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The Suncoast Grapevine

Newsletter of the Suncoast Native Plant Society, Inc.



Volume 27 Number 5

MAY 2010

The Nature Of Southwest Florida: Cultural Beginnings & Natural Endings

Presented by Karen Fraley

Hillsborough County Extension Service

Wednesday, May 19 @ 7pm



The discussion will start with Florida's first people, the Native Americans, and includes a bit about their culture and how they used the land for a good life. Then, the program covers our current practices of land development and the impacts of our culture, including invasive exotics and possible solutions for the long term.

At *Around the Bend Nature Tours* our mission is to give a sense of Florida as "home," and hopefully those hearing this talk will leave with a sense of what makes Florida unique and why we should preserve our natural systems.

Submitted by Karen Frayley



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

USF Botanical Gardens Spring Plant Festival Saturday, April 10th and Sunday, April 11th

There were a few indicators that led us to believe that this year's Spring Plant Sale would be unusually good. The long and colder than usual winter caused extensive damage to landscapes all across Florida. Nurseries and growers that had been slow because of the economic conditions were starting to boom. To prepare for the added crowd, we made sure that we had a large stock of plants. Because I had one sale under my belt (last years Fall Sale), I knew what I had to do, to be ready. We decided to set up both Thursday and Friday. Ron Chicone, Fred and Barbara Mulholland, Mike Fite, Fred and Lucy Fuchs, Bob Upcavage, and Ron Gilbert were all there to put the sale together and set out most of our plants.



Ilex glabra
Photo by Betty Wargo



Saturday, we had a big staff of volunteers to finish setting up and handle the crowd. When the booth was completely set up, it looked like a forest of plants with the highest selection to date. Daphne Lambright, Jane Halil, Ron Chicone, Fred Mulholland, James Wheeler, Ilka Baier, and Harriett Wright were the volunteers for Saturday. The crowd was even bigger than anticipated, and plants were being scooped up like never before. There was a line that extended halfway around the whole display area of people waiting to be checked out. It was extraordinary. By 2:00 pm, our booth was stripped clean of most plants. We still had two hours to go, and another day ahead of us! Luckily, I was able to get in touch with Tom Hietzman of Sweet Bay Nursery. I jumped in the truck, and hauled in another trailer and truck load of plants. Tom really saved the day by letting me go to his nursery so late in the day on Saturday!

On Sunday, I arrived early and we set out all the new plants and consolidated the rows. All the tables were full, and it looked like a brand new display of plants. As usual, Sunday had a smaller crowd, but we still sold a ton of plants. For the first time, many of our vendors had sold out of every single plant that they provided! Sunday's volunteers were Daphne Lambright, Debbie Butts, Devon Higginbotham, Vivian Kilgore, Nancy Wright, and JoAnn Hoffman.

This year's sale shattered our record of the highest grossing Spring Sale, and is within about \$1,000.00 of equaling our total year's plant sale income record. I want to thank all that came out to support our sale, and especially those that worked so hard to put on this great event. I apologize if I missed any volunteers. Some people came out and helped, even if they were not on the list. Lastly, I would like to add that even with the current market conditions, our booth appeared to do much better than most of the other booths at the sale. I would like to think that our success is because of the years of hard work that the Florida Native Plant Society has done to promote the importance of protecting native plant communities, the Association of Florida Native Nurseries for providing such a diversity of quality native plants, and our chapter, the Suncoast Native Plant Society for the years of development to make this sale what it is today! - Submitted by Troy Springer, photos of species that were for sale at the show (Spotted Beebalm, Gallberry and Saw Palmetto) by Betty Wargo and Shirley Denton



Florida Native Plant Society

Rooted in History; Forever Blooming

30th Annual Conference

May 20-23, 2010

Tallahassee, Florida

Don't miss these exciting Keynote Programs:

University of Florida Professor Vassiliki Betty Smocovitis asks: Why do most people tend to appreciate animals so much more than plants? And, why we should care. That question is at the center of efforts to "Prevent Plant Blindness."

Author Bailey White will tell stories with a unique perspective gained from many years of good living.

Landscape Architect, Darryl Morrison: Overcoming Faceless/ Placeless Landscape Design -uses of fire and other natural processes in nationally recognized native plant designs.

Conference Activities will include:

- ☼ Field Trips
- ☼ Workshops
- ☼ Current Research, Science and Poster Sessions
- ☼ Community Interest Sessions
- ☼ Exhibitors Including Plant, Book and Art Sales
- ☼ Keynote Speakers
- ☼ Special Events
- ☼ CEU Credits Available

Tallahassee-Leon County Civic Center and Doubletree Hotel

Registration, sponsorship and vendor applications, programs, field trips, and Doubletree Hotel and other information is available online at

www.fnps.org/conference.

For questions, contact FNPS at (321) 271-6702 or email info@fnps.org



**There will be no field trip scheduled for May
due to a conflict with the Annual Conference.
We hope to see you there!**

Suncoast Native Plant Society

2010 Membership, January—March

New Members:

Ron Jacobson, Tampa
Kathy Partin, Tampa
Beth Wertsching Davidson, Plant City
James Gilman, Tampa
Michelle Roff, Valrico
Joel Strong, Zephyrhills

Renewing Members:

Lynn Proenza, Riverview
Richard and Sydney Brown, Riverview
Bonnie Dyson, Seffner
Kenneth Kwo, Tampa
JoAnn Hoffman, Riverview
Kathy Beck, Lutz
Joel Cleveland, Tampa
Val Cugat, Tampa
Margaret Evans, Seffner
Lucy Hoyt, Tampa
Yvette Killian, Tampa
Mary MacArthur, Brandon
Michael Sutton and Alyssa Getzoff, Tampa
Wendy Anastasiou, Apollo Beach
Shawna Everidge, Plant City

Casey Beavers, Lakeland
Allen Burdett, Seffner
Debbie Butts, Plant City
Patti Gerard, Lutz
Debra Bakes, Valrico



What's Our Membership Made Of?



According to the March membership reports for FNPS, Suncoast was the 5th largest FNPS chapter. As of the end of April, we have 139 memberships in Suncoast. Our actual number of members is greater, as some membership categories can have multiple people. We have at least 162 members. Our memberships are dominated by individual memberships (96) and we have 25 household/family memberships, 4 business memberships, 2 not-for-profit organizational memberships, 4 student memberships, and 4 contributing, 3 supporting, and one life membership. We thank everyone for supporting FNPS at the level most suited to them!

Our membership is diverse in background and in interests. Not everyone fills out the survey on the membership forms, but enough people do so that we can tell the general areas of interest in our chapter. The biggest interest area is growing natives, including people into gardening with natives, Master Gardeners, nursery owners, and landscapers. A close second is people interested in field trips. Art and photography are important, as is education. Relatively few of our members state interests in advocacy or government policy. We have lots of environmental professionals in our organization but few (or no) people who have identified themselves as accountants, elected officials, attorneys, and graphic designers.

- Submitted by Shirley Denton

Dear Editor:

The explosion last week on the Deepwater Horizon platform, and the massive leakage of oil now taking place there, have been used by recent writers to underscore the folly of our legislature's proposal to open Florida to near-shore drilling. As is typical, the importance of our beaches to a lucrative tourism industry and the foolish risk of despoiling them are cited by the writers as the primary reason we should not even consider such recklessness.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration maintains Environmental Sensitivity Index maps of the entire coastline of the US. The sole purpose of the maps is to illustrate environmental sensitivity to oil spills. The sensitivity scores range from a low of 1 for seawalls to a maximum of 10 for salt marsh and mangrove dominated shorelines.



Our Gulf beaches rate sensitivity indices in the 3 to 4 range. They would be horrendously difficult to clean and there would be terrible impacts to wildlife. These are spelled out in detail by the maps.

But our salt marsh and mangrove coastlines are another matter entirely! They would be virtually impossible to clean and provide essential habitat for many more species of wildlife than our beaches. They cover vastly more land area than the Gulf beaches, greatly increasing their exposure to damage, and are the nurseries for our fishing and seafood industry. The Department of Commerce places the combined value of Florida's recreational and commercial saltwater fishing industry at over \$10 billion annually, and estimates these industries support more than 150,000 jobs.

I ask my fellow Floridians to include the salt marshes and mangroves in their calculations when weighing the potential costs and benefits of offshore oil drilling. With time, money, and hard work, we might eventually get our beaches back following a spill, albeit with tar balls on visitor's feet and a continuing dearth of wildlife. For all intents and purposes, a despoiled salt marsh would be gone forever.

**Eugene Kelly, President
Florida Native Plant Society**

- Editorial, originally printed in the St. Petersburg Times

Want to get involved? Consider donating to the Suncoast Seabird Sanctuary. A wish list is posted online at:

<http://www.seabirdsanctuary.com/> .

Thank you, April Donors!

Plants: Fred Mulholland, Ron Gilbert, Paula Stewart, Harriett Wright, Marcia Curl, Viviane Kilgore, James Wheeler, Troy Springer


Refreshments: Judith Poe-Champagne



Local Meetings & Events

compiled by Shawna Everidge, please send submissions to severidge@plantcitygov.com

Upcoming Suncoast Native Plant Society Meetings...

- ☼ May—Karen Fraley. *Southwest Florida*.
- ☼ June—*Share your garden night*. Send/bring a brief  PowerPoint about your native gardening successes.
DON'T FORGET! Start taking photos now!
- ☼ July—*Joint meeting with Audubon and Sierra*.
Sierra is hosting. Date may vary from our usual meeting day.
- ☼ August—**Open**, please send your ideas to ecotypes@myrapidsys.com
- ☼ September—Ann Paul. *Florida Herons and Egrets*.
- ☼ October—Shawna Everidge. *Exotic Pets*.
- ☼ November—John Miller. *Florida Geology as it Relates to Native Plants*.
- ☼ December—*No meeting*.

- Submitted by Shirley Denton

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Wine & Cheese Party Recap

Sunday, April 25, 2010 @ The Mulhollands



A fun party it really was 'cause 41 plant lovers enjoyed the camaraderie and goodies including gratis plants of all sorts! The weather was friendly though a bit airy.

Hey out there...this is the way to go! Let's have more of it!

- Fred & Barbara

* * * * *

FIELD TRIP REPORT

Van trip to Gainesville to visit Kanapaha Gardens and the Butterfly Rainforest was canceled due to lack of interest. Your field trip leader would like to hear comments from members regarding van trips. We can do 12 passenger vans and 15 passenger vans. Per person cost is dependent on filling the van. Future trips that could include renting a van are:

- ☼ Corkscrew Swamp in July for possible ghost orchid
- ☼ Bok Tower Gardens in central Polk County to visit the rare plant gardens and learn more about the conservation efforts to save Florida natives.

Would carpooling be preferred for these trips?

Please give me some feedback for future planning. Gailpar1@verizon.net or 813-920-2730.

Sunday, May 9th, Noon—4pm: Free Weekend @ USF Botanical Gardens. For more information, visit the website at <http://www.cas.usf.edu/garden/>.

Wednesday, May 12th, 7pm: Tampa Bay Sierra Club Monthly Meeting @ the Hilton Garden Inn in Ybor City. A presentation on nesting bald eagles will be given by Clearwater Audubon Society member Barbara Walker. More information: <http://florida.sierraclub.org/tampabay/display.asp?id=1635>

Thursday, May 13th, 7pm: Tampa Audubon Monthly Meeting @ the Hillsborough County Extension Service. Photography club members will provide an update of their work. More information: <http://www.tampaudubon.org/>

Friday, May 21st, 7pm: Florida Hummingbirds by Bev Hansen @ Chinsegut Nature Center. More information and schedule of other events: http://myfwc.com/CALENDAR/Calendar_Chinsegut.htm

PLANT PROFILE

Common name: Florida greeneyes
Botanical name: *Berlandiera subacaulis*, (Nutt.) Nutt.
Family: Asteraceae (Composite)
Zone: 8B – 10
Plant Habit: Rosette-forming perennial with tuberous taproot
Habitat: Sandhills
Size: 12 to 18 in. (h)
Leaves: Basal rosettes of lobed leaves
Bloom: Yellow flower head with green disk
Flowering time: Spring and summer
Fruit: Green seed heads
Distribution: Mid-peninsula to central panhandle

Growing conditions

Light: Full sun to very light shade
Water: Drought tolerant
Soil: Sandy or rocky; well-drained
Propagation: Seed
Motility: Moderate spreading by self-seeding
Maintenance: Occasional pruning of brown flower stems
Availability: Native plant nurseries
Comments: Endemic to Florida

References:

Osorio, R. 2001. **A Gardener's Guide to Florida's Native Plants**. University Press of Florida, Gainesville, FL.
Wunderlin, R.P. 2003. **Guide to Vascular Plants of Florida, Second Edition**. University Press of Florida, Gainesville, FL.
Wunderlin, R.P. and B.F. Hansen. 2005. **Atlas of Florida Vascular Plants** (<http://plantatlas.usf.edu/>).

Information compiled by George R. Kish

Photos by JoAn Nixon, Bob Bierman



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.

Check pertinent category:

New Member Renewal

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual/Renewal \$35 | <input type="checkbox"/> Not-for-profit organization \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Full time student \$15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Business or corporate \$125 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Library subscription \$15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family or household \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> Donor \$250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contributing \$75 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life \$1,000 | |

Name _____

Business name or organization _____

Address _____

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Home phone _____ Email _____

Make check payable to **FNPS**.

Detach and mail to:

FNPS

P.O. Box 278

Melbourne, FL 32902-0278

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Gail Parsons

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Newsletter Submissions

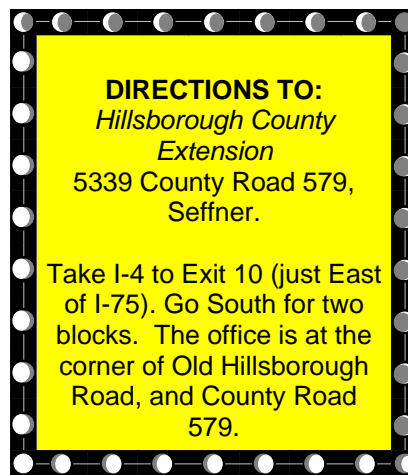
Deadline for the next issue:

JUNE 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



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

President

Troy Springer

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Shirley Denton

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Ron Chicone

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Daphne Lambright

Board Members

Gail Parsons

Fred Mulholland

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: