Ross Dickerson, manager of the Hillsborough County Environmental Lands Section, will provide an overview of the Jan K. Platt Environmental Lands Acquisition and Protection Program (ELAPP) including the purpose, history, funding sources, and accomplishments. He will also discuss ecosystem services and the benefits (direct or indirect) they have on our lives. ELAPP is Florida’s largest local government environmental land program and we are lucky to have it in our county! 61,000 acres of environmentally sensitive wildlife habitat and corridors are managed by the ELAPP program.

Ross got his start with ELAPP in 2001 as an environmental technician and never looked back. He holds a Bachelor’s degree in Environmental Studies from Eckerd College and is finishing a Master’s Degree in Park and Resource Management from Slippery Rock University.

In addition to ecosystems management, Ross is deeply interested in human-environment interaction, and is passionate about both environmental history and environmental education.

🌟 Come early this month and bring a dish to share, this is the joint Audubon/ Sierra/ SNPS meeting -

- 5-6 PM Socialize in the lovely Bette S. Walker Discovery Garden
- 6-7 PM Potluck dinner, SNPS will be providing utensils, plates and drinks
- 7-8 PM Speaker

(NO plant auction at this meeting)

- submitted by Donna Bollenbach & Janet Bowers
SNPS Needs YOU!

Donna Bollenbach

One thing I have learned as President of SNPS is that I/We don’t have to do it all. I think my biggest mistake my first year as President is trying to do everything and not always asking for help. This year was different, and I found that by working on those things a President should be, a strong leader and communicator, I received lots of help, and we accomplished so much more. Other board members are a bit savvier than me. They learned their jobs this year, and want to continue in the same capacity next year so they can do even better. I respect them for that. We just need a leader, and let me tell you: If you step up as President of SNPS, or any other position, I can assure you that Tina, Virginia and Andy (PR Coordinator), who have all agreed to stay on as board members next year, will support you, and make your job so much easier.

There are many open positions for SNPS in 2018. Some are board positions, and others are for more coordinators. Besides the President, I was the Chapter Rep, the Webmaster, and at times, coordinated field trips. While I do not recommend one person taking all those responsibilities, each one certainly can be enjoyable for the person with the right interests, and spreading them out among several individuals allows each person to best serve theirs, and the chapters best interest. Without volunteers in these positions, our Chapter will possible need to scale back our great programming, outreach and other activities. If you are interested in being a board member please let Devon know - Devon Higginbotham 813-478-1183, archiveproperties@gmail.com

The President (Board Member): Skills needed: Leadership and Communication: Sets Board meetings and sets the agenda. Most of what is on the agenda is simply an update of the previous month. It is the usual stuff: Minutes (Tina is staying on as Secretary and is a big help in so many ways) Treasurer’s report (See our need below), Program updates (Virginia is staying on as program coordinator), Field trip updates (see our need below), New and Current Outreach activities (Tina is our Lettuce Lake Plant Walk coordinator and helps with many other activities) The President handles chapter correspondence with other organizations, other chapters and the Society. The Chapter President may also elect to represent the chapter on the FNPS Council of Chapters (see below).

Continued on page 6

UPCOMING SPEAKERS-

August 16 - John McGee, Environmental Manager with Hillsborough County Public Works – Stormwater Services. He coordinates the Stormwater Environmental Programs and environmental education programs such as the Lake and Stream Management Program, Adopt-A-Pond, and Stormwater Ecologist.

Sept 20 – Snags, Woodpiles and Wildlife – Donna Bollenbach

Oct 18 – Dr Alan Franck

Thanks for helping with the May meeting –

JoAnn Hoffman, Bunny Worth, Janet Bowers

for providing native plants for the plant auction

--> Don’t forget that we need help from everyone bringing plants for the Auction!

Devon Higginbotham for bringing snacks

Virginia Overstreet for auctioning the plants
Life Changes

Letter from the President:

Everyone experiences unexpected, even sudden changes, in their life at some time or another. Those changes can be good or bad, welcomed or dreaded, exciting or scary. Most of the time such changes are a combination of these feelings.

Bob and I have one such coming up in our life: About 5 years ago, when my parents moved out of their home, and we moved in, the market was not so great. It didn’t make sense to sell the home at that time. But now, it seems like a great time to sell, so we all decided to put it on the market.

At first Bob and I were looking for a home in Florida, but then we had a thought: Even though we are not ready to retire, this might be our opportunity to make our retirement move. We always wanted to move a little further north. It was scary and exciting at the same time.

My oldest son suggested Chattanooga TN because it has an Amazon plant (where Bob works now) and it seemed to have many of the things we enjoy: Places to hike, camp and fish, a sort of “rural” feel and a little more change to the seasons. We started exploring the area it seemed ideal for us. We also found out that we can both keep our jobs when we move there.

Well, we have come to find you can’t dictate the timeframe for selling a home. It may sell this week, or next month. It may mean we will need to move in 20, 30 or 60 days. While we dreaded the thought of moving, we know we should be ready for anything. In the last few weeks we have been purging “stuff,” Somethings were easy to let go of, and others a little more difficult, but overall, having less belongings also gives one a sense of relief.

What we won’t lose are the things we have learned, and the friendships we have made, as members of the Florida Native Plant Society. Our association with FNPS and SNPS have given us a lifelong appreciation of native flora and fauna wherever we may live. Hopefully Tennessee shares some native plants with Florida, so I don’t need to learn ALL new ones. Thanks to the internet, and Facebook, we will be able to easily stay in touch with so many people. Hopefully our friends will visit us in Tennessee.

In any case, I will continue as President of the Suncoast Chapter until my move is imminent. We have accomplished quite a bit this year, and I would like to see our outreach and native plant garden activities continued. It is now more important than ever that others step up to join the board or volunteer to help the chapter to continue to provide quality programming, field trips and fundraising. See a list of positions you could fill to keep our chapter alive and fun elsewhere in this newsletter. Please volunteer: SNPS Needs YOU!

Donna
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.

As your Council Representative, please feel free to send me your thoughts: donna.bollenbach@gmail.com.

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

SNPS News

- The July board meeting will be the Monday before the meeting (July 17) at Beef O'Brady's in Seffner at 4 pm.
- We need people to come early to help with the July joint meeting. SNPS is hosting this year.
- We are looking into 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.
- Please see the list of open positions for 2018 on pages 2 and 6, SNPS need people to step up for next year.

RAINFORESTS AND WATERFALLS OF THE APPALACHIANS
SEPTEMBER 10 - 15, 2017

The excellent reviews are in for the first FNPS trip with Indigo Travel Company to Alabama in April, don’t miss the fall trip to North Georgia and the Smokies! This is a fundraiser for FNPS as well as a great way to see nearby natives.

The highest mountain tops in Georgia, North Carolina and Tennessee create a unique climate by forcing cloud formations up their slopes until they cool, condense and disburse their precipitation, creating damp, rainy conditions. Join us as we explore the unique flora and fauna of these Appalachian rainforests.

More info at https://www.indigotravelcompany.com
813-478-1183  INDIGO TRAVEL COMPANY  6322 BARTON ROAD, PLANT CITY, FL  33565
Your hosts are SNPS members - Devon and Al Higginbotham, avid travelers with exploration in their DNA.

Mark Your Calendar

August 26  9 AM Lettuce Lake walk
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  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
June 24 Fieldtrip to
Bok Tower Garden and Conservation Areas

We had a walk through the pollinator beds, the outdoors kitchen and the new children’s area. I took a side path through the endangered plant bed and the bog area. Lots of plants to see but it was hot.

Part 2 was the behind the scenes tour with Cheryl Peterson. We heard the story of the almost extinct Ziziphus and saw the bumper crop of fruit drying on custom made protective screened trays. She showed us where they store seeds and then we went to the large greenhouse.

In the greenhouse, there were some leftover wareas that didn’t get outplanted, some rescues and large pots with lupines. These are for studies that Nova Southeastern students are conducting about the microbes associated with the lupines, both in the general area of the plant (symbiomes) and within the rhizosphere. We learned a lot of new vocabulary words!

Next came the Conservation beds, as Philip explained to us at our meeting, some plants need to be grown to be conserved, they can’t just have seeds stored away for long periods.

Cheryl has us taste different Dicerandra mints to see how different they are. We tasted the rarest one first, I was amazed at how strong the flavor was in the fresh mints. We continued over to the Ziziphus plants and saw one that was trying to take over several beds.

Then we got to see the newest building where Cheryl’s office and new lab are. It was good to get out of the sun and hear more about projects and future plans. Several of us had lunch in the Café and I enjoyed the chicken blueberry salad as always.

We are lucky to have such a great facility relatively close by and I look forward to my next visit to Bok Tower. If you are interested in volunteering contact Cheryl at cpeterson@boktower.org.

Janet

Reject wareas in the greenhouse

Lupine experiments

Reject wareas in the greenhouse

Lupine experiments

Clitoria fragrans in the conservation beds

Clitoria fragrans in the conservation beds

2017 Field Trip schedule

July - no field trip
Aug 19  Nursery buying trip to Sweetbay Native Nursery in Parrish
Sept 23  TBD
Oct 27-29 Camping trip at Myakka State Park, reserve your site at Old Prairie camping area
Nov 18  TBD

The Suncoast Grapevine - July 2017  Page 5
Welcome to our New SNPS members since mid-October

- Ashley Abdel-Hadi
- Rosemary Ashby
- Karen Bornstine
- Robert and Sandy Buckley
- Susan Earley
- Philip Einsmann
- Ernest Fernandez
- David George
- Donna McAvene,
- Ellen Negrin-Fessler
- Leah Pollock
- Allynne Rinelli and McKenzie Hall
- Paula Stewart

Thanks to all our Renewing Members, we appreciate your on-going support!

Continued from page 2-

SNPS NEEDS YOU

Treasurer (Board Member): Skills needed: Bookkeeping, budgeting, taxes. The Treasurer is one of the most important positions on the board. The Treasurer should be familiar with Excel or Quicken or QuickBooks, but it would be your choice on how to keep the books. The Treasurer will need to plug the chapter’s income and expenses into a spread sheet, create a budget and file various tax forms and reports. Gar Reed, our current Treasurer, is willing to work with you the first three months on the job (or longer if you step up now), so you don’t have to reinvent the wheel.

Chapter Rep to the FNPS Council (could be a director at large on the board, but not a requirement): Skills needed: Willingness to travel 2 or 3 times a year to attend quarterly council meeting, good communications skills. The Chapter Representative is the “information highway” between Chapter members and FNPS—and between FNPS and Chapter members. The Chapter Representative attends Council of Chapters meetings, both online and in person and reports back to SNPS members.

Plant Sale Coordinator (does not have to be board member): Skills needed: Organized, ability to meet deadlines, manage volunteers and the desire to help SNPS make the most money possible from plant sales. The plant sales are our biggest fundraisers. The Plant Sale Coordinator will coordinate the Spring and Fall Plant sales at the USF Botanical Gardens (unless a better choice of venue is decided by the board.) They will work with current and/or new vendors and volunteers to obtain plants, deliver plants, price plants, and the scheduling of volunteers for adequate coverage on Saturday and Sunday. With approval of the board, the Plant Sale Coordinator can adopt the current model for sales, or propose a completely new one. May want to attend board meetings to discuss the plant sales as the date approaches.

Webmaster (does not have to be a board member, but helps): Skills needed: Computer literate and a familiarity with website functionality and photo processing is helpful. Willing to learn how to access, update and post on the SNPS website, the SNPS Calendar and Meetup. The webmaster stays in close contact with the board, the newsletter editor (Janet Bowers) and updates the website and meetup notices on a timely basis to publicize meetings and events. Donna and Shirley can help you learn in the ins and outs of our on-line resources.
Plant City HCC Garden News

I agree with Tina (below), I am so happy to see the rainy season! The irrigation is turned off at HCC and the plants are thriving. Of course that means the weeds are thriving too, we are having a quick workday on June 30 to get them under control. The clematis vines still want to take over the garden and now there is skunk vine thrown into the mix. I think we will need to improve our new path, some of the mulch material looks like it washed away.

The climbing aster is getting established and hopefully will bloom this fall. The marlberries have new growth and seem to be happy in their new home. The beauty berry bushes have leafed out, bloomed and will be producing berries soon. The Elliott's aster has mostly finished blooming. I trimmed off the bloom heads and hope it will produce more.

The (Asclepias perennis) swamp milkweed is blooming again and looking much better than it did during our drought. The lemon bacopa got eaten by something last year and hasn't really recovered, I guess that plant will not work in our garden. I love going back every week or so to see what is happening. There is always something new.

The coreopsis near our beds is blooming like crazy! Pollinators are buzzing all around it, you can see a couple of them in these pictures. I am going to plant some seeds this fall in my yard and see if I can get an area full of coreopsis in my bed with my Muhley grasses.

~ Janet

Lettuce Lake Update

From Tina Patterson

Walks resume in August and "thank God for the rain!"

There were some amazing Encyclia orchids blooming by a shelter near the end of the boardwalk. Janet Bowers took some pictures of them as well as the limpkin below.
Plant Profile - Corkystem Passionflower - *Passiflora suberosa*
Family - Passifloraceae

A more subtle passionflower compared to the *Passiflora incarnata*, the corkystem is a good butterfly host plant to have in the background of your garden. I have it in my yard and am always happy to see it pop up and attract zebra longwings as well as the Gulf fritillary butterflies.

It can tolerate average to more dry soils and will grow along the ground or up a trellis (or whatever is in its way). This vine will grow in sun or part sun. It has small greenish flowers so it is not planted for its amazing flowers like the normal maypop might be. It can be found in the wild as well as planted areas in our county.

This passionflower is readily available at local native nurseries and is often brought in for our meeting plant auction. We have had Gulf Fritillary caterpillars on our plants at the Plant City HCC garden and they are doing well there.

Plant Atlas link - http://florida.plantatlas.usf.edu/Plant.aspx?id=2080

FNPS link - http://www.fnps.org/plants/plant/passiflora-suberosa

~Janet Bowers

Have you seen *Bonamia grandiflora* or *Asclepias curtisii* In Hillsborough County?

The county land managers want to get GPS coordinates for these 2 plants. Please be on the lookout for these plants – they should be blooming in the scrub, mostly in June.

If you spot these in Hillsborough County, please send me a photo with coordinates and/or landmarks to help us locate them. FYI, Solocator is a great smartphone app for recording and sharing location data with photos.

Andy Fairbanks
Environmental Outreach Coordinator
Conservation and Environmental Lands Management Department
P: (813) 672-7876
M: (813) 853-1163
E: FairbanksA@HillsboroughCounty.org
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.

Check pertinent category:
- Individual $35
- Business or non-profit $150
- Full time student $15
- Family or household $50
- Supporting $100
- Patron $250
- Gold $500
- Sustaining - $10 a month w/credit card
  - Visa
  - MC
- Expiration __________
  - Card # ________________________
  - Code __

Make check payable to **FNPS**.
Detach and mail to:
**FNPS**
P.O. Box 278
Melbourne, FL 32902-0278

---

Join FNPS on-line - http://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.

Check pertinent category:
- Individual $35
- Business or non-profit $150
- Full time student $15
- Family or household $50
- Supporting $100
- Patron $250
- Gold $500
- Sustaining - $10 a month w/credit card
  - Visa
  - MC
- Expiration __________
  - Card # ________________________
  - Code __

Make check payable to **FNPS**.
Detach and mail to:
**FNPS**
P.O. Box 278
Melbourne, FL 32902-0278
Newsletter Submissions
Deadline for the next issue:  
**August 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

We’re on Meet Up & Facebook

Regular meetings are in Seffner

Meetings are normally the 
third Wednesday of the month 
at 7PM. (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.

---

2017 Board of Directors

**President**  
Donna Bollenbach  
donna.bollenbach@gmail.com

**Vice-president**  
Virginia Overstreet  
voverstr@tampabay.rr.com

**Treasurer**  
Gar Reed  
gar0426@yahoo.com

**Secretary**  
Tina Patterson  
mablepatterson@hotmail.com

**Board Members at Large**  
Andy Taylor  
andytaylor6@gmail.com

---

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

Please deliver to: