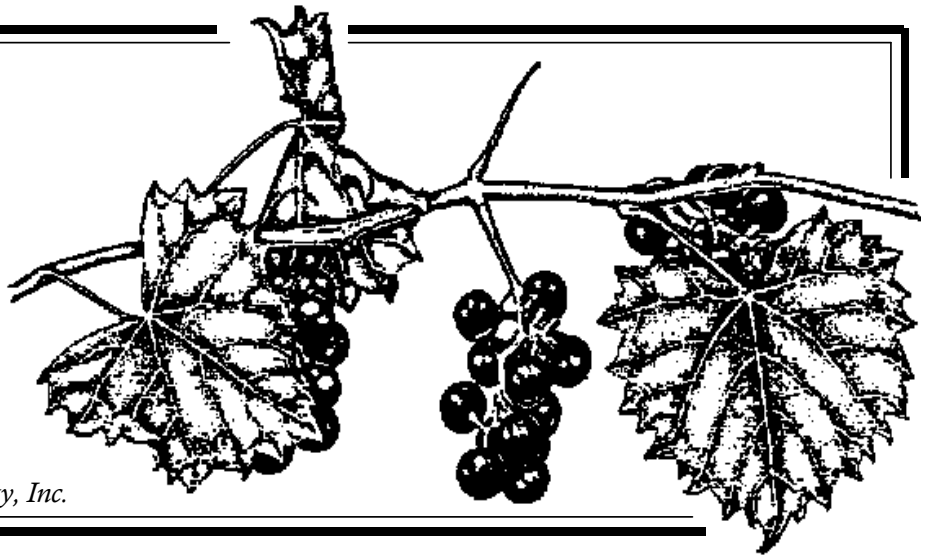


www.suncoastnps.org

The Suncoast Grapevine

Newsletter of the Suncoast Native Plant Society, Inc.



Volume 26 Number 1

JANUARY 2009

Plant Phenology and Climate Change

Hillsborough County Extension, 7pm

January 21, 2009

Presented by George Kish

Phenology is the study of time of year for recurring natural phenomena. Plant phenology is increasingly recognized as a vital approach for understanding how ecosystems respond to climatic changes. The USA National Phenology Network (USA-NPN) has been established to integrate phenological event observations on a national level with remotely-sensed weather and vegetation data.

Establishing the network in the southeastern United States is of outmost importance as the southeast is probably the most difficult of regions in the United States to distinguish regional climate change effects from the variability imposed by local weather effects. The magnitude of climate changes will likely be less severe in the southeast than in colder regions, but no less important to ecosystem dynamics. A plant phenology network for the southeastern U.S. will consist of a tiered approach consistent with the USA-NPN and include: (1) intensive sites focused on process studies, (2) spatially extensive environmental networks focused on standardized observations, (3) scientific networks with educational components (college campuses, nature preserves with educational programs, etc.), and (4) remote-sensing products that can be assimilated to extend surface observations.



Climate change projections for the southeastern U.S. indicate future periods of warmer summer maximum temperatures, higher evapotranspiration, and more intense rainfall periods with longer dry periods between rainfall events.

George Kish is a hydrologist with the U.S. Geological Survey in Tampa. His current research involves the development of a phenology network for the southeastern U.S. to evaluate the relation between climate change and ecosystem responses. George is a former member of the FNPS Board of Directors and a past president of the Suncoast chapter. George is also a Ph.D. candidate at USF in the Department of Geography.

—Bob Upcavage



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

01/01/09

It is the start of a new year, and our chapter is beginning the year with a new President, and many new BOD members. Since I was the longest running current BOD member, it only seemed fitting that I would be President. I feel lucky to have the opportunity to lead such a fine organization. Fortunately, we have a very knowledgeable and experienced team of BOD members to help in accomplishing the mission that our Society so passionately stands for. Each BOD member has graciously accepted a task for which they are most qualified and eager to accomplish.

We have already begun planning our new year, and are working hard to accomplish this year's goals. The BOD members from last year, has met with this year's BOD, to discuss possible new projects, and put together a game plan for the future. If you need assistance in any matter concerning the Society, do not hesitate to contact me. It is our job to make your SNPS membership a fun and fulfilling experience.

We have many dedicated members that have worked and led us in many important roles. I want to take this time to thank everyone who has contributed in the past, and continues to contribute in the future. However, as our Society grows and expands, we need members to stand up and assist our organization in all the important work that we do. If you are a member willing to give us a hand, please let me know.

I want to thank **Harriett Wright, Mary Miller, John Miller, Margo Funk** and **James Wheeler**, as they will not be returning as BOD members this year. It will be hard to top the fun we had last year. Don't be surprised if I call some of you for a little needed advice!

-Troy Springer
Photos submitted by Kristina Herz



Old BOD, left to right: John Miller, Mary Miller, Harriett Wright, James Wheeler, Margo Funk, front—Shirley Denton, Troy Springer



New BOD, left to right: Ron Chicone, Shirley Denton, Daphne Lambricht, Kristina Herz, front—Bob Upcavage, Troy Springer

Happy New Year!



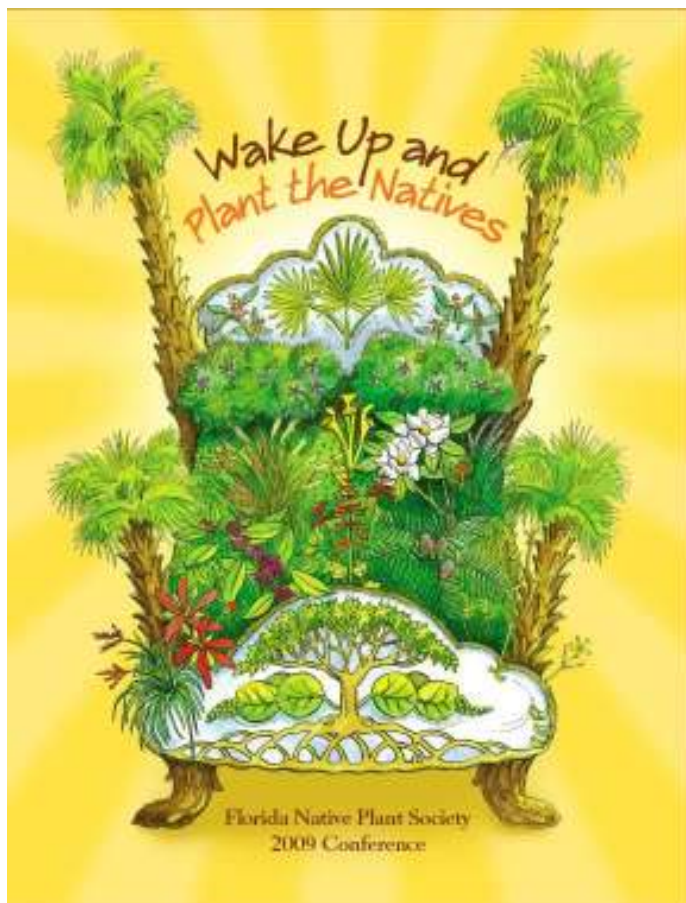
SUNCOAST CALENDAR

To submit information to the Calendar, email Bob Upcavage: eco@upcavage.cnc.net

Programs for 2009

♣ **January 21—George Kish:**
Plant Phenology and Climate Change

2009 Annual Conference



May 21-22nd
West Palm Beach, Florida

Speakers include:
Doug Tallamy, PhD
Daniel F. Austin, PhD
Harold Wanless, PhD

More details to be announced soon—check the website!

www.fnps.org/

**Field trip, Saturday, January 24
9:00 am**

Rhodine Scrub Preserve

The January fieldtrip will be to the Rhodine Scrub Preserve in south-central Hillsborough County. This county preserve was originally proposed for development but was purchased by the County under the ELAP program in 1991. We'll meet at Stephen J. Wortham Park and walk into the preserve by trail. The length of our exploration will be dependent on site conditions, but the intent is for us to walk about 2 miles through varied habitats. One of the special features of the site is scrub with Florida goldenaster (*Chrysopsis floridana*). This is a great place to discuss land management, fire, restoration from past abuses, etc. while being in a very walkable and pleasant site.

-Shirley Denton, photo Steve Dickman



PLANT PROFILE

Common name: Shortleaf wild coffee, Velvetleaf wild coffee

Botanical name: *Psychotria sulzneri* Small

Family: Rubiaceae (Madder)

Growth habit: Evergreen, woody, multi-stemmed shrub

Mature size: 6 to 9 ft. (h); 4 to 6 ft. (w)

Zone: 9-10

Habitat: Hammocks and mixed forests

Size (h x w): 25 ft. by 10 ft.

Stems: Hairy

Leaves: Opposite, simple, entire, elliptical to lanceolate⁽¹⁾; 3 to 6 inches long; upper surface is velvety dark green with a bluish-green tinge

Bloom: Tiny greenish-white tubular flowers in sessile⁽²⁾ clusters of upper leaf axils

Flowering time: Spring with occasional flowering and fruiting year-round, except during extended periods of cold or drought

Fruit: Red, orange, or yellow drupe; 0.2 inch long.

Distribution: Central and south peninsula of Florida

Growing conditions

Light: Full shade to part shade

Water: Dry to moist

Soil: Average soils

Propagation: Seed, stem cuttings

Motility: Abundant near the parent plant

Maintenance: None

Availability: Native nurseries

Comments: Good nectar source for pollinators; subject to freezing; excellent shrub for densely shaded areas; Other wild coffee species found in Florida are *P. ligustrifolia* (Bahama wild coffee), *P. nervosa* (Wild coffee), and *P. punctata* (Dotted wild coffee). *P. nervosa* is commonly used in landscaping because of its shiny, tropical-looking leaves. *P. ligustrifolia* (a native species) and *P. punctata* (an exotic species) are found only at the extreme southeast corner of the state. None of these species is used to produce your morning cup of coffee. *Coffea arabica* L. (also a member of the Rubiaceae family) is used.

References:

Nelson, Gil, 1996, *The Shrubs and Woody Vines of Florida*: Pineapple Press, Inc., Sarasota, 391 p.

Osorio, Rufino, 2001, *A Gardener's Guide to Florida's Native Plants*: University Press of Florida, Gainesville, 345 p.

Wunderlin, R.P. and B.F. Hansen, 2003, *Guide to Vascular Plants of Florida*, second edition, University Press of Florida, Gainesville, 787 p.

Wunderlin, R.P. and B.F. Hansen, 2007, *Atlas of Florida Vascular Plants*: University of South Florida, Institute of Systematic Botany (<http://plantatlas.usf.edu/>)

⁽¹⁾ lanceolate = lance-shaped, longer than wide, widest near the base, and gradually tapering toward the apex

⁽²⁾ sessile = Attached directly without a stalk

Information compiled by George R. Kish

Photos by Betty Wargo, Dennis Gerard, Roger Hammer



LANDSCOPE 360 Project

At the PLAM Conference at the beginning of the month, Kyle Copas of NatureServe introduced the LandScope360 Project (website). TNC, National Geo. and NatureServe have compiled information regarding conservation areas around the U.S.

This website, LandScope, is like a GIS google map of all conservation areas in the United States, you can click down from a U.S. map to the level of detail in which you can see a 2 acre property. The main goal is for private/public land owners to see where their property is in relation to adjacent or regional conservation areas to provide linkages.

In addition to this tool, you can also view pictures of the Flora and Fauna of that area. The website is designed for lay people as well as conservation planners and ecologists. Individuals can upload pictures of certain areas and stories.

The Beta version being tested right now:
<http://www.landscape.org/>

-article of interest taken from email from Karina Veaudry, submitted by Shirley Denton

MEMBERSHIP

Renewed

Lorraine Barry, Valrico
Kim Friedland, Tampa
Rita Lassiter, Riverview
Mariella Smith, Ruskin

Robert and Cindy Upcavage, Plant City
Richard and Trevetta Wunderlin, Lutz
David Zapanick, Atlanta

THANK YOU!



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 SNPS also entitles you to membership privileges in the Suncoast Native Plant Society and a subscription to their monthly newsletter *The Suncoast Grapevine*. Contact the membership chair, Shirley Denton, at 986-6485.

New Member Renewal

Name _____

Business name or organization _____

Address _____

City, State and Zip _____

Home phone _____ Email _____

Check pertinent category:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Member/Gift \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> Not-for-profit organization \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual/Renewal \$35 | <input type="checkbox"/> Business or corporate \$125 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Full time student \$15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Library subscription \$15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Donor \$250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family or household \$50 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contributing \$75 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life \$1,000 | |

*Make check payable to SNPS.
Detach and mail to:*
**Suncoast Native Plant Society,
Inc
P.O. Box 1158
Seffner, FL 33583-1158**

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Field Trips

Shirley Denton 986-6485

Publications

Dick Wunderlin 977-6484

George Kish 920-0853

Librarian

Vikki Sinclair 989-2896

Membership

Shirley Denton 986-6485

Newsletter Editor

Shawna Everidge 757-9289

Mike Fite, Assistant 977-0892

Programs and Publicity

Bob Upcavage

Outreach

Troy Springer 967-4538

USF Plant Sale

Sally Sun 935-1312

USF Botanical Garden Liaison

Kim Hutton 974-2329

Chapter Representative

Kristina Herz

Webmaster

Shirley Denton 986-6485



Newsletter Submissions

Deadline for the next issue:

FEB 1

Please send articles and original artwork for The Suncoast Grapevine to **Shawna Everidge**, 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...

severidge@plantcitygov.com



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



Officers & Board of Directors

President

Troy Springer

Vice-president

Bob Upcavage

Secretary

Kristina Herz

Treasurer

Daphne Lambright

Board Members

Shirley Denton

Ron Chicone

The SNPS BOD meets regularly at a variety of locations. If you are interested in attending a BOD meeting, please check the location at a monthly membership meeting or call Troy Springer at 813-967-4538.

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

Please deliver to: