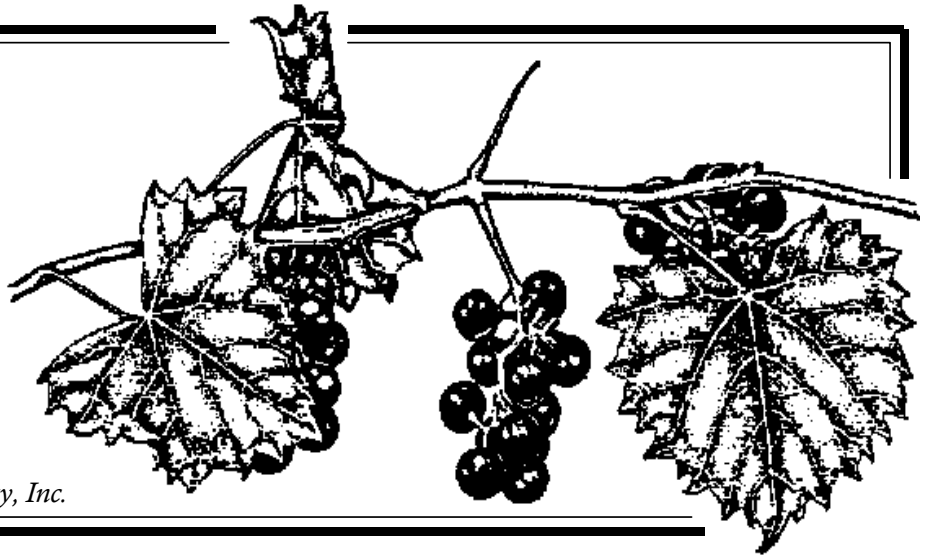


[www.suncoastnps.org](http://www.suncoastnps.org)

# The Suncoast Grapevine

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



Volume 29 Number 1

January 2012

## Urban Fertilizer Management: Implications for Florida Gulf Coast Water Quality

Presented by Cris Costello  
Wednesday, January 18 @ 7pm  
Hillsborough County Extension Service

In June of 2011, The Tampa City Council voted to join Pinellas County in having Florida's most strict fertilizer ordinance. Cris Costello will give us a background on the history of the fertilizer ordinance, how it works, and the science that backs this kind of regulation.

Cris has been a regional representative for the Sierra Club since May of 2007. She currently coordinates the Florida Red Tide Campaign to prevent harmful algae bloom in both coastal and inland waters by eliminating or reducing point and non-point sources of nutrient pollution. This program is a sub-campaign of the Greater Everglades Ecosystem Resilient Habitat Campaign.



During her over four year period for the Red Tide Campaign, she has rallied various citizen groups on both local and state level urban fertilizer policies and ordinances. Cris has also been involved with the local control vs state preemptive fertilizer regulation, as well as numeric nutrient criteria for Florida's fresh and estuarine waters.

Cris Costello has a BA in Sociology from Grinnell College in Iowa, and was a recipient of the 1986 Grinnell College Alumni Award. Cris was a rural and urban grassroots community organizer in Iowa, Arkansas, Kansas, and Missouri; and a Peace Corps volunteer in Honduras. She had a 17 year career in the labor movement in 10 states, and was a consultant for the Gulf Coast Community Foundation in Venice, FL prior to joining the Sierra Club.

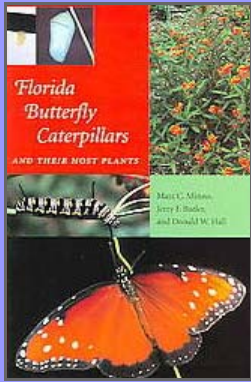
- submitted by Troy Springer



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)

## The Painted Lady who Lives in a Silken Nest

Did you ever squish a caterpillar and wonder why it didn't bleed? What is the green or yellow goo that oozes out and why don't we see red blood? Marc Minno, and his co-authors Jeffrey Butler and Donald Hall, address this perplexing question in their book, Florida Butterfly Caterpillars and their Host Plants.



If you're looking for a book full of glossy photos of gorgeous swallowtail butterflies and sulphurs, this is NOT the one. However, if you always wanted to know the identity of that green and black caterpillar moving backwards or that bird poo on legs, this is the book for you! Did you know that some caterpillars obtain their color from the foods they eat? The chlorophyll in leaves gives some caterpillars their green color. If they eat flowers, they may be a decidedly different color.

In their thoughtfully put together book, they examine the anatomy of the caterpillar and its life cycle, then offer details on more than 150 species of swallowtails, skippers, hairstreaks, brushfoots, blues, and sulphurs in their larval stage listing their description, habitat, history and host plants, along with photos, their descriptions and range in Florida.

Butterflies get all the accolades. They are gorgeous, everyone adores watching them flit from flower to flower and they get to make more butterflies! But the work horse is the caterpillar. They hatch from their egg and spend their days eating, eating and more eating. In between meals they peer over their shoulders for birds and lizards and try not to become a meal themselves. They get so large they outgrow their wardrobe several times and must shed their cuticle (think skin!) periodically as their body outgrows this nonliving layer. Then, one day, they morph into a butterfly, kinda like the Pillsbury Dough Boy becoming Lady Gaga.

I keep thinking there must be some relationship between the appearance of a caterpillar and the butterfly it will ultimately become...but no! The caterpillar of the Monarch (*Danaus plexippus*) with its black and yellow bands looks like it will hatch into a Zebra Longwing. The Viceroy (*Basilarchia archippus*) looks like bird poop but makes a rather nice looking butterfly. Hairstreaks and blues look like flattened slugs in their larval stage. The large eyespots on the Spice Bush and Palamedes make them look like floats in the Macy's Day parade.



So why is the stuff inside a caterpillar not "blood-like"? The answer lies in the respiratory system of the gooey guy which consists of finely branching tubes that reach throughout the body such that the blood doesn't need to contain hemoglobin to carry oxygen. Their blood is a clear, greenish or yellowish fluid instead.

As for the Painted Lady..... it's *Vanessa cardui* who lives in a nest made by tying leaves together with silk.

- submitted by Devon Higginbotham



## Don't put those raised hands down yet!

We are in need of additional new board members, and we will be opening it up to the membership at our next meeting. Also, we always need additional support for standing committees, especially the plant sale. Please check out the back page to see your new, current list of officers and program chairs. If you don't wish to make a grand announcement in front of everyone at a meeting, please feel free to contact board members privately by using the contact information on the back page any time. This is your chapter, and the more people we have the stronger our programs, meetings and other activities will be!

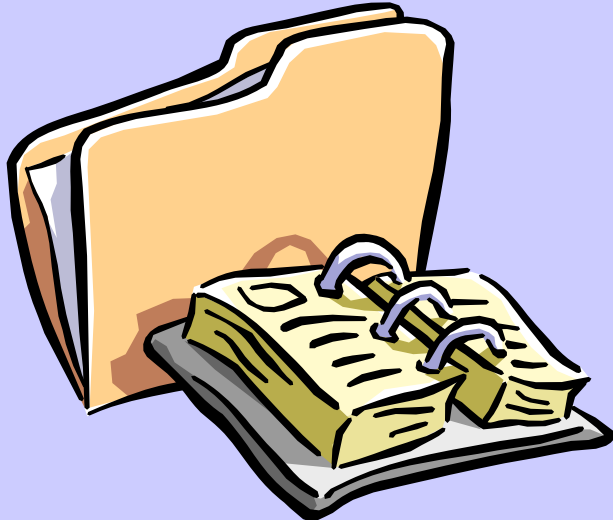
## Quarterly Membership Information September—November 2011

### Brand New Members:

Kathryn Carlsen  
Kyle and Maranda Holley  
Felicia Mingo  
Candace Stanlake

### Renewals and Rejoining Members:

Rosanne Clementi  
Marcia Curl  
Allan Feldman  
Mike & Barbara Fite  
Kim Friedland  
Jeff Ryan and Sheila Gobes-Ryan  
Todd and Marie Greer  
William F. Hand  
Daphne Lambright  
Marilyn Lewis  
Jan and Jeff Means  
Fred and Barbara Mulholland  
Teresa M. Nesman  
Judith Pope-Champagne  
Jane N. Pugh  
Mary Serina  
Cy and Joanne Spurlino  
William and Lenna Stone  
Richard S Valentine  
Nancy Wright



- compiled and submitted by Janet Bowers

## We're Using Some New Technology...

**Are you a fan of FNPS on Facebook?** If so, then you're already aware of the wonderful online FNPS blog that features articles and more! If you're not on Facebook (because we know you wouldn't be on Facebook and not be a fan of FNPS) and this is news to you, you've been missing out! But fear not, here's the link:

<http://fnpsblog.blogspot.com/> .

**Are you aware that we're on Meet Up?** Mr. Ron Chicone has recently offered to take over updating the site for the Chapter so that we can provide you with accurate, timely meeting and field trip information. There's no cost to join and stay informed: <http://www.meetup.com/Suncoast-Native-Plant-Society/>

## Need Some Firewheel?

The City of Plant City's Water Resource Management office building has some spent *gaillardia pulchella*, (also known as firewheel or blanket flower) flowers – which means lots and lots and lots of seed! Simply sow it into an area you don't plan to mow often, water it in and wait on the plants to show up. This beautiful wildflower reseeds itself annually. Email [severidge@plantcitygov.com](mailto:severidge@plantcitygov.com) to arrange to come and pick some up. We have PLENTY available! It's free, tho' a donation of a native plant for our teaching bed would be graciously accepted!

– submitted by Shawna Everidge

## Cypress Creek Preserve Field Trip Saturday, January 21st @ 9am



The January 21 (Saturday) field trip will visit the very special and not too far away, 2,547 acre ELAPP Cypress Creek Preserve in the New Tampa area of Hillsborough County. This site has a variety of habitats from Pine Flatwoods to Wetlands.

We would like to meet at 9am in the parking lot of the McDonald's Restaurant (GPS: 5101 Pointe of Tampa Way, Tampa, FL 33647) located on the north side of Bruce B. Downs Boulevard about one block west of I-75.

From there, we can car pool about five minutes to the preserve's entry gate located behind Freedom High School. We would like to wrap up the field trip by noon. Plan to walk at least a couple of miles.

Please let me, Joel Jackson, the field trip leader, know (home: 813-968-5166 or mobile: 813-767-5166) if you plan to attend or have any questions about the field trip.

- submitted by Joel Jackson

## Announcements

- ☆ **Ms. Janet Bower's** t-shirt design, an artistic interpretation of the Coral Bean plant, was the member's choice during the membership meeting vote. The Board of Directors is in the process of determining how to best use the design, and **Ron Chicone** and **Devon Higginbotham** will be looking into ordering samples from vendors to find some suitable cuts, quality and textures. Stay tuned!
- ☆ A year end financial summary will be printed in the February issue. Our press time deadline was already maxed for this month and we were unable to stretch it farther to include the report.
- ☆ The Board of Directors recently approved up to \$500 for improvements to the native plant garden at the WMNF radio station headquarters located at 1210 E. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard in Tampa. **Ron Chicone** has been leading this project with input from the current BOD and **Troy Springer**, Springer Environmental Services. Volunteers will be needed! Email [rchicone@yahoo.com](mailto:rchicone@yahoo.com) for more information.
- ☆ Although our chapter is not sponsoring this class, it is being taught by one of our members: **A Nature's Notebook Workshop** on February 11 at Hillsborough County Extension Service in Seffner will teach you how to observe and record information in your own backyard or a nearby natural area. TBEP is sponsoring this workshop, which will be taught by **George Kish** of the U.S. Geological Survey. You'll leave the workshop loaded with great resources and ready to participate in a national network of thousands of citizen scientists providing valuable observations through an online database. This workshop is free and open to the public, but registration is required and space is limited. Register directly using this link: <https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07e5elly8be34d3afa&oseq=>
- ☆ We are tentatively listing the field trips for 2012 as follows, in an effort to give our membership more notice:
 

|   |                                      |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| January – ELAPP trip with <b>Joel Jackson</b> | September – Archbold Station         |
| February – No field trip.                     | October – TBD, Pine Lily field trip. |
| March – TBD, ELAPP trip                       | November – TBD                       |
| April – Emerson Point                         | December – No field trip.            |
| May – State Conference                        |                                      |
| June – Buying trip to a native plant nursery. |                                      |
| July – No field trip.                         |                                      |
| August – No field trip.                       |                                      |

We hope this will make it possible for more of you to join in. The exact dates will be announced soon!

## PLANT PROFILE

**Common name:** Pennyroyal

**Botanical name:** *Piloblephis rigida* (W. Bartram ex Bentham)

Rafinesque

**Family:** Lamiaceae or Labiatae (Mint)

**Type of plant:** Sprawling groundcover

**Size:** 2 feet (h) by 2 feet (w)

**Leaves:** Numerous, needlelike, entire

**Flower:** Purplish, silky terminal heads; 2-lipped, lower lip has dark dots

**Flowering time:** January to June

**Fruit:** Four nutlets

**Stem:** Upper stem hairy; lower stem woody

**Habitat:** Sandhills, scrub, and flatwoods

**Distribution:** Throughout Florida, except the Keys

**Hardiness zones:** 8 - 11

**Landscape use:** Groundcover, nectar plant in butterfly garden

### Cultivation

**Soil:** Sandy, well drained, slightly acid

**Light:** Full sun

**Water:** Drought tolerant once established

**Propagation:** From seed (slow) or stem cuttings (fast).

**Availability:** Some native plant nurseries

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

Information compiled by George R. Kish, c. 2003; this is a reprint from an earlier edition

Photos by Shirley Denton

*Piloblephis rigida*  
Photo by Shirley Denton



## 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:

Individual/Renewal \$35

Full time student \$15

Library subscription \$15

Family or household \$50

Contributing \$75

Life \$1,000

Not-for-profit organization \$50

Business or corporate \$125

Supporting \$100

Donor \$250

Make check payable to **FNPS**.

Detach and mail to:

**FNPS**

**P.O. Box 278**

**Melbourne, FL 32902-0278**

