

The Suncoast Grapevine

Newsletter of the Suncoast Native Plant Society, Inc.



Volume 20 Number 6

June 2003

June 18 Meeting
(at the new Learning Gate Charter School)

Florida's Forests by Alan Mayberry

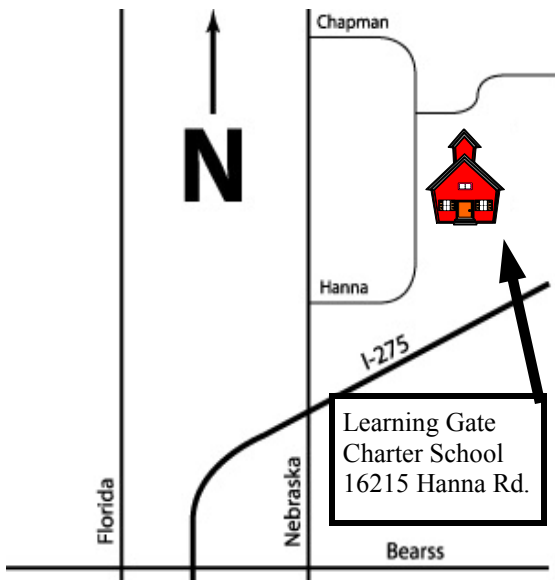
At our June meeting, Alan Mayberry, Urban Forest Manager for the city of Clearwater, will give us some insight into how his department has been able to optimize maintenance of Clearwater's city trees. A massive computerized inventory has been the key to this accomplishment. Alan will explain how tree inventories are done and how he uses them to set maintenance priorities. He will address the challenges facing municipalities endeavoring to maintain trees in an artificial urban environment. Alan has been City Forester for the last twenty of his thirty years with the City of Clearwater. He is in charge of the maintenance of all trees on city property, runs programs for homeowner assistance and public education, and is responsible for forestry related grant acquisitions

(Clearwater's tree inventories have been financed by Urban and Community Forestry grants). He was the primary author of Clearwater's tree ordinance and landscaping code and was responsible for its enforcement for fifteen years. An International Society of Arboriculture certified Arborist, he has studied arboriculture for many years, specializing in tree biology and an understanding of the physiological limitations of forest trees in urban areas.

-- Contributed by Harriett Wright

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Message from the President

If you missed our May meeting, you missed a really interesting program presented by several members of the Suncoast chapter. A special thanks to Doris Bareiss, Fred Mulholland, Ken Albritton, and Joel Jackson for their excellent presentations. The member participation meeting is my favorite because we hear about the successes and failures of fellow members and we trade great gardening stories.

Now that it is staying light out until about 8 PM, we are experiencing some difficulty being able to see slide presentations that begin at 7 PM. Doris Bareiss had the unfortunate privilege of making the first presentation of the evening at the May meeting. Doris did not let Murphy's law get the best of her and she pressed onward with her presentation.

To try to avoid this situation through the summer, we will change the order of our meetings so that we conduct social time and the plant raffle first, before the start of any program that involves a slide presentation. I hope this change will not be too much of an inconvenience—let's try it to see how it works.

George Kish

Suncoast Program for 2003

By Harriett Wright

- 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.

The Board of Directors Has Been Busy

By Ameé Bailey

At the annual membership meeting in November, the Suncoast chapter will be celebrating its 20th anniversary. Volunteers are needed to assist in the preparation of this event. We are seeking ideas for a t-shirt design contest, a special newsletter edition, type of dinner, and ceremony. Please contact Ameé Bailey at aturtle2c@aol.com or 863-206-3439 to help plan this special occasion.

Four Suncoast chapter grants have been awarded. The USF Botanical Garden received \$300 to purchase native plants to be used at the garden's entrance prior to the Fall Plant Sale. The second award went to fund a brochure written by Barbara Waddell on alternatives to cypress mulch. Two other grants were awarded for the purchase of native plants at Carrollwood Day School and the New Tampa Library.

A Natural History Workshop is being planned for March 2004 in conjunction with state FNPS representatives. The workshop will be geared toward teachers, but other interested individuals may attend. The workshop is scheduled to run Thursday through Sunday during the Hillsborough County School District's spring break. The workshop will be held at the Learning Gate Charter School. Camping will be available. Contact Betty Wargo for more

information or to volunteer. More details will appear in the newsletter as they become available.

Ideas are needed for chapter workshops. The last workshop focused on the basics of plant identification. Suggestions for upcoming topics include plant photography, bromeliads, and ferns. If you have any suggestions contact Dick Wunderlin or Betty Wargo.

The Board has been establishing or revising procedures and guidelines for committee chair's duties, officer's duties, and chapter activities.

Information from the FNPS

If you are interested in participating at the state level, members are needed for the following committees: education, conservation, government policy, and membership. Contact your chapter representative, Ameé Bailey, for more information.

Keep your eyes out for a special flyer from the University Press of Florida (UPC). FNPS members will be receiving a one-time advertisement with special discounts.

Suncoast Calendar

REGULAR MEETINGS OF SUNCOAST NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY at the Learning Gate Charter School, 16215 Hanna Road, in Lutz. 7 PM
JUNE 18 JULY 16 AUGUST 20 SEPT 17

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)
Jul 19 Buying Trip to The Natives, Davenport (easy)

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS at the FNPS Pinellas Chapter: (Moccasin Lake Nature Park, 2750 Park Trail, Clearwater; 727-544-7341)
Jul 2 Speaker: Dave Sumpter of the Frog Listening Network, on 'Frogging by Ear'; 7:30 pm.
Jul 12: Field Trip; Boyd Hill Night Walk 8:15 p. m., Boyd Hill Nature Park, 1101 Country Club Way South, St. Petersburg

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:
Jun 17 - Water Wise Workshop - 7:00 - 8:30 pm, Seminole Library
Jun 18 - Water Wise Workshop - 7:00 - 8:30 pm, Jimmie B. Keel Library
Jun 19 - Landscape Design Game, 9 am-12 pm. Extension office
Jun 26 - Compost Happens, 8:00 am. Extension Office
Jul 8 - Water Wise Workshop - 7:00 - 8:30 pm, Jimmie B. Keel Library
Jul 12 - Landscape Design Game - 9:00 -12:00
Jul 26 - Compost Happens - 8:00 - 9:00 am, Extension office

TAMPA AUDUBON FIELD TRIPS
June 27-29, 2003 Keys, Kendall, and the Everglades bus trip - bus expense fee, reservations required. Dave Powell 657-7762.
July 12, 2003 Kissimmee Prairie Preserve

CHINSEGUT NATURE CENTER Limited seating so register On-line at floridaconservation.org/join-us/chinsegut/registration.htm. 352-754-6722
Jun 21 Introductory Archery Workshop. Equipment will be provided. 9:00 am – 11:00 am.
Jul 1 Program: Florida Goatsuckers: nighthawks, chuck-will's widows, and whip-poor-wills. 7:00 pm.
Jul 8 Program: Florida Frogs 7:00 pm.

USF BOTANICAL GARDENS WORKSHOPS
10:00 AM-11:15 AM ; USFBG members \$3.00 - non-members \$5.00 unless otherwise noted. Call 974-2329.
Jun 21 Ornamental Grasses 10:00 AM
Jun 28 Antique Roses 10-11:15 am.
Jul 12-13 Tropical Plant Fair

LOWERY PARK ZOO
Jun 27 Meet the Author Ginjer L. Clarke, author of Wild Moms, Wild Dads, Sharks will be at the Zoo School with our favorite book called 'Baby Alligators'. On June 27, 2003 at 11:00 am. Call **813-935-8552** ext.232 to register.

SELBY GARDENS
Jul 12 Summer Plant Fair

Submitted by: Shirley Brown

PLANT PROFILE

Common name: Chinquapin

Botanical name: *Castanea pumila* (L.) Mill.

Family: FAGACEAE (Beech Family)

Plant habit: A deciduous small tree or shrub

Size: A short, straight trunk up to 6 inches diameter and app. 30ft. tall with rounded crown.

Leaves: 3-4 in. long, 1-2 in. wide, alternate, obovate or elliptic; dentate with straight and parallel side ends ending in a short tooth; dark green above, pale green and gray tomentose beneath.

Flower: 4-5 in. long catkins of tiny, white male flowers from leaf axils; female flowers small, forming at the base of shorter catkins.

Fruit: dark brown spiny bur, app. 1 in. round, splitting open in fall, exposing one shiny, brown nutlet, the kernel of which is sweet and edible.

Flowering time: Spring to early summer

Habitat: dry soil

Distribution: Northern counties south to Hillsborough Co.

Hardiness zones: cold tolerant

Light: full sun

Water: Only till established; does poorly in moist soils

Propagation: by seed; may sucker

Availability: Several native plant nurseries

Comments: Chiquapin, not to be confused with chestnut oak, is in the same genus as the American chestnut but not susceptible to chestnut blight. It is a wildlife food for birds and small mammals. The kernels may be eaten fresh or roasted.

References:

Little, Elbert L., 1980, **The Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Trees, Eastern Region:** Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., New York, N.Y., p.376.

Nelson, Gil, 1994, **The Trees of Florida**, Pineapple Press, Sarasota, Fl., p.180.

Wunderlin, R.P. and Hansen, B.F., 2002, **Atlas of Florida Vascular Plants** (<http://plantatlas.usf.edu/>) [S.M. Landry and K.N. Campbell(application development), Florida Center for Community Design and Research] Institute for Systematic Botany, University of South Florida, Tampa.

Wunderlin, R.P., 1998, **Guide To the Vascular Plants of Florida:** University Press of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, p.256.

Information compiled by Carmel vanHoek

Photograph by Gil Nelson



Castanea pumila
photo by Gil Nelson, from his book
Shrubs and Woody Vines of Florida



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

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Cliff Brown 988-3211

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Vikki Sinclair 989-2896

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Newsletter editor

George Kish 920-0853

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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:

June 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.

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SNPS Address

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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: