

www.fnps.org/chapters/suncoast

The Suncoast Grapevine

Newsletter of the Suncoast Native Plant Society, Inc.



Volume 19 Number 2

February 2002

February 20 Meeting

Backyard Expeditions – Insects, Flowers, and More by Carlos de la Rosa

Faraway, exotic locales are not the only places to encounter interesting wildlife: your own backyard is a small wonder of nature if you know where to look. At our February meeting, Carlos de la Rosa, Education Coordinator for the Pinellas County Department of Environmental Management, will give a presentation on the various microhabitats found in urban and suburban settings and the insects that populate them. He will illustrate the talk with high-resolution close up photographs of insects, the flowers they visit and their habitats. Carlos will talk to us about unusual interactions and behaviors, ways to improve backyard wildlife habitats, and the tools used to observe and capture this fascinating world on film.

Carlos's professional interests include aquatic insects, environmental education methods, and tropical and sub-tropical conservation. He earned his Ph.D. in Aquatic Ecology at the University of Pittsburgh, after which he worked as a researcher for the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia for several years. He has been biodiversity advisor to a number of groups, including the Organization of American States and the U.S. Agency for International Development. Currently he is President of the International Foundation for Environmental Restoration, Education and Management, and serves both Florida Atlantic University and the University of Central Florida as Adjunct Professor. His most recent book is *A Guide to the Carnivores of Central America*, and he's currently working on a new multi-media book entitled *A Guide to the Aquatic Invertebrates of Florida*. His photographs have been published in several books.

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Message from the Chair

What a difference a few weeks make! The plants are busy preparing for a new growing season. Several places in my yard are covered with newly sprouted seedlings of beach sunflower, blue curls, seaside heliotrope, and dotted horsemint. The Walter's viburnums are nearly ready to explode with bright, white flowers. The redbud, winged elm, and beautyberry have awakened from their brief slumber with shiny new leaves.

The Board has been busy, too. At the last meeting, we approved a \$300 grant application from Nature's Classroom to create a native carnivorous plant garden to educate approximately 11,000 sixth graders per year. Betty Wargo and Dick Wunderlin have been working on an education project to provide plant identification workshops to non-botanist members and the public. If you would like to be a part of this educational effort, please give Betty or Dick a call.

We have committee chair vacancies for the Education, Plant Table, and Publicity committees. If you are interested, please contact a Board member.

George Kish

Suncoast Chapter Program for 2002

By Harriett Wright and Dick Wunderlin

Feb 20 Backyard Expeditions - Insects, Flowers, and More by Carlos de la Rosa

Mar 20 Tell Us About Your Garden - an audience participation program

Apr 17 Building a Backyard Bog Garden by Chelsie Vandaveer **(meeting will be held at the Learning Gate School on North Boulevard)**

May 15 Native Plants of the Everglades by Roger Hammer

Jun 19 Journeys on Florida's Rivers by Gene Cleversey

Jul 17 Project GreenHouse - Sustainable Living in Florida by Brian Marc Schatz

Aug 21 Project Planning Using Natural Landscaping by David Connor

Sep 18 Plant communities in Florida by Bobby Hattaway

Oct 16 Come Into My Parlor - Spiders of Florida by Francia Smith

Nov 20 Principles of landscaping with native plants by Bill and Nancy Bissett

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 FNPS also entitles you to membership privileges in the Suncoast Native Plant Society, Inc. and a subscription to their monthly newsletter *The Suncoast Grapevine*. Contact the membership chair, George Kish at (813) 920-0853.

detach and mail to address given below

Name _____

Business name
or organization _____

Address _____

City, State and Zip _____

Home phone _____ Work phone _____

E-mail and/or FAX _____

New Member

Renewal

Check pertinent category:

Individual \$25

Not-for-profit

Full time student \$15

organization \$50

Library subscription \$15

Business or

Family or household \$30

corporate \$100

Contributing \$40

Supporting \$100

Donor \$250

Suncoast Native Plant Society

P.O. Box 82893 Tampa, FL 33682-2893

Make check payable to **FNPS**.

Suncoast Calendar

February 15-17 Members only 25 percent off plant sale at the USF Botanical Garden. Call 813-974-2329 for information.

February 16, 10 a.m. Tree planting project at the Brooker Creek ELAPP site by Tampa Bay Reforestation and Environmental Effort. Call Rick Strickland to RSVP at 813-920-0757 (see page 4).

February 16, 2 p.m. Xeriscape Basics 101 by the Southwest Florida Water Management District at Audubon Resource Center at Lettuce Lake Park. Call 813-983-0258 for information.

February 16, 10 a.m. Fakahatchee Strand Swamp Walk guided by local biologist, Mike Owen. Reservations are required – call 941-695-4593. For car pooling and information, call Paul Francois at 727-843-8953. Lodging is available in Everglades City or camping is available at Collier-Seminole Park.

February 16 Starkey Flatwood Adventures Birding/Eco-Tour. West Pasco Audubon Society and Nature Coast chapter field trip. Ken Tracey, WPAS president, will spot the birds. Registration and pre-payment to Flatwoods Adventures is required: \$15.11 for adults and \$7.16 for children. Call Aggie Condon at 727-849-8328 for information.

February 20 7 p.m. Backyard Expeditions: Insects, Flowers, and More by Carlos de la Rosa. Suncoast chapter monthly meeting at the USF Westside Conference Center.

February 22 Tree and Landscape Short Course. Call Hillsborough County Extension at 813-744-5519.

February 22-23 Tampa Spring Expo 2002 at the Florida State Fairgrounds. Call Tampa Bay Wholesale Growers at 813-655-1914 or visit the web site www.tbwg.org for information.

March 1-2 Begonia Bonanza. USF Botanical Garden. Call 813-974-2329 for information.

March 6 Good Fire, Bad Plants: Managing Fire and Invasives on Public Lands by Tony Richards, SWFWMD. Pinellas chapter meeting at the Sunstar Ambulance Facility (next to the Extension office), Largo. Call 727-726-1455 for information.

March 20 7 p.m. Tell Us About Your Garden - an audience participation program. Suncoast chapter monthly meeting at the USF Westside Conference Center.

March 21-24 22nd Annual Conference of the Florida Native Plant Society in Tallahassee at the Ramada Inn North. Conference theme is Native Plants in Native Places: Botanical Treasures Off the Garden Path. Call 561-462-0000 or email conference@fnps.org for information.

April 13-14 USF Botanical Garden Spring Plant Festival. Call 813-974-2329 for information.

April 17 7 p.m. Building a Backyard Bog Garden by Chelsie Vandaveer Suncoast chapter monthly meeting at the Learning Gate Community School, 14018 North Boulevard, Tampa (between Fletcher Ave. and Bearss Ave.)

Hillsborough County Master Gardener Plant Clinics. Call 813-744-5519 x 145 for information about topics, location, and dates or visit their website: hillsborough.extension.ufl.edu/calendar.htm.

Hillsborough County Cooperative Extension Service Rain Barrel and Water Wise Workshops. Feb 23, or Mar 9. Call 813-744-5519 to make a reservation.

Environmental Restoration Project

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16TH (10:00 AM)

Volunteers are needed to assist the Tampa Bay Reforestation and Environmental Effort (TREE) and Hillsborough County with the planting of 100 3-gallon chapman oak, 40 3-gallon pignut hickory, and 100 3-gallon blackjack oak at Hillsborough County's Brooker Creek Preserve ELAPP site. No experience is necessary, just a desire to restore native vegetation. Please help our chapter to have a good showing for this worthwhile effort.

Directions: Take Gunn Highway north to Tarpon Road. Turn left (west) on Tarpon Road and travel to Patterson Road. Turn left (south) on Patterson Road. The ELAPP site will be on your right. Please call Rick Strickland to RSVP or for more information at 813-920-0757.

Rufino Osorio's Gift

By Harriett Wright

To thank us for our chapter's support in publishing his book, the author of *A Gardener's Guide to Florida's Native Plants* has very generously sent our chapter a dozen packets of seeds, many of them for rare and unusual species. So that all who want to do so can try their hand with them, I've divided them into packets of six to twelve or more seeds, depending on how many of each species he sent. The species are: *Amorpha crenulata*, *Aster concolor*, *Capsicum annuum* var. *glabriusculum*, *Chaptalia albescens*, *Clematis baldwinii*, *Crossopetalum ilicifolium*, *Crotalaria pumila*, *Desmodium paniculatum*, *Jacquemontia reclinata*, *Passiflora pallens*, and *Rudbeckia mohrii*. Look for a sheet to sign up for the seeds you want when you arrive at the February meeting.

March Program Change

The program for March will be an audience participation program titled: **Tell Us About Your Garden**. The meeting will be an informal opportunity for members to share successes and disappointments with native plant gardening and landscaping. Please bring pictures, slides, sketches, etc. to the meeting and be prepared for a fun time of trading gardening stories.

Landscape Awards Application Deadline Extended

The 2002 FNPS "Design with Natives" Landscape Awards deadline for application submittal has been extended. The new deadline is February 20, 2002.

Welcome New and Renewing Members

New: Diane Lane

Renewing: Brandon Regional Library
Tampa Public Library
Mitch Almon
Debbie Butts
Ann Nord

Budget for 2002

INCOME

Membership	1,000
Book Sales	700
Plant raffle/sales	165
Event Sales	2,100
Royalties	450
Donations	0
Misc. Plant Sale	10
Reserve	1,175
Total income	5,600

EXPENSES

Administration	400
Newsletter	2,100
Book Purchases	400
Programs	600
Taxes	0
Grants	1,200
Publications Comm.	0
Field Trip Comm.	0
Education Comm.	200
Donations	250
Library	200
Misc.	250
Total expenses	5,600

PLANT PROFILE

Common name: Turkey oak

Botanical name: *Quercus laevis* Walter

Family: Fagaceae (Beech or oak)

Type of plant: Medium-sized, deciduous tree with open crown.

Size: 30-40 ft. (H) by 10 ft. (W) at maturity.

Leaves: Greenish-yellow, glossy above, pubescent below; 4-12 inches long with 3-5 deeply cut lobes and pointed leaves. In Spring, new leaves are tinged with red.

Flower: Yellowish male catkins; female flowers are inconspicuous.

Flowering time: Spring.

Fruit: Light brown acorn, 1 inch long.

Bark: Dark and deeply furrowed.

Habitat/distribution: Sandhills, scrubs, and dry hammocks; zones 8-9.

Landscape use: Specimen tree or for wildlife habitat.

Wildlife benefit: Provides good cover for birds and other wildlife.



**Botanical drawing from Florida
Division of Forestry**

Cultivation:

Soil: Sandy, well-drained, acid.

Water: Drought-tolerant once established.

Availability: Most native plant nurseries.

Comments: Moderate to fast growing tree with spreading branches and open crown. Distinctive rust to chocolate brown fall foliage. Lobed, pointed leaves resemble the foot of a turkey, hence the common name.

Light: Full sun to part shade.

Propagation: By seed (acorn).

References:

Bowman, Sheryl, Debbie Butts, Betsy Davis, John Marsh, Ann Nord, and Carl Strohmenger, 1997, *The Right Plants for Dry Places – Native Plant Landscaping in Central Florida*: Great Outdoors Publishing Co., St. Petersburg, Florida, 112 p.

Haehle, Robert G., and Joan Brookwell, 1999, *Native Florida Plants*: Gulf Publishing Company, Houston, Texas, 360 p.

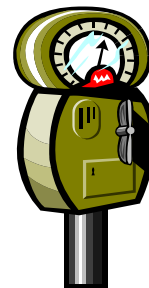
Huegel, Craig N., 1995, *Florida Plants for Wildlife*: Florida Native Plant Society, Orlando, Florida, 118 p.

Florida Division of Forestry, 1997, *Forest Trees of Florida*: Florida Division of Forestry, Tallahassee, Florida, published online at http://www.fl-dof.com/Pubs/trees_of_florida/index.html.

Information compiled by George Kish

USF Parking Permit Required for Chapter Meetings

Parking permits are required - USF security is enforcing parking rules. Parking permits are \$2.00 and may be purchased at the main entrance to USF or at permit machines located along the west side of the School of Public Health Building. Permit machines require dollar bills or coins.



Directory

Officers & Board of Directors

Chair

George Kish 920-0853

Vice-chair

Richard Wunderlin 977-6484

Harriett Wright 908-9398

Secretary

Ameé Bailey 662-5954

Treasurer

Fred Spriggs 935-1312

Chapter Representative

Richard Wunderlin 977-6484

Board Members

Ken Albritton 985-3372

Ameé Bailey 662-5954

George Kish 920-0853

Fred Spriggs 935-1312

Betty Wargo 237-1509

Harriett Wright 908-9398

Richard Wunderlin 977-6484

Activities & Committee Chairs

Field trips

Steve Dickman 936-7268

Publications

Betsy Davis 973-8524

Historian

Pat McDowell 949-4648

Librarian

Vikki Sinclair 989-2896

Membership

George Kish 920-0853

Newsletter editor

George Kish 920-0853

Plant Table

To be announced

Programs

Richard Wunderlin 977-6484

Harriett Wright 908-9398

Publicity

To be announced

Refreshments

Lucy Hoyt 960-3178

Education

Betsy Davis 973-8524

Book Sales

Sally Sun 935-1312

Newsletter Submissions

Deadline for the next issue:

February 25

Please send articles and original artwork for The Suncoast Grapevine to the editor, George Kish, by the **deadline** of each month (earlier, please, if not typed). Text should be in MS Word; graphics should be in a standard graphic format. Previously published artwork should be accompanied by a letter of permission from the original publisher.

Mail:..... SNPS, Inc.
P.O. Box 82893
Tampa, FL 33682-2893

Email:...gkish@tampabay.rr.com

Meeting Location

Suncoast Native Plant Society, Inc. meets the third Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the Westside Conference Center, first floor, located on the USF campus at Banyan & Cypress. Entrance is at the north end of the building.



SNPS Address

The main address for communication is:

Suncoast Native Plant Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 82893
Tampa, FL 33682-2893

Any correspondence sent to this address will be forwarded to the appropriate officer or committee member.

The SNPS web address is:

www.fnps.org/chapters/suncoast

Grapevine Subscription

You may subscribe to the Suncoast Grapevine (not including membership in the SNPS or the FNPS) for \$10 per year. Contact George Kish at 920-0853.

Stamp

Please deliver to: