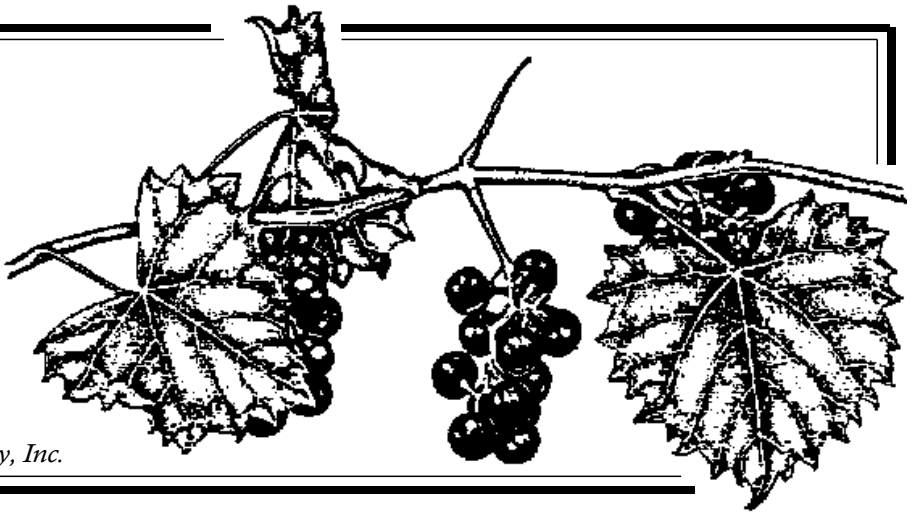


The Suncoast Grapevine

Newsletter of the Suncoast Native Plant Society, Inc.



Volume 31 Number 7

July 2014



Rare and Endangered Wildflowers of Florida

Presented by Roger Hammer, award-winning author, botanist and photographer
Wednesday, July 16, 2014
Nature's Classroom, 3100 Verges Rd, Thonotosassa, FL 33592

As Florida's population grows, the habitat for native plant species shrinks. Wildflower species that depend on a certain environment to exist are being reduced by residential and commercial development and the proliferation of invasive plant species. From the Panhandle to the Lake Wales Ridge to the Everglades, at least 421 plants in Florida are listed as endangered and 113 additional species are listed as threatened. What are they and why should we save them?

Renowned Florida naturalist, Roger Hammer, will bring you on a photographic and informational journey to discover the rare and endangered wildflowers of Florida, including some special orchids. A retired senior naturalist for the Miami-Dade Parks Department, and author of several popular guides to the wildflowers of southern Florida, Roger Hammer is well versed in endangered plants, and is a highly sought after speaker. His entertaining and informative programs are enriched with his beautiful photography. Don't miss this opportunity to attend this joint program and hear Roger speak about the rare and endangered plant species of Florida.

Roger Hammer is a well known author and photographer, with several excellent guides to Wildflowers of the Everglades and the Keys, with two new books to be released this year: *Everglades Wildflowers, 2nd Edition* and *Hummingbird & Butterfly Gardening in Tropical Florida*. He holds an Honorary Doctor of Science from Florida International University (2012), and has received numerous awards for his work as a naturalist from the Florida Native Plant Society, Audubon Society and the North American Butterfly Association. He is a sought after speaker and a keynote speaker at many state conferences. A retired senior naturalist for the Miami-Dade parks department, Roger is also a board member of the Tropical Audubon Society and a part-time instructor at the Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden.

Come Early and bring food to share! - this Joint meeting with Audubon and Sierra includes- a Tour from 4-6, a Potluck Supper at 6, Roger Hammer at 7, followed by a silent auction of native plants.

- 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



November 7 – 9th Camping at Mike Roess Gold Head State Park,

Located in Keystone Heights, FL, midway between Gainesville and Jacksonville, the Mike Roess Gold Head Branch State Park (whew!), is one of the earliest state parks in Florida, with 2,000 acres of rolling sandhills, marshes, ravines, lakes and scrub.

Janet and I visited the park on the last field trip of the Jacksonville conference last year. It was a hot, May afternoon but I was impressed with the dedication of the staff to maintaining the native habitat, especially with controlled burns. After meeting with the Park Superintendent, we took a hike through the sandhill area, ending at a lovely lake that just begged you to take a swim.

The older cabins were constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corp in the 1930's and have a cozy interior with a stone, wood burning fireplace, kitchen and bath.

We have reserved 5 cabins for the weekend of November 7-9th, with only 1 cabin left unclaimed. There are also full camping facilities for those so inclined. The main camping area and cabins overlook one of the lakes.

The plan is to spend the weekend exploring the park and surrounding area with local native plant enthusiasts, while taking time to relax, socialize and enjoy this part of our beautiful state.

Let me know if you are interested in joining us!
Devon Higginbotham 813-478-1183 (you must be an FNPS member to attend).



UPCOMING SPEAKERS-

August – Juliet Rynear – Rare Plant Conservation Update

Juliet is the Rare Plant Specialist at Bok Tower Gardens in Lake Wales, Florida. Her work in the Rare Plant Conservation Program includes research on Florida's rare plants and their habitats and the development of protocols for nursery propagation and introduction of new populations onto protected lands. She is also Chair of the Conservation Committee for FNPS. *Chrysopsis floridana* is one of the species she will discuss.



Thanks for helping with the June meeting to -

Cliff Brown, Fred Mulholland, Mike Fite, Nina Singh, Andreas Gott, Shirley Denton
for providing plants for the auction

Cliff Brown for being the auctioneer

Tina Hamilton for bringing the refreshments

Note from the Editor

'A stitch in time saves nine' often comes to my mind, I try to be proactive and not let a task get bigger than it needs to be. Of course human nature seems to override that and procrastination takes over or perhaps a stressful work environment that leaves little energy to tackle much of anything prevents my good intentions from turning into action.

Anyway it seems to me that this saying is the perfect incentive to get outside and weed often, especially this time of the year when a 2 inch weed can turn into a tree practically overnight. I'm with Vikki on this one, if it's sprinkling or getting ready to rain, that is about the only tolerable time of the day to be outside weeding. With Hurricane Arthur hanging out along the coast, I found several short bursts of weeding time recently so that I have some chance of controlling the chaos that happens in the summer. Another saying that I like is 'Do it Now', don't let important things go undone, you may not get another chance.

- *Janet Bowers*, Grapevine editor





Leave me the Birds and the Bees, Please!

I was talking with a friend the other day about gardening and she said, much to my surprise, “oh, I never go outside”, and proceeded to explain how she goes from her front door to her car, to her office and back again, and I realized that she was speaking for a great many people that do exactly the same thing.

This thought has stuck with me for quite some time and even though Florida summers are very hot and humid, I couldn’t imagine not going outside every day. Each evening I gather our two dogs and off we go on a long walk, partly to tire the puppy so she will sleep all night and, because it’s an adventure. First stop is the garden to see if the Black swallowtail caterpillars have morphed into pupa yet and check for okra large enough to eat. Next stop is the barn to feed the cats, then to check the bird bath and water the potted plants. It’s my favorite time of day, just as the daylight is receding to dusk and colors fade to black and white.



I’m always amazed at the abundance of life that thrives in my yard, the Pileated woodpeckers that illusively hide in the woods pecking the dead trees, Hawks screaming overhead, Titmice flitting back and forth from the shrubs, Cardinals swooping into the underbrush. Not to mention the butterflies, bees and multitudes of unidentified insects, the bats at dusk zipping back and forth in the clearing, the rabbits in the morning.

Last week I visited a home with a lovely, landscaped yard and after touring it with the owner, I realized that there were no native shrubs, trees or flowers. “Native plants are not for everyone” I told myself. The owner was quite proud of his prim landscaping and lighting. I cringed to think how he would assess my yard.

Driving down the road, it occurred to me that I had not seen a single bird, butterfly, bee, insect, lizard or frog in his yard during the hour I spent in it. Not even a wasp or ant!

Reminds me of the Joni Mitchell song, Big yellow Taxi, “leave me the birds and the bees, please”!

Devon Higginbotham



Need a Speaker?

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) or one of the board members to see how we can customize a talk to fit your needs.

Suncoastnps.org has a New Look...

If you clicked on the link to the Suncoast chapter's website from the FNPS page, you may have had a little surprise: It has a NEW look! With the expert help of Shirley Denton, Donna Bollenbach redesigned the website. (*Shirley did all the hard stuff, and she shook the cobwebs out of my dormant and limited html skills.*) The redesign, while offering most of the same information and resources as the previous website, has a cleaner look, and uses a template similar to the other FNPS Chapters. Our intent was to make it easier to update and navigate so our members will have up-to-the-date information on chapter news and events.

Please click on the link in the title, and check the website out. Let us know what you think. As any website, it is a work in progress, so be patient as we add content.



Here is a brief overview to navigating the new website:

Home: This page will usually feature our next speaker and any pressing news relative to FNPS, SNPS or other Florida Native Plant issues

Join SNPS: This is where you should direct your friends and acquaintances to Join on-line. It links to the FNPS site and lists the reasons why they should join.

Calendar: The details of our upcoming meetings and fieldtrips carry over from the FNPS Society calendar.

Meetings: This is general information about our monthly meetings, including location and map.

Contacts: This is a directory of our board members and committee chairs.

Newsletters: Download the latest issue of the Grapevine from this page, as well as access issues as far back as 2001.

Gallery Pages: See SNPS member images from our 2014 fieldtrips and campouts. I also started an Endangered Plant Gallery. A slide show starts automatically when you click on a gallery page.

I welcome your suggestions and images. If you would like to submit articles or images, please send as an attachment to donna.bollenbach@gmail.com, or click on my name on the contact page. I will also be pulling images from the Meet-up gallery, so if you post images there, no need to email them to me.

If you find any technical or navigation errors, please send to "Web Master" on the contacts page.

I look forward to your input,

Donna Bollenbach

Saturday, July 19 Pine Lily Nursery Buying Trip

Where: 7301 Redge Rainey Rd, Ona, FL
When : 10 AM
Carpool: 8:30 Meet at the Seffner Extension office

The nursery is pleasant and has a good variety, also they have recently burned and will be giving us a tour of the property. Solomon's Castle is nearby but is not open for tours in July, we do still plan to eat lunch there.

Troy Springer is coordinating this, please let him know if you plan to go 967-4538.

2014 Field Trip schedule

Saturday August 23rd – TBD



Saturday Sept. 20th – Balm Scrub Preserve, Balm - Scrub and flatwoods and scrubby flatwoods, this is a great place to see fall wild flowers.

Saturday October 18th – Ridge Manor Cypress Lakes -- A Hernando County environmental lands site -- Mark Hutchinson led a 2012 conference field trip there and will be our guide.

Friday to Sunday, Nov 7-9, 2 nights of camping at Mike Roess Gold Head State Park - Devon has some rustic cabins reserved - contact her if you are interested in those, otherwise reserve a camping space now and we'll see you there! All cabins include rocking chairs, a picnic table, a ground grill and fully equipped kitchen. Each kitchen includes a refrigerator/freezer, stove and basic cooking and eating utensils. Look for more details 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 August 4th meeting of the Hernando Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society will feature David Pais, President of Conservation Trust for Florida. His presentation is titled: "The audacity of perpetuity: Land Trust's role in preserving biodiversity". The meeting is at 6:30 at Chinsegut Hill, 22495 Chinsegut Hill Rd., Brooksville, FL. 34601. More info @ www.HCFNPS.org.

Buy an SNPS Tee Shirt and Show Support for Native Plants...

Buy a custom Tee shirt with the beautiful new SNPS logo and let everyone know that you support Native Plants. When you wear this shirt you are sure to attract comments and questions, which will be your opportunity to promote the mission of the Florida Native Plant Society and it's chapters.



These high quality tee shirts can be purchased in a multitude of styles and colors, so you will be fashionable and comfortable while promoting the mission of the Florida Native Plant Society and it's chapters. Prices should range from \$20.00 - \$25.00 dollars depending on style and color chosen.

The Suncoast Native Plant Society logo on the front of the tee shirt features the native Butterfly orchid, *Encyclia tampensis*, beautifully illustrated by local artist Elizabeth Smith. On the back of the tee shirt is the common and scientific name of the orchid. This is an absolutely beautiful image, and we welcome all FNPS members and supporters to purchase and wear this tee shirt with pride.

You will be able to order your custom shirt on-line soon. We will provide the link on our website and Facebook page. We will also send out an email to all members of SNPS. So, watch your email for details. You can start ordering them in August and they should be ready for pickup at the September 17 SNPS Meeting. If you are unable to access the on-line order form, please call Donna Bollenbach to place your order by phone.

Membership – Drive to Reach 4th!

Congratulations Suncoast! As of the end of May, the Suncoast chapter was 10 members away from 4th place among chapters statewide. This is down from 17 members as of the end of April.

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The stats are not out yet for June but I know the other chapters are working just as hard to gain members as well.

The May 31st standings were as follows:

1.	Paynes Prairie	274
2.	Dade	237
3.	Pinellas	231
4.	Palm Beach	141
5.	Magnolia	140
6.	Serenoa	139
7.	Tarflower	136
8.	Suncoast	132

FDOT study: Roadside vegetation performs one-half billion dollars worth of ecosystem services

MAITLAND, FLA. - A recently released Florida Department of Transportation study conservatively estimates that roadside vegetation along the state highway system performs nearly a half-billion dollars worth of ecosystem services. The study found that value would increase to \$1 billion if sustainable vegetation management practices such as reduced mowing were adopted. The value would triple to \$1.5 billion if wildflower areas were incorporated into roadside landscapes. Ecosystem services include carbon sequestration, runoff prevention, and support of crop pollinators and other insects, as well as contributions to air quality, invasive species resistance and roadside aesthetics.

The Florida Wildflower Foundation requested the Florida Department of Transportation study on behalf of the Florida Native Plant Partnership, which includes the foundation, Florida Association of Native Nurseries, Florida Native Plant Society, and Florida Wildflower Plant and Seed Growers Association.

FDOT manages about 186,000 roadside acres - about one-half percent of Florida's total area.

To view the full report, visit http://www.dot.state.fl.us/research-center/Completed_Proj/Summary_EMO/FDOT-BDK75-977-74-rpt.pdf

Florida Wildflower Foundation



Don't forget to VOTE!

Amendment 1- Florida's Water and Land Legacy Amendment
will be on the ballot November 4 and early voting in some counties could start as soon as October 20.

Looking for Native news between issues of the newsletter?

- ☆ Check out Suncoast chapter of FNPS on Facebook or on Suncoastnps.org
- ☆ Get fieldtrip info on Meetup
- ☆ FNPS has a great website (FNPS.org) with plant info, blog and many other features
- ☆ Florida Wildflower Foundation has places to see natives, flower profiles and more



Dates to remember

July 16 Joint meeting with Audubon and Sierra Club at Nature's Classroom
Sept 19-20 Wildflower Symposium at Bok Tower, Doug Tallamy is scheduled
Sept 27 Plant City Gardenfest
Oct 11-12 USF Fall Plant Sale
Nov 7-9 **CAMPING!**

Places to see Natives - Fish Hawk Creek Preserve

I wouldn't miss a SNPS Fieldtrip, but I really didn't expect many other people to attend the June hike through Fish Hawk Creek Preserve. For one, it is summer, and it is HOT, for two, it is a little known location and a bit of a distance for most members. Boy, was I wrong!

We had thirteen enthusiastic hikers show up for the adventure, nearly half who were not members of SNPS. Steve led us off trail through a mesic uplands, then into the woods for a trek to Fish Hawk Creek. We then bush-wacked a trail to where Fish Hawk Creek met the Alafia River.



Evolvulus sericeus

We saw several interesting plants, both common and very rare: Coastal plains morning glory dotted the ground with its delicate white bell-shaped flowers; A beautiful *Amorpha fruticosa*, with long off-white plumes, danced in the gentle breeze; The rare and endangered milkweed vine, *Matelea pubiflora*, trailed on the ground; Mustardy yellow Florida False Sunflower were in early bloom, and after seeing the several specimens of the delicately veined leaves of the Pinewood milkweed, we spotted one with flower.



Phoebanthus grandiflorus



Ascepias humistrata

Pink mimosa, lavender roseling, blue dayflowers, yellow alicia and purple passionflower also painted the landscape.



Callisia ornata

On the way to the Alafia we detoured around a large Florida Cooter laying her eggs, and along the shores of the river we stepped carefully to avoid numerous tiny toads. It was hot, but a gentle, unexpected breeze, provided relief. In the end, a few of our Florida Trail (club members) attendees stated "Who knew plant people were so adventurous!"

-submitted by Donna Bollenbach

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.

☐ 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

Debbie Butts 754-7374

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

TBD

USF Plant Sales - need volunteer

Troy Springer 967-4538

USF Botanical Garden Liaison

Kim Hutton 974-2329

Chapter Representative

Devon Higginbotham 478-1183

Webmaster

Ron Huston 951-0946

2014 Board of Directors

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archiveproperties@gmail.com

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Janet Bowers
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Bunny Worth
msworth@tampabay.rr.com

Treasurer

Gar Reed
gar0426@yahoo.com

Board Member

Donna Bollenbach
donna.bollenbach@gmail.com

Newsletter Submissions

Deadline for the next issue:

August 1 2014

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

jbowers27@yahoo.com

DIRECTIONS TO:

Hillsborough County
Extension
5339 County Road 579
Seffner

Take I-4 to Exit 10 (just east of I-75). Go south for two blocks. The office is at the corner of Old Hillsborough Road and County Road 579.

Meeting Location:

The July Meeting is at
Nature's Classroom
3100 Verges Rd,
Thonotosassa, FL 33592

SNPS Web Address

<http://www.SuncoastNPS.org>



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



Please deliver to: