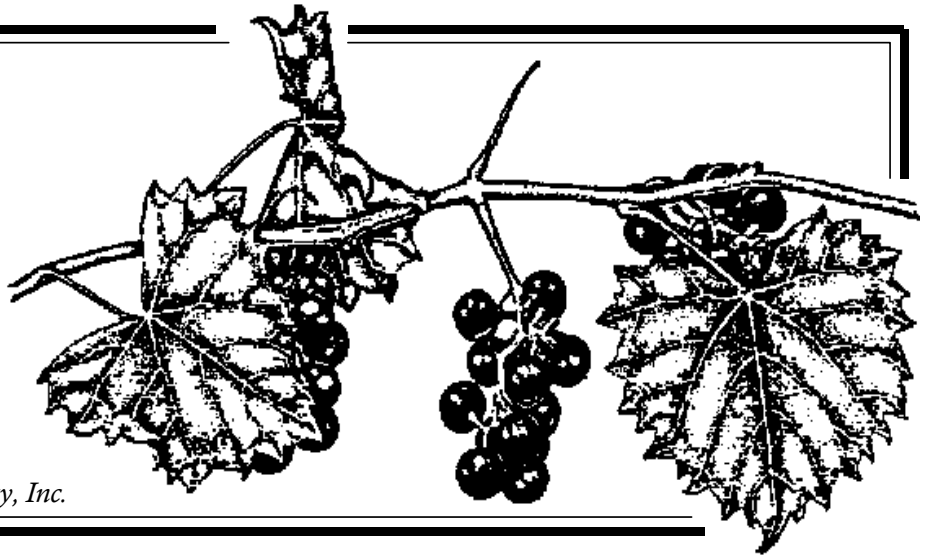


*www.suncoastnps.org*

# The Suncoast Grapevine

*Newsletter of the Suncoast Native Plant Society, Inc.*



**Volume 28 Number 3**

**March 2011**

## The Museum of Science & Industry

Presented by Pat Robison  
Wednesday, March 16 @ 7pm  
Hillsborough County Extension Service

In 1962, the Museum of Science and Industry had its humble beginnings on the banks of the Hillsborough River in Sulphur Springs when Hillsborough County approved funding for a youth museum, which was later named the Museum of Science and Natural History. Its name was changed again in 1967 to the Hillsborough County Museum.



In 1976, the museum obtained funding and land to build a state of the art facility at its present location, and then became known as the Museum of Science and Industry (MOSI). The facility was completed in 1980, and was fully operational by 1982. In 1988, the museum began adding additional property to its campus and has grown to today's size of 74 acres.

MOSI is now the 6<sup>th</sup> largest science center in the USA, and home to Florida's largest IMAX Dome Theater. MOSI also has a well developed landscape that has a very high percentage of native plants. Some of the property that was acquired by the museum is a sand hill plant community, which is worth taking a hike through!

Come join us as Pat Robison gives us a tour of some of MOSI's fine features and programs!

*- Submitted by Troy Springer*

*Editor's Note: The Tampa Bay Area Renaissance Festival is currently being held at the Museum of Science and Industry on weekends until April 17. Parking for walking the trails may be limited during the festival operation times. To find out more about the event, please visit: <http://www.bayarearenaissancefest.com/index.html>*



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)

# Don't Forget—Register Early!

Thursday, April 14th is the advance registration deadline for the FNPS Conference this year. By registering early, you'll save \$25 on Friday and Saturday conference programs! Log on to the conference website:

<http://www.fnps.org/pages/conference/?ConfYear=2011>



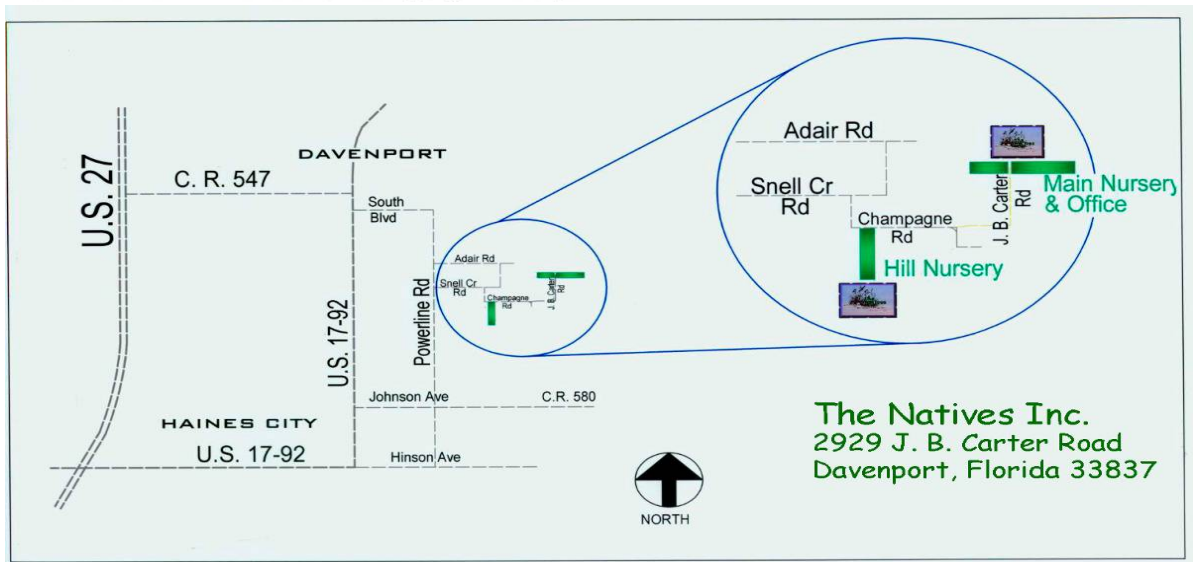
## Retail Day!

2929 J. B. Carter Road,  
Davenport,  
Florida 33837  
863-422-6664

Saturday April 16th  
9am - 3pm

Main Nursery

Good selection of native wildflowers, ground covers, shrubs, and trees!



A special THANK YOU to the following plant donors for February's meeting:

- 👏 Troy Springer
- 👏 Fred & Barbara Mulholland (and for providing the refreshments, too!)
- 👏 Janet Bowers
- 👏 James Wheeler

And, please keep those ink jet cartridges coming!  
We appreciate your support!



# The Suncoast Native Plant Society

## Bi-Annual Native Plant Sale

University of South Florida Botanical Gardens  
Annual Spring Plant Festival

Saturday, April 9, 2011 10am – 4pm

Sunday, April 10, 2011 10am – 3pm

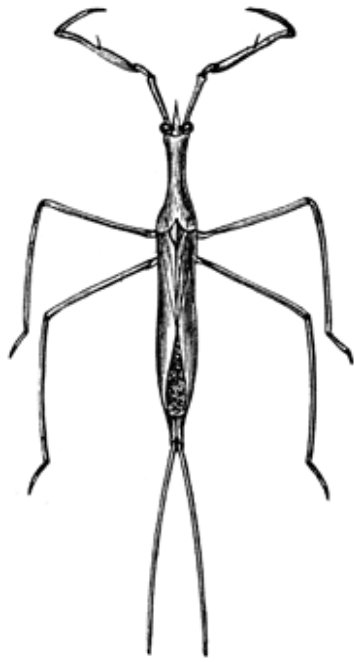
\$5 USF Botanical Gardens non-members, members are FREE

Please visit the Suncoast Native Plant Society's booth at the plant sale! We will have a wide variety of native plants: trees, shrubs, wildflowers, grasses and more. Volunteers will be on hand to help you choose native plants that will work in your landscape and also introduce you to the fascinating world of preserving Florida through caring for the plants that belong to our state, the Land of the Flowers! We will be offering seeds for sale, membership information, and we will also have an educational display as well as some informative books available for purchase.

**Don't Miss Out!**

**Come see us – look for our tent with the FNPS logo!**












## March Field Trip Announcement Saturday, March 19 MOSI @ 9:30am

For our March Field Trip, we will be going to MOSI for their *Bugging Out* exhibits. *My Bug World!* takes visitors on a unique journey through the habitats, sights, sounds and social structures of some of the ecosystem's smallest, yet most important, contributors. Guests will have the opportunity to explore freestanding habitats like a cropland, forest, meadow, swamp and even a house to see how insects and arthropods impact their surroundings, the environment and human lives. The cost for this adventure will be \$11.75 for adults, \$8.00 for students and includes admission to *Bugging Out* and all of MOSI's permanent exhibit galleries. These are group prices, and we need a minimum of 15 people to get this discount. Please let me know if you plan on attending so that I can make sure we will meet the minimum to get the group rate. I can be reached at 813-951-0946 and will be the leader for this trip. We will meet at the MOSI building entrance.

- Submitted by Ron Huston

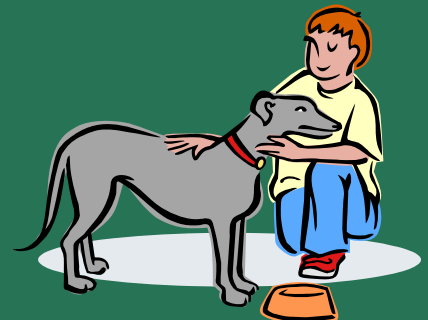
## Upcoming Events & Announcements

-  USF Spring Plant Sale is April 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> \* Volunteer to help before or during the plant sale
-  Native Plants Presentation on April 5<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30pm, Austin Davis Library in Odessa. We need a volunteer to attend this lecture from the Master Gardeners and promote our chapter. If interested, please let us know at the meeting or contact Janet Bowers at [jbowers27@yahoo.com](mailto:jbowers27@yahoo.com)
-  April SNPS Meeting on April 20<sup>th</sup> \* Plan to attend
-  May SNPS Meeting on May 18<sup>th</sup> \* Plan to attend
-  FNPS 2011 Conference is May 19<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> in Maitland, FL \* Plan to attend
-  USF Butterfly, Herb & Native Plant Fair is June 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> \* Volunteer to help at the SNPS booth
-  FNPS 2012 Conference (hosted by Suncoast, Hernando, and Pasco chapters) in Plant City at the Trinkle Center from May 17<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>, 2012 \* Volunteer

We still need volunteers for the USF Spring Plant Sale. It's not too late to let us know if you can donate your time! Please contact Troy Springer at [troy@springerenvironmental.com](mailto:troy@springerenvironmental.com) or give him a call at 813-967-4538.

Thank you to all who donated ink cartridges at our last meeting! We met our quota. Please keep them coming!

Do you support a cause other than the Suncoast Native Plant Society? Please tell us about it for an upcoming article. Email [severidge@plantcitygov.com](mailto:severidge@plantcitygov.com).  
Thank you!



## PLANT PROFILE

**Common name:** Canadian toadflax, old-field toadflax  
**Botanical name:** *Linaria canadensis* (L) Chaz.  
**Family:** Plantaginaceae (Plantain); formerly Veronicaceae  
**Growth habit:** Erect, winter annual wildflower  
**Mature size (h):** 12-18 inches  
**Leaves:** Linear; whorled or opposite in a basal cluster, alternate on main stem  
**Flower:** Blue to pale violet  
**Bloom period:** Late winter to early spring  
**Motility:** Very successful at spreading into dry, sunny areas  
**Maintenance:** None to seasonal thinning  
**Light:** Full sun  
**Water:** Moist to very dry  
**Soil:** Well-drained soils  
**Propagation:** Self-sown seeds  
**Florida zones:** N, C, S  
**Landscape uses:** Wildflower garden  
**Native habitat:** Disturbed sites



**Note:** This dainty spring wildflower has the distinction of being listed in *Weeds of Southern Turfgrasses*.

### References:

Murphy, T.R. and others, 1992, *Weeds of Southern Turfgrasses*: University of Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Gainesville, Florida, 208 p.

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

Wunderlin, R.P. and B.F. Hansen, 2003, *Guide to Vascular Plants of Florida*, Second Edition: University Press of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, 787 p.

Wunderlin, R.P. and B.F. Hansen, 2011, *Atlas of Florida Vascular Plants* (<http://plantatlas.usf.edu/>).

Plant Profile by George Kish

Photo by Allen Boatman

## 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 SNPS also entitles you to membership privileges in the Suncoast Native Plant Society and a subscription to their monthly newsletter *The Suncoast Grapevine*. Contact the membership chair, Shirley Denton, at 986-6485.

New Member                       Renewal

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

### Check pertinent category:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual/Renewal \$35   | <input type="checkbox"/> Not-for-profit organization \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Full time student \$15    | <input type="checkbox"/> Business or corporate \$125      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Library subscription \$15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting \$100                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family or household \$50  | <input type="checkbox"/> Donor \$250                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contributing \$75         |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life \$1,000              |   |

Make check payable to **FNPS**.

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