lectures to various groups, sometimes liked to begin her talks by holding up a “flower” of Spanish Needles, *Bidens alba*, and asking her audience how many flowers she was holding up. Some brave guessers would call out, “one!” , while others remained silent knowing that there must be a trick involved. The truth was that each “flower” was really an inflorescence typical of plants in the Aster Family, and consisting upwards of 40-50 individual flowers inserted onto a receptacle or disc that was surrounded by a series of bracts called phyllaries. This type of inflorescence is known as a “head”. Most individual flowers in a head are fitted with pollen-bearing anthers and a pollen-receptive stigma attached to an ovary that, if fertilized, could become a seed-bearing fruit called an achene. As most flowers are generally equipped with a calyx, aster flowers have calyces modified into awns, scales or bristles that are called pappus which, attached to the fruit, will aid in fruit dispersal. The pappus of *Bidens alba* are 2-4 barbed awns that stick readily to one’s socks.

Inflorescences of the aster family are made up of 2 different kinds of flowers in several styles of arrangements. One style is ligulate with every flower having one petal or ray. Several examples of ligulate heads are Rose-Rush, *Lygodesmia aphylla*, and the Virginia Dwarf Dandelion, *Krigia virginica*. This type of aster usually has milky sap. A second style is made up entirely of disc flowers and the arrangement is said to be discoid. Disc flowers are quite small, tubular in shape and have 5 tiny petals. Examples of discoid heads are the Ironweeds, *Vernonia spp.*, and Blazing-Stars, *Liatris spp.* A third style is called radiate; it has an arrangement of ray flowers encircling the disc flowers. Examples of radiate heads are the Ironweeds, *Vernonia spp.*, and Blazing-Stars, *Liatris spp.*

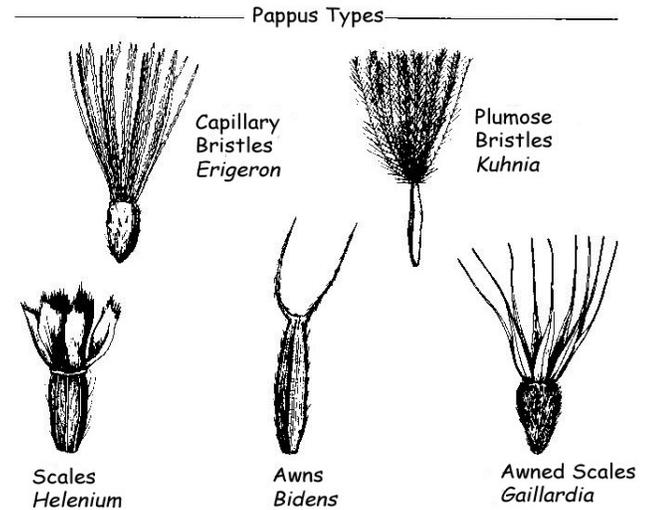
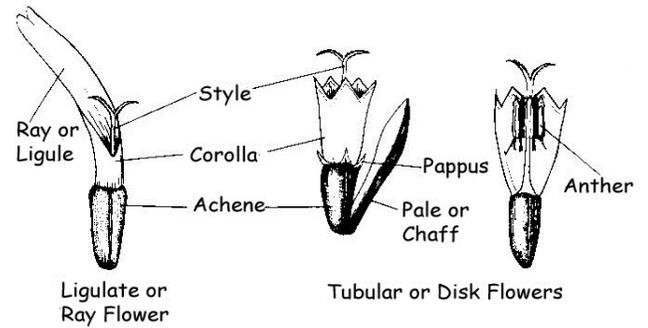


Figure 16. Compositae—flowers and pappus

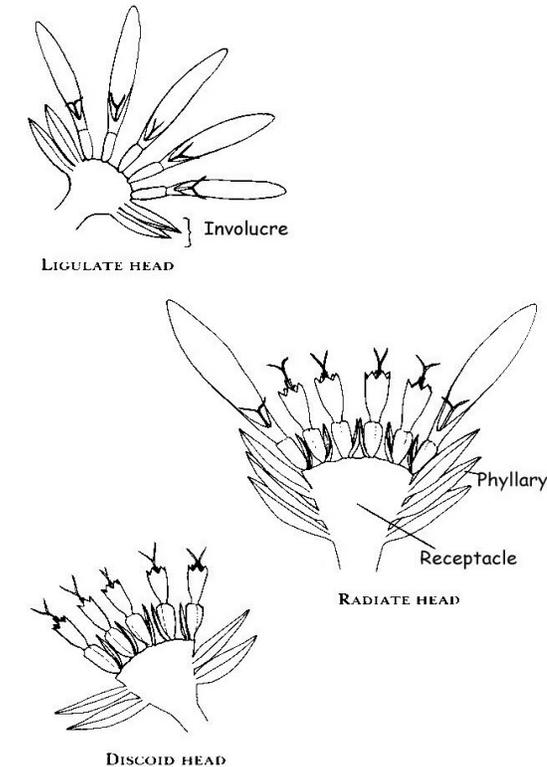


Figure 17. Compositae—types of heads

Autumn is right around the corner and will soon dazzle us with purple, yellow and occasional white flowers of the Aster Family. Many of these flowers will be blooming right in your gardens.

The fragile flowers of Rose-Rush are ligulate, the achenes narrow and about as long as the white-bristled pappus that carry it about in the wind.

Starry Rosinweed is blooming now; notice the wide bracts of the phyllaries; it has a radiate inflorescence of both ray and disc flowers; the achene is flattened and winged and it has 2 awns for a pappus.

Ironweeds are beginning to bloom. They have a discoid inflorescence, its pappus is purple or tawny-colored and double with an outer pappus of scales and an inner pappus of capillary bristles; its achene is grooved.

As long as you’re not dealing with endangered plants don’t be shy about tearing open flowers in the aster family and studying their flower parts with a magnifying lens. You will find out how they attract pollinators, how they spread their fruits, and how to recognize them by their type of inflorescences.

-Submitted by Carmel vanHoek

Diagrams courtesy of Andre Clewell

Plant Profile

- Common Name: **False Indigobush**
- Botanical Name: **Amorpha fruticosa L.**
- Family: **Fabaceae (Pea)**
- Type of Plant: A bushy shrub
- Size: 5 to 12 feet high, with the crown about as wide
- Leaves: Deciduous, alternate, made up of 13 to 23 leaflets (odd-pinnately compound)
- Flowers: Spike-like racemes of dark purple flowers with contrasting bright yellow-orange anthers at the ends of the branches (terminal).
- Flowering time: Spring-summer.
- Fruit: 1 to 2-seeded, small, curved pods dotted with glands
- Habitat/distribution: Hammocks and stream banks throughout the state.
- Soil: Sandy, somewhat calcareous
- Light: Light to moderate shade.
- Water: Drought-tolerant, but will need more water if planted in full sun.
- Propagation: Scarification of seed.
- Availability: Some native plant nurseries



References:

Baker, Mary Francis, 1938, *Florida Wild Flowers*: The MacMillan Company, New York, New York, page 105.
Osorio, Rufino, 2001, *A Gardener's Guide to Florida's Native Plants*: University Press of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, page 156.

Wunderlin, Richard P., 1998, *Guide to the Vascular Plants of Florida*: University Press of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, page 343.

Information compiled by Carmel vanHoek (from 2003 Newsletter)

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:

Individual/Renewal \$35

Full time student \$15

Library subscription \$15

Family or household \$50

Contributing \$75

Life \$1,000

Not-for-profit

organization \$50

Business or

corporate \$125

Supporting \$100

Donor \$250

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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Steve Dickman 326-0221

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George Kish 920-0853

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Publicity/ social media

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Outreach

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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:

October 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

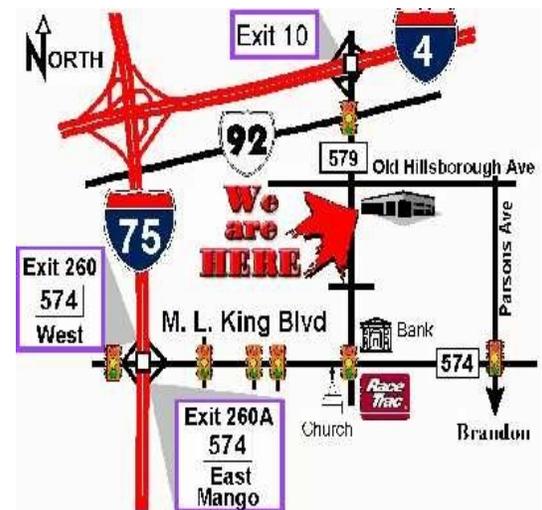
Take I-4 to Exit 10 (just east of I-75). Go south for two blocks. The office is at the corner of Old Hillsborough Road and County Road 579.

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>



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