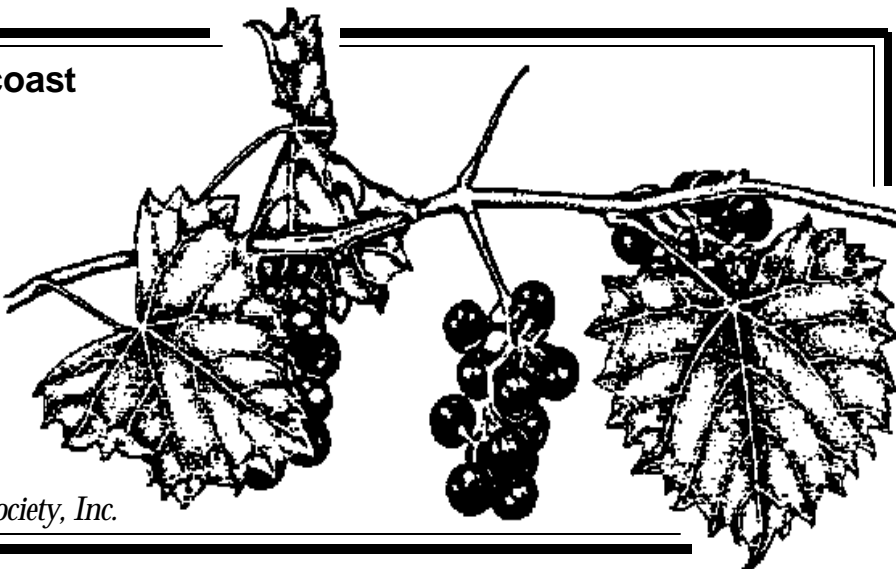


The Suncoast Grapevine

Newsletter of the Suncoast Native Plant Society, Inc.



Volume 20 Number 9

September 2003

September 17 Meeting (at the Learning Gate Charter School)

MAKING WET SPOTS LOOK GOOD

By Craig Watson

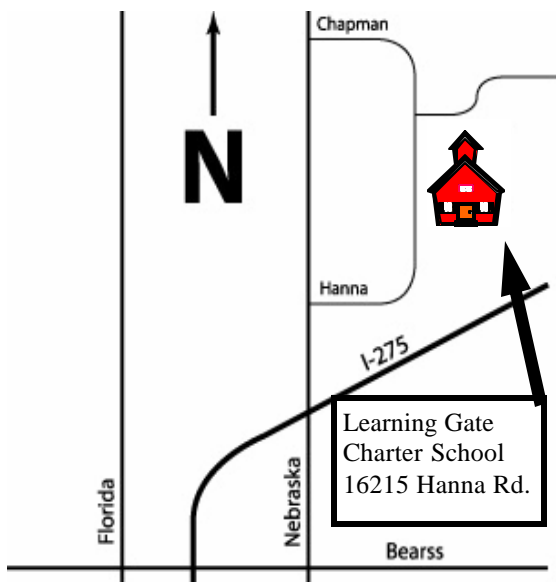
To attract wildlife to our backyards, we need to provide three essentials: food, cover, and water. The plants we choose can supply the first two essentials. The third can be as simple as a strategically placed birdbath, or it can be as complicated as a backyard pond. Craig Watson's program will give us some ideas as to how, why, and where to build and aquascape a pond, as well as some first-hand accounts of what not to do. Craig is well-known not only for his expertise in aquaculture, but also for the humor he brings to his presentations, so come prepared to laugh as well as learn. He claims that he was touted as an "expert" in ponds and native aquatic plants when word got out that he had built a small garden pond on his property in Valrico.

Craig has been a member of the Florida Native Plant Society since 1989, and was a past vice president of our own Suncoast chapter. Currently, he is the director of the University of Florida's Tropical Aquaculture Laboratory in Ruskin, which conducts research and extension education programs for the state's ornamental aquaculture industry. He has been with the University of Florida since 1988.

-- Contributed by Harriett Wright

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Message from the President

The October newsletter will include a special 20-year anniversary insert and an invitation to all members to attend the event. Please RSVP by returning the invitation, so we will know how much food and refreshments to provide. The insert will also contain the winning, 20th anniversary t-shirt design and a form for purchasing a t-shirt.

As my second term as chapter president draws to a close, I wish to thank all of the members for the privilege of leading this great chapter. We have educated people about the importance of conserving and preserving native plants and native plant communities through outreach, workshops, field trips, plant sales, printed material, grants, and monthly programs. You are all to be congratulated for your hard work, participation, and support. Without our great members, none of these activities would be possible.

George Kish



Suncoast Program for 2003

By Harriett Wright

- Sep 17** Making Wet Spots Look Good by Craig Watson
- Oct 15** Does Compost Just Happen? by Ardell O'Neal
- Nov 19** Election Meeting and 20-Year Anniversary Celebration

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 FNPS also entitles you to membership privileges in the Suncoast Native Plant Society, Inc. and a subscription to their monthly newsletter *The Suncoast Grapevine*. Contact the membership chair, George Kish at (813) 920-0853.

Detach and mail to: Suncoast Native Plant Society, P.O. Box 82893, Tampa, FL 33682-2893

Name _____

Business name
or organization _____

Address _____

City, State and Zip _____

Home telephone _____ Work telephone _____

E-mail and/or FAX _____

New Member

Renewal

Check pertinent category:

Individual \$25

Not-for-profit
organization \$50

Full time student \$15

Library subscription \$15

Business or
corporate \$100

Family or household \$30

Contributing \$40

Supporting \$100

Donor \$250

Make check payable to **FNPS**.

Suncoast Calendar

REGULAR MEETINGS OF SUNCOAST NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY at the Learning Gate Charter School, 16215 Hanna Road, in Lutz. 7 PM
SEP 17 OCT 15 NOV 19

SNPS 2003 FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE Field trips begin at 9:00 am. Contact Steve Dickman, 813-936-7268 for more information. Trails are rated moderate unless noted. Dates subject to change.

Oct 18 Field trip to Mulholland "Botanical Garden" time to be arranged.

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS at the FNPS Pinellas Chapter: (Moccasin Lake Nature Park, 2750 Park Trail, Clearwater; 727-544-7341); Weds; 7:30 pm
Oct 1 Craig Huegel on Pinellas County's Preserves
Oct 9-12 Plant Sale during the Florida Birding and Nature Festival at Eckerd College, St. Petersburg

HILLS CO. MASTER GARDNER PROGRAMS. Call 813-744-5519 x144 for information about locations or visit the website: hillsborough.extension.ufl.edu/calendar.htm. Upcoming clinics at the extension office:

Sep 13 Compost Happens: 8:00 - 9:00 am.
Rain Barrel Workshop: 9:00 - 10:00 am
Water Wise Workshop: 10 - 11:30 am
Sep 16 Spices & Herbs: 7:00 pm
Sep 17 Ferns: 10:00 am
Sep 18 Antique Roses: 10:00 am
Sep 24 Waterwise Workshop: 7:00 pm
Oct 2 Secrets and Shortcuts of Master Gardeners: 10 am
Oct 4 Compost Happens: 8:00 am
Oct 7 Creating a Florida Yard: 7:00 pm
Oct 7 Creating a Certified Backyard: 7:00 pm
Oct 9 Wildflowers: 10:00 am
Oct 13 High Color, Low Maintenance: 7:30 pm
Oct 14 Bulbs: 7:00 pm
Oct 15 Antique Roses: 10 am

CHINSEGUT NATURE CENTER Limited seating so register On-line at floridaconservation.org/join-us/chinsegut/registration.htm. 352-754-6722

Sep 16 Fall Wildflower Walk: 9:00 am
Sep 27 Butterfly Workshop: 10:00 am
Oct 7 Butterfly Walk: 9:00 am

SIERRA CLUB
Sep 19-20 Camping/Canoe trip to Peace River Ecofest

TAMPA AUDUBON FIELD TRIPS
Oct 9-12 Florida Birding Festival and Nature Expo At Eckerd College, St. Petersburg.

SELBY GARDENS
Sep 20-26 Public Invited Free

LOWRY PARK ZOO
Sep 14 \$2.00 Community Day: 9:30-5:00
Sep 24 Benefit Music Program in Old Hyde Park 813-251-3500

USF BOTANICAL GARDENS WORKSHOPS
10:00 AM-11:15 AM ; USFBG members \$3.00 - non-members \$5.00 unless otherwise noted. Call 974-2329.
Sep 12-13 Gesneriad Gathering: 9:00 am-4:00 pm
Oct 11-12 Fall Plant Festival
Oct 18 - Nov 15 Art in the Garden with botanical Illustrator Lynda Chandler: Five week course covering the basics
Nov 7-9 Members plant distribution and 25% off sale
Nov 22 Propagation of citrus trees by grafting with the Rare Fruit Council.

BOK SANCTUARY
Now through Sep 30 Plein Air Painters of Central Florida is a group of artists who paint landscapes much like the artist colonies of the past, "en plein air," which means in the open air. The painting styles of the ten artists represented range from realism to expressionism with mediums of oil, watercolor and acrylics. Pieces painted at Historic Bok Sanctuary depicting the beauty and uniqueness of the National Historic Landmark founded in 1929 also are exhibited. Through their art, the Plein Air Painters of Central Florida record a rapidly vanishing time and place as Central Florida is increasingly developed. Although the artists paint at the same sites together, their portrayal of those sites in their work is vastly different. The sensory experiences of painting on-site and watching the light change as it moves across the land is a constant source of inspiration and challenge for the painters.

Submitted by: Shirley Brown
(Please email me at srbrown11@msn.com if you know of any activity that would interest our group.)

SNPS Anniversary Celebration

At our November meeting, we will be celebrating our chapter's 20th anniversary and we will be honoring the founding members and past members of the Board of Directors. Along with the celebration and the annual election, the program will consist of presentations by SNPS grant recipients who have transformed ordinary landscapes into native plant showcases. There will be lots of planning to do before November and we really need your help. Please contact Ameen Bailey at aturtle2c@aol.com or 863-206-3439 or add your name to the sign-up sheet that will be circulated during the September meeting.

Plant Raffle Guidelines

By Harriett Wright

When you bring plants to the plant raffle, please sign the raffle sheet and record the number of plants you donated. Before the start of the raffle, we will offer first choice of a plant on the raffle table to our speaker, followed by plant donors in the order of the number of plants donated. After these selections have been made, we will begin the raffle.

Thank you to Fred Mulholland (26 plants), Harriett Wright (10 plants), and Shirley Brown (numerous red hibiscus seeds).

Ethnobotany Publication

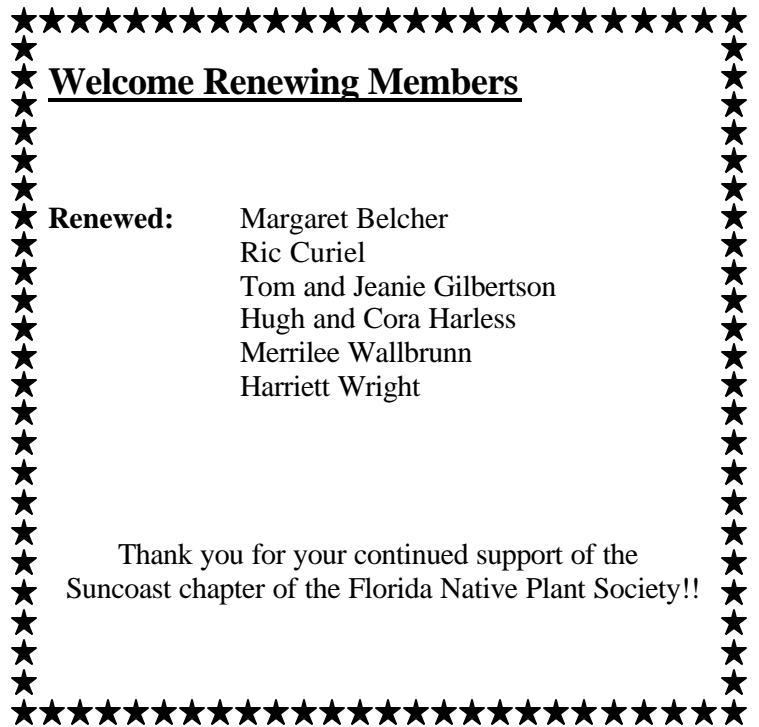
By JoAnn Hoffman

The new list of University of Florida, IFAS online publications includes: 50 Common Native Plants Important In Florida's Ethnobotanical History. The report is available for downloading at the following web address:

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/UW152>

Growing Native E-mail Group

Growing Native is an e-mail list devoted to the discussion of Florida native plants and their cultivation, propagation, and conservation. It is moderated by Rufino Osorio, author of "A Gardener's Guide to Florida's Native Plants." You can join the Growing Native email list by sending an email to: growingnative-subscribe@yahoo.com.



Welcome Renewing Members

Renewed: Margaret Belcher
Ric Curiel
Tom and Jeanie Gilbertson
Hugh and Cora Harless
Merrilee Wallbrunn
Harriett Wright

Thank you for your continued support of the Suncoast chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society!!

USF Botanical Gardens Fall Plant Festival

By Sally Sun

The USF Botanical Gardens Fall Plant Sale takes place October 11 and 12. A sign-up sheet will be passed around at the September monthly chapter meeting. If you are unable to make the meeting and wish to help, please call Sally Sun at 935-1312. We need volunteers for set-up Friday morning, October 10; and to work the sale Saturday, October 11, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Sunday, October 12, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. We hope to have enough volunteers so that no one has to work more than once. We appreciate your participation!

Native Plant Landscaping Workshop

By Betty Wargo

On Saturday, October 25, 2003, Joel Jackson, Suncoast Chapter member and past Chapter Vice President will present a workshop on landscaping with native plants at the Learning Gate Charter School from 9 am until noon. If you would like to attend this workshop, please RSVP Betty Wargo by e-mail at betty@learninggate.org. Please note that attendance is limited to 25.

PLANT PROFILE

Common name: Standing Cypress; Spanish Larkspur; syn. *Gilia rubra* (L.) A. Heller, Skyrocket.

Botanical name: *Ipomopsis rubra* (Linnaeus) Wherry

Family: Polemoniaceae (Phlox Family)

Plant habit: A biennial herb – some forms are annuals

Size: 2-5 ft. tall

Leaves: Alternate, sessile, crowded on the stem, and having finely-cut segments.

Inflorescence: A terminal panicle

Flowers: Showy, scarlet to red-orange, 1" or more long, 5-parted, funnel-shaped, with 5 stamens.

Fruit: A capsule

Flowering time: Summer (Annual forms bloom in spring)

Habitat: Sandhills, dunes, coastal strand, dry pinelands and ruderal sites

Distribution: In Florida, central and northern peninsula, west to E. panhandle, Escambia Co., W to Texas and N to North Carolina

Light: Full sun

Soil: Sandy and well-drained

Water: Only until established

Propagation: By seed

Maintenance: Remove spent plants.

Availability: Several native plant nurseries

Wildlife value: Butterfly nectar plant.

Comments: Miles of scattered stands of *Ipomopsis rubra* can be seen at Canaveral National Seashore along the road behind the dunes.



References:

Baker, Mary Francis, 1938, Florida Wild Flowers: The Macmillan Company, New York, N.Y., p.183.

Osorio, Rufino, 2001, A Gardener's Guide to Florida's Native Plants: The University Press of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, p. 66.

Taylor, Walter Kingsley, 1992, The Guide to Florida Wildflowers: Taylor Publishing Co., Dallas, Texas, p.246.

Wunderlin, R.P. and Hansen, B.F., 2002, Atlas of Florida Vascular Plants (<http://plantatlas.usf.edu/>) [S.M. Landry and K.N. Campbell(application development), Florida Center for Community Design and Research] Institute for Systematic Botany, University of South Florida, Tampa.

Wunderlin, R.P., 1998, Guide To the Vascular Plants of Florida: University Press of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, p.513.

Information compiled by Carmel vanHoek

Photograph by Fred Nation



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.

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Sally Sun 935-1312

USF Plant Sale

Sally Sun 935-1312

Conference

Ameé Bailey 662-5954

Newsletter Submissions

Deadline for the next issue:

September 25

Please send articles and original artwork for The Suncoast Grapevine to the editor, George Kish, by the **deadline** of each month (earlier, please, if not typed). Text should be in MS Word; graphics should be in a standard graphic format. Previously published artwork should be accompanied by a letter of permission from the original publisher.

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P.O. Box 82893

Tampa, FL 33682-2893

Email:...gkish@tampabay.rr.com

SNPS Address

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Tampa, FL 33682-2893



Meeting Location

Suncoast Native Plant Society, Inc. meets the third Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the **Learning Gate Charter School, 16215 Hanna Road, Lutz.**

SNPS Web Address

www.fnps.org/chapters/suncoast

Grapevine Subscription

You may subscribe to the Suncoast Grapevine (not including membership in the SNPS or the FNPS) for \$10 per year. Contact George Kish at 920-0853.

Stamp

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