

www.fnps.org/chapters/suncoast

# The Suncoast Grapevine

Suncoast Chapter of Florida  
Native Plant Society, Inc.



Club logo:  
"Beach Sunflower"  
*Helianthus debilis*

Volume 23 Number 2

FEBRUARY 2006

**February 15. 7:00 pm at Hillsborough Extension Office**

Florida Department of Transportation's (FDOT)  
Use of Native Wildflowers along State Roads  
By William Moriarty

Nothing interrupts the monotony of highway driving more than a splashy display of wildflowers in the median or along the roadside. For just a moment one forgets the madness of fellow drivers and enjoys the beauty of the colorful vegetation.

One person who has had a terrific influence on the beautification of our state roads is William Moriarty, District Maintenance Roadside Vegetation Coordinator for Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) in Tampa. For 12 years, he has been responsible for the District's wildflower program, exotic nuisance plant control initiatives, vegetation management planning and contracting, and vegetation management at outdoor advertising. He also administered the Department's Highway Beautification Grant program at the District level for eight years.

### DIRECTIONS TO:

Hillsborough County Extension Service, 5339 County Road 579, Seffner.

Take I-4 to Exit 10 (just east of I-75);  
Go South for two blocks. Office is at  
the corner of Old Hillsborough Road  
and County Road 579.

William founded the non-profit volunteer tree planting organization, Tampa Bay Reforestation and Environmental Effort, Inc (TREE), in 1983 and still serves as its current president. He is also a founding member of the Suncoast Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society. In addition, he has authored three copyrighted publications including "Plants of the William Bartram Florida Native Plant Gardens," and written his first book entitled "William Moriarty's Florida."

Submitted by Mary Miller

## **Deadline for the Landscaping with Natives Awards looming around the corner.**

March 31 is the deadline to submit your home for consideration to be presented at the State Conference in May. If your yard is at least 2 years old and includes 75% Florida native species, you are encouraged to submit an application. The application requires a design sketch and photographs on a CD.

Applications are available on the FNPS web site - a prompt is on the home page. Go to Programs, then Awards and Grants, then to Landscape Awards. The application has been revised and should be easier to complete. If you do not have internet access, contact Michael W. Kenton, Chairman, Landscape Awards Committee: Cell: (941) 256-6735 and he will snail mail you one.

Beginning with this years awards, not only the designer, but the owner and contractor will receive awards. Last years recipients are now posted.

FNPS wants to honor those of you who utilize Florida native plants in your projects. This is a big part of the mission and provides educational opportunities for all who visit you.

Michael W. Kenton



Slope forest in Torrey State Park, Gadsden County.

Photo by Shirley Denton

## **PHOTOGRAPHERS WANTED**

Our webmaster is looking for pictures of native plants taken by Suncoast's membership to showcase on our website's opening page each month. Please send photos you would like published to Pat Clouser, [mlvpat@verizon.net](mailto:mlvpat@verizon.net) or mail negatives to our PO box. (See last page of this newsletter.) Don't forget to name the plant and include your name.



## **NATIVE PLANTS AT WMNF**

Last month Suncoast Native Plant Society members Mike Fite, JoAnn Hoffman and Vicki Sinclair along with 12 other volunteers worked at community radio station WMNF's native plant garden. Volunteers distributed 100 bales of pine straw, mulching the plants to conserve water. Some of the flower beds were weeded and exotic vines removed. Non-SNPS member, Brian Schatz (Schatz Landscape Design) coordinated the volunteer work with WMNF, as he has done in the past. Afterwards, workers were treated to dessert and tour of the studios by Carrie Core WMNF's volunteer coordinator.

Submitted by Mike Fite

If you would like to participate in future projects at WMNF, please call Brian Schatz, 908-8580.

# Suncoast Calendar

## REGULAR MEETINGS OF SUNCOAST

### CHAPTER OF FNPS 7:00 PM

FEB 15    MAR 15    APR 19

**FNPS PINELLAS CHAPTER:** (Moccasin Lake Nature Park, 2750 Park Trail, Clearwater; 727-544-7341); First Weds; 7:30 pm

**MAR 1**—Moths: the Other Beautiful Insect

**MAR 5**—Field Trip to Wall Springs Park, Pam Harbor

**FNPS HERNANDO CHAPTER:** Meets first Monday of the month at county Extension service, 19490 Oliver St., Brooksville; 6:30 pm. Call 352-583-2384.

**MAR 6**—A snippet of History: Sugar Cane

**FNPS PASCO CHAPTER (Nature Coast):** Meets monthly on second Tuesday; 7:30 pm at St. Marks Fellowship Hall, 7922 State Road 52, Hudson, FL; 727-848-8000.

**FEB 14**—Why Hot is Cool: Without Fire, What would we lose.

**FEB 19**—Field Trip to Caledesi Island 9:30 am

**MAR 5**—Annual Plant Sale: 1-4 pm

**MAR 14**—Regular chapter meeting

**TAMPA AUDUBON SOCIETY:** Meets second Saturday, at the Audubon Resource Center at Lettuce Lake Park. Website: [tampaaudubon.org](http://tampaaudubon.org)  
Email: [smkroh@tecoenergy.com](mailto:smkroh@tecoenergy.com)

**FEB 11**—Tampa Bay Conservancy 11:00 am

**FEB 18**—Field Trip to Merrit Island National Wildlife Refuge

**MAR 11**—Exploring Florida's Waterways 11:00 am

## **ST. PETERSBURG AUDUBON**

Meets at Science Center, 7701 22nd Avenue North, St. Pete; For information call 727-384-0027 or website, [www.stpeteaudubon.org/main.htm](http://www.stpeteaudubon.org/main.htm); at the Science Center, 7701 22nd Ave. N.

**BOK TOWER** [www.boktower.org/whatsnew](http://www.boktower.org/whatsnew)

**Pinewood estate**—now open for a small fee

**MAR 4**—Landscaping: to Sod or not to Sod 10:00am to Noon; fee and registration

## **BROOKER CREEK PRESERVE**

3940 Keystone Rd. Tarpon Springs; 727-453-6800 or website: [BCPEEC@co.pinellas.fl.us](mailto:BCPEEC@co.pinellas.fl.us); Pre-registration required for most events.

**FEB 11**—Meet the artist of beauty and mystery of Florida's diverse bird life 10:00—2:00; free

**FEB 22**—Red, White and Blue: the Greening of America and Florida, too. 7:00 pm

## **CHINSEGUT NATURE CENTER**

Meets 7:00 pm at Chinsegut Nature Center. Call 352-754-6722 or website: [/floridaconservation.org/chinsegut/schedule.html](http://floridaconservation.org/chinsegut/schedule.html). NOTE: open to the general public on Friday & Saturday from 8 am - 2 pm.

## **LOWRY PARK ZOO**

For information, (813) 935-8552, ext. 239. or visit the website: [http://www.lowryparkzoo.com/html/12/12\\_calendar\\_events.html](http://www.lowryparkzoo.com/html/12/12_calendar_events.html)

**FEB 11**—Valentine's Day "Wild at Heart" 7-9 pm (for adults 21 and over) \$\$ includes a progressive dinner. Call 813-935-8552, ext. 239.

**MASTER GARDENER PROGRAMS** Call 813-744-5519 for details and locations or website: [www.hillsborough.extension.ufl.edu/HomeHort](http://www.hillsborough.extension.ufl.edu/HomeHort).

**FEB 11**—Compost Happens & Water Wise Workshops 8:30 am –11:00 am *Pre-registration required*

**FEB 14**—Nine steps to a certified yard 10:00 am

**SELBY BOTANICAL GARDENS** see website: [www.selby.org](http://www.selby.org) or phone 941-366-5731.

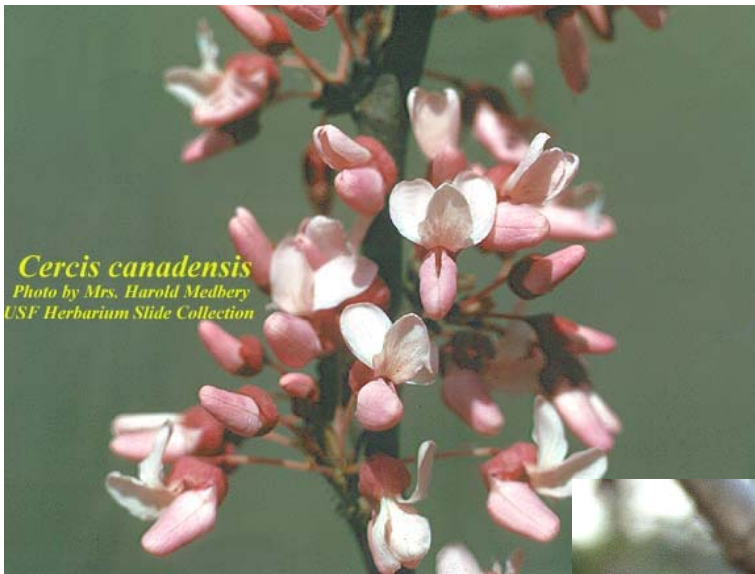
**SIERRA CLUB OF TAMPA BAY:** meets second Wednesdays at 7:00 PM at Gulf Ridge Council of the Boy Scout's headquarters, 13228 N. Central Ave. Tampa; For information: 813-253-3555 or 727-824-8813.

**Sierra Club's South Hillsborough Committee** meets on the first Thursday of the month, 7:00 pm, at Camp Bayou Outdoor Learning Center, 4202 24th St. SE, Ruskin. Call 813-645-4218.

**USF BOTANICAL GARDEN** 974-2329.

Volunteer orientation last Saturday morning of the month 10:00. Workshops require fee & registration. Website: [www.cas.usf.edu/garden/calendar.htm](http://www.cas.usf.edu/garden/calendar.htm).

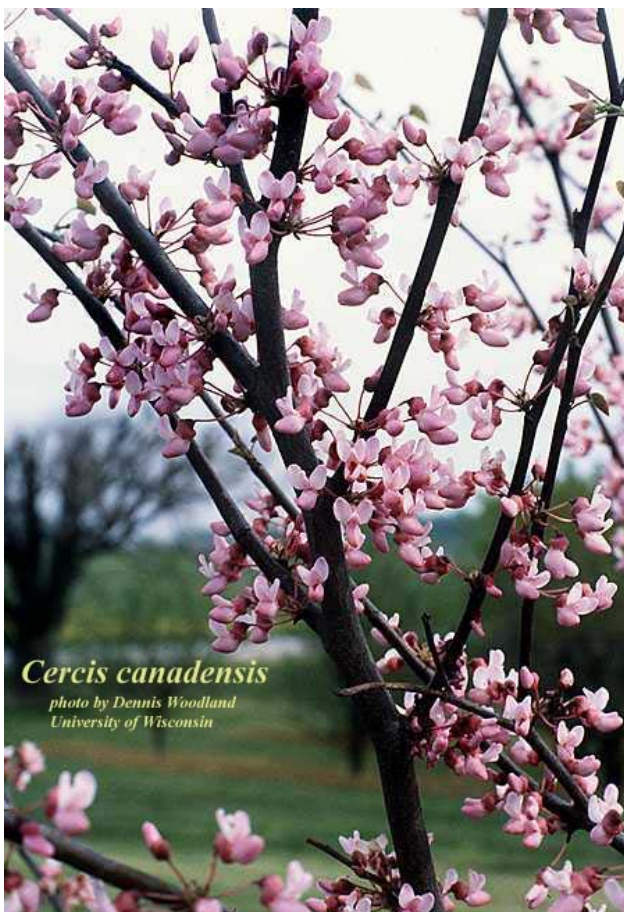
**MAR 17-18**—Plant Shop Begonia Bash



**Photo by Mrs. Herald Medbery**



**Photo by Shirley Denton**



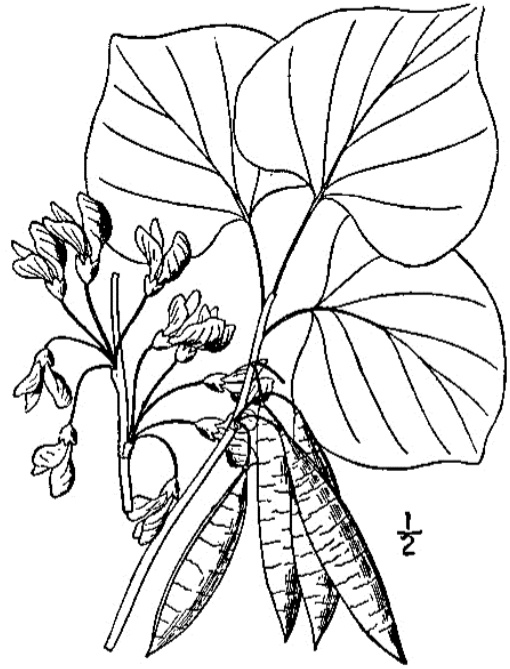
**Photo by Dennis Woodland**



**Photo by Bob Bierman**

## **PLANT PROFILE**

- **Common name:** Eastern redbud
- **Botanical name:** *Cercis canadensis* L.
- **Synonyms:** None
- **Family:** Fabaceae (Pea)
- **Zone:** 4 – 9
- **Plant Habit:** Medium, deciduous tree
- **Habitat:** Mesic hammocks
- **Size:** 15 to 30 ft (h) x 10 to 35 ft (w)
- **Leaves:** Alternate, simple, heart-shaped, dull green, 3-6 inches long
- **Bloom:** Small, irregular, pea-like bright pink to magenta flowers in long on old wood
- **Flowering time:** February to March; before leaves appear
- **Fruit:** Flattened, light brown, 4-inch long pod in fall
- **Bark:** Mostly smooth, gray
- **Distribution:** North and central Florida
- **Growing conditions:** Well-drained soils
- **Water:** Dry to moist; very drought tolerant, tolerates occasional flooding
- **Light:** Full sun to shade
- **Propagation:** Seed
- **Motility:** Low; seeds may germinate near parent
- **Maintenance:** Occasional trimming of leggy branches and seed pods
- **Availability:** Usually at Florida native nurseries and native plant sales; occasionally at big box stores
- **Comments:** Early spring blooms `
- **Landscape uses:** Specimen tree in natural setting



### **References:**

- Britton, N.L., and A. Brown, 1913, **An Illustrated Flora of the Northern United States and Canada** (<http://www.swsbm.com/homepage>).
- Nelson, Gil, 2003, **The Florida's Best Native Landscape Plants:** University Press of Florida, Gainesville, FL.
- Wunderlin, R.P. 2003. **Guide to Vascular Plants of Florida, Second Edition.** University Press of Florida, Gainesville, FL.
- Wunderlin, R.P. and B.F. Hansen. 2005. **Atlas of Florida Vascular Plants** (<http://plantatlas.usf.edu/>).

**Information compiled by** George R. Kish

**Drawing from** "An Illustrated Flora of the Northern United States and Canada" by N.L. Britton and A. Brown

**Color Photos by** Mrs. Hereld Medbery, Shirley Denton, Bob Bierman, and Dennis Woodland



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).

**2006**  
**FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE**

Mark your Calendars now for the next Field trip scheduled for March 18th.

For more information, call Troy Springer, 813-967-4538.

**Electronic Grapevine will  
be available soon.**

The newsletter will be available through our web page and be available in color if you have a color printer. We will notify you by email when the Grapevine is “**Now Available**” on the website. A paper version will continue until you decide which method you would prefer. Call or email Pat Clouser with any questions.



**Glossary**

Need help identifying native plants? Here are a few more definitions to help you from the Guide to the Vascular Plants of Florida by Richard P. Wunderlin

**S**

**Scabrous.** Rough to the touch.

**Scandent.** Climbing.

**Seed.** A mature ovule.

**Sepal.** One division of the calyx.

**Septum.** A partition.

**Serrate.** Toothed along the margin with sharp, forward-pointing teeth.

**Sessile.** Attached directly by the base, without a stalk.

**Sinuate.** With a strongly wavy margin.

**Spadix.** A spike with small, partially embedded flowers on a thickened fleshy axis in the Araceae, this usually subtended by a spathe.

**Spathe.** A usually large and solitary bract, surrounding an inflorescence.

**Spike.** An unbranched, elongate, inflorescence with sessile or subsessile flowers.

**Sporangium.** A body bearing spores.

**Spore.** In pteridophytes (ferns), the one cell reproductive structure.

**Stamen.** The male organ of the flower.

**Stellate.** Star-shaped; trichomes with branches radiating from the base.

**Stigma.** The upper part of the carpel or style with is receptive to pollen.

**Stipe.** A stalk.

**Stipule.** One of a pair of small stipulelike appendages on the leaflets of compound leaves.

**Stipule.** One of a pair of appendages found at the base of a petiole on many leaves.

**Stolon.** An elongate stem creeping on the surface of the ground.

**Striate.** Marked with fine, more or less parallel lines or ridges.

**Style.** The more or less elongated part of the carpel between the ovary and the stigma.

**Subulate.** Elongate and tapering gradually from the base to apex; awl-shaped.

(To be continued.)

## A Big Thank You

Thanks to those who contributed Raffle plants at the last meeting,

Remember, you get a free plant before the raffle begins when you donate plants for the raffle.

(Please sign the donor sheet so that we can acknowledge you in the Grapevine. Thanks.)

## Plant Raffle Guidelines

By Harriett Wright

When you bring plants to the plant raffle, please sign the raffle donor sheet and record the number of plants you donated. Before the start of the raffle, we will offer first choice of a plant on the raffle table to our speaker, followed by plant donors in the order of the number of plants donated. After these selections have been made, we will begin the raffle.

## Programs For 2006

**January 18**—Steve Farnsworth: Pseudonatives – Plants that people think are native but really aren't.

**February 15**—Will Moriarty: FDOT uses natives along state roads

**March 15**—Cliff Brown: Tilandsias and other Native Florida Bromeliads

**April 19**—Shirley Denton: Best Examples of Eco-systems that You can Visit

**May 17**—

**June 14**—

**July 19**—

**August 16**—

**September 20**—

**October 18**—

**November 15**—

## 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.

New Member  Renewal

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Business name or organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State and Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work phone \_\_\_\_\_

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

### Check pertinent category:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$25           | <input type="checkbox"/> Not-for-profit organization \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Full time student \$15    | <input type="checkbox"/> Business or corporate \$100      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Library subscription \$15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting \$100                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family or household \$30  | <input type="checkbox"/> Donor \$250                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contributing \$40         |   |

Make check payable to **FNPS**.

Detach and mail to:

**Suncoast Native Plant Society**

**P.O. Box 1158**

**Seffner, FL 33583-1158**

## Activities & Committee Chairs

<i>Field trips</i>	
Troy Springer	707-1524
<i>Publications</i>	
Dick Wunderlin	977-6484
<i>Librarian</i>	
Vicki Sinclair	989-2896
<i>Membership</i>	
Shirley Brown	977-0454
<i>Newsletter editor</i>	
Shirley Brown	977-0454
Mike Fite, Assistant	977-0892
<i>Programs</i>	
Bob Scheible	626-6815
<i>Publicity</i>	
Mary Miller	960-8132
<i>Refreshments</i>	
JoAnn Hoffman	671-2131
<i>Education</i>	
Betty Wargo	237-1509
<i>Book Sales</i>	
Sally Sun	935-1312
<i>USF Plant Sale</i>	
Sally Sun	935-1312
<i>Conference</i>	
<i>USF Botanical Garden Liaison</i>	
Shirley Brown	977-0454
<i>Chapter Representative</i>	
George Kish	920-0853

## Officers & Board of Directors

<i>President</i>	
Harriett Wright	908-9398
<i>Vice-president</i>	
Bob Scheible	626-6815
<i>Secretary</i>	
JoAnn Hoffman	671-2131
<i>Treasurer</i>	
Pat Clouser	662-7222
<i>Board Members</i>	
Pat Clouser	662-7222
JoAnn Hoffman	671-2131
Mary Miller	960-8132
Bob Scheible	626-6815
Troy Springer	707-1524
Harriett Wright	908-9398

## Newsletter Submissions

**Deadline for the next issue:**

**FEB 23**

Please send articles and original artwork for The Suncoast Grapevine to the editor, Shirley Brown, 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:..... Shirley Brown  
1804 Curry Road  
Lutz, FL 33549

Email:...srbrown11@msn.com

## Meeting Locations

Suncoast Native Plant Society, Inc. meets the third Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at either the **Hillsborough Extension office in Seffner** or 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 813-920-0853.

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

**Stamp**



**Please deliver to:**