

The Suncoast Grapevine

Newsletter of the Suncoast Native Plant Society, Inc.



Volume 20 Number 4

April 2003

April 16 Meeting
(at the new Learning Gate Charter School)

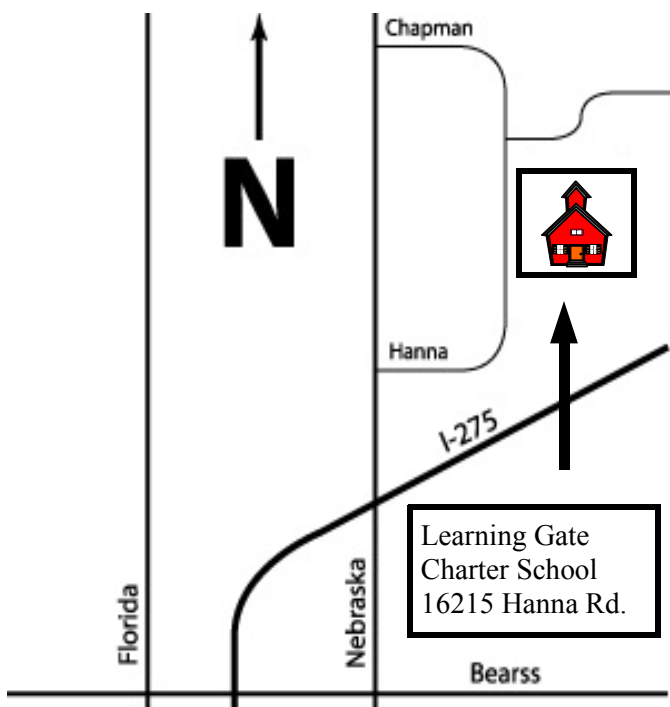
Native Trees in Landscaping

By Richard Bailey

Our native landscapes are often built around large trees which form a sheltering canopy for an understory of smaller trees, shrubs, and herbaceous ground-covering plants. We want our canopy-forming trees to grow large and healthy, but many factors affect their growth and health. Drawing on his

experience as a consulting forester and Certified Arborist, Richard Baily will explain some of the variables that affect the growth of trees in the landscape.

Richard earned a B.S. in Forest Resources and Conservation at the University of Florida in 1977. He has held forestry related positions at the Florida Division of Forestry and at Tampa Electric, and now has his own consulting firm.
(Cont. on page 2)



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Message from the President

The USF Botanical Garden Plant Festivals are the chapter's major fund-raising events. If you haven't visited our area recently - please stop by this weekend.

Hint - it is the first area on your left as you enter the Botanical Garden. I want to pay a special thanks to Sally Sun, who tirelessly organizes these events twice a year. Sally's commitment to the Plant Sale is truly exemplary and I am grateful for her dedication to these events.

Don't miss the next meeting because you will learn all about using native trees in your landscape and keeping them healthy. Along with a great program, you can pick up a new Suncoast chapter brochure titled **Cypress Mulch: why kill a tree to grow a flower?** The brochure was written by Barbara Waddell and the Ruskin Pepper Patrol. Susan Johnston drew the illustrations and Mariella Johns Smith designed the brochure.

The brochure makes a very convincing case for using alternative mulches and we hope to distribute this brochure widely across the state.

George Kish

Native trees (cont. from page 1)

For over fifteen years he managed a large operation in palm cultivation, and he has designed and installed landscapes for residential and commercial properties. Since 1995 he has operated a consulting company that addresses tree protection during construction, insect and disease identification, damage claims, appraisals, management plans for street trees, and hazard tree identification. He has lent his expertise to a wide variety of committees, boards, and councils.

-- Contributed by Harriett Wright

USF Botanical Garden Spring Plant Festival

By Sally Sun

The USF Botanical Garden Spring Plant Festival takes place April 12 and 13. Hopefully, you have already signed-up to help. You can still call Sally Sun at (813) 935-1312 to help out. The USF Botanical Garden Plant Festival takes place Saturday, April 12, from 8 AM to 4 PM, and Sunday, April 13, from 9 AM to 3 PM. This is a great opportunity to meet fellow gardeners, replace the native plants lost to the frost, and learn about native plants. We appreciate your participation.

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 _____

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

REGULAR MEETINGS OF SUNCOAST NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY at the Learning Gate Charter School, 16215 Hanna Road, in Lutz. 7 PM
APRIL 16 MAY 21 JUNE 18 JULY 16

SNPS 2003 FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE All are scheduled for 9:00 am. Steve Dickman, 813-936-7268 for more information. Trails are rated moderate unless noted. Dates subject to change.

Jun 21 Hike Alderman's Ford Addition Trail (Difficult)

SPECIAL EVENTS

Apr 19 Earth Day Celebration at Lowry Park. Contact Rheda Weeks at 813-234-5009.

Apr 19 - Jun 2 Epcot International Flower and Garden Festival; FNGA has a 1500 sq.ft. outdoor display that you may want to see.

Apr 25 - 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Apr 26 - 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Florida's Ancient Islands - Fifth Annual Earth Day Celebration; Bok Sanctuary, Lake Wales, 863-676-1408, ext. 51.

May 8-11 23rd Annual Conference of the Florida Native Plant Society. Theme: SYMBIOSIS; THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS; Visit www.fnps.org for information.

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS at the FNPS Pinellas Chapter: (Moccasin Lake Nature Park, 2750 Park Trail, Clearwater; 727-544-7341)

Apr 19 Spring Plant Sale 9 AM to 3 PM

May 07 Forensic Botany and Pioneer Natives

May 10 Field Trip: Historic Greenwood Cemetery

HILLS CO. MASTER GARDNER PROGRAMS.

Call 813-744-5519 x144 for information about locations or visit the website: hillsborough.extension.ufl.edu/calendar.htm. Upcoming clinics:

Apr 17 Propagation 10 AM, Odessa

Apr 26 Xeriscape University, Extension Office

May 6 Bromeliades 7 PM, Brandons

May 8 Ferns, 10 AM

May 8 Propagation 10 AM, New Tampa

May 12 Compost Happens, 7:30 PM Plant City

May 13 Flower Arranging, 7 PM, Jimmie Keel Library

May 13 Plant Troubleshooting, 7 PM Riverview

May 15 Butterflies, 10 AM, Odessa

SIERRA CLUB:

May 14 Sierra Club Regular Meeting 7:30 PM at Chamberlain High School; Orientation at 7:00 PM; 727-824-8813

Apr 19 Paddle into Earth Day. Lowry Park; 813 300 7931, sierraoutingstampa@yahoo.com

Saturday, Apr 26 Finding your way with Map and Compass. Contact: John Trow (904) 786-7788. Registration is limited. No Cost.

May 3, 2003, Alafia River State Park Bike Ride: 12 miles; 2-2.5 hours; Leader: Katasha Cornwell, kgruver1@yahoo.com, (813) 948-7471.

ST. PETERSBURG AUDUBON SOCIETY

www.stpeteaudubon.org/main.htm.

May 3 - Breakfast with the Birds - Ft. DeSoto Co. Pk. Meet 8am. Free continental-type breakfast Call Mauri Peterson, 727-546-3733.

May 10 - International Migratory Bird Count. Call Ron Smith, 727-525-4782, to volunteer.

CHINSEGUT NATURE CENTER Limited seating so register On-line at floridaconservation.org/join-us/chinsegut/registration.htm. 352-754-6722

Apr 26 ; 7:30 am – 3:00 pm. Welcome Back Songbirds Festival.

May 6 7:00 pm. Speaker's Night. Endangered wood storks

USF BOTANICAL GARDENS WORKSHOPS

10:00 AM-11:15 AM ; USFBG members \$3.00 - non-members \$5.00 unless otherwise noted. Call 974-2329.

Apr 19 Entertaining with Herbs—Maryon Marsh

Apr 19 Introductory Bonsai (\$25.00—Pre-registration required; 1:00 to 3 PM)

Apr 26 Heliconias and Ornamental Bananas

May 3 Rain Barrels (\$25/\$20 Limited Class size)

May 17 Bamboo

May 24 Perennials in the Landscape

USFBG SPECIAL EVENTS

May 10 & 11 Orchid Fantasy

June 14 & 15 Butterfly & Herb Fair

Submitted by: Shirley Brown

Open Studio with Susan Johnston

Susan Johnston, Suncoast chapter member and local artist, will hold an open studio at her house, 507 Bon Aire Avenue, Temple Terrace on Saturday, May 3, 2003 from 11 AM to 7 PM. Susan has contributed botanical drawings to the Suncoast chapter newsletter and she drew the sketches for the brochure, Alternatives to Cypress Mulch, which will be available at the April meeting. If you are not familiar with Susan's work - it is worth the trip to see her wonderful drawings of native plants. She will also be selling works during the Open Studio event. For more information or directions, please call Susan at 984-1322 or visit her website at:

www.artworkbysusan.com

Suncoast Chapter Program for 2003

By Harriett Wright

Apr 16 Using Native Plants in Landscapes by Richard Baily

May 21 Show Us Your Garden by Suncoast members

Jun 18 Florida's Forests by Alan Mayberry

Jul 16 The History and Ecology of the Hillsborough River by Joe Murphy (combined meeting with Sierra Club and Florida Audubon)

Aug 20 Florida's Black Bears by Syd Taylor

Sep 17 Making Wet Spots Look Good by Craig Watson

Oct 15 Does Compost Just Happen? by Ardell O'Neal

Nov 19 TBA

Conference Committee

The SNPS Board of Directors has established a conference committee to determine the capacity of the chapter and the area to host the annual FNPS meeting in 2007. Ameen Bailey has been appointed as chair. The current objectives of the committee are to locate possible location to host a conference, determine cost and manpower needed. Another item to be researched will be the possibility of a joint conference, and if so with what group. If you have any comments or are interested in joining this committee please contact Ameen Bailey at aturtle2c@aol.com or 863-206-3439.

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.

Program for May

By Harriett Wright

Those of us who are engaged in creating native gardens know how rewarding, but also how difficult, it can be. Last summer many of our members shared their frustrations and triumphs in a member participation program. It was such a success that we'd like to do it again, this May. If you have successes, failures, lessons learned the hard way, and/or brilliantly successful inspirations that you're willing to share, please consider taking part in the May meeting. Photos and/or slides would be nice, but aren't necessary. This will be an excellent opportunity for all of us to get new ideas and to learn from one another.

PLANT PROFILE

Common name: Cutleaf evening primrose
Botanical name: *Oenothera laciniata* Hill
Family: ONAGRACEAE (Evening primrose Family)

Plant habit: low and spreading herb

Size: stems 1-2 ft. long

Leaves: 1-2 in. long, alternate, margins usually deeply lobed, rarely sub-entire

Flower: yellow, about 1 in. across, 4 petals, 4 sepals, 4 stigmas, 8 stamens, sessile in the upper leaf axils

Fruit: a cylindric capsule developing below the flower (inferior ovary)

Flowering time: spring, summer and sporadically throughout the year; the flowers opening in the evening and turning a copper color as they close in the heat of the next day

Habitat: dry soil

Distribution: central and north Florida

Hardiness zones: cold hardy

Availability: Some native plant nurseries



Light: full sun

Water: Drought tolerant once established

Propagation: by seed

References:

Baker, Mary Francis, 1938, Florida Wild Flowers: The MacMillan Company, New York, pp. 154-156.

Small, John Kunkel, 1933, Manual of the Southeastern Flora: Hafner Publishing Company, New York, N.Y., pp. 946-947.

Taylor, Walter Kingsley, 1998, Florida Wildflowers In Their Natural Communities: University Press of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, pp. 161.

Wunderlin, R.P. and Hansen, B.F., 2002, Atlas of Florida Vascular Plants (<http://plantatlas.usf.edu/>) [S.M. Landry and K.N. Campbell(application development), Florida Center for Community Design and Research] Institute for Systematic Botany, University of South Florida, Tampa.

Wunderlin, R.P., 1998, Guide To the Vascular Plants of Florida: University Press of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, pp. 457, 461-462.

Information compiled by Carmel vanHoek

Photograph by Glenn Fleming, ISB Atlas of Florida Vascular Plants



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.

Directory

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Lucy Hoyt 960-3178

Education

Betty Wargo 237-1509

Book Sales

Sally Sun 935-1312

USF Plant Sale

Sally Sun 935-1312

Conference

Ameé Bailey 662-5954

Newsletter Submissions

Deadline for the next issue:

April 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.

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

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

SNPS Address

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Tampa, FL 33682-2893



Meeting Location

Suncoast Native Plant Society, Inc. meets the third Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the **Learning Gate Charter School, 16215 Hanna Road, Lutz.**

SNPS Web Address

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: