

# The Suncoast Grapevine

Newsletter of the Suncoast Native Plant Society, Inc.



Volume 20 Number 7

July 2003

## July 16 Meeting (at the Learning Gate Charter School)

### Wild Florida, the Hillsborough River, and You by Joe Murphy

(joint meeting with Sierra Club and Florida Audubon)

Out there, where the paved road ends, just beyond that bend in the river...is Wild Florida. Wild Florida is the gentle and copper flow of the Hillsborough River as it flows into the Tampa Bay. It is the cacophony of life bursting forth in Cockroach Bay. It is the lands that lay in wait for the return of the panther, the bear, and the red wolf. Wild Florida is that place in all of us that yearns for open vistas and communion with the power and majesty of nature. It is a place, and a philosophy that is imperiled.

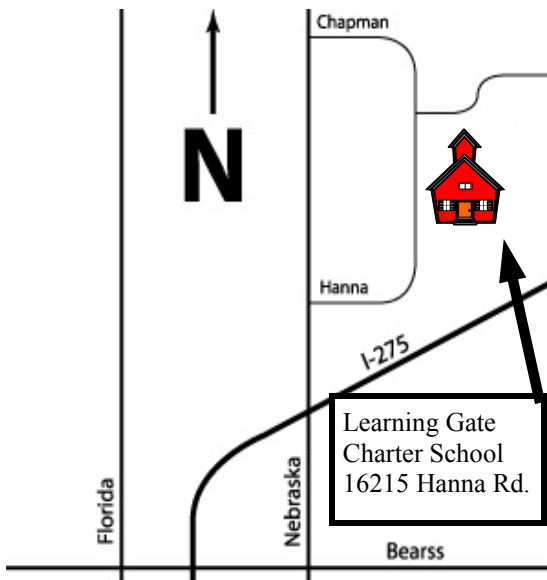
Join us for an evening of celebration of Wild Florida, and a discussion about the history, ecology, and spirit of the Hillsborough River. As Edward Abbey must observed, it is not enough to work to protect something...we must celebrate it and enjoy it as well! Join us for an evening of discussion, community, and celebration of the Hillsborough River, and all things wild and free.

*Joe Murphy is a native Floridian, and lives in Tampa with his wife Becky and dog Brahms. Joe has done conservation organizing and advocacy for Florida PIRG, the Endangered Species Coalition, Oceana, and the Sierra Club.*

-- Contributed by Harriett Wright

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## Message from the President

Our July meeting is a traditional combination meeting with the Sierra Club and the Audubon Society. This meeting is a wonderful opportunity to exchange ideas, opinions, and gardening tips with our friends in the Sierra Club and the Audubon Society.

Sierra Club member, Joe Murphy, will present a wonderful talk about the wild Hillsborough River—a place that is near and dear to Joe. Don't miss this great meeting.

We expect to have a great plant raffle, so bring your extra native plants for the raffle. It is our chapter's tradition to give away a native plant seedling to each of our guests, so please bring as many seedlings as you can—just a little soil in a paper cup will be fine. Please also bring a little sign for each plant with the common name, scientific name, and some information about the seedling's growing conditions. Thank you!

Because we are expecting more than three times the number of people than our regular meetings, please assist Lucy Hoyt with the refreshments by bringing a snack or dessert item. Call Lucy at 960-3178 to tell her what you will be bringing. Thank you.

*George Kish*

## Suncoast Program for 2003

By Harriett Wright

- 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** Election Meeting and 20-Year Anniversary Celebration

## New Kid in Town

**Native Plants to Go** is Chris Corral's new retail nursery in Tampa on West Cypress between Lois and Dale Mabry. Give Chris a call at 813-714-0667. Native Plants to Go has a fine selection of native trees, shrubs, and grasses and is convenient to Tampa, Carrollwood, and Town 'n Country.

## **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

Full time student \$15

Library subscription \$15

Family or household \$30

Contributing \$40

Donor \$250

Not-for-profit

organization \$50

Business or

corporate \$100

Supporting \$100

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

JULY 16 AUGUST 20 SEPT 17 OCT 15

SNPS 2003 FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE. Contact Steve Dickman, 813-936-7268 for more information. Trails are rated moderate unless noted. Dates subject to change.

**Jul 19** Native Plant Buying Trip to The Natives in Davenport. Leave Tampa at 8:30 A.M. to arrive in Davenport at about 9:30 AM. Steve will provide directions and a map at the next meeting. A bit of a drive, but a great nursery with a large selection of pampered native plants.

**Sep 20** Field Trip to Bell Creek near the ELAPP office. Meet at the ELAPP office parking lot at 9 AM. See Flatwoods, Sandhill, and Scrub. Experience pine lilies in bloom and perhaps get the chance to see sand hill cranes and gopher tortoises.

## PROGRAMS AND EVENTS at the FNPS Pinellas

**Chapter:** (Moccasin Lake Nature Park, 2750 Park Trail, Clearwater; 727-544-7341); Wed 7:30 pm

**Aug 06** Aquatic Wildlife with Craig Watson and Craig Huegel.

**Aug 09** Annual canoe/kayak trip

**Sep 03** How mitigation works with Belinda Lambert

**Sep 06** Regional mitigation site field trip

## HILLS CO. MASTER GARDNER PROGRAMS.

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 at the extension office:

### **July 26**

Compost Happens: 8:00 - 9:00 am.

Rain Barrel Workshop: 9:00 - 10:00 am

Water Wise Workshop: 10 - 11:30 am

**Aug 16** Compost Happens: 8:00 - 9:00 am

**Sep 13** Compost Happens: 8:00 - 9:00 am

## TAMPA AUDUBON FIELD TRIPS

**Aug 23** Belle Glade, Holeyland Bus Trip; Fee; Dave Powell, 657-7762

CHINSEGUT NATURE CENTER Limited seating so register On-line at [floridaconservation.org/join-us/chinsegut/registration.htm](http://floridaconservation.org/join-us/chinsegut/registration.htm). 352-754-6722

**Aug 5** Florida Skunks 7:00 pm

**Aug 19** Chassahowitzka Wildlife Area 7:00 pm

**Aug 26** Exotic Plant Removal Work Day 9 - 11 am

**Sep 19** Fall Wildflower Walk at Big Pine Tract 9:00 am

**Sep 27** Butterfly Workshop with Marc Minno 10 am

## USF BOTANICAL GARDENS WORKSHOPS

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

**Jul 26** - Florida's Native Orchids by Louis Del Favero 10-11:15 am

**Aug 16** - Shade Gardening in Florida by Monica Brandies

**Labor Day Weekend** - 9th Annual Cactus and Succulent Society Sale and Show

## LOWERY PARK ZOO

**Jul 18 & Aug 22** Summer Safari Nights; Live music and special animal encounters; 6:00-8:30 pm

## SELBY GARDENS

**Sep 20-26** Public Invited Free

**Sep 20** Into to Staghorn Ferns 10 am

**Submitted by: Shirley Brown**

(Please email me at [srbrown11@msn.com](mailto:srbrown11@msn.com) if you know of any activity that would interest our group.)



## PLANT PROFILE

**Common name:** Simpson's stopper; twinberry stopper

**Botanical name:** *Myrcianthes fragrans* (Sw.) McVaugh

**Family:** MYRTACEAE (Myrtle Family)

**Plant habit:** An evergreen shrub or bushy tree with rounded crown and flaky bark.

**Size:** 6-20 ft. (h)

**Leaves:** Dark glossy green, 1-2.5 in. long, exuding a sweet, spicy odor much like nutmeg, on hot, humid days, or when crushed.

**Flower:** Small with 4 fragrant white petals and a mass of white stamens.

**Fruit:** Red-orange berry app. 1 in. long, looking like a miniature guava to which it is related.

**Flowering time:** Spring to early summer

**Habitat:** Coastal hammocks, rarely inland.

**Distribution:** St. Johns Co., central and southern peninsula

**Hardiness zones:** Cold tolerant

**Light:** Full to partial sun

**Water:** Only until established

**Propagation:** By seed; will occasionally self-sow or sucker.

**Availability:** Several native plant nurseries

**Wildlife value:** The sweet, colorful fruit attracts birds, especially mockingbirds; the birds in turn, attract bird-eating snakes.

**Comments:** An especially attractive specimen of Simpson's stopper can be seen in the driveway of the USF Botanical Garden; slow growing.

**References:**

Osorio, Rufino, 2001, **A Gardener's Guide to Florida's Native Plants:** University Press of Florida, Gainesville, FL, pp. 263-264.

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, 452 p.

**Information compiled by Carmel vanHoek**

**Photograph by Walter K. Taylor**



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](http://www.fnps.org).

## Directory

### Officers & Board of Directors

#### *President*

George Kish 920-0853

#### *Vice-presidents*

Richard Wunderlin 977-6484

Harriett Wright 908-9398

#### *Secretary*

Ameé Bailey 662-5954

#### *Treasurer*

Fred Spriggs 935-1312

#### *Chapter Representative*

Ameé Bailey 662-5954

#### *Board Members*

Ameé Bailey 662-5954

Cliff Brown 988-3211

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

Cliff Brown 988-3211

#### *Publications*

Richard Wunderlin 977-6484

#### *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*

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:

**July 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

### SNPS Address

**Suncoast Native Plant Society, Inc.**  
**P.O. Box 82893**  
**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](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.

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Please deliver to: