

www.suncoastnps.org

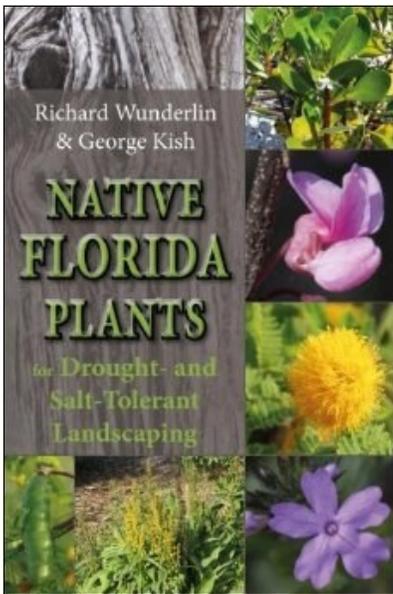
The Suncoast Grapevine

Newsletter of the Suncoast Native Plant Society, Inc.



Volume 30 Number 11

November 2013



Native Florida Plants for Drought- and Salt- Tolerant Landscaping

Presented by George Kish

Wednesday, November 20, 2013 @ 7PM
Hillsborough County Extension Office

SNPS members, George Kish and Richard Wunderlin have a new book that was recently published - **Native Florida Plants for Drought- and Salt- Tolerant Landscaping**. George is a part-time instructor at St. Petersburg College, Seminole campus, and an affiliate of the USA-National Phenology Network.

George Kish is an exotic transplant who escaped from cultivation and has become naturalized in the former Pine Flatwoods near Citrus Park. He earned a B.S. degree in Biology from Drexel University and a M.S. degree in Environmental Science from Rutgers University. George recently retired from the U.S. Geological Survey in Tampa and currently teaches science courses at Polk State College and St. Petersburg College. He is a past president of the Suncoast chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society and a past Director-at-Large of the state FNPS. He is a co-author of the second edition of *The Right Native Plants for Dry Places*.

We plan to have copies of the new book for sale at the meeting.

- submitted by Cliff Brown



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



Holiday Party

Where: *Harriett Wright's House
4215 Water Oaks Lane, Tampa 33618
Her home phone is 813-908-9398*

When: *December 7, 4:30, come early and tour the yard!*

We are celebrating 30 years and welcome all long time SNPS members- past and present, if you know someone no longer in the group, please encourage them to attend!

*Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.
Meats and non-alcoholic drinks will be provided.*

We are looking for set-up and clean-up volunteers, please let Devon know if you can help.

**** Please let Harriett know if you could bring some firewood for a fireplace fire. ****

Bats in the Birdhouse

Mary Miller found bats in one of her Flatwoods bluebird boxes and wrote a story that appeared in the Fall issue of the North American Bluebird Society Journal. Though she planned to coax the bats to a new bat house, when she checked the box on the evening of the switch, she saw that there was a maternity colony of an adult with at least 11 babies. Since they would not be able to fly for 4-7 weeks, she left them alone and eventually they departed. Mary has monitored the 50 blue bird boxes on the Flatwoods Bluebird Trail for the past 9 years. (*information taken from Mary's article*)

-submitted by Devon Higginbotham



Thanks for helping with the October meeting to -

Fred Mulholland for providing plants for the auction.

Alice Gabriel, Susan Watson and Marcia Curl for bringing the refreshments

Note from the Editor

It's been a year since I took over the newsletter, and despite my occasional frustrations with PCs and software, I have enjoyed it and look forward to the coming year. Thanks to everyone who helped - the proof readers, article writers and anyone who read it (especially if you mentioned it to me.)

Ditto to Devon's comments about our trip to Kissimmee Prairie, it was amazing and even better than my imagination. I loved the plants, the people and the whole experience! I agree with Troy's comment- 'Now that was a fieldtrip'. See you in March at Torreya (and you don't have to sleep on the ground unless that is your preference, talk to Devon about reserving a bed in the cabin or yurt.)

- Janet Bowers, Grapevine editor



Courting the Celestial Lily

I have often kicked myself for not attending the camping trip to Archbold Biological Station a couple years ago so when the trip to Kissimmee Prairie Preserve was scheduled, I was determined to go. Florida weather in October has usually cooled enough to allow for a decent hike without heatstroke and I have always loved to camp. Most enticing, the Celestial Lily, *Nemastylis floridana*, an endangered, endemic flower recently spotted in the preserve, was due to bloom, so I was all in.

When I arrived, I hoped I had everything I needed since the closest store was the 7-11 I passed 20 minutes earlier. The paved road ended at the entrance, followed by a dusty shell road. There was no ranger, kiosk or gate, just a sign with an arrow pointing to the campground. In fact, there were no cars or anyone in sight; just a vast prairie stretching to the horizon. Helianthus, Pluchea, Coreopsis, Liatris, Carphophorus, Bigelovia, Hypericum, Rhexias and Solidagos were all in full bloom along with a multitude of grasses, mingled with Saw Palmettos and Cabbage Palms. It was as if an artist had selected all the perfect colors, textures and light and set them before my eyes.

For three days we hiked, rode and lived in paradise. The weather was perfect, the sunsets and night sky gorgeous, we had a fantastic guide in Paul, one of the Preserve Biologists, and even the restrooms were spotless.

Although we did locate the Celestial Lily, they were no longer in bloom, but no one was disappointed. We had seen so much beauty it was a moot point.

The last night around the campfire with Janet, Shirley, Cliff, Troy, Steve, Donna and Bob, and our 3 guests, the conversation turned to, “where do we go next?”, and by the time we were heading home, Torreya State Park was the consensus.

So, if you are kicking yourself for missing Kissimmee Prairie Preserve, mark your calendar for the last weekend of March.

Devon Higginbotham



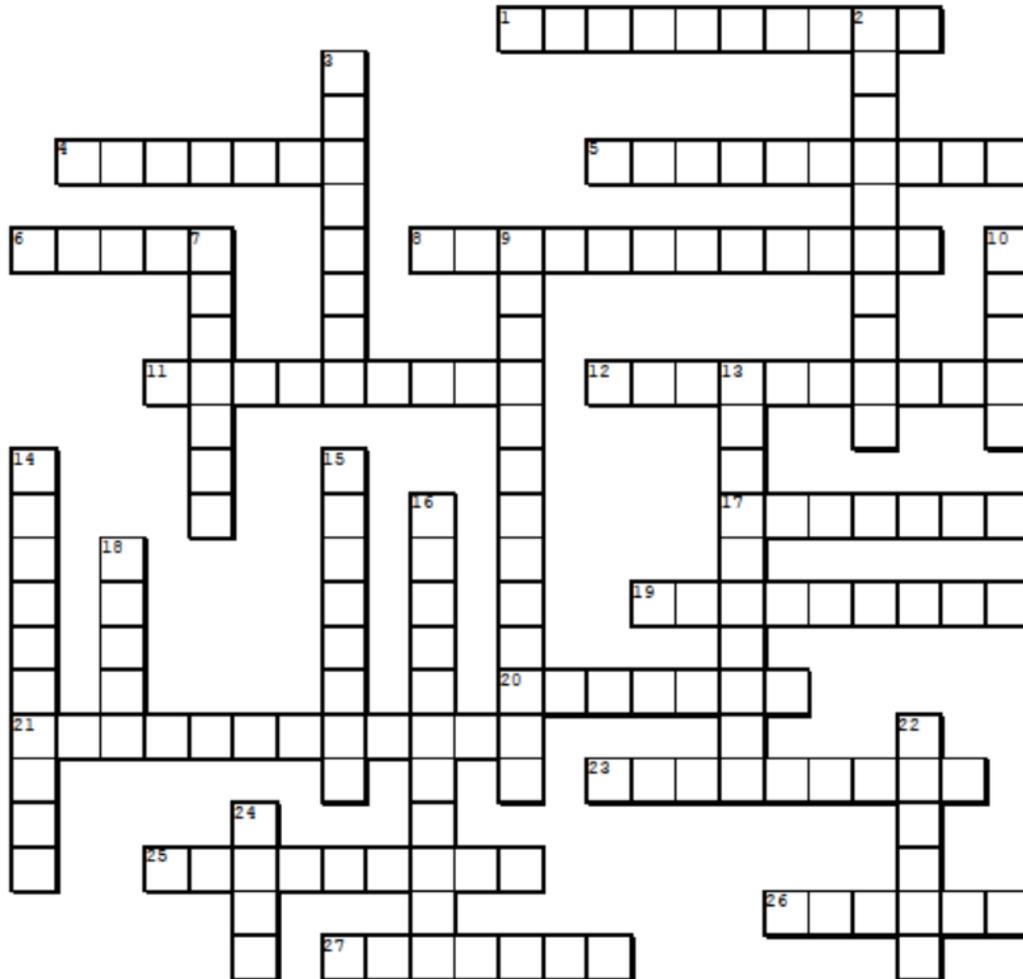
Photo by Janet Bowers



Photo by Donna Bollenbach

Flora of the Florida Dry Prairie

Complete the crossword below using scientific or common names to discover some of the flora at Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park



Created on © TheTeachersCorner.net

Across

1. In addition to its rich flora and fauna, KPP is a premier location for _____.
4. Simpson _____ (a plug)
5. _____ americana, it's berries are beauties
6. _____ spp, Yellow-eyed Grass
8. The belle of the meadow
11. Lilium _____ (named after an English botanist)
12. KPP protects 54000 acres of Florida _____.
17. Grass family, for example Bottlebrush
19. _____ spp, Florida State Wildflower
20. _____ spp, Blazing-star, Gayfeather
21. _____ colorata, Whitetops or Star-rush
23. _____ spp, named for Saints and crosses
25. Common name for Carphophorus, such as the Hairy or Bristleleaf
26. color of sunshine, goldenrod and sunflowers
27. Rhamnaceae, named after the color of it's roots

Down

2. _____ floridana, Celestial Lily
3. Helianthus _____, Southeastern sunflower
7. pink or white flowers in the Gentian Family
9. Florida reptile + fabric symbol of a nation or state
10. Sunflowers, for example, found in 'faster'
13. Salt and _____ + trailing plant
14. Florida _____ (an artist's tool)
15. Caladium Jamaicense, despite common name it is a sedge, not a grass
16. Pluchea baccharis, Rosy _____
18. FNPS was treated to two _____ rides with park biologist Paul Miller
22. The color of royalty and blazing star
24. Not the Lizard's head, but the Lizard's _____

-Submitted by Donna Bollenbach

Fieldtrip to Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park - October 25-27



Photo by Donna Bollenbach

Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park (KPP) lived up to its name. Waving grasses were interspersed with fall blooming wild flowers, full of birds and other wildlife. The buggy rides allowed us to visit remote sites that were miles away from the campground. We saw semi-scrub areas, hammocks, and sloughs. While a lot of the park is crisscrossed with roads for the rangers (the public is not allowed to drive on them), I most enjoyed the path near the campground that was a walking path mowed through the prairie on Sunday hike.

Some people brought bikes which allowed a different view of the prairie and the ability to travel longer distances. There are bikes for rent at the office.



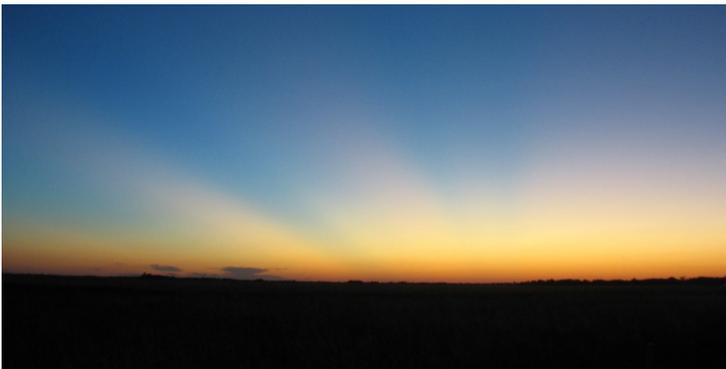
Liatris, grasses, palmetto

In addition to the grass/wildflower habitat, highlights for me included some late blooming pine lilies and a group of ground orchids. We saw deer and turkeys near the campground, the ranger said that the park nickname is 'the petting zoo'.



Saturday morning buggy ride

The sunsets were outstanding, the grasses turned pastel colors as they faded into darkness. The dark evening brought another opportunity - to gaze through professional telescopes set up near the office. We saw nebulas, galaxies and planets with the help of the astronomers that camp out and share their knowledge with anyone interested.



I will definitely remember this fieldtrip and hope to get back to KPP next year.

A big thanks to Shirley for arranging the buggy tours and organizing the trip!

-Submitted by Janet Bowers



Read anything good lately?

Get the new book -*Native Florida Plants for Drought- and Salt- Tolerant Landscaping* - buy your own copy or check it out after our library gets a copy!

The recent Sabal Minor has information on the conference - dorm rooms for \$40 a night, and bring your bike to get around- sounds like fun to me.

-submitted by Janet Bowers

2014 Board of Directors

Our nominating committee of Troy Springer, Shirley Denton and Stephen Dickman are working to fill the 2014 SNPS Board of Directors.

Voting will take place at our Nov 20 meeting.

Thank you to all the 2013 board members and committee chairs, we can't do it without you!

November 17 - Sunday - Fieldtrip- Green Swamp



Our November field trip is to the Green Swamp to enjoy late fall wildflowers. We will meet at the Rock Ridge Gate at 9:00 a.m.

Depending on conditions, we will either drive in and then walk or walk from the entrance. Expect about a 3 mile walk out into the open flatwoods. Bring water and sunscreen. Let's enjoy a great fall morning!

Directions:

I-4 east to US 98 (Lakeland).

N on US 98 to Rock Ridge Rd.

NE on Rock Ridge Rd. Use care not to turn onto Deen Still Rd.

The entrance will be on the left.

http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/recreation/areas/greenswamp-east_tract.html

Field trip co-chair - Shirley Denton 986-6485

Dates to remember



Dec 7 - SNPS Holiday party - mark it on your calendar!
No general membership meeting in December

2014-

March 28-30 Torreya Camping Fieldtrip

April 12-13 USF Spring Plant sale

May 15-18 FNPS Conference- Florida Gulf Coast University, Fort Myers

Reminder-

The deadline is the end of November for Florida's water and land legacy campaign to put the Florida Water and Land Conservation Amendment on the November 2014 ballot.

<http://floridawaterlandlegacy.org/>

Plant Profile

Common name: Florida paintbrush
Botanical name: *Carphephorus corymbosus* (Nuttall)
Torrey & A. Gray
Family: Asteraceae or Compositae (Aster)
Type of plant: perennial
Size: 3 feet (h)
Leaves: Stem leaves are alternate and sessile; basal leaves form a single or double rosette.
Flower: Terminal cluster of bright pink tubular florets on a single stem.
Flowering time: September to December.
Fruit: Achene.
Stem: Single hairy stem.
Habitat/distribution: Pine flatwoods, sandhills, upland mixed forests; zones 8 - 10A.
Landscape use: Accent plant in wildflower garden.
Soil: Well drained.
Light: Full sun.
Water: Drought tolerant.
Propagation: By seed or division.



Carphephorus corymbosus

Photo by Betty Wargo

References:

Osorio, Rufino, 2001, A Gardener's Guide to Florida's Native Plants: University Press of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, 345 p.
Taylor, Walter Kingsley, 1998, Florida Wildflowers in Their Natural Communities: University Press of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, 370 p.

-Information compiled by George Kish -from October 2002 Grapevine

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



Suncoast Celebrates 30 years!

We are relatively new members of SNPS, but as Board members, Devon and I did not want to let the 30 year anniversary go by without some acknowledgement of it. The Board is planning to celebrate at the December 7 holiday party but in case you can't make it, you can read about some of our history here. Thirty years is a long time so curiosity, Devon's encouragement (and a lack of response to my request for input) led me to the SNPS storage locker in search of answers about how we got where we are. Over the years, SNPS has done many significant projects, participated in numerous outreach events and weathered the volunteer leadership rotation and constant need for new members. In our storage locker we have - hundreds of old newsletters from our chapter, other chapters and FNPS. We have newspaper clippings, awards, legal documents and old correspondence from the days before email. I will be bringing some of this to the holiday party, please come and browse through our 'tangible' history. I found a summary document from the 20 year anniversary and will share highlights below. I hope to get the document on our website so that everyone can read the whole thing. My research concentrated on the past 10 years so that I could add to the previous articles and cover the whole 30 years.

I realized that many of the SNPS people that I have come to know have been involved in SNPS for many years. They have had their turn on the Board and on committees. Amazingly enough, many of them still come to meetings, field trips and volunteer opportunities. Mike Fite and Vikki Sinclair have been in their support roles for at least the past 10 years. I think Fred Mulholland has been bringing plants for the raffle or auction at least that long. As many of us know, Shawna did the newsletter for about 6 years before I started doing it. (Our newsletters are on the SNPS website back to 2001.) We have all been a part of the big picture that keeps us going. I have been fascinated to see the amount of work done by this group of people gathering together as an organization, in their 'spare' time. I find it addictive, the more I learn, the more I want to know and contribute to our future. People who love plants, people who like to share with others, long time friends, field trip/outdoor people, organizers, planners and doers are pieces of the picture. After my dive into the storage boxes, I have a better understanding of SNPS and a much deeper appreciation for all who have been involved over the years.

Here's to the next 10 years and all the people who will help us continue our mission!

The first decade - 1983- 1993 from the 20th anniversary insert written by Richard Wunderlin (from articles by Sheryl Bowman and William Moriarty that appeared in the 10th anniversary issue of the newsletter. For the full article, please see the original insert.)

The Suncoast Native Plant Society began in 1983 as the Suncoast Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society. The founders included Will Moriarty, Dick Wunderlin, Sydney Park-Brown, Bob Scheible, John Beckner, Mike Kenton, Allen Burdett, Bill Ackerman, Tony Arcuri, and Rita and Jim Lassiter. The original chapter include Citrus county to south of Sarasota but soon after inception, the Serenoa chapter split off. In 1990, the Pinellas, Citrus, Hernando and Nature Coast chapters formed and Suncoast was left with Hillsborough County. On Sept. 21 1983, the first official meeting was held and the second meeting was in November. An opportunity to take action happened when the Australian pines at Picnic Island died in a freeze and SNPS formed a committee to address what should be planted in their place.

The first newsletter was produced September 1984 (and we still have a copy of it!) In 1985, Suncoast had 90 members and meetings were held at the HCC Dale Mabry campus. Chapter field trips included Archbold, various county parks and a canoe trip on the Hillsborough River. Fund raising was done with plant sales, partnering with Central Florida Native Flora Nursery. The chapter also benefited from sale of the *Checklist of Vascular Plants of the Florida Suncoast*, produced by Dick Wunderlin, Glenn Fleming and Bruce Hansen of the USF Herbarium. The newsletter was named the Grapevine in a contest where alternative names included Botanique, Suncoast Blaze, Suncoast Breaker, Suncoast Splash and The Lizard's Tale. Rita Lassiter submitted the winning name. The sunflower logo was used on the newsletter and was drawn by John Beckner, it originally appeared on the cover of Daniel Ward's *Checklist of the Vascular Flora of Florida*, Part I, 1968.

The first decade continued -

In 1986, the Suncoast Chapter hosted the 6th annual FNPS conference at USF. Dick Wunderlin was the conference coordinator and many members helped support the effort. In 1987 Dick Wunderlin was FNPS president. SNPS held their meetings at the Seffner extension office in 1987. Several SNPS members held positions in the FNPS leadership over the next few years. In 1988, FNPS had over 1,200 members and Suncoast had well over 100 (about where we are today).

During 1990 SNPS was mentioned in the press for its I-275 wildflower plantings thanks to Pat Chellman. Debbie Butts served as FNPS president.

The second decade - 1994 to 2003 from the 20th anniversary insert written by Harriett Wright

SNPS continued with Education, Outreach and Community Service efforts. Many members planted natives in their yard. In 2000, Fred Mulholland was awarded first place in the FNPS' Design with Natives Landscape Awards Program. Community Service included plantings at English Creek Environmental Center, Cockroach Bay, Lowery Park Zoo, Hillsborough County Greenways and the USF Botanical Garden. Outreach included Earth Day celebrations, Plant Park Greenfest, Kerby's Nursery and even a Home Depot garden center to promote natives.

Fieldtrips included to Avon Park Bombing Range to see blooming pitcher plants, canoeing on Little Manatee River, Balm-Boyette Scrub to see endangered Goldenasters, Dead River to see tillandsias and orchids, and Bell Creek to see the pine lilies (that are still there).

In 1997, the book *Right Plants for Dry Places : Native Plant Landscaping in Central Florida* was published. A publication on alternatives to Cypress mulch was also developed, written by Barbara Waddell.

The last 10 years - 2004 to 2013 - submitted by Janet Bowers

- ◇ Harriett Wright spent 2 years as Vice president and then 3 years as president! Daphne Lambright was treasurer for 4 years! Many others served on the Board and committees. Some brave souls like Cliff and Debbie have come back for second rounds on the Board.
- ◇ Carmel vanHoek inventoried many of the plants at Hillsborough River State Park
- ◇ The SNPS website continues to be a place to find SNPS information. Newsletter, photos, fliers and current events can be found there thanks to Shirley Denton and Ron Huston.
- ◇ In addition to our website, we have an internet presence with a Facebook page and a Meetup group.
- ◇ During 2005, a vote was taken and the monthly meeting location was moved (back) to the Seffner extension building. Thanks to JoAnn Hoffman, we have a great location for our meetings.
- ◇ A wonderful display board for outreach events was created featuring native plant pictures
- ◇ We have been back to Archbold, Bell Creek, Upper Tampa Bay Park on fieldtrips as well as trips to places even farther away like our recent camping trip to Kissimmee Prairie State Park
- ◇ We planted plants at WMNF community radio station (twice) and at Hillsborough River State Park.
- ◇ We (mostly Mike Fite and Mary Miller) took up the gardening tools to get the SNPS native plantings at Flatwood Park and nearby parks back in shape.
- ◇ Troy Springer took on the jumbo task of 2012 conference chair. Everyone pitched in to help, including the Hernando chapter and Plant City was host to the 2012 FNPS conference. We had great fieldtrips and socials in addition to the speakers, vendors and venue being outstanding. We won a Green Palmetto award from FNPS for our efforts.
- ◇ We created a new 'Bring home the Natives' handout to share with interested newcomers who want to know 'what is a native and where do I get them?'
- ◇ Our USF plant sales continue to attract native plant lovers, we have a great selection of quality plants. Our process gets better every time and we started taking credit cards in 2012. 3 years in a row we participated in the Plant City Garden Fest.
- ◇ In 2013, SNPS supported the Hillsborough County resolution to encourage wildflower growth on county rights-of-way.



Activities & Committee Chairs

Field Trips

Shirley Denton 986-6485
Steve Dickman 326-0221

Publications

Dick Wunderlin 977-6484
George Kish 920-0853

Librarian

Vikki Sinclair 989-2896

Membership

Debbie Butts 754-7374

Newsletter Editor

Janet Bowers 759-2822
Mike Fite, Assistant 977-0892

Programs

Cliff Brown 810-3211

Publicity/ social media

TBD

Outreach

TBD

USF Plant Sales

Troy Springer 967-4538

USF Botanical Garden Liaison

Kim Hutton 974-2329

Chapter Representative

Devon Higginbotham 478-1183

Webmaster

Ron Huston 951-0946

Newsletter Submissions

Deadline for the next issue:

January 1 2014

Please send articles and original artwork for The Suncoast Grapevine to **Janet Bowers**, by the deadline above. **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-

jbowers27@yahoo.com

DIRECTIONS TO:

Hillsborough County
Extension
5339 County Road 579
Seffner

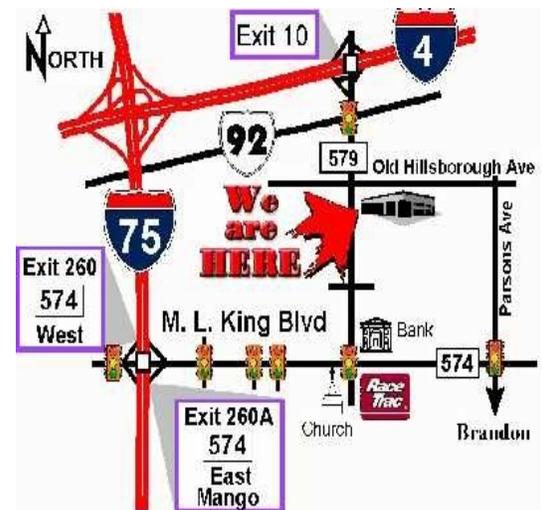
Take I-4 to Exit 10 (just east of I-75). Go south for two blocks. The office is at the corner of Old Hillsborough Road and County Road 579.

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

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Devon Higginbotham
archiveproperties@gmail.com

Vice-president

Cliff Brown
Cliffbr@Tampabay.rr.com

Secretary

Janet Bowers
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Treasurer

Gar Reed
gar0426@yahoo.com

Board Members

Debbie Butts
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Daphne Lambright
daphne.lambright@verizon.net

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P.O. Box 1158
Seffner, FL 33583-1158



Please deliver to: