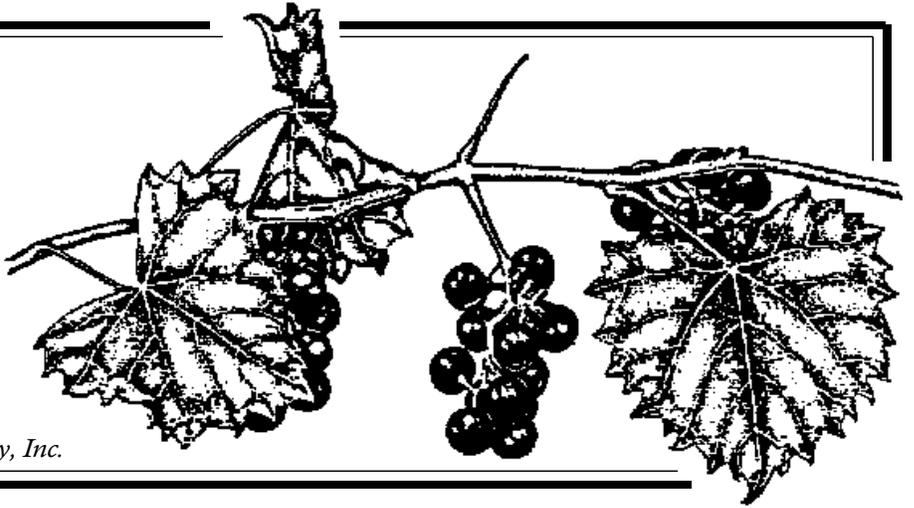


www.suncoastnps.org

The Suncoast Grapevine

Newsletter of the Suncoast Native Plant Society, Inc.



Volume 34 Number 1

January 2017



JANUARY CHAPTER MEETING

At the Hillsborough County Extension Office

The Monarch/Milkweed Initiative

Presented by Scott Davis

Wednesday, January 18, 7 PM

St. Marks Refuge Ranger, and FNPS member, Scott Davis has developed a long term plan to support the monarch butterfly in the Big Bend of Florida by sourcing local ecotypes of milkweed species to provide an ongoing viable seed source for the refuge, as well as distributing as many seedlings as possible to the conservation lands. More milkweeds = more monarchs!

The Monarch-milkweed initiative at St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge is a program that sprang up in response to the federal campaign to "Save the Monarch!" <http://www.fws.gov/savethemonarch/>.

Scott will discuss the progress of the initiative in conserving and mapping native milkweed populations in 2016, the data from the 2016 fall migration, and the goals for the initiative in 2017. Updates to the project may be found on their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/StMarksMilkweeds/?fref=ts>

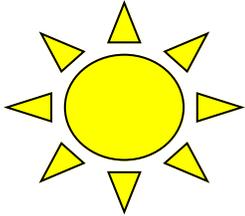
Scott Davis is a busy biologist, with Ethnobotany among his passions. He is a state board member for the Florida Native Plant Society, and president-elect for the Magnolia (Tallahassee) Chapter. In addition to his day job as ranger at St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge, he serves as Coordinator for the new Milkweed-Monarch Conservation Initiative, VP for Friends of Wakulla Springs, and as a committee member for the FWC Great Florida Birding Trail and Black Bear Stakeholders. He also owns a native plant nursery and is an officer of a non-profit agency on urban forest conservation.

Light refreshments are served and a native plant auction follows the presentation.

- 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



The 2017 SNPS Board of Directors was approved at the November membership meeting-

☆ President	Donna Bollenbach
☆ Vice President	Virginia Overstreet
☆ Treasurer	Gar Reed
☆ Secretary	Tina Patterson
☆ At Large	Andy Taylor

The first board meeting of 2017 will be on Thursday, 1/12/2017 at 10 am at Bob Evans, 11720 Tampa Gateway Blvd, Seffner, FL 33584. All SNPS chapter members are invited to attend any board meeting.

If you have any questions email Donna at donna.bollenbach@gmail.com

We welcome back Donna as president, she made a big contribution in 2016 by leading SNPS and representing us at events. Her efforts with the FNPS regional Landscaping with Natives brochure made the difference in actually making it happen.

Gar is also a return member, he has been a critical part of the board as treasurer for several years. This role requires organizational skills and fun things like filing paperwork and paying taxes to the state. Thank you for continuing to support SNPS.

We have 3 new board members- Virginia Overstreet is our VP and meeting speaker coordinator. She has an extensive background as a Master Gardener with lots of public speaking experience and is a certified arborist. Tina Patterson is our secretary, taking minutes at the board meetings. She has jumped right in at Lettuce Lake taking care of the garden and helping with our walks. She is an enthusiastic native plant advocate. Andy Taylor is our board member at large, he has county government experience as well as being a FNPS contractor with development director duties. His contacts will continue to help FNPS and SNPS be better known. Welcome aboard to the new SNPS board members!

Everyone is welcome to help and we need your support too. From bringing snacks to meetings, submitting newsletter articles, helping at plant sales or garden workdays - even a couple hours can make a difference. Please volunteer and make SNPS even better in 2017. See page 8 for information about the Education Committee's goal to reach out to children or let a board member know if you are interested in another area.

UPCOMING SPEAKERS-

Feb 15 – Damon Moore of Perico Preserve will talk about the preserve and lead our fieldtrip

March 15 – TBD



Thanks for helping with the November meeting -

Bunny Worth, Janet Bowers
for providing plants for the plant auction

Bunny Worth for bringing snacks

Joel Jackson for auctioning the plants

Happy New Year....

The holiday season was a bit hectic for me. A last-minute rush to finish up the FNPS landscape brochure competed with the time with my family, and when the brochures finally went to the printer I felt like digging a hole and hiding in it for a few weeks, but common sense told me the best thing I could do for myself was to take a hike.

So, the first day of the new year I spent hiking in Kissimmee Prairie Preserve. In fact, I led the "First Hike" of the new year at Kissimmee Prairie Preserve. Instead of writing about it, I am going to share an image from January 1, 2017 in the "real" Florida. It's not a plant, but I thought you would forgive me this time.

Done





FNPS News....

The 2017 Conference May 18-21

Connections: Above and Below

Lodging reservations can be made now, and fieldtrips will begin posting in January. Conference registration will follow shortly thereafter. To secure lodging or get the latest updates, visit our website: <http://www.fnps.org/conference/2017>.

One of the featured speakers is Dr. Suzanne Simard speaking about "How Trees Talk". Dr. Simard's research focuses on how organisms living in soil – like fungi – help trees establish and grow. Some fungi live inside the roots of trees and form mycorrhizas (literally “fungus-roots”). These fungi help trees acquire nutrients and water from the soil in exchange for carbon

The Next FNPS Quarterly Retreat will be held at Mike Roess Gold Head Branch State Park on February 10, 11, 12. SNPS will have several representatives attending. If you are interested in more info - contact Donna.

FNPS Spring Native Plant Tour - see page 5 *

Hillsborough County Volunteer Information

Many of you have been asking me how you can apply to be a volunteer at the Hillsborough County Conservation Lands Parks. A shortened application has been promised, and it is on-line. Make sure you return it to the address for the Conservation Lands as noted in the instructions. Here is the link:

<https://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/en/residents/citizens/volunteers/action-folder/apply-to-volunteer-with-parks>

Donna

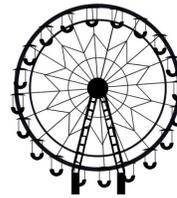
January 14 - Winter Walk in the Scrub

In partnership with Hillsborough County, SNPS will be leading a walk at Golden Aster Scrub. 12181 East Bay Road, Gibsonton FL, 33534 at 9 AM.

The walk is FREE, but you must pre-register on the Hillsborough County Parks site.

<https://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/en/calendar/03-parksandrec/2017/20170114-winter-walk>

3-4 mile walk
Moderate difficulty
County contact is Chris Kiddy (813) 853-1177



Florida State Fair Opportunity

FNPS is looking for volunteers to man our booth at the fair. The dates are Feb 9-20. The theme is "Why Plant Natives?" We hope it will be fun and educational. We also have one nursery selling plants. Volunteers will work 3 hour shifts 10am-1pm, 1pm-4pm and 4-7pm, every day. Weekends will be busiest, so we can double- triple up those days. If you have anyone interested, let me know. Tickets are free for anyone who volunteers (and their guests because I will call them volunteers also!).

Also, if you have any "Blooming" plants for February, we could use them. The more flowers the better. Hope to hear from you.

Happy New Year,
Jonnie Spitler, Nature Coast Chapter
jspitler1120@gmail.com

Mark Your Calendar



Jan 11 7 PM Susan Cerulean talk at Clearwater Campus SPC Arts Auditorium, 2465 Drew St, Clearwater, hosted by the Pinellas FNPS chapter

Jan 14 9 AM Donna is leading a walk at Golden Aster Scrub for the County, register at- <https://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/en/calendar/03-parksandrec/2017/20170114-winter-walk>

Jan 14 10:30 AM Plant ID class at Brooker Creek Preserve - free eventbrite reservation

Jan 20 Florida Arbor Day - plant a tree or two! See page 6 for some native nurseries.

Jan 28 9:30 AM Lettuce Lake plant walk, starting at the Native Plant Garden

February 9-20 FNPS booth at the Florida State Fair, volunteers are needed to man the table

April 8-9 USF Spring Plant Sale

April 8 Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park Spring Wildflower Walk

April 26-30 Camping at St Joe's Peninsula State Park, reserve your camping site now.

May 18-21 FNPS Annual Conference at Westgate River Ranch Resort near Lake Wales

<http://www.fnps.org/conference/2017>



January 21 Fieldtrip Alderman Ford Regional Park

Where: Alderman Ford Park Dr., Plant City, FL, 33567

When: 9:00 AM

\$2 entry fee per car (up to 8 people)

Our January field trip will be to Alderman Ford County Park. This park provides a mix of natural communities including the floodplain of the Alafia River, seepage slopes, and sandhill.

We plan to meet in the main parking lot and then explore on foot. We will visit the floodplain via a boardwalk which will provide good views and easy walking. We will then cross the river and walk downstream through the upper part of the floodplain and return to the parking lot on the other side of the river. This is all multi-use trail and paved.

Depending on weather, we may take a side excursion up a primitive trail that goes up through the seep slope into the sandhill. Expect 1.5 to 2 miles of walking. The seep slope can be wet. Difficulty – easy if you stay on the boardwalk and multi-use trail, moderate if you go up through the seep slope. There are three bathrooms and three water fountains along the paved trail.

Shirley Denton is the contact 813 625-5031

Lettuce Lake Walk January 28



2017 brings more walks at Lettuce lake, join us on the 28th of January to see what is happening at Lettuce Lake Park \$2 per car (up to 8 people).



There should be birds, alligators and a few plants blooming by the boardwalk

See you there!



2017 Field Trip schedule



Feb 18 Perico Preserve - Damon Moore will show us around this new Manatee county preserve

March 18 - TBD

* **April 22-27 - FNPS Spring Native Plant Tour of North Alabama** organized by Devon Higginbotham.

Finally, a travel tour planned by native plant people FOR native plant people! Join us in April 2017 as FNPS travels to north Alabama to discover the native plants in the Bibb County Glades, the Bank Head Wilderness, Cane Creek Canyon Preserve, Little River Canyon National Preserve AND MUCH MORE. A \$50 deposit will reserve your spot on what is certain to be a sell-out tour! Call Devon Higginbotham at 813-478-1183 or email indigotravelcompany@gmail.com with questions.

April 26-30 Camping at St Joe's Peninsula State Park, reserve your camping site now.

May 18 and 21 - FNPS conference fieldtrips near River Ranch

If you want to learn about Florida native plants, join the Florida Native Plant Society. It's true, but where does this wealth of knowledge come from. While some of our "experts" are accomplished Botanist with impressive credentials, others collected their information in Mother Nature's classroom. So, I asked these questions of three very, respected experts:

What formal education do you have in Botany?

What developed your interest in Florida native plants?

If someone wanted to learn about native plants, what would you suggest?

Steve Dickman

Formal Botany Education:

"I was not a good student. I took a couple Botany classes at USF, actually the same one twice. I failed the first time and passed with a "C" the second but it was with a different instructor." (Steve has a couple degrees in other subjects).



Inspiration

The freeze in 1998 was an eye opener. "People with tropical trees and plants lost everything. I was working at a plant nursery in Temple Terrace called "Plant Adoption Center" and we had a small native plant section. I heard about the native plant society and spoke on open mic night with slides I had taken". This is about the same time Steve sought and got a job working for the Hillsborough County ELAPP program. "There were a lot of knowledgeable people working in the field, other people with an affinity for native plants. I also saw that there was a lack of knowledge in the industry distinguishing between an exotic and a native plant. When I went to my first FNPS conference in 1997, went on a field trip and met knowledgeable people, the enthusiasm rubbed off".

Suggestions for Learning

Find a mentor.

Join the Florida Native Plant Society, go on fieldtrips and attend the annual conference.

Collect books on native plants, like "Florida Wildflowers, A Comprehensive Guide" by Dr. Walter Taylor, "Florida Wildflowers and Roadside Plants" by Bell and Taylor, one of Steve's first native plant books.

Volunteer at the USF Botanical Garden.

Note:

Steve is currently employed by the Hillsborough County, Conservation and Environmental Lands Management program, the agency that manages ELAPP (Environmental Lands Acquisition and Protection Program) properties. In 2015, Steve won the Amateur Plant ID contest at the Florida Native Plant Society annual conference and will, hereafter, be required to compete as a professional. Congratulations Steve!

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.

For more retail plant information -

www.PlantRealFlorida.org

Florida Association of Native Nurseries

What SNPS Spent Money on in 2016

Grants

◆ USF Herbarium	\$500
◆ FNPS conservation grant	\$1,500
◆ Florida Birding and Nature Festival	\$500
◆ HCC Native Garden plants	\$90
◆ Lettuce Lake Native Garden plants	
◆ Wilderness Park Garden plants	

Misc

◆ Storage unit rental	\$1,100
◆ Meeting snacks (up to \$25 per meeting)	
◆ Dinner and/or honorarium for speakers	
◆ Membership at USF Botanical Garden	
◆ Meetup fee	\$179

Fundraising

Plant sale costs and book costs are recouped from sales
Plant auction at meetings - members donate plants and then we auction them
T-Shirt & tote bag sales, memberships

What We Accomplished in 2016

- * Lettuce Lake workdays and walks
- * HCC native plant garden adoption and plantings
- * Joel Jackson received the FNPS Green Palmetto award
- * USF plant sales
- * Plant City Fall festival participation
- * Fabulous fieldtrips
- * Spectacular speakers
- * 2 wonderful camping trips - Cayo Costa primitive cabins and Jonathan Dickinson cabin and camping trip

Thanks to everyone and here's to an even more exciting 2017!



Plant City HCC Native Plant Garden News

We have new signs and a sprinkler head installed by the ditch plantings. Eileen Reed made some great ornaments for the holiday decorating. The Natives bed was cleaned up in December and is ready for spring. Don't forget to visit when the redbud blooms in February/ March.

Want to help? We will be scheduling a work day soon. On-going weeding and maintenance is needed. There are still invasives in the area and we need to finish the new path.

~ Janet



Education Committee News from Niki Cribbs

One Education Committee goal I have heard from many different people all over the state is to have a recognizable and sustainable FNPS kids' program. If you are interested in being part of a Suncoast Chapter committee with a focus on kid-focused events, please contact me!

This group would first develop a clear vision for a children's program, then plan, promote and lead kid-friendly, kid-focused events throughout the year. We have the opportunity to work with Hillsborough County and use their land resources and classrooms, and potentially promote events through their media outlets. This effort could be strengthened by collaborating with other groups such as Audubon, as well as reaching out to other nearby FNPS chapters. This will take a group effort on our part to make it truly successful.

We need all types of talent, from those with big ideas to those who are comfortable leading groups. I have a heart for teaching and working with kids. Would you consider joining me to create a program that potentially could be modeled by other chapters throughout the state for a state-wide children's outreach? I can be reached at (813) 546-0736 or at ncribbs@fallerdavis.com.

Florida Wildflower Foundation News

We're happy to announce the official release of the Florida Wildflower Foundation's 139-page *Wild About Wildflowers! — A Classroom Activity Guide* for Florida's third- and fourth-grade students.



http://www.flawildflowers.org/resources/pdfs/2016/WildAboutWildflowers_web.pdf



Native Landscaping Southeast
Restoring Beauty & Balance to Florida

Native Landscaping

Plants native to Florida are not the same as plants introduced from other places. Native plants provide conservation benefits that others rarely measure up to. When you select plants adapted to your growing conditions, they require very little attention once they are fully established. They will not need additional water and fertilizer to thrive, nor will they need pesticides to cope with typical insect pests. They also are the plants that will literally bring life to your landscape. Native plants form the only real foundation for Florida's butterflies, bees, and other pollinators, hummingbirds, songbirds, and other interesting wildlife. Living landscapes connect us to the real world and create a sense of wonder in what would otherwise be sterile and uninteresting. You will not be limited in your choices or aesthetics. There are hundreds of wonderful plants to choose from.

The Florida Native Plant Society chapters host monthly meetings and field trips. They are an excellent resource to share information and answer questions.

Craig N. Huegel
Author of Native Wildflowers and Other Groundcovers for Florida Landscapes and other titles.

PLANT NAME	CHARACTERISTICS	SOILS	SHADE	COLOUR	REMARKS
AMERICAN DICK Clematis vitalba • 12-24" tall tree • Yellow flowers • Fragrant • White variegated • Good ground cover • Good for shade	AMERICAN DICK Clematis vitalba • 12-24" tall tree • Yellow flowers • Fragrant • White variegated • Good ground cover • Good for shade	AMERICAN DICK Clematis vitalba • 12-24" tall tree • Yellow flowers • Fragrant • White variegated • Good ground cover • Good for shade	AMERICAN DICK Clematis vitalba • 12-24" tall tree • Yellow flowers • Fragrant • White variegated • Good ground cover • Good for shade	AMERICAN DICK Clematis vitalba • 12-24" tall tree • Yellow flowers • Fragrant • White variegated • Good ground cover • Good for shade	AMERICAN DICK Clematis vitalba • 12-24" tall tree • Yellow flowers • Fragrant • White variegated • Good ground cover • Good for shade

New FNPS Brochure

Of all the things that happened in 2016, I think the most significant FNPS achievement was the Native Landscaping brochure. This is my personal opinion and I'm sure many people would suggest other projects.

I watched this up close at the beginning and from afar by the end. To me, this is an important, professional document that, like the amateur handout that I helped create years ago, will be instrumental in communicating the FNPS purpose and how a homeowner can make better choices about what to plant in their yard.

Getting FNPS to agree and support a new document is no small feat and I understand the reasons and importance in having accuracy. The FNPS council of chapters' effort under Richard Brownscombe's leadership and Donna Bollenbach's execution of this brochure is an example of persistence and faith. I am so happy to see the West Coast brochure printed and available at our meetings and even at Sweetbay Nursery. Thank you to everyone who made it happen. (The example brochure shown above is the Southeast version, very similar to ours.)

Please make sure that you get a copy to share with your friends or other people who want to know about natives. We are asking for \$1 per copy to cover the costs of reprinting it and the brochure is well worth it. Here is physical evidence of what we can achieve together, I'm looking forward to even more happening in 2017!

~Janet Bowers

Coming up in the next 2 months -

January 2017

February 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <i>Happy</i>	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4
8	9	10	11	12 SNPS BOD Meeting	13	14 Golden Aster Plant Walk	5	6	7	8	9 SNPS BOD Meeting	10	11 FNPS BOD & COC Meeting
15	16	17	18 SNPS Chapter Meeting	19	20	21 Fieldtrip Alderman Ford Park	12	13	14 Buy a Native Plant for your Valentine	15 SNPS Chapter Meeting	16	17	18 SNPS Fieldtrip
22	23	24	25	26	27	28 Lettuce Lake Plant Walk	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
29	30	31					26	27	28	29			

See the Current issue of the Grapevine or suncoast.fnpschapters.org for details on each event.

Join FNPS on-line - <http://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 \$35
- Full time student \$15
- Family or household \$50
- Patron \$250
- Sustaining - \$10 a month w/credit card
- Business or non-profit \$150
- Supporting \$100
- Gold \$500
- 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

<i>Field Trips</i>	(813)
Shirley Denton	625-5031
Stephen Dickman	597-5888
<i>Librarian</i>	
Vikki Sinclair	989-2896
<i>Membership</i>	
Devon Higginbotham	478-1183
<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	
Janet Bowers	759-2822
Mike Fite, Assistant	977-0892
<i>Publicity/ Social media</i>	
Donna Bollenbach	679-5597
<i>Outreach</i>	
<i>Open</i>	
<i>USF Plant Sales</i>	
Gar Reed	323-0927
<i>USF Botanical Garden Liaison</i>	
Kim Hutton	974-2329
<i>Chapter Representative & Webmaster</i>	
Donna Bollenbach	679-5597

Newsletter Submissions

Deadline for the next issue:

Feb 1, 2017

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



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.

2016 Board of Directors

President

Donna Bollenbach
donna.bollenbach@gmail.com

Vice-president

Virginia Overstreet
voverstr@tampabay.rr.com

Treasurer

Gar Reed
gar0426@yahoo.com

Secretary

Tina Patterson
mablepatterson@hotmail.com

Board Members at Large

Andy Taylor
andytaylor6@gmail.com

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



Please deliver to: