NOVEMBER CHAPTER MEETING
At the Hillsborough County Extension Office

Top Tips for Tempting Pollinators
Presented by Nanette O'Hara
Wednesday, November 15, 7 PM

If you plant it, they will come! But what to plant, and when, and exactly WHAT will come? This interactive presentation will highlight simple tips for attracting bees, butterflies, moths and beneficial wasps to your own piece of Florida paradise.

The talk will highlight a recommended “Pollinator Palette” of native wildflowers, trees, and shrubs for West Central Florida landscapes. Florida alone has 316 native bee species – come learn how even tiny urban habitats can help support these critically important engines of food production!

About the Speaker:

After 20 years with the Tampa Bay Estuary Program, Nanette O'Hara is retiring in November to pursue new professional opportunities -- and spend more time enjoying the bay she has worked to protect. Nanette is a Master Gardener volunteer for Hillsborough County Extension, avid nature photographer, saltwater fly angler and a native plant enthusiast who loves to promote “Gardening Like a Floridian.”

Light refreshments are served and a native plant auction follows the presentation.

- submitted by Virginia Overstreet & Janet Bowers
2018 SNPS Board of Directors

The November membership meeting is when we vote on the next year’s Board of Directors. Devon Higginbotham, Mike Fite and JoAnn Hoffman were on the nominating committee. Despite notices and articles in the newsletter, we did not get any new volunteers.

Gar has agreed to serve as treasurer until April 2018 when he will be moving out of our chapter. We need a treasurer and a president, it would be great to have someone else as a director at large to get acquainted with being on the board, hopefully to take on an officer position in the future.

Please help us continue to support Native Plants in Hillsborough County.

Current and 2018 proposed Board of Directors:

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<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Virginia Overstreet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Open (Gar Reed will help until April)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Tina Patterson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At Large</td>
<td>Andy Taylor</td>
</tr>
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A Sincere Thanks to Gar Reed

Gar has served on the SNPS BOD for many years and has taken on responsibility as Treasurer for all of those years. In addition he was the plant sale coordinator for the last couple years. SNPS has been financially successful and able to fund grants, snacks, publications and outreach opportunities with help from Gar keeping track of our money.

Gar is planning to relocate out of our chapter but will be available until about April to help transition his replacement. (We are still looking for a treasurer candidate and welcome anyone interested!)

Please take a minute or two to thank Gar for his service on the board. We all appreciate it and know that he was an integral part of the village that it takes to make SNPS fun and meaningful!

UPCOMING SPEAKERS-

We are working on getting speakers lined up for next year. Shirley Denton has offered to be a speaker and we are looking forward to hearing her early in the year. Please let Virginia or other board members know if you have suggestions.

Thanks for helping with the October meeting -

Janet Bowers for bringing snacks
Bunny Worth for bringing plants for the auction

A special thank you to Joel Jackson for being our auctioneer
You’re invited to the SNPS Holiday Party!

This year the holiday party is a picnic at **Lettuce Lake Park from 11 - 3 on Saturday, December 9 at pavilion 10** (close to trails, visitor center and parking). Admission to the park is $2.00 per car.

SNPS will provide ice, drinks, paper goods and sandwiches. Members and their guests are invited. Please bring snacks, desserts or side dishes but remember that there is no refrigerator or stove. If you have a cooler to bring, that would be helpful.

Audubon has a bird walk on the second Saturday each month that starts at 9 am and we will undoubtedly explore after lunch. Winter blooms at the park include Baccharis, Viburnum and some Crinum and there are usually lots of wading birds around in December.

We hope you can join us there to celebrate the year. Tina Patterson has started a sign-up sheet and will be passing it around at the next meeting or you can RSVP to mablepatterson@hotmail.com.

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**HCC workday December 3 @ 9AM**

The Plant City HCC garden is in need of some TLC, please come and help. Bring gloves, pruner, rake, hat, water and join us. We’ll be weeding and trimming.

2001 E Cherry St, Plant City, FL - 9 AM

Thanks, Janet

**USF Fall Plant Sale**

A Big Thank You to Gar Reed, Troy Springer and the other volunteers that helped out at our Fall Plant Sale at USF.

We made a profit of about $1300 and talked to many people about landscaping with native plants.

~ Tina Patterson

Missed the plant sale and need some natives? Check out plantrealflorida.org for local nurseries and landscapers.

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**Need a Speaker for Your Group or Class?**

The Suncoast Native Plant Society has speakers with a wide range of knowledge, eager to speak about the virtues of native plants - for pollinators, for birds, in the landscape and in the field.

We have speakers for your civic group, gardening club or homeowner’s association.

Contact Devon Higginbotham (archiveproperties@gmail.com)
**FNPS News…**

*The November/December 2017 Sabal Minor is out!*


**The 2018 Annual Conference** will be held at the Miccosukee Resort in Miami, Florida (500 S.W. 177th Avenue, Miami, FL 33194), May 17-20, 2018.

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**SNPS News**

- Don’t forget to **send Tina any volunteer hours** so that she can enter it on the FNPS website

- **We need new Board members** and Field Trip leaders for next year - please let Devon know if you are willing to serve on the SNPS Board of Directors

- SNPS voted to give a $500 grant to Terrace Community Middle School for their wetlands restoration efforts and their Outdoor Science Classroom. SNPS has worked with them in the past and they hope to include us in future learning and work experiences. Their blog is [https://tcmsecosystems.edublogs.org](https://tcmsecosystems.edublogs.org) to see what they are doing at their school.

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**Connections with Nature**

by Lucy Fuchs

“Over the river and through the woods to Grandmother's House we go.” So the song goes, and I was one whose grandmother really did live through the woods (but not over the river).

When I was a kid, one of my greatest delights was for me and one of my siblings to be told by mom to take something to Grandma. This meant going through the woods which we all loved. We always lingered in the woods with good reason. That woods was magic.

In the old folk tales a great deal of surprise, tragedy, fear and hope happened in a woods. But our woods was a place where we learned to know each tree personally, where we watched the changing of the seasons, where we walked and talked and told stories and dreams. We found the stump of an ancient tree that had been cut down by someone, perhaps my uncle. The stump was huge and we counted the number of rings and concluded it must have been there at least 100 years!

Our trips to Grandma’s house always ended well. She was the old type grandmother, she always gave us sugar cookies to fortify us on our way home.

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**Come travel with us!**

Love native plants and want to see more? Come tour with us when we travel to the Appalachian Mountains in May 2018 to catch the spring blossoms on a 6 day tour of the Rain Forests and Waterfalls of the Appalachians.

Interested in something closer to home? In March 2018 we are spending a long weekend in the Coastal Dunes of Florida, exploring Topsail Hill State Park and the fascinating dune systems of the panhandle. We’ll tour some of the last remaining coastal dune lakes in North America.

Visit indigotravelcompany.com, email indigotravelcompany@gmail.com or call Devon at 813-478-1183 for more information.

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**Mark Your Calendar**

- **Nov. 11 & 12  2017**  Egmont Key-“Discover The Island” Celebration  
  [http://www.egmontkey.info/page-1251146](http://www.egmontkey.info/page-1251146)

- **Nov 25  9:00**  Lettuce Lake Walk, meet by the Audubon Resource Center building

- **Dec 3  9:00**  Plant City HCC Workday, 2001 E Cherry St, Plant City.  (see page 3 for more info)

- **Dec 9  11 to 3**  Holiday gathering at Lettuce Lake, pavilion 10.

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Page 4  The Suncoast Grapevine - November 2017
The Monarchs Are Migrating South

Every year there is a Monarch festival at St Marks National Wildlife Refuge at the end of October, one of these years I will be there. More information on the Monarch-Milkweed Initiative effort at https://www.fws.gov/nwrs/threecolumn.aspx?id=2147588789

Below is part of the Monarch write up from Donna Bollenbach (after Scott Davis’ talk in January we both wrote up articles and since I am editor, I put mine in the newsletter).  -Janet

- Monarchs overwinter in Mexico in Oyamel or “Sacred Fir” Forest. A place where animals seek refuge, often to overwinter, is called a hibernaculum. Overwintering monarch butterfly populations plummeted from over 1 BILLION in 2002-2003 season to 50-MILLION in the 2013-14 season.

- Monarchs do not migrate over the water (Gulf) but skirt the gulf coast from Mexico to Florida, turning toward their northern destination. Monarchs that migrate through Florida are usually destined for the northeast.

- Only the 4th (or 5th) generation of the Monarch butterflies migrate: This means that no individual butterfly completes the entire round trip; female monarchs lay eggs for the next generation during the northward migration and at least four generations are involved in the annual cycle.

- Non-native Milkweeds are the carriers of Monarch “OE” a monarch parasite that can kill the monarch at any stage: The caterpillar, chrysalis or butterfly. Those that do not die are severely weakened and unable to complete the migration.

- Over 167 million acres of native milkweeds have been lost in the US in the last 20 years. Native Milkweeds are in serious decline throughout North America due to habitat loss, pesticides, GMO (monocultures) crops.

- St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge is leading the initiative to restore the Monarch-Milkweed populations through conservation, restoration and education. They do this by recovering milkweeds from locations in imminent danger of development, working with native plant nurseries to increase the availability of native milkweeds for replanting in natural areas and home landscapes, and engaging citizen scientists in monitoring monarch and milkweed populations.
Lettuce Lake Update
From Tina Patterson

The picture to the left is some fall color at Lettuce Lake. Lots of Carphephorus and Solidago was blooming last month in the uplands. The garden is drying out and being trimmed back and the muhly grass is looking really nice. The October plant walk was led by Joel Jackson and Virginia Overstreet. Three members of the newly-formed USF Botany Club were in attendance. They are interested in joining us for other field trips or activities. The next native plant walk is November 25.

Come and see for yourself what is happening at Lettuce Lake! The walk is free, it is $2 per car to enter Lettuce Lake Park. Meet us by the Audubon Resource Center building. We have an excellent native garden behind the building that you can visit anytime the park is open.

EGG ROLES  By John Lampkin

What do insect eggs have to do with Sir Walter Raleigh and his cannonballs?

When one examines foliage very carefully, tiny engineering miracles abound--insect eggs that come in an astonishing array of shapes and sizes. Some, like the Spicebush Swallowtail butterfly, lay a single cannonball-shaped egg, one per Red Bay leaf. Why just one per leaf? Because when the egg hatches, the caterpillar needs the whole piece of real estate. It soon folds it over, seals it and then hides in the protective cubby during the day and emerges to feed at night. Other species like the Monarch can be voracious mini-cannibals and will eat their siblings if they share a leaf. The savvy ovipositing female knows this and keeps her Hannibal wannabes widely separated.

The Io Moth lays a small cluster of patterned eggs, as shown top right on Lyonia sp. Io caterpillars are not cannibals and in fact are gregarious, feeding in groups and marching single file to new leaves so there is no problem with eggs being laid in close proximity.

Some species take egg laying a step further and use a safety-in-numbers strategy. The densely packed cylindrical clutch of stink bug eggs on the lower left looks like a store of miniature 55-gallon drums, cemented to an arugula leaf with yellowish resin.

The pic bottom right show part of a clutch of 1000 half-millimeter-sized owlet moth eggs stacked in layers bound together with tiny fiber threads on Dahoon Holly. The black critters are parasitic platygastrid wasps that inject their own even tinier eggs inside the white moth eggs in the stack. Presumably, they lay as many as possible and possibly this is why the moth eggs are densely stacked the way they are. The outer layer could be sacrificed to predators while protecting the inner layers. Only two of the 1000 moth eggs need to survive to maturity to maintain a stable population. As an aside, Platygastrid wasps have strong maternal instincts and will defend both their own eggs and those of the host moth against other predators and possibly that is what these in the image are doing.

In 1587, Sir Walter Raleigh posed a question to mathematician Thomas Harriot: “What is the most efficient way to stack cannonballs on ship?” Tom responded in math lingo with an equation, but in practical terms, all Walt had to do was to look at an array of Owllet moth eggs. Moths know the answer! They have to know because their survival depends on it. To learn more, Google “Close-packing of equal spheres” and you will be as smart as a moth!
Plant Profile - Marlberry
*Ardisia escallonioides*

Family - Myrsinaceae

The dark green shiny leaves of marlberry make it a great understory shrub and this time of the year it is blooming with lovely small white flowers. Similar to myrsine, the marlberry’s flowers put it at the top of my list. The evergreen shrub can grow to 8 to 15 feet and the fruit is eaten by birds. It can tolerate dry soil once established and I have found it to grow slowly with no maintenance needed.

Plant Atlas link - http://florida.plantatlas.usf.edu/Plant.aspx?id=760
FNPS link - http://www.fnps.org/plants/plant/ardisia-escallonioides

~Janet Bowers

Volunteer opportunity, Florida Goldenaster (Chrysopsis floridana)

You’re invited to participate in a demographic study of the Florida Goldenaster (Chrysopsis floridana), which is being conducted as a joint effort between Bok Tower Gardens and Archbold Biological Station. Below is the list of sites and dates. If you have questions, please contact Phil Gonsiska (the Rare Plant Curator at Bok Tower Gardens) at pgonsiska@boktower.org for more information. If you do plan to join us, please email Phil with your selected date(s) and location(s).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Time &amp; Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cordell East at Little Manatee River - Southfork Tract</td>
<td>8:00 6-Nov-17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cordell West at Little Manatee River - Southfork Tract</td>
<td>12:30 6-Nov-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Manatee State Park</td>
<td>8:00 8-Nov-17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Little Manatee River State Park</td>
<td>12:30 8-Nov-17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Duette Preserve</td>
<td>8:00 10-Nov-17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Moody Branch Mitigation Area (FWC)</td>
<td>8:00 13-Nov-17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bullfrog Creek Mitigation (FWC)</td>
<td>12:30 13-Nov-17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weedon Island Preserve</td>
<td>8:00 15-Nov-17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boyd Hill Nature Preserve</td>
<td>TBA 15-Nov-17</td>
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<tr>
<td>McKay Creek</td>
<td>8:00 17-Nov-17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rhodine Scrub</td>
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<tr>
<td>Balm Scrub Preserve</td>
<td>8:00 20-Nov-17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bell Creek</td>
<td>8:00 27-Nov-17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alafia Scrub Preserve</td>
<td>12:30 27-Nov-17</td>
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Philip A. Gonsiska, Ph.D., Rare Plant Curator Bok Tower Gardens, 863-734-1215 pgonsiska@boktower.org

Join FNPS on-line - http://fnps.org/participate/membershipinfo

When it comes time to renew, FNPS will send you an email with a link in it. Your information will already be filled out, but you can edit it if it is out of date. This link is unique to you and not to be shared with others.
Activities & Committee Chairs

Field Trips (813)
Shirley Denton 625-5031
Stephen Dickman 597-5888

Librarian
Vikki Sinclair 989-2896

Membership
Devon Higginbotham 478-1183

Newsletter Editor
Janet Bowers 759-2822
Mike Fite, Assistant 977-0892

Publicity/Social media
Andy Taylor

Outreach
Open

USF Plant Sales
Gar Reed 323-0927

USF Botanical Garden Liaison
Kim Hutton 974-2329

Chapter Representative
Virginia Overstreet

Webmaster
Shirley Denton 625-5031

Newsletter Submissions
Deadline for the next issue: January 1, 2018
Please send articles and original artwork for The Suncoast Grapevine to Janet Bowers, by the deadline above- jbowers27@yahoo.com

SNPS Web Address
http://www.SuncoastNPS.org

We're on Meet Up & Facebook

Regular meetings are in Seffner

Meetings are normally the third Wednesday of the month at 7 PM. (no December meeting)

DIRECTIONS TO:
Hillsborough County Extension
5339 County Road 579
Seffner
Take I-4 to Exit 10 (just east of I-75). Go south on 579 for two blocks. Turn left on Old Hillsborough Ave and park on the North side of the office.

2017 Board of Directors

President
Vacant

Vice-president
Virginia Overstreet
voverstr@tampabay.rr.com

Treasurer
Gar Reed
gar0426@yahoo.com

Secretary
Tina Patterson
mablepatterson@hotmail.com

Board Members at Large
Andy Taylor
andytaylor6@gmail.com

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

Please deliver to: