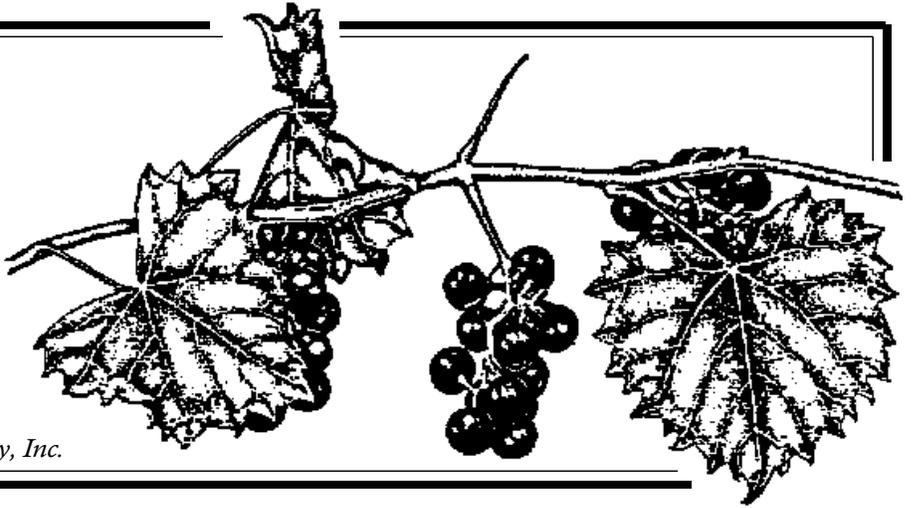


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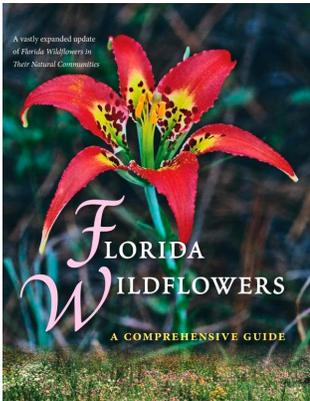
The Suncoast Grapevine

Newsletter of the Suncoast Native Plant Society, Inc.



Volume 31 Number 10

October 2014



Florida Wildflowers: A Comprehensive Guide

Presented by **Walter Kingsley Taylor**
Wednesday, October 15, 2014, 7 PM

For those of us who study the flora of Florida, he needs no introductions. We have more than a few of his books on the shelves already. Dr. Walter Kingsley Taylor, a well-known university professor, botanist and author, will be discussing his most recent book at our next meeting. Like the doctor himself, his talk promises to be enlightening and entertaining. Dr. Taylor will have books for sale and will be glad to sign a book for you.

After 35 years of service, Professor Taylor retired from the University of Central Florida, where he taught a variety of biology courses. In 1999, Taylor received the University Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, the highest recognition given by U.C.F. for undergraduate instruction. Upon retirement in 2004, Dr. Taylor was named Professor Emeritus of Biology.

In 2000, The Florida Native Plant Society (FNPS) awarded Dr. Taylor the Green Palmetto Award in education and in May 2006 the Society presented to him the Mentor Award, the highest recognition given by FNPS to an individual member. In February 2010, the Naples Native Plant Society and Naples Botanical Gardens recognized Taylor with a Lifetime Achievement Award in Elucidating the Flora of Florida.

Dr. Taylor and Karin, his wife for 45 years, have traveled widely throughout Florida, visiting all counties and nearly all State Parks seeking Florida's rich and diverse flora and fauna. Both he and his wife are avid supporters of Florida's environment. Photography, gardening, and playing the piano and organ are favorite pastimes. Dr. Taylor and Karin live in Winter Park and have one daughter, Dr. Anna Ree Taylor of Washington, DC, a molecular neurobiologist.

Our meetings include light refreshments and a native plant auction after the speaker. We have many knowledgeable members who will help you with your native plant questions. 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



Plant Sale at USF

October 11 & 12

Saturday 9-3, Sunday 9-3 ?

Call Troy Springer (967-4538) to Volunteer
Please stop by and support our fund raising effort!



UPCOMING SPEAKERS-

November 19 – Craig A. Watson, Director of the Tropical Aquaculture Laboratory (TAL), will present **Steamy Waters: The Amazing World of Fish Sex** (rated PG 13). TAL is part of the School of Forest Resources and Conservation Program in Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences at the University of Florida (UF/IFAS).

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.



Save the Date

December 6 - Holiday Party at
Harriett Wright’s home
More details to follow,
Please let Devon know if you can help.



Thanks for helping with the September meeting -

Fred Mulholland & Bunny Worth
for providing plants for the auction

Devon Higginbotham for bringing the refreshments!

Note from the Editor

Pine Lilies! As promised, Steve led us to pine lilies on our field trip to Balm Scrub.

I also had a great day at the Florida Wildflower Symposium at Bok Tower on 9/20. I listened to Doug Tallamy, Nancy Bisset, Mark Deyrup and some other great speakers. Dr. Deyrup talked about Buzz Pollination and the myriad of life supported by a saw palmetto. I learned about native propagation from Marc Godts of Green Isle Nursery. He was very generous with his knowledge and plant materials, I got to bring home some new babies for my garden.

Devon and I spent a humid day at the Plant City Gardenfest on 9/27. The rain held off until almost 3 and we got to chat with a lot of people interested in Natives. We hope to see several of them at our upcoming meetings.

The SNPS magnifying loupes are in, we are selling them for \$5, I will bring them to the October meeting and we’ll have them at the USF plant sale - see you there!

- *Janet Bowers*, Grapevine editor



Letter from the President

It's that time of year (no not Halloween)!



It's that time of year again....Election time! It seems we always have to decide if we want economic prosperity or environmental protection. But why can't we have both?

Florida is a land of vast natural beauty, luring vacationers for decades, and though we can't exist in a single income world, no one would argue that tourism isn't important to our economy. It seems there is a constant battle between agriculture and the environment. We all need to eat, even vegetarians need the land to provide the food that keeps them going, and cattle and poultry require land to raise what we carnivores need.

Nowhere in the world is this more apparent than in the elections going on in Brazil where deforestation has been an ongoing problem. The ranchers and farmers need to clear the rain forests to produce the crops and food supply for the growing population, but the world is pressuring the government to sign the United Nations agreement seeking to end deforestation. The current government has not signed the agreement and the opponent has seized the opportunity to attempt to win an election. But it's not all cut and dry. The current administration has lots of supporters. President Dilma Rouseff has been making progress toward limiting the impact, but is it enough?

In Florida there isn't the wild west antics of Brazil's clandestine burning of natural areas, but we have our own pressures of a growing population, development and expanding agriculture. I don't know anyone who lives in a cave so we all need a warm, dry place to live and developers give us that. We need food on the table at a reasonable cost which farmers so aptly supply. And we want to preserve our natural areas. It's a balancing act!

Throughout the world, nations are attempting to provide for their people, build their economies and, hopefully, protect their natural areas. But without natural areas, future generations won't care how economically viable we are today. Costa Rica seems to have figured out that ecological protections can equal economic prosperity. Florida needs to keep the future of our state front and center. Hopefully we will make the right choices and our heirs will say, "Job well done!"

Devon Higginbotham

Seeking Research Papers and Posters for FNPS 2015 Conference

The Florida Native Plant Society Annual Conference will be held in Tallahassee, Florida, May 28-31, 2015. The Research Track of the Conference will include presented papers and a poster session on Friday May 29 and Saturday May 30.

Researchers are invited to submit abstracts on research related to native plants and plant communities of Florida including preservation, conservation, and restoration. Presentations are planned to be 20 minutes in total length (15 min. presentation, 5 min. questions).

Abstracts of not more than 200 words should be submitted as a MS Word file by email to Paul A. Schmalzer paul.a.schmalzer@nasa.gov by February 1, 2015. Include title, affiliation, and address. Indicate whether you will be presenting a paper or poster.



Places to see Natives:

Balm Scrub Preserve, 15299 McGrady Road, Wimauma, FL 33598

I never tire of seeing the beautiful blossom of the Pine Lily, *Lilium catesbaei*, and I wasn't disappointed on our fieldtrip to Balm Scrub in Wimauma. There were several fresh red blossoms, and one that was almost a coral color.



Balm Scrub, 2692 acres of endangered sand pine scrub, pine Flatwoods, oak hammocks, creeks, grassy meadows and freshwater marshes, is located at the end of McGrady Road south of Balm Road (CR 672). A lengthy portion of Bullfrog Creek flows through the preserve. Habitat restoration is in progress and will continue for the next several years.



The SNPS September fieldtrip to the Preserve started out relatively dry, though recent heavy rains left depressed areas with standing water. In addition to the Pine Lilies, Pink Meadow Beauties, *Rhexia virginica*, Slender White Sabatia, *Sabatia macrophylla*, and bright yellow Honeycomb Heads, *Balduina spp*, were in bloom on both sides of the path. Much of the landscape was pine scrub. We saw lots of low growing Dwarf Oak, *Quercus minima*. These small oaks produced many, large acorns.

The tall Gallberry, *Ilex glabra*, with big black berries, was also plentiful.

One of my favorite wildflowers of this preserve was the Fragrant Button Snakeroot, *Erygium aromaticum*. Its spheres of tiny white to blue tinged flowers were a favorite of the Green lynx spiders. It seemed there was a spider to be found on every other blossom.



A green lynx spider also inhabited a tall giant orchid, *Pteroglossaspis ecristata*.

Other Fall wildflowers were in bud, but not yet blooming, such as purple Paintbrush, *Carphephorus spp*.

A September trip to Balm Scrub was interesting, but wait until late October, or make a spring trip there and I think you will be rewarded with even more native wildflowers.



Submitted by Donna Bollenbach



October 18 - Cypress Lakes Preserve

Where: 33241 Ridge Manor Blvd., Ridge Manor, FL 33525.

Jim King's Phone (if there are issues finding the gate): 352-238-6226

When : 9:00 to Noon

This is a joint trip with the Hernando Chapter, Mark Hutchinson has been coordinating and the chapter has arranged a very special field leader, Jim King, who is a Hernando County Conservation Lands Specialist.

Cypress Lakes Preserve is a Hernando County Environmentally Sensitive Lands (ESL) project. The property was purchased by Hernando County in 1995 and 1998 with funding from the ESL program and Florida Communities Trust using Preservation 2000 funds. The 331 acre preserve includes a mosaic of seven or eight upland and wetland communities, including about 85 acres of sand hill and about 70 acres of oak scrub, oak/saw palmetto scrub, and scrubby flatwoods, with interspersed open, grassy seasonal ponds. Despite best intentions and efforts to use fire as a regular management technique, several conditions prevented adequate application of fire to the landscape in recent years. Predictably, hardwoods (predominantly live oak, laurel oak, Chapman's oak and black cherry) rapidly overtook the scrub and sand hill communities, with sand live oaks and laurel oaks replacing myrtle oaks and Chapman's oaks in the scrub, and laurel oak, black cherry, and Chapman's oak invading the sand hills. Because of the scarcity and importance of these vegetation communities, the management plans for Cypress Lakes Preserve include restoration of scrub and sand hill communities on about half the preserve (about 155 acres). The essential needs were firebreaks, hardwood reduction, and fire. About 5,800 linear feet of firebreak were cleared around the perimeter.

Hardwood control was conducted over a three year period on most of the 155 acre restoration area. The overgrown area was "treated" by cutting down brush and oak trees using machinery and chain saws, supplemented with hand saw and chainsaw work by volunteers, plus chainsaw and herbicide work by county staff. These treatments were followed by a controlled burn in May 2013. The burn consumed much of the downed wood, exposed bare mineral soil, top-killed most of the remaining large hardwood trees, and stimulated amazing new growth, including many herbaceous species not commonly seen there before. The transformation is amazing, and done on a minimal budget.

As usual we recommend - a wide brim hat, sun-screen, sunglasses, close-toed shoes, snack and especially water!

2014 Field Trip schedule

Friday to Sunday, Nov 7-9, 2 nights of camping at Mike Roess Gold Head State Park - the cabins are taken, please reserve a camping space if you haven't made arrangements for a cabin already. Look for more details to come on common meals, hikes and more. Our camping trips are a lot of fun, come join us. (FNPS Members only please.)



Hernando Chapter Meeting

The program for Monday November 3rd will be a hands on workshop featuring Native Plant Crafting. Local native plant experts from Dade Battlefield Historic State Park will join us for the evening, demonstrating their abilities at several different work stations. These artisans will shed a whole new light on native plants with their demonstration of artistic dexterity. So prepare yourself for a hands-on evening sure to please crafters of all ages. The focal point of the evening activities will include making paper with native plants, pine cone flowers, and Cherokee leaf printing. So make sure and join us for some crafting fun - just bring your creativity, we'll supply all the materials that you'll need.

We will be meeting at 6:30, Chinsegut Hill, 22495 Chinsegut Hill Rd., Brooksville, FL. 34601. For a map and additional information, go to www.HCFNPS.org.

-Submitted by Mark Hutchinson

Words That Describe Plants!



Can you describe to someone a flowering plant you've seen, hoping they will be able to tell you what plant it was or could be? How can you search for a plant at native plant nurseries if you're not sure of its name and can't describe its characters. Has no one been able to identify a photo you took of a plant because the photo showed only the flower and not the entire plant that would further identify it? Would you ever want to be able to use a plant identification key to find a plant's identity? Well, it's just a matter of learning some words that describe the characters of a plant that you see, feel, smell, count and measure.



First of all it's important to know where a plant in question is growing. Plants have environmental ranges of climate and soil factors, for instance, beyond which they can't grow. You wouldn't try to find your Florida plant pictured in an Oregon state field guide, although some of our plants do have wide ranges into surrounding states. But even in just one state there can be differences in floral species, for instance Florida, where there are many plants and trees in the panhandle that are not found in south Florida and vice versa. In Florida, pinpointing your plant to county would be a good idea as it narrows down the search area. However, always consider exceptions to every rule, as some plants of Florida can be found in widely separated counties and are known as being **disjunct**.



Another helpful hint in describing a plant would be to know the habitat in which it grows, wet, dry, sun, shade, natural area, disturbed area, etc. **Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI)** describes several habitat categories that can be accessed online and is used in listing the natural communities for every state-managed environmental land. Every state park has a natural communities map that is color-coded for all of its natural communities. Taking field trips is a good way to become familiar with a variety of communities. You are probably familiar with terms like **scrub, mesic flatwoods, hydric hammock and baygalls**.



Now we'll deal with the plants themselves. Florida has over 4,000 species of vascular plants that have been identified in this state. **Vascular** describes plants having tissue containing ducts that carry sap throughout the plant, and thus eliminates the mosses, liverworts, lichens, and algae that lack these vessels. The 4,000+ species are divided into major groups according mostly to how they reproduce.



Pteridophytes (pterus=fern)(phyte=plant), are plants reproducing by spores, and include ferns, horsetails, whisk-fern, quillworts, spike-moss and club-moss. These plants produce no flowers, per se, but when a spore lands in suitable conditions, there begins a new plant.

Gymnosperms (gymnos=naked)(sperms=seeds) are plants reproducing by seeds borne on the scales of woody cones instead of being enclosed in a fleshy fruit. This group includes pines, cypress, cedar, juniper, cycads, yews and coontie. Have you ever seen the red-orange female cones of coontie? Its cone is made up of a series of individual fertile seeds. Look between the scales of a pine cone for seeds laying atop of the surface of each scale. Each black seed has a wing-like attachment to help in its dispersal. The small male pine cones produce all the yellow pollen that covers our cars.



Perhaps you have heard the term "Angiosperm" (angio=refers to a vessel)(sperm=seed). The seeds of this type of plant are not "naked" but are enclosed in tissue called an ovary that will ripen to become the fruit of the plant. Angiosperms are divided into two major categories:

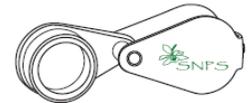


- **Monocotyledons** (mono=one) (cotyledon=seedleaf), are commonly called "monocots", and they sprout from the soil with a single seedleaf. **Seedleaves** are primary leaves arising from the seed and are not the true leaves the plant will later develop. Perhaps their job is to gather enough energy from the sun to further the development of the true leaves which are usually parallel-veined, that is, side by side in straight lines from the base of the leaf to its apex or tip. Or, maybe it has only a mid-vein. Samples of monocots are agave, lily and amaryllis, palms, and grasses and sedges.
- **Dicotyledons** (di=two) (cotyledons=seedleaves), commonly called "dicots", sprout from the ground with 2 seedleaves. The flowers they produce are usually other than in whorls of 3 and their leaves are usually net-veined, also called **reticulate**, forming a network-like pattern. There are almost twice as many dicots as there are monocots in our state, and include plants as small as violets to trees as large as oaks.



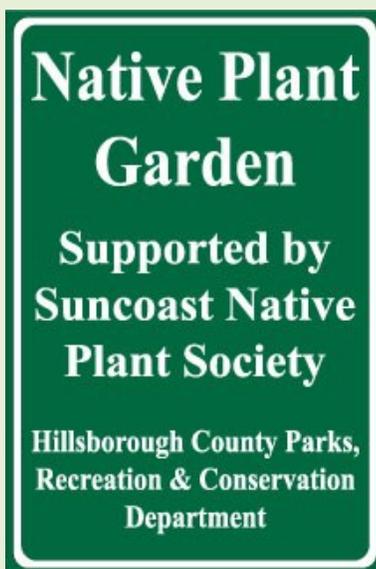
As we continue to put a particular plant into smaller categories we come increasingly closer to figuring its identity. Type of growth is important in giving one a mental image. If a plant has a pliable and green stem it is called an herb and is **herbaceous** in growth. If its stem is stiff and hard it is referred to as woody. The same applies to vines; there are herbaceous vines and woody vines. Of the woody stemmed plants, if it has multiple stems it is a shrub; if it has one main stem or trunk, it is a tree. Sometimes it's hard to tell the difference between herbaceous and woody so there is the term, **subshrub, or suffrutescent** when the base of the plant is somewhat woody. Sometimes it's hard to determine between shrub and tree because sometimes a small tree will have multiple stems, especially if it has been injured.

Knowing some basic terms, having the use of a plant identification terminology glossary, armed with a magnifying loupe, we can learn to fit these words onto the plants we see on field trips and in our gardens. We can learn to use descriptive words with which to have a dialogue with other like-minded plant people.



-Submitted by Carmel vanHoek

New Signs for the Wilderness Parks

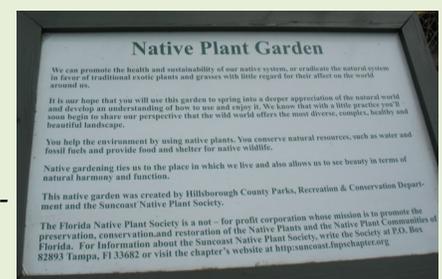


Mike Fite has worked with the Wilderness Park's manager, Eddie Anderson, to develop new simplified signs for the Wilderness parks (sample shown).

The park's current sign has incorrect contact information for the Chapter. The new sign would be identical to the ones at Morris Bridge and Trout Creek Parks and unless there has been a price change it should cost about \$18.00.

Thanks to Mike for following up on this-making sure that the SNPS BOD approved it and actually making it happen.

One of the old signs-





***Chrysopsis floridana* (Florida Goldenaster) monitoring dates for 2014**

If you are interested in participating in any of the days below, please send an email to Juliet Rynear to confirm: jrynear@boktower.org

Cordell, Little Manatee River Southfork Tract **29400 SR 62, Duette, FL 33834**

Thursday, Oct. 23rd – monitor the introduced population of *Chrysopsis floridana* - all day (will need to bring your lunch). Meeting onsite at 9:00 a.m. and working until about 3:00.

Saturday, Oct. 25th - monitor the introduced population of *Chrysopsis floridana* - all day (will need to bring your lunch). Meeting onsite at 9:00 a.m. and working until about 3:00.

Tuesday, Oct. 28th - monitor the introduced population of *Chrysopsis floridana* at Cordell (SWFWMD, Little Manatee River Southfork Tract) - all day (will need to bring your lunch). Meeting onsite at 9:00 a.m., working until about 3:00.

Thursday, Oct. 30th - monitor the introduced population of *Chrysopsis floridana* at Cordell (SWFWMD, Little Manatee River Southfork Tract) - all day (will need to bring your lunch). Meeting onsite at 9:00 a.m., working until about 3:00.

Weedon Island Preserve

Saturday, Nov. 1st - monitoring the introduced population of *Chrysopsis floridana* – all day (will need to bring your lunch). We will meet onsite at the Visitor’s Center at 9:00 a.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 4th - monitoring for *Chrysopsis floridana* – all day (will need to bring your lunch). We will meet onsite at the Visitors Center at 9:00 a.m.

Other populations

Thursday, Nov. 6th - monitoring for *Chrysopsis floridana* at **Duette Preserve** – all day (will need to bring your lunch). We will meet onsite at the ranger’s station (main entrance) at 9:00 a.m. and carpool to the introduction sites.

Saturday, Nov. 8th - monitoring for *Chrysopsis floridana* at **McKay Creek** – all day (will need to bring your lunch). We will meet at the gate onsite at 9:00 a.m. (parking across the street).

Thursday, Nov. 13th - monitoring for *Chrysopsis floridana* at **McKay Creek** – all day (will need to bring your lunch). We will meet at the gate onsite at 9:00 a.m. (parking across the street).

Saturday, Nov. 15th - monitoring for *Chrysopsis floridana* at **Paynes Creek Historic State Park** – all day (will need to bring your lunch). We will begin onsite at the Visitor’s Center at 9:00 a.m.



Mark Your Calendar

Oct 11-12 USF Fall Plant Sale

Oct 18 SNPS Fieldtrip - joint trip with the Hernando chapter

Oct 25 Munn Park Plant Sale, Lakeland

Nov 1 Kissimmee Prairie State Park - buggy tours and hikes with Huegel and Hammer

Nov 4 VOTE YES for AMENDMENT 1 <http://voteyeson1fl.org/>

Nov 7-9 CAMPING!

Dec 6 Holiday party @ Harriett’s

Feb 6-8 FNPS meeting at Archbold Biological Station, everyone is invited

May 28-31 FNPS Conference in Tallahassee

FNPS Grant Programs

The Florida Native Plant Society maintains an **Endowment Research Grant** program for the purpose of funding research on native plants. These are small grants (\$1500 or less), awarded for a 1-year period, and intended to support research that forwards the mission of the Florida Native Plant Society which is "to promote the preservation, conservation, and restoration of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida."

FNPS Conservation Grants support applied native plant conservation projects in Florida. These grants (\$5000 or less) awarded for a 1-year period. These projects promote the preservation, conservation, or restoration of rare or imperiled native plant taxa and rare or imperiled native plant communities. To qualify for a Conservation Grant, the proposed project must be sponsored by an FNPS Chapter.

Application guidelines and details are on the FNPS Web site (www.fnps.org), click on 'Participate/Grants and Awards'. Questions regarding the grant programs should be sent to info@fnps.org.

Application deadline for the 2015 Awards is March 6, 2015. Awards will be announced at the May 2015 Annual Conference in Tallahassee. Awardees do not have to be present at the Conference to receive award.

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).



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:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <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

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

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Newsletter Submissions

Deadline for the next issue:

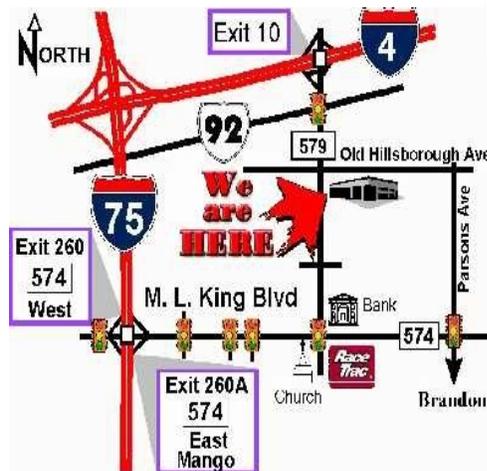
November 1 2014

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: