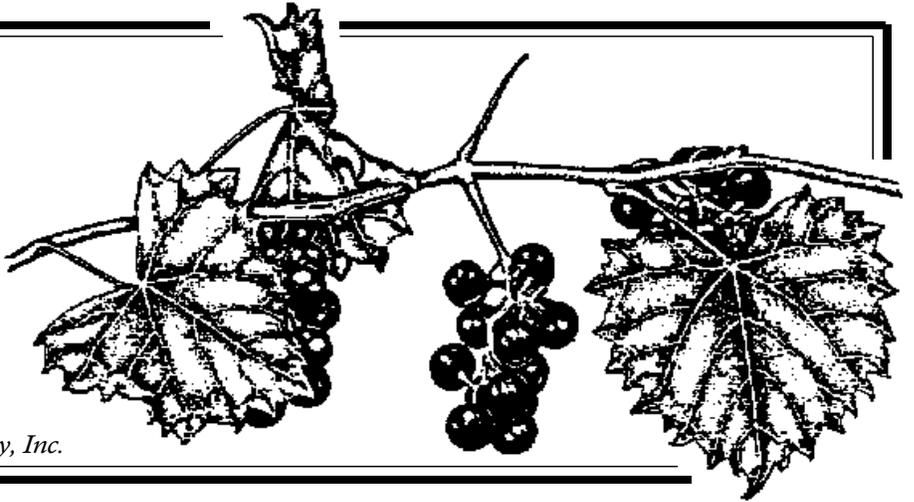


*www.suncoastnps.org*

# The Suncoast Grapevine

*Newsletter of the Suncoast Native Plant Society, Inc.*



**Volume 31 Number 3**

**March 2014**



## **Our Extreme Yard Makeover**

**Presented by Nanette and Rick O'Hara**

**Wednesday, March 19, 2014 @ 7PM  
Hillsborough County Extension Office**

Tampa homeowners Rick and Nanette O'Hara looked around their yard following the Great Freeze of 2010, and decided there would never be a better time to just start all over. They embarked on a total landscape makeover that transformed their landscape from a weekend-hogging, mistake-laden mess to a water-thrifty, pollinator-attracting oasis that earned Tampa's Water-Wise Award for residential homes in 2010. Their goal was to create a low-maintenance yard so they could spend their weekends fishing and cycling instead of mowing and weeding. In this presentation, they will share how they achieved that goal, and the important role native plants play in their landscape. Rick and Nanette continue to add more natives to their garden each year, and estimate they have more than 20 native species and close to 50% coverage with natives as of this year.

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Rick and Nanette O'Hara met 11 years ago through a mutual obsession with fly fishing. They married seven years ago and like to say that "the couple who casts together, lasts together." They embarked on their total yard makeover four years ago so they could spend less time mowing, and weeding and watering, and more time fishing, cycling and otherwise having fun in our beautiful state. Along the way, Nanette discovered a love of gardening that eventually led to certification as a Master Gardener with Hillsborough County Extension, and (mostly) overcame her fear of spiders. Rick discovered that he didn't miss owning a lawn mower at all. When they are not fishing, cycling or sitting on their deck admiring their yard, Rick works as a risk and safety manager for an insurance company, and Nanette is the outreach coordinator for the Tampa Bay Estuary Program.

Our meetings include light refreshments and a plant auction afterwards.

Please come and hear more about our upcoming events.

- submitted by Janet Bowers



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)



## USF Spring Plant Sale - April 12-13

We are still looking for a Plant Sale coordinator, please let someone on the Board know if you are interested. **We will also need general volunteers for the USF Spring Plant sale – look for a sign-up sheet at our next meeting.** We need people to set up April 10 and 11 as well as cashiers, set up, breakdown, outreach people for April 12 and 13. April 12 will begin at daylight when we price, profile and get ready for the crowd of buyers. We have over 100 species of plants for sale and this is our major fundraiser for the year. Please come and help!

### UPCOMING SPEAKERS-

April – Donna Bollenbach – Photography  
June – Lisa Roberts – Wildflowers

July – Joint meeting, SNPS hosting  
Aug – Juliet Rynear – Conservation Project Update



### Flatwoods Work day

*Flatwoods Wilderness Park weeding for 2 hours on Wednesday morning March 12. For details contact Mary at [limpkin1945@verizon.net](mailto:limpkin1945@verizon.net)*

**This year's annual Robin's Bellflower survey** led by Cheryl Peterson of Bok Tower Rare Plant Council will be March 20th. A small group of state park biologists and park rangers visits the sites at Hillsborough River State Park where the plant is known to occur and counts the plants at each site. The same will be done in Hernando County.

It used to be that this plant was known only in one location in the entire world - the grounds of Chinsegut manor in Brooksville. In 1980 someone found a second site in the Brooksville area. Then in 2006 it was found at 4 sites in HRSP. It's quite an interesting mystery story that began in the early 1900's.

*-Carmel vanHoek*



*Thanks for helping with the February meeting to -*

**Fred Mulholland, Cliff Brown** for providing plants for the auction.

**Janet Bowers** for bringing the refreshments

### Note from the Editor

Another great SNPS fieldtrip in February at the Serenova tract! I saw a lot of plants that I had never seen before and we had a record breaking crowd in attendance. I've been working on picking my fieldtrips for the FNPS Conference - there are great choices as usual. I am also making my plans for the camping trip at the end of March, I can't wait to see some northern flowers and pitcher plants! Spring is here in my yard - redbud, fringe tree, Walter's viburnum and Chickasaw plum are blooming. Wildflower seedlings are coming up, this is a great time of year.

*- Janet Bowers, Grapevine editor*





## THIS OLD BARN

I finally realized she wasn't coming home. Our youngest child left in 2006 and in her absence was a Cockatiel, a horse named Aero, a female cat named Peach and a barn. All remained behind at home, except her. As a child, Kay had always ridden horses and after years of paying for others to board her horse, we finally built our own barn. But this wasn't just a lean-to, one stall barn. This was a full-fledged, three stall with tack room and a loft type barn and now it was just sitting there, settling deeper into the dirt with every passing year. While the old barn functioned well in the past, it no longer met our needs. So, I decided to create a new life for the structure and change it into something more useful.

Good bye old barn. Hello giant potting shed!

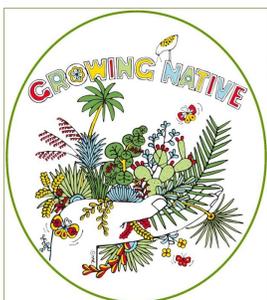
It's kind of like our beloved FNPS. We functioned well with our old structure and by-laws for almost 30 years but we are not the same organization we were in 1980. We've grown to almost 3000 members and a board of 60 some-odd members. In the beginning, I doubt our founders ever envisioned our present dilemma. Our old structure and by-laws no longer function effectively like they did in the past.

During the past two years, the FNPS board of 60 has been debating (for countless hours), wrangling, writing and re-writing pages and pages of ideas on how to improve. We've exploited a forest of Sticky Notes and spent a considerable sum engaging the Bristol Strategy Group ([www.bristolstrategygroup.com](http://www.bristolstrategygroup.com)), specialists in non-profit organizations, to help us work through our metamorphosis. You have probably heard rumblings of change.

**On March 11th you will be notified of the upcoming vote and between April 12 and 19th you will be asked to vote on the new by-law changes.** While they are not perfect, they will stream line our board to approximately 20 members so we can better address the issues we face today. The proposed by-laws also enable us to set up the Council of Chapters so our Chapter Reps (like me) can meet and discuss goals, find great speakers and share ideas.

Just like my old barn, I love FNPS, but we have grown and need to adapt, and while change can be formidable, it can also inspire ideas and open new doors to the future.

Devon Higginbotham



### 2014 FNPS Annual Conference

The conference features wonderful speakers, field trips, and reasonable cost housing. This is your opportunity to explore the fantastic ecosystems of Southwest Florida with well known botanists, enjoy an evening at the Naples Botanical Garden, listen to well known speakers and meet them in person at the social events, and get to know the members and leaders of the Florida Native Plant Society. **Early registration discount ends April 13.**

See details at [www.fnps.org/conference](http://www.fnps.org/conference)

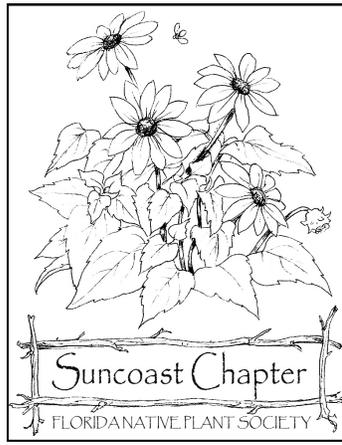
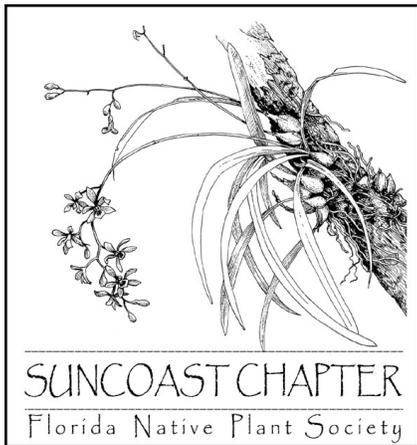
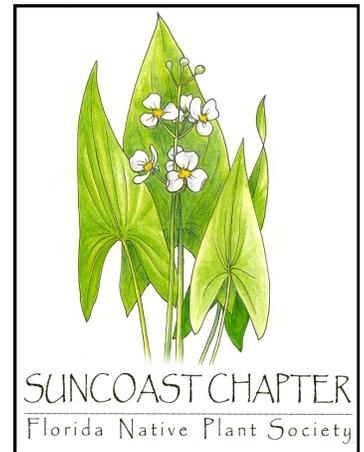
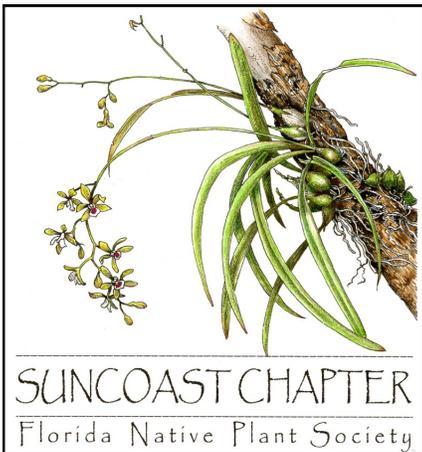
SNPS Logo Proposals- Please Vote by March 22

Elizabeth Smith has submitted 3 great logo choices at the board's request for your vote.

People attending this month's meeting can vote in person

Others can email me at [jbowers27@yahoo.com](mailto:jbowers27@yahoo.com) by March 22

(The bottom version is how it would appear if we printed in black only.)



(We don't have the black version yet, use your imagination)

CHOICE 1 -Butterfly orchid  
*Encyclia tampensis*

CHOICE 2 -Dune sunflower  
*Helianthus debilis*

CHOICE 3- Arrowhead  
*Sagittaria latifolia*

**Wednesday, March 26 8:00 - 10:00 a.m. Guided Bird Hike at Circle B Bar**

Hike through the Marsh and learn about the birds of Circle B Bar Reserve. This is a great time of year to bird watch at Circle B Bar Reserve, so do not miss out on this hike. Bring binoculars and a camera, because you never know what birds will be stopping in at the Marsh.

\*To sign up for this hike please call 863-668-4673 ex. 205. Limit 10 people.

## March 28th- 30th Torreya State Park

3 night camping trip - 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. We will be seeing a lot of plants that you can't see in Hillsborough County. **Let Devon know if you are interested in staying in the Yurt!**

We will have some guest leaders who are familiar with the area, see you there!



### 2014 Field Trip schedule

**Saturday April 19th** – Little Manatee River SP -- The north side of the river has some of the best plants 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.

**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, the field trips look great, they include trips led by Roger Hammer and Walter Taylor and they range from Botanical gardens to swamp.**

**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 -- possibly 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. Confirmation of location is coming soon.

**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 and will be our guide.

**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 the maximum number in flower.

### Hernando Chapter Meeting

The program for the April 7th meeting will be conducted by Master Gardener and long time Native Plant Society member, Rita Grant, will present a workshop to the Hernando County Native Plant Society on "Native Plant Propagation". The program will be hands-on so come ready to get your hands dirty! The workshop will cover planting seeds, cuttings, plant division and air layering, all things the nursery owner does herself.

We will be meeting at 6:30 at Chinsegut Hill, 22495 Chinsegut Hill Road, Brooksville, FL 34601. For a map go to [www.HCFNPS.org](http://www.HCFNPS.org). Any questions should be directed to [hcfnps@gmail.com](mailto:hcfnps@gmail.com).

-submitted by Mark Hutchinson

## WINE & CHEESE PARTY

**The Mulhollands**  
15410 Stonecreek Lane  
Tampa, FL 33613

**Sunday, March 23, 2014**  
**From 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM**

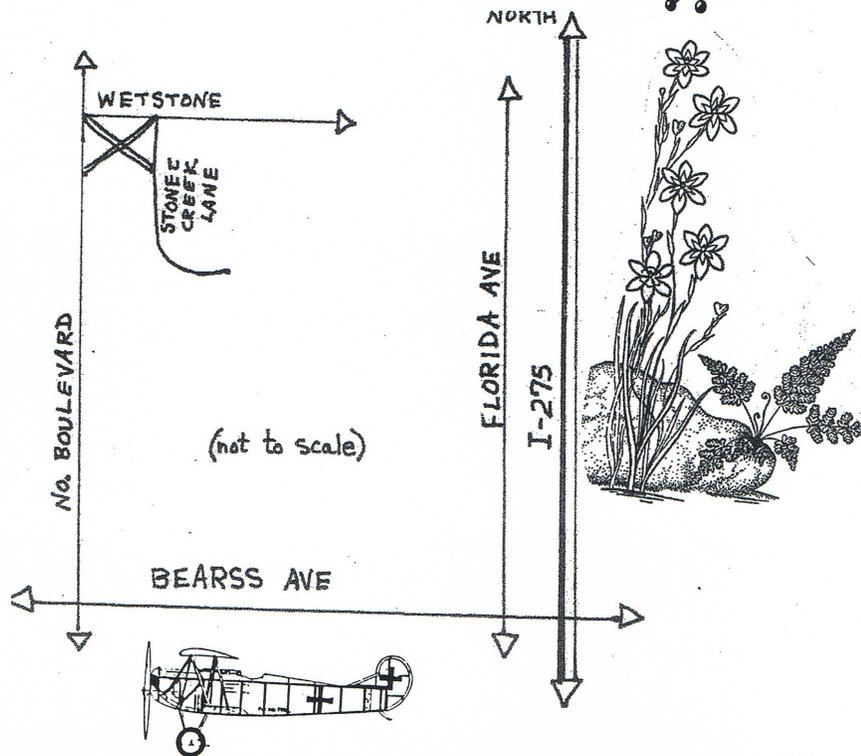
There are more than 150 species of native plants in the yard. An identification list will be provided that shows what and where they are located.

**FREE POTTED PLANTS**

**SEE 28 FLYING MODELS**

It's a party, mostly outdoors, rain or shine, so dress casually. There is seating outside under a canopy and also under shade trees. If you need more information call: (813) 962-7020

**SEE NATIVE PLANTS IN SUBURBIA: ONE WAY TO DO IT  
WITHOUT A LAWN**



### Dates to remember

**March 23** 1-5 at the Mullhollands (see above)

**April 12-13** USF Spring Plant sale- come and buy some plants!

**April 13** Early registration discount ends, some fieldtrips may be full before this

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

## Places to see Natives - Serenova Tract of the Starkey Wilderness

February's fieldtrip was great, we had permission to take a limited number of vehicles in so we had easy access to a couple great areas. We saw healthy looking Pondspice, *Litsea aestivalis*, in bloom. Pondspice is listed as endangered by the state of Florida, Florida Natural Areas Inventory and is rare throughout its range within the southeastern United States. It typically blooms in the early spring.

Violets, shiny lyonia and blueberries were abundant. We saw Cypress domes, wet fringes and scrubby areas. Pineland daisy and several hypericum species were seen. There were a lot of butterworts (*Pinguicula*), bladderworts (*Utricularia*) and blooming sundews, all carnivorous plants. The large butterworts were fascinating. We spent more than four hours looking at the different areas and taking pictures.

To see more pictures - checkout the Meetup album- <http://www.meetup.com/Suncoast-Native-Plant-Society/photos/20272602/>.

-Info from Meetup and Janet Bowers

Photos by Janet Bowers

Photo by Donna Bollenbach



*Buchnera americana*



*Pinguicula lutea*



*Pinguicula caerulea*

## 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 679-5597

### 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

## 2014 Board of Directors

### President

Devon Higginbotham  
[archiveproperties@gmail.com](mailto:archiveproperties@gmail.com)

### Co- Vice-presidents

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

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

### Secretary

Bunny Worth  
[msworth@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:msworth@tampabay.rr.com)

### Treasurer

Gar Reed  
[gar0426@yahoo.com](mailto:gar0426@yahoo.com)

### Board Member

Donna Bollenbach  
[donna.bollenbach@gmail.com](mailto:donna.bollenbach@gmail.com)

## Newsletter Submissions

Deadline for the next issue:

**April 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](mailto:jbowers27@yahoo.com)

### DIRECTIONS TO:

Hillsborough County  
Extension  
5339 County Road 579  
Seffner

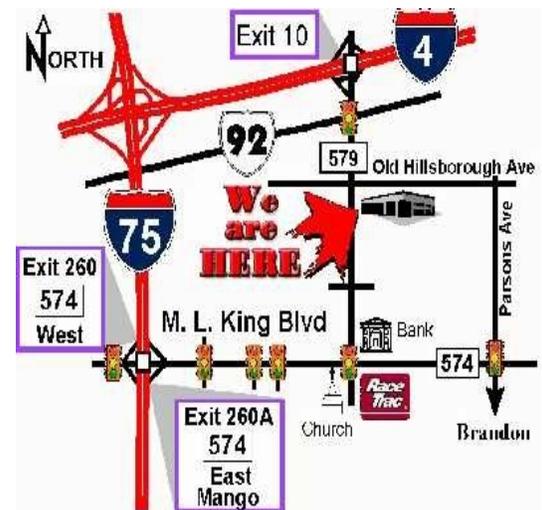
Take I-4 to Exit 10 (just east of I-75). Go south for two blocks. The office is at the corner of Old Hillsborough Road and County Road 579.

## 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: