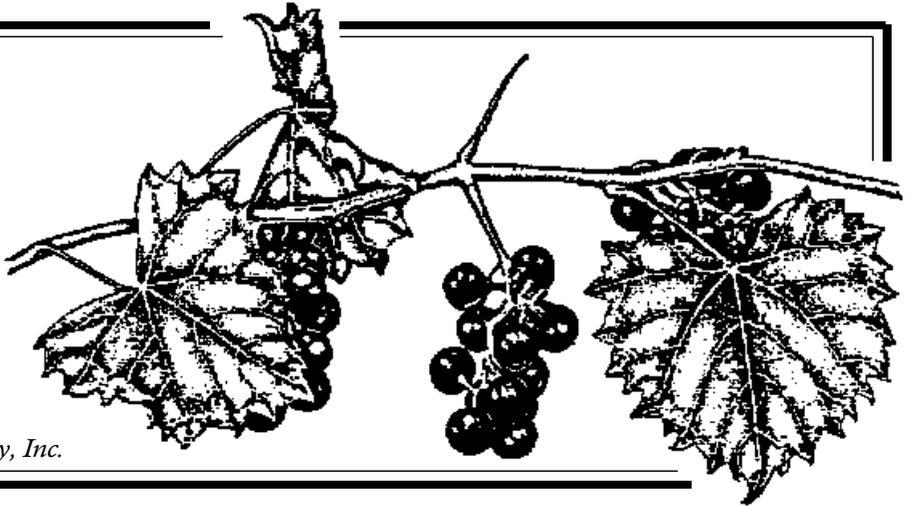


www.suncoastnps.org

The Suncoast Grapevine

Newsletter of the Suncoast Native Plant Society, Inc.



Volume 35 Number 7

July 2018



This is our joint meeting with Tampa Bay Audubon and the Tampa Bay Sierra Club, Audubon is hosting this year.

Heather Young is a Senior Environmental Planner at the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council. She is organizing a climate compact for our region and setting up a technical advisory committee. Heather will let us know how it's going and what is involved.

JULY JOINT MEETING

At the Hillsborough County Extension Office

Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council

Presented by Heather Young

Wednesday, July 18

5:30 PM - Arrival - please bring your pot luck dish to the Kitchen, the door on the main building on the north side, close to Old Hillsborough. Please sign in with all of the organizations that you belong to in the conference center (where we normally meet, through the black iron gates)

6:15 PM - Pot luck Supper - food will be served in the kitchen, tables will be spread through the kitchen, meeting room, and conference center

7:30 PM - Introduction and announcements

7:45 PM - Heather Young will speak

- submitted by Virginia Overstreet



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



JL

A Gray Hairstreak rests on Mohr's Thoroughwort which flowers abundantly throughout the summer and early fall.

TRAIL MIX
“Antidotal Evidence”

By John Lampkin

Do your eyes glaze over when encountering a botanical name? Are you perplexed by the pronunciation of those multisyllabic mouthfuls of mutilated Latin? Relax! Any pronunciation you can utter without injury is acceptable and since botanical names carry interesting info it's worth paying attention.

Such is especially the case with Mohr's Thoroughwort, *Eupatorium mohrii*. [you-puh-TORE-ee-um MORE-ee-

eye.] “Mohrii” honors Alabama botanist Charles Theodore Mohr and the genus “Eupatorium” refers to Mithridates VI Eupator Dionysius, a BC king of what is now part of Turkey. His daddy was poisoned by persons unknown, so Mithridates VI vowed to never let that happen to himself. He concocted an antidotal potion by combining 54 different toxic plants and guess what, some of those are in the genus that now bears his name. Indeed, some Eupatoriums are deadly, like White Snakeroot which killed Abe Lincoln's mom when she drank milk from a cow that had eaten some. Mithridates drank a little of his elixir every day, thinking that it would build up his body's immunity, and miraculously, his plan worked! What didn't kill him made him stronger, vital enough to carry on and cavort like kings did back in the good old days. He married his sister (on purpose!), took other wives, kept mistresses, repeatedly whipped Roman butt in a bunch of wars you can Google, and bumped off political enemies including two of his misbehaving sons. Finally, after 72 years of such fun and games, his luck ran out. Facing a certain and humiliating death, he tried to kill himself by drinking full-strength poison. Irony of ironies—his immunity was so strong by then it didn't kill but only weakened him to the point he couldn't even fall on his sword. He had to beg a friend to finish him off. “Mithridates” became a now-bygone synonym for “antidote” and his aka name Eupator lives on in field guides and plant atlases.

If Mohr's Thoroughwort is toxic, pollinators like Gray Hairstreak butterflies aren't adversely affected as they probe the myriad blooms alongside bees and beetles. Do their eyes glaze over when encountering a botanical name on garden plant signage? No, the only language they know translates to, “Show me the nectar!”

John Lampkin leads interpretive walks at 9 am on the first Tuesday of each month at the Sun City Center Nature Trails. No antidotal beverages will be served. JohnLampkin@JohnLampkin.com

UPCOMING SPEAKERS-

August 15 – NO MEETING

September 19 – George Heinrich – Gopher Tortoises

October 17 – Ginny Stibolt – new book ‘A Step-by-Step Guide to a Florida Native Yard’

November 7 – Note meeting date – We will vote on the 2019 board, speaker tbd

December 1 – Holiday gathering at Brooker Creek Preserve



Thanks for helping with the June meeting -

Devon Higginbotham for bringing snacks

**JoAnn Hoffman, Bunny Worth, Cliff Brown, Janet Bowers
for bringing auction plants**

Special Thank Yous -

JoAnn Hoffman for being our extension liason and making our meeting place possible.

Cliff Brown for being the plant auctioneer.



FNPS News....

Check out the recent edition of the Sabal Minor newsletter for updates on FNPS (it will be at <https://www.fnps.org/resources/sabalminor>).

Next Year's conference will be at the Plantation on Crystal River in beautiful Crystal River, from Thursday, May 16 to Sunday, May 19, 2019.

The Florida Native Plant Society is seeking applications for the position of Director of Communications and Programming. This will be a full-time salaried position.

Apply by July 31, 2018 by sending a cover letter, a resume, and a writing sample or curriculum vitae (CV) to **Juliet Rynear at ExecutiveDirector@fnps.org**.

<https://www.fnps.org/news/society-news/we-are-hiring-again> for more info.

SNPS News

- Don't forget to **send Tina any volunteer hours** so that she can enter it on the FNPS website
- **There will not be an August meeting**
- Our November general membership and election meeting will be November 7. **Devon Higginbotham is leading the nominating committee, let her know if you have suggestions for the BOD.**
- **SNPS donated money to buy an oak tree** for Archbold Biological Station (more info in the Sabal Minor)
- Look for the next newsletter in September



Encyclia tampensis blooms

Lettuce Lake Update

From Tina Patterson

Lettuce Lake is in summer mode, hot and wet. *Asclepias perennis* is finally blooming in the canoe launch area and around some of the picnic shelters. The tarflower and button bush are washed away but the orchids (*Encyclia tampensis*) still look nice.

Now that it is raining more regularly and the baby armadillos are gone, I am trying to get the rest of the plants into the garden. Volunteers will be out there on Thursday, July 12 at 9 am. Maybe they can help.

The next walk at Lettuce Lake is September 22. The walk is free but there is a \$2 per car entry fee.

See you there!



Clematis crispa flower



Mark Your Calendar

-- **No meeting in August** ---

August 24 8:30- 11:30 FANN - 20 Easy Wildflowers Walk & Talk at Bok Tower Gardens
(there is an entry fee for Bok Tower Gardens)

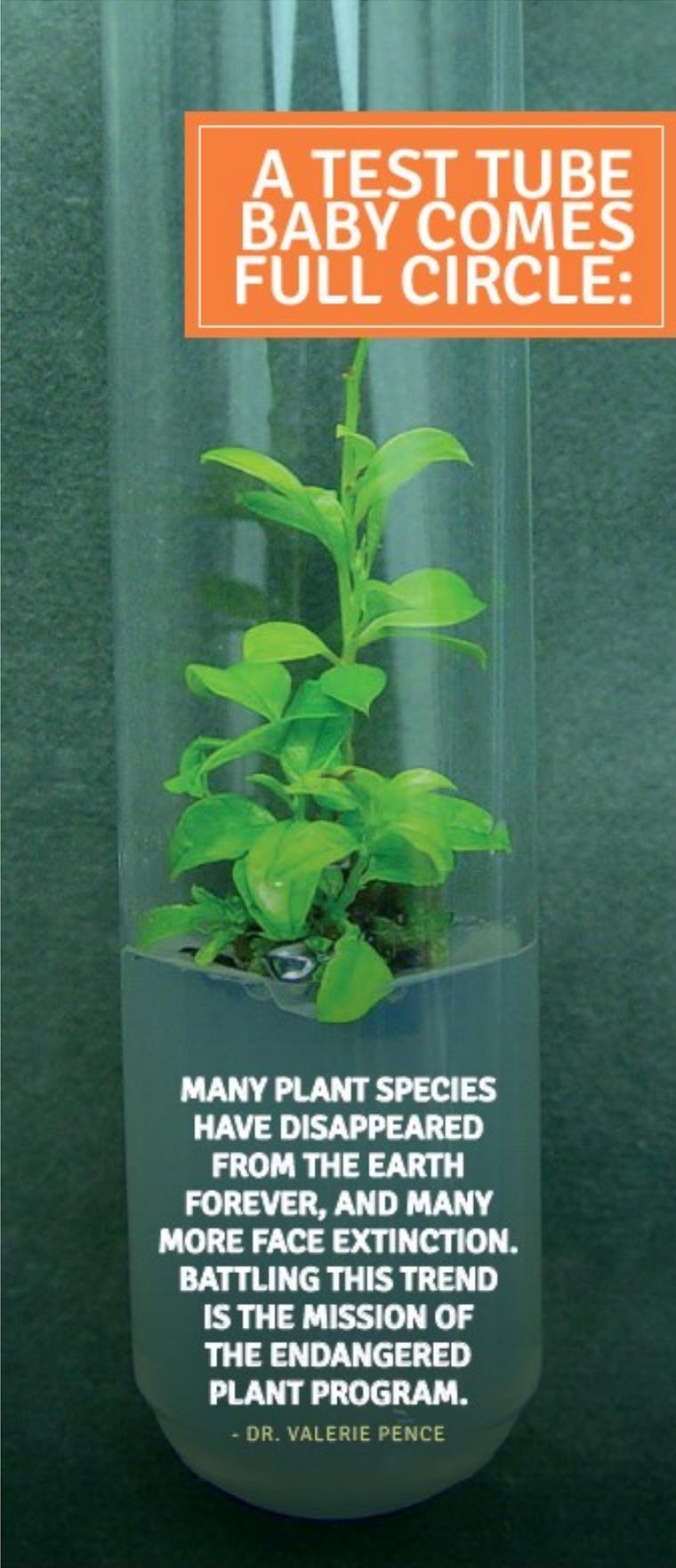
Lettuce Lake walks 9 AM - September 22, October 27, November 24

-- **October is Native Plant Month** ---

October 13 and 14 USF Plant Sale

October 13 and 14 Tampa Bay Birding and Nature Festival

December 1 Holiday gathering at Brooker Creek Preserve, James Stevenson will be speaking



**A TEST TUBE
BABY COMES
FULL CIRCLE:**

Celebrating a key milestone for a tissue-cultured Florida Ziziphus

by Cheryl L. Peterson,
Conservation Program Manager

In 1984, Walter Judd and David Hall examined an old herbarium specimen and named it (*Ziziphus celata*). It had been collected by amateur botanist Ray Garrett way back in 1948, but as no one had seen it since, it was presumed to be extinct. In 1987, botanical explorer Kris Delaney rediscovered it in another location. By 2007, extensive searches led to the discovery of 13 other small populations, all within the Lake Wales Ridge of Central Florida.

The Florida Ziziphus, as it is commonly known, is a thorny, deciduous shrub. Adults flower profusely, with tiny, yellow-green aromatic flowers that bloom in January and attract numerous insect species. Despite the presence of these pollinators, very few fruit are produced and no seedlings have ever been observed in the wild. Genetic research by Archbold Biological Station and the University of Florida showed that most populations are clonal, generally composed of a single genetic individual, and therefore incapable of producing viable seeds. However, the good news was that each population contained different, potentially cross-compatible genotypes.

Although its rediscovery was good news, Florida Ziziphus still seemed doomed to extinction. Most of the populations were on unprotected land, and were declining as they could not reproduce. Preventing extinction of Florida Ziziphus required successful propagation to preserve its remaining genetic diversity and to introduce

**MANY PLANT SPECIES
HAVE DISAPPEARED
FROM THE EARTH
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MORE FACE EXTINCTION.
BATTLING THIS TREND
IS THE MISSION OF
THE ENDANGERED
PLANT PROGRAM.**

- DR. VALERIE PENCE

self-sustaining populations on protected land.

In the mid 1980's, we began efforts to propagate clones from each population. Root cuttings were the only successful propagation method, and although the success rate was low, this eventually created a captive population at Bok Tower Gardens. By the mid-1990s, the first-ever open cross-pollination of compatible genotypes was taking place. An annual fruit crop has been produced here ever since, but low overall genetic variation remains a problem. Even decades later, many of the genotypes are not represented because root cuttings from those populations have repeatedly failed. Taking root cuttings is a destructive process, and since so few remaining individuals exist, a better propagation method has been needed.

To the rescue comes tissue culture! Tissue culture involves growing new plants on artificial media under sterile laboratory conditions, using a tiny cutting as starting material. When all other propagation methods are not possible, this may be the last resort to save a species. Dr. Valerie Pence at the Cincinnati Zoo's Center for Conservation and Research of Endangered Wildlife has been working for many years to develop tissue culture methods for Florida Ziziphus. In 2009, they

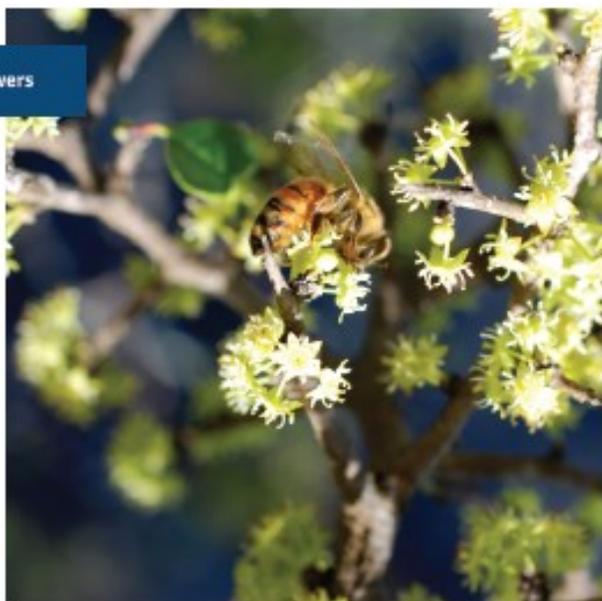
A busy pollinator on Ziziphus flowers

generated their first successful test tube-grown Florida Ziziphus. It was then our job to acclimatize it to conditions outside of the test tube. For the first two years, the plant looked like little more than a tiny, bare stick, but under the soil its roots were slowly strengthening. With care and patience, it grew.

In January 2018, this test tube baby reached an important milestone – it developed its first flowers! This brightens the outlook for the preservation of Florida Ziziphus considerably. Because we now know that tissue culture-propagated plants can grow to become healthy, reproductive adults, we have hope that each unique genotype can be grown and used to establish new, genetically diverse populations to help prevent the extinction of this very special Lake Wales Ridge endemic.

Special thanks to the following donors of Florida native plants and the property owners who allowed us entry to collect native plants, January – March 2018:

- *Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Program*
- *Charles Harmer Morse Foundation, Winter Park, FL*
- *Nancy J. Young, New Smyrna, FL*
- *Patricia G. Kitchen, Tallahassee, FL*
- *Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Hobe Sound, FL*
- *Mountain Lake, Lake Wales, FL*
- *Hillsborough County Conservation and Environmental Lands Management Program, Riverview, FL*
- *Orange County Parks and Recreation, Orlando, FL*



“A little more persistence, a little more effort, and what seemed hopeless failure may turn to glorious success.”

- ELBERT HUBBARD



Reprinted with permission, Originally in the Summer 2018 issue of Bok Tower Gardens' The Garden Path magazine
Thanks to Cheryl Peterson for allowing us to share this wonderful information!

My New Favorite Local Plant Walk

- Janet Bowers

I guess local is relative, Polk county is almost in my back yard so going up 98 North of Lakeland is pretty close. The McNeil entrance to the West tract of the green swamp trail was a Heartland chapter walk in late May and I have been back 4 times since then. The first time I missed the entrance (it is barely in Sumter county past Colt Creek State Park.) Josh Campbell from USF was the leader and we had a plant list (sorted by family of course). Sorted by family is a challenge for me because despite my Plant ID class in Pinellas County, I have not practiced enough to have much of a clue about what family a plant belongs to. I know that it is the key to IDing plants, especially when you're not familiar with it but you can place it into a family by its characteristics. Anyway looking at a list sorted by family is awkward for me. (If you follow SNPS on Facebook, you may have seen my pics).



The walk starts in an area that was burnt towards the beginning of May and there were a lot of *Clematis baldwinii* (pine hyacinth) to see on the first trip. Blackeyed susan flowers lined the path and it was just a lovely walk. On the second part of the loop (on the Florida scenic trail) there were blueberries and huckleberries to snack on. Bonus - we saw 2 different milkweeds - *A. feayii* and *A. longifolia*.

Almost every time I've been there, I've seen a weird bug or caterpillar. There is always something to be curious about.

Clouded Crimson Moth caterpillar on *Oenothera simulans*



The first couple times *Chrysopsis subulata* (scrubland goldenaster) had drooping buds and the last time it was flowering.

Spurred butterfly peas (*Centrosema virginianum*) have been blooming every time I've been there. This one has a skipper looking for nectar.



The last time I went (at the end of June) the *Dalea carnea*, one of my favorites, was blooming along the trail. Redroot and sabatia were blooming in a wet area. Pollinators were abundant and it was another wonderful visit.



Dalea



Sabatia

Gulf fritillary butterfly on red-root



I've seen several indications that fall blooming will be outstanding - liatris, carphophorus and silkgrass are waiting for their time to shine and I will be there to see it!



Plant Profile - Wiregrass
Aristida stricta
Family - Poaceae

Wiregrass is a long lived, clumping grass that grows up to 4 feet tall in sun to part sun areas. It prefers dry conditions and needs fire to produce viable seeds. Land managers need to consider the fire requirement as part of their plan to ensure that the wiregrass thrives.

It is the main grass in long leaf pine savannahs and can be used in the landscape. Wire grass can be especially attractive when it is blooming, though not as obvious as love grass, there is some tint of color and a lovely wave when the breeze blows.



Plants and seeds are available from Native Nurseries and Native Seed providers.

Plant Atlas link -
<http://florida.plantatlas.usf.edu/Plant.aspx?id=698>

FNPS link -
<https://www.fnps.org/plants/plant/aristida-stricta-var-beyrichiana>

~Janet Bowers



2018 Field Trip schedule

July - no field trip, this is a good month to visit your local native nursery during the rainy season

August - no field trip, no meeting

September 22 - Polk County Site near Lake Marion Creek

October 27-29 - Silver Springs State Park camping, we have 2 cabins reserved - \$ 62.73 per person

(4 per cabin) Camping reservations for RV or tent sites can be made on your own, but should be made soon. The park entrance, campground restrooms and cabin areas were landscaped with donations from FANN and feature an incredible display of garberia which we hope will be blooming when we are there. The park staff does a good job of burning the sandhill and an October visit gives us a great chance to see prolific fall wildflowers.

Contact Tina Patterson, mablepatterson@hotmail.com for cabin reservations.

November 17 - Blackwater Creek Preserve, maybe a buggy ride, more info to come

Join FNPS on-line - <http://fnps.org/participate/membershipinfo>

When it comes time to renew, FNPS will send you an email with a link in it. Your information will already be filled out, but you can edit it if it is out of date. This link is unique to you and not to be shared with others.



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>	
Andy Taylor	
<i>Outreach</i>	
Open	
<i>USF Plant Sales</i>	
Open	
<i>USF Botanical Garden Liaison</i>	
Kim Hutton	974-2329
<i>Chapter Representative</i>	
Virginia Overstreet	
<i>Webmaster</i>	
Shirley Denton	625-5031

Newsletter Submissions

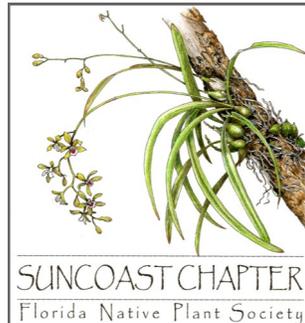
Deadline for the next issue:
September 1, 2018

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



Meetings are normally the
third Wednesday of the month
at 7 PM. (no August meeting)

DIRECTIONS TO:

Hillsborough County Extension
5339 County Road 579
Seffner

Take I-4 to Exit 10
Go south on 579 for two blocks.
Turn left on Old Hillsborough
Ave and park on the North side of
the office.



2018 Board of Directors

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vaoverstreet@gmail.com

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