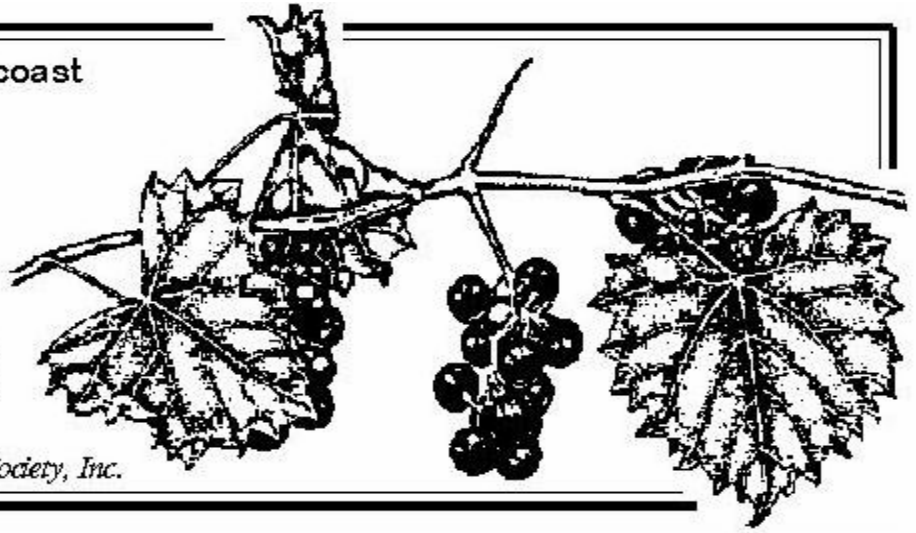


# The Suncoast Grapevine

Newsletter of the Suncoast Native Plant Society, Inc.



Volume 20 Number 8

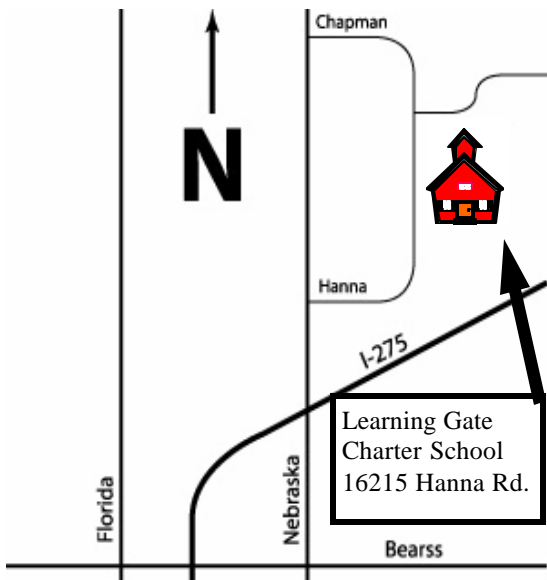
August 2003

## August 20 Meeting (at the Learning Gate Charter School)

### BLACK BEARS OF FLORIDA By Cynthia "Sid" Taylor

Black bears are resident bruins of North America: before settlement by Europeans, they occupied all of Florida. Habitat loss and persecution by early settlers reduced the occupied range in Florida to 6 core areas and 2 remnant populations, but today, after many years of decline, conservation efforts seem to be bringing about an increase in the numbers of Florida's subspecies of black bears, *Ursus americanus floridanus*. One remnant population, which resides in the Chassahowitzka Wildlife Management area and south through the Wekiwachee Preserve, has been the subject of study and protection by biologists from the University of Kentucky working in concert with the Division of Forestry and the Chassahowitzka Interagency Black Bear Working Group. Sid

Taylor, our speaker for August, has represented the Division of Forestry in this effort since 1998. Sid earned a BS in Botany at UCF in 1992, and has been with the Florida Department of Agriculture for more than ten years. She lives in the sandhills of the Brooksville Ridge and often spends her free time exploring other habitats. Her hobbies are hiking with her dog Toby, reading, writing, and photography. A current project is the archiving of old photographs and the compilation of a history of the



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## Message from the President

I want to thank all the members who contributed plants for our July meeting. The plant raffle was a huge success and our guests really appreciated the free seedlings. I would like to start acknowledging members who bring plants to the meetings in the newsletter. I'll have a sign-in sheet at the next meeting, so if you bring plants, please add your name to this list.

I also want to thank everyone who brought refreshments, especially Lucy Hoyt. Lucy tirelessly purchases or prepares most of the snacks that we enjoy at our meetings. Please consider dropping a little donation in the donation container near the goodies.

To make our 20th anniversary celebration a success, we need your help!! At our next meeting, Ameé will circulate a sign-up sheet for volunteers for a variety of activities in preparation for our November celebration. Please be generous with your time and help make our celebration one to remember.—and don't forget those t-shirt designs.

**George Kish**



(Continued from page 1)

Withlacoochee State Forest, which includes Tillis Hill Equestrian Camp where she has served as Resident Park Ranger since 1995. She is vice president of the Hernando Chapter of FNPS, and assists at the Chinsegut Nature Center in Hernando County. Her husband, Stan, works for Citrus County in Public Works.

- - Contributed by Harriett Wright

### Suncoast Program for 2003

By Harriett Wright

- 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

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail and/or FAX \_\_\_\_\_

New Member

Renewal

### Check pertinent category:

Individual \$25

Not-for-profit

Full time student \$15

organization \$50

Library subscription \$15

Business or

Family or household \$30

corporate \$100

Contributing \$40

Supporting \$100

Donor \$250

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  
AUG 20 SEP 17 OCT 15 NOV 19

**SNPS 2003 FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE** Field trips begin at 9:00 AM. Contact Steve Dickman, 813-936-7268 for more information. Trails are rated moderate unless noted. Dates subject to change. August TBA.

**PROGRAMS AND EVENTS at the FNPS Pinellas Chapter:** (Moccasin Lake Nature Park, 2750 Park Trail, Clearwater; 727-544-7341); Weds; 7:30 pm  
**Sep 3** - "How Mitigation Works": Speaker: Belinda Lambert of Pinellas County Hwy. Dept.  
**Sep 6** - Field Trip: McMullen Booth Road Regional Mitigation Facility

**HILLS CO. MASTER GARDNER PROGRAMS.**  
Call 813-744-5519 x144 for information about locations or visit the website: [hillsborough.extension.ufl.edu/calendar.htm](http://hillsborough.extension.ufl.edu/calendar.htm). Upcoming clinics at the extension office:  
**Aug 16** Compost Happens: 8:00 - 9:00 am.  
Rain Barrel Workshop: 9:00 - 10:00 am  
Water Wise Workshop: 10 - 11:30 am

**TAMPA AUDUBON FIELD TRIPS**  
**Aug 23** Belle Glade, Holeyland Bus Trip; Fee; Dave Powell, 657-7762

**CHINSEGUT NATURE CENTER** Limited seating so register On-line at [floridaconservation.org/join-us/chinsegut/registration.htm](http://floridaconservation.org/join-us/chinsegut/registration.htm). 352-754-6722  
**Aug 19** Chassahowitzka Wildlife Area 7:00 pm  
**Sep 19** Fall Wildflower Walk at Big Pine Tract 9:00 am

**SELBY GARDENS**  
**Sep 20-26** Public Invited Free

**LOWERY PARK ZOO**  
**Aug 22** Summer Safari Night; Live music and special animal encounters; 6:00-8:30 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.  
**Aug 16** - Shade Gardening in Florida

**USF BOTANICAL GARDENS HAPPENINGS**  
**Sep 6 & 7** - 9th Annual Cactus and Succulent Society Sale and Show  
**Sep 12-13** - Gesneriad Gala  
**Oct 11-12** - 13th Annual Fall Plant Festival

**BOK SANCTUARY**  
**Now through Sep 30** Plein Air Painters of Central Florida is a group of artists who paint landscapes much like the artist colonies of the past, "en plein air," which means in the open air. The painting styles of the ten artists represented range from realism to expressionism with mediums of oil, watercolor and acrylics. Pieces painted at Historic Bok Sanctuary depicting the beauty and uniqueness of the National Historic Landmark founded in 1929 also are exhibited. Through their art, the Plein Air Painters of Central Florida record a rapidly vanishing time and place as Central Florida is increasingly developed. Although the artists paint at the same sites together, their portrayal of those sites in their work is vastly different. The sensory experiences of painting on-site and watching the light change as it moves across the land is a constant source of inspiration and challenge for the painters.

**Submitted by: Shirley Brown**  
(Please email me at [srbrown11@msn.com](mailto:srbrown11@msn.com) if you know of any activity that would interest our group.)



## PLANT PROFILE

**Common name:** Wood Sage; Canadian Germander  
**Botanical name:** *Teucrium canadense* L.  
**Family:** LAMIACEAE (Mint Family)

**Plant habit:** A rhizomatous, perennial herb  
**Size:** to 4ft tall  
**Leaves:** Petiolate and opposite on a square stem; blades ovate, elliptic or lanceolate, 6-10 cm long and 2-4cm wide, margins serrate; upper leaf surface pubescent, lower leaf surface silvery- tomentose.  
**Flowers:** Pink to pale lavender, 12 mm long, many, in a spike-like raceme.  
**Fruit:** 4 nutlets  
**Flowering time:** Summer  
**Habitat:** moist ground

**Distribution:** Throughout the state  
**Hardiness zones:** Throughout its range.  
**Light:** Full sun to light shade  
**Water:** Only till established; will acclimate to drier areas.  
**Propagation:** by seed; cuttings and root division.  
**Availability:** Several native plant nurseries  
**Wildlife value:** Butterfly nectar plant.  
**Comments:** Best if cut back during winter.

### **References:**

Baker, Mary Francis, 1938, **Florida Wild Flowers:** The Macmillan Company, New York, N.Y. p.192.

Godfrey & Wooten, 1981, **Aquatic and Wetland Plants of Southeastern United States:** University of Georgia Press, Athens, Georgia, pp. 594-595.

Taylor, Walter Kingsley, 1992, **The Guide to Florida Wildflowers :** Taylor Publishing Co., Dallas, Texas, p.232.

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, pp.452.

**Information compiled by Carmel vanHoek**  
**Photograph by Fred Nation**



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](http://www.fnps.org).

## Directory

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Harriett Wright 908-9398

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Richard Wunderlin 977-6484

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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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#### *Publicity*

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#### *Refreshments*

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#### *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:

**August 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](http://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:**