MARCH CHAPTER MEETING
At the Hillsborough County Extension Office
Happy Trails to You
Presented by John Lampkin
Wednesday, March 21, 7 PM

John Lampkin is the steward for the Sun City Center Nature Trails and is working on a project to photograph and catalog the flora and fauna of the area. We have published a couple of his articles in recent grapevines and look forward to hearing more from him. He is an active Audubon member.

John Lampkin is an avid citizen naturalist and photographer and now retired from a New York music career, he explores and marvels at the Floridian universe with macro lens in hand. Not coincidentally, as a professional composer his woodwind quintet, "Insects: A Musical Entomology in Six Legs" won the Grand Prize in a Composers Guild international competition. John also constructs crossword puzzles for the New York Times, Wall Street Journal the LA Times and other venues, with many of his puzzles having nature themes. Except for his fascination with bugs and plants he is totally harmless.

Light refreshments are served and a native plant auction follows the presentation.
- submitted by Virginia Overstreet

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 Plant Sale - April 14 & 15

We need YOU - please give back to SNPS with a few hours of your time, we have jobs for everyone!

- Setup - Friday April 13 starting about 9 AM.
- Saturday, April 14 Sale is from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Setup starts at 7 AM!
- Sunday, April 15 Sale is from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Breakdown needed at 3

The USF Plant Sale is SNPS’s biggest fundraiser, and is the most important outreach effort we do. We are counting on you to help us continue this great event. Thanks for your continued support.

If you are available to help, please let Tina know at mablepatterson@hotmail.com or the March meeting.

We especially need people for Saturday and Sunday morning shifts. Even if you can only stay a couple hours please let us know.

We will have a great selection of natives to make your yard a pollinator magnet. Come and help, then take home a few plants for your yard. Even if you don’t have a yard, a large pot can provide color for you and nectar for butterflies. See you there!

UPCOMING SPEAKERS-

April 18 – TBD
May – Open Mic (date may change)
June 20 – Rachel Arndt – Tampa Bay Watch

Thanks for helping with the February meeting -
JoAnn Hoffman for bringing snacks
Bunny Worth, Terri Nowik, Janet Bowers for bringing auction plants

Special Thank Yous -
JoAnn Hoffman for being our extension liason and making our meeting place possible.
Joel Jackson for being the plant auctioneer.
Devon Higginbotham for greeting people at the door.
Remembering Lucy Fuchs........ -Devon Higginbotham

I LOVE LUCY!!

There! Now you know. I love Lucy. I planned to write a eulogy about her, but discovered she had written her own obituary. Her husband, Frank, found it on her computer after she passed away last month. So I will let Lucy tell you about herself, in her own words.

FUCHS, Lucille Ann “Lucy”, 82, of Brandon, FL went to God on February 10, 2018. Born April 13, 1935 in Ottoville, OH daughter of Frank and Mary Weber. She spent the first part of her life in Ohio, graduating with a Bachelor's degree from the University of Dayton and a Master’s degree from Ohio State. In 1969 she moved to Florida and worked at Florida State University where she met the love of her life, Frank J. Fuchs, whom she married in 1971.

They lived most of their lives in Brandon, FL. Lucy was a perpetual student, earning a second Master's degree from Florida State and a Doctorate (PhD) from the University of South Florida. Through the years she taught at many levels, elementary in Ohio and Florida, high school French in Ohio, courses at Hillsborough Community College, and the final fifteen years in the education department at Saint Leo University where she became Chair of the Department.

Lucy and Frank traveled extensively through the years, visiting and sometimes revisiting 73 countries around the world. They spent two years doing volunteer work in Mexico and one year in Washington, D.C., as well as Appalachia in Eastern Kentucky. Lucy wrote 20 books, including novels, books for educators, and books of inspiration, and dozens of shorter articles. She also had many of her Letters to the Editor published in local newspapers and national magazines.

She was a member of Pax Christi as well as other peace and justice groups. She enjoyed painting and gardening. She loved nature and was a member of the Eagle Audubon Club, Sierra Club, Florida Native Plant Society, and the Florida Trail Association.

Lucy had so many stories to tell about her life that I never tired of listening. Each adventure was more interesting than the last. She was an Educator but also a Humanitarian, volunteering for education and women’s rights all around the world.

A memorial mass will be held at Nativity Catholic Church, Brandon, 11 AM on March 3rd, with 10 AM visitation.

If you would like to know more about Lucy’s life, visit www.lucyfuchs.com. Frank has posted lovely memories of her along with pictures through the years.

Farewell, my friend Lucy! We all love and will miss you!

Sunday Dinner Torreya March 2014, Lucy is on the right, in the middle
FNPS News….

The 2018 Annual Conference will be held at the Miccosukee Resort in Miami, Florida (500 S.W. 177th Avenue, Miami, FL 33194), May 17-20, 2018.

The fieldtrips look great, more info at - www.fnps.org/conference/2018

SNPS News

- Don’t forget to send Tina any volunteer hours so that she can enter it on the FNPS website
- We need new Board members - please let Tina or Virginia know if you can help.
- If you are interested in attending a Board meeting please check with Tina or Virginia to get the details

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Rain Forests and Waterfalls Tour
May 6-11, 2018

Spring is an incredible time to visit the Appalachians, when the ephemeral blooms rush to beat the flush of trees in nature’s grand design to flower and set seed before the arboreal forest shades them out.

This is the time of year when all of nature wakes from its winter slumber, something we miss in Florida.

Discover for yourself what a temperate rain forest looks and feels like, and learn what native plants the American Indians used for food and medicine.

Come with us when we tour Brasstown Bald, the Blue Ridge, Mt Mitchell and the Smoky Mountains and discover along with us “The Wildflower National Park”.

Forecast is for clear skies, cool weather and an incredible time!

For more information, visit www.indigotravelcompany.com or contact Devon Higginbotham at 813-478-1183 or email at indigotravelcompany@gmail.com.

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Mark Your Calendar

March 3, 10 & 17 Advanced Plant ID at Brooker Creek Preserve www.brookercreekpreserve.org
March 10 Munn Park Plant Sale - downtown Lakeland, Heartland Chapter will be selling natives
March 24 9:00 Lettuce Lake Walk, meet by the Audubon Resource Center building
April 14-15 USF Spring Plant Sale - SNPS’ biggest fund raiser, see page 2
April 22 Earth Day - plant a tree!
April 28 9:00 Lettuce Lake Walk, meet by the Audubon Resource Center building
May 17-20 FNPS annual conference in Miami www.fnps.org/conference/2018
Fieldtrip March 24
Green Swamp - East Tract

Where: Green Pond Road Gate
When: 8:00 AM

Depending on where the best spots are, we may walk a short section of the Florida trail that goes through nice flatwoods with seasonal ponds. We may also drive around a nice loop and/or drive into a pool in the Withlacoochee River that attracts huge numbers of alligators (depends on road conditions). If we can visit areas that have been burnt, the flowers should be outstanding.

There are no facilities available, so plan accordingly. This trip will be about 4-5 hours. We recommend wearing a hat, long pants and close-toed shoes. Don't forget drinking water, snacks and sunscreen.

Contact for trip - Shirley Denton 813 625-5031

Lettuce Lake Update
From Tina Patterson

♦ The next walk is March 24, 9 AM.
♦ The walk is free but there is a $2 per car entry fee.

Itea virginica
Lyonia lucida

Flatwoods Park Update

Mary Miller led a workday and the native garden is looking great!

Thanks for keeping up with this garden Mary.

Coral bean bloom is starting to open

2018 Field Trip schedule

April 21 - Duette Preserve, Manatee County - we plan to get permission to drive into the preserve
May 17-20 - FNPS conference in Miami
June -- Hillsborough River Paddle
July - possible buying trip to local native nursery
August - no fieldtrip
September - Polk county sites
October 19-21 - Silver River camping
November - Blackwater Creek Preserve
Plant City HCC Garden Update

Tina and I got the winter dead stuff cut off and tidied up the garden. We planted 2 new plants - swamp azalea (*Rhododendron viscosum*) and canna (*Canna flaccida*). I am visiting often to keep them watered and hoping for rain!

The Red Buckeye is now at its peak and the Chickasaw plum is looking lovely. We even have a few iris blooming. I am looking for someone to help with this garden, if you are interested, please email me - jbowers27@yahoo.com.

~Janet Bowers

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Monarch and Milkweed Monitoring

Three SNPS members ended up at Morris Bridge Park on March 24. We got some details beforehand and I remembered Scott Davis sharing his milkweed map that showed milkweed in the Morris Bridge road area. Curiosity was the main draw, Tonya Van Hook had put out a call for help with her ongoing milkweed survey. We got instructions and crossed the road to see some milkweed (*Asclepias perennis*) and monarchs. Luckily, Devon had a pencil for our tabulations.

Tonya gathered 10 samples of leaves with eggs and nearby leaves for OE parasite evaluation. She came from Eastern Tennessee for this project and this was one of 3 Florida sites that collections were made. Kara Driscoll from Naples also came to help. She was familiar with what was needed and I scribed for her. She counted stems and leaf pairs. We noted caterpillars, egg numbers and condition of the plants. More than 50 plants were evaluated. Mostly they blended into the ditch garbage since they weren’t blooming. Mike scouted out the plants for us.

We saw a couple big caterpillars (5th instar). One had run out of leaves and was munching on the stem. There were many tiny caterpillars and eggs.

While we were in the area, we got to see the native plant garden that Mike Fite takes care of at Morris Bridge Park. The lyre leaf sage was busting out and the coral honeysuckle looked lovely.

Thanks Mike for your on-going efforts!

~Janet Bowers
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.
Newsletter Submissions
Deadline for the next issue: April 1, 2018
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

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
Go south on 579 for two blocks. Turn left on Old Hillsborough Ave and park on the North side of the office.

2018 Board of Directors

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