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# *The* **Suncoast Grapevine**

*Newsletter of the Suncoast Native Plant Society, Inc.*



**Volume 18 Number 5**

**May 2001**

## **May 16 Meeting**

# **Environmental Lands Acquisition and Protection Program: Balm- Boyette Scrub**

**By Rob Heath**

Our speaker for the May meeting is Rob Heath of ELAPP, who will present a program about the Balm-Boyette Scrub Preserve, a site rescued with great effort from impending development, and which, in Rob's estimation, is the most significant that ELAPP has ever purchased, in size, in the diversity and rarity of its habitat, in the number of endangered and threatened species it supports, and in the challenge it presents to management efforts.

Rob is a native of New Orleans, where he earned his master's degree at Tulane after going north to Amherst for his baccalaureate. He came to Florida to work for the park system, and has had a key role in the development of new parks in Hillsborough County, including Lettuce Lake, Alderman's Ford, and Upper Tampa Bay. For a time he served the Parks Department as Environmental Education Specialist, but since the inception of the ELAPP program 14 years ago, he has focused increasingly on land preservation and management.

Having piqued our interest in Balm-Boyette, Rob will host a follow-up field trip which will utilize a new three mile hiking trail at the site.

## **Highlights**

Calendar.....	2
Directory.....	6
Landscaping with natives in Hillsborough County for May.....	5
Membership application.....	3
New web site.....	4
Plant profile.....	3
Upcoming programs.....	2
USF spring plant festival report .....	4
Welcome new Suncoast chapter member.....	4

## Upcoming Programs for SNPS Monthly Meetings

- **May 16** – Rob Heath (Environmental Lands Acquisition and Protection Program)
- **June 20** – Pam Traas (Butterfly gardening)
- **July 18** – Kristin Wood (Backyard herpetology)
- **August 15** – Craig Huegel (Brooker Creek Preserve)
- **September 19** – Dr. Wunderlin (Endangered asters)
- **October 17** – Debbie Butts (Balm Boyette Scrub)
- **November 21** – Paul Martin Brown (Orchids)
- **December** – no meeting

## **Suncoast Calendar**

**May 12** Annual Eco-Gardening Conference at USF. Call 813-744-5519, ext. 146 for information.

**May 12** Homeowner Conference and Trade Show. Hosted by FNPS at the Westin Innisbrook Resort, Palm Harbor. Call 1-800-FL-NATIVE for information.

**May 14-16** Assessing the Health of Wetland Life Conference. Sheraton World Resort, Orlando, FL. Sponsored by the Izaak Walton League and the USEPA. Call 1-800-832-7828 for information.

**May 16 7 p.m. Monthly membership meeting. Program on Hillsborough County's Environmental Lands Acquisition and Protection Program by Rob Heath.**

**May 19 Field trip to Balm-Boyette Scrub. Sign up at the May 16 meeting or call Steve Dickman at 813-936-7268.**

**May 19** Gardening from the Ground Up: Seeds by Joyce Fritts of Morning Glory Farms. USF Botanical Garden. Call 813-974-2329 to register.

**May 19, June 23** Rain Barrel & Water Wise Workshop from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. and 10:30 - noon. Hillsborough Extension Service, 5339 County Road 579, Seffner. Call 813-744-5519, x145 for information.

**May 20** Conservation Day at the Lowry Park Zoo. Admission is \$2.00. Proceeds will be used to support wildlife conservation projects and care for animals at the zoo. Call 813-935-8552 for information.

**June 2 10 a.m.** Water Wise Workshop, Master gardeners plant clinic, Temple Terrace Library, 202 Bullard Pkwy, Tampa. Call 989-7160 for information.

**June 9-10** Butterfly and Herb Fair. USF Botanical Garden. Call 813-974-2329 for information.

**June 11 7:30 p.m.** Good Bugs/Bad Bugs, Master gardeners plant clinic, Bruton Memorial Library, 302 McLendon St, Plant City, Call 813-757-9216 for information.

**June 16** Successful Vegetable Gardening for Florida by Brian Schatz. USF Botanical Garden. Call 813-964-2329 to register.

**June 20 7 p.m. Monthly membership meeting. Program on Butterfly Gardening by Pam Traas.**

**July 18 7 p.m. Monthly membership meeting. Program on backyard herpetology by Kristin Wood. Combined meeting with the National Audubon Society and the Sierra Club.**

# PLANT PROFILE

**Common name:** Rough skullcap, helmet skullcap

**Botanical name:** *Scutellaria integrifolia*

**Family:** Lamiaceae (Mint)

**Growth habit:** Perennial wildflower

**Mature size (h):** 2.5 ft.

**Leaves:** Opposite, simple, sparingly hairy and dotted; lower leaves are toothed, ovate and rough; upper leaves are narrow and entire

**Flower:** Corolla, blue to pale violet, 2-lipped; upper lip hoodlike, 3-lobed. Style 2-lobed, calyx 2-lipped, upper lip crested. Flowers in terminal, spikelike racemes.

**Bloom period:** March through November

**Stem:** Upright, hairy, often branched and square

**Light:** Full to part sun

## References:

Taylor, Walter Kingsley, 1998, *Florida Wildflowers in Their Natural Communities*, University of Florida Press, Gainesville, Florida, 170 p.

Taylor, Walter Kingsley, 1992, *The Guide to Florida Wildflowers*, Taylor Publishing Co., Dallas, TX, 320 p.

U.S. Department of Agriculture, No date, *Southern Wetlands Flora: Field Office Guide to Plant Species*, USDA Soil Conservation Service, South National Technical Center, Fort Worth, Texas, Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center home page, Jamestown, ND, [www.npwrc.usgs.gov/resource/1999/soutflor/soutflor.htm](http://www.npwrc.usgs.gov/resource/1999/soutflor/soutflor.htm).

**Water:** Drought tolerant after establishment

**Soil:** Well-drained soils

**Salt tolerant:** No

**Propagation:** Seed, stem cuttings

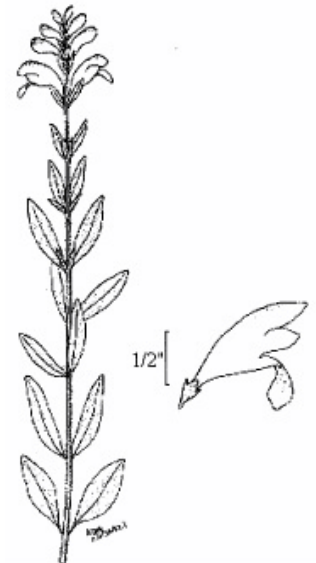
**Florida zones:** N, C

**Landscape uses:** Wildflower garden

**Native habitat:** Dry pinelands, sandhills

**Note:** Similar species in our area is Florida scrub skullcap (*Scutellaria arenicola*); two species are found farther north in Hernando County, Small's skullcap (*Scutellaria multiglandulosa*) and Heartleaf skullcap (*Scutellaria ovata* subsp. *bracteata*).

**Information compiled by**  
**George Kish**



**Artwork from  
the USDA**

## 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 Native Plant Society, Inc. and a subscription to their monthly newsletter *The Suncoast Grapevine*. Contact the membership chair, Nona Elder at (727) 815-3479.

*detach and mail to address given below*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Business name  
or organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State and Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work phone \_\_\_\_\_

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New Member

Renewal

### Check pertinent category:

Individual \$25

Not-for-profit

Full time student \$15

organization \$50

Library subscription \$15

Business or

Family or household \$30

corporate \$100

Contributing \$40

Supporting \$100

Donor \$250

### Suncoast Native Plant Society

P.O. Box 82893 Tampa, FL 33682-2893

Make check payable to **FNPS**.

# USF Spring Plant Festival Report

By Sally Sun

The spring USF Botanical Garden Plant Festival took place April 14 and 15. Twenty-two members volunteered their time to help make this event a success. SNPS member Rick Brown’s Riverview Flower Farm delivered about 900 plants on Thursday, April 12. On Friday, April 13, Ken Albritton and Sally Sun started the morning at Florida Natives Nursery, owned by Lori Milam to pick up plants. We arrived at the Botanical Garden around 9 a.m., where the rest of the set-up crew (Shirley Brown, Maria Revello, Becky Sangvedolce, and Vikki Sinclair) were assembled. First, we set up the tables, then we moved the plants onto the tables. It took about an hour to accomplish this step. In the afternoon, Ken and Sally went to Environmental Equities in Hudson to pick up more plants. In all, we had over 70 varieties of trees, shrubs, ground covers, wildflowers, ferns and vines - a very nice selection, indeed!

On Saturday, the volunteers arrived by 8 a.m. The last of our deliveries arrived at 7:30 a.m. and we scurried to get the plants off the truck and into position. The garden members were allowed in at 9:30 a.m., and the public at 10 a.m. Even though this was Easter weekend, there was a huge, initial rush of folks when the gates opened. No drought worries this day! On hand to assist were Ken

Albritton, Bob and Doris Bareiss, Amanda Carter-Sheahan, Betsy Davis, Kim Freidland, Lucy Hoyt,

George Kish, Marilyn Lewis, Shelia and Jeff Ryan, Fred Spriggs, Sally Sun, Carmel van Hoek, Betty Wargo, and Harriett Wright.

There weren’t a lot of plants left for Sunday, but a team of volunteers (Lucy Hoyt, Fred Spriggs, Sally Sun,

Kathy Watson and her daughter, Chelsie) assisted customers with plants and answered questions throughout the day. Ken Albritton and Steve Dickman came in the afternoon to help disassemble. There were very few - less than 65 - plants unsold, and Rick Brown donated them to the Botanical Garden.

A big “Thanks!” to everyone who gave up part of their weekend to help make the plant sale a huge success. As a thank-you, volunteers received a wildflower of their choice.

Financially, we had gross sales of about \$3,950 and we cleared about \$1000. This is before final expenses have been accounted for. The various events throughout the year, and especially the semiannual plant sales, are vital to SNPS. Part of the SNPS mission is promotion and education of native plants. The earnings from these sales goes to grants, special speaker’s expenses and educational projects throughout the area. If you can find a few hours to volunteer next fall, your help is needed and appreciated. It is a great way to get exposure to many different plants and learn about them. It’s even fun!! “Y’all come out and join us.”

★★  
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 ★ **Welcome to** ★  
 ★ **New Suncoast Chapter Member** ★  
 ★  
 ★  
 ★ **Robert E. Mayko** ★  
 ★  
 ★★

\* \* \* \* \*  
 \* **New Web Site for** \*  
 \* **Suncoast Chapter** \*  
 \* Check out our new web site at: \*  
 \* **www..fnps.org/chapters/suncoast** \*  
 \* Amee Bailey redesigned our web page \*  
 \* and acquired faster access on the \*  
 \* FNPS server. Thank you Amee!! \*  
 \* \* \* \* \*



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# Landscaping with Natives in Hillsborough County - May

By Sally Sun

For the month - Average temperature range: low of 67° to high of 87°

Average rainfall: 3.10 in.

## Flaunting flowers:

*Ardisia escallonioides*, marlberry; white  
*Asclepias perennis*, white swamp milkweed; white  
*Asclepias verticillata*, whorled milkweed; white  
*Bacopa monnieri*, water hyssop; white  
*Berlandiera subacaulis*, green eyes; yellow  
*Bidens alba*, Spanish needles; white  
*Borrchia frutescens*, bushy seaside oxeye; yellow  
*Callicarpa americana*, American beautyberry; pink  
*Cephalanthus occidentalis*, button bush; white  
*Clematis crispera*, swamp leather flower; purple  
*Coreopsis leavenworthii*, tickseed; yellow  
*Dyschoriste oblongifolia*, twinflower; purple  
*Equisetum hyemale*, horsetail; creamy yellow  
*Erythrina herbacea*, coral bean; red  
*Gaillardia pulchella*, blanketflower; red with yellow tips  
*Glandularia maritima*, beach vervain; purple  
*Glandularia tampensis*, Tampa vervain; purple  
*Hamelia patens*, firebush; red  
*Helianthus debilis*, beach sunflower; yellow  
*Heliotropium angiospermum*, scorpion tail; white  
*Heliotropium polyphyllum*, pineland heliotrope; white, yellow  
*Hypericum hypericoides*, St. Andrew's cross; yellow  
*Ilex opaca var. arenicola*, scrub holly; white  
*Iris spp.*, blue flag and prairie iris; blue and yellow  
*Juncus effusus*, soft rush; brown  
*Justicia angusta*, water willow; purple  
*Kosteletzkya virginica*, salt marsh mallow; pink  
*Licania michauxii*, gopher apple; white  
*Lonicera sempervirens*, coral honeysuckle; red  
*Magnolia virginiana*, sweetbay; white  
*Mimosa strigillosa*, powderpuff; pink  
*Myrcianthes fragrans*, Simpson's stopper; white  
*Nymphaea odorata*, fragrant water lily; white

*Opuntia humifusa*, prickly pear cactus; yellow  
*Opuntia stricta*, erect prickly pear cactus; yellow  
*Passiflora suberosa*, corky passionflower; green  
*Peltandra virginica*, green arum; green  
*Persea humilis*, silk bay; white  
*Phlox nivalis*, trailing phlox; pink-purple  
*Phyla nodiflora*, fog-fruit; white  
*Physostegia purpurea*, false dragonhead; purple  
*Pluchea rosea*, saltmarsh fleabane; pink  
*Plumbago scandens*, wild plumbago; white  
*Polygonum punctatum*, dotted smartweed; white  
*Pontederia cordata*, pickerelweed; purple  
*Psychotria nervosa*, shiny wild coffee; white  
*Ptilimnium capillaceum*, mock bishop's weed; white  
*Rivina humilis*, rouge plant; white  
*Rosa palustris*, swamp rose; pink  
*Rudbeckia hirta*, black-eyed Susan; yellow  
*Sabatia calycina*, river pinks; pink  
*Sabatia grandiflora*, marsh pinks; dark pink  
*Sacoila lanceolata var. lanceolata*, scarlet ladies tresses; red  
*Salvia coccinea*, tropical sage; red; pink  
*Sambucus canadensis*, southern elderberry; white  
*Saururus cernuus*, lizard's tail; white  
*Sophora tomentosa*, necklace pod; yellow  
*Stachytarpheta jamaicensis*, trailing porterweed; purple  
*Tradescantia ohiensis*, spiderwort; blue  
*Trichostema dichotomum*, blue curls; blue  
*Tripsacum dactyloides*, eastern gama grass; brown  
*Tripsacum floridanum*, dwarf fakahatchee grass; brown  
*Vernonia gigantea*, ironweed; purple  
*Xyris sp.*, yellow-eyed grass; yellow  
*Zephyranthes atamasco*, rainlily; white

## Bearing berries:

*Acacia spp.*, acacias; brown pods  
*Ardisia escallonioides*, marlberry; black  
*Forestiera segregata*, Florida privet; black  
*Ostrya virginiana*, Eastern hophornbeam; green catlin

*Passiflora suberosa*, corky passionflower; black  
*Rivina humilis*, rouge plant; red  
*Zamia pumila*, coontie; deep orange

## Wildlife to watch for: (busiest month for fledglings)

Parent birds are trying to find enough bugs to feed their nestlings. In the next couple of weeks, the nestlings will leave the nest and force their parents to follow them around and feed them.

- Fledglings to watch for: blue jay, boat-tailed grackle, cardinal, Carolina wren, downy, pilated and red-bellied woodpeckers, great crested flycatcher, ground and mourning doves, killdeer, mockingbird, northern parula warbler, red shouldered and red-tailed hawks, red-winged blackbird, sandhill crane, tufted

(bird information supplied by Dave Bowman)

- Birds migrating through: indigo bunting, yellow-billed cuckoo, American redstart, cedar waxwing, bobolink, etc.
- Giant swallowtail caterpillars munch on citrus
- Gulf fritillary and zebra long wing caterpillars munch passion flower
- White peacock caterpillars munch water hyssop
- Red admiral, sulphur, cassius and ceraunus blue butterflies flitting

What's happening in your yard? Please give us your input. Call Sally Sun, 935-1312, with additions to this list.

## Directory

### Officers & Board of Directors

#### *Chair*

Richard Wunderlin 977-6484

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Carmel vanHoek 238-6901

Harriett Wright 908-9398

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George Kish 920-0853

#### *Treasurer*

Fred Spriggs 935-1312

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#### *Board Members*

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George Kish 920-0853

Alice Tryon 899-9352

Carmel vanHoek 238-6901

Betty Wargo 237-1509

Harriet Wright 908-9398

Richard Wunderlin 977-6484

### Activities & Committee Chairs

#### *Field trips*

Steve Dickman 936-7268

#### *Publications*

Betsy Davis 973-8524

#### *Historian*

Pat McDowell 949-4648

#### *Librarian*

Vikki Sinclair 989-2896

#### *Membership*

Nona Elder 727-815-3479

#### *Newsletter editor*

George Kish 920-0853

#### *Plant Table*

To be announced

#### *Programs*

Carmel vanHoek 238-6901

Harriett Wright 908-9398

#### *Publicity*

Susan Johnston 984-1322

#### *Refreshments*

Lucy Hoyt 960-3178

#### *Education*

Betsy Davis 973-8524

#### *Book Sales*

Ken Albritton 985-3372

## Newsletter Submissions

**Deadline for the next issue:**

**May 23**

Please send articles and original artwork for The Suncoast Grapevine to the editor, George Kish, by the **deadline** of each month (earlier, please, if not typed). Text should be in MS Word; graphics should be in a standard graphic format. Previously published artwork should be accompanied by a letter of permission from the original publisher.

Mail:..... SNPS, Inc.  
P.O. Box 82893  
Tampa, FL 33682-2893

Email:...gkish@tampabay.rr.com

## Meeting Location

Suncoast Native Plant Society, Inc. meets the third Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the Westside Conference Center, first floor, located on the USF campus at Banyan & Cypress. Entrance is at the north end of the building.

## SNPS Address

The main address for communication is:

**Suncoast Native Plant Society, Inc.  
P.O. Box 82893  
Tampa, FL 33682-2893**

Any correspondence sent to this address will be forwarded to the appropriate officer or committee member.

The SNPS web address is:

**[www.fnps.org/chapters/suncoast](http://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 Nona Elder at (727) 815-3479.

**Stamp**

**Please deliver to:**