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The Suncoast Grapevine

Newsletter of the Suncoast Native Plant Society, Inc.



Volume 26 Number 4

APRIL 2009

The Native Landscaping Trade

Presented by Troy Springer
Hillsborough County Extension Service
Wednesday, April 15 @ 7pm



Troy Springer will be providing insightful tricks of the native landscaping trade to members and guests alike. His presentation will include background of the landscape trade, handy gardening tools and their use, and landscape plant selection, installation, care and maintenance.

Troy Springer was already gardening and landscaping as a youngster and started his own business by the age of 14. Before the completion of a college degree Troy focused his efforts into the enterprise and built Springer Lawn Care into a million-dollar business.

However, there came a time when the environmental effects and ethics of the traditional business directed him to an interest in native plants, and subsequently, the limited use of natives in his traditional landscape design. In the late 90's Troy joined the Suncoast Native Plant Society and envisioned having an operation that used exclusively native plants. By 2005 Troy's vision became reality when Springer Lawn Care was renamed Springer Environmental Services. The name change also included a change to strict 'green business' landscaping and maintenance policies and the use of more than 95 percent native plants in their landscaping jobs.

- 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



Nomination Announcement!

The Suncoast Native Plant Society will be nominating **George R. Kish** for the **Green Palmetto Award**.

George R. Kish has been a member since 1999 and active in the Society from the very beginning. He was the newsletter editor from 2000 to 2002, and still provides plant profiles for the newsletter today. He joined the chapter board in 2000 as Secretary, and was president of the Suncoast Chapter from 2002 to 2005. George is currently a member of Southwest Florida Water Management District's Green Industry Advisory Committee, representing the Florida Native Plant Society since 2000.

George Kish earned his M.S. degree in Environmental Science from Rutgers University, and a B.S. degree in Biological Sciences from Drexel University. He is currently a doctoral candidate at the University of South Florida and his doctoral dissertation will emphasize the relation between plant phenology and climate. George also taught an introductory course in environmental science at the University of South Florida, and is often a guest lecturer for courses in the Geology Department.

George Kish regularly gives talks to FNPS chapters, non-profit groups, and community development organizations about native landscaping, native grasses, butterfly gardening, and Florida's ecosystems. He was instrumental in *Life in our Landscapes*, an outreach program that involved big box stores on using natives in landscaping. This program was funded by grant money from the Florida Native Plant Society. Lastly, he is listed as one of the authors in *The Right Plants for Dry Places*, second edition, and is one of the authors of *The Right Plants for Dry Coastal Places* (in preparation).

George Kish has inspired others to become active in native plant issues, and is one of the reasons our chapter has become so successful. We are proud of the leadership that George has bestowed on the Suncoast Chapter, and very proud of the work he has done in furthering the mission of the Florida Native Plant Society.

—Submitted by Troy Springer

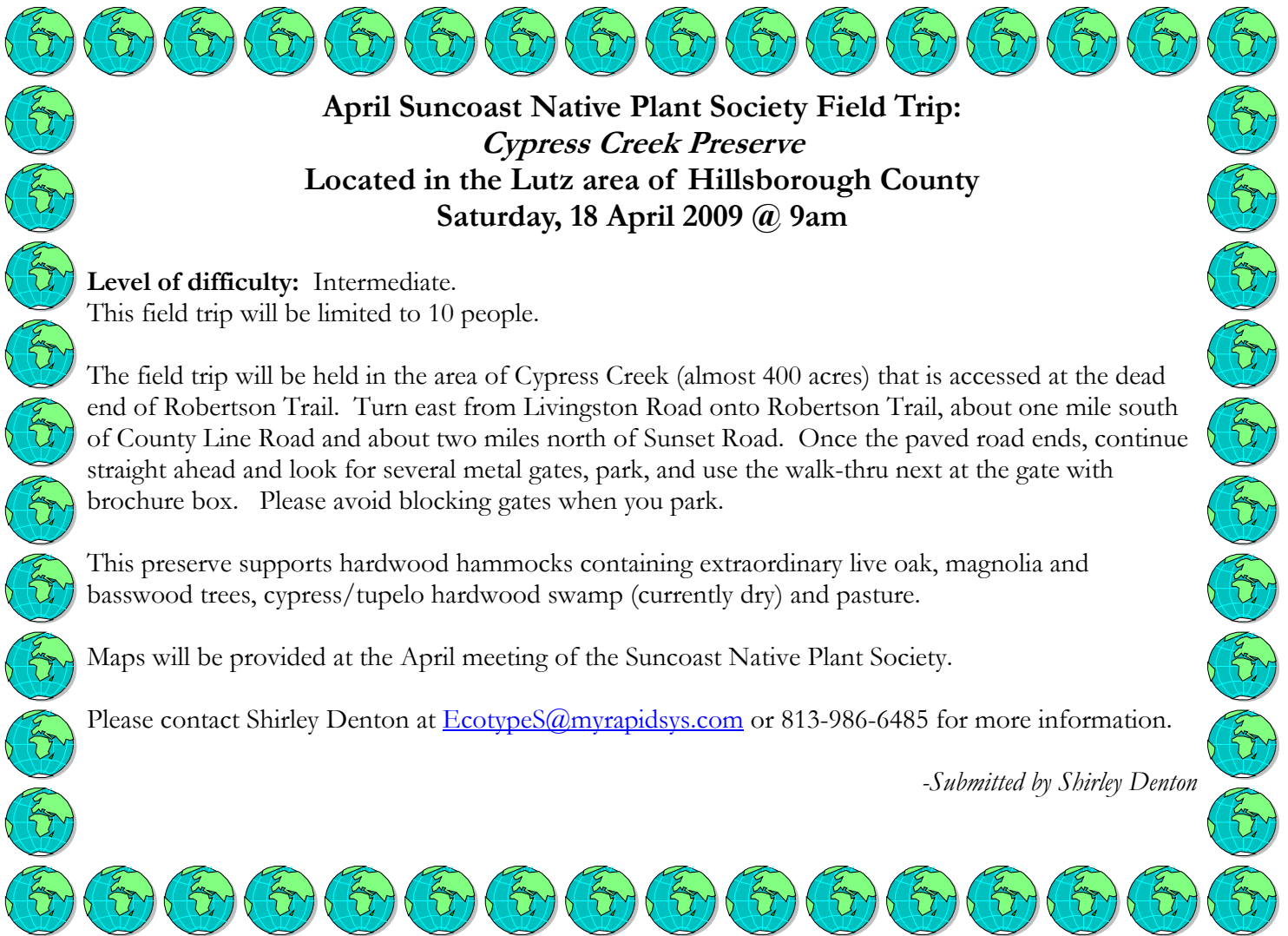
Protected Plant Survey

Our Suncoast Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society will be partnering with the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) to survey for protected plant species and to monitor species responses to land management techniques on SWFWMD properties. This partnership reflects the goal of the SNPS chapter and the Florida Native Plant Society to protect endangered native plants and plant communities by providing volunteer assistance to public agencies.

The first project will be on the J.B. Starkey Wilderness Preserve as part of a sandhill and sand pine scrub restoration project. We will conduct an initial plant survey of approximately 500 acres to compile an updated species list and to identify the protected species present. Then, we will periodically monitor the plant communities, looking for additional plant species that emerge from the seedbed during restoration. Over time, we will see species differences among the land management techniques and identify the best land management practices for specific endangered plant species.

For more information or to participate, contact Daphne Lambright (daphne.lambright@verizon.net) or send an email to president@suncoastnps.org.

-Submitted by Daphne Lambright



**April Suncoast Native Plant Society Field Trip:
Cypress Creek Preserve
Located in the Lutz area of Hillsborough County
Saturday, 18 April 2009 @ 9am**

Level of difficulty: Intermediate.
This field trip will be limited to 10 people.

The field trip will be held in the area of Cypress Creek (almost 400 acres) that is accessed at the dead end of Robertson Trail. Turn east from Livingston Road onto Robertson Trail, about one mile south of County Line Road and about two miles north of Sunset Road. Once the paved road ends, continue straight ahead and look for several metal gates, park, and use the walk-thru next at the gate with brochure box. Please avoid blocking gates when you park.

This preserve supports hardwood hammocks containing extraordinary live oak, magnolia and basswood trees, cypress/tupelo hardwood swamp (currently dry) and pasture.

Maps will be provided at the April meeting of the Suncoast Native Plant Society.

Please contact Shirley Denton at EcotypeS@myrapidsys.com or 813-986-6485 for more information.

-Submitted by Shirley Denton

**SNPS BENEFITS BY
RECYCLING USED CARTRIDGES!!!**

SNPS members can help defray the cost of printing the Grapevine newsletter by recycling ink and toner cartridges through the Staples Rewards program. Our chapter can receive up to \$30 off the newsletter printing expenses each month. All members have to do is take their empty cartridges to Staples and ask that the "Suncoast Native Plant Society Staples Rewards" be credited. If for some reason a phone number is needed, please use my phone number listed in the Grapevine (813-977-0982)

If it is more convenient, please bring the cartridges to the monthly meeting and I will recycle them for the credit. Thank you.

—Submitted by Mike Fite



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—Troy Springer:**
The Native Landscaping Trade
- ♣ **May 20—TBA**
- ♣ **June 17—Craig Huegel:**
Designing a Landscape for Wildlife
- ♣ **July 15—Karina Veaudry:**
The Status of Conservation in Florida



Don't Forget!



Be sure to support one of our biggest



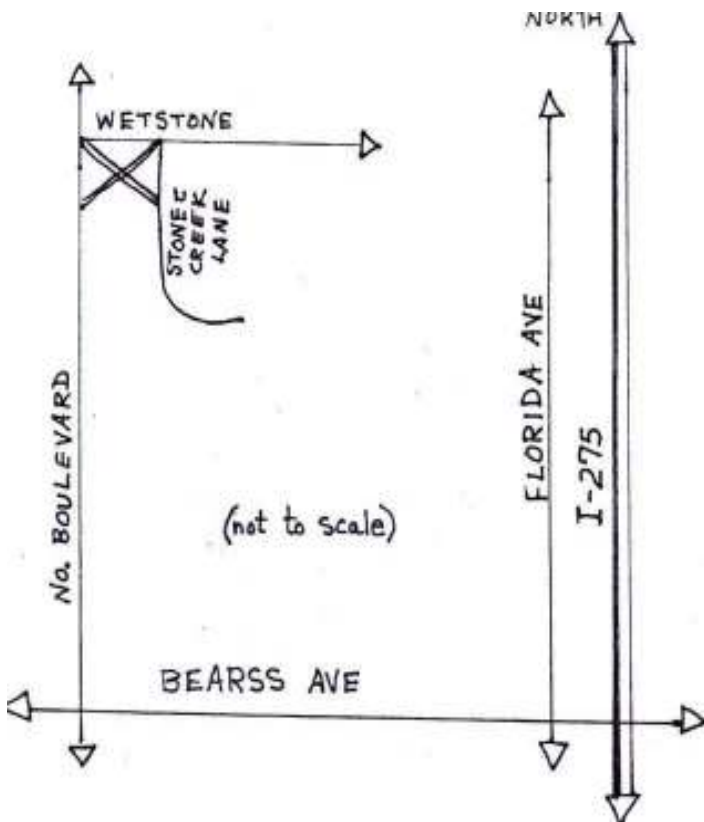
fundraisers of the year on **April**



11th and 12th at the USF



Botanical Gardens Spring Sale!



WINE & CHEESE PARTY

The Mulhollands

15410 Stonecreek Lane

Tampa, FL 33613

Sunday, May 17, 2009

From 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM

There are more than 200 species of native plants in the yard. An identification list will be provided that shows what and where they are located.

See rare Florida Manchineel tree

FREE POTTED PLANTS

It's a party, mostly outdoors, rain or shine, so dress casually. There is some seating outside, but a few extra lawn chairs would help. If you need more information call: (813) 962-7020

**SEE NATIVE PLANTS IN SUBURBIA:
ONE WAY TO DO IT WITHOUT A LAWN**

Map, left of this article

PLANT PROFILE

Common name: Skyblue lupine
Botanical name: *Lupinus diffusus* Nutt.
Family: Legume (Fabaceae)
Zone: 8 - 10
Plant Habit: Erect, sprawling, winter annual or short-lived perennial
Habitat: Sandhills, dry, open hammocks
Size: 2-3 ft. x 2-3 ft.
Leaves: Silky-haired, ovate to elliptical
Bloom: Large spikes of pastel blue flowers
Flowering time: Spring
Distribution: Central peninsula and western panhandle

Growing conditions

Light: Full sun
Water: Natural rainfall, after establishment; drought tolerant
Soil: Deep sandy, well drained
Propagation: Seed
Motility: Sparse self-seeder
Maintenance: Cut back spent plants
Availability: Native nurseries
Comments: Dislikes root disturbance

References:

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

Photo by Betty Wargo



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 **FNPS**.

Detach and mail to:

FNPS

P.O. Box 278

Melbourne, FL 32902-0278

Activities & Committee Chairs

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

Conservation

Ron Chicone



Newsletter Submissions

Deadline for the next issue:

MAY 3

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: