

# The Suncoast Grapevine

Newsletter of the Suncoast Native Plant Society, Inc.



Volume 19 Number 10

October 2002

## October 16 Meeting

(at the Learning Gate Community School)

### Come Into My Parlor – and Learn about Spiders by Francia Smith

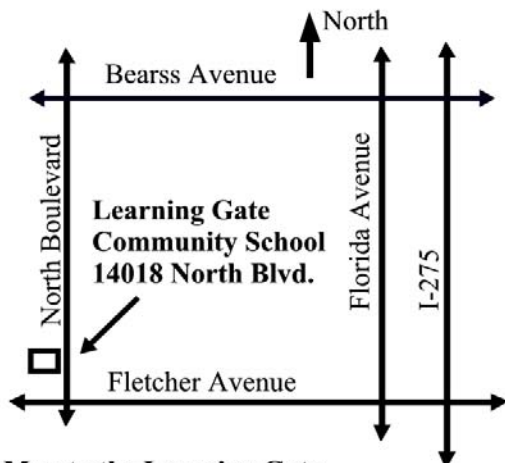
Don't like spiders?...keep an open mind until you hear Francia Smith's presentation at our October meeting. Francia (pronounced Francha), aka The Spider Lady, will tell us about the characteristics, history, uniqueness, adaptability, and importance of spiders, and debunk some spider myths. She plans to bring live specimens of some of the spiders that live in our area. Because we strongly suspect USF of spider-phobia, we'll be meeting at the Learning Gate School.

Francia has been an Environmental Resource Teacher for the Pinellas County School District since 1988. She began her career in Environmental Education in Hillsborough

County, where she taught at Nature's Classroom from 1973 to 1988. The area abounded in wildlife, and students were able to observe many animals: deer, wild turkey, wild pigs. But then she moved to Pinellas County, and started work at Boyd Hill Nature Park.

This is a city park, surrounded by the most densely populated county in Florida, and deer and wild turkey are few and far between.

(Continued on page 2)



Map to the Learning Gate Community School (not to scale)

### Highlights

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## Message from the Chair

The USF Botanical Garden Plant Festival will be held this weekend, October 12 and 13. Sally Sun will once again put together a great sale for our chapter. Please stop by to stock up on native plants for your landscape. This sale is our major fund raising event and your support is important to our chapter.

Suncoast chapter elections are just around the corner and the next two meetings will decide the leadership of our chapter for 2003. According to the Suncoast chapter By-laws, the membership decides on the number of Board members for 2003 at the October meeting. The current number of Board members is seven.

The November meeting is the election meeting where the membership votes for a slate of candidates for the 2003 Board of Directors. Please join us at both meetings to ensure that your voice is heard.

*George Kish*

## **Come Into My Parlor (continued from page 1)**

Casting about for some sort of wildlife to engage the interest of her students, Francia noticed that Boyd Hill had lots of spiders. The more she learned about spiders the more fascinated she became, and soon her students had begun to call her "the spider lady." She is currently based at Sawgrass Lake Park, teaching about the environment to all fourth grade classes in Pinellas County.

Pinellas County's gain was our loss at SNPS: Francia was a charter member of our chapter and served on the board in the early years.

- Contributed by Harriett Wright

## **Programs for Suncoast Chapter Meetings in 2002**

By Harriett Wright and Dick Wunderlin

**Oct 16** Come Into My Parlor – and Learn about Spiders 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: Suncoast Native Plant Society, P.O. Box 82893, Tampa, FL 33682-2893*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Business name  
or organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State and Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Work  
telephone \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

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

Make check payable to **FNPS**.

# Suncoast Calendar

**October 12-13** Fall Plant Festival at the USF Botanical Gardens. Call 813-974-2329 for information. **Visit the SNPS area and stock up on native plants!!**

**October 16, 7 p.m. Come Into My Parlor – Spiders of Florida by Francia Smith. Suncoast chapter monthly meeting at the Learning Gate School.**

**October 19-20** Fall Plant Sale at Wilcox Nursery in Largo by the Pinellas chapter, FNPS. Call 727-595-2073.

**October 19** Railroading in Your Garden by Stanley Kotes at the USF Botanical Gardens. Call 813-974-2329 for information.

**October 19** Pond Design & Construction at Marie Selby Botanical Gardens. Call 941-366-5731 for information.

**October 22** Burrowing Owls by Katherin Haley. Call Chinsegut Nature Center in Brooksville at 352-754-6722 for information.

**October 25** Chassahowitzka Night Walk. Call Chinsegut Nature Center in Brooksville at 352-754-6722 for information.

**October 26, 8:30 a.m. SNPS field trip to Cypress Creek Nature Preserve. Contact Steve Dickman at 936-7268 for information.**

**November 2 9 a.m. to Noon Plant Identification Workshop with Dr. Richard Wunderlin at the Audubon Resource Center at Lettuce Lake Park. The topic of the workshop will be botanical terminology. Register by sending email to Betty Wargo at [betty@learninggate.org](mailto:betty@learninggate.org). Space is limited.**

**November 2** Pioneer Day at the Chinsegut Nature Center in Brooksville. Step back into the past and watch demonstrations of Early American Living. Call 352-754-6722 for information.

**November 2-3** Hot Stuff in the Gardens at the USF Botanical Gardens. Call 813-974-2329 for information.

**November 8-10** Members' Plant Distribution and 25% Off Sale at the USF Botanical Gardens. Call 813-974-2329 for information.

**November 8-10** Natural History Workshop. This educational event for FNPS members will feature three days and two nights of immersion in nature in Welaka State Forest swamps, flatwoods and sandhill. Call 352-375-3028 for information.

**November 9, 8:30 a.m. SNPS field trip to Alafia Scrub Preserve to see the endangered Florida aster. Contact Steve Dickman at 936-7268 for information.**

**November 19** Beginning Nature Photography at Myakka at Marie Selby Botanical Gardens. Call 941-366-5731 for information.

**November 20, 7 p.m. Principles of Landscaping with Native Plants by Bill and Nancy Bissett. Suncoast chapter monthly meeting at the Learning Gate Community School.**

**Hillsborough County Master Gardener Plant Clinics.** Call 813-744-5519 x144 for information about locations or visit the website: [hillsborough.extension.ufl.edu/calendar.htm](http://hillsborough.extension.ufl.edu/calendar.htm). Upcoming clinics:

Oct. 14 - Poisonous Plants

Oct. 17 - Gingers by SNPS member **Lucy Hoyt**

Oct. 24 - Landscape Design Game

Oct. 26 - Rain Barrel & Water Wise Workshops

Nov. 4 - Dish Gardens

Nov. 5 - High Color/Low Maintenance Gardening

Nov. 12 - Organics/IPM/Vegetables, Polly Ryan

Nov. 12 - Poisonous Plants, Insects & Snakes

**Note: Events in bold are presented by the SNPS.**

## **USF Botanical Gardens Fall Plant Festival**

By Sally Sun

The USF Botanical Gardens Fall Plant Sale takes place October 12 and 13. We still have need for a few additional volunteers for set-up Friday morning, October 11; and to work the sale Saturday, October 12, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Sunday, October 13, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. If you wish to help, please call Sally Sun at 935-1312. We appreciate your participation!

## **The Plant Raffle Is Back!**

With the change in meeting location, we are bringing back the plant raffle. Please bring your extra plants (natives only) to donate at the next meeting. For each plant you donate, please attach a small tag with the scientific name, common name, and the growing conditions. Please join us at the October meeting for the return of the plant raffle!

## **FNPS Eco-Action Alert**

If you would like to be informed of calls for action on a wide variety of Florida and national environmentally sensitive subjects, consider subscribing to the Eco-Action Alert List. Individuals act on their own, NOT in the name of FNPS. If you would like to subscribe to the Eco-Action Alert, please send an email to [info@fnps.org](mailto:info@fnps.org).



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.

## **Public Land Acquisition and Management Conference**

The 13th annual Public Land Acquisition and Management Partnership Conference, hosted by the Southwest Florida Water Management District, will be held November 20 - 22, 2002 at the Mission Inn Resort at scenic Howey-in-the-Hills. The conference will begin Wednesday afternoon, November 20, with field trips and a workshop and end with a casual dinner. Thursday, November 21, will include a full day of plenary and breakout sessions, followed by a buffet/reception. Friday, November 22, will also include plenary breakout sessions, and will wrap up by noon.

The Public Land Acquisition and Management Partnership Conference is an annual event attended by more than 300 public land conservation professionals. Attendees include land acquisition and management professionals from:

- water management districts
- state agencies
- local governments
- private non-profit organizations
- the private sector

In addition to informative sessions and field trips, the conference provides opportunities for professionals involved in conservation land acquisition and management to informally meet to discuss and exchange ideas and information.

Registration is \$100 by October 29 or \$125 after October 29. The registration fee includes all planned meal functions, refreshments, and a field trip or a workshop. Choice of field trips are Florida National Scenic Trail (Green Swamp West), Green Swamp West Sandhill Restoration, or the Seminole State Forest Scrub Restoration and Scrub Jay Monitoring. Workshops include the Florida Natural Areas Inventory and the Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway Partnership kickoff meeting. Contact Doreen DiCarlo at 561-691-8553 for information or visit the SWFWMD website at: [www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/misc/conf%20website/](http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/misc/conf%20website/)

## PLANT PROFILE

**Common name:** Florida paintbrush  
**Botanical name:** *Carphephorus corymbosus* (Nuttall) Torrey & A. Gray  
**Family:** Asteraceae or Compositae (Aster)  
**Type of plant:** Upright herbaceous perennial  
**Size:** 3 feet (h)

**Leaves:** Stem leaves are alternate and sessile; basal leaves form a single or double rosette.  
**Flower:** Terminal cluster of bright pink tubular florets on a single stem.

**Flowering time:** September to December.

**Fruit:** Achene.

**Stem:** Single hairy stem.

**Habitat/distribution:** Pine flatwoods, sandhills, upland mixed forests; zones 8 - 10A.

**Landscape use:** Accent plant in wildflower garden.

### **Cultivation:**

**Soil:** Well drained.

**Light:** Full sun.

**Water:** Drought tolerant.

**Propagation:** By seed or division.

**Availability:** Most native plant nurseries.

### **References:**

Osorio, Rufino, 2001, *A Gardener's Guide to Florida's Native Plants*: University Press of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, 345 p.

Taylor, Walter Kingsley, 1998, *Florida Wildflowers in Their Natural Communities*: University Press of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, 370 p.

**Information compiled by George Kish**  
**Original photograph by Betty Wargo**



## 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

#### Librarian

Vikki Sinclair 989-2896

#### Membership

George Kish 920-0853

#### Newsletter editor

George Kish 920-0853

#### Programs

Richard Wunderlin 977-6484

Harriett Wright 908-9398

#### Publicity

Harriett Wright 908-9398

#### Refreshments

Lucy Hoyt 960-3178

#### Education

Betsy Davis 973-8524

#### Book Sales

Sally Sun 935-1312

#### USF Plant Sale

Sally Sun 935-1312

## Newsletter Submissions

Deadline for the next issue:

**October 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. at the Learning Gate Community School at 14018 North Boulevard (between Fletcher and Bearss).



## 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](http://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:**