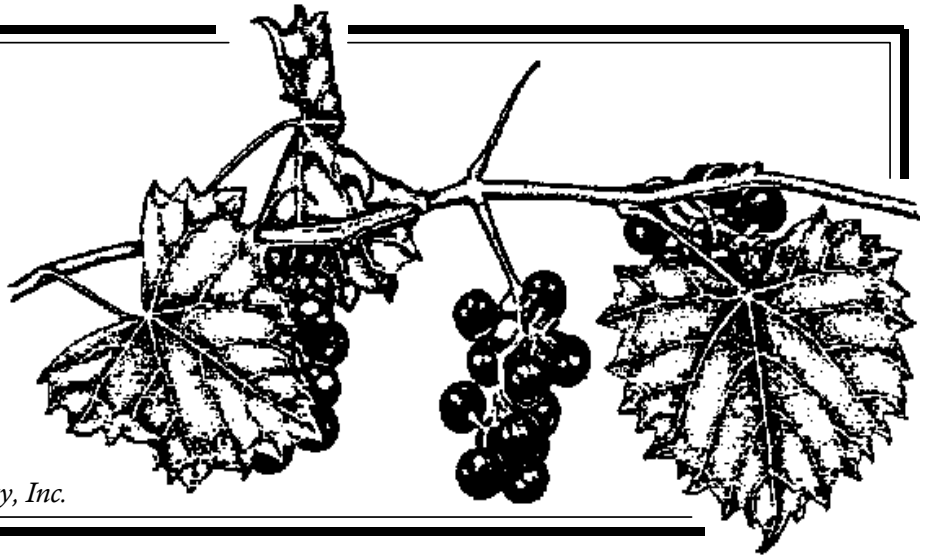


[www.suncoastnps.org](http://www.suncoastnps.org)

# The Suncoast Grapevine

Newsletter of the Suncoast Native Plant Society, Inc.



Volume 28 Number 8

August 2011

## Bringing Edibles into the Native Plant Landscape

Presented by Laurel Shiller  
Wednesday, August 17th @ 7pm  
Hillsborough County Extension Service



This month's program will be from landscape designer and author Laurel Shiller. She will share with us her experience in mixing native landscaping with edible gardening. You will learn how to make an edible garden productive as well as aesthetically pleasing and attractive to wildlife.

Laurel has a degree in wildlife biology from Oregon State University and a degree in systematics and ecology from Indiana State University. Laurel taught biology at Roosevelt University in Chicago. She is a former National Landscape Design Critic (Florida Garden Club), a Florida Master Gardener, and a Florida Master Naturalist. She and her nursery partner, Dan Walton, have written a book titled Natural Florida Landscaping, which was published in 2007 by Pineapple Press.

Since moving to Venice, Florida, in 1994, with her husband and three children, Laurel's interests have been channeled into preserving the natural environment. She has served two terms as vice-president of the Florida Association of Native Nurseries, and chair of the State Education Committee for the Association. She has served on the board of directors for the Friends of the Rails to Trails Park in Sarasota, many years on the county park's board and as vice chair for the Sarasota Tree Advisory Council. She served two terms as president of the Friends of Oscar Scherer Park, Inc., two terms as a Sarasota County Planning Commissioner, is the chair of the City of Venice Planning Commission and Vice-President of the Manasota Chapter of the Florida Grape Growers Association.

- Submitted by Troy Springer, some text courtesy Florida Native Plants Nursery website: <http://www.floridanativeplants.com/staff.html>



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](http://www.fnps.org)

July Field Trip Recap  
Buying Trip to Hickory Hills Native Plant Nursery  
Saturday, July 23, 2011 @ 9am

Five of us went to Hickory Hills Native Nursery for our field trip. Although the weather was warm, there was lots of shade to help stay cool while looking through the collection of plants. Some of the species we were able to choose from included Scrub Hickory, Dwarf Coffee, Summer Haw, Parsley Haw, American Plum, Flatwoods Plum, Cherokee Bean, Spicebush, Sweetshrub, Snowbell, Sassafras, Big Winged Silverbell, Buckeye, Simpsons Stopper and Hercules Club.

Rick McDonnell, the nursery owner, was very helpful in describing the plants growing habits and requirements so that we could decide if a particular plant would be the right one for our yard. He also said he is starting to add some retail hours for the public, so give him a call if you would like to go up there and take advantage of the many good species he has to choose from! The nursery phone number is 352-754-9701.

- Submitted by Ron Huston

CATS and COONS: WE GOT 'EM

The following is an email and a response I received from the Hillsborough County's Animal Services Department regarding stray animals within the City of Tampa and unincorporated Hillsborough County:

**Message:** My co-worker's City of Tampa neighborhood has experienced a large increase in the cat and raccoon population. This has been aided by one or two of his neighbors feeding these feral animals on their front porches.

Would you know what can be done to reduce the number of these strays? Thank you.

**Answer:**

Mr. Fite,

We will remove any feral cats from your friend's property if they are confined to a trap or caged. Traps can be obtained from your local hardware, home improvement or animal feed stores. If you are interested in trapping the cats let me know and I will be glad to send you some trapping tips. The Raccoons will need to be removed by a private trapper. Wildlife does not fall under our jurisdiction and if you want further details please contact the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission at 1-863-648-3203. I have also attached the web site for the FWC below.



We can also send the owner a warning notice to keep the cat on their property. If the warning does not work we can then follow up with citations based upon testimony about the violation that was witnessed. If the citations are contested your friend would be required to go to court as the witness to the violation.

FWC web link: <http://myfwc.com>

Animals Services Department can be contacted by phone: 813-744-5660 or [www.hillsboroughcounty.org/animalservices](http://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/animalservices)

- Submitted by Mike Fite

July 21, 2011

**Dear Florida Native Plant Society Members,**

For the past four months I have been debating whether or not to pursue the Executive Director contract which is due to renew on December 30, 2011. My internal debate has centered upon the changing needs of the Society. A shift in focus towards fundraising has become necessary and with no large scale fundraising programs being implemented within the Society, additional responsibilities within this realm needs to be shifted to the Executive Director contract. With the many and varied responsibilities already included in the contract - to be completed within the allotted 1,140 hours per year - successful implementation of all components with additional fundraising requirements challenging if not impossible.

The Executive Committee has recognized these challenges and is endeavoring to revise the contract responsibilities and priorities to be more focused and to also highlight fundraising and evaluation methods. They will be presenting a modified version of the contract to the Board of Directors for approval. This is an important step in the right direction to focus on bringing more funding into the Society while also still maintaining statewide contacts, assisting chapters, growing the organization and producing our annual conference.

At this point, I feel that it would be in the best interest of the Society to contract with a person/firm with of a background in fundraising and therefore I will not pursue to continue the FNPS Executive Director contract past December.

I've enjoyed meeting many of you, being of assistance to chapters, working with chapters to produce our conference and bringing the Society to a level in which we are recognized by the state government, regional planning councils and decision makers throughout Florida.

Some of my endeavors have involved securing a relationship and informational connections with 57 organizations, delivering presentations to various professionals regarding the benefits of native plants and native plant community conservation, providing public speaking engagements, promotion of the Society with interviews on television, print and online magazine media, creating connections in Tallahassee and providing assistance to FNPS chapters and FNPS committees.

My staff and I have started 12 new chapters during our tenure. There are several more geographical areas which are ripe for additional new chapters and I hope this positive trend will continue.

There is a paradigm shift happening in Florida in which native plants, conservation and sustainability are becoming main-stream. The Florida Native Plant Society is a critical and positive component to this movement with an important role to play. Having the appropriate funding in place to continue our mission and to continue to provide our conservation and research grants will be imperative to future growth and success.

We have an outstanding, action-oriented new President in Steve Woodmansee and a talented and dedicated Executive Committee and Board of Directors. I know that the person/firm that is chosen to take over the FNPS Executive Director contract will continue the progress made and fulfill a role in our next stage of growth and development. I will ensure a smooth transition and be on call as needed.

It has been the highlight of my career - and my life - to have been able to serve you during the past five years. Having been involved with the Florida Native Plant Society since my first meeting in 1984, where I was forever impacted by hearing Sam Hopkin's "What Blooming Now" and conversing with Dick Duerling, I plan on remaining an active member.

Very Truly Yours,



Karina A. Veaudry



## August Field Trip Announcement

Our August field trip will be Saturday, August 20 to Weeki Watchee for a canoe/kayak trip. This river is spring fed and the water is very clear and many people get out of their boats to cool off in the water while going downstream. The boating will be a one-way trip from near the springs to Rogers Park where we will be picked up by the livery operator and taken back to our vehicles. The trip down river will take about 3+ hours and is easy to do for beginners so if you have never canoed or kayaked than this is a good opportunity for you.

Plan to be at Weeki Watchee by 8:00 am so that we can launch by 8:30 am. I need to be called in advance (813-951-0946) so that reservations can be finalized with the kayak/canoe livery operator at least 24 hours before the trip. The sooner I can make the reservations the better to make sure they have enough boats available. You can also bring your own kayak or canoe or rent one from the operator. The rental fees are as follows:

Tandem Kayaks and Canoes - \$35.00 (Shuttle included in fee)  
Single kayaks - \$30.00 (Shuttle included in fee)  
Private Boat Launch - \$5.00  
Return Shuttle with boat - \$10.00  
Return Shuttle w/o boat - \$5.00

- Submitted by Ron Huston

## SWFWMD Public Comment Meeting Recap

I attended the SWFWMD public comment meeting Friday, July 29<sup>th</sup> at the Trinkle Center in Plant City. As reported in the July 30<sup>th</sup> St. Petersburg Times article, "Hunting proposal draws opponents" the room was packed. Of the people who signed up to speak (2 minutes maximum), the vast majority (approximately 80%) were opposed to opening the eight proposed SWFWMD properties to hunting.

The eight proposed sites are: Chassahowitzka River and Coastal Swamps, Cypress Creek Preserve, Lower Hillsborough Wilderness Preserve, additional parts of Green Swamp East and West, Lake Panasoffkee, Halapata Tasthanaki Preserve, and Weeki Wachee Preserve. Information on these sites is available at: [www.watarmatters.org/huntevaluation](http://www.watarmatters.org/huntevaluation)

For each of these sites, the SWFWMD Land Use and Management Plans state that the site is unsuitable for hunting because this type of recreational activity is not compatible with the District's goal of preserving the resources values and natural character of the site. In September 2006, the District published "An Assessment of Public Hunting Opportunities on SWFWMD Lands". Each of the proposed sites was identified as "Unsuitable for Hunting" (Table 3 in the report, available at the above website).

The District will continue to evaluate these eight sites and will ultimately make recommendations to the SWFWMD Board sometime this Fall or Winter. The District is accepting public comments at the website: [www.watarmatters.org/huntcomment](http://www.watarmatters.org/huntcomment), so you can express your thoughts about this issue.

Submitted by Daphne Lambright



**Eat food. Not too much. Mostly plants. ~ Michael Pollan**

## PLANT PROFILE

**Common name:** Toothache grass  
**Botanical name:** *Ctenium aromaticum* (Walter) A. W. Wood  
**Family:** Poaceae  
**Zone:** 8 to 10  
**Plant Habit:** Erect, perennial, clump-forming grass  
**Habitat:** Wet Flatwoods, savannas, bogs  
**Size:** 12 to 18 inches (h x w), flower spikes to 3 feet  
**Leaves:** Mostly basal, dark green above, greenish-gray below  
**Bloom:** 2 rows of sessile spikelets, one-sided curled inflorescence  
**Flowering time:** Summer  
**Fruit:** Small, inconspicuous grain  
**Distribution:** Statewide

### Growing conditions

**Light:** Full sun to light shade  
**Water:** Moist to wet  
**Soil:** Organic  
**Propagation:** Seed  
**Motility:** Slowly by self-sown seeds  
**Maintenance:** Occasional light pruning  
**Availability:** Native nurseries

**Comments:** As seeds mature, the flower spikes curl into interesting spirals; leaves are aromatic when crushed; common name derived from mouth numbness caused if leaves are chewed (not recommended).

### References:

- Osorio, Rufino. 2001. *A Gardener's Guide to Florida's Native Plants*: University Press of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, 345 p.
- Tobe, J.D. and others, 1998, *Florida Wetland Plants: an Identification Manual*: Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Tallahassee, Florida, 598 p.
- Wunderlin, R.P. 2003. *Guide to Vascular Plants of Florida*, second edition, University Press of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, 787 p.
- Wunderlin, R.P. and B.F. Hansen, 2011, *Atlas of Florida Vascular Plants*: University of South Florida, Institute of Systematic Botany (<http://plantatlas.usf.edu/>)

Information compiled by George R. Kish

Photo by Shirley Denton, photo page 3 by Betty Wargo

*Ctenium aromaticum*  
Photo 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:

**FNPS**

**P.O. Box 278**

**Melbourne, FL 32902-0278**

## Activities & Committee Chairs

### Field Trips

Ron Huston 951-0946

### Publications

Dick Wunderlin 977-6484

George Kish 920-0853

### Librarian

Vikki Sinclair 989-2896

### Membership

Janet Bowers 759-2822

### Newsletter Editor

Shawna Everidge 659-4298

Mike Fite, Assistant 977-0892

### Programs

Troy Springer 967-4538

### Publicity

Shawna Everidge 659-4298

### Outreach

Ron Chicone 803-603-8912

### USF Plant Sales

Troy Springer 967-4538

### USF Botanical Garden Liaison

Kim Hutton 974-2329

### Chapter Representative

Troy Springer 967-4538

### Webmaster

Shirley Denton 986-6485

### Conservation

Open

## Newsletter Submissions

Deadline for the next issue:

# SEPT 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](mailto: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 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>



## Board of Directors

### President

Shirley Denton

[president@suncoastnps.org](mailto:president@suncoastnps.org)

### Vice-president

Troy Springer

[troy@springerenvironmental.com](mailto:troy@springerenvironmental.com)

### Secretary

Devon Higgenbotham

[archiveproperties@comcast.net](mailto:archiveproperties@comcast.net)

### Treasurer

Daphne Lambright

[daphne.lambright@verizon.net](mailto:daphne.lambright@verizon.net)

### Board Members

Ron Huston

[RonLHuston@cs.com](mailto:RonLHuston@cs.com)

Ron Chicone

[rchicone@yahoo.com](mailto:rchicone@yahoo.com)

Janet Bowers

[jbowers27@yahoo.com](mailto:jbowers27@yahoo.com)

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Please deliver to: