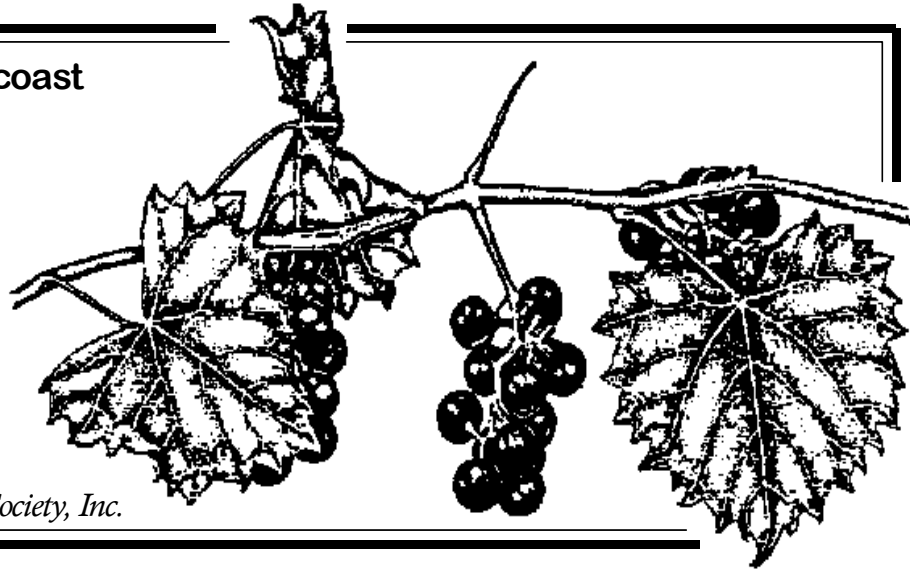


The Suncoast Grapevine

Newsletter of the Suncoast Native Plant Society, Inc.



Volume 20 Number 7

July 2003

July 16 Meeting (at the Learning Gate Charter School)

Wild Florida, the Hillsborough River, and You by Joe Murphy

(joint meeting with Sierra Club and Florida Audubon)

Out there, where the paved road ends, just beyond that bend in the river...is Wild Florida. Wild Florida is the gentle and copper flow of the Hillsborough River as it flows into the Tampa Bay. It is the cacophony of life bursting forth in Cockroach Bay. It is the lands that lay in wait for the return of the panther, the bear, and the red wolf. Wild Florida is that place in all of us that yearns for open vistas and communion with the power and majesty of nature. It is a place, and a philosophy that is imperiled.

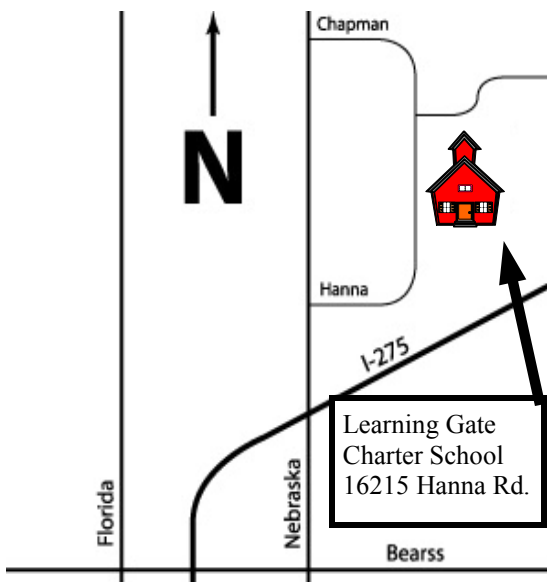
Join us for an evening of celebration of Wild Florida, and a discussion about the history, ecology, and spirit of the Hillsborough River. As Edward Abbey must observed, it is not enough to work to protect something...we must celebrate it and enjoy it as well! Join us for an evening of discussion, community, and celebration of the Hillsborough River, and all things wild and free.

Joe Murphy is a native Floridian, and lives in Tampa with his wife Becky and dog Brahms. Joe has done conservation organizing and advocacy for Florida PIRG, the Endangered Species Coalition, Oceana, and the Sierra Club.

-- Contributed by Harriett Wright

Highlights

- Anniversary celebration.....4
- Calendar.....3
- Conference committee.....4
- Directory.....6
- Electronic newsletter.....4
- Growing native e-mail group.....4
- Membership application.....2
- Message from the president.....2
- New kid in town.....2
- Plant profile.....5
- Program for 2003.....2
- T-shirt design contest.....4
- Welcome new and renewing members.....4



Message from the President

Our July meeting is a traditional combination meeting with the Sierra Club and the Audubon Society. This meeting is a wonderful opportunity to exchange ideas, opinions, and gardening tips with our friends in the Sierra Club and the Audubon Society.

Sierra Club member, Joe Murphy, will present a wonderful talk about the wild Hillsborough River—a place that is near and dear to Joe. Don't miss this great meeting.

We expect to have a great plant raffle, so bring your extra native plants for the raffle. It is our chapter's tradition to give away a native plant seedling to each of our guests, so please bring as many seedlings as you can—just a little soil in a paper cup will be fine. Please also bring a little sign for each plant with the common name, scientific name, and some information about the seedling's growing conditions. Thank you!

Because we are expecting more than three times the number of people than our regular meetings, please assist Lucy Hoyt with the refreshments by bringing a snack or dessert item. Call Lucy at 960-3178 to tell her what you will be bringing. Thank you.

George Kish

Suncoast Program for 2003

By Harriett Wright

- Aug 20** Florida's Black Bears by Syd Taylor
Sep 17 Making Wet Spots Look Good by Craig Watson
Oct 15 Does Compost Just Happen? by Ardell O'Neal
Nov 19 Election Meeting and 20-Year Anniversary Celebration

New Kid in Town

Native Plants to Go is Chris Corral's new retail nursery in Tampa on West Cypress between Lois and Dale Mabry. Give Chris a call at 813-714-0667. Native Plants to Go has a fine selection of native trees, shrubs, and grasses and is convenient to Tampa, Carrollwood, and Town 'n Country.

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, George Kish at (813) 920-0853.

Detach and mail to: Suncoast Native Plant Society, P.O. Box 82893, Tampa, FL 33682-2893

Name _____

Business name
or organization _____

Address _____

City, State and Zip _____

Home telephone _____ Work telephone _____

E-mail and/or FAX _____

New Member

Renewal

Check pertinent category:

Individual \$25

Full time student \$15

Library subscription \$15

Family or household \$30

Contributing \$40

Donor \$250

Not-for-profit

organization \$50

Business or

corporate \$100

Supporting \$100

Make check payable to **FNPS**.

Suncoast Calendar

REGULAR MEETINGS OF SUNCOAST NATIVE

PLANT SOCIETY at the Learning Gate Charter School, 16215 Hanna Road, in Lutz. 7 PM

JULY 16 AUGUST 20 SEPT 17 OCT 15

SNPS 2003 FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE. Contact Steve Dickman, 813-936-7268 for more information. Trails are rated moderate unless noted. Dates subject to change.

Jul 19 Native Plant Buying Trip to The Natives in Davenport. Leave Tampa at 8:30 A.M. to arrive in Davenport at about 9:30 AM. Steve will provide directions and a map at the next meeting. A bit of a drive, but a great nursery with a large selection of pampered native plants.

Sep 20 Field Trip to Bell Creek near the ELAPP office. Meet at the ELAPP office parking lot at 9 AM. See Flatwoods, Sandhill, and Scrub. Experience pine lilies in bloom and perhaps get the chance to see sand hill cranes and gopher tortoises.

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS at the FNPS Pinellas

Chapter: (Moccasin Lake Nature Park, 2750 Park Trail, Clearwater; 727-544-7341); Wed 7:30 pm

Aug 06 Aquatic Wildlife with Craig Watson and Craig Huegel.

Aug 09 Annual canoe/kayak trip

Sep 03 How mitigation works with Belinda Lambert

Sep 06 Regional mitigation site field trip

HILLS CO. MASTER GARDNER PROGRAMS.

Call 813-744-5519 x144 for information about locations or visit the website: hillsborough.extension.ufl.edu/calendar.htm. Upcoming clinics at the extension office:

July 26

Compost Happens: 8:00 - 9:00 am.

Rain Barrel Workshop: 9:00 - 10:00 am

Water Wise Workshop: 10 - 11:30 am

Aug 16 Compost Happens: 8:00 - 9:00 am

Sep 13 Compost Happens: 8:00 - 9:00 am

TAMPA AUDUBON FIELD TRIPS

Aug 23 Belle Glade, Holeyland Bus Trip; Fee; Dave Powell, 657-7762

CHINSEGUT NATURE CENTER Limited seating so register On-line at floridaconservation.org/join-us/chinsegut/registration.htm. 352-754-6722

Aug 5 Florida Skunks 7:00 pm

Aug 19 Chassahowitzka Wildlife Area 7:00 pm

Aug 26 Exotic Plant Removal Work Day 9 - 11 am

Sep 19 Fall Wildflower Walk at Big Pine Tract 9:00 am

Sep 27 Butterfly Workshop with Marc Minno 10 am

USF BOTANICAL GARDENS WORKSHOPS

10:00 AM-11:15 AM ; USFBG members \$3.00 - non-members \$5.00 unless otherwise noted. Call 974-2329.

Jul 26 - Florida's Native Orchids by Louis Del Favero 10-11:15 am

Aug 16 - Shade Gardening in Florida by Monica Brandies

Labor Day Weekend - 9th Annual Cactus and Succulent Society Sale and Show

LOWERY PARK ZOO

Jul 18 & Aug 22 Summer Safari Nights; Live music and special animal encounters; 6:00-8:30 pm

SELBY GARDENS

Sep 20-26 Public Invited Free

Sep 20 Into to Staghorn Ferns 10 am

Submitted by: Shirley Brown

(Please email me at srbrown11@msn.com if you know of any activity that would interest our group.)

Conference Committee

By Ameé Bailey

The SNPS Board of Directors has established a conference committee to begin looking into hosting the annual FNPS conference in 2008. Ameé Bailey has been appointed as chair. The objectives of the committee are to determine potential locations for hosting the conference and to estimate the cost and the human resources needed. Another item to be researched will be the possibility of a joint conference, and, if so, with what group. If you are interested in joining this committee please contact Ameé Bailey at aturtle2c@aol.com or 863-206-3439.

SNPS Anniversary Celebration

At our November meeting, we will be celebrating our chapter's 20th anniversary and we will be honoring the founding members and past members of the Board of Directors. Along with the celebration and the annual election, the program will consist of presentations by SNPS grant recipients who have transformed ordinary landscapes into native plant showcases. There will be lots of planning to do before November, so if you would like to help make this event one to remember, please contact Ameé Bailey at aturtle2c@aol.com or 863-206-3439 to help with our 20th Anniversary Celebration.

T-Shirt Design Contest

The Board is seeking designs for a SNPS t-shirt. We are accepting entries until August 22. The Board will decide the winner at the August 26 BOD meeting. T-shirts with the winning design will be available for sale at the 20-Year Celebration meeting in November. The person submitting the winning design will receive a free t-shirt and a one-year membership to the FNPS. Contact Ameé Bailey at 662-5954 for more information.

Electronic Newsletter?

Because of concerns over cost and our desire to use less paper, the Board is considering distributing the newsletter by e-mail to members who prefer an electronic version to a paper version. If you are interested in receiving the newsletter by e-mail, please contact gkish@tampabay.rr.com.

Growing Native E-mail Group

Growing Native is an e-mail list devoted to the discussion of Florida native plants and their cultivation, propagation, and conservation. It is moderated by Rufino Osorio, author of "A Gardener's Guide to Florida's Native Plants." You can join the Growing Native email list by sending an email to: growingnative-subscribe@yahoo.com.

Welcome New and Renewing Members

New :
Donna Bollenbach
Rob and Rebecca Degraaf
Emily Ferguson
Anne Ferguson
Barbara Hawkins
Alice Jelstul
Voni Moore

Renewed:
Katherine Abbey
Alice Arnwine
Gayle Bertelstein
Craig Cowart
Mary Cross
Carl Crosson
Betsy Davis
Shirley Denton
Carlos Frey
Richard Gross
Jane Halil
Jay Heidt
Toni Hinchcliffe
Lucy Hoyt
Joel and Barbara Jackson
Jo Johnston
Michael Keller
Marilyn Lewis
Lee Miller
Teresa Nesman
Mary Lou Peterson
Melissa and Scott Pierce
Vikki Sinclair
Fred Spriggs and Sally Sun
Edward Stein
Amy Swancar
Ardell O'Neal and Beth Torbert
Alyson Utter
Jerry and Sharon Walker
Craig Watson

Thank you for your continued support of the Suncoast chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society!!

PLANT PROFILE

Common name: Simpson's stopper; twinberry stopper

Botanical name: *Myrcianthes fragrans* (Sw.) McVaugh

Family: MYRTACEAE (Myrtle Family)

Plant habit: An evergreen shrub or bushy tree with rounded crown and flaky bark.

Size: 6-20 ft. (h)

Leaves: Dark glossy green, 1-2.5 in. long, exuding a sweet, spicy odor much like nutmeg, on hot, humid days, or when crushed.

Flower: Small with 4 fragrant white petals and a mass of white stamens.

Fruit: Red-orange berry app. 1 in. long, looking like a miniature guava to which it is related.

Flowering time: Spring to early summer

Habitat: Coastal hammocks, rarely inland.

Distribution: St. Johns Co., central and southern peninsula

Hardiness zones: Cold tolerant

Light: Full to partial sun

Water: Only until established

Propagation: By seed; will occasionally self-sow or sucker.

Availability: Several native plant nurseries

Wildlife value: The sweet, colorful fruit attracts birds, especially mockingbirds; the birds in turn, attract bird-eating snakes.

Comments: An especially attractive specimen of Simpson's stopper can be seen in the driveway of the USF Botanical Garden; slow growing.

References:

Osorio, Rufino, 2001, **A Gardener's Guide to Florida's Native Plants:** University Press of Florida, Gainesville, FL, pp. 263-264.

Wunderlin, R.P. and Hansen, B.F., 2002, **Atlas of Florida Vascular Plants** (<http://plantatlas.usf.edu/>) [S.M. Landry and K.N. Campbell (application development), Florida Center for Community Design and Research] Institute for Systematic Botany, University of South Florida, Tampa.

Wunderlin, R.P., 1998, **Guide To the Vascular Plants of Florida:** University Press of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, 452 p.

Information compiled by Carmel vanHoek

Photograph by Walter K. Taylor



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.

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Vice-presidents

Richard Wunderlin 977-6484

Harriett Wright 908-9398

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Ameé Bailey 662-5954

Treasurer

Fred Spriggs 935-1312

Chapter Representative

Ameé Bailey 662-5954

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Vikki Sinclair 989-2896

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Harriett Wright 908-9398

Refreshments

Lucy Hoyt 960-3178

Education

Betty Wargo 237-1509

Book Sales

Sally Sun 935-1312

USF Plant Sale

Sally Sun 935-1312

Conference

Ameé Bailey 662-5954

Newsletter Submissions

Deadline for the next issue:

July 25

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

SNPS Address

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



Meeting Location

Suncoast Native Plant Society, Inc. meets the third Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the **Learning Gate Charter School, 16215 Hanna Road, Lutz.**

SNPS Web Address

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 George Kish at 920-0853.

Stamp

Please deliver to: