

www.suncoastnps.org

The Suncoast Grapevine

Newsletter of the Suncoast Native Plant Society, Inc.



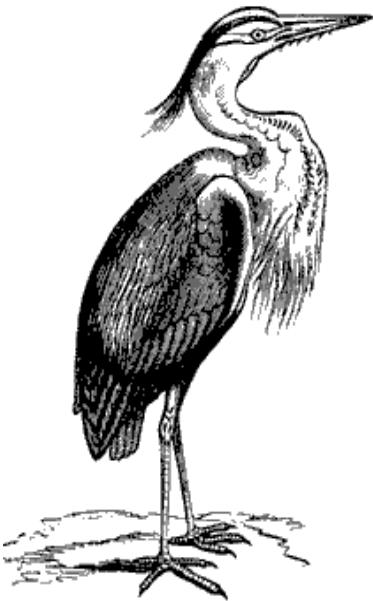
Volume 27 Number 9

SEPTEMBER 2010

Hérons & Egrets of Florida

Presented by Ann Paul

**Wednesday, September 15th @ 7pm
Hillsborough County Extension Service**



Ann Paul is a Suncoast NPS member and expert on birds. She has a long history of working with Florida Audubon and coastal birds in the Tampa Bay area, and her contributions to bird conservation in the area are immense. She will be speaking on the herons and egrets of Florida.

Please join us for a fun evening of native plant fellowship, and don't forget to join in the native plant raffle!

- Submitted by Shirley Denton



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

Florida Goldenaster (*Chrysopsis floridana*) Planting

On 8.27.10, volunteers planted 723 potted Florida goldenaster plants at the Weedon Island Nature Preserve and Cultural Center in Pinellas County. Historically, the Florida goldenaster grew in Pinellas County and on its beach dunes. Today, *Chrysopsis floridana* is a State and US endangered plant.

The plants were started from seed at the Bok Tower plant nursery and given a unique metal tag number so that data could be entered for each individual aster seed. This tag and color specific flag(s) on wires were also installed next to each plant. Two rented U-Hall vans were used to transport the asters and garden tools from Bok. The plants were in quart and gallon size black plastic pots.



The asters were planted in two areas of different habitats. The first location was a recently cleared sun drenched open saw palmetto 'field'. The second location was of low organic soil and sparse native vegetation that provided minimal relief from the sun.

At one location, red and white flags were used and at the other location there were only white flags. These color combinations and metal tag numbers are required for accurate future data inventories.

If necessary, a water truck can be used to augment the seasonal rains.

The Friends of Weedon Island (FOWI) furnished drinking water for thirsty volunteers. The US Fish and Wildlife Service provided a grant for this project : <http://www.fws.gov/northflorida/Species-Accounts/Fla-Golden-Aster-2005.htm>

- Submission and photos by Mike Fite

Open House @ Troy Springer's!
Saturday, October 2nd, 10am—2pm
13831 US Hwy 92 East, Dover, FL 33527
813-967-4538 for more information

Come see what's blooming in Troy Springer's beautiful yard!
Please feel free to bring a dish for a potluck-style meal.



September Field Trip to Brooker Creek Headwater Preserve

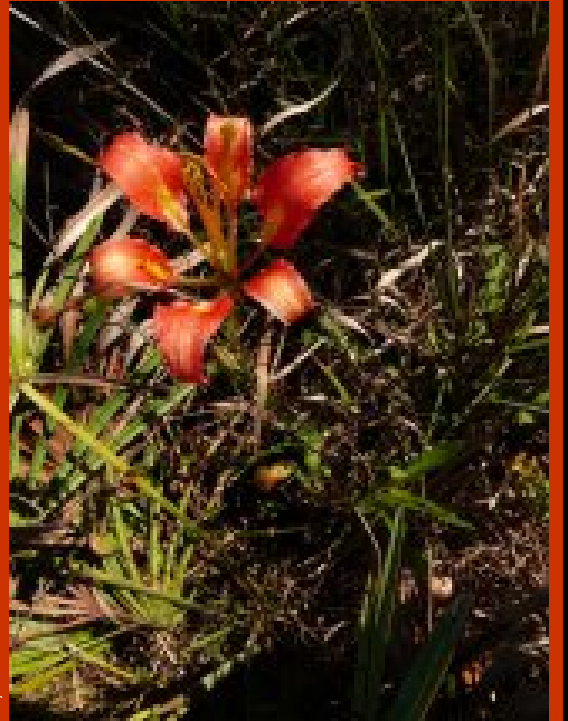
Saturday, September 18th @ 9am
Meeting place: 18102 Ramblewood Road
Lutz, FL 33558

This 1,111 acre property includes a mosaic of forested swamps, floodplains and low-lying uplands. The uplands include pine flatwoods, xeric oak hammocks, and mixed hardwood and pine prairies.

This a joint SWFWMD & ELAPP property. Unique natives we'll be looking for are the hooded pitcher plant and Catesby's (pinewood) lily and all of the regular fall wildflowers. No restrooms. Bring water, bug spray, snacks and lunch.

Please preregister with Gail Parsons by emailing gailpar1@verizon.net or calling 813-920-2730.

- Submitted by Gail Parsons



Herbal Spice Delight Faire—Sunday, September 19th

Location: Willow Herbal Delight Gardens, last house on Ray Road, off of South Miller Road. Ray Road is one third of a mile south of the Miller Road & Lumsden Road intersection. The Valrico Church of Christ is on the corner of Miller and Ray. For further directions, please call BEFORE September 19th.

Phone Number: 813-643-7285

FREE event! A nice selection of organic herbs, spice and edible plants as well as fresh and dried herbs, herbal honeys, vinegars, teas and tinctures will be available for sale. There will be a Flower Fairy Tea Party for kids of all ages! And a natural food court, plus gardening supplies!

Linda Taylor from It's Our Nature will have organic cotton and hemp clothing and garden hats, and her books Great Women Exploring Nature: How Wild Florida Influenced Their Lives, as well as a new anthology titled Unspoiled Writers Speak for Florida's Coast.

Speakers:

- ☪ **Monica Moran Brandies**, author of books on Florida gardening and garden columnist for the *Brandon News*, will be speaking on "Autumn Herb Growing"
- ☪ **Bob Linde**, Acupuncturist/Herbalist, will present "Tropical Medicinal Herbs"
- ☪ **Herb Colvin**, owner, fair trade organic coffee and tea company Bay Coffee, will present "Why Fair Trade Organic Coffee?"
- ☪ **Willow LaMonte**, owner of Willow Herbal Delight Gardens, will be giving a garden tour on emergency first aid plants, which includes Florida native plants.



Calendar of Events

Occasionally compiled by Shawna Everidge, please send submissions to severidge@plantcitygov.com

Upcoming Suncoast Native Plant Society Meetings...

- c October—John Miller.
Florida Geology as it Relates to Native Plants.
- c November—Shawna Everidge.
Exotic Pets.
- c December—*No meeting.*
- Submitted by Shirley Denton

Youth is like spring, an over praised season more remarkable for biting winds than genial breezes. Autumn is the mellower season, and what we lose in flowers we more than gain in fruits. ~Samuel Butler



Fall Plant Sale USF Botanical Gardens October 9 & 10

We need volunteers, especially on Saturday morning, to help all our customers!

The USF Spring and Fall plant sales are our major Chapter fundraisers and help us support our many local activities. All volunteers are welcome!

Contact Troy Springer at the SNPS meeting on Wednesday, September 15th or send an email to troy@springerenvironmental.com.

Thank you to Nina Singh & Vivian Kilgore for providing the August refreshments, and thank you to our plant donors: Mary Miller, Harriett Wright, Janet Bowers, Troy Springer, Bob Upcavage, and James Wheeler!

PLANT PROFILE

Common name: Silkgrass, goldenaster

Botanical name: *Pityopsis graminifolia* (Michaux) Nuttall

Family: Asteraceae or Compositae (Daisy)

Type of plant: Clump-forming, grass-like herbaceous perennial with silvery leaves and stems.

Size: Extremely variable, from 6 to 36 inches tall and as wide as they are tall or wider.

Leaves: Alternate, silky-silvery, linear to lanceolate, with silvery-grayish hairs, margins entire. Lower leaves longer and wider than upper leaves.

Flower: Heads of yellow ray and disk florets.

Flowering time: September to October.

Habitat/distribution: Dry pinelands and sandhills, zones 8-11.

Landscape use: Mass planting in wildflower or butterfly garden.

Wildlife benefit: Nectar source for butterflies.

Cultivation:

Soil: Average

Light: Light shade to full sun.

Water: Dry to moist. Drought-tolerant once established.

Propagation: By seed, by division.

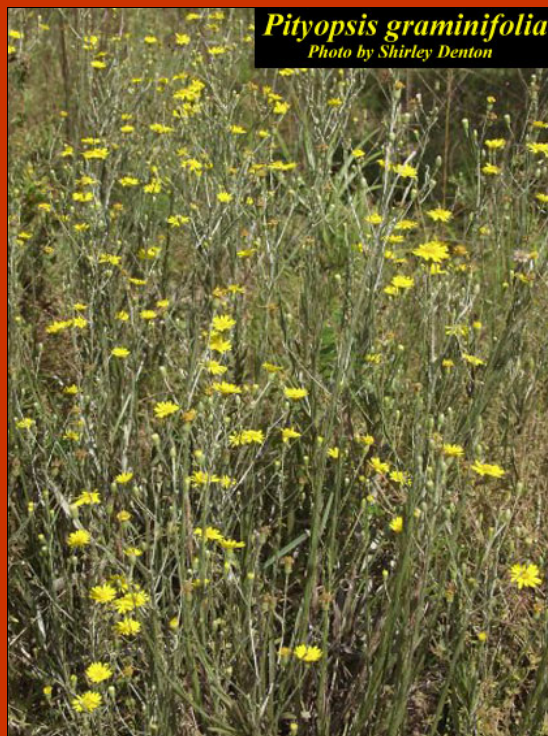
Availability: Most native plant nurseries.

References:

Bowman, Sheryl, Debbie Butts, Betsy Davis, John Marsh, Ann Nord, and Carl Strohmenger, 1997, *The Right Plants for Dry Places – Native Plant Landscaping in Central Florida*. Great Outdoors Publishing Co., St. Petersburg, Florida, 112 p.
Osorio, Rufino, 2001, *A Gardener's Guide to Florida's Native Plants*, University Press of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, 345 p.
Taylor, Walter Kingsley, 1992, *The Guide to Florida Wildflowers*, Taylor Publishing Company, Dallas, Texas, 320 p.

Information compiled by George Kish

Photo by Shirley Denton



Pityopsis graminifolia
Photo by Shirley Denton

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.

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 | |

New Member Renewal

Name _____

Business name or organization _____

Address _____

City, State and Zip _____

Home phone _____ Email _____

Make check payable to **FNPS**.

Detach and mail to:

FNPS

P.O. Box 278

Melbourne, FL 32902-0278

Activities & Committee Chairs

Field Trips

Gail Parsons

Publications

Dick Wunderlin 977-6484

George Kish 920-0853

Librarian

Vikki Sinclair 989-2896

Membership

Shirley Denton 986-6485

Newsletter Editor

Shawna Everidge 659-4298

Mike Fite, Assistant 977-0892

Programs and Publicity

Shirley Denton

Outreach

Fred Mulholland

USF Plant Sale

Troy Springer 967-4538

USF Botanical Garden Liaison

Kim Hutton 974-2329

Chapter Representative

Troy Springer

Webmaster

Shirley Denton 986-6485

Conservation

Ron Chicone

Daphne Lambright

Bob Upcavage

Newsletter Submissions

Deadline for the next issue:

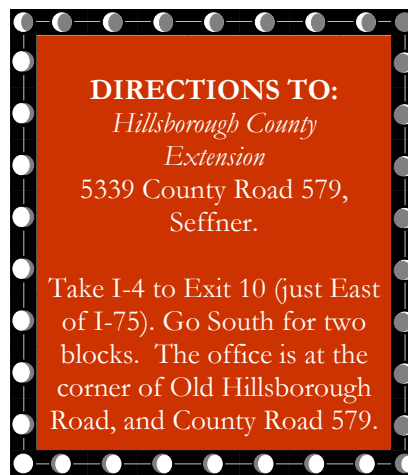
OCT 1

Please send articles and original artwork for The Suncoast Grapevine to **Shawna Everidge**, by the **deadline** of this month. 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...

severidge@plantcitygov.com



Meeting Locations

Suncoast Native Plant Society, Inc. meets the third Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the **Hillsborough Extension office in Seffner.**

SNPS Web Address:

<http://www.SuncoastNPS.org>



Officers & Board of Directors

President

Troy Springer

Vice-president

Shirley Denton

Secretary

Ron Chicone

Treasurer

Daphne Lambright

Board Members

Gail Parsons

Fred Mulholland

The SNPS BOD meets regularly at a variety of locations. If you are interested in attending a BOD meeting, please check the location at a monthly membership meeting or call Troy Springer at 813-967-4538.

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

Please deliver to: