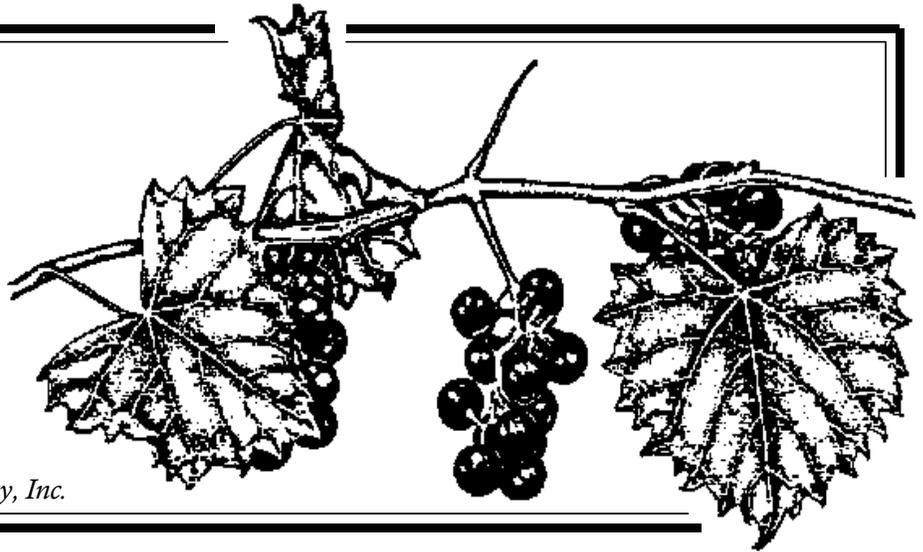


www.suncoastnps.org

The Suncoast Grapevine

Newsletter of the Suncoast Native Plant Society, Inc.



Volume 28 Number 6

June 2011

Landscaping for Wildlife

Presented by Dr. Craig Huegel

Wednesday, June 15 @ 7pm

Hillsborough County Extension Service

This month's program by Dr. Craig Huegel will be about landscaping with native plants to attract wildlife. Huegel will discuss techniques he has learned while building his own garden and working with native plants. In the discussion, you will learn some of the best plants to use in your garden, and why they are so productive in attracting wildlife.



Craig Huegel is a fellow active FNPS member, and founding member of the Pinellas Chapter. Most know Craig as an author, but his day job is as an environmental consultant. He also is a licensed nurseryman, and runs Hawthorne Hill Native Wildflower and Rare Plant Nursery in Seminole. Craig also DJ's at WSLR Community Radio in Sarasota, where he hosts a weekly radio show called *Our Kind of Folk*. To top it off Craig has an active blog titled *Native Florida Wildflowers*. His newest book (published in 2010) is [Native Plant Landscaping for Florida Wildlife](#), and is available in bookstores now.

Craig Huegel is a dynamic and entertaining speaker with a great sense of humor. Come join us to learn from one of the most influential experts of native plants, and how to maximize your garden to become more than just an aesthetic feature, but a living, breathing system.

- Submitted by Troy Springer



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

May Conference Photos & Awards



In order, left to right: Carmel vanHoek and Betty Wargo were honored as founding members of FNPS, Daphne Lambright received a Silver Palmetto Award, and President Ann Redmond passed the gavel to Steve Woodmanse.

- Photos and captions submitted by Shirley Denton

Chapter Members go to Girl Scout Camp

Devon Higginbotham and I spent some time at the Girl Scout camp in Riverview (Camp Dorothy Thomas) helping two 8th grade Girl Scouts earn their silver award for a project to identify native plants. The girls are developing a scavenger hunt type trail of plants marked with numbers and a booklet of plant pictures with related info on the back of each page. They hope to have it done in June.

Among the plants that we saw were long leaf pines, lots of beauty berry, live oaks, gopher apple and silkgrass. We also saw a couple of gopher tortoise holes. The native plant trail will be used as an activity during the summer and weekend camps. It may also play a part in specific badge requirements. The Girl Scout camp is in the process of building a yurt to accommodate information from FWC about native animals, and there could be an opportunity for further interaction with SNPS to help with plant education.

During this visit we stayed mostly on the open area around the central depression at the camp so there are more areas to explore and survey (the camp covers 220 acres). Devon and I consulted some books and took a couple pictures to confirm our IDs, and we will also be getting the girls' plant information sheets to review before they are finalized. I was particularly interested in going because both of my daughters went to camp there. I had a great time and hope that there will be more chances in the future to work with the Girl Scouts. Devon invited the girls to come to a SNPS meeting and update us on their progress in person.

- Submitted by Janet Bowers



Thank you to Barbara and Joel Jackson for donating the refreshments at May's meeting!
And thank you to our plant donors, Fred Mulholland and Troy Springer.

Suncoast Native Plant Society T-Shirt Art



It is always a pleasure to see the variety of chapter FNPS t-shirts that appear at events and conferences. They are highly varied and range from a simple FNPS logo to fantastic artwork of native plants and the animals that depend on them. Some are very chapter specific and have the chapter name in large letters. Some use a plant that represents the chapter and otherwise use the FNPS name (I own a fantastic Magnolia Chapter t-shirt that has a huge southern magnolia bloom and has "Florida Native Plant Society" on it in small letters).

The Suncoast Board has discussed having an SNPS t-shirt, and we decided to ask for design submittals from our membership. Designs can be anywhere from full color to black and white. They can use a single plant, or as many plants as desired. It is desirable that the design represent our chapter and not represent the name of another chapter (pine lily, sweetbay, magnolia, conradina, sea rocket, pawpaw, live oak, longleaf pine, ixia, serenoa, mangrove, cocoplum, cocoloba, cuplet fern, Eugenia, beautyberry, lakela's mint, lyonia, sarracenia, sparkleberry, Tarflower, sea oats). Some thoughts - Encyclia tampensis, muscadine grape (after our newsletter name), hummingbirds using trumpet vine, butterfly on a flower, etc.. Photographs theoretically also work, but most do not reproduce well on t-shirts. Your artwork should be appropriate to our locale - avoid plants and animals not found in our Hillsborough County area.

If you have artwork that you'd like to submit, send it to Shirley Denton at president@suncoastnps.org. I'm going to propose that we get all submissions and that the membership will get an opportunity to vote on them (likely by a web poll). Please submit by July 1 (to meet our next Grapevine deadline).

Grants Awarded

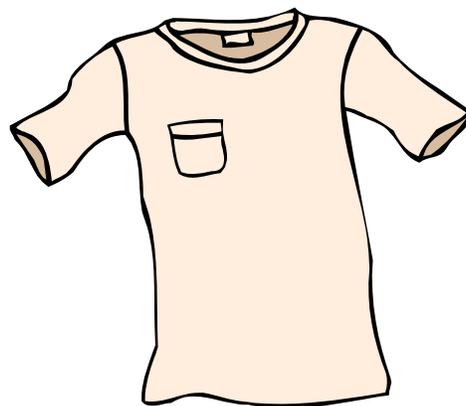
Last month, the Suncoast Chapter received requests to fund two grants. The Suncoast Board voted to fund both.

The first grant request was from the Institute of Systematic Botany at the University of South Florida for \$500 to help support the Florida Plant Atlas web site. This site has the documented occurrence of plants that occur in Florida by county. A huge number of photographs of Florida plants (native and non-native) have been posted on the web site. Many herbarium sheets have been scanned and the scans are posted. The site authors (Dr. Dick Wunderlin and Dr. Bruce Hansen) have been ongoingly supportive of our chapter and of FNPS.

The second grant request was from Tampa Audubon to provide major funding to update the landscaping around the building that they use for public education at Hillsborough's Lettuce Lake Park. Our \$500 donation will fund half of the landscaping. We have requested that our chapter be acknowledged on a sign and that our FNPS brochures be available inside. SNPS member Joel Jackson assisted with the request and has major responsibility for the landscape design.

Suncoast periodically receives applications for assistance with native plant projects. These are reviewed based on their educational value, likelihood of lasting success, value to our members, and consistency with the FNPS mission to "Preserve, conserve and restore the native plants and native plant communities of Florida."

- both articles submitted by Shirley Denton



Conference Lecture Summary Bruce Means: Biodiversity Hot Spot: Why Should We Care?

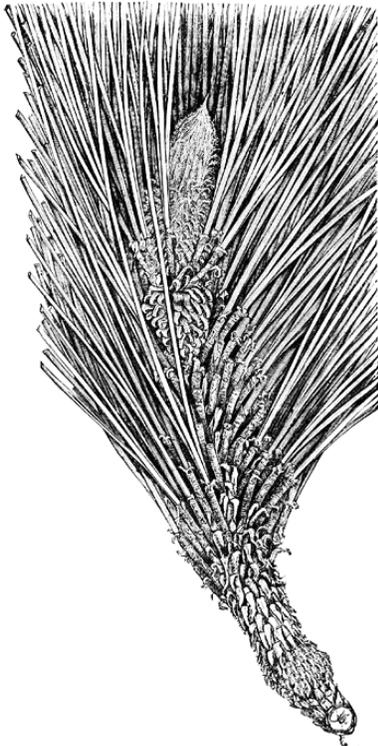
Bruce is co-author of [Priceless Florida: Natural Ecosystems and Native Species](#) . He covered a lot of information in a short amount of time during his talk. With its wide variety of ecosystems, Florida is a hot spot for biodiversity and it is at the top of the list for amphibian variety.

Florida has the following percentage of the animals in the US:

- 32% of the breeding birds species
- 12% of the mammal species
- 16% of the salamander species
- 41% of the snake species
- 17% of the lizard species
- 18% of the turtle species

With the high number of varieties comes a high number of imperiled species.

The Florida panhandle is one of the top 5 spots on the Florida Natural Area Inventory (FNAI) in the United States.



Florida has unique (and disappearing) ecosystems such as the Lake Wales Ridge and the South Florida Rockland area. 2% of the South Florida Rockland area is left undisturbed.

The wetlands contain the largest number of animal species. Florida has 720 springs, of which 33 are first magnitude as well as a large variety of other water ecosystems including – swamps, marshes, bogs, sphagnum moss areas, ravines, karst lakes and ephemeral pools. Florida has rare kind of ravine called a steephead.

Bruce was one of several speakers to include pictures and mention of the Long Leaf Pine/Wire Grass habitat. This type of community is important because it can support up to 150 species per hectare. The distribution of the pines and under story plants allows more life to flourish than a replanted high density slash pine area. The top 3 items that cause diminished ecosystems and biodiversity are – 1. agriculture, 2. silviculture and 3. people.

- Submitted by Janet Bowers



Thank you Fred and Barbara Mulholland for hosting a
divine wine & cheese party!

Conference Lecture Summary

Reed Noss: Southern Grasslands: Ecological History & Future

Reed Noss, a UCF professor, is in the process of writing a book on the Southern Grasslands. He

discussed the history of grasslands in prehistoric times and some important factors like fire, both

suppression and prescribed. Reed includes habitats like the Long Leaf Pine/wiregrass areas in his definition of grassland and provided some data to back that up. While most people think of the Great Plains when they hear the word prairie, that is just one type of prairie.

Reed compared the number of typical 'prairie' species with those found in Florida and Southeastern grasslands:

	Typical Prairie	
• Andropogon	2	19 FL
• Sorghastrum	1	1 FL
• Schizachyrium	1	10 FL
• Liatris	10	14 FL
• Echinacea	3	9 SE

Temperate grasslands are declining faster than other ecosystems. 98% of the original pre-settlement Long Leaf Pine savannas are gone. The Florida dry prairie (historically 1.2 million acres), marl grassland (under water part of the year) and coastal grassland (e.g. Cayo Costa State Park) are some other kinds of Florida grasslands. Coastal grasslands are threatened by a rising sea level and encroaching construction with nowhere to go. Florida has many tiny patches of grassland that are disappearing.

Reed suggests that we focus on the ecosystems to preserve and not approach conservation on a species by species basis.

- Submitted by Janet Bowers

Help Needed: Planting at Bok Tower

During the first two weeks of August, Bok Tower Gardens will need many volunteers to assist with planting & watering 34,000 native sandhill plants into a 27 acre restoration area.

Although it is sure to be hot outside, the work will not require tools or physical strength. Exact dates are to be determined. Please contact Katrina Noland, Bok Tower Gardens Land Steward at knoland@boktower.org to be added to the event email list for more details .

New FNPS Board of Directors

- **President: Steve Woodmanse**, appointed by the BOD to finish Ann Redmond's term. Anne Redmond was hired for a job that required that she move out of state.
- **Vice President:** Jackie Rolly, second term
- **Treasurer: Daphne Lambright**, also the SNPS Treasurer, her second term at FNPS

Joint Suncoast and Lake Beautyberry FNPS Chapters Field Trip

Where: Withlacoochee River Park
12449 Withlacoochee Blvd.
Dade City, FL 33525

When: Saturday, June 18, 2011
(specific meeting time to be announced by the first week of June)

General Information: This 260-acre park is located along the west edge of the hydrologically significant Green Swamp Wilderness Preserve, the headwaters for the Peace, Hillsborough, Withlacoochee, and Ocklawaha Rivers. Several different native plant habitats are present including oak hammocks, pine flatwoods, wetlands, river swamps, and sandhills.

We plan to walk along portions of the two trails in the park.

- **The Nature Trail** is maintained by Pasco County Parks and Recreation Department and has boardwalks over wetlands and an Observation Tower. We hope to climb the tower to look out over the Green Swamp.
- **The Withlacoochee River Trail** is maintained by the Florida Trails Association and runs along the western edge of the Green Swamp.

Bring your binoculars, hand lenses, and cameras!

And sunscreen, water, insect repellent, hat, sturdy shoes, etc.

We have reserved a Picnic Shelter. So bring your lunch and spend some time with other native plant enthusiasts from Hillsborough and Lake counties!

Park Entrance Fee: \$2 per vehicle (Drop box) Cash or Check
Car pool with one or more of your friends!

SNPS Field Trip Contact: Daphne Lambright
Email: daphne.lambright@verizon.net

Website links:

Pasco County Parks and Recreation Department:

http://portal.pascocountyfl.net/portal/server.pt/community/parks/310/withlacoochee_page

Southwest Florida Water Management District:

<http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/recreation/areas/withlacoocheeriverpark.html>

Google Map Link for Withlacoochee River Park: [http://maps.google.com/maps/ms?](http://maps.google.com/maps/ms?hl=en&ie=UTF8&mmsa=0&msid=100362770627421458487.000479d71caf788b28b92&ll=28.345888,-82.123208&spn=0.576514,1.231842&z=10)

[hl=en&ie=UTF8&mmsa=0&msid=100362770627421458487.000479d71caf788b28b92&ll=28.345888,-82.123208&spn=0.576514,1.231842&z=10](http://maps.google.com/maps/ms?hl=en&ie=UTF8&mmsa=0&msid=100362770627421458487.000479d71caf788b28b92&ll=28.345888,-82.123208&spn=0.576514,1.231842&z=10)

Tentative plans for upcoming field trips – Subject to Change:

- ✻ July Field Trip – We are planning to visit a native plant nursery for a buying trip so you can buy some new plants to take home for your yard! July, with usually reliable rainfall, is an excellent time to plant! Start looking at your lawn now and brainstorming!
- ✻ August Field Trip – A canoe/kayak excursion.
- ✻ September Field Trip – Bell Creek Nature Preserve.
- ✻ October Field Trip – Joint Field trip with Lake Beautyberry to see Fall flowers in their area
- ✻ November Field Trip – Shirley Denton is planning to lead this trip. Starkey Wilderness Park is a possible location for this outing.

PLANT PROFILE

Common name: Tread-softly; finger rot

Botanical name: *Cnidoscolus stimulosus* (Michx.) Engelm. & A.Gray

Synonyms: *Cnidoscolus urens* (Linnaeus) Arthur, var. *stimulosus* (Michaux) Govaerts

Family: Euphorbiaceae (Spurge)

Zone: 7-10

Plant Habit: Tuberous perennial herb

Habitat: Sandhill, scrub, pine flatwoods, coastal areas

Size: Up to 1 ft. (h) x 1 ft. (w)

Leaves: Alternate, lobed, dark green, toothed, palmately veined; stinging hairs

Bloom: Calyx contains male (above) and female (below) flowers; white, petal-like; petals are absent

Flowering time: Year round

Fruit: Capsule

Distribution: Throughout Florida

Growing conditions

Light: Full sun

Water: Drought tolerant

Soil: Sandy

Propagation: Seed

Motility: Self-sown seed; rarely

Maintenance: Annual pruning of old stems

Availability: Difficult to locate

Comments: All parts of plant, except flowers, have long, glassy stinging hairs; contact with stinging hairs makes field identification easy

References:

Osorio, Rufino, 2001, *A Gardener's Guide to Florida's Native Plants*: University Press of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, 345 p.

Taylor, Walter Kingsley, 1992, *The Guide to Florida Wildflowers*: Taylor Publishing Company, Dallas, Texas, 320 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

Information compiled by George R. Kish

Photos by Shirley Denton



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"/> 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 | |

Make check payable to **FNPS.**

Detach and mail to:

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Melbourne, FL 32902-0278

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George Kish 920-0853

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Webmaster

Shirley Denton 986-6485

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Open

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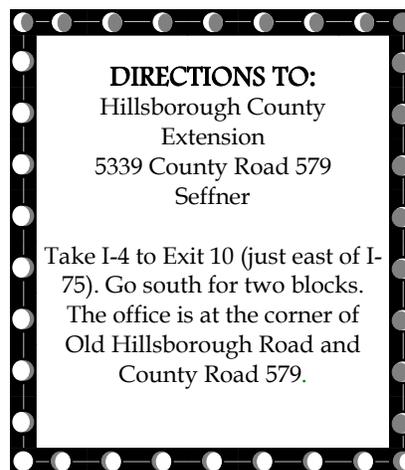
Deadline for the next issue:

JULY 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 Location

The Suncoast Native Plant Society, Inc. meets the third Wednesday of the month @ 7pm @ the Hillsborough County Extension Service office in Seffner.

SNPS Web Address

<http://www.SuncoastNPS.org>

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