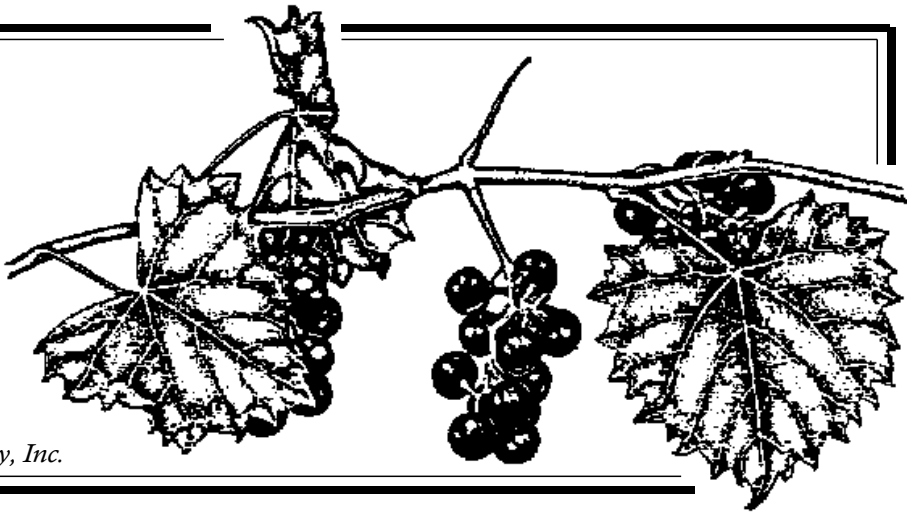


The Suncoast Grapevine

Newsletter of the Suncoast Native Plant Society, Inc.



Volume 32 Number 7

July 2015



Joint Meeting of Tampa Audubon, Tampa Bay Sierra and SNPS "Beneficial Bats: Their Role in Ecosystem Health"

Presented by Shari Blissett-Clark

Wednesday, July 15 2015, 7 PM speaker

At Nature's Classroom - 13100 Verges Road, Thonotosassa, FL

- ◆ The fun starts at **4 pm with a tour** of the Nature's Classroom grounds with Gail Parsons.
(Meet at the Teco Center for Environmental Studies)
- ◆ Social at 5:30 pm with a POTLUCK Dinner from 6-7
Beverages and utensils will be supplied by Tampa Audubon.
Please Bring a Covered Dish to Share
- ◆ Following dinner, Shari Blissett-Clark from Bat Belfrys will be speaking on "Beneficial Bats: Their Role in Ecosystem Health." There will be live bats!.

One of the most significant players in habitat health, bats darken the sky with their nightly emergence to hunt insects; no habitat was left untouched by these fast-flying mammals who consume their own weight in bugs each night. These masters of the night sky kept insect populations in balance and contributed to the overall health of Florida's landscapes. Shari was a speaker at the February SNPS meeting and we are looking forward to hearing more about bats.

Children are welcome to attend this meeting

This year's joint meeting is hosted by the Tampa Audubon Society.



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



VOICES FROM THE WILDERNESS

Our Suncoast Chapter maintains the Hillsborough County's Wilderness Park's native plant gardens at the Flatwoods, Morris Bridge and Trout Creek locations. Recently, the chapter donated metal plant markers. An oil paint "Sharpie" pen was used to label the markers. SNPS member, Mary Miller has labeled the plants at Flatwoods Park and I labeled the ones at Morris Bridge Park.

This project has had positive feedback from park customers as well as the park rangers since the rangers are often asked the names of plants.

Since this is a Suncoast Chapter effort, other members are welcome to help out too.

-submitted by Mike Fite

Update from Mary Miller

Carmel and Bunny stopped by Flatwoods Park to take pictures and to look at a bush that Mary wasn't sure about....

Mary wrote - "I'm glad you liked the way the garden is shaping up and I really enjoy working in it. I too, enjoy the interaction of the people when they start asking about the plants. What really excites me is the thanks I've gotten from some of the rangers who are now able to give the names of the plants to people when they are asked. So labeling the plants has had a very positive impact all the way around.

The bluebirds that you saw just began nesting again for the 3rd time this season. I just cleaned out the nest last Monday from the last fledglings, and by Wednesday they had already started building a new nest. So far this year in my 51 boxes we have had 91 fledglings and the nesting season will continue till mid-August. So it is shaping up to being a very good year."

Want to Help?

SNPS is very grateful for the hard work done by Mike and Mary at the Wilderness Parks. SNPS is noted on the signs at the Native Gardens and we want to make sure that they stay neat. Carmel also mentioned that park goers are enjoying the signs and learning about the plants.

If you'd like to help with these parks please email Mary or Mike to find out more-

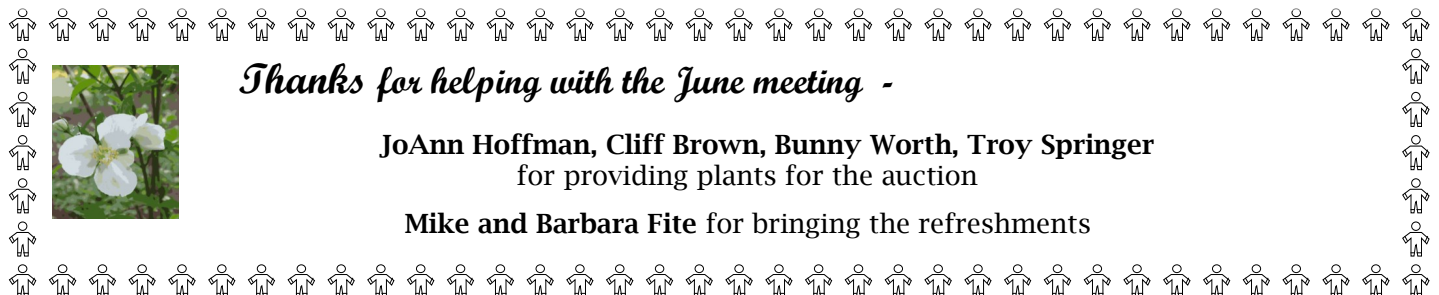
- ◆ limpkin1945@verizon.net
- ◆ fitemf@gmail.com

If you've adopted a park somewhere, please let us know so we can share the good news with everyone. (jbowers27@yahoo.com)

UPCOMING SPEAKERS-

August 19 – Dr. Kenneth Meyer, Exec Dir Avian Research and Conservation Institute (ARCI), will present results of ARCI work on Swallow-tailed Kites (and a related work on Great Horned Owls), plus an overview of ARCI research on water birds, such as the Reddish Egret, Magnificent Frigatebirds, Great White Herons and Roseate Terns.

Sept 16 – Corey Walk – Forester with Florida Forest Service, talking on Florida Champion Trees.



Thanks for helping with the June meeting -

JoAnn Hoffman, Cliff Brown, Bunny Worth, Troy Springer
for providing plants for the auction

Mike and Barbara Fite for bringing the refreshments

In the News....



The news has been circulating on Facebook and in the media that the chief of Florida's Department of Environmental Protection wants to degrade the state's award-winning park system by expanding logging and cattle grazing in order to generate money. This is mind boggling to me since I have been to several of the parks in recent years (since joining FNPS) and have come to appreciate what we have saved within the parks. Does 'The Real Florida' need to be subjected to industry and development like the rest of the state has been? Isn't there a value for a sanctuary, a wilderness, a place for wildlife, a place for hiking and "getting away from it all"? They are rare, priceless gems and will be irreplaceable in the future, I think that we all need to keep an eye on this plan to be sure that we come up with an answer that does not compromise the treasures that we have.



We have 171 parks- some historic, some recreational and all unique. From the historic lodge at Wakulla Springs to world class beaches in the panhandle and the Keys, to pieces of history like the homes at Torreya and Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings homestead, the parks make up a wonderland for anyone truly interested in learning about Florida. The reasonable prices for entrance and overnight stays make them accessible to almost everyone.

The park rangers that share the stories and knowledge at each park have left me very impressed and touched by the bonds and dedication that they have to the place. They take being stewards of these places very seriously and commit their lives to it. The miles of prairie at Kissimmee Prairie Preserve is breath taking in the fall, it rivals the National Parks in the west in my opinion. Highland Hammock also took my breath away earlier this year when I walked on the narrow wooden trail through the ancient cypress trees. I can't wait to see Cayo Costa on our spring camping trip! Years ago, I visited Caladesi Island, it was amazing. These parks belong to the people of Florida, they are our heritage and help us remember what Florida is supposed to look like. They enable the average person to have access to nature and history and will be our legacy to future generations.

Colt Creek State Park came into the park system May 31, 2006 as the 160th park. I have gotten in the habit of driving by it on the way north so that I can stop by and see what's blooming. In the spring, I saw some lovely iris on my way to Suwannee River SP for our campout.

Opened in 1938 and built by the CCC and WPA, Hillsborough River SP is in our area. It's one of the historic ones with a bridge, a fort and a log meeting room that we used for a joint meeting one year.



The parks are the Real Florida and it would be a shame to lose any more of it. Yes, I have been to many of them but I have a long list of parks yet to visit and I plan to see them all!

Respectfully, Janet Bowers

Thanks to our USF Summer Plant Sale Volunteers!

Donna Bollenbach headed up our effort at the June USF plant sale and as usual, she went above and beyond the call of duty. She organized people to man the booth, brought the supplies from storage and set up an inventory of what we had so we'd know what we sold and gave away for future planning. We sold about \$265 worth, almost all on Saturday, which included 2 memberships and books. Special mention to Troy for talking about Natives on Saturday and to Sue Dangelmaier for helping to close down on Saturday!

Thanks to :

Donna Bollenbach
Troy Springer
Linda and Lee Hewitt
Bunny Worth
Terri Nowik
Mike Fite

Christine Eyman
Sue Dangelmaier
Cliff Brown
JoAnn Hoffman
Janet Bowers
ReNae Nowicki



FNPS Has a New Logo

If you are reading this in the printed version, you may not be able to tell, but we have a new, improved Logo. Check out the new logo and website design on-line at FNPS.org.

Marjorie Shropshire came up with the new color scheme of the logo, and Shirley Denton, chair of the branding committee, has been coordinating the redesign of the FNPS website, stationary and collateral materials. Your opinions are welcome.

Random Thoughts about Plant Vocabulary.....

When I saw the picture on page 6 of the lupine seedlings, I had flashbacks to my Bok Tower volunteer days and hundreds of those flags and metal numbers marking *Chrysopsis floridana* plants. When I first started helping, I tried not to ask too many questions and would attempt to figure out words by listening to the context. 2 words confused me because the 'normal' use didn't seem quite right for the situation and they both seemed related to signing up for a cause.

Volunteer - this one I may have heard before but didn't quite get it until I heard more plant people talking about it. I think of a volunteer plant as a gift, usually it means a plant that you want which pops up from a seed planted by the wind or an animal/bird. I have several volunteer sugar berry trees in my yard, as well as the Simpson Stoppers that I dig up for the plant auction.

Recruitment - this is mostly used by biologists doing research about whether a plant will be able to sustain itself by successfully producing offspring. When the baby plants survive and add to the population that existed (or perhaps was restored) then there is good recruitment. For the *Chrysopsis*, we were counting the seedlings and marking them with new flags and numbers so that we could see if they survived to the next assessment.

-Janet Bowers

New Native Nursery in the Area



We had the Rainbow's End native nursery next to our booth at the USF plant sale. They are located in Wesley Chapel near I-75 and SR 54 and are open for retail sales by appointment.

They can be contacted at -

renativeplants@gmail.com or 813.563.7078

They have some 1 gallon plants for \$3, including - firebush, beauty berry, coral bean and wild coffees.

3 gallon shrubs priced at \$6 include - yellow anise, wax myrtle and Walter's viburnum (densa).

Coming Soon.... Ginny Stibolt's New Book

Ginny's new book will be coming out next month and SNPS will be getting copies to sell. Ginny is one of the FNPS bloggers and has written a couple of previous books. She spoke at the 2015 FNPS Conference about being careful what we promise about native landscaping. In this book, she shares some simple tips about how to keep it looking good. Natives can be low maintenance but living, man-made landscapes are not completely 'no maintenance'.



Mark Your Calendar

July 11 Nature Coast Chapter fieldtrip to Troy's yard, 10:00 - RSVP 813 967-4538

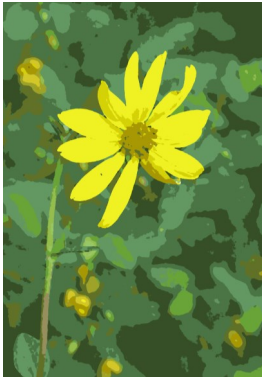
Sept 25-26 Florida Wildflower Foundation Symposium at Leu Gardens

Oct 2-4 Wings and Wildflowers Festival, Venetian Gardens in Leesburg, Florida.

Oct 3 2nd Annual Fall Plant Walk with Roger Hammer & Craig Huegel at Kissimmee Prairie Preserve

Oct 10-11 USF Fall Plant Sale

Oct 23-25 Kissimmee Prairie Camping - Devon has some sites reserved



July 18 - Buying Trip to Green Isles Native Nursery

Where: Address: 11303 Florida 33, Groveland, FL 34736
Phone: (407) 948-8980

When : 10:00 AM

Highway 33 is east of Lakeland, go north from I-4. Green Isles is a 8 acre native nursery specializing in uplands restoration plants and plants especially attractive to birds, butterflies, and other wildlife. They have a wide selection of healthy, native plants to chose from.

Marc and Terry Godts are the owners and were very welcoming in our previous visits. They received a Green Palmetto Award at the 2015 FNPS conference for their efforts to promote natives.

Don't forget to stop by the Red Wing restaurant for lunch before you drive home.

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

Camping Anyone?



SNPS has been hosting 2 camping trips a year since our first trip to **Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park** in the fall of 2013. We welcome all FNPS members and the trips have been a lot of fun.



We are returning to Kissimmee Prairie Preserve this Fall, October 23-25. They have been doing a lot of burning at KPP, so we expect the Fall Wildflowers (liatris, carphophorus, goldenrods, asters and more) to put on quite a show for us. There will be hikes and buggy rides into the prairie, and as always, great food (potluck), company and campfires in the evenings. While KPP does not have cabins, they have very nice campsites with modern bathrooms and showers nearby. We have already reserved several sites.

The cost is \$35.00 per site, which can accommodate up to 2 tents. Please contact Devon if you are interested in a camping site (archiveproperties@gmail.com).

Check out the November 2013 newsletter to read about our last trip-

<http://suncoastnps.org/data/uploads/newsletters/2013/2013-11.pdf>

For the more adventurous, join us for a unique opportunity to visit **Cayo Costa State Park** overnight. We have planned a trip for April 1 to 3, 2016. The park is accessible only by boat so we will take the ferry over and stay in a primitive cabin for 2 nights. There is no electricity so it will be a treat to be there and I'm sure there will be good stories to tell afterwards. We expect to have 2-3 people per cabin and Devon has reserved the cabins. If you are interested please let her know, the cost is \$30 per person. The ferry will be an additional cost (about \$42 a person from the info on the website.)



2015 Field Trip schedule

August 22 - Kayak trip (FNPS members only please)



Sept 19 - Depends on what area is blooming, maybe pine lilies

Oct 23-25 - Kissimmee Prairie campout (no cabins at this park, FNPS members only)

Nov 15 - Rhodine Scrub Preserve



Places to see natives:

Lake Blue Scrub

Submitted by Donna Bollenbach



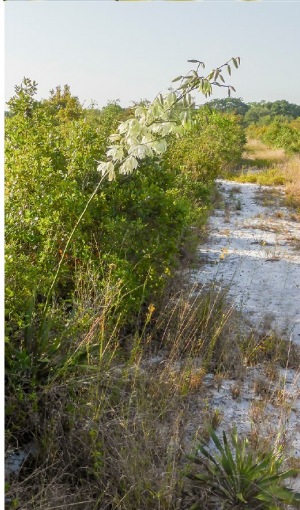
Our June Speaker, Tom Palmer, spoke of Lake Blue Scrub, a small little known preserve near his home. Surrounded by residential and industrial development, this 78-acre tract seems an unlikely place to see endangered plants and animals, but a recent visit I made there proved differently.



Lupinus aridorum seedlings

Lake Blue Scrub is part of the Lakes Wales Ridge National Wildlife Refuge, which is managed by the Florida Fish & Wildlife Commission (FWC). While relatively small in size, it houses a number of rare or endangered plants and animals, including *Lupinus aridorum*, or Scrub Lupine, which was introduced to the site in 2009. The experimental introduction was a partnership of the FWC and Bok Tower Gardens Rare Plant Conservation Program.

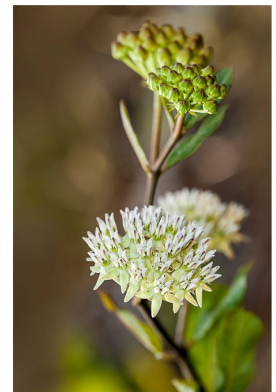
A short walk on the Lake Blue Scrub trail revealed a sea of yellow flags, each representing a scrub lupine seedling. The seeds were planted under the direction of Juliet Rynear, rare plant specialist at Bok Towers. They are evidence that the recovery plan is underway, but by no means certain. Establishing a sustainable population of scrub lupine may take years, according to Rynear.



Yucca filamentosa

Other threatened or endangered plant species found at Lake Blue Scrub include *Asclepias curtissii*, Curtiss' Mikweed, *Bonamia grandiflora*, Florida Bonamia, *Clitoria fragrans*, Sweetscented Pigeonwings, *Lechea cernua*, Scrub Pinweed, *Liatris ohlingerae*, Scrub Blazing-star, *Paronychia chartacea*, Papery Whitlow-wort, *Polygonella basiramia*, Florida Jointweed, *Polygonella myriophylla*, Sandlace, and *Nolina brittonia*, Britton's Bear-grass.

In addition to rare plants, a new species of beetle, the Auburndale Scrub Scarab, was discovered in Lake Blue Scrub in 2007. I imagine there is more yet to be discovered, as my short visit there in May revealed so much biodiversity. Yet more proof that good things can come in small packages, or on small parcels, as the case may be.



Asclepias curtissii



Bonamia grandiflora

Lake Blue Scrub is located on the NW corner of Hobbs Road and Holton Road in Auburndale, FL. From Lakeland, you would take U.S. 92 to Auburndale to Havendale Boulevard. Turn right at 42nd St. NW Take 42nd St to Avenue Q NW. Turn right on Hobbs Road to Holton Road. Entrance is on left (FWC sign)



Firebush

Emerson Point Fieldtrip

Our June 20th fieldtrip to Emerson Point Preserve in Manatee County was a bit different for us, but different is good. It was hot, no surprise on a June Day in Florida, but fortunately the trails were somewhat shaded.

Emerson Point Preserve is located at the tip of Sned Island in western Palmetto, where the mouth of the Manatee River meets the Lower Tampa Bay. The trail between the inland and the bay revealed beautiful views of the inter-

coastal mangroves and the Sunshine Skyway Bridge. We saw sea grapes heavy with fruit, the red peeling bark of the gumbo limbo tree and lots of strangler figs.

While an effort has been made to rid the park of invasives, in addition to native wildflowers and trees, there were many tropical exotics. In addition to the plants, there were historical artifacts and a shell mound.

Overall, the group found the preserve very interesting, but the heat prevented us from exploring all the trails.



White peacock butterfly on frog fruit plant



Cooling off after the hike...nobody wanted to move to get a group shot, **so can you tell which 3 people were added to the image via Photoshop?**

-submitted by Donna Bollenbach

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 ☐ Business or non-profit \$150
☐ Full time student \$15 ☐ Supporting \$100
☐ Family or household \$50 ☐ Gold \$500
☐ Patron \$250 ☐ Sustaining - \$10 a month w/credit card
☐ Visa ☐ MC Expiration
 Card # Code

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

Webmaster

Donna Bollenbach 679-5597

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Troy Springer
troy@springerenvironmental.com

Newsletter Submissions

Deadline for the next issue:

August 1, 2015

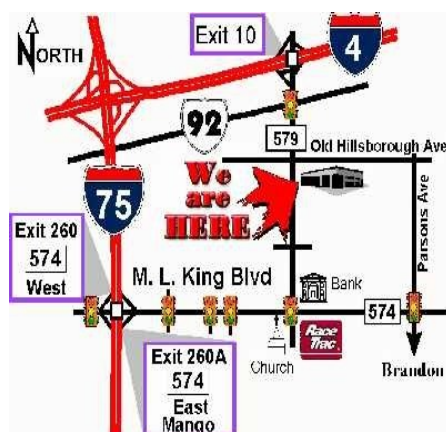
Please send articles and original artwork for The Suncoast Grapevine to **Janet Bowers**, by the deadline above- jbowers27@yahoo.com

SNPS Web Address

<http://www.SuncoastNPS.org>

We're on Meet Up & Facebook

Regular meetings are in Seffner



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



Please deliver to:

**July Meeting is at
Nature's Classroom ~**

**13100 Verges Road,
Thonotosassa, FL**

**Take I-75 North to Fletcher
(exit 266 from I-75 N)**

**Go East on Fletcher/Morris
Bridge about 1.5 miles, Verges is
a dirt road on the left.**