

www.fnps.org/chapters/suncoast

# The Suncoast Grapevine

Suncoast Chapter of Florida Native Plant Society,



Club logo:  
"Beach Sunflower"  
*Helianthus debilis*

Volume 23 Number 3

MARCH 2006

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

**Program: Tillandsias and Other Florida Native Bromeliads**

**By Cliff Brown**

Which Florida resident or winter visitor hasn't walked in the woods to discover bromeliads perched on the branches of trees? Nothing quite conjures up the image of the tropics like the native bromeliads.

This month's speaker, Cliff Brown, is a Florida native and an expert on Tillandsias and other native bromeliads. Cliff is an experienced lifelong horticulturist who worked at the University of South Florida and for the last 25 years at Eureka Springs County Park. His love of native plants extends to his Temple Terrace yard where his carefully chosen plants attract hummingbirds and butterflies year around.

Please join us as Cliff relates how the Tillandsias have endured over the centuries, and how these lovely plants can enhance our Florida landscapes.

Submitted by Mary Miller

## 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.

## Plant Sale Volunteers Needed

The USF Botanical Gardens Spring Plant Sale takes place April 8 and 9. A sign-up sheet will be passed around at the March monthly chapter meeting. If you are unable to make the meeting and wish to help, please call Sally Sun at 935-1312.

We need volunteers for set-up Friday morning, April 7; and to work the sale Saturday, April 8, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Sunday, April 9, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. We hope to have enough volunteers so that no one has to work more than once.

We appreciate your participation!

## BOOK REVIEW

Noah's Garden: Restoring the Ecology of Our Own Back Yards, by Sara Stein.

Sara Stein's garden is not in Florida, or even in the South. Her piece of earth is in chill New England. Nevertheless, the ideas in her book resonate with anyone who cares about the land. Ms. Stein and her husband bought several unruly acres and set about taming them into a proper garden, with proper lawns and flower beds. But despite all her efforts at staking, dividing, and fertilizing, many of her exotic plants failed to thrive, weeds began to win out, and, worst of all, she began to realize that many former inhabitants of the land, including fox, grouse, toads and rabbits, were no longer to be seen. In only a few summers she had degraded or destroyed the habitat of most of the animals that had lived there. Her eyes now open, she turned from the study of horticulture, which tells you how to make plants grow where you will, to botany, which teaches you to let plants grow where they can, and of ecology, which tells of the interweaving and interdependence of communities of plants and animals.

*Noah's Garden* is the story of how Ms. Stein lured the former owners of her acres to return and share them with her. It has much to say about how our ecology has changed since the coming of Europeans, and about the indispensable services provided by forests, wetlands, and prairies. Engagingly written, it is a real page turner. Written in 1993, it has remained in print, and is available at Barnes and Noble and Borders, as well as in the Hillsborough County public library system.

*Submitted by Harriett Wright*

## WEBMASTER STILL NEEDS PHOTOGRAPHS

*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.) She is doing a great job on our site, trying to get information out to the members of our community about our club as well as native plants. Don't forget to name the plant and include your*

## 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

# Suncoast Calendar

## REGULAR MEETINGS OF SUNCOAST

### CHAPTER OF FNPS 7:00 PM

MAR 15    APR 19    MAY 17

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

**APR 5**—Medicinal Plants of Native Americans

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

**APR 3**—Florida Travels by Dr. Walter Taylor

**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.

**APR 11**—Regular chapter meeting

**TAMPA AUDUBON SOCIETY:** Meets second Saturday, at the Audubon Resource Center at Lettuce Lake Park at 11:00 am.

Website: [tampaaudubon.org](http://tampaaudubon.org)

Email: [smkroh@tecoenergy.com](mailto:smkroh@tecoenergy.com)

**APR 8**—Least Terns: no place to "Tern"

## 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

**Thru MAR 30**—"A Life of Painting Birds": Diane Pierce Retrospective

## 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.

## 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/l2/l2\\_calendar\\_events.html](http://www.lowryparkzoo.com/html/l2/l2_calendar_events.html)

**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).

**MAR 13**—Wildflowers and Native Plants: 7:00 pm

**MAR 14**—Butterfly Gardening: 7:00 pm

**MAR 16**—Rain Barrels 7:00 pm

**MAR 18**—Compost Happens, Rain Barrel and Water Wise Workshop; Pre-registration required. 8:30 am.

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

**APR 8**—Evaluating Your Florida Landscape; Fee required, register on line.

**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

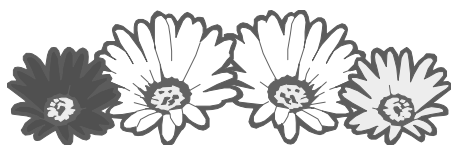
**MAR 25**—Water-wise Gardening Workshop

**APR 8-9**—Spring Plant Festival

**Suncoast Chapter  
Florida Native Plant Society, Inc.**

**Revenue and Expense Summary 2005**

<b>Revenue:</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>
Membership Dues	\$1,000.00	\$887.90
Book Sales	\$500.00	\$318.95
Plant Raffles	\$200.00	\$328.00
Plant Sales	\$6,000.00	\$6,992.50
Royalties	\$400.00	\$0.00
Donations	\$0.00	\$10.00
Misc	\$0.00	\$226.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	\$8,100.00	\$8,763.35
From Cash in Bank	\$2,400.00	\$993.27
<b>Total</b>	\$10,500.00	\$9,756.62
<b>Expense:</b>		
Administration	\$1,000.00	\$722.00
Newsletter	\$2,000.00	\$1,626.79
Book & T-shirt Purchases	\$400.00	\$543.02
Plant Purchases	\$3,800.00	\$4,409.67
Taxes and fees	\$400.00	\$566.90
Programs	\$700.00	\$505.18
Grants	\$1,500.00	\$1,175.00
Publication Committee	\$0.00	\$0.00
Field Trip Committee	\$0.00	\$0.00
Education Committee	\$0.00	\$0.00
Donations	\$300.00	\$0.00
Library	\$300.00	\$90.00
Outreach	\$100.00	\$118.06
<b>Total</b>	\$10,500.00	\$9,756.62



**NATIVE GOINGS ON AT  
WMNF**

*The Latest News*

Native landscape maintenance at community radio station WMNF continued with Suncoast Native Plant Society members Becky Sanguedolce, Vikki Sinclair and Mike Fite helping other volunteers mulch with pine straw.

Brian Schatz (Schatz Landscape Design) ordered a 100 bales of needles and helped with their distribution.

Gardening at WMNF is really a fun time and a great way to start the morning by donating a couple of hours to further the use of Florida native plants. Yes, we made a difference and helped the Tampa Bay area to be a better place to call home.

Submitted by Mike Fite

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

**HELP! HELP! HELP!**

Is there anyone out there who would be able to take on providing refreshments? JoAnn would appreciate the help as she is involved in getting the room set up and working with the speaker regarding his presentation equipment needs.

The budget now includes paying for the supplies although donations are always accepted.

Please call JoAnn at work, 744-5519 ext. 139, if you can help out or Harriett Wright, if you can take over the committee.

## PLANT PROFILE

- **Common name:** Red buckeye
- **Botanical name:** *Aesculus pavia* L.
- **Family:** Sapindaceae (Soapberry)
- **Zone:** 4 – 9
- **Plant Habit:** Small, deciduous, understory tree or large shrub
- **Habitat:** Stream banks, mesic hammocks
- **Size:** 6 to 35 ft (h) x 6 to 20 ft (w)
- **Leaves:** Opposite, palmate (5 parts), toothed margins, to 6 inches long on a long leaf stalk
- **Bloom:** Red, showy, tubular flowers 1.5 inches long in 8-10 inch panicles at the tips of the branches
- **Flowering time:** February to April
- **Fruit:** Rounded, golden-brown capsule containing one or more shiny, reddish-brown seeds
- **Bark:** Warty, grayish-brown
- **Distribution:** North and central Florida
- **Growing conditions**
- **Soil:** Average
- **Water:** Moist to dry
- **Light:** Shade to full sun
- **Propagation:** Seed
- **Motility:** Low; seeds may germinate near parent
- **Maintenance:** Occasional trimming of seed pods
- **Availability:** Usually at Florida native nurseries and native plant sales; occasionally at big box stores
- **Comments:** Leaves and seeds are poisonous; new growth is copper-colored
- **Landscape uses:** Understory tree in natural setting; attracts butterflies (nectar) and hummingbirds



### References:

- 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**  
**Photos by Walter Hodge and Betty Wargo**



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).

## **SNPS 2006** **FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE**

The Field trip scheduled for March 18th will be held at Flatwoods Park located off Morris Bridge road about 8 miles north of Interstate 75. (Fletcher Avenue turns into Morris Bridge Road.) The entrance is located on the left. Bring a Brown Bag lunch and meet between 9:45-10:00 am.

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

## **News from your Board of Directors**

### **CHAPTER GRANT AWARDED**

The Board of Directors voted to approve a grant application submitted by Melissa Gembarowski, a teacher of fifth and sixth grade students at Family of Christ Christian School in New Tampa. The students plan to create a native garden using drought tolerant plants in a xeric area that fronts on Bruce B. Downs, and another, with signage, in an area more accessible to the school. They hope to demonstrate to New Tampa residents the beauty and suitability of native plants for landscaping. They also plan to create an educational brochure to be distributed at realty offices, community associations and other key locations. Our \$500 grant will provide partial funding for the project, and Troy Springer, a native plant landscaper and member of the Board, will give advice and assistance. Melissa's class is affiliated with Earth Force, which will help with additional resources. (See the Earth Force web page at <http://www.earthforce.org/>.)

Submitted by Harriett Wright, President

## **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

### **U**

**Unbel.** An inflorescence where pedicels arise from a common point.

**Unarmed.** Lacking thorns, spines, or prickles.

**Undulate.** With a wavy margin or surface.

**Unisexual.** A flower with a functional stamen or carpel, but not both.

**Vein.** A strand of fibrovascular tissue visible without magnification.

**Velutinous.** Velvety; densely covered with fine short, soft, spreading trichomes.

**Venation.** The vein pattern.

**Ventral.** Front; the upper side of an organ.

**Verruca.** A wartlike projection.

**Verrucose, verrucate.** Having a warty surface.

**Verticillate.** Arranged in whorls.

**Villous.** Having long, soft, unmatted hairs.

**Viscid.** Sticky.

### **W**

**Whorl.** An arrangement of three or more similar structures at a node or another common point.

### **Z**

**Zygomorphic.** Having a bilateral symmetry, capable of being divisible by only one plane into equal halves; irregular.

This concludes the Glossary.

ED.



## 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.

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.)

## Programs For 2006

**January 18**—Steve Farnsworth: Pseudonatives.

**February 15**—Will Moriarty: FDOT use of natives

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

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

**May 17**—Bob Der, Hurricanes and their effect on Trees.

**June 14**—To be arranged

**July 19**—Audubon Society presents the Ivory Bill woodpecker.

**August 16**—Frances Smith, Spiders.

**September 20**—Syd Taylor, The Edible Natives.

**October 18**—To be arranged

**November 15**—Steve Johnson, topic to be decided.

## Welcome New Members

James Wheeler of Reerview

## 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>	
Vikki 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:**

**MAR 31**

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](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 813-920-0853.

Suncoast Native Plant Society, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1158  
Seffner, FL 33583-1158

Stamp



**Please deliver to:**