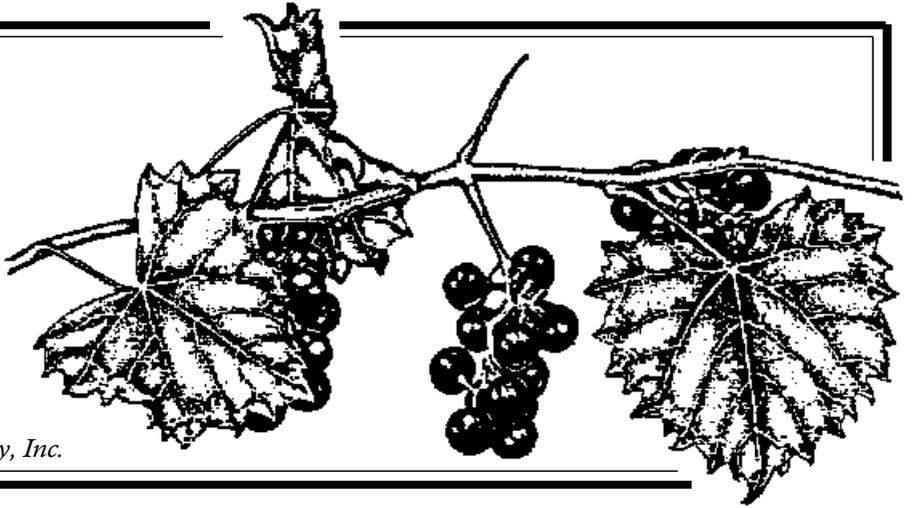


[www.suncoastnps.org](http://www.suncoastnps.org)

# The Suncoast Grapevine

Newsletter of the Suncoast Native Plant Society, Inc.



Volume 31 Number 9

September 2014



## The Basics of Bee Keeping Presented by Nancy Ham Wednesday, September 17, 2014, 7 PM

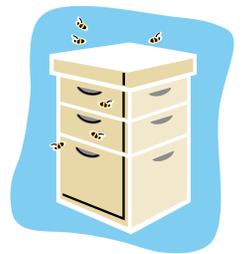
**What is all the buzz about bees?** Find out what a beekeeper does and learn ways to attract bees to your garden. Many native plant fans already understand the role of pollinators in the landscape (and also in agriculture.) In their effort to gather nectar and pollen for food, pollinators are a critical link in the fertilization process of many plants. Bees are one of the best pollinators and there are many species of native bees as well as the honey bees normally kept in maintained hives.

Come and discover the remarkable and busy life of the bee who helps propagate plants as well as providing a delicious sweetener.

Nancy Ham has been a bee keeper for five years. She is an advanced student in the University of Florida Master Beekeeper Program. She is also a Teaching assistant at the University of South Florida Apiary program and a Master Gardener.

Our meetings include light refreshments and a native plant auction after the speaker. We have many knowledgeable members who will help you with your native plant questions. Please come and join us.

- submitted by Donna Bollenbach, Janet Bowers



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](http://www.fnps.org)



# USF FALL PLANT SALE

October 11 & 12

We are looking for volunteers to help -

- ☆ Set up, price, profile all the plants - Friday morning (10/10)
- ☆ Set up the tent, tables, displays - Saturday (10/11)
- ☆ Cashiers - Saturday and Sunday
- ☆ Outreach - Answer questions and explain 'Why plant natives?' - both days
- ☆ Pack up supplies, move leftover plants - Sunday afternoon (10/12)

A sign up sheet will be available at our membership meetings or call Troy Springer 967-4538.

Thanks for your support of our annual fund raising effort!



## UPCOMING SPEAKERS-

**October 15** – Dr. Walter Kingsley Taylor, a distinguished university professor, botanist and author, will be discussing his most recent book, Florida Wildflowers: A Comprehensive Guide. For those who know Dr. Taylor, his talk promises to be both enlightening and entertaining. He will be bringing his books to sell.

**November 19** – Craig A. Watson, Director of the Tropical Aquaculture Laboratory (TAL), will present Steamy Waters: The Amazing World of Fish Sex (rated PG 13). TAL is part of the School of Forest Resources and Conservation Program in Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences at the University of Florida (UF/IFAS).



**If you ordered a new T-Shirt** on our Booster page, Donna Bollenbach will be bringing them to the September meeting unless you made other arrangements with her. Thanks for your support!



**Remember to VOTE YES on Amendment 1-**  
The Water and Land Conservation Amendment  
on the November 2014 ballot.

**More info at-**

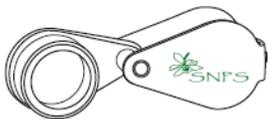
<http://voteyeson1fl.org/>



*Thanks for helping with the August meeting to -*

**Fred Mulholland, Mike Fite, Cliff Brown, Bunny Worth, Janet Bowers**  
for providing plants for the auction

**Bunny Worth** for bringing the refreshments!



## Note from the Editor

Did you order your orchid T-shirt yet? Donna worked to set up our new logo on some T-shirts as a Booster campaign. We also have some SNPS magnifying loupes in the works. We should have them soon for sale - \$5 will get you some great stocking stuffers! I can't wait to buy a couple.

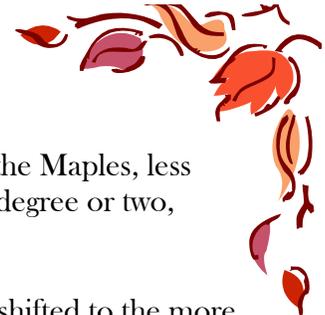
Fall is getting closer, soon we will have masses of goldenrod and liatris in bloom- what a great time to visit Kissimmee Prairie or even your local park.

I've always fancied myself to have a wide vocabulary but the adjectives involved in plant descriptions are mind boggling! I have made it a goal to learn more of them, I recently added scabrous and pinnate to my vocabulary - what is your favorite plant adjective?

*- Janet Bowers, Grapevine editor*



Letter from the President



**FALL IS IN THE AIR**

It's starting ever so subtly. A slight drop in the humidity, a trace of yellow in the Maples, less frequent afternoon thunderstorms and maybe even a drop in temperature of a degree or two, all bear out, fall is coming.

Up north and in the mountainous parts of the US, the weather has definitely shifted to the more dormant time of year, when nature slows down to chill-out and take a break from the frantic growth spurt of summer.

Here in Florida, the slowdown is much more discreet; coming on later and to a lesser degree, but it's definitely starting. Soon, those of us who loath the hot days of summer and relish the cooler seasons, will emerge from our hovels. The cooler nights will usher in the fall wildflowers on the roadsides and natural areas.

We have places to go and people to meet. It's time to dust off the backpack and hiking boots, grab the granola bars and water bottles, and head out the door. We have a lot of activities planned for this most splendid time of year, starting with the Florida Wildflower Symposium at Bok on Sept 19 and 20, our hike to Balm Scrub Preserve on Sunday, Sept 21st and the Plant City Garden Fest on Sept 27th.



Just when your blisters have started to heal, we have the USF Fall Plant Sale on October 11 and 12th and our hike in Cypress Lakes Preserve on Oct 18th. So get out your calendars, make a note of all we have planned for this most delectable time of year and let's get outside!



Devon Higginbotham

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](http://www.PlantRealFlorida.org)*

**Florida Association of Native Nurseries**

## Places to see Natives: Bok Tower Gardens

Most people visit Bok Tower Gardens to hear the chimes of the singing tower while walking through the lush woodland landscape interspersed with hundreds of varieties of garden flowers. While many of the flowers in the gardens are tropical or cultivated varieties, there are plenty of natives to be seen as well. Tall hedges of Walter's viburnum form a wall between the parking lot and the gardens. Magnolias, oaks and pines are scattered among palm trees to create the woodland setting. In the spring, the magnolia blossoms saturate the air with a sweet fragrance. Coontie and native ferns form ground covers along the pathways, and fire bush, ablaze with blossoms and butterflies, color the landscape around the tower. There is also a special area to see endangered Florida natives: The Endangered Plant Garden provides an opportunity see up to 30 species of Florida's rarest plants, including Britton's beargrass (*Nolina brittoniana*), Scrub-morning-glory (*Bonamia grandiflora*), Florida Jujube (*Ziziphus celtata*), Four-petal pawpaw (*Asimina tetramera*) and Florida Goldenaster (*Chrysopsis floridana*).



Godfrey's Blazing Star  
*Liatris provincialis*



SNPS Fieldtrip  
Bok Tower Gardens  
Photo by Joel Jackson

-Submitted by Donna Bollenbach

## SNPS Welcomes New Members!



### Recent newbies (June-August) include-

Nancy Allen

Christine Collins

Sean Clancy

Kristine Dorfner

Monica R. Downer, M.S

Jeanette M Doyle

Ray Hernandez

Michael Kuras

Trisha McCarthy

Tina Patterson

Jennifer Roberts

Philip V Scalera

T J Tompkins

Pam and Larry Wilson

Henry A. Young Jr

**Monica Downer** wrote - I am a recent graduate of the University of South Florida with my Master's in Biology. My thesis focused on plant species richness among differing burn plots within an upland pine savannah in central Florida. While working on my Master's degree, I was an intern at SWFWMD, working in compliance. After graduating, I worked as an Environmental Scientist for a small engineering consulting firm. I then worked at another small environmental consulting firm as an Ecological Specialist. My duties included performing gopher tortoise surveys and assisting in the permitting and removal of gopher tortoise; eastern indigo snake surveys; Florida scrub jay surveys and reports; osprey and eagle nest monitoring, release letters and nest removal permitting (FWS); assistance on ERPs; creation of project specific GIS maps for field use and permitting submittal; wetland delineation and monitoring; assisted in the implementation and field studies for a large company's Avian Protection Plan. I received MSHA training and certification, training in SWFWMD's Wetland Assessment Procedure (WAP) and in Stream BioAssessment. I can't wait to get more involved in the Florida Native Plant Society. I am looking forward to meeting Florida native plant lovers - I'm always ready to learn. I also hope that I can give back and share some of my knowledge with others.

-submitted by Devon Higginbotham



## **Sunday- September 21 - Balm Scrub Preserve**

**Where:** 15299 McGrady Rd. Wimauma, FL 33598

**When :** 8:30 at the preserve gate (Enables us a little more time before the heat of the day becomes excruciating.)

**Expected duration:** 3 to 4 hrs.

**Parking:** Parking is limited to the east side Right-of Way of McGrady Rd. There is just enough room to parallel park off of the side. Be aware that there are no guard-rails to prevent vehicles from accidentally going into the deeply incised ditches on both sides of the road. Please be mindful not block any residential driveways that are primarily on the west side of the street. Car-pooling from the Panera Bread parking lot SE of the Big Bend/Hwy 301 intersection (10613 Big Bend Rd. opens @ 7AM) is an option as well. If that is something you're interested in, please let Steve know (813 326-0221).

**Directions:** Approx. 45 minutes from Tampa. Drive south on Interstate 75 to the Big Bend Exit and head east for 1.3 miles to Hwy 301 and turn right (south). Drive south slightly over 1 mile to Hwy 672 and turn left (east). Drive east for 3.3 miles on Hwy 672 to McGrady Rd. Turn right (south) on McGrady Rd. and go 1.5 miles to the dead end. From Plant City take Hwy 39 south to Picnic, turn west on to 672 and drive 8.8 miles to McGrady Rd. The entrance gate we'll use for access to Balm Scrub Preserve is located at the dead end of McGrady Rd.

**Things to know:** There is an active cattle lease on portions of Balm Scrub so you can expect to encounter a cow or two. Purchased by Hillsborough County with funds from the Environmental Lands Acquisition and Protection Program (ELAPP), Balm Scrub Preserve protects from development almost 2700 acres of scrub and long leaf pine flatwoods and flood plain of a lengthy portion of Bullfrog Creek flowing through the preserve. We should witness an array of September wildflowers and grasses endemic to these west-central Florida habitats.

**Recommended to bring: wide brim hat, sun-screen, sunglasses, close-toed shoes, snack and especially water!**

## **2014 Field Trip schedule**

**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. The County recently completed a three year plan for restoring the scrub and sand hill communities.

**Friday to Sunday, Nov 7-9, 2 nights of camping** at Mike Roess Gold Head State Park - the cabins are taken, please reserve a camping space if you haven't made arrangements for a cabin already. Look for more details to come 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 program for Monday October 13th will feature Dr. Walter Taylor, Professor Emeritus of Biology at the University of Central Florida, will talk about his newest book: Florida Wildflowers: A Comprehensive Guide, which he will have available for signing. Although his Doctorate is in Zoology, he's most noted for his popular books about Florida native plants. Including: Florida Wildflowers In Their Natural Communities, The Guide to Florida Wildflowers and A Guide to Florida Grasses, which came out in 2009. He's also published scientific Papers on birds as well as Florida native plants, and a text book on invertebrate zoology.

We will be meeting at 6:30, Chinsegut Hill, 22495 Chinsegut Hill Rd., Brooksville, FL. 34601. For a map and additional information, go to [www.HCFNPS.org](http://www.HCFNPS.org).

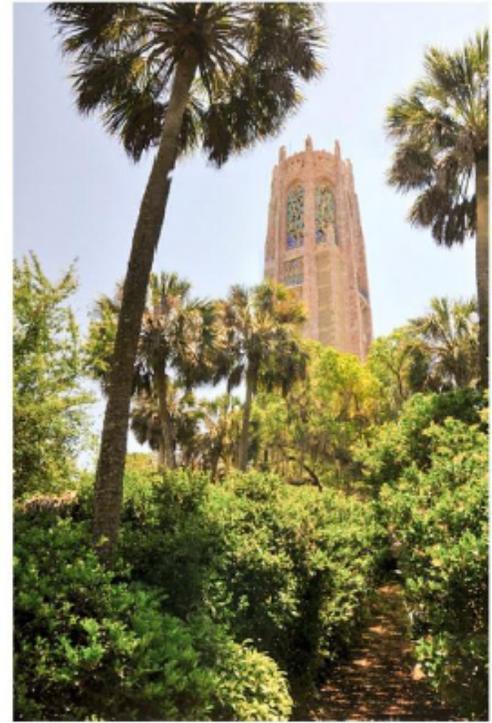
*-Submitted by Mark Hutchinson*

# Bok Tower Gardens Rare Plant Conservation Program:

*A combination of sweat, science and challenge...*

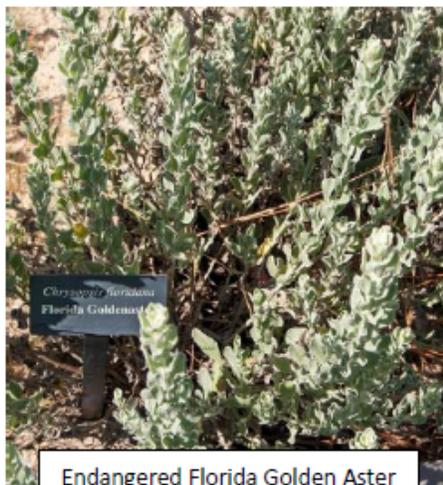
WRITTEN BY DONNA BOLLENBACH AND EDITED BY JULIET RYNEAR

Juliet Rynear, Rare Plant Specialist at Bok Tower Gardens, spoke to the Suncoast Native Plant Society at their monthly meeting on August 20. On the following Saturday she invited us to visit the Bok Tower Gardens and take a behind the scenes look at the Rare Plant Conservation Program. Nearly 25 members of SNPS gathered at the gardens on Saturday, August 23, to tour the native plant beds and greenhouse. Through her talk and the tour we developed an appreciation of the sweat, science and challenges that go into rare plant conservation and education. Information in this article came from her talk, the tour and literature published by Bok Towers and the Center for Plant Conservation.



Ask the average Florida citizen to name of at least one endangered native animal in the state and they will likely mention the Florida Manatee or the Florida Panther. Ask the same person to name one endangered native plant and they give you a blank stare. Juliet Rynear, Rare Plant Specialist at Bok Tower Gardens, knows this all too well, and if her job isn't difficult enough, lack of public awareness and support makes it harder.

Bok Tower Gardens Rare Plant Conservation Program is one of 39 botanical institutions throughout the United States that collaborate with the Center for Plant Conservation (CPC) to prevent the extinction of native plants in the United States. Created in 1984, CPC institutions house over 750 living specimens of the nation's most endangered native plants, the largest living collection of rare plants in the world. According to the CPC, "Five percent of native flora is on or qualifies for the federal endangered Species List and Florida is the No. 3 hotspot for critically imperiled plant diversity." Like endangered animals,



Endangered Florida Golden Aster  
in conservation plant beds

native plants are threatened by increased development, habitat destruction and invasive species. Federal laws protect endangered animals on public and private lands, but endangered plants are only protected on public lands. Except for commercial purposes, private landowners can remove or destroy rare plant populations on their property without a permit. CPC institutions, such as Bok Tower Gardens Rare Plant Conservation Program, take exception to the inequity. Native plants, defined by the CPC as those that have been growing in our state before human settlement, provide us with food, medicines, fuel, flavor, fragrance, beauty and so

much more. They are intrinsic to our planet's survival and our quality of life. Each time we allow a plant to go extinct we are not only destroying a part of our heritage, but a possible cure for a disease or a valuable food source. It is this knowledge and passion for native plants that drives Juliet and other staff and volunteers, to spend hours in the scorching Florida sun rescuing, restoring and monitoring imperiled native plant populations.

Bok Tower Gardens houses approximately 64 living specimens (seeds, cuttings, and mature plants) of Florida's rarest plant species. They follow the strict scientific protocols created by the CPC when



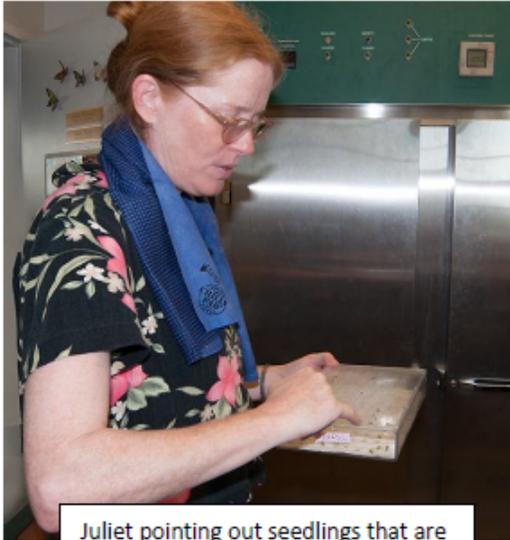
collecting seeds and cuttings from existing plant populations. The Rare Plant Conservation Program performs much needed research in propagating seeds and restoring rare plant populations. Living plants are rescued from the wild when development of a site is imminent and assured. The rescued plants are transplanted into specially prepared beds. These living specimens are used for research or cloned by roots and cuttings to use for population introductions onto protected sites. Only shoots or cuttings are used to clone some species because



Rare Plant beds (above) and clones in the greenhouse (below)

their seeds are very prone to hybridizing with similar species in the nearby plant beds or in the wild. The staff keeps meticulous records: Each plant or clone in the greenhouse has a unique number that associates it with the seed source (and collection date) or a parent plant in the living collection. The permanent tags will remain with the seeds and plants for many years to allow researchers to continue to track its health, growth and reproduction.

Recovering imperiled native plants in the U.S. is a long process. It may take scientists and researchers decades to develop successful methods for seed banking, germination, propagation, and introduction back into the wild. They must duplicate the conditions the plant is exposed to in the wild, and this is different for each species. Most seeds are dried to 15%-20% moisture content and then stored at Bok Tower Gardens or in cryogenic, long term facilities at the National Center for Genetic Resources Preservation in Fort Collins, Colorado. Long-term storage will allow reintroduction of the species if it disappears in the wild.



Juliet pointing out seedlings that are ready to pot.

Once the plants are ready to be reintroduced in the wild, the CPC institutions collaborate with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife and other federal and state agencies to locate suitable protected land within the specie's historical range. The planting site must be cleared of invasive plants prior to introduction. Volunteers, under the watchful eye of trained scientists, may be used to transplant the population. Scientists must continue to monitor the populations for many years before they can be deemed stable.

Native plant conservation is important in our state, our country and around the world. Bok Tower Gardens Rare Plant



A community of scrub plants in a pot

Conservation Program is one of a global network involved in projects with government agencies, universities, research institutes, conservation organizations and private landowners that dedicate their work to ensuring that our treasured native plants will thrive for many generations to benefit and enjoy.

<p><i>On-line resources and publications for information on rare and endangered plants:</i></p> <p>Bok Towers Rare Plant Conservation Program: <a href="http://boktowergardens.org/conservation/">boktowergardens.org/conservation/</a></p> <p>Center for Plant Conservation <a href="http://www.centerforplantconservation.org/">www.centerforplantconservation.org/</a></p> <p>Florida Native Plant Society <a href="http://www.fnps.org/">www.fnps.org/</a></p> <p>USDA National Plant Germplasm System <a href="http://www.ars-grin.gov/npgs">www.ars-grin.gov/npgs</a></p> <p>Archbold Biological Station <a href="http://www.archbold-station.org">www.archbold-station.org</a></p>	<p><b>What can you do to preserve Florida's vanishing native plant populations?</b> Here is some advice from the brochure <i>Plant Conservation for Gardeners</i> on the Center for Plant Conservation (CPC) website.</p> <p><b>1. Plant natives, but not endangered:</b> While growing endangered plants in your garden may seem like a good idea, plants grown in gardens will not have the same genetic makeup as those growing in the wild. Garden versions of imperiled species might even alter the genetics of the wild population if they are close enough to be cross-pollinated.</p>	<p><b>2. Never collect rare wildflower plants:</b> Not only is it illegal to disturb federally endangered plants on public lands, casual collecting of seeds, roots or other plant parts from imperiled plants can dramatically harm populations that already at risk. If you must have an endangered plant, buy it from a reputable nursery, or better yet, plant a close relative that is not imperiled in your home garden.</p> <p><b>3. Do not plant invasive exotics:</b> Avoid the introduction of invasive exotic species to your garden. Invasives that escape from private gardens may take over wild habitat and crowd out vulnerable natives</p>	<p><b>4. Support the CPC Network:</b> Your donation of time or money will help imperiled plants in many ways. When you become a friend or sponsor of CPC, your donation will fund efforts to save the rarest plants in the country. Or, you can volunteer at your local CPC botanical institution to store seeds, monitor plants, locate hidden populations, or work in the greenhouse or office.</p> <p><b>5. Educate Others:</b> Spread the word about the importance of saving our vanishing native plant populations. Educate your community and voice your concerns to your local, state and national leaders about the need to fund native plant conservation.</p>
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## 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](mailto:archiveproperties@gmail.com)).



### Dates to remember

- Sept 19-20** Florida Wildflower Symposium at Bok Tower, Doug Tallamy is scheduled.  
Registration @ <http://www.flawildflowers.org/>  
Fieldtrips, workshops and talks are scheduled for both days.
- Sept 27** Plant City Gardenfest  
National Public Lands Day
- Oct 3-5** Wings & Wildflowers, Leesburg
- Oct 11-12** **USF Fall Plant Sale**
- Oct 18** **SNPS Fieldtrip**
- Oct 25** Munn Park Plant Sale, Lakeland
- Nov 1** Kissimmee Prairie State Park - buggy tours and hikes with Huegel and Hammer
- Nov 4** **VOTE YES for AMENDMENT 1**
- Nov 7-9** **CAMPING!**
- Dec 6** **Holiday party @ Harriet's**
- Feb 6-8** FNPS meeting at Archbold Biological Station, everyone is invited
- May 28-31** **FNPS Conference in Tallahassee**

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:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <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              |   |

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*

#### *Open*

### *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*

#### *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

## 2014 Board of Directors

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[archiveproperties@gmail.com](mailto:archiveproperties@gmail.com)

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[jbowers27@yahoo.com](mailto:jbowers27@yahoo.com)

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### *Board Member*

Donna Bollenbach  
[donna.bollenbach@gmail.com](mailto:donna.bollenbach@gmail.com)

## Newsletter Submissions

Deadline for the next issue:

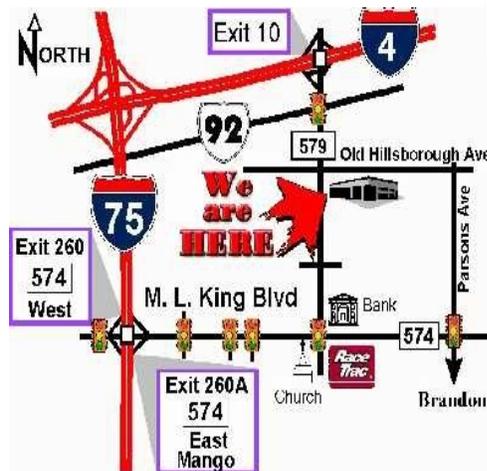
**October 1 2014**

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