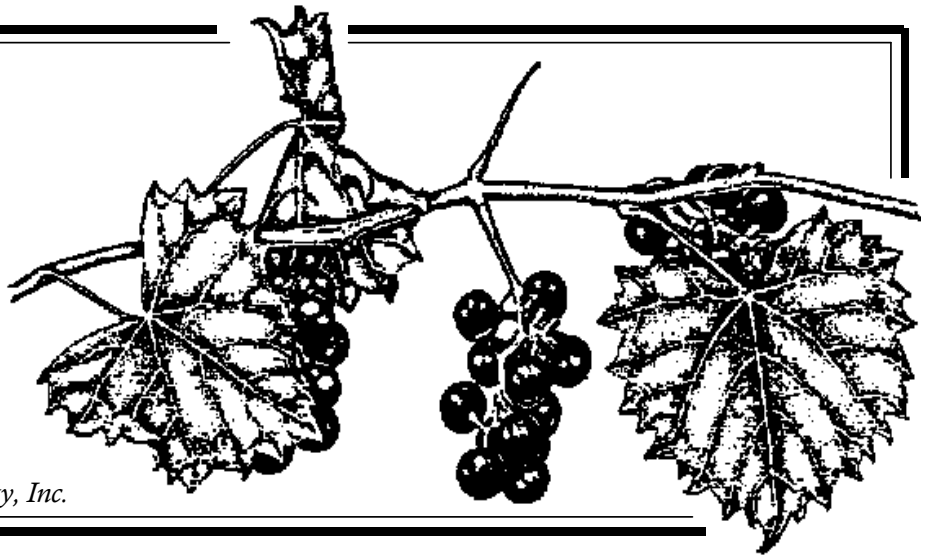


The Suncoast Grapevine

Newsletter of the Suncoast Native Plant Society, Inc.



Volume 25 Number 9

SEPTEMBER 2008

September 17, 2008

7:00 pm

Hillsborough Extension Office

The Zen of Native Plant Photography

By Dr. Shirley Denton



Have you ever seen something that made you wish you had your camera, and that you were a good enough photographer to capture the picture that you want? If you answered yes to either of those questions, you will want to hear our September presentation by our very own Dr. Shirley Denton. Her presentation will focus on bringing art into the photography of plants in their environments. The discussion will be about composing photographs that tell the tale that the photographer wants to tell, and doing it in a way that will please the eye. She will also tell us a bit about the challenges of photographing in the real world – from wind to rain to people who want to help!

Shirley Denton is an enthusiastic more-or-less amateur photographer of Florida's plants. Her background includes all of botany and plant ecology, and she has been a photographer for nearly 35 years. She has contributed hundreds of photographs to the USF ISB website and maintains her own website with photographs of almost 1500 species. She has sold numerous photographs for various publications and has given permission to use many others either to friends or for use in publications that will be used to support conservation and good land management. She also photographs wildlife and landscapes. Professionally, Dr. Denton is a plant ecologist and has worked in Florida for over 20 years as an environmental consultant. She is immediate past president of the Florida Native Plant Society and is a board member and field trip coordinator of the Suncoast Chapter.

-Mary Miller



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**



Alderman's Ford Field Trip

For our August field excursion, a group of intrepid Suncoast members met at Alderman Ford Park to explore the seep slope on the south side of the river. The weather was threatening, as the remnants of Fay hung in the area. We scooted across the river on a very slick bridge and then set off through the floodplain for the base of the seep slope. Everything was wet (plants, trail, boots) but the weather favored us by not raining. The seep slope was seeping and we experienced a wetland plant community on a hill slope. At the top we came out into sand hill. We saw lots of great plants that are not common in Hillsborough County including basswood (*Tilia americana*) and wood fern (*Dryopteris ludoviciana*). The find for the day was an orchid not known to any of us: *Platytheles latifolia* (low ground orchid). As we headed back to the picnic area, the skies opened and we wished we'd brought soap and shampoo for our showers! Even with the downpour, we declared the trip a success!

-Shirley Denton

Photos—Joel Jackson (group) and Shirley Denton (orchid)



Linking to the Land... Going for the Gold

A SNPS Grant Recipient Event

**Saturday, September
27th**

9am to Noon

*Help beautify Camp
Bayou for National Public
Lands Day.*

This event will feature a variety of family-oriented and youth activities focused on water conservation and Florida Eco-Friendly landscaping. Adult-oriented clinics will be presented by local experts.

Camp Bayou is located at
4140 24th Street SE,
Ruskin, FL 33570.

To register for this event, email girlscouttroop966@yahoo.com with contact name, phone number, number and age of participants. Please also register at <http://www.idealists.org/en/event/106702-283>. Additional information will be provided.

Registration deadline is
September 17th.

Board of Directors—Time Almost Up!

Our Board of Directors (BOD) for the SNPS is elected to a one-year term of office. The year is almost up for the current BOD. Per our by-laws: the slate for next year's BOD is presented by the nominating committee at the annual election meeting in November; the number of directors can be between three and nine. The slate is first announced to the current BOD, and then published in the November issue of the Grapevine – so be sure to look at the newsletter prior to the meeting in November!

It is time to start finalizing the slate for next year's BOD. Since some of the current board members will be leaving office at the end of the term, there will be some vacancies. If you are a current member of the SNPS and would like to consider serving as a director, please contact Sally Sun at spriggsun@yahoo.com or 935-1312.

Nominating Committee

Per our by-laws: the nominating committee shall be comprised of at least three SNPS members; whose duty shall be to prepare a slate of candidates for the Suncoast Chapter Board of Directors (BOD). Sally Sun has volunteered to head the committee; if you are interested in helping – it involves making a couple of phone calls – please contact Sally at 935-1312 or spriggsun@yahoo.com. The advantage of being on the nominating committee is you can't be tapped to serve on the BOD!!!

SUNCOAST CALENDAR

To submit information to the Calendar, email Mary Miller: limpkin1945@verizon.net

Programs for 2008

- ♣ **January 16—Jennifer Roberts:**
Hillsborough County Invasive Species Task Force
- ♣ **February 20—Laurel Schiller:**
Landscaping With Natives
- ♣ **March 19—Rob Northrop:**
Forest Sustainability: Tampa Bay Watershed
- ♣ **April 16—Mary Miller:**
Bluebirds and Boxes
- ♣ **May 21—Phil Compton:**
Restoring the Hillsborough River With Native Plants
- ♣ **June 18—Sylvia Durrell:**
Dealing With Florida's Drought
- ♣ **July 16—Jeff Klinkenberg:**
Preserving Old Florida
- ♣ **August 20—Nanette O'Hara:**
Eyes on the Bay
- ♣ **September 17—Shirley Denton:**
The Zen of Native Plant Photography
- ♣ **October 15—Terry Zinn:**
Florida Wildflowers
- ♣ **November 19—Miki Renner:**
Relevance of Native Plants to Smart Growth and Low Impact Development
- December—No meeting.**

Field Trips and Events

September 21 (Sunday) – Photography Workshop. Practice your photography skills in an area where native wildflowers are in full bloom. Call Shirley Denton (813) 986-6485 for details.

October 11 – 12 – Fall Plant Festival, USF Botanical Gardens. SNPS will sell native plants. To volunteer, call Sally Sun at (813) 935-1312.



A note about field trips: These trips are planned long in advance. Please call the trip coordinator to confirm the date, time, and location. Trips are free unless otherwise noted.



SEPTEMBER FIELD TRIP—Sun 21st

Our September field trip is a follow-up from our September meeting. We are going to go to a location where there are ample opportunities to practice our skills in photographing native plants. We'll stress ways to get the photographs that communicate to your audience whether it be for plant ID, a close-up of a flower, or a whole field of flowers. Bring your camera! If you use supporting toys (tripod, flash, ring lights, etc. etc.), bring those too, and we'll share our favorites with the group. If possible, we'll have a wrap-up where we can download a sample of our photographs to a computer and critique. The field trip location will be announced at the September meeting so that we can choose a location where the plants want to be caught on pixels or film.

—Shirley Denton



The enso, a symbol of Zen. Prepare for Shirley's lecture—research Zen Koans, Zen gardens, and Zen art!

PLANT PROFILE

Common name: Rouge plant, bloodberry

Botanical name: *Rivina humilis* (L.)

Family: Petiveriaceae

Plant Habit: Upright herbaceous shrub with woody base

Zone: 9-11

Habitat: Hammocks and disturbed sites

Size: 3 - 5 feet (h)

Leaves: Alternate, simple, lanceolate, 1 to 5 inches, with wavy, entire margins

Bloom: Small, white to pink spiked clusters

Flowering time: Year-round

Fruit: Small, round, bright red in clusters

Distribution: Central peninsula to Keys

Growing conditions

Light: Shade to sun

Water: Drought tolerant

Soil: Poor to average

Propagation: Cuttings, seeds

Motility: Seeds easily propagate near parent plant

Maintenance: Minimal

Availability: Most native nurseries

Comments: Food source for birds; bright red berries offer color for shady gardens



References:

Haehle, Robert G., and Joan Brookwell, 2004, *Native Florida Plants, Revised Edition*: Taylor Trade Publishing Company, Lanham, Maryland, 400 p.

Nelson, Gil, 1996, *The Shrubs and Woody Vines of Florida*: Pineapple Press, Inc., Sarasota, Florida, 391 p.

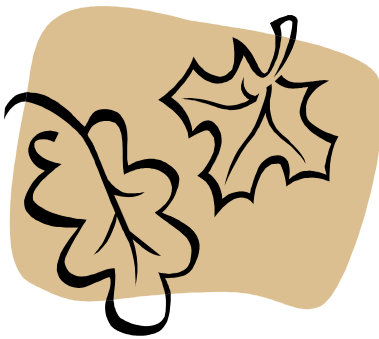
Wunderlin, R.P. and B.F. Hansen, 2003, *Guide to Vascular Plants of Florida*, second edition, University Press of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, 787 p.

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 Roger Hammer, Patricia Howell

USF Botanical Garden Fall Plant Sale Seeks Volunteers



The USF Botanical Gardens Fall Plant Sale takes place October 11 and 12. A sign-up sheet will be passed around at the September monthly chapter meeting. If you are unable to make the meeting and wish to help – and we would love to have your help! – please call Sally Sun at 935-1312. We need volunteers for set-up Friday morning, October 10; and to work the sale Saturday, October 11, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Sunday, October 12, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. We hope to have enough volunteers so that no one has to work more than once. We appreciate your participation!

-Sally Sun

Monthly Plant Auction

Thanks to Joel Jackson!

One of the best ways to encourage the use of Florida's native plants is to have them available. At the monthly meetings of the Suncoast Native Plant Society, we used to have our plant "raffle". This worked fine, however it was suggested by Joel Jackson that an auction would be better. It has. We were averaging about \$10 per meeting. Now we are receiving \$75/auction. More importantly is that bidders hear about the wondrous nature of the plants, how to take care of them and where to plant them. Thanks Joel!!! - SNPS BOD



MEMBERSHIP

New

Ilka Baier, Brandon
Michael McDuffie, Tampa

Renewed

Todd and Marie Greer, Brandon
Lenora and Joe Guidry, Lutz
Gail and Russ Kruetzman, Thonotosassa
Troy Springer, Dover
Becki Stafford, Ruskin



Thanks to Pat Clouser!

The members and Board of the Suncoast Native Plant Society want to offer our appreciation and a big hug to Pat Clouser for her many years as webmaster for our website. In today's atmosphere of electronic communication, this website, so well built, was one of the biggest promoters of native plants.

Thanks Pat!!!!

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 Florida Native Plant Society and a subscription to their monthly newsletter *The Suncoast Grapevine*. Contact the membership chair, Harriett Wright, at 908-9398.

☐ 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:

**Suncoast Chapter of
Florida 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

Harriett Wright 908-9398

Newsletter Editor

Shawna Everidge 757-9289

Mike Fite, Assistant 977-0892

Programs and Publicity

Mary Miller 960-8132

Outreach

Troy Springer 967-4538

Book Sales

Sally Sun 935-1312

USF Plant Sale

Sally Sun 935-1312

USF Botanical Garden Liaison

Kim Hutton 974-2329

Chapter Representative

James Wheeler 571-5865

Webmaster

Shirley Denton 986-6485



Newsletter Submissions

Deadline for the next issue:

OCT 2

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

DIRECTIONS TO:

*Hillsborough County
Extension*

5339 County Road 579,
Seffner.

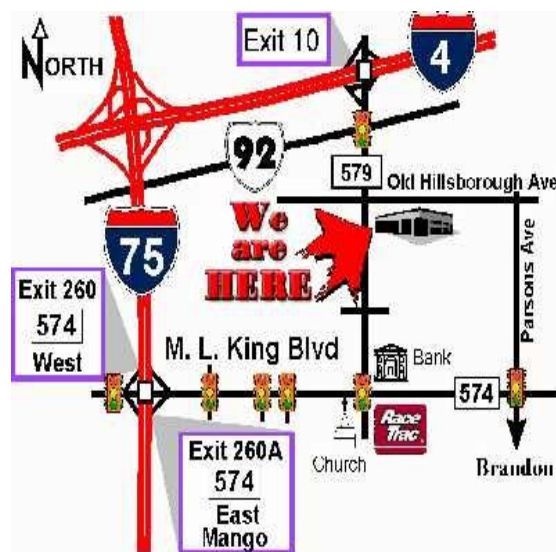
Take I-4 to Exit 10 (just East of I-75). Go South for two blocks. The office is at the corner of Old Hillsborough Road, and County Road 579.

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

Harriett Wright 908-9398

Vice-president

Mary Miller 960-8132

Secretary

Margo Funk 654-5611

Treasurer

John Miller 960-8132

Board Members

Mary Miller

Harriett Wright

Margo Funk

John Miller

James Wheeler

Troy Springer

Shirley Denton

The SNPS BOD meets regularly.

Call Harriett Wright for exact locations.

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

Please deliver to: