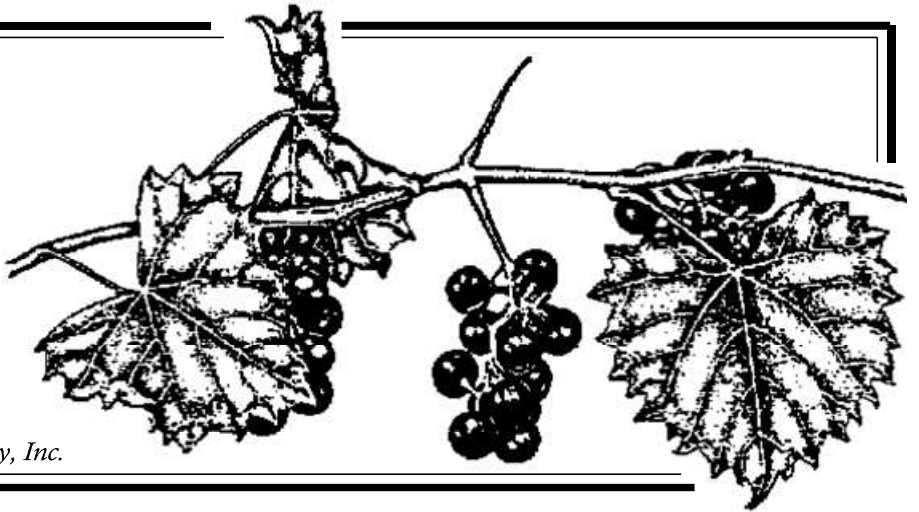


www.suncoastnps.org

The Suncoast Grapevine

Newsletter of the Suncoast Native Plant Society, Inc.



Volume 34 Number 3

March 2017

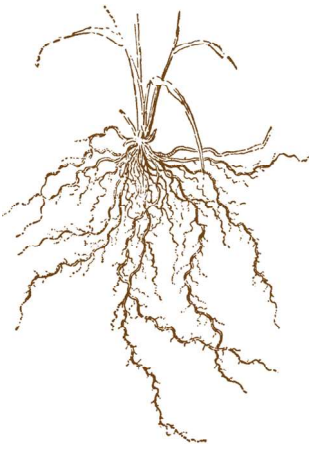
MARCH CHAPTER MEETING

At the Hillsborough County Extension Office

How Roots Work

Presented by Craig Huegel

Wednesday, March 15, 7 PM



Roots exist largely sight unseen, yet they may be the most important plant organ in terms of maintaining plant growth and survival. Roots are far more complex than we might guess. They not only anchor a plant in place and draw water from the ground, they play a pivotal role in defending plants from danger, in finding and forming relationships with necessary microorganisms, and in communication. Dr. Huegel will explore the largely hidden world of plant roots and provide insight into how they function.

Craig N. Huegel, PhD is an ecologist who has focused much of his professional career on educating the public about the interconnection between native plants and wildlife. He currently teaches in the biology program at St. Petersburg College. Classes include plant biology, field botany, conservation biology, ornithology, vertebrate zoology and wildlife techniques.

Craig was a founding member of the Pinellas Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society and is active with FANN - the Florida Association of Native Nurseries. He has written five books on native plants, the last three published by the University Press of Florida (UPF), writes a popular blog on native Florida wildflowers, and grows wildflowers at his home in Seminole as Hawthorn Hill Native Wildflowers.

Dr. Huegel's newest book, *A Gardener's Guide to How Plants Work*, is scheduled to be published by UPF in spring 2018. Dr. Huegel teaches botany and a variety of other ecological courses in the Baccalaureate Biology Program at St. Petersburg College, Clearwater.

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



USF Plant Sale - April 8 & 9

We need YOU - please give back to SNPS with a few hours of your time, we have jobs for everyone!

- ◆ **Setup** - Friday April 7 starting about 9 AM.
- ◆ Saturday, April 8 **Sale** is from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., **Setup** starts at 7 AM!
- ◆ Sunday, April 9 **Sale** is from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., **Breakdown** needed at 3

The USF Plant Sale is SNPS's biggest fundraiser, and is the most important outreach effort we do. We are counting on you to help us continue this great event. Thanks for your continued support.

If you are available to help, please let Gar Reed know at gar0426@yahoo.com.

-- Open positions for 2018 --

Gar Reed has served as the **SNPS Treasurer** for 5 years. He has done a wonderful job but is moving to Bradenton and we are looking for a new treasurer. The treasurer requires a knowledge of spreadsheets, taxes and general money handling practices. If you have those skills and experience, we need you. We would like to identify someone now, so they can work with Gar as he turns over the books.

Please let Gar or a board member know if you are interested.

Gar is also the **USF Plant Sale Coordinator** and SNPS would like to get someone to shadow Gar and learn the ropes to take over in 2018. This involves overseeing the volunteers for the 3 days of the sale, setting the prices for the plants, checking supplies before the sale, helping to set up the plants for the sale and making sure that all of our supplies get back to storage after the sale. We have a detailed list of all the tasks involved in the sale and will all be working together to ensure success.

Thanks for considering this important job.

UPCOMING SPEAKERS-

April 19 Virginia Overstreet – Dispelling Misperceptions About Trees. Learn more about the care and maintenance of your trees and how to keep them healthy.

May 10 – Note date change due to conference – **Open Mic meeting** – 5 to 10 min talk by members who want to share pictures or other native plant topic, no politics or sales

June 21 Bok Tower pending

July 19 – Ross Dickerson to speak on the ELAPP program. Joint meeting with Audubon and Sierra Club, SNPS is hosting. We will be looking for volunteers to help.



Thanks for helping with the February meeting -

Bunny Worth, Janet Bowers

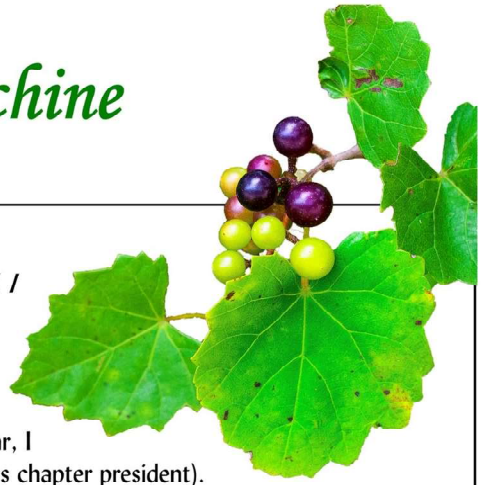
for providing native plants for the plant auction

--> *Don't forget that we need help from everyone bringing plants for the Auction!*

Sandy Janzen for bringing snacks

Joel Jackson for auctioning the plants

A Well-Oiled Machine



Letter from the President:

Oh! How I wish all the business of running the SNPS chapter just took care of itself. I could fill all my "Letter's from the President" with poetry, and all my newsletter articles would be about plants and pollinators!

But, alas, all good things come with a lot of work, and the business of running a chapter isn't always easy. I will admit, when over half the board turned over this year, I was a bit nervous about my last year as chapter president (yes, this is my last year as chapter president). But, I am happy to say that it is only three months into the year, and with the help of former board members and tireless volunteers, the new board is working like a well-oiled machine.

We can thank Virginia Overstreet, our vice-president, for our quality programming...in three short months she has nearly filled our speaker schedule for the rest of the year. We are thrilled that she is bringing back Craig Huegel to speak this month (see page 1).

Tina Patterson, our board secretary, has worked tirelessly in maintaining the Lettuce Lake Native Plant Garden and Plant Walks with Joel Jackson. She has stepped in whenever and wherever needed to help with event planning, garden workdays, and now, as the one who will report our volunteer hours to the state. (see page 4)

Andy Taylor, board member and PR guy, did a great job promoting our January meeting with Scott Davis. We ended up with record attendance that month, and Scott was interviewed by a TV station prior to the meeting.

Gar Reed, well, he has been the treasurer of SNPS for 5 years. While we are all familiar with the guy with the big smile who collects money for our plant auction wins, and the guy who has stepped up to coordinate the Plant Sales for the last two years, but we tend to forget about all the behind the scenes things that Gar does. Gar makes sure we are in good standing with the state. He pays our bills, he files our non-profit paperwork and taxes, he produces spreadsheets and budgets, and, he makes sure our I's are dotted and our t's are crossed so we can continue to do the things we love. But, Gar and Dream are moving to Manatee County soon (see page 2), and we need someone with a knack for numbers to fill his big shoes. If you are that person, please step forward.

In closing, I hope you are enjoying Devon's profiles of the SNPS board members in the newsletter. Last month she interviewed yours truly (me), and this month she interviewed Gar (see page 6). I think it is important to know that board members are people too, not machines, but like any machine, a well-oiled board is needed to keep the chapter running. And sometimes the machine needs some new parts...please consider being a new cog in the wheel so the wagon can keep on rolling!

Donna

If you are interested in joining the board, consider attending a board meeting or just ask any board member, or former board member, any questions you may have.



Check out our T-Shirt Booster sale before it's over!

Short sleeve in the popular pistachio green is only \$20 if distributed at our meeting. The Long sleeve is sand color - great for sunny days to keep your arms safe from the sun.

Support SNPS by ordering a shirt (or 2) <https://www.booster.com/suncoastnps>



FNPS News....

The 2017 Conference May 18-21

Connections: Above and Below

Conference registration will open soon. To get lodging information or the latest updates on the conference, visit our website: <http://www.fnps.org/conference/2017>.

Submitted by Donna Bollenbach, President & Chapter Rep SNPS

-- Tracking Volunteer and Education Hours --

At the last FNPS meeting I attended at Gold Head Branch State park, it was reported that more than 34,000 volunteer hours were reported by FNPS chapters in 2016! This is impressive, but we know it could have been much more: Many chapter reps admitted that they had many more hours that went unreported.

The message: We all need to do a better job of capturing all volunteer and education* hours in 2017. Tina Patterson, the SNPS board secretary, has volunteered to help Suncoast capture and report more of its volunteer hours. Here's what we are going to do to make the task of identifying and reporting hours easier in 2017:

Tina Patterson will be reporting volunteer and education hours for SNPS group activities and individuals. * Tina will log the group hours based on attendance at chapter meetings, fieldtrips, workdays and special events. In addition, at the beginning of each month, Tina (mablepatterson@hotmail.com) will send out an email to all chapter members asking for their individual volunteer hours. If you would like your individual hours reported, send them to Tina for reporting. If you prefer to log your own individual hours, email Donna (donna.bollenbach@gmail.com) and she will send you a link to the reporting tool.

Group Volunteer Hours: These are the hours performed by a group of volunteers actively involved in the organization and management of any work related to the FNPS mission, including, but not limited to board meetings, planning, administration, chapter meetings, fundraising, and workdays. For group activities individuals will not be noted, but will be calculated based on **number of volunteers X the duration of the event or meeting.**

Individual hours are the volunteer hours performed by individual(s) outside the usual group activities, such as hours spent maintaining a native plant garden outside scheduled workdays, or speaking to other groups on behalf of FNPS or SNPS. **If you would like these hours logged in your name you must report them to Tina or report them yourself via the reporting tool.**

Education Hours: These are the hours we spend educating members and non-members on topics relevant to the FNPS mission. Tina will record these based on the number of attendees at our events. **For example, if there are 30 people at our Chapter meeting and the presentation portion lasts 1 hour, we will record 30 x 1=30 hours of education.**

Chapter, Individual, and FNPS Recognition: The collection of volunteer and education hours is important because it shows others that we are fulfilling our mission. BE RECOGNIZED for all the work your chapter does, while helping FNPS show the statewide commitment to its mission by tracking volunteer and education hours. *Please say thank you to Tina for volunteering to report our hours and offer your help.*



Mark Your Calendar

- March 25, 8:30 Lettuce Lake walk**, 6920 E Fletcher Ave, Tampa, FL 33637, see page 5
- April 2, 8:30 Plant City HCC garden workday** - weeding, raking, trimming. Bring tools, gloves, water. 2001 E. Cherry St. Plant City. Help us tidy up before Earth Day event on April 23.
- April 8-9 USF Spring Plant Sale** - we need lots of help - talk to Gar Reed if you can help
- April 8 Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park Spring Wildflower Walk**
- April 22 Earth Day Event** - Hillsborough County 100 - Lettuce Lake
- April 23 11- 4 Plant City HCC Garden Earth Day event, SNPS will be a vendor**
- 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>
- Oct 27-29** Fall camping trip at Myakka State Park, tent camp overnight or come for a day

JUMP ON THE WAGON WITH SNDS



March 18 Fieldtrip Lower Green Swamp Wagon Trip

Where: 3536 E. Knights Griffin Road, Plant City, FL 33565

When: 9:00 AM

This preserve is home to 12,800 acres of cypress domes, pine flat-wood, pine plantations, riparian systems, and a cattle ranch. It is the largest in the Jan K. Platt ELAPP Program. The Lower Green Swamp Preserve provides linkages between various natural areas and maintains a wildlife corridor to the Green Swamp in central Florida.

Our fieldtrips usually last 3-4 hours. The trailers are not covered, so you are exposed to the sun, or possibly, rain. We also get out of the trailer and walk around fairly often. Because these are being led by county personnel and involve a county driven "wagon" (a flat bed trailer with bench seats) there is a cost of \$5.00 per person paid in advance. Also, since we have to pay the county in advance, we will not offer any refunds for "no-shows."

If you are a paid participant on a wagon tour, we will send you an email reminder and any last minute details the week before the tour. We recommend that you wear long pants, sunscreen and a hat. Bring water to drink and maybe a snack.

Contact for trip Donna Bollenbach 813 679-5597



Coral honeysuckle

Lettuce Lake Walk March 25, 9:30

\$2 per car (up to 8 people).

March means Spring and there should be more plants blooming by the boardwalk. Birds are fairly common along the water and sometimes alligators are seen. Plants in the garden should be in bloom. Come and check out our new plants that got planted in February. Lettuce Lake is a gem in our county and easily accessible for most people.

See you there!



Alligator



2017 Field Trip schedule

March 18 Wagon Trip at Lower Green Swamp - 3536 E. Knights Griffin Road, Plant City, 33565, (trip is full, \$5 per person)

April 15 Wagon trip at Balm Boyette Scrub Preserve in Riverview, \$5 to the county, trip is full
April 26-30 Camping at St Joe's Peninsula State Park, reserve your camping site now.

May 6 Wagon trip at Brooker Creek Headwater Preserve - \$5 to the county

May 18 & 21 FNPS conference fieldtrips near River Ranch

June 24 Bok Tower tentatively

Aug 19 Sweet Bay nursery buying trip

ANOTHER INTERVIEW WITH OUR FEARLESS LEADERS (SUNCOAST BOARD OF DIRECTORS)



Our long-time Treasurer, Gar Reed

Question: Where did you grow up and who inspired your interest in plants?

Answer: "I grew up in Pennsylvania and I suppose, more than anyone, Dream (my wife) inspired my interest in plants. I was initially interested in birding and not that much interested in plants. But I lost my hearing and transitioned to plants because of their link to birds and pollinators. Plants are easier to study because they don't make noise or move.

I was growing plants in my yard then started looking for a group to go out with into natural areas".

Question: What developed your interest in native plants?

Answer: "A lot had to do with Audubon where I was exposed to the whole issue of the environment and waterways polluted with fertilizers. From an environmental aspect, native plants have a much greater value than exotics.

Sometime back, Dream was the President of the Plant City Garden Club and I was involved in an exhibit with Sawgrass which I got from a local nursery. I wondered why the garden club didn't use native plants, so I drifted to the Florida Native Plant Society because of the importance of native plants".

Question: What are your goals and what do you hope to accomplish in 2017 on the Suncoast board?

Answer: "Promotion and education are very important. I'd like to see us support groups starting to work with native plants, having people value native plants as opposed to just any plants.

Grants and partnering with schools, motivate membership and help small groups that are just starting out working with native plants, are my goals. The Plant City Community Garden is a good example. We got that started and now Janet (Bowers) has taken it on as her personal project".

Question: What is your favorite Florida native plant?

Answer: "Horsemint. Also known as Spotted Beebalm or *Monarda punctata*. The shape of the blossom is very odd looking, with the dotting and coloring of the flower. It's also very hardy and a pollinator. I got some about 2 years ago.

In closing, I am lucky because Dream is really interested in native plants so we motivate each other and work together".

~ Devon Higginbotham

SNPS Fall Camping Trip: Myakka River State Park

October 27, 28 & 29

If our Spring camping trip to St. Joseph Peninsula State Park is a bit too far of a drive for you, you will be happy to know we have chosen Myakka River State Park as our destination for our Fall camping trip on



October 27, 28, and 29. . About 1-1 ½ hours from Hillsborough County, Myakka River State Park is located at 13208 State Road 72, Sarasota, FL 34241.

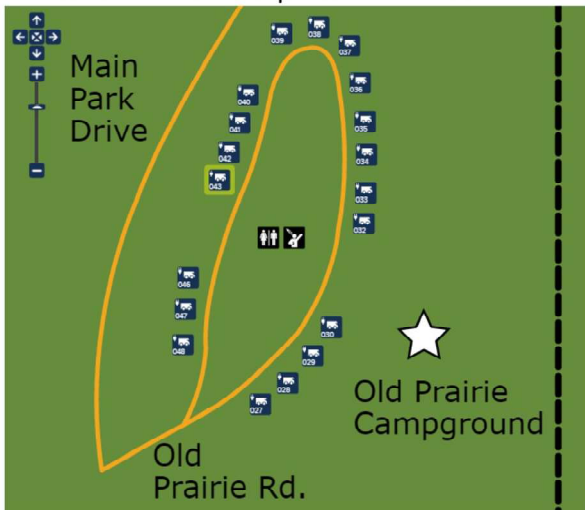
According to the park website: “Myakka River State Park is One of the oldest and largest state parks. It protects one of the state's most diverse natural areas. The Myakka River, designated as a Florida Wild and Scenic River, flows through 58 square miles of wetlands, prairies, hammocks, and pinelands. Visitors can enjoy wildlife viewing from a

boardwalk that stretches out over the Upper Myakka Lake, then take to the treetops with a stroll along the canopy walkway. The park’s river and two lakes provide ample opportunities for boating, freshwater fishing, canoeing, and kayaking; a boat ramp provides access to Upper Myakka Lake. Hikers can explore trails that cross large expanses of rare Florida dry prairie. Scenic lake tours are offered daily on the world’s two largest airboats.”

While the cabins are full, there are plenty of sites for tents and RVs still available, and if you prefer, hotel rooms along US 75 are only a 15 -20-minute drive from the park. Plan to come for the weekend, or the day. We



are recommending campers book their sites in the Old Prairie Loop. Old Prairie Loop is located near the park entrance. While it has less vegetative buffers between sites, the campsites are dirt based, rather than gravel, and seem shadier and more rustic. Donna has already reserved site 30 there.



Myakka is a very large park, with diverse habitat. We are sure to see many native plants there, as well as birds and other wildlife. Make your reservations today, then follow the Grapevine for more information on what we plan to do and see at Myakka.

Plant City HCC Native Plant Garden News



The red buckeye tree is in full bloom now. Carolina petunia and rosinweed are starting to bloom. New plants include marlberry, violets, dotted horsemint, gaillardia, frogfruit and coral honeysuckle.

We had a great work day on March 3rd. - the new path is finished, signs were placed and more plants were planted. I wandered to the other side of the garden this week and saw a blooming dogwood as well as a lovely mature coral honeysuckle vine.

We will have another work day on April 2 at 8:30 to prepare for the Earth Day event. The garden will be hosting an Earth Day event on **April 23**, vendors will be there including SNPS from 11 to 4, look for more information to come.

~ Janet

Places to see natives:

Perico Preserve

Submitted by Donna Bollenbach



When land is used for farming, the entire nature of the landscape changes. Soils are removed and replaced, the hydrology is altered to control the amount and movement of the water through manmade ditches and dykes. Once the farm is abandoned, the property becomes an easy target for invasive plants, like Brazilian Pepper and Cogon Grass.

This was the state of the 176-acre parcel of land, Perico Bay Preserve, prior to the purchase and restoration by the Manatee County Natural Services Division. Led by Damon Moore, Environmental Program Manager for Manatee County, with help from environmental consultants from Stantec, and an army of community volunteers, the grounds were resurfaced and stripped of invasive plants. Native grasses and wildflowers were planted, and the land was restored to a combination of scrub, freshwater marsh, hammocks and sea grasses, with an interior saltwater lake and inter tidal connections to Perico Bayou.



After hearing Damon Moore's passionate presentation on the ups and downs of the restoration project, fourteen members of the Suncoast Native Plant Society went to Perico Bay Preserve in Bradenton on Saturday, February 18, to see the results for themselves. With obvious pride, Damon led the group around a mile-long loop through the upland and intertidal coastal communities. In the uplands, there was lots of muhly grass, and we could only imagine how beautiful the masses of pink plumbs must have looked in the fall. Other grasses included Elliot's love-grass, wire grass and other andropogon species. Some of the native wildflowers included pluchea, beach sunflower, blanket flower, licorice weed, dewberry, coral bean, and gigantic prickly pears.



There is a boardwalk that winds into Perico Bayou. Black, red and white mangroves line the edge of the bayou, while myrsine and necklace pods were prolific along the interior waterways. Glassworts trailed in the sands.



A bird blind allows birders and photographers to watch the birds without disturbing them. Several species of ducks migrate through the preserve. We saw shovelers and blue-wing teals in one of the ponds. A pair of white pelicans, a reddish egret, great blue heron, anhingas and cormorants were also spotted.



While most people come to see the birds, Damon is most excited about the gopher tortoise population. The gopher tortoises are transplants from areas that are being developed. Males and female gopher tortoises are separated by plastic fences for their first few months at the preserve. This allows them to become accustomed to their home and begin building their burrows without distraction.



The much larger and very popular Robinson Preserve, could be seen across the bayou. Damon said eventually the two preserves will be connected. He is hoping that Perico Bay Preserve can be maintained as a haven for wildlife, with bike free paths and no dogs. Dogs and bikes are both allowed at Robinson preserve, but it is much larger, so wildlife can find places to retreat away from the pathways.

We could see why Damon was so proud of Perico Bay Preserve. While small, it was truly a sanctuary for wildlife and people who wanted to escape the traffic and noise of the nearby suburbs. Like nature, it is a work in progress, always evolving and adapting, never really complete, and a process worth watching.

Manatee County and Stantec received an "Award of Excellence" from FNPS in 2016 for this restoration project.

Perico Preserve is located at 11700 Manatee Ave W, Bradenton, FL 34209. It has nearly 1.5 miles of winding trails with benches, boardwalks, overlooks, and a bird blind.

Coming up in the next 2 months -

March 2017

April 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4							1
5	6	7	8	9 SNPS BOD Meeting	10	11	2 Plant City Native Garden Workday	3	4	5	6	7	8 SNPS Spring Plant Sale
12 <i>Daylight savings starts</i>	13	14	15 SNPS Chapter Meeting	16	17	18 SNPS fieldtrip	9 SNPS Spring Plant Sale	10	11	12	13 SNPS BOD Meeting	14	15 SNPS fieldtrip
19	20	21	22	23	24	25 Lettuce Lake Native Plant Walk	16 <i>Easter</i>	17	18	19	20	21	22 Lettuce Lake Native Plant Walk
26	27	28	29				23 Earth Day at Plant City Garden	24	25	26 SNPS	27 Camp	28 out at	29/30 SJPSP

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 Business or non-profit \$150
 Full time student \$15 Supporting \$100
 Family or household \$50 Gold \$500
 Patron \$250 Sustaining - \$10 a month w/credit card
 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>	
Open	
<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:

April 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.

2017 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: