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The Suncoast Grapevine

Newsletter of the Suncoast Native Plant Society, Inc.



Volume 26 Number 2

FEBRUARY 2009

The Rare Plant Conservation Program at Bok Tower Gardens

Hillsborough County Extension Service

February 18, 2009 at 7pm

Presented by Juliet Rynear



Most of you may know the 157-acre Historic Bok Sanctuary (HBS) for its garden walkways, dominant carillon tower and the panoramic hilltop view. Less well-known is its affiliation with the National Center for Plant Conservation (NCPC) a national consortium of 28 botanical gardens and arboreta dedicated to saving America's endangered plants. The HBS collection is one of two NCPC affiliates in Florida; Fairchild Tropical Gardens in Miami is the other. The HBS collection includes plant and seed from many of Florida's endangered plant populations.

Our February guest speaker comes from HBS to provide an overview of the endangered species program and will then focus on one of the endangered plants that the program currently working on – *Chrysopsis floridana*, the Florida goldenaster. Hillsborough County has the biggest populations of Florida goldenaster in the state!

Ms. Juliet Rynear, our February guest speaker, has a lifelong love of plants and our natural world. Before moving to Florida in June 2008, she was a member of both the Mississippi and Nevada chapters of The Nature Conservancy and Mississippi and Nevada chapters of the Native Plant Society. She received a Masters degree in Environmental Policy and Natural Resource Management and has a Certificate in Applied Plant Conservation – both from the University of Denver.

-Submitted by 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

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
- ♣ **February 17—Juliet Rynear:**
The Rare Plant Conservation Program at Bok Towers
- ♣ **March 18—Don Roberts:**
The Coastal Conservation Association
- ♣ **April 15—TBA**
- ♣ **May 20—TBA**
- ♣ **June 17—TBA**
- ♣ **July 15—Karina Veaudry:**
The Status of Conservation in Florida



Some minor housekeeping...



☺ If you have recently changed your email address, please email info@fnps.org so that the state membership manager can update their records.



☺ If you would like to go paperless on the Grapevine, please email EcotypesS@myrapidsys.com to verify that you're on the SNPS listserv, and also email me at severidge@plantcitygov.com so that I can remove your label from our mailing list.



☺ We are ALWAYS looking for new columnists. If you'd like to review books, write about what's blooming, or any other idea you may have, please join in! Submission criteria is listed on the back page.



February Field Trip

9:00 am

Saturday, February 21st

We have a wonderful opportunity to visit an old growth bottomland forest near the northeast edge of Lake Tarpon. The trees are extraordinarily large and grand. This property is managed by the Pinellas County Environmental Lands Division. It isn't open to the public, so this is an awesome opportunity to see a primal old growth swamp.

Annie Schmidt will be our fearless leader. The site is difficult, and we will be bushwhacking as there is no trail. Participants must wear long pants and shoes that are adequate to protect the feet against uneven surfaces and mud/water. Long sleeves, a sturdy walking stick, and insect repellent are highly recommended. Any participant who shows up with inappropriate clothing will not be able to participate. We must sign a Pinellas County waiver and we're being asked to measure the girth of a few (3 to 5) of the largest trees and report any rare or unusual plants that we may see. Bring water and a snack – we can visit a local restaurant for a late lunch after the field trip.

This trip is RSVP only. Please contact Shirley Denton at 813-986-6485 (you can leave a message, but sure your phone number is stated very clearly) or send an e-mail to EcotypeS@myrapidsys.com. Limit 12 people.

-Submitted by Shirley Denton

PLANT PROFILE

Common name: Ashe's Calamintha

Botanical name: *Calamintha ashei* (Weath.) Shinnery

Family: Lamiaceae (Mint)

Plant Habit: Upright herbaceous shrub with woody base

Zone: 9

Habitat: Dry pinelands and scrub

Size: 1.5 feet (h)

Leaves: Opposite, narrow, clustered, entire

Bloom: 2-lipped, pink-purple, lower lip spotted

Flowering time: Spring to fall

Distribution: Central peninsula

Growing conditions

Light: Full sun

Water: Drought tolerant

Soil: Sandy

Propagation: Cuttings

Maintenance: Minimal

Availability: Native nurseries

Comments: Florida threatened plant; aromatic scent



References:

Taylor, Walter Kingsley, 1992, *The Guide to Florida Wildflowers*: Taylor Publishing Company, Dallas, Texas, 320 p.

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

Information compiled by George R. Kish

Photos by Dennis Gerard, Betty Wargo, Gil Nelson

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

Activities & Committee Chairs

Field Trips

Shirley Denton 986-6485

Publications

Dick Wunderlin 977-6484

George Kish 920-0853

Librarian

Vikki Sinclair 989-2896

Membership

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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:

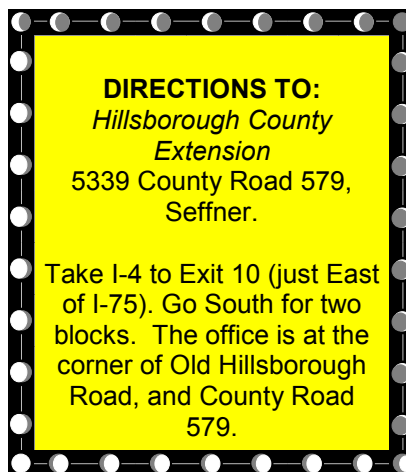
MAR 1

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: