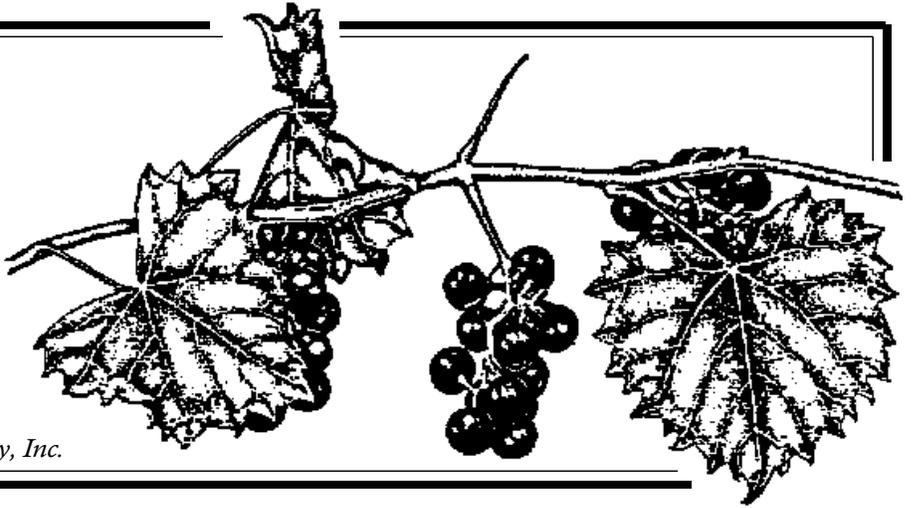


www.suncoastnps.org

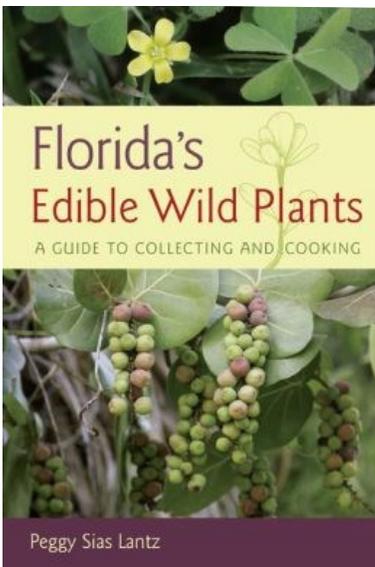
The Suncoast Grapevine

Newsletter of the Suncoast Native Plant Society, Inc.



Volume 32 Number 1

January 2015



Florida's Edible Wild Plants Presented by Peggy Lantz Wednesday, January 21, 2015, 7 PM

Peggy Lantz, long time FNPS member, will share some of her interesting information on Florida's edible plants. She will introduce you to a whole variety of gourmet treats using leaves, flowers, seeds, or roots of Florida's wild plants. Peggy will tell you how to locate, identify, and prepare plants that may be growing in your backyard or the nearby woods.

Spring will bring many tender shoots that are edible in salads- come and learn about a few of them. Her book is also a treasure trove of recipes for some of the natives in your yard.

A native Floridian, Peggy Lantz is a Florida Master Naturalist, musician, horseman, leather crafter, outdoors woman, an editor and author. Her numerous publications reflect her many interests. She served as editor of the Florida Native Plant Society's publications and its magazine, *The Palmetto*, for 15 years, and as editor of Florida Audubon Society's magazine, *The Florida Naturalist*.

Ms. Lantz lives in Woodsmere in west Orange County, Florida, in the community settled by her grandfather in 1914. You will be able to buy a copy of her book and have Ms. Lantz sign it at the meeting.

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

TEAM WORK

Early last summer the Suncoast chapter initiated a membership drive to move from the 8th largest chapter in the state to the 4th largest. After all, we are recognized as one of the oldest chapters in the state, representing all of Hillsborough County. All that was required of us was to gain 16 new members and increase from 132 members to 148, assuming all other chapters remained constant.

As of the November reports from FNPS, Suncoast is clearly in the 4th place position with 159 members!

THANK YOU to all our members that recruited our wonderful, new members!

Harriett Wright graciously opened her home again this year for our Christmas party and each of our top place recruiters were given the opportunity to choose their prize. Bunny Worth, in first place, chose the \$75 native plant nursery gift certificate. Troy Springer, in second place, chose the one day 2015 FNPS Tallahassee Conference registration. Troy's comment was, "I know I'm going to the conference". Tied for third place were Iliana DeJesus and Joanne Hoffman. Iliana chose the Scrub Jay print, leaving the yard clean-up, so generously donated by Springer Environmental, for Joanne Hoffman.

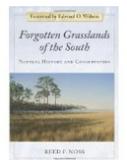
Congratulations to all our winners and give a special welcome to all our new members that understand the importance of protecting and promoting the native plants of Florida.

UPCOMING SPEAKERS-

Feb 18 – Shari Blissett-Clark, Bat Belfrys Inc. will be bringing live bats and sharing information about their basic biology and conservation.



March 18 – 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 November meeting -

Fred Mulholland, Cliff Brown & Bunny Worth
for providing plants for the auction
Bunny Worth for bringing the refreshments!

Thanks to everyone who helped with the Holiday party and especially to our hostess Harriett Wright. The Board gave thank you presents to Devon Higginbotham on behalf of the SNPS members. She has been a wonderful leader over the past 2 years and showed us all how to get things done. We (especially me) will miss her leadership ---Janet Bowers

Letter from the President

A New Year

I accepted the role of president as a thank you to all who served on the board past and present. I am willing to take my turn in the job and hope that others will come forward to take a turn on the SNPS Board. It was scary at first but the rewards are many. Most importantly, I have made a lot of new friends that share many of my interests and values. I have been able to go on great fieldtrips and overnight camping trips that I describe to my relatives as 'adult summer camp'. Learning new things every time we venture out keeps me engaged and challenged to know more. My list of places that I want to visit keeps getting longer.



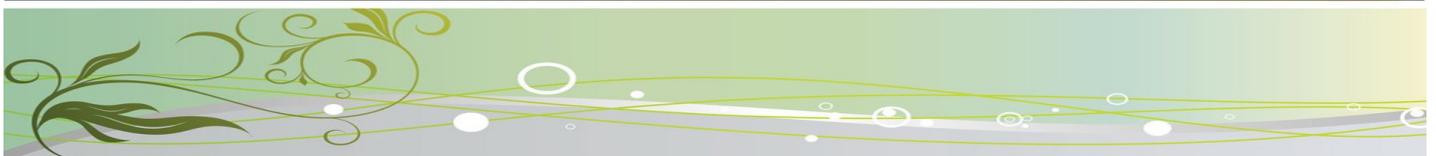
Planting wildflowers next to Lithia Pinecrest Road

I will do my best to represent SNPS and hopefully to leave things better in some small way. My strengths are quite different than Devon's so I won't be comparing myself to her, instead I will be choosing my own focus areas while supporting all our critical events and efforts. One thing that I am particularly interested in is strengthening and building new partnerships. SNPS is a member of the USF Botanical Garden and the Florida Wildflower Foundation and we also promote FANN whenever possible. There are plenty more opportunities out there- at parks, schools, scouting, neighborhoods as a few examples. Attending FNPS meetings, I have learned about some things that other chapters are doing like promoting natives at Lowes and having talks at local native nurseries. If you are so inclined, please let me know what you are interested in seeing happen (and be prepared to be part of making it happen). As a non-profit we are always looking for ways to stay relevant and keep members excited to be part of our group. If you know of a good opportunity or are already doing a project that we could help with, please share it with a Board member.

At the last FNPS Board meeting, we heard Russ Hoffman speak and I made a few notes. One of the key points that I took away was that people who are active in making changes believe 'One person can make a difference' and so they choose to make that difference. I think that Devon Higginbotham believes that and we all got to see her in action, especially as SNPS president. She made a difference by caring, leading, doing, including and encouraging others. I can't believe that she hadn't spoken to groups before SNPS! Then she went a step further and created a powerpoint and went to talk to other groups. When I grow up, I want to be more like Devon. She has been an excellent role model for me and I appreciate all her time and energy that she's put into the success of SNPS.

Respectfully,

Janet Bowers



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).



MY FAVORITE CHRISTMAS GIFTS

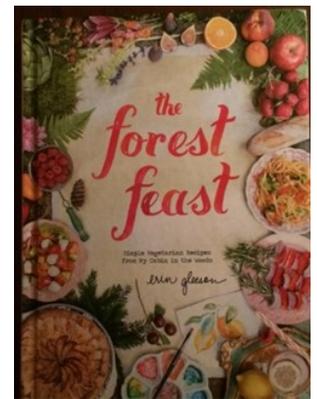
Christmas has once again come and gone. I'm always happy to anticipate its arrival..... and departure.

This year I received four extraordinary gifts that made me appreciate the season all the more. Though it "is better to give than receive", I really enjoyed receiving these!



The first is the beautiful ceramic platter from the Suncoast Native Plant Society board. It is hand made by the Smith Sisters of Austin, Texas and has hand-painted Florida native flowers and pollinators on a lovely hand-glazed terra cotta pottery. Gaillardia, Black Swallowtail, Dragon fly, Bee, Pine Lily, Violets, Fleabane and Rudbeckia, all vie for the eye's attention. Though it is food-safe, I doubt its surface will ever be marred by butter, crumbs or, heaven forbid, jelly!

The second is also from the SNPS board and is the cookbook, "The Forest Feast", which is more an art collection than cookbook, although I can't wait to try some of the recipes. The author Erin Gleeson credits her success to an important life lesson. An aspiring artist in New York City, she was abruptly transplanted to rural California when her husband accepted an offer to be the new rabbi. Desperately trying to find her own way, she took shelter in the studio in her wooded yard and started combining her photography with her artistry and cooking skills. Isn't it just like life to deal us a hand of cards we really don't want. The result is this lovely-to-behold vegetarian cookbook. With my propensity to cook on our camping trips, I am eager to try some of her dishes. Join us on our next trip and maybe we will have Polka-dot Focaccia or Baked Apple Rings, or perhaps even Beer floats!



My third and fourth favorite gifts, though not necessarily in order of importance, are being able to watch our daughter graduate from College in Christchurch, New Zealand and the 4 lovely bluebird boxes my dear husband gave me.



With the way this Christmas went, I can't wait to see what the New Year holds! I think I'm on a roll.

Devon Higginbotham



Mark Your Calendar

Jan 16 Florida Arbor Day - plant a tree!



March 26-29 Camping at Suwannee River State Park

April 11-12 USF Spring Plant Sale

May 28-31 FNPS Conference in Tallahassee - 'Born to Burn'



January 24 - Field trip to Alafia River Corridor Preserve

Where: Meet at the Ace Hardware plaza at 10415 South CR 39 in Lithia

When: 8:30 AM

The meeting plaza is located on the NW corner of CR 39 & Lithia-Pinecrest Rd. At 8:45 AM we will car-pool about two miles south on CR 39 to Old Welcome Road and turn left. Drive east for over a mile, the road turns right, then another mile or so. The designated parking area is at the dead end of Old Welcome Rd on the right. Note: This is a parking area used by people driving trucks towing horse trailers.

There are a number of trails to choose from as well as off-trail opportunities. A mix of oak hammock, open grassy meadow, and various streams surrounded by mesic hardwoods leads to the south branch of the Alafia River.

They've been doing some burning out there so we'll see what that brings. This is a sunny place and as usual we recommend - a wide brim hat, sunscreen, sunglasses, close-toed shoes, snack and especially water!



2015 Field Trip schedule

Feb 21 - TBD

March 26- 29 Suwannee River State Park - see below for more info on the cabin and park. We also have a couple tent sites if you are interested in sharing one. We should see lots of plants that aren't found in our area. Look for more details to come on potluck meals, hikes and more. Our camping trips are a lot of fun, come join us. (FNPS Members only please.)



SUWANNEE RIVER STATE PARK CAMPING WEEKEND, March 26 – 29th



Our spring camping trip of 2015 will be to Suwannee River State park, a three hour trip north. We have reserved a cabin for 6, complete with kitchen, bath and a large screened porch. Best of all, it has beds.... five nice comfy beds to sleep in.

Because of the distance, we plan to start our weekend on Thursday (or whenever you arrive) so we will have two full days of hiking, and depart for home on Sunday. The Florida National Scenic Trail runs through the park and five trails, ranging from a quarter mile to 18 miles, loop through surrounding woodlands and provide panoramic views of the rivers.

Vestiges of history in the park show how important the Suwannee River was to Florida history. Along the river are long mounds of earthworks built during the Civil War to guard against incursions by Union Navy gunboats. Other remnants from the past include one of the state's oldest cemeteries, and a paddle-wheel shaft from a 19th century steamboat.

If you are interested in joining us (you must be a FNPS member), please contact Devon Higginbotham at archiveproperties@gmail.com to reserve your bunk at \$66/per person for the weekend.



Words That Describe Inflorescences !

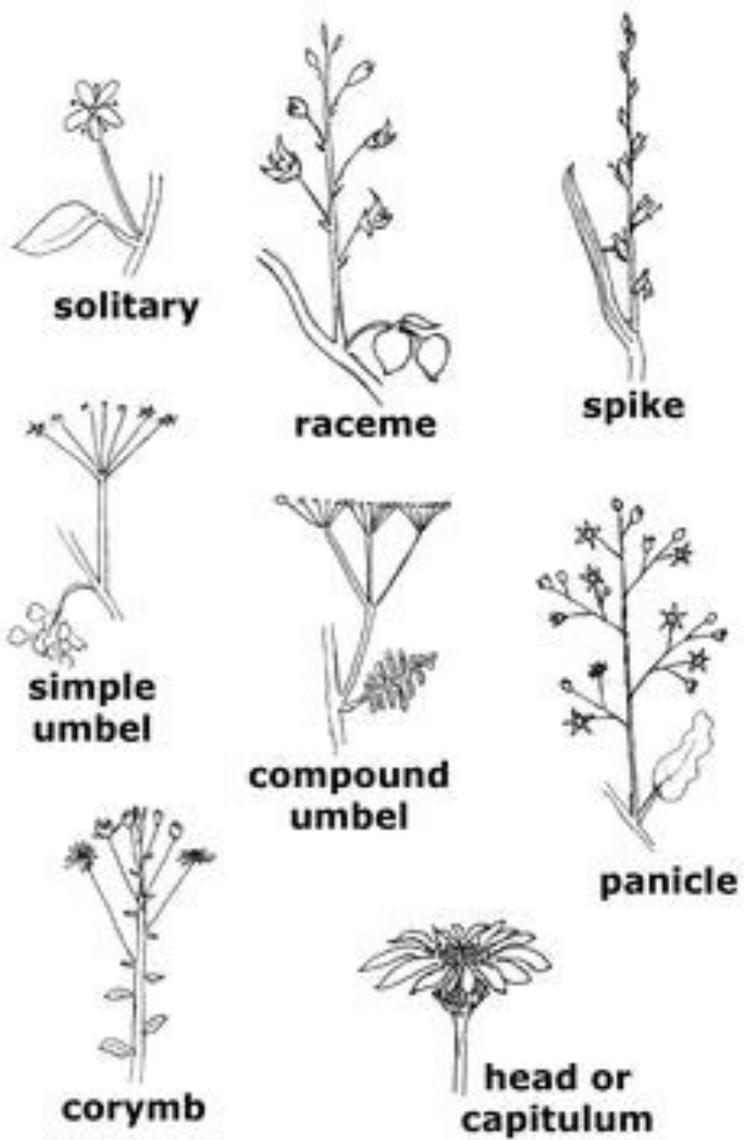
What attracts us to flowers are their colors, their forms, and the way their beauty is displayed in what is known as **inflorescences**, the arrangement of flowers on the stems.

The simplest way a flower displays is with a solitary flower __ single, never in a cluster, often terminating a plant stem. Rain lilies have solitary terminal flowers as do violets. But solitary flowers also can be axillary, arising from the leaf axils. The flower may have a long stalk called a pedicel and will be called **pedicillate**; the flowers lacking a pedicel will be called **sessile**. Scarlet rosemallows are solitary, pedicillate flowers located in the leaf axils, while many of the primrose willows have solitary, sessile flowers located in leaf axils.

Two inflorescences closely related to each other are **the spike and the raceme**. Both consist of an elongated and unbranched column of flowers along a flowering axis. Flowers of racemes are pedicillate and flowers of spikes are sessile or sub-sessile. If in doubt the term “spike-like” is handy. Ladies tresses orchids are spicate while cardinal-flower is racemose.



The pedicels of individual milkweed flowers arise from a common point thereby creating a flat-topped or convex inflorescence called an **umbel**. Interestingly, umbels mature from the outside in. **Umbellate** inflorescences are also common in many genera of the Carrot Family.



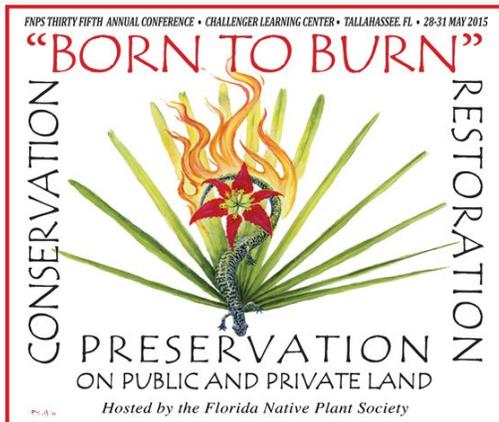
Panicles are branched inflorescences of pedicillate flowers. The flowers of gopher apple and poison ivy are paniculate. So are red buckeye, wild coffee, and alligator flag.



There are many other types of inflorescences: for instance the catkins of many of our common trees; the spadix of the aroids, the composite heads of the aster family and more. But for us amateurs it is usually enough to speak of terminal or axillary, solitary or clustered flowers and regular English for any other description. For more information our chapter library has plant identification terminology books to reference and the website: waynes-word.palomar.edu has a wealth of biological information.

-Submitted by Carmel vanHoek

2015 FNPS Conference



The Society is sponsoring the 2015 conference, “Born to Burn,” to be held May 28–31 in Tallahassee. The conference venue, chosen by the Magnolia Chapter in the Downtown Market area, is the Challenger Learning Center (CLC), with evening venues at the Capital Building, Wakulla Springs State Park and Tall Timbers Research Station. The hotel for the conference will be the Aloft, located a few blocks from the Downtown Market. Field trips and workshops are being scheduled for Thursday and Sunday mornings. Speakers and workshops will be available on Friday and Saturday. FNPS members of chapters in Northwest Florida will assist with the conference to promote the mission of FNPS. Hope to see you there!

Pinellas County Extension Plant ID classes

UF/IFAS Extension: Introduction to Plant Identification

Brooker Creek Preserve Environmental Education Center - Pinellas County Extension
Saturday, January 10, 2015 from 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM (EST)

OR-

Weedon Island Preserve Cultural and Natural History Center - Pinellas County Extension
Saturday, January 17, 2015 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM (EST)

Grass Identification

Brooker Creek Preserve Environmental Education Center - Pinellas County Extension
Saturday, January 17, 2015 from 1:30 PM to 3:00 PM (EST)

UF/IFAS Extension: Advanced Plant Identification - 6 part series

Weedon Island Preserve Cultural and Natural History Center - Pinellas County Extension
Saturday, February 14, 2015 at 10:00 AM - Saturday, April 25, 2015 at 12:00 PM

Places to see natives:

Wolf Branch Creek Nature Preserve

Submitted by Donna Bollenbach

Eustoma means open mouth, referring to the large throat of the flower.
Exaltatum is Latin for tall or lofty.



Seaside Gentian, *Eustoma exaltatum*

One of my favorite places to visit when I lived in south Hillsborough County was Wolf Branch Creek Nature Preserve. Wolf Branch Creek, located near the coast in Apollo Beach, is a mosaic of coastal wetlands, sea grass beds and cabbage palm hammocks. Every season presents a new array of flora and fauna. It was the place where I first saw the Seaside Prairie Gentian, *Eustoma exaltatum*, a beautiful lavender bell-shaped flower with soft fleshy leaves. Also called the Marsh Gentian, flowers first appear in June and bloom through August, but some references say it blooms December - August.



Seaside Gentian, *Eustoma exaltatum*,
June 2010



Coral Bean,
Erythrina herbacea,
March 2012



Goldenrod, *Solidago* spp., November 2010

Wolf Branch Preserve is located along the north side of 19th Avenue NW, between Villemarie Road and Simmons Park. There are three access points to the preserve for foot traffic during daylight hours. One gate is located on 19th Avenue, 3/4 of a mile west of Villemarie Road, and two gates are located on Villemarie Road, one on the west side before the bridge over Wolf Branch Creek, and the other on the north side, just after the 90 degree turn at Wolf Branch Creek.

Have you ever planted a young Live Oak or Hickory knowing you might never it see reach maturity?

In this age of instant gratification, too often we want results today, but in 1980 the founders of the Florida Native Plant Society had the foresight to start an organization that would out live them.

*"Too old to plant trees for my own gratification I shall do it for posterity."
said Thomas Jefferson, age 83.*

The Florida Native Plant Society was started by individuals that were looking into the future and planning for an organization that would grow and provide benefits to all Floridians for many years. We have been handed the benefits of their foresight, the full grown shade tree that was planted years ago, perhaps before we were around.

We in turn have the responsibility to nurture this organization for the generations that will come after us, keep it healthy and leave it stronger than when we found it. This is the time of year for our Annual Fund Drive which provides vital resources for outreach, conservation awards, education, land management and the continuation of our promotion of Florida native plants. Help us to grow! Please respond generously to the Annual fund Drive. Your donation will ensure future generations will enjoy a stronger, more vibrant FNPS. Do it for posterity!

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

Devon Higginbotham 478-1183

Newsletter Editor

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

Programs

Donna Bollenbach 679-5597

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

2015 Board of Directors

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jbowers27@yahoo.com

Vice-president

Donna Bollenbach
donna.bollenbach@gmail.com

Secretary

Bunny Worth
msworth@tampabay.rr.com

Treasurer

Gar Reed
gar0426@yahoo.com

Board Members at Large

Devon Higginbotham
archiveproperties@gmail.com
Troy Springer
troy@springerenvironmental.com

Newsletter Submissions

Deadline for the next issue:

February 2, 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: