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The Suncoast Grapevine

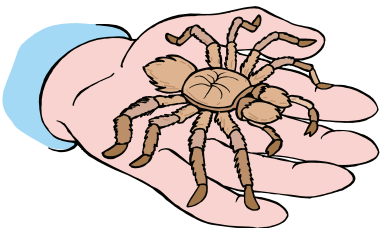
Suncoast Chapter of Florida Native Plant Society, Inc.

Volume 24 Number 2 FEBRUARY 2007

February 21, 2007
7:00 pm
Hillsborough Extension Office

"Come into My Parlor...Spiders"

Presented by Francia Smith



Spiders, subjects of myths and superstitions, symbol of health and renewal, are one of the most adaptable animals on Earth. February's speaker, Francia Smith, invites us to "Come into my parlor" and see live spiders, learn to identify some common Florida varieties and to appreciate their uniqueness and diversity, and to also discover a little natural history.

Francia is an Environmental Education Resource Teacher for Pinellas County School District. She is based at Sawgrass Lake Park, a Pinellas County Park and does a fieldtrip everyday for fourth grade students. She teaches over 3000 students a year as well as facilitating teacher workshops. Since spiders are so abundant and found almost everywhere on earth they are wonderful teaching tools and can be used to introduce many environmental concepts. Prior to moving to Pinellas County, Francia taught at Hillsborough County's Nature's Classroom and was one of the original members of the Suncoast Native Plant Society.

Submitted by Mary Miller

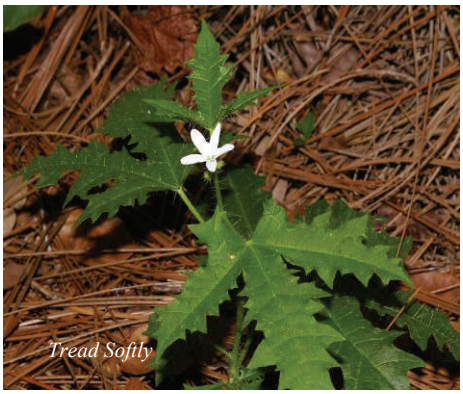
The Florida Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society was organized in 1980 to promote the preservation, conservation, and restoration of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida. For more information about the Florida Native Plant Society, please visit our web site: **www.fnps.org.**

FIELD TRIP TO VIOLET CURY PRESERVE

On a pleasantly cool Saturday, twenty native plant enthusiasts assembled outside the entrance of Violet Cury Preserve in anticipation of a morning of botanizing with Dr. Richard Wunderlin, botanist *extraordinaire.*

Purchased in 1995 by Hillsborough County through its Environmental Land Acquisition and Protection Program, Violet Cury packs, within its 160 acres, plants representing a wide range of habitats. Water Oaks, Sand Live Oaks, Live Oaks and Laurel Oaks, Long Leaf Pines and Slash Pines line the path as it descends to the marshy shores of Lake Flynn. A looped dirt trail with spokes inviting further exploration gives access to Violet Cury's diverse flora.

As we meandered along the path, Dr. Wunderlin pointed out plants that we never would have recognized in their drab winter aspect, notably the endemic *Chrysopsis subulata*, or Scrubland Goldenaster. We looked at the winter foliage of Beardtongue, Florida Paintbrush, Elephant's Foot, Honeycombhead, and Skyblue Lupine and visualized them as they will be later on. We saw several Reinorchids, gone to seed but still interesting.


Tread Softly

Here and there early bloomers had gotten a jump on spring: tiny Bog White Violets, *Viola lanceolata,* peeked from a low spot, and on a bank edging the lake we spied the showy blooms of *Sabatia grandiflora*, or Largeflower Rosegentian. A flatter section of the lake's edge was crowded with Pink Sundews, *Drosera capillaris*, and although they were not in bloom, the sparkly pink plants themselves were extremely showy. A dry area was home to a population of *Cnidoscolus stimulosus*, Tread Softly, with its elegant but untouchable foliage and pristine white flowers.

We saw more plants than I can possibly list in a brief article. The trip was an altogether rewarding experience.

Submitted by Harriett Wright; all photos courtesy of John Miller

Rosegentian

Pileated Woodpecker

Pink Sundews

Suncoast Calendar

To submit information to the Calendar, email Mary Miller: limpkin1945@verizon.net

Programs for 2007

- **January 17** – Charlie Pedersen:
Public Land Partnership Committee
- **February 21** – Francia Smith:
Come Into My Parlor: Spiders
- **March 21** – Cyndi Marks:
World of Bats
- **April 18** – Shirley & Greg Williams:
Attracting Birds to Your Garden
- **May 16** – Jeff Norcini:
Seed Biology and Production
- **June 20** – Ray & Pat Ashton:
Upland Habitats
- **July 18** – Jim Egan:
The Role of Mangroves in Storm Destruction

*Potluck dinner meeting with Audubon and Sierra Clubs.

Field Trips and Events

March 10 – 9am to 3pm at the Museum of Science and Industry: Florida Yard Fandango. Learn more about this event at http://www.floridayardfandango.com/

March 12 – Suncoast Chapter will participate in Environmental Forum at Congregation Schaarai Zedek. Contact Harriet Wright (813) 908-9398.

April 14 & 15 – USF Spring Plant Festival. Suncoast Native Plant Society will be selling native plants.

April 19 – 22 – Annual FNPS Conference: ***Conservation Cures by Yards & Miles*****,** Gainesville. Registration information coming soon.

April 28, 8:00 am – Field trip to Flatwoods Park to identify native plants and to view nesting bluebirds. Contact Troy Springer (813) 707-1524.

May 19, 11:00 am, Crystal Springs Preserve - ***Landscaping Your Yard for Wildlife Workshop I.*** Taught by Debbie Butts, Suncoast Native Plant Society, and Rob Heath, Tampa Audubon.

June 2, 11:00 am, Hillsborough Cooperative Extension Office – ***Landscaping Your Yard for Wildlife Workshop II***. Taught by Debbie Butts, Suncoast Native Plant Society and Rob Heath, Tampa Audubon.

October 13 & 14 – USF Fall Plant Festival. SNPS will be selling native plants.

Upcoming Outreach Events

We will have tables at these two events coming up in March:

Saturday 9 AM – 3 PM, March 10th at the Museum of Science and Industry: Florida Yard Fandango. Learn more about this event at: http://www.floridayardfandango.com/

Monday 7 – 9 PM, March 12th at Congregation Schaarai Zedek, 3303 West Swann Avenue: Environmental Forum, focusing on Global Warming and Energy Conservation. A panel of experts will respond to questions posed by a moderator for approximately 45 minutes, then will field questions from the audience. The forum will be followed by a dessert reception.

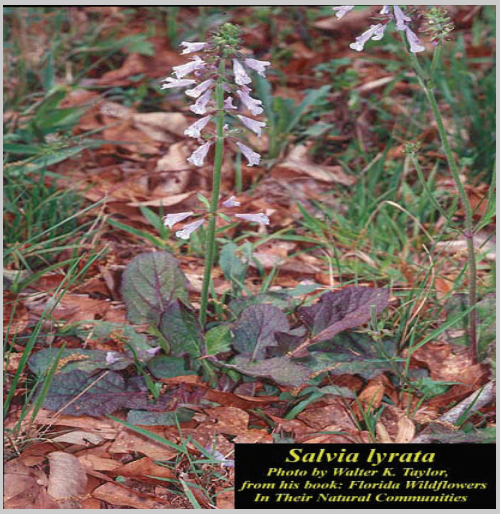
OF SPECIAL INTEREST:
SERENOA CHAPTER FIELD TRIP
Archibold Biological Station
February 24, 2007 @ 10am

See examples of rare and endangered communities and get an understanding of the approach to conservation by one of the world's leading scientific organizations.
Visit:
http://www.archbold-station.org/abs/visitorinfo/visitor.htm

The Suncoast Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society will hand out maps and give more information at the February 21st meeting. The Serenoa Chapter will feature a lecture by Dr. Hillary Swain at their meeting on February 19th that will feature Archibold Station. For more information on the Serenoa Chapter's meeting locations and events: http://www.fnps.org/pages/chapters/chapterpg.php?keyword=Serenoa .

PLANT PROFILE

Common name: Lyreleaf sage
Botanical name: *Salvia lyrata* L.
Family: Lamiaceae (Mint)
Zone: 8 – 10A
Plant Habit: Herbaceous perennial
Habitat: Hammocks, disturbed areas
Size: Up to 2 ft (h)
Leaves: Basal rosettes vaguely resemble a lyre and variegated along mid-vein in dark brown or purple; stem leaves are much reduced and green
Stem: Square and hairy
Bloom: 12 – 24 inch spikes in whorls; 2-lipped; light blue to lavender
Flowering time: Mostly in late winter to spring
Fruit: Nutlets
Distribution: Throughout Florida except for southeast and the Keys



Growing conditions
Light: Part shade to full sun
Water: Moist
Soil: Organic to ordinary
Propagation: Seed
Motility: Vigorous self-seeding
Maintenance: Prune old flower spikes
Availability: Native plant nurseries
Comments: May spread rapidly by seed

References:

Haehle, Robert G., and Joan Brookwell, 1999, ***Native Florida Plants***: Gulf Publishing Company, Houston, Texas, 360 p.
Osorio, R. 2001. **A Gardener's Guide to Florida's Native Plants**. University Press of Florida, Gainesville, FL.
Taylor, Walter Kingsley, 1998, ***Florida Wildflowers in Their Natural Communities***: University Press of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, 370 p.
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 K. Taylor, Paul L. Redfearn Jr, Frank Soltes

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Plant Raffle Guidelines

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.

THANKS TO JANUARY'S DONORS!

Thanks to Polly Ryan for providing the refreshments at January's meeting.

IN MEMORIUM

Shirley Ruth Neprasch Brown, 1942 - 2006

Shirley served the Suncoast chapter in many ways. A few of the positions she held during her time with us were: Editor of the Grapevine, member of the board of directors, Membership chairperson, and Liaison to the USF Botanical Garden. Tributes by Laurie Walker of the USF Botanical Garden, Mel Brown, and others at a memorial service on February 4th revealed her importance to other organizations as well: the USF Botanical Garden, the USF Women's Club, the Clarion Society, and the Begonia Society of Tampa Bay, to name a few. Shirley will be greatly missed by many on whose lives she had a large impact.

On Sunday, February 11th at 2:00 PM the Suncoast Chapter will plant a Tulip Poplar in her memory at the USF Botanical Garden.

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 Chapter of the FNPS, Inc. and a subscription to their monthly newsletter *The Suncoast Grapevine*. Contact the membership chair, George Kish at (813) 920-0853

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Detach and mail to:
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Florida Native Plant Society, Inc
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Troy Springer	707-1524
Publications	
Dick Wunderlin	977-6484
George Kish	920-0853
Librarian	
Vikki Sinclair	989-2896
Membership	
George Kish	920-0853
Newsletter Editor	
Shawna Himelright	757-9289
Mike Fite, Assistant	977-0892
Programs and Publicity	
Mary Miller	960-8132
Refreshments	
JoAnn Hoffman	671-2131
Education	
Betty Wargo	237-1509
Book Sales	
Sally Sun	935-1312
USF Plant Sale	
Sally Sun	935-1312
USF Botanical Garden Liaison	
Vacant	
Chapter Representative	
George Kish	920-0853
Webmaster	
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Newsletter Submissions

Deadline for the next issue:

MAR 4

Please send articles and original artwork for The Suncoast Grapevine to **Shawna Himelright**, by the **deadline** of this month. Text should be in MS Word; graphics should be in a standard graphic format (.jpg, .bmp, .gif). Previously published artwork should be accompanied by a letter of permission from the original publisher.

Email…
shimelright@plantcitygov.com

DIRECTIONS TO:
Hillsborough County Extension
5339 County Road 579, Seffner.

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

Meeting Locations

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

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. Please be sure to indicate whether you'd like your newsletter delivered electronically or through regular mail.

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