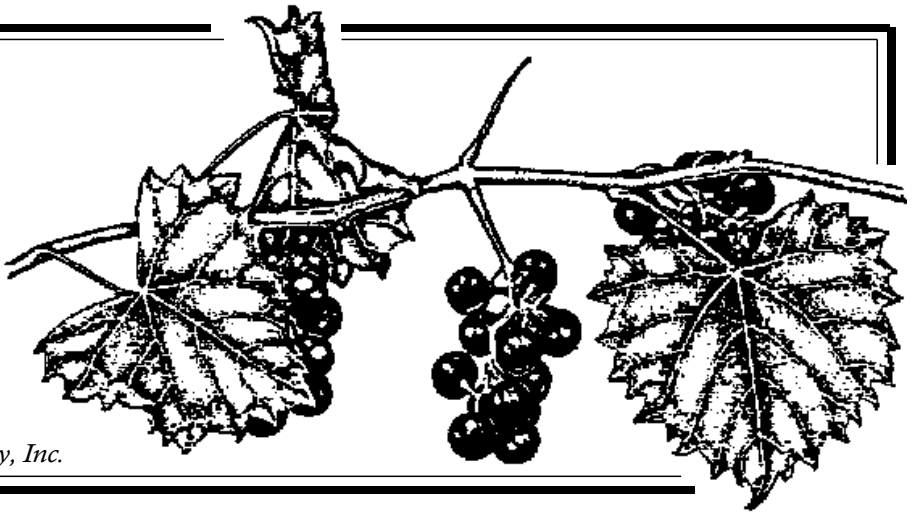


# The Suncoast Grapevine

Newsletter of the Suncoast Native Plant Society, Inc.



Volume 31 Number 8

August 2014



## Rare Plant Conservation Update

Presented by Juliet Rynear

Wednesday, August 20, 2014, 7 PM

One of the most unique ecosystems in the world is in central Florida, the Lake Wales Ridge, a sandy scrub area, is home to many plants found nowhere else. The biologists at Bok Tower are studying and working to preserve some of these rare local species. They also work on some plants in conjunction with the Center for Plant Conservation, based in St. Louis. About 64 of Florida's rarest plant species are housed at Bok Tower Gardens. More information can be found at <http://boktowergardens.org/conservation/>.

SNPS members have helped with some of these efforts - Carmel vanHoek helps with the annual bellflower survey and several people have helped with the *Chrysopsis floridana* propagation, restoration and monitoring project. Juliet will give us updates on the status of some of the plants being conserved as part of Bok Tower's mission.

Juliet Rynear is the Rare Plant Specialist at Bok Tower Gardens in Lake Wales, Florida. Her work in the Rare Plant Conservation Program includes research on Florida's rare plants and their habitats and the development of protocols for nursery propagation and introduction of new populations onto protected lands. She is also Chair of the Conservation Committee for FNPS.



Our meetings include light refreshments and a native plant auction after the speaker. We have many knowledgeable members who will help you with your native plant questions. Please come and join us.

- 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](http://www.fnps.org)



## SAVE THE DATE : USF FALL PLANT SALE October 11 & 12



We will be looking for volunteers to help -

- ☆ Set up, price, profile all the plants - Friday morning (10/10)
- ☆ Set up the tent, tables, displays - Saturday (10/11)
- ☆ Cashiers - Saturday and Sunday
- ☆ Outreach - Answer questions and explain 'Why plant natives?' - both days
- ☆ Pack up supplies, move leftover plants - Sunday afternoon (10/12)

A sign up sheet will be available at our membership meetings or call Troy Springer 967-4538.

Thanks for your support of our annual fund raising effort!



**Want to be on the SNPS Board of Directors? Please let someone on the current Board know, Devon will be appointing a Nominating Committee soon!**

### UPCOMING SPEAKERS-

We are working on lining up our fall speakers. Tentatively, we will have Walter Taylor and Craig Watson as speakers, more details to follow. We will be having our holiday party in December as usual.



### Old T-Shirts On Sale



The old SNPS shirts with the coral bean painting are on sale - come to a meeting or email Janet (jbowers27@yahoo.com) if you'd like to support SNPS. We want to get rid of our old ones since we have a new logo. Sizes - M, L, XL. Buy a couple - great for yard work shirts!

*Thanks for helping with the July meeting to -*



**Cliff Brown, Fred Mulholland, Mike Fite, Devon Higginbotham, Mary Miller**  
for providing plants for the auction

**Bunny Worth** for bringing the drinks and supplies, for setting up the plant auction and preparing the plant profiles!

**Cliff Brown, Gar Reed, Devon Higginbotham, Troy Springer** - general support

**Everyone who brought food and to our 4 new members!**



### Note from the Editor

Our trip to Solomon's Castle and Pine Lily nursery was a lot of fun. Thanks to Troy for setting it up for us. We got great deals on plants there, I think I bought 18 - most are planted but I have a few more to go. We toured the burnt area of the property and saw a lot of different plants sprouting up. Solomon's castle wasn't actually open for tours but the outside was pretty interesting, it reminded me of a Monty Python skit. The restaurant is called The Boat in the Moat, despite the fact that there is only a few inches of water in the 'moat'. The food was great and we had good company. If you didn't make it on this trip, I hope to see you next time.

*- Janet Bowers, Grapevine editor*



## Letter from the President

### Make it Easy!



Whoever developed the recent Staples commercials is a genius! It's okay for die-hard native plant people to over complicate this whole thing about native plants, analyzing each one to determine its genus and specific traits, but for the average homeowner looking for some plants for their yard so they can attract butterflies, all they want is Easy. They want to hit the Easy button and know where they can go, grab a few plants, plop them in the ground and wait for their favorite flitting flyers to arrive.

Our job is to make it easy for them to accomplish their goal. In 45 words or less, we need to be able to teach them everything they need to know about native plants; i.e., where they can get them (preferably a drive-thru nursery), what to ask for (no Latin names, please!), where they will grow (preferably anywhere) and how to care for them ("but you said it was native and wouldn't need water").

If we can't convey all that in less than 3 minutes, we have lost our audience.



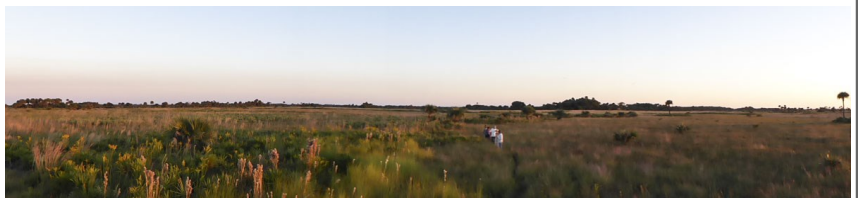
Unfortunately, this is the fast-food, fast-paced world we live in today. Gone are the ladies' garden clubs where all the members spent hours each morning trimming their roses and hydrangeas. We all have very busy lives with work, kids, family, travel, and limited time to accomplish it.

Until we can convince the nursery plant retailers to offer native plants, they won't become mainstream. And the nursery plant retailers won't carry native plants until the public knows what to ask for and demands it.

Our job is to sell, sell and sell! Convince homeowners that they need native plants and convince the plant retailers to offer them. So someday homeowners will be able to drive through their local plant retailer, say "Gimme a dozen Fire bush" and when they see they are in 1 gallon pots, say, "Supersize it, please! I want the 3 gallon pots".

Devon Higginbotham

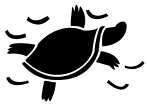
### **SAVE THE DATE: SATURDAY NOVEMBER 1, 2014: Plant Walk with Roger Hammer & Craig Huegel at Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park**



The dynamic duo of Florida Wildflowers, Roger Hammer and Craig Huegel will be co-leading a FALL plant walk at Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park. Roger and Craig will combine their personal passion and extensive knowledge of Florida's flora, along with their well known wit and humor, to educate and entertain participants. In addition to the morning and afternoon plant walks, Participants will also be treated to a 45 minute buggy ride in the prairie. Spots will be limited, so mark the date. This will be a great opportunity for those who have never visited the preserve to see it in all its glorious fall foliage, and for those who have been there, well, what a great reason to come back!



If you are interested in knowing more about this event, or want immediate notice when sign-up is open, contact [donna.bollenbach@gmail.com](mailto:donna.bollenbach@gmail.com).



## Florida Wildlife Corridor Expedition Update

The Florida Wildlife Corridor Expedition 700-plus mile journey across the state of Florida is set to start on October 11, 2014. The mission of the second Florida Wildlife Corridor Expedition is to raise awareness about the need to connect, protect and restore corridors of conserved lands and waters essential for the survival of Florida's diverse wildlife. To help build this awareness, a group of explorers including Conservationist Mallory Lykes Dimmitt, Biologist Joe Guthrie, Photographer Carlton Ward Jr., and Filmmaker Elam Stoltzfus will be walking, paddling or biking their way more than 700 miles from the Everglades Headwaters in Central Florida, across the Panhandle to the Alabama border.

The Corridor team and partners advocate for the protection of the "missing links," roughly two million acres of highest priority lands still in need of protection to ensure the long-term viability of the Corridor. The Corridor provides habitat for 42 federally listed endangered species and 176 state listed endangered species. Some endangered species include the Whooping Crane, Florida Panther, West Indian Manatee, Green Turtle, Leatherback Turtle, Hawksbill Turtle, Gulf Sturgeon and many more.

- taken from Florida Wildlife Corridor email



**Buy a custom Tee shirt with the beautiful new SNPS logo and let everyone know that you support Native Plants.** When you wear this fashionable shirt you are sure to attract comments and questions, which will be your opportunity to promote the mission of the Florida Native Plant Society and it's chapters. Each shirt is **only \$20.00** and is available in unisex natural or ladies mint green. **Support our goal to sell 50 shirts by September 4th...**go to the [SNPS Booster](#) page and buy yours today!



Donna Bollenbach will be available to process on-line orders (with your credit card) at the September meeting if you cannot access the site yourself. You can also find links on our website and Facebook pages.

## Membership – Drive to Reach 4<sup>th</sup> Place !

Kudos to all our Suncoast members that have been talking to friends and neighbors about our terrific society. As of July, we have worked our way into 5th place for chapters!!!

If you remember, we started in 8<sup>th</sup> place several months ago in our quest to reach 4<sup>th</sup>. The current standing is:

|           |                 |            |
|-----------|-----------------|------------|
| 1.        | Paynes Prairie  | 284        |
| 2.        | Dade            | 239        |
| 3.        | Pinellas        | 233        |
| 4.        | Palm Beach      | 148        |
| <b>5.</b> | <b>Suncoast</b> | <b>146</b> |
| 6.        | Magnolia        | 144        |
| 7.        | Serenoa         | 140        |

But we can't rest on our laurels! Magnolia and Serenoa are right behind us yapping at our heels.

We are so close now. Once we pass Palm Beach, we need to get a comfortable lead over the rest of the pack so they can't sneak up from behind. Suncoast is one of the oldest chapters in FNPS and has all of the 1.3 million residents of Hillsborough to recruit.



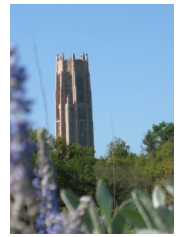
Talk about our beautiful magazine, The Palmetto, our field trips with expert guides, our camping trips and annual conference. Mention our auction each month and our wonderful librarian, Vikki, who brings our books each month so we can learn more about Florida native plants. Let others know that FNPS is the number one organization in the state supporting native habitat and the wildlife it sustains.

-submitted by Devon Higginbotham



## Saturday, August 23 Bok Tower Gardens

**Where:** Bok Tower Gardens, Lake Wales  
**When :** 9:30AM  
**Carpool:** 8:00 Meet at the Seffner Extension office



We'll get a tour through the endangered plant beds with Juliet Ryneer. Bok Tower Gardens is a world class facility with a carillon in the lovely, historic tower. In addition to rare plants and natives along a newly extended trail, it is worth the drive to see the tower, eat lunch and check out the excellent gift shop. Please plan to stay and eat lunch at the Café with us.

**Regular admission is \$12 but FNPS members can email Janet Bowers (jbowers27@yahoo.com) by August 14 to get in Free for this trip!**



### 2014 Field Trip schedule

**Saturday Sept. 20th** – Balm Scrub Preserve, Balm - Scrub and flatwoods and scrubby flatwoods, this is a great place to see fall wild flowers.

**Saturday October 18th** – Ridge Manor Cypress Lakes -- A Hernando County environmental lands site -- Mark Hutchinson led a 2012 conference field trip there and will be our guide. (See below for some more info on this area.)

**Friday to Sunday, Nov 7-9, 2 nights of camping** at Mike Roess Gold Head State Park - the cabins are taken, please reserve a camping space if you haven't made arrangements for a cabin already. Look for more details to come on common meals, hikes and more. Our camping trips are a lot of fun, come join us. (FNPS Members only please.)



### **Hernando Chapter Meeting**

The September 8th program will feature Jim King, Conservation Lands Specialist from Hernando County's Environmentally Sensitive Lands Program presenting a talk and slide show on habitat restoration at Cypress Lakes Preserve. The County recently completed a three year plan for restoring the scrub and sand hill communities which had become overgrown with hardwoods in the absence of natural fires. Treatments to reduce hardwood size and density included: mulching with machinery; cutting with chain saws and painting stumps with herbicide; and, hand saw and chain saw cutting of small trees and brush by volunteers. Three years of hardwood reduction were followed by a controlled burn in May 2013, which stimulated low growing plants, particularly flowering herbaceous species. It hasn't all been pretty, but the wildflowers have been spectacular and the gopher tortoises have enjoyed their best food supply in decades. The transformation is amazing.

The Sept 8 Hernando chapter meeting is at 6:30, Chinsegut Hill, 22495 Chinsegut Hill Rd., Brooksville, FL. 34601. For a map and additional information , go to [www.HCFNPS.org](http://www.HCFNPS.org).

Jim is a native Floridian, born and raised in Panama City in the Florida panhandle. He graduated from Bay County High School, attended the University of Florida, and graduated with a degree of Bachelor of Science in Forestry, majoring in Wildlife Ecology. He is currently the land manager for Hernando County's Environmentally Sensitive Lands (ESL) Program.

On October 18th, Jim will join both the Hernando and Suncoast Chapters of the Florida Native Plant Society for a field trip to Cypress Lakes Preserve to see first hand the results of this habitat restoration.

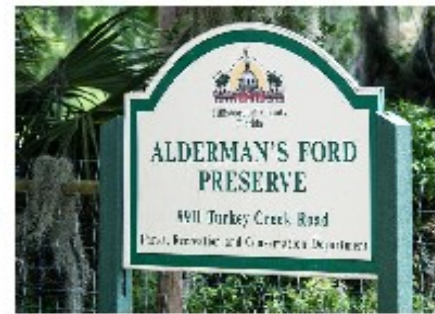
## Places to see Plants

### Alderman Ford Preserve

8911 Turkey Creek Rd, Durant, FL

...by Donna Bollenbach

A few miles west from Alderman Ford Park is a 970 acre preserve of the same name. Alderman Ford Preserve is protected under the Hillsborough County Environmental Lands Acquisition and Protection Program (ELAPP). The preserve has a well maintained hiking trail that travels along the banks of the Alafia River and through upland forests of longleaf pine and live oaks. At the far west end of the trail you can also see some historic brick railroad trestles covered with vines and lichen.



I have hiked Alderman Ford Preserve at least a half dozen times. The site is well managed with periodic burns. My last hike, at the end of May, was limited to the uplands, where I saw an abundance of spring flowers and pollinators. At the trail head, open pinewoods were dotted with beautiful blue spiderworts. As I walked further

west, there was a field carpeted with purple passion vine and a host of gulf fritillary butterflies. Other butterflies I saw were the Variegated Fritillary, Great Southern Whites, Fiery Skippers, Grey Hairstreaks and American Ladies.



Here are just a few of the native spring wildflowers I saw:

1. Spiderwort, *Tradescantia ohiensis*
2. Grassleaf Lettuce, *Lactuca graminifolia*
3. Meadowbeauty, *Rhexia* spp
4. Purple Passionflower, *Passiflora incarnata*
5. Spanish Needles, *Bidens alba*
6. Grassleaf Roseling, *Callisia graminea*
7. Roserush, *Lygodesmia aphylla*
8. Prickly Pear, *Opuntia humifusa*
9. Morning Glory, *Ipomoea* spp
10. Spotted Horsemint, *Monarda punctata*



### Need a Speaker?

Need a speaker for your civic group, gardening club or homeowner's association? The Suncoast Native Plant Society has speakers with a wide range of knowledge, eager to speak about the virtues of native plants. Contact Devon Higginbotham ([archiveproperties@gmail.com](mailto:archiveproperties@gmail.com)).

## FNPS Council of Chapters Update

The FNPS Council of Chapters is up and running. Janet Bowers is now the Suncoast Chapter representative on the council. There are 3 initiatives 1) native landscaping education 2) fieldtrips 3) land management. Suncoast is officially on the native landscaping education but anyone is welcome to participate in any of the groups.

Check out the Forum on the FNPS website to see what is going on or <http://council.fnpschapters.org/>

Some of the meetings are held on-line at gotomeeting, making it easier to meet more often. The council is discussing regional meetings where chapters in close proximity to one another would get together to learn from each other and share best practices. The council will meet face to face - August 16 and February 6-8. The February one is at Archbold and everyone is invited. Save the date on your calendar for this opportunity to see the Archbold Biological Station and meet other FNPS members from around the state!

### Dates to remember



- Sept 19-20** Florida Wildflower Symposium at Bok Tower, Doug Tallamy is scheduled -  
Registration is now OPEN @ <http://www.flawildflowers.org/>  
Fieldtrips, workshops and talks are scheduled for both days.
- Sept 27** Plant City Gardenfest  
National Public Lands Day
- Oct 3-5** Wings & Wildflowers, Leesburg
- Oct 11-12** **USF Fall Plant Sale**
- Oct 18** Boktoberfest Plant Sale, Bok Tower Gardens
- Oct 25** Munn Park Plant Sale, Lakeland
- Nov 7-9** **CAMPING!**
- Feb 6-8** FNPS meeting at Archbold Biological Station, everyone is invited

**Join or Renew FNPS on-line -** <http://www.fnps.org/participate/membershipinfo>



### 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 SNPS membership chair, Devon Higginbotham, at 478-1183.

☐ 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

#### Open

### Newsletter Editor

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

### Programs

Troy Springer 967-4538  
Janet Bowers 759-2822

### Publicity/ Social media

Donna Bollenbach 679-5597

### Outreach

#### Open

### USF Plant Sales - need volunteer

Troy Springer 967-4538

### USF Botanical Garden Liaison

Kim Hutton 974-2329

### Chapter Representative

Janet Bowers 759-2822

### Webmasters

Ron Huston 951-0946  
Donna Bollenbach 679-5597

## 2014 Board of Directors

### President

Devon Higginbotham  
[archiveproperties@gmail.com](mailto:archiveproperties@gmail.com)

### Co- Vice-presidents

Troy Springer  
[troy@springerenvironmental.com](mailto:troy@springerenvironmental.com)

Janet Bowers  
[jbowers27@yahoo.com](mailto:jbowers27@yahoo.com)

### Secretary

Bunny Worth  
[msworth@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:msworth@tampabay.rr.com)

### Treasurer

Gar Reed  
[gar0426@yahoo.com](mailto:gar0426@yahoo.com)

### Board Member

Donna Bollenbach  
[donna.bollenbach@gmail.com](mailto:donna.bollenbach@gmail.com)

## Newsletter Submissions

Deadline for the next issue:

**September 1 2014**

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](mailto: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.

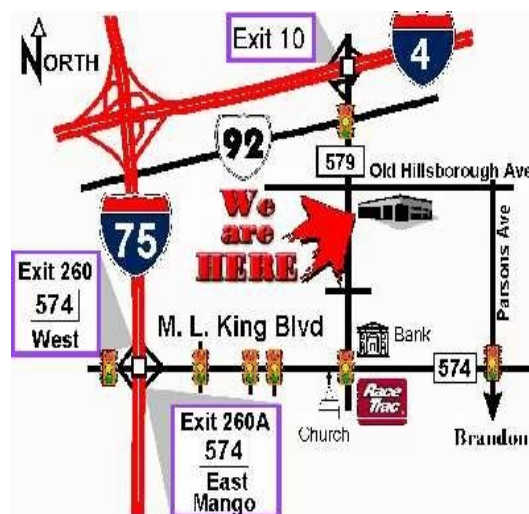
## Meeting Location:

**Hillsborough County  
Extension  
5339 County Road 579  
Seffner**

## SNPS Web Address

<http://www.SuncoastNPS.org>

We're on MeetUp & Facebook



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



**Please deliver to:**