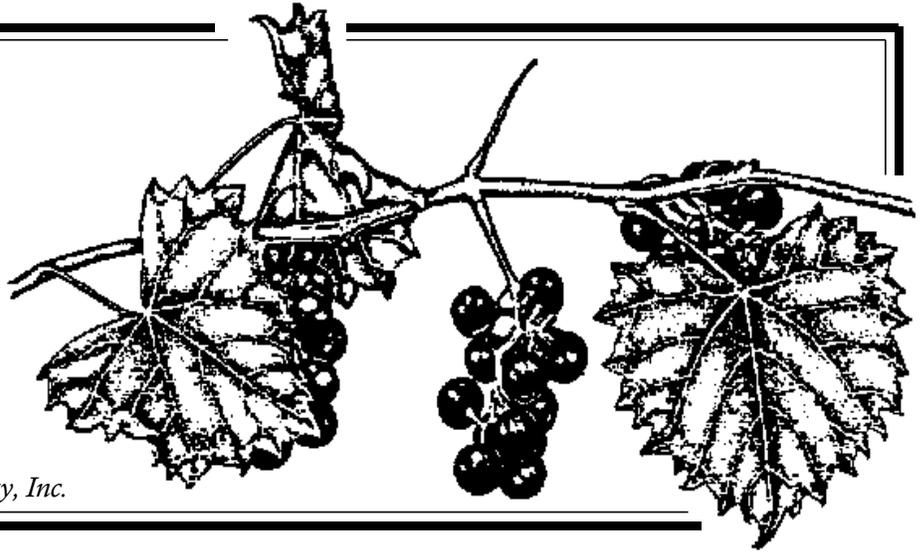


www.suncoastnps.org

The **Suncoast Grapevine**

Newsletter of the Suncoast Native Plant Society, Inc.



Volume 31 Number 1

January 2014



Highlights of the 2013 Fieldtrips

Presented by Stephen Dickman

**Wednesday, January 15, 2014 @ 7PM
Hillsborough County Extension Office**

Ever wonder what all the fuss is about when you hear some of your fellow SNPS members describing what they saw during a field trip? You'll hear them talk about an unexpected array of flowering plants and ferns ranging from epiphytes in a cypress swamp to endemic plants of sand hill and scrub and to a stand of pine lilies on the outskirts of a Riverview subdivision. Not to mention the many species of birds and insects observed over the course of just a few hours. For many a field tripper, it is their first time ever to see some of these plants and habitats.

January's presentation will be a review of the field trips of 2013 provided by Stephen Dickman. This will be a collaboration as well, since this presentation will be using photographs taken by SNPS members of some of the more interesting and unusual plants encountered during each outing.

Mr. Dickman, a self-proclaimed plant geek, has been an employee of the Hillsborough County Parks, Recreation and Conservation Dept. for 17 years.

- submitted by Stephen Dickman



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

Devon Higginbotham -- President
Troy Springer - co-Vice President
Janet Bowers - co-Vice President
Gar Reed -- Treasurer
Bunny Worth -- Secretary
Donna Bollenbach

Thanks to our Nominating Committee: Shirley Denton, Mike Fite, Steve Dickman
Voting will take place at the Jan. 15 meeting

We are still looking for a Plant Sale coordinator, please let someone on the Board know if you are interested.



2014 ELAPP calendars

Did you get a 2014 calendar yet? I got mine at the local library. Mike Fite and Donna Bollenbach have photos in the front. Last year, Donna's photo was featured on January. Don't forget to take photos this year and submit them in the fall for the contest! Donna will be speaking at one of our meetings this year, please make sure you come and hear her tips.

-submitted by Janet Bowers



Thanks for helping with the November meeting to -

Fred Mulholland for providing plants for the auction.

Fred & Barbara Mulholland for bringing the refreshments

Note from the Editor

It's a new year, time to take stock and set goals for 2014 - see more plants, go places I've never been (like the FNPS conference field trips) and have fun! I bought some new hiking shoes and I'm ready. I am trying out a replacement for the Plant Profile section in the newsletter. I have been recycling past profiles and thought that I would rather write about some great places to see plants. I'd love to have your input for the newsletter - please send me ideas or articles.

We will have a SNPS logo this year. Elizabeth Smith is working on some proposals for us to vote on. She has done amazing art for FNPS for many years and taught the journaling workshop at the 2013 conference that I attended.

We will have new people involved in the BOD and we are planning to do some work at USF this year in their native plant area. I hope to see some new faces at our meetings and on the trail! Put us on your calendar and check out a meeting, enjoy some plant bargains after the speaker at our plant auction and make some new friends.

- Janet Bowers, Grapevine editor



Grandpa Joe

I can see him in my mind, sitting at his simple kitchen table eating a jelly sandwich, no peanut butter. "Devon", he said, "If you don't want to do something, any excuse will do". I was trying to get out of attending an event and had gone to Grandpa to vent. He was always a good listener, never critical or unkind, and I knew he would have good advice.

Grandpa Joe wasn't really my Grandpa. I had borrowed him from my husband since I never knew my grandfathers. He stood about 6'2" with a lean frame from years of farming the land. His hands were thick and tough but his mind was as loving as a well-worn sweater, like an old friend you return to again and again. Born in 1910, he hit college age just as the Great Depression was cranking up so he spent the first half of his life farming, selling produce out of the back of his pickup. When his only child married, he took his savings, went to Florida Southern and got a degree in Agriculture. His later years were spent as an inspector with the Florida Department of Ag.

Grandpa knew I was interested in plants and was only too willing to teach me and I only too willing to learn. We would spend hours at nurseries pouring over the plants, him telling me all he knew about each, much to the dismay of the rest of the family who had long since gone to the car and were waiting to leave.

I have remembered his advice all these years and often use it on myself when I am trying to come up with an excuse to get out of something. I've also found that the reverse is just as prophetic. "If I WANT to do something, any excuse will do"! Now that is a powerful statement because it frees us from having to come up with a good reason to do something we really want to do. We can use any excuse because it really doesn't matter.

So in 2014, when I want to go hiking in the woods on Saturday, spend the weekend in Torreya State Park or drive to Ft Myers for the conference, I am just going to go! I'll tell my other responsibilities that they just have to wait or maybe I'll just tell them that "Grandpa Joe said I could go".

Devon Higginbotham





January 26 - Sunday - Fieldtrip- Cypress Creek Nature Preserve

3298 Robertson Trail, Lutz, 33559
(Dead end of Robertson Trail.)
Meet at 9 AM, Estimated time: 3 hours.

Car-pooling is recommended as parking is limited to approximately four vehicles at the Robertson Trail entrance located west of I-275, east of Livingston Avenue, north of Sunset Road and south of County Line Road. Currently the parking area uses a fence to contain cars, and there is a walk-through gate. Robertson Trail itself is very narrow and thus limits parking on the side of the road without partially blocking the road.

From the walk-through gate, the trail leads through open fields to oak/magnolia/hickory/sabal palm hardwood hammocks where interesting flora abounds including *Thelypteris ovata* (Ovate maidenfern) the endemic *Pluchea longifolia* (Longleaf camphorweed) and *Burmannia biflora* (Bluethread). The canopy covering the trail is decorated with epiphytic ferns, orchids and Tillandsia sp. The trail terminates at an open field adjacent to the west side of I-275.

This is an easy hike, though chances are good that we'll veer off the trail here and there.

Field trip co-chair - Shirley Denton 986-6485



Thanks for helping with the Holiday Party-

- ◆ *Harriett Wright for having us in her home and garden*
- ◆ *Devon Higginbotham for helping set up and organizing volunteers*
- ◆ *Donna and Bob Bollenbach*
- ◆ *Stephen Dickman*
- ◆ *Bunny Worth*
- ◆ *Mike Fite*
- ◆ *Vikki Sinclair*
- ◆ *Lee and Linda Hewitt did an incredible job cleaning up. Everything was spotless when they left.*



2013 BOD (Debbie Butts was absent)



Carmel, Vikki and Bunny

*Photos by
Donna
Bollenbach*

Proposed SNPS 2014 field trip schedule



Saturday February 22nd - Serenova Tract of the Starkey Wilderness Area -- Hopefully we can drive in so that we will be able to get to some of the better spots. There is also *Litsea aestivalis* in a couple of wetlands...blooms early spring. SWFWMD has been doing some good land management. We will try to get info on where burning has been done. The USF Herbarium has blooming specimens of *Litsea aestivalis* from Citrus County collected in February .

March 28th- 30th Torreya SP - camping trip - if you missed our last one, check out the November newsletter for a description of that amazing trip. Don't miss this one!



Saturday April 19th – Little Manatee River SP -- The north side of the river has some of the best stuff including a nice scrub. There is a rare fern (*Thelypteris serrata*) along the river. On the north side of the river, there is *Sabal etonia* and *Rhynchospora megaplumosa*. We might see pigmy fringe trees in flower if they are in the area. Carmel is doing some work here and might be able to help point out good places to go.

Sunday May 11th –Alafia River –Knight Parcel -- Adjacent to Alderman's Ford County Park. An interesting site with nice trails through xeric hammocks with bridge crossing over the north prong of the Alafia River. The trail leads to relic phosphate mine site with interesting topography and plants. Timed to see *Sacoila lanceolata* var. *lanceolata* in bloom. Might see white flowered form of *Passiflora incarnata* in bloom too.

May 15th – 18th FNPS conference - check out FNPS.org for Conference info, proposed field trips are already there.

Sunday June 22st - Fish Hawk Preserve -- Some trail time and some off-trail time to walk through habitats just south of the Alafia including sand hill, scrub, flatwoods and riparian forest of Fish Hawk Creek and the Alafia River. Maybe find Carolina coralbead in flower?

Saturday July 19th - For buying trip -- Pine Lily nursery. The nursery is pleasant and has good variety. They are near Ona -- if timed to coincide with blooming butterfly orchids, finishing at Solomon's Castle is worthwhile -- they have a small restaurant that is unique and reasonably good, and there are many butterfly orchids in the live oaks.

Saturday August 23rd – TBA – Possible night hike?

Saturday Sept. 20th – Balm Scrub Preserve, Balm - Scrub and flatwoods and scrubby flatwoods, great place to see fall wild flowers.

Saturday October 18th – Ridge Manor Cypress Lakes -- A Hernando County environmental lands site -- Mark Hutchinson led a 2012 conference field trip there.

Sunday November 9th – Rhodine Scrub Preserve , Riverview – The scrub here is a little fire suppressed but it is habitat for the endemic Florida golden aster (thousands of them) which should be in flower. Earlier in November is usually best time to see maximum number in flower.

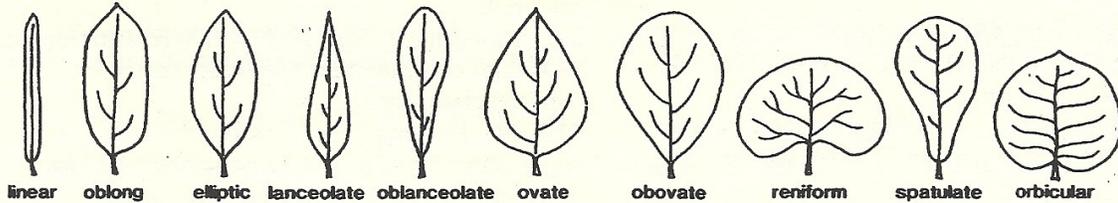


“BOTANY 101” Simplified

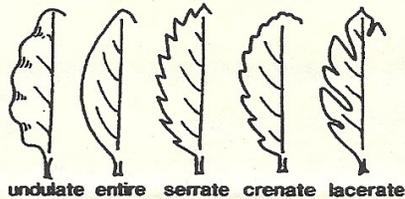
These drawings should help you identify natives.

ILLUSTRATED GLOSSARY

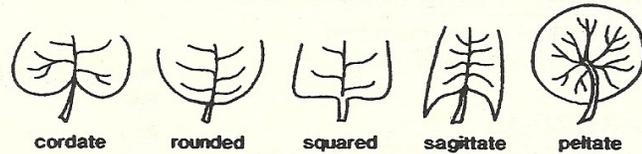
LEAF SHAPES



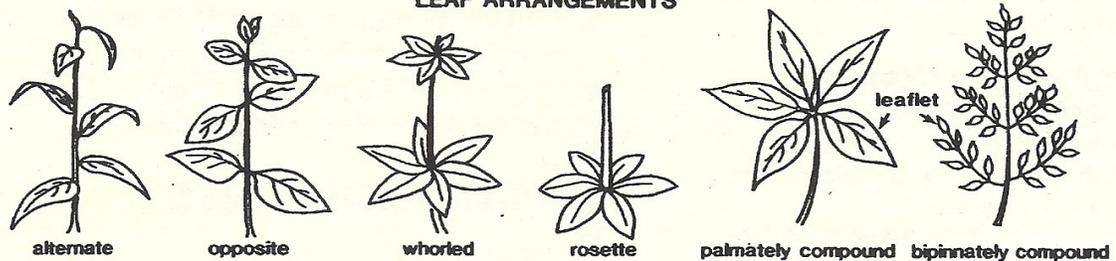
LEAF MARGINS



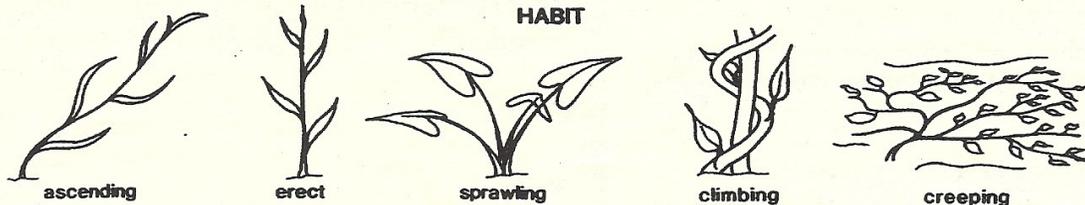
LEAF BASES



LEAF ARRANGEMENTS



HABIT



From July 2004 Grapevine

Dates to remember



- Jan 13** Native plant talk by a master gardener at the Plant City library
- Jan 26** SNPS fieldtrip - **this is a Sunday and not the usual weekend**
- Feb 1** Bok Tower 85th anniversary - special programs, free admission
- March 4** Native plant talk by a master gardener at the Riverview library
- March 28-30** Torreya Camping Fieldtrip
- April 12-13** USF Spring Plant sale
- May 15-18** FNPS Conference- Florida Gulf Coast University, Fort Myers

Places to see Natives - Torreya State Park

Torreya State Park is located west of Tallahassee in the Florida Panhandle. It is home to some unique plants and ecosystems that are well worth a trip to the area. It is on bluffs overlooking the Apalachicola River and was developed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s. Steamboats used to travel on the Apalachicola River in the 1800's. The Gregory House is a restored Southern plantation built in 1849 and is open for tours. The CCC's construction efforts included a stone bridge that is part of a hike.

The Torreya tree (*Torreya taxifolia*) is a rare species that is declining. A plant list is available on the website and includes many ferns, flowers and plants that are not found in central Florida. Some plants that you would see in North Georgia can be seen here. Flame azalea, trilliums, Apalachicola rosemary, trout lily, mountain laurel and Carolina lily are among the plants in the park. Pitcher plants and grassy orchids can be found nearby.

In addition to camp sites, this park has a yurt and a cabin that can be rented. We have reserved both for our end of March fieldtrip.



Photos by Donna Bollenbach
Info from <http://www.floridastateparks.org/torreya/>

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

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

Troy Springer 967-4538
Janet Bowers 759-2822

Publicity/ social media

Donna Bollenbach

Outreach

TBD

USF Plant Sales - need volunteer

Troy Springer 967-4538

USF Botanical Garden Liaison

Kim Hutton 974-2329

Chapter Representative

Devon Higginbotham 478-1183

Webmaster

Ron Huston 951-0946

2013 Board of Directors

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Cliff Brown
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Secretary

Janet Bowers
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Treasurer

Gar Reed
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Board Members

Debbie Butts
debbutts1@verizon.net

Daphne Lambright
daphne.lambright@verizon.net

Newsletter Submissions

Deadline for the next issue:

February 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

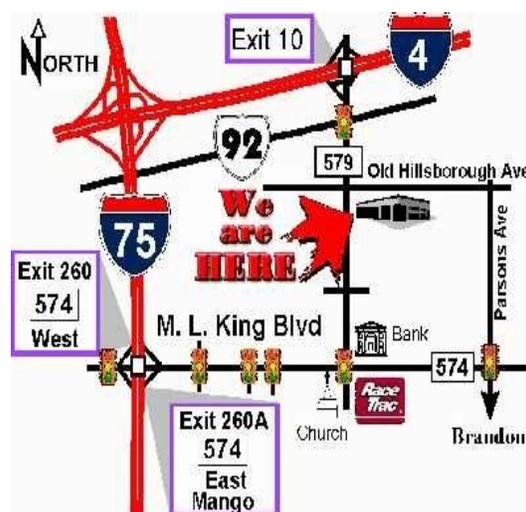
Take I-4 to Exit 10 (just east of I-75). Go south for two blocks. The office is at the corner of Old Hillsborough Road and County Road 579.

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>



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



Please deliver to: