AUGUST CHAPTER MEETING  
At the Hillsborough County Extension Office  

Hillsborough County Stormwater Services  
Presented by John McGee  
Wednesday, August 16, 7 PM  

John McGee, Manager of the Hillsborough County Public Works – Stormwater Services, will be speaking on the Stormwater Environmental Programs in Hillsborough County, including Lake and Stream Management and the Adopt-a-Pond Program.

The Adopt-A-Pond Program partners with communities to improve the water quality, wildlife habitat and appearance of stormwater ponds. The program guides you through the initial steps to help you learn how to properly care for your stormwater pond for the long-term. There are no fees or costs required to participate in this program, but you do need to apply to see if your pond qualifies.

John McGee coordinates the Stormwater Environmental Programs for Hillsborough County, including National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) compliance, Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) compliance, and environmental education programs such as the Lake and Stream Management Program, Adopt-A-Pond, and Stormwater Ecologist. John has over 17 years of experience in the environmental field. He has a degree in Environmental Studies-Policy from Eckerd College, is a certified Florida Master Naturalist, and FDEP Erosion and Sedimentation Control Instructor.

John is a Florida native and comes from an agricultural family. He speaks Japanese and is active with the Japanese Consulate to promote Japanese language and culture in Florida. In his spare time he enjoys woodwork, hiking, swimming, trains in Parkour, and reads constantly.

Light refreshments are served and a native plant auction follows the presentation.

- submitted by Donna Bollenbach & Janet Bowers
A Fond Farewell to Donna Bollenbach

It’s hard to imagine SNPS without Donna, that is the first thought that I have. She has volunteered for so many roles and done an excellent job with websites, FNPS assignments and on the SNPS board that we will need a lot of help to keep up with fulfilling our purpose. Donna and Bob have been members since 2003, a year longer than I have. It seems like since the first meeting they attended, Donna has been helping us make things happen. Her enthusiasm and curiosity about natives combined with her photography and print design experience was amazing to watch bloom. She has been publicity contact, web master, VP, President and the list goes on... In a relatively short time, everyone in SNPS felt her impact. She helped establish the Lettuce Lake garden on-going maintenance effort and walks (with help from Joel). She was so excited about the Plant City HCC garden (and took pictures of the redbud tree) that I got inspired to check it out and ultimately become a co-steward of the native parts there. She made contact with the Hillsborough County outreach people and arranged wagon tours. She was instrumental in the first FNPS Native Plant Month. Donna worked to get us T-shirts and Totes to sell.

Every time I do the newsletter I will miss you and when I visit Kissimmee Prairie, I will think of you. You introduced me to so many great local preserves that my life was changed. I have a different viewpoint about where I live and what there is to see here. You helped me pick a beginner camera and that changed my life too. The FNPS brochure holds a special place in my list of FNPS accomplishments. Thank you for all that you gave me personally and for being my friend (I know that won’t end but it will be hard to meet at the Brew Hub on a random evening.)

-Janet

Donna-

We appreciate all the time and energy you gave to us and wish you a happy journey on your next life experience. Hope to see you out in the field in Tennessee looking at flowers!

SNPS membership

UPCOMING SPEAKERS-

Sept 20 – Snags, Woodpiles and Wildlife – Donna Bollenbach
Oct 18 – Dr. Alan Franck
Nov 15 – Nannette Holland

Thanks for helping with the July meeting -

Everyone who brought food to share &
Bunny Worth, Donna Bollenbach, Tina Patterson, Devon Higginbotham, Mike and Barbara Fite
for helping set up and clean up

A special thank you to JoAnn Hoffman and
the Hillsborough County Extension Office for use of their beautiful facility!
Letter from the Editor

Our president, Donna Bollenbach, is packing for her move to Tennessee so we will not have a President’s Letter this month. I have enjoyed Donna’s monthly contributions to the Grapevine, in addition to the President’s Letter, she has written many articles about Places to See Natives and information about upcoming events. I think the newsletter is much better with several different contributors, if there is anyone out there interested in a topic or a monthly column, please let me know. I would welcome some new voices sharing information about natives. The newsletter will be much more boring and likely shorter without other people sending in articles.

As you are aware, in addition to needing newsletter contributors, SNPS needs help on the Board of Directors, the Plant Sale, as a meeting snack coordinator and as fieldtrip leaders. You can be the change that you’d like to see. I have been the change that I wanted to see. It started with a little handout about natives because it seemed like we should have one. I didn’t even know how to make a table in a WORD document. I had some serviceable photos of plants from my yard, I was afraid of my PC and new applications. SNPS people helped me through it and patted me on the back when we had a native plant handout to give to newcomers. I handed it out to my brother and my dad because I was proud of it. I took it to other chapters in case they had a need for such a thing. I do realize now that it is not a brilliant piece of literature but it has served its purpose and I found something that I wanted to do to make a difference and was encouraged to do it.

I served on the board for several years, even taking a turn at president. I have learned so much from SNPS. I actually recognize plants on the roadside, plants in other states and it makes my life journey so much richer to know about the plants growing wherever I am. I have made new friends who understand why I am crazy about flowers and are OK if a fieldtrip slows to a snail’s pace so that I can take a picture of everything. I really wanted to sit in the back of the room at meetings and not talk to anyone but that evolved to so much more and I have had wonderful opportunities to visit local parks as well as places farther away. I have gone tent camping at Kissimmee Prairie (twice!). It was awe inspiring to be there. I have seen how I can actually do way more than I thought and with some ibuprofen can even walk farther than I thought. I actually (sort of) learned how to use Publisher software so that I could do the SNPS newsletter. I am not an expert but people appreciate that I took the task and have been dependable for years to produce a monthly newsletter. Helping can be fulfilling, it can change your life and you can get past the fear to do great things. Take a chance, get outside your comfort zone and please consider helping SNPS.

Thanks for listening, thanks for reading the newsletter, thanks for your continuing support to make SNPS amazing.

Janet Bowers

July 2016, Hernando county
Sabatia decandra

August 2016, Blackwater Creek
Tiger swallowtail butterfly on redroot

A couple of my favorite pics from 2016
FNPS News....
Submitted by Donna Bollenbach,
SNPS Representative on Council of Chapters

Anytime you would like to contact a Society Board member or Committee Chair, you can find their contact information on the FNPS website: http://www.fnps.org/contacts. The website is also where you will find out what each committee does and a wealth of information on current initiatives and volunteer opportunities, and download the current copy of the Sabal Minor, the Society Newsletter.

We will need a new chapter rep for 2018, let a board member know if you are interested.

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Mark Your Calendar

August 26  9 AM Lettuce Lake walk, meet behind the Audubon resource center building
Sept 10-15  FNPS fall trip - Rainforests and Waterfalls of the Appalachians,
   Call Devon Higginbotham Phone: 813-478-1183, or E-mail: indigotravelcompany@gmail.com
Sept 20  9 AM Hillsborough County proclamation for Native Plant Month in October
Sept 22-23  Florida Wildflower Foundation Symposium, Orlando
Sept 30  9 AM Lettuce Lake Walk
OCTOBER is NATIVE PLANT MONTH in FLORIDA!
Oct 14-15  USF Fall Plant Sale - we need volunteers
Oct 13-15  Florida Birding and Nature Festival, Ruskin  floridabirdingandnaturefestival.org
Oct 21  Lettuce Lake walk
Oct 21  Rootstock Plant & Garden Festival at Bok Tower
Oct 27-29  Fall camping trip at Myakka State Park, tent camp overnight or come for a day

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SNPS News

- Tina has made our reservations for renting a pavilion and having a Holiday Potluck at Lettuce Lake on Dec 9, during the day (not a night), more info to come.
- Don’t forget to send Tina any volunteer hours so that she can enter it on the FNPS website
- We need new Board members and Field Trip leaders for next year - please let Devon know if you are willing to serve on the SNPS Board of Directors
- The October plant sale will be here soon, mark your calendar and volunteer to help us in our big fundraiser.

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DISCOVER TAMPA BAY’S WILD SIDE
at the PEAK of FALL MIGRATION

FLORIDA BIRDING & NATURE FESTIVAL

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS
JAMES “BUDDY” POWELL
DIRECTOR OF SEA TO SHORE ALLIANCE
RESEE COLLINS, REGIONAL EAGLE COORDINATOR, USFWS

OCTOBER 13-15, 2017

fbnfestival.org
August 19 Buying Trip
Sweet Bay Native Nursery

Meet at 9:30 am for breakfast at Butterfields, or meet us at Sweet Bay at about 10:30 am.
If you would like, first meet at 9:30 am for breakfast at Butterfields Restaurant, 8205 US Highway 301 N in Parrish. Butterfield's is a quaint local restaurant offering a wide variety of food for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

After breakfast we will drive over to Sweet Bay Nursery to buy native plants. Sweet Bay Nursery is one of the premier Florida native plant nurseries, it is located in northern Manatee County and is open Saturday 9am-2pm.

Sweet Bay Nursery specializes in native butterfly and wildlife plants, perennial wildflowers, shrubs, trees, ferns and grasses. FNPS members receive a 10% discount on purchases. Check out their plant list at their website- http://www.sweetbaynursery.com/

Sweet Bay Nursery Address
10824 Erie Road
Parrish, FL

If you want butterflies, birds and other wildlife . . . plant natives!

If you’re looking for information on what’s in bloom, the Florida Wildflower Foundation site is a good place to check out. http://flawildflowers.org/whats-in-bloom/ is updated each season and has links to roadside wildflower locations statewide. Their Symposium is coming up in September and the registration is open now.

2017 Field Trip schedule

Sept 23  Rock Ponds Restoration Project with SWFWMD near Ruskin, more details to come
Website - https://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/projects/swim/rock_ponds/

Oct 27-29  Camping trip at Myakka State Park, reserve your site at Old Prairie camping area

Nov 18  TBD

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More books……………

I’ve had a great summer of reading, have you discovered any new books that are worth sharing?

I read *The Humane Gardener* by Nancy Lawson a couple months ago and passed on 2 copies of it to other plant lovers. It has many short chapters about people who practice humane gardening around the country (including an FNPS member), interspersed with some of Nancy’s philosophy about gardening. It is an easy book to read and can be taken in small doses if you like to read more than one book at a time or don’t have much time for reading. There is also a Facebook page that I have been following to stay in touch with the topic.

While not really a plant book, I picked up *Dirt Work: An Education in the Woods* at Glacier National Park because I used up the book I took to read on the plane going out there. Christine Byl, the author, worked at Glacier years ago maintaining trails, which is not as simple as it might be in Florida. A very manual labor job, she was one of the few working at the job and it came to be her passion. She moved to Alaska and continues to do outdoor, physical work. I enjoy memoir books and I got caught up in the tone and texture of this one.

During one of my trips to Bok Tower, I bought a book by Ken Morrison in the gift shop. I knew that his son, ‘Sticky’ Steve Morrison was a local person who worked at Tiger Creek Preserve. As I browsed through the book, *Mountain Lake Almanac: Around the Year with a Naturalist*, I learned that Ken was the director at Bok Tower for 25 years and wrote in a similar vein as Edwin Way Teale (but without all the detailed plant and animal information.) He has a chapter about ‘Saving Tiger Creek’ which I was quite interested in reading. (I used to go to Tiger Creek Preserve when I was a Ridge Ranger Volunteer and went on the FNPS fieldtrip there in May with Steve Morrison as the guide.)

Edward W. Bok almost bought Tiger Creek due to its proximity to Bok Tower and later in 1966, his son helped spur The Nature Conservancy into saving it. Luckily, it has been preserved and is being maintained. There are 3 main sections of this book - Florida, North Carolina and Maine. I haven’t finished reading it yet but I am enjoying the journey.

The 4th book worth noting is *Rambunctious Gardening: Saving Nature in a Post-Wild World* by Emma Marris (love the title). While I don’t like the idea of giving up on pristine wilderness, this book has compelling discussions about what ‘pristine’ should mean in a world where humans have influenced all parts of it, in one way or another. Finding a baseline for ‘pristine’ is pretty impossible. Compromise seems the best path, in some cases even a non-native can serve the role of an extinct native. The balance in an ecosystem is more sustainable than diving in to look at one species in a silo. Based on fossil records, we know that things change and that makes it a little more fuzzy about what is practical to set as a restoration goal. There is some discussion about whether to move plants so they can survive global warming. This was definitely the more thought provoking of the books, maybe not the best one to ready before bed for a calm sleep but an interesting one to contemplate during the day (and I love the word Rambunctious.)

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**Lettuce Lake Update**
*From Tina Patterson*

August 26 is our next walk. Join us and see what is happening at Lettuce Lake! The walk is free, it is $2 per car to enter Lettuce Lake Park. Meet us by the Audubon Resource Center building. We have an excellent native garden behind the building.

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**Plant City HCC Garden News**

We have an upcoming Workday August 5 at 8:30. Hope to see you there.

We are working on designing a color sign to provide information about SNPS and our native gardens. I’d like to create a map showing where the natives are in our areas and other parts of the garden. I will work on getting a list of a few more plants to buy and possibly put up a brochure holder by our plants so any passerby who is interested can learn more about us and about native plants.

~ Janet
Plant Profile - Frogfruit - *Phyla nodiflora*
Family - Verbenaceae

Likely blooming near you, maybe in a lawn or next to parking lot - frog fruit (or matchstick plant, a name I like better) is a great groundcover. It is a host plant for 3 butterflies including the phaon crescent butterfly (shown left). How can you do better than tiny flowers and butterflies? (Also known as turkey tangle fogfruit, there has to be a great story to go with that name.) As well as being a host plant for butterflies, it is also a nectar plant (see middle left for skipper nectaring on it).

It likes sun to part sun, average moisture and it is salt tolerant. It can grow in sand or dirt. In my experience, it likes some moisture to grow well but could survive a dry period. It has been found in every county in Florida. Frogfruit is available from local native nurseries and can also be divided after it spreads to share some with friends.

Plant Atlas link -  http://florida.plantatlas.usf.edu/Plant.aspx?id=3520

FNPS link-  http://www.fnps.org/plants/plant/phyla-nodiflora

~Janet Bowers

Looking for information on Native Plants?  Go to FNPS.org, we have an excellent way to get a list of plants that will grow in your yard. Start at http://www.fnps.org/plants/refinelist/Hillsborough for Hillsborough county then you can refine the list by Light, Water and Soil plus some other options to get a list of natives to plant. After you get the list then you can go to http://plantrealflorida.org/ and see what nursery carries the plants you want.

If you’d rather have personal help then come to one of our meetings or our Fall Plant Sale at the USF Botanical Garden, October 14-15. We will have a great selection of natives!

Join FNPS on-line - http://fnps.org/participate/membershipinfo
When it comes time to renew, FNPS will send you an email with a link in it. Your information will already be filled out, but you can edit it if it is out of date. This link is unique to you and not to be shared with others.
Activities & Committee Chairs

- Field Trips (813)
  - Shirley Denton 625-5031
  - Stephen Dickman 597-5888
- Librarian
  - Vikki Sinclair 989-2896
- Membership
  - Devon Higginbotham 478-1183
- Newsletter Editor
  - Janet Bowers 759-2822
  - Mike Fite, Assistant 977-0892
- Publicity/Social media
  - Donna Bollenbach 679-5597
- Outreach
  - Open
- USF Plant Sales
  - Gar Reed 323-0927
- USF Botanical Garden Liaison
  - Kim Hutton 974-2329
- Chapter Representative & Webmaster
  - Donna Bollenbach 679-5597

2017 Board of Directors

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  Donna Bollenbach
donna.bollenbach@gmail.com

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  Virginia Overstreet
voverstr@tampabay.rr.com

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gar0426@yahoo.com

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  Tina Patterson
mablepatterson@hotmail.com

Board Members at Large
  Andy Taylor
andytaylor6@gmail.com

Newsletter Submissions
Deadline for the next issue: September 1, 2017
Please send articles and original artwork for The Suncoast Grapevine to Janet Bowers, by the deadline above- jbowers27@yahoo.com

SNPS Web Address
http://www.SuncoastNPS.org

Meetings are normally the third Wednesday of the month at 7 PM. (no December meeting)

DIRECTIONS TO:
Hillsborough County Extension
5339 County Road 579
Seffner

Take I-4 to Exit 10 (just east of I-75). Go south on 579 for two blocks. Turn left on Old Hillsborough Ave and park on the North side of the office.

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

Please deliver to: