

www.fnps.org/chapters/suncoast

The Suncoast Grapevine

Newsletter of the Suncoast Native Plant Society, Inc.



Volume 20 Number 5

May 2003

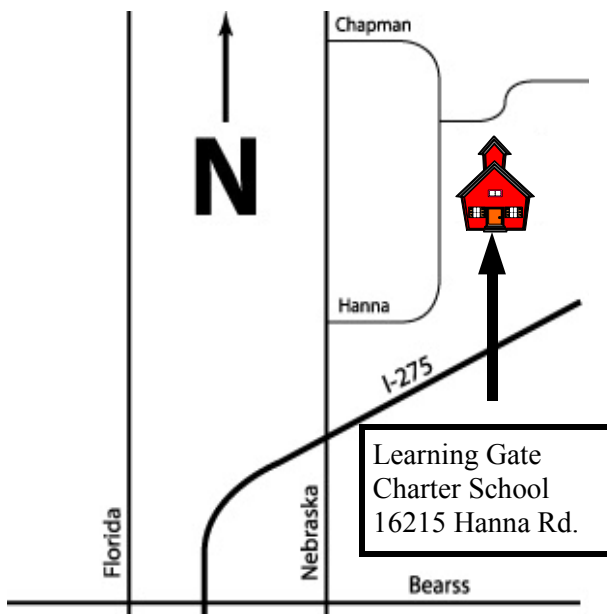
May 21 Meeting (at the new Learning Gate Charter School)

Native Gardening Experiences of SNPS Members: An Audience Participation Program

Our May meeting will be devoted to sharing experiences in gardening with native plants. Whether you're an old hand or a novice just starting out, this is your chance to glean useful information from fellow members. Find out what has worked for others: maybe it will work for you as well.

Several of our members have documented their gardens with slides: Fred Mulholland, Ken Albritton, Doris Bareiss, Joel Jackson, and George Kish plan to show us some of theirs; if you too have slides or photographs please bring them along; however, these are not at all a requirement for participation. Please do come to the meeting bringing problems that others may be able to help you solve, and/or solutions that you can share with others.

-- Contributed by Harriett Wright



Highlights

Calendar.....	3
Directory.....	6
Membership application.....	2
Message from the president.....	2
New kid in town.....	2
Plant profile.....	5
Program for 2003.....	2
SNPS Event at Kerby's.....	4
Spring plant sale thank you.....	4

Message from the President

The Suncoast chapter will be hosting a joint meeting with the Sierra Club and Florida Audubon at our July meeting. This meeting provides an important outreach opportunity for Suncoast members to meet and talk with members of two organizations who share our views about habitats and native plants. We have traditionally provided native plant seedlings to our guests along with an abundant plant raffle. If you have extra seedlings growing in your yard, please consider potting them in a paper cup to donate at our July meeting. If you have extra plants that are larger than seedlings, please consider donating them for the plant raffle. It would be helpful if you could provide a short description and the growing conditions on a small piece of paper or tag for each plant that you donate.

The good will extended to our guests through a native plant seedling is a great, hands-on way to share our enthusiasm about native plants.

I'd like to extend a special thank you to Sally Sun for another successful USF plant sale, to Amée Bailey for organizing the Kirby's event, and to Marilyn Lewis for showing her pondscape during the Eco-Gardening/Pondscapes tour.

George Kish

Suncoast Chapter Program for 2003

By Harriett Wright

Jun 18 Florida's Forests by Alan Mayberry

Jul 16 The History and Ecology of the Hillsborough River by Joe Murphy (combined meeting with Sierra Club and Florida Audubon)

Aug 20 Florida's Black Bears by Syd Taylor

Sep 17 Making Wet Spots Look Good by Craig Watson

Oct 15 Does Compost Just Happen? by Ardell O'Neal

Nov 19 Election Meeting and 20-Year Anniversary Celebration

New Kid in Town

Native Plants to Go is Chris Corral's new retail nursery in Tampa on West Cypress between Lois and Dale Mabry. Give Chris a call at 813-714-0667. Native Plants to Go has a fine selection of native trees, shrubs, and grasses and is convenient to Tampa, Carrollwood, and Town 'n Country.

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 FNPS also entitles you to membership privileges in the Suncoast Native Plant Society, Inc. and a subscription to their monthly newsletter *The Suncoast Grapevine*. Contact the membership chair, George Kish at (813) 920-0853.

Detach and mail to: Suncoast Native Plant Society, P.O. Box 82893, Tampa, FL 33682-2893

Name _____

Business name
or organization _____

Address _____

City, State and Zip _____

Home telephone _____ Work telephone _____

E-mail and/or FAX _____

New Member

Renewal

Check pertinent category:

Individual \$25

Full time student \$15

Library subscription \$15

Family or household \$30

Contributing \$40

Donor \$250

Not-for-profit

organization \$50

Business or

corporate \$100

Supporting \$100

Make check payable to **FNPS**.

Suncoast Calendar

REGULAR MEETINGS OF SUNCOAST NATIVE

PLANT SOCIETY at the Learning Gate Charter School, 16215 Hanna Road, in Lutz. 7 PM

MAY 21 JUNE 18 JULY 16 AUGUST 20

SNPS 2003 FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE All are scheduled for 9:00 am. Steve Dickman, 813-936-7268 for more information. Trails are rated moderate unless noted. Dates subject to change.

Jun 21 Hike Alderman's Ford Addition Trail (Difficult)

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS at the FNPS Pinellas

Chapter: (Moccasin Lake Nature Park, 2750 Park Trail, Clearwater; 727-544-7341)

Apr 19 Spring Plant Sale 9 AM to 3 PM

May 07 Forensic Botany and Pioneer Natives

May 10 Field Trip: Historic Greenwood Cemetery

HILLS CO. MASTER GARDNER PROGRAMS.

Call 813-744-5519 x144 for information about locations or visit the website: hillsborough.extension.ufl.edu/calendar.htm. Upcoming clinics:

May 17 Water Wise Workshop, 1:00 PM Riverview

May 17 Rain Barrel & Water Wise Workshop 9:00 AM/10:00 AM at the extension office (Pre-registration required)

May 20 Water Wise Workshop, 7:00 PM Odessa

May 20 Secrets & Shortcuts of Master Gardeners, 7:00 PM, Temple Terrace

May 21 Landscape Design Workshop, 9:00 AM at the extension office (Pre-registration required)

May 22 Water Wise Workshop 7:00 PM Riverview

May 31 Water Wise Workshop, 10:00 AM Lutz

May 31 Compost Happens & Water Wise Workshop 9:00 AM/10:00 AM (Pre-registration required)

Jun 1 Water Wise Workshop 1:00 PM Ruskin

Jun 3 Palms of Central Florida 7:00 Brandon

SIERRA CLUB:

May 17 West Lake Kayak Beginners Outing; Fee; Tina Voci 954-817-3352 for more information.

May 18 Hike Wolf Branch Creek ELAPP Site 2-3 hour Sunday morning hike; call Rikter 813-263-4734 or richtergruen@earthlink.net

ST. PETERSBURG AUDUBON SOCIETY

www.stpeteaudubon.org/main.htm.

TAMPA AUDUBON FIELD TRIPS

May 25 South Hillsborough Co. Call Rob Heath 813-671-0957

Jun 27-29 Bus trip to Keys, Kendall and Everglades; Fee; Dave Powell 813-657-7762

CHINSEGUT NATURE CENTER Limited seating so register On-line at floridaconservation.org/join-us/chinsegut/registration.htm. 352-754-6722

May 27 Animal Tracks/Signs Walk 9:00 AM

Jun 3 The ecology of white-tailed deer 7:00 PM

Jun 10 . Chinsegut Butterfly Walk 9:00 am

USF BOTANICAL GARDENS WORKSHOPS

10:00 AM-11:15 AM ; USFBG members \$3.00 - non-members \$5.00 unless otherwise noted. Call 974-2329.

May 17 Bamboo 10:00 AM

May 24 Perennials in the Landscape 10:00 AM

Jun 21 Ornamental Grasses 10:00 AM

SPECIAL EVENTS

May 10-11 USF Botanical Gardens Orchid Fantasy Just in time for Mother's Day! Free orchid to Moms! Join us for a special lunch on Mother's Day. Call us for more information. 813-974-2329

Jun 14-15 USF Botanical Gardens Butterfly and Herb Fair For more information, call 813-974-2329.

Jun 5-6 18th Annual Exotic Pest Plant Council Symposium St. Petersburg; \$85.00; Kristina Serbesoff-King: kserbes@sfwmd.gov

May 21 Reggae on the Bay 6:00-9:00 PM; Selby Gardens in Sarasota. Web site: www.selby.org/events/calendar2002-2003.htm

Submitted by: Shirley Brown

Spring Plant Sale Thank You

By Sally Sun

The spring USF Botanical Garden Plant Sale took place April 12 and 13. Seventeen members volunteered their time to help make this a successful event. SNPS member Rick Brown's RiverView Flower Farm delivered about 350 plants Wednesday, April 9. On Friday, April 11, Sally Sun started the day at Florida Natives Nursery on Livingston Ave., owned by Lori Milam. The set-up crew (Ken Albritton, Cliff Brown, Mike Fite and Sally) assembled at USF Botanical Garden around 9:30 a.m. We set up the tables and plants in a little over an hour. Then Sally went to Environmental Equities in Hudson to pick up more plants. We had a couple of more deliveries during the day. In all, we had about 60 varieties of trees, shrubs, ground covers, wildflowers, ferns and vines. Unfortunately, there was a communication mix-up with one of the growers, and we were short a delivery. In addition, we usually get many more plants from RiverView; so we only had a little over 500 plants to sell. We had a nice selection of plants, just not many.

On Saturday, most of the volunteers arrived by 8 a.m. The last of our deliveries arrived at 7:30 and we scurried to get the plants off the truck and into position. The Botanical Garden members started arriving at 9:30 a.m., and the public at 10 a.m. On hand to assist were Ken Albritton, Cliff Brown, Mel Brown, Betsy Davis, Charolette Gatlin, Lucy Hoyt, Diane Lane, Marilyn Lewis, Fred Spriggs, Sally Sun, Carmel van Hoek, and Harriett Wright. We weren't sure how the crowds were going to be, but we needn't have worried – the usual Saturday morning rush occurred. Because of the shortage of wildflowers, we were mostly sold out of these by noon.

There were mostly trees left on Sunday; in fact, we only had six(!) wildflowers left this day. On hand to assist were Steve Dickman and Sally Sun. Mary Miller was also there in the morning. We arranged with the Gardens to sell their natives, so we spent the first 1½ hours getting the plants from their greenhouse to our area – we were there anyway, so it gave us something to do and gave us plants to bring customers into our area to then also look at the trees. Joanne Kitchen came a little later and George Kish came for the afternoon. Ken Albritton came close to closing time to help disassemble. It wasn't as crowded this day, but we still did a good business – we sold most of the Gardens' native plants. They were happy about that.

Well, one advantage to having too few plants is we didn't have any left.

A big “Thanks!” to everyone who gave up part of their weekend to help make the plant sale successful. As a thank-you, each volunteer was given a wildflower of their choice.

Financially, we had gross sales of \$2,766.25 and we netted about \$697. The various events throughout the year, and especially the semiannual plant sales, are vital to SNPS. Part of the purpose of SNPS is educating the public about native plants. The earnings from these sales help to pay for grants, special speakers' expenses, the newsletter, and educational projects throughout the area. If you can find a few hours to volunteer next fall, your help would be appreciated. It's a great way to learn about Florida's native plants; and it's fun!! “Y'all come out and join us.”

SNPS Event at Kerby's

By Ameé Bailey

Thanks to those who helped at Kerby's Nursery the weekend of April 26 and 27. Volunteers included Ken Albritton, Ameé Bailey, Cliff Brown, Mike Fite, George Kish, Mary MacArthur, Fred Spriggs, Betty Wargo, and Harriett Wright. Monica Brandies of the Brandon News was also on hand for book signing. Kerby's had more than 30 different native plant species available for sale. Kerby's was pleased with the turnout and would like for us to visit again in the fall.

Native Plants at Kerby's

<u>Trees</u>	<u>Shrubs</u>	<u>Vines</u>
American plum	Simpson stopper	Coral honeysuckle
Chickasaw plum	Coontie	Passion vine
Red maple	Firebush	Climbing aster
Dogwood	Walter's viburnum	Yellow Carolina jessamine
Slash pine	Wax myrtle	
Swamp hibiscus	Virginia willow	
Longleaf pine	Oak-leaf hydrangea	<u>Wildflowers</u>
Bald cypress	Beautyberry	Black-eyed susan
Dahoon holly		Beach morning glory
Southern magnolia	<u>Grasses</u>	
East Palatka holly	Fakahatchee grass	Beach sunflower
Florida private	Sea oats	Sunshine mimosa
Laurel oak	Cord grass	Yellow canna
	Blue-eyed grass	Tropical sage

Kerby's Nursery and Landscaping is located at 2311 S. Parsons Avenue (Parsons Ave. is 2.5 miles north of Hwy 60) in Seffner and is convenient to the Brandon area. Call Kim Kerby at 813-685-3265 for more information.

NOTE: Kerby's gives a 10 percent discount to FNPS members.

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.

Cultivation:

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

Photograph by Dan Tenaglia, ISB Atlas of Florida Vascular Plants



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.

Directory

Officers & Board of Directors

President

George Kish 920-0853

Vice-presidents

Richard Wunderlin 977-6484

Harriett Wright 908-9398

Secretary

Ameé Bailey 662-5954

Treasurer

Fred Spriggs 935-1312

Chapter Representative

Ameé Bailey 662-5954

Board Members

Ameé Bailey 662-5954

Cliff Brown 988-3211

George Kish 920-0853

Fred Spriggs 935-1312

Betty Wargo 237-1509

Harriett Wright 908-9398

Richard Wunderlin 977-6484

Activities & Committee Chairs

Field trips

Steve Dickman 936-7268

Cliff Brown 988-3211

Publications

Richard Wunderlin 977-6484

Librarian

Vikki Sinclair 989-2896

Membership

George Kish 920-0853

Newsletter editor

George Kish 920-0853

Programs

Richard Wunderlin 977-6484

Harriett Wright 908-9398

Publicity

Harriett Wright 908-9398

Refreshments

Lucy Hoyt 960-3178

Education

Betty Wargo 237-1509

Book Sales

Sally Sun 935-1312

USF Plant Sale

Sally Sun 935-1312

Conference

Ameé Bailey 662-5954

Newsletter Submissions

Deadline for the next issue:

May 25

Please send articles and original artwork for The Suncoast Grapevine to the editor, George Kish, by the **deadline** of each month (earlier, please, if not typed). Text should be in MS Word; graphics should be in a standard graphic format. Previously published artwork should be accompanied by a letter of permission from the original publisher.

Mail:..... SNPS, Inc.
P.O. Box 82893
Tampa, FL 33682-2893

Email:...gkish@tampabay.rr.com

SNPS Address

Suncoast Native Plant Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 82893
Tampa, FL 33682-2893



Meeting Location

Suncoast Native Plant Society, Inc. meets the third Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the **Learning Gate Charter School, 16215 Hanna Road, Lutz.**

SNPS Web Address

www.fnps.org/chapters/suncoast

Grapevine Subscription

You may subscribe to the Suncoast Grapevine (not including membership in the SNPS or the FNPS) for \$10 per year. Contact George Kish at 920-0853.

Stamp

Please deliver to: