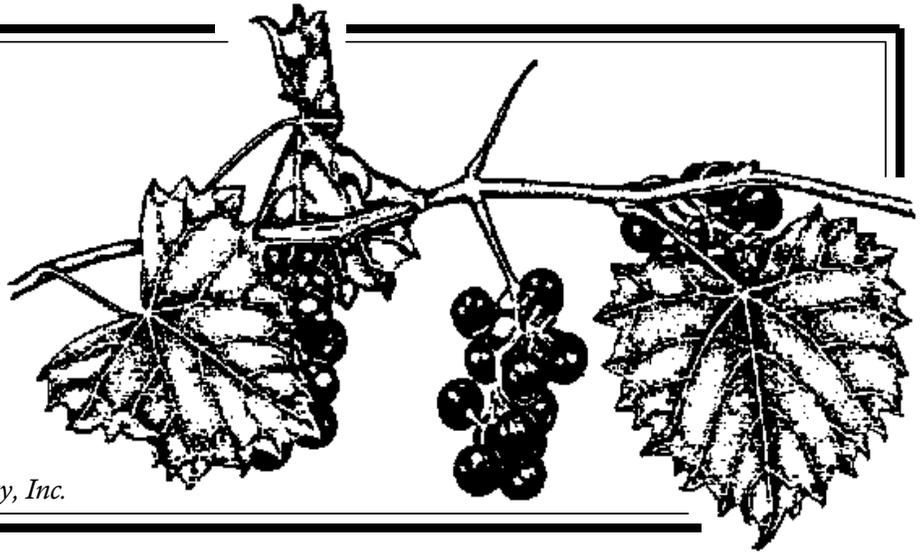


www.suncoastnps.org

The Suncoast Grapevine

Newsletter of the Suncoast Native Plant Society, Inc.



Volume 26 Number 9

SEPTEMBER 2009



Member's Night

Presented by YOU!

Wednesday, September 16, 2009 @ 7pm
Hillsborough County Extension Service

Bring your stories of success and failure, favorite plants, landscape secrets, maintenance tips, seed start or cutting propagation techniques, or even your favorite hike. In other words, anything you've learned over the years about native plants would be a great topic!

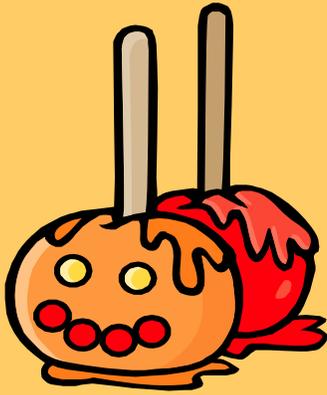
Presenters should limit their sharing to between 5 to 10 minutes. We have a computer and projector available that has MS Power Point installed for that polished presentation or we can run MS Office slide show if you just want to use a few photographic props (Office 2003 or Office 2007). The photographs should be on either a CD disk or USB flash drive. Please ensure that your computer has adequate and updated antivirus software installed and scan the media before bringing it to the meeting.

- 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

**Volunteers Needed: Fall Plant Sale
Saturday & Sunday
October 10th & 11th**



Summer is almost over, so it is time to start thinking about the USF Botanical Gardens Fall Plant Sale. The two plant sales we have a year are our largest fundraisers. We still need volunteers for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. These volunteers will be setting up for the sale, promoting FNPS at our outreach tent, selling plants, books, and seeds, taking money for merchandise, and many other tasks. Gates open on Saturday and Sunday at 9:30am for Botanical Garden members and 10:00am for the general public.

We will need Friday volunteers to be at the Garden at 9:00am for set up. Saturday and Sunday, there will be two shifts. The first shift goes from 7:30am till 12:00pm, and the second shift is from 12:00pm till close. We will be passing a sign up sheet at the next meeting. If you are unable to make the meeting, but would like to volunteer, please call Troy Springer at 813-967-4538. —Troy Springer

Florida Wildflower Foundation Meeting

The Florida Wildflower Foundation is planning an afternoon of education and fun on Saturday, Sept. 12, at Orlando's Leu Gardens, 1920 Forest Drive. Besides informative talks by three wildflower experts, there will be free wildflower and plant information, door prizes, and a raffle featuring plants, books, gardening items and more!

The meeting is free for Foundation members and \$5 for non-members.

Meeting Schedule

11 a.m. Attend a short members' meeting, then hear how the Florida Wildflower Foundation is working to conserve and preserve Florida's native wildflowers.

Noon: Attracting Wildlife with Wildflowers — Dr. Craig Huegel will talk about using wildflowers for wildlife landscaping.

1 p.m.: Using Native Wildflowers and Plants in Your Landscape — Get tips from landscape pro and native plant grower Brightman Logan on the do's and don'ts of using wildflowers in your yard.

1:50 p.m. Florida's Natural Wonders: Places, Flora, and Fauna — Hear Dr. Walter Taylor, "Mr. Florida Wildflower," tell about Florida's natural places and ecological communities.

For more information, e-mail Lisa Roberts at executivedirector@floridawildflowerfoundation.org.

Troy Springer will have an open house on Saturday October 3rd. The fall is the most spectacular time to see the garden, and many species of plants will have color. The garden is built using exclusively native plants, with a few fruit trees in the mix. Every year the garden grows, so previous visitors can see how it has changed from years past.

The address is 13831 Hwy 92 E., Dover, FL 33527. We will start at 10:30am. Keep in mind, that some plants look best in the morning. Some refreshments will be provided, but bring a dish if you like.

Contact Troy Springer for more info at 813-967-4538.

August Field Trip



Longhorn false rein orchid
Habenaria quinqueseta

August saw a large turnout for our field trip to Dead River Park on the Hillsborough River. Our group strolled along the river looking for interesting plants, fungi, birds, reptiles, and vistas. We found them all! We almost stepped on a banded water snake who was preparing to shed his skin. We found three orchid species, two in bloom – *Epidendrum conopseum* and *Habenaria quinqueseta*. Fungi abounded as rain had been plentiful. We wandered along the river enjoying large oaks covered with shoe string ferns and resurrection ferns. We explored the floodplain forest including a side swamp. Mosquitoes and ticks largely left us alone, and a thunderstorm kindly waited to arrive until after our walk. Enjoy the photos of our trip on our web site:

<http://www.SuncoastNPS.org>.

- Shirley Denton, photos J. Jackson and G. Parsons



Bees on Your Property?



Currently, the state of Florida recommends that all wild (or feral) honey bee colonies found in proximity to people (in walls, birdhouses, trees, etc.) be eradicated by a certified Pest Control Operator or PCO. Statistics out of the Southwest show that 50% of Africanized honey bee stinging attacks occur in instances where the victim was aware of the colony's existence. Therefore, if the nest had been initially removed, the stinging attack would not have occurred.

The Bees Seem Calm...

Just because a colony is calm now doesn't mean that it will always be. Bee colonies become more defensive once their nest is established as they have something to protect, and this can take a few months. Also, there is evidence that the average queen (at least in managed colonies) lives about 6 months to one year. When a new queen is born to replace the old queen, she leaves the colony to mate in the air with 15-20 different male bees (drones). Therefore, she is mating with any drones from nearby colonies (not with bees from her hive). If African bees are in the area, the new queen may mate with the African drones, and the resulting offspring will likely display African characteristics. Therefore, a colony that was calm (or even European) 6 months ago may be defensive (or even African) today.

The Bees are Disappearing...

The African bee issue and the disappearance of managed honey bees are unrelated as far as most experts are concerned. This means that eradicating one wild honey bee nest in Florida does nothing to hurt honey bee populations overall. In fact, there can be as many as 100-200 bee colonies per square mile in areas where African bees occur. So, even removing 1 colony does very little to the overall population of wild bees. It's simply a public safety issue.

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services is NOT searching for wild colonies in an effort to destroy them all. But, they are recommending that honey bees found in proximity to people be eradicated by trained Pest Control Operators.

-article of interest taken from IFAS Africanized Honey Bee Program website at http://entnemdept.ifas.ufl.edu/afbee/bee_removal.shtml; photo 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—Cliff Brown:**
Plants for Attracting Native Hummingbirds
- ♣ **June 17—Craig Huegel:**
Designing a Landscape for Wildlife
- ♣ **July 15—Karina Veaudry:**
The Status of Conservation in Florida
- ♣ **August 19—Prem Subrahmanyam:**
Florida Orchids
- ♣ **September 16—SNPS Membership:**
Garden Tips, Tricks, Trips and Trials



Thanks to **Susan Watson, Nina Singh, and Marcia Curl** for providing the refreshments at our August meeting. Susan also turned in **16 print cartridges!** We can turn in ten cartridges per month to receive up to \$30 toward printing *the Grapevine*. This is saving us nearly a third each printing!



Saturday, September 19, 2009 Field Trip to Brooker Creek

The September Field Trip will be to Brooker Creek Preserve in Pinellas County. This large Pinellas County park has a boardwalk through the Brooker Creek swamp and paths through well maintained flatwoods. With luck, the pine lilies that thrive in the flatwoods will be blooming. Plan to walk 1-2 miles on easy trails and boardwalks. Contact Shirley Denton at ecotypes@myrapidsys.com or 813-625-5031 for additional information.

- Shirley Denton, photo Shirley Denton

PLANT PROFILE

Common name: Wild sweet basil
Botanical name: *Ocimum campechianum* Mill.
Synonyms: Wild mosquitoplant
Family: Lamiaceae
Zone: 10-11
Plant Habit: Erect, short-lived perennial
Habitat: Rockland hammocks and pine rocklands
Size: 1 – 2 feet (h and w)
Leaves: Opposite, lanceolate, toothed, lime green
Bloom: Small, rose-purple flowers
Flowering time: Summer, year round in south Florida

Growing conditions

Light: Part to full sun
Water: Moist
Soil: Well drained
Propagation: Seeds, cuttings
Motility: very slowly
Maintenance: periodic pruning of old stems
Availability: Occasionally from native nurseries
Comments: Summer annual in central Florida; year round in south Florida; aromatic addition to herb garden

References:

Osorio, Rufino, 2001, *A Gardener's Guide to Florida's Native Plants*: University Press of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, 345 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 T. Ann Williams, Roger Hammer

Ocimum campechianum

Photo by T. Ann Williams



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

Vacant

USF Botanical Garden Liaison

Kim Hutton 974-2329

Chapter Representative

Kristina Herz

Webmaster

Shirley Denton 986-6485

Conservation

Ron Chicone



Newsletter Submissions

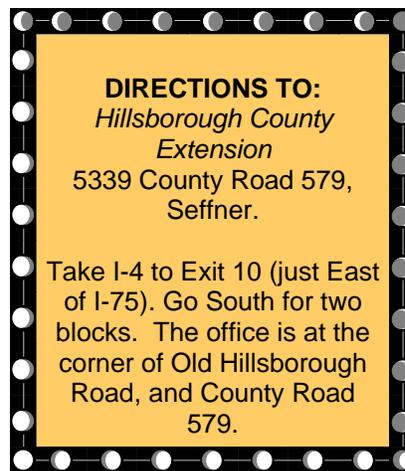
Deadline for the next issue:

OCT 1

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:

<http://www.SuncoastNPS.org>



Officers & Board of Directors

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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: