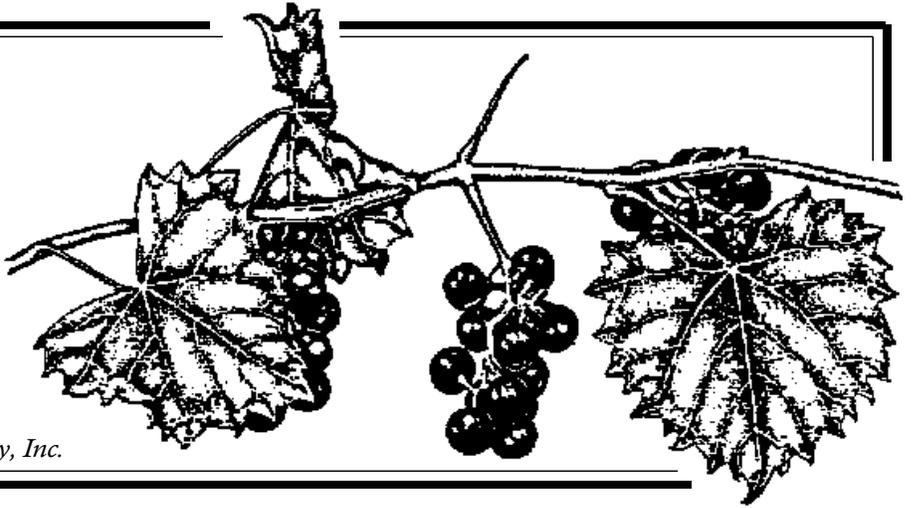


www.suncoastnps.org

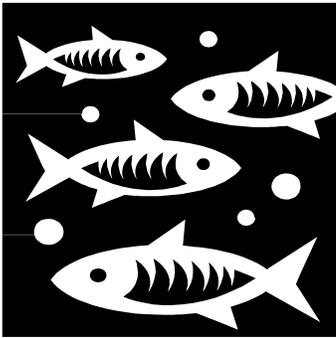
The Suncoast Grapevine

Newsletter of the Suncoast Native Plant Society, Inc.



Volume 31 Number 11

November 2014



Steamy Waters: The Amazing World of Fish Sex (rated PG 13)

Presented by Craig A. Watson,

Director of the Tropical Aquaculture Laboratory (TAL)

Wednesday, November 19, 2014, 7 PM

The Tropical Aquaculture Laboratory (TAL), located in Ruskin, is part of the School of Forest Resources and Conservation Program in Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences at the University of Florida (UF/IFAS). Craig will discuss current research being conducted at the TAL, including ornamental aquaculture production and management, aquatic animal health, ornamental fish reproduction, and nonindigenous aquatic species ecology and management.

Craig joined the University of Florida as a multi-county aquaculture extension agent in April of 1988. In 1997, he was appointed director and research coordinator for the newly established Tropical Aquaculture Laboratory. As director, he is responsible for assuring the programs and staff are providing fundamental support to Florida's farms as mandated by the Land Grant mission. Through his research and working one-on-one with Florida producers, Craig has developed expertise in a wide range of issues surrounding the commercial success of ornamental aquaculture, including reproduction strategies, hatchery and system design, chemical and drug usage, and environmental practices. His life's work has taken him to every continent except Antarctica, focusing on issues surrounding aquaculture and capture fisheries involved in the aquarium industry.

A native of Miami, Craig began his career in 1974 at a tropical fish farm. He paid his way through his undergraduate studies at Florida State University by working at a tropical fish store and a wholesale tropical fish cooperative. After earning his B.S. in Biology from FSU in 1981, he spent three years as a Peace Corps volunteer in Tunisia, where he assisted in a marine hatchery producing sea bass, sea bream, sole, and shrimp. Following the Peace Corps he did his graduate work at Auburn University and earned a Master of Aquaculture degree in 1988.

Craig also serves on several boards, including the Florida Aquaculture Association, the National Aquaculture Association, and the Florida Aquarium. A father of two, Craig enjoys outdoor activities, especially camping, fishing, and boating.

Our meetings include light refreshments and a native plant auction after the speaker. Please come and join us.

- submitted by Donna Bollenbach



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

2014 USF Fall Plant Sale Results/Looking for a New Plant Sale Coordinator

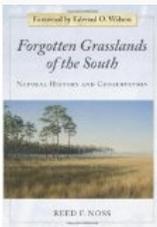
The Fall plant sale was a great success and rounded out our 2014 fundraising. In addition to providing our customers with great plants and important information and supporting the USF botanical garden, we had a net profit of \$1,631.76. Thanks to Troy's tireless work at gathering plants, we had an amazing plant selection to offer with a few new species. We completed a lot of the labelling and pricing on Friday and finished up Saturday before the crowds arrived. We had a good number of volunteers to handle the customers, the checkout line was kept moving and Devon did a great job of spreading the word and getting 7 new members. We also sold a lot of books, Sunday was much quieter as usual.



Thanks to everyone who helped, it takes a village to put on a plant sale of this size and quality!

Troy Springer has spent many years leading the USF plant sales and is ready to handoff the lead to someone else. He will continue to get the plants but we need someone to organize the event from making sure we are registered to ordering supplies to leading the volunteers for Saturday and Sunday. The only way that volunteer organizations can be sustainable is for everyone to take a turn at different jobs. Plant sale coordination will include a team of people so don't be afraid that you will be on your own, we have several experienced members who will continue to support the sale. Please help us with our main fundraiser.

UPCOMING SPEAKERS-



January 21 – Dr. Reed Noss – Provost's Distinguished Research Professor at the University of Central Florida and President of the Florida Institute for Conservation Science. He will talk about **Forgotten Grasslands of the South: Ecological History and Future**. He is currently writing a book on the fire ecology of Florida and surroundings and a more general book on disturbance ecology.

Thanks for helping with the October meeting -



Fred Mulholland, Cliff Brown & Bunny Worth
for providing plants for the auction
Troy Springer for getting Walter Taylor to come and for hosting him
Donna McCarty for bringing the refreshments!

Note from the Editor

Donna Bollenbach and I spent some time this month working on the FNPS Council of Chapters- Landscaping 101 initiative. The project includes a new Natives 101 brochure and other materials to help chapters hold education classes. The SNPS area is the guinea pig for this, we hope to have a well researched brochure mocked up before the Nov 15 FNPS meeting at the Disney Wilderness Preserve.

The more I know about natives, the more I can recognize them along the roads. The Andropogon grasses with their plumes, love grasses and goldenrods are common where I live. My muhley grass is lovely and the pityopsis is starting to bloom. Not as spectacular as Kissimmee Prairie, but it's easy to take a stroll around the yard whenever I want to.

- *Janet Bowers, Grapevine editor*



Letter from the President

Thank You

Two years ago, you elected me to be your President. I was a very unlikely candidate. My degree is in Business, not Botany. I dreaded to speak to more than two people at a time, though if I got you alone I could talk your ear off. I knew nothing about Florida native plants and less about running a society, but I took the challenge because you believed in me.

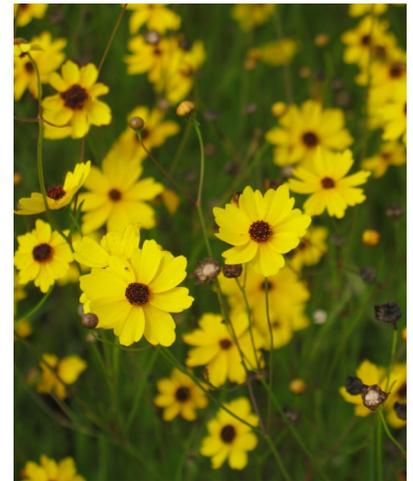
Next month will be the end of my term as your President and I want to thank you for all you have done for me. Today I feel fairly confident about speaking to a group and thought I still have a lot to learn about native plants, I think I have settle the debate of Smilax vs. Sumac, though I still have trouble discerning a Chrysopsis from a Coreopsis.



This month you will elect a new President and board and I know you will show them the same dedication you have shared with me. Please help them by being involved and offering support. Take the time to volunteer for a project even if you don't feel qualified. Sign up on the next volunteer sheet. By reaching outside our comfort zone, we all become better people. The society benefits, you benefit and we spread the work about Florida native plants.

I am excited about the future and look forward to helping our new President just as you helped me for the past two years.

Devon Higginbotham



Annual SNPS BOD Election at our November Meeting

The proposed Slate for the 2015 BOD is-

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <u>President</u> | Janet Bowers |
| <u>Vice President</u> | Donna Bollenbach |
| <u>Treasurer</u> | Gar Reed |
| <u>Secretary</u> | Bunny Worth |
| <u>Directors at large</u> | Troy Springer
Devon Higginbotham |





The Autumn Quilt



By Donna Bollenbach

At dawn,
the sun squints
over the horizon.
She spreads
her autumn quilt
on the table earth.
She weaves threads
of blue blazing star.
She embroiders
yellow sunflowers
and goldenrods
into the grass.
She plaits rays
of light into
the green fans
of saw palmetto
Her smile brightens
as her handiwork
comes to life.
Her autumn quilt
warms the prairie
and the hearts
of those who
bear witness.





December 6 - Holiday Party at

Harriett Wright's home

4215 Water Oaks Lane, Tampa 33618

Home phone - 813-908-9398

Starts at 4:30

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

Please let Devon know if you can help set up or clean up.



Roadside Wildflower Planting in November

There are 4 upcoming plantings in Hillsborough County and SNPS volunteers are welcome at the first one -

Lithia Pinecrest Rd, between Falconridge Road and Browning Road -

11/19/2014 @ 10:00



County website link-

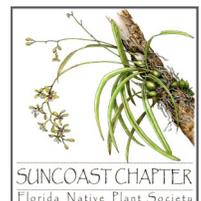
<http://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/index.aspx?nid=3477>

Sharbel Riveron, E.I. is the county contact for this project (he spoke at a SNPS meeting this year). Phone: 813-272-5641 Email: RiveronS@hillsboroughcounty.org

Need a Speaker for your group or class?

Need a speaker for your civic group, gardening club or homeowner's association? The Suncoast Native Plant Society has speakers with a wide range of knowledge, eager to speak about the virtues of native plants.

Contact Devon Higginbotham (archiveproperties@gmail.com).



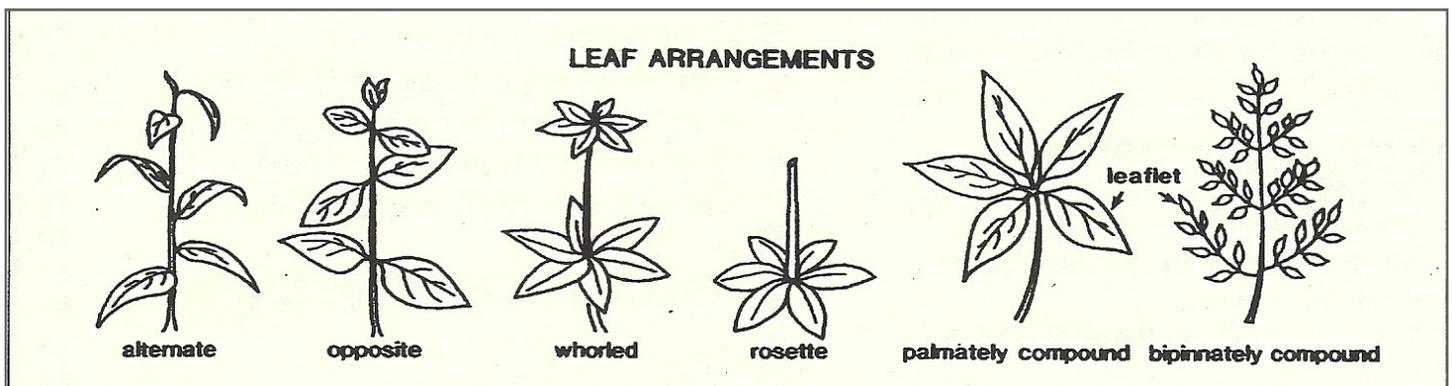


Words That Describe Leaves !

Leaves are virtually mechanical and chemical machines that, for the most part, provide food for plants and trees. Sunlight combines with the chlorophyll in the leaves and is stored as light energy; water is transported from the plant roots to change light energy to chemical energy; carbon dioxide from the air enters the leaf through **stoma** (microscopic pores found usually on the leaf undersides) and adds itself to the mix to form a liquid sugar that is stored in plant cells for the use of the plant as well as for insects, animals and people. This surely explains the voracious appetite of butterfly caterpillars that can strip a host plant of all its leaves in a matter of hours! Beyond the above process of **photosynthesis**, leaves have been modified to benefit the plant they adorn, and for our purposes their descriptions are a big help in identification especially of plants that are not in flower or fruit.

Placement of leaves on the stem is an important characteristic to notice. **Basal** leaves are close to the ground and usually larger than the leaves further up the stem, for example many of the *Liatris* and goldenrod species. When the basal leaves lie flat on the ground radiating from the center stem it is called a **basal rosette**, as in some species of Elephantfoot. Leaves along the stem can be placed **opposite** each other, that is 2 leaves paired at each **leaf node** (point of leaf attachment on the stem) as on Milkweeds; **alternately** with only a single leaf to a node as on Hollies; or **whorled** with 3 or more leaves to a node as on Buttonbush. Leaves can be attached to the stem by leaf stalks called **petioles**, and are referred to as being **petiolate**, or they can be attached directly onto the stem and are referred to as being **sessile**.

Leaves come in a large variety of shapes and sizes. They can be **simple** as Hog Plum, **lobed** like Frostweed, or **compound** like Hickories having several separate **leaflets** per leaf. Hickory leaves are **pinnately compound** with leaflets placed feather-like on opposite sides of the mid-stem.



Leaflets attached at a common point and spread fan-like as fingers on a hand are **palmately compound** as Virginia Creeper. Leaf surfaces can be softly **pubescent** as Lupine, harshly **scabrid** as Narrowleaf Sunflower or smooth and hairless as **glabrous** Carolina Jessamine. They can be covered in tiny glands as the golden dots on the undersurface of Huckleberry leaves or corrugated in a variety of vein patterns. Leaf edges can be smooth or **entire**, toothed or wavy-edged.

And, lastly, some leaves have characteristic odors when crushed such as leaves of Red Bay and Sassafras of the Laurel Family and the spicy fragrance of Mints.

-Submitted by Carmel vanHoek



Membership - Suncoast Style

Back in the early part of the summer, the Suncoast Board decided it no longer wanted to be the 8th largest chapter in the state. After all, we are one of the oldest chapters in Florida and we have 1.3 million people to recruit in Hillsborough County. Rather than set our sights on the lofty first place position, we decided to set our sights on spot number 4. It would take only 17 new members to reach 4th, assuming all other chapters remained the same. It was an obtainable reach.

We set a reasonable time frame, with a goal of reaching 4th place by December, and we set in place incentives for our members to help them focus on the goal. Springer Environmental donated their very experienced maintenance staff for a yard sprucing up, the board donated one day of conference registration for 2015, a \$75 gift certificate to a native plant nursery and a signed, framed print of the Scrub Jay.

The board is delighted to announce that we have met our goal of reaching 4th place in October 2014, 2 months earlier than anticipated. And with the 8 new members we have recruited since, we are clearly on our way to a steady lead.

Thanks to all our hard working members that have spoken up for native plants and for the Suncoast chapter. We make a great team!

Congratulations on a job well done.
Devon Higginbotham

Places to see natives:

Duette Preserve

Submitted by Donna Bollenbach

The native wildflowers were as frequent and varied as some of the best natural areas I have visited.



At 21,000 acres, Duette Preserve is the largest preserve in Manatee County. Located in the northeast part of the county, it contains the headwaters of the Manatee River, and is a crucial element of the Manatee and Sarasota County watershed. I had heard that the preserve was well managed, with lots of interesting flora and fauna, but I could never plan a visit there when there was no hunt scheduled. Between big game, small game, hog and turkey season, there are few weekends in the fall and winter when the preserve is open to hikers, so my first visit was on a weekday in the fall.



*Partial list of natives observed (with flowers or berries):
Liatris, Carphophorus, Solidago, Chrysopsis, Andropogon,
Eryngium, Pityopsis, Crotalaria, Helianthus, Ilex, Sabatia,
Sorghastrum, Polygonella, and Euthamia*

Duette Preserve protects several native plant communities, including pine flatwoods, hardwood swamps, xeric oak scrub, depression marsh and dry prairie. Some of the threatened and endangered species that the preserve protects is the Florida Scrub jay, Gopher Tortoise, and the Florida golden aster.

Bob and I went to Duette Preserve on a Monday in mid-October. We parked our car at the walk-through gate on Duette Road, just south of County Road 62. We walked to the primitive campground via marked trails 1 and 2. Our hike led us through grassy dry prairie dotted with



depression marshes, xeric oak scrub and pristine pine flatwoods.

The native wildflowers blooming in the preserve were as frequent and varied as some of the best areas I have visited. We saw lots of liatris, carphophorus, golden rods and grasses in full bloom in the prairie and marshes. Turkey oaks and small shrubs dominated the inland scrubs. Adjacent to the scrub were longleaf pine flatwoods with understory of goldenrod and grasses. We saw a large patch of showy rattlesnake in full bloom at the edges of the pinewoods.

I know we only saw a small portion of this large preserve. There is so much more to explore, and you can be sure that I will go back. Fall proved to be a great time to visit, but I bet spring will be amazing as well!





Mark Your Calendar

- Nov 7-9** **CAMPING!**
- Nov 19** **10 AM, Roadside wildflower planting on Lithia Pinecrest**
- Dec 6** **Holiday party @ Harriett's**
- Feb 6-8** FNPS meeting at Archbold Biological Station, everyone is invited
- March 26-29** Camping at Suwannee River State Park
- May 28-31** FNPS Conference in Tallahassee - 'Born to Burn'



Some West Central Florida Native Plant Nurseries

Green Isle Gardens Native Plant Nursery

www.greenislegardens.com

321-436-4932

See website for retail hours

Sweet Bay Nursery

www.sweetbaynursery.com

941-776-0501

See website for retail hours

The Natives, Inc.

www.thenatives.net

863-422-6664

Retail by appt.

Wilcox Nursery

www.wilcoxnursery.com

727-595-2073

See website for retail hours

For more retail plant information - www.PlantRealFlorida.org

Florida Association of Native Nurseries

Join or Renew FNPS on-line - <http://www.fnps.org/participate/membershipinfo>



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 SNPS membership chair, Devon Higginbotham, at 478-1183.

New Member

Renewal

Name _____

Business name or organization _____

Address _____

City, State and Zip _____

Home phone _____ Email _____

Check pertinent category:

Individual/Renewal \$35

Full time student \$15

Library subscription \$15

Family or household \$50

Contributing \$75

Life \$1,000

Not-for-profit

organization \$50

Business or

corporate \$125

Supporting \$100

Donor \$250

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
Steve Dickman 326-0221

Publications

Dick Wunderlin 977-6484
George Kish 920-0853

Librarian

Vikki Sinclair 989-2896

Membership

Open

Newsletter Editor

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

Programs

Troy Springer 967-4538
Janet Bowers 759-2822

Publicity/ Social media

Donna Bollenbach 679-5597

Outreach

Open

USF Plant Sales - need volunteer

Troy Springer 967-4538

USF Botanical Garden Liaison

Kim Hutton 974-2329

Chapter Representative

Janet Bowers 759-2822

Webmasters

Ron Huston 951-0946
Donna Bollenbach 679-5597

2014 Board of Directors

President

Devon Higginbotham
archiveproperties@gmail.com

Co-Vice-presidents

Troy Springer
troy@springerenvironmental.com

Janet Bowers
jbowers27@yahoo.com

Secretary

Bunny Worth
msworth@tampabay.rr.com

Treasurer

Gar Reed
gar0426@yahoo.com

Board Member

Donna Bollenbach
donna.bollenbach@gmail.com

Newsletter Submissions

Deadline for the next issue:

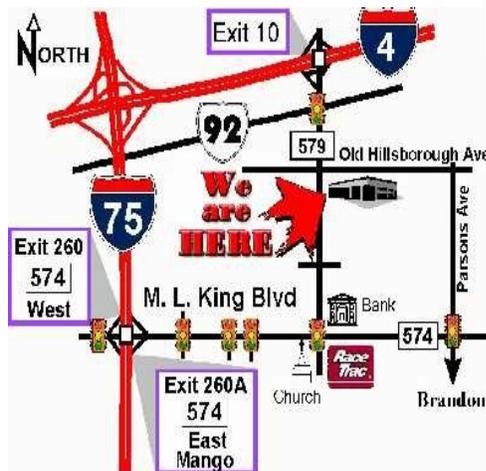
January 1 2015

Please send articles and original artwork for The Suncoast Grapevine to **Janet Bowers**, by the deadline above- jbowers27@yahoo.com

SNPS Web Address

<http://www.SuncoastNPS.org>

We're on Meet Up & Facebook



Meetings are normally the third Wednesday of the month at 7 PM. (no December meeting)

DIRECTIONS TO:
Hillsborough County
Extension
5339 County Road 579
Seffner

Take I-4 to Exit 10 (just east of I-75). Go south on 579 for two blocks. Turn left on Old Hillsborough Ave and park on the North side of the office.

Suncoast Chapter of Florida Native Plant Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 1158
Seffner, FL 33583-1158



Please deliver to: