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# The Suncoast Grapevine

Newsletter of the Suncoast Native Plant Society, Inc.



Volume 18 Number 4

April 2001

## April 18 Meeting

### Restoration and Conservation of Orchids in Florida

By John Beckner

Our April speaker will be John Beckner, Curator of the Orchid Identification Center at Selby Gardens. He will bring us up to date on efforts to conserve and restore stands of native orchids in Florida.

For John, coming to us is a return, since he was the first chair of our Suncoast chapter. He is well acquainted with Florida botany, having done fieldwork in all 67 of our counties. His articles have appeared in scientific and botanical journals, and he has distinguished himself as founder and chairman of the Orchid Conservation Committee, as teacher of botany and horticulture at the Pinellas Technical Institute, and as an American Orchid Society Accredited Judge.

John recently narrated a discussion of orchids in the Fakahatchee Strand and at the Selby Gardens for Home and Gardens TV, to be aired on May 13.

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 \* Please visit the Suncoast Native Plant Society area at the \*  
 \* USF Botanical Garden's Spring Plant Festival, April 14 \*  
 \* and 15, 2001 to stock up on native plants!! \*  
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## Upcoming Programs for SNPS Monthly Meetings

- **April** – John Beckner (Native Florida orchids)
- **May** – Rob Heath (Environmental Lands Acquisition and Protection Program)
- **June** – Pam Traas (Butterfly gardening)
- **July** – Kristin Wood (Backyard herpetology)
- **August** – to be determined
- **September** – Dr. Wunderlin (Endangered asters)
- **October** – to be determined
- **November** – Paul Martin Brown (Orchids)
- **December** – no meeting

## Volunteer Opportunities for Life in Our Landscapes Activities

Volunteers are still needed for assisting with several upcoming activities planned by the Suncoast chapter:

**April 14** Guided tour, Blackwater Creek Preserve- Logistic support-contact Amee' Bailey at [aturtle2c@aol.com](mailto:aturtle2c@aol.com).

**April 28 - 29** Retail Sales - Educating customers about native plants at Kerby's Nursery in Seffner - contact Suzanne Bedat at 813-689-8641 or [Suzanne.Bedat@verizon.com](mailto:Suzanne.Bedat@verizon.com).

**April 28 - 29** Retail Sales - Educating customers about native plants at Home Depot in Carrollwood-contact George Kish at [gkish@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:gkish@tampabay.rr.com).

# Suncoast Calendar

**April 15** 10 a.m. Poisonous plants of Florida, master gardener plant clinic at Austin Davis Library (813-264-3826), 17808 Wayne Rd., Odessa.

**April 18-20** Seeds of the future--native seed conference. Rosen Plaza Hotel, Orlando, FL. Call 850-922-7206 for information.

**April 18 7 p.m. Monthly membership meeting. Program on native Florida orchids by John Beckner.**

**April 21** Buying trip to Environmental Equities. Sign up at the April 18 meeting or call Shirley Brown at 813-977-0454.

**April 21 10 a.m.** Pond design and pondscapes. USF Botanical Garden. Call 813-974-2329 for information.

**April 22** 10 a.m. Earth Day on the river at the Lowry Park bandshell (in front of the zoo). Canoe rides, food, music, environmental groups and more. Call 813-744-6100, ext. 479 for information.

**April 26** 10 a.m. Xeriscaping, master gardener plant clinic at the New Tampa Regional Library, 10001 Cross Creek Blvd., New Tampa.

**April 28** 10 a.m. Gardening in the shade, master gardener plant clinic at Lowry Park Zoo. Call 813-744-5519, ext. 146 for information.

**May 10-13** 21st Annual Conference of the Florida Native Plant Society *Biodiversity and Development: Striking a Balance* at the Westin Innisbrook Resort, Palm Harbor. Call 727-544-7341 for information.

**May 12** Annual Eco-Gardening Conference at USF. Call 813-744-5519, ext. 146 for information.

**May 12** Homeowner Conference and Trade Show. Hosted by FNPS at the Westin Innisbrook Resort, Palm Harbor. Call 1-800-FL-NATIVE for information.

**May 14-16** Assessing the Health of Wetland Life Conference. Sheraton World Resort, Orlando, FL. Sponsored by the Izaak Walton League and the USEPA. Call 1-800-832-7828 for information.

**May 16 7 p.m. Monthly membership meeting. Program on Hillsborough County's Environmental Lands Acquisition and Protection Program by Rob Heath.**

**May 20** Conservation Day at the Lowry Park Zoo. Admission is \$2.00. Proceeds will be used to support wildlife conservation projects and care for animals at the zoo. Call 813-935-8552 for information.



## PLANT PROFILE

**Common name:** Yaupon holly

**Botanical name:** *Ilex vomitoria*

**Family:** Aquifoliaceae (Holly)

**Growth habit:** Stiffly-branched shrub or small tree

**Mature size (h x w):** 25 ft. by 10 ft.

**Leaves:** Alternate, simple, 1-inch long leaves; oval to elliptical, evergreen, dark green above, pale green beneath

**Flower:** Tiny white flowers from March to May

**Fruit:** Red berries in the fall and winter

**Trunk:** Whitish-gray

**Light:** Full sun to part shade

**Water:** Drought tolerant after establishment

**Soil:** Well-drained soils

**Salt tolerant:** Yes

**Propagation:** Seed, stem cuttings

**Florida zones:** N, C

**Landscape uses:** Barrier hedge, background shrub, small tree, specimen

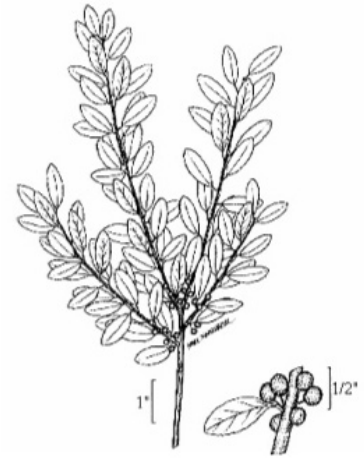
**Native habitat:** Wet to dry areas in woodlands and near coast

**Notes:** Female trees require nearby male trees for pollination; may form a thicket; provides excellent cover and nesting sites for birds; native americans made a tea from the

leaves of this plant; several cultivars are available in the nursery trade: 'Pendula' (a weeping form to 25 ft.), 'Schellings' and 'Nana' are dwarf cultivars growing to about 3 ft.

**Information compiled by**  
**George Kish**

**Artwork from the USDA**



### References:

Haehle, Robert G., and Joan Brookwell, 1999, *Native Florida Plants*, Gulf Publishing Company, Houston, Texas, 360 p.

Nelson, Gil, 1996, *The Shrubs and Woody Vines of Florida*, Pineapple Press, Inc., Sarasota, Florida, 391 p.

U.S. Department of Agriculture, No date, *Southern Wetlands Flora: Field Office Guide to Plant Species*, USDA Soil Conservation Service, South National Technical Center, Fort Worth, Texas, Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center home page, Jamestown, ND, [www.npwrc.usgs.gov/resource/1999/soutflor/soutflor.htm](http://www.npwrc.usgs.gov/resource/1999/soutflor/soutflor.htm).

## 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, Nona Elder at (727) 815-3479.

*detach and mail to address given below*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work phone \_\_\_\_\_

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

Not-for-profit

organization \$50

Business or

corporate \$100

Supporting \$100

Donor \$250

### Suncoast Native Plant Society

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

Make check payable to FNPS.

## Landscaping with Natives in Hillsborough County - April

By Sally Sun

For the month - Average temperature range: low of 60° to high of 82°

Average rainfall: 1.15 in.

### Flaunting flowers:

*Agarista populifolia*, pipestem; white  
*Allium canadense*, wild onion; white  
*Ardisia escallonioides*, marlberry; white  
*Asclepias perennis*, white swamp milkweed; white  
*Bacopa monnieri*, water hyssop; white  
*Berlandiera subcaulis*, green eyes; yellow  
*Bidens alba*, Spanish needles; white  
*Bignonia capreolata*, crossvine; reddish orange  
*Calamintha ashei*, Ashe's savory; pink-purple  
*Conradina grandiflora*, large-flowered conradina; purple  
*Coreopsis leavenworthii*, tickseed; yellow  
*Cornus foemina*, swamp dogwood; white  
*Equisetum hyemale*, horsetail;  
*Erythrina herbacea*, coral bean; red  
*Euonymus americanus*, hearts-a-bustin; green  
*Gaillardia pulchella*, blanketflower; yellow and red  
*Glandularia maritima*, beach vervain; purple  
*Glandularia tampensis*, Tampa vervain; purple  
*Helianthus debilis*, beach sunflower; yellow  
*Heliotropium angiospermum*, scorpion tail; white  
*Heliotropium curassavicum*, seaside heliotrope; white  
*Hypericum hypericoides*, St. Andrew's cross; yellow  
*Ilex vomitoria*, yaupon holly; white  
*Iris spp.*, blue flag and prairie iris; blue and yellow  
*Juncus effusus*, soft rush; brown  
*Justicia angusta*, water willow; purple  
*Linaria canadensis*, blue toadflax; blue  
*Lonicera sempervirens*, coral honeysuckle; red  
*Lyonia ferruginea*, rusty lyonia; white  
*Magnolia virginiana*, sweetbay; white

### Bearing berries:

*Acacia spp.*, acacias; brown pods  
*Ardisia escallonioides*, marlberry; black  
*Forestiera segregata*, Florida privet; black

### Wildlife to watch for: (busiest migration month)

- Brown thrasher fledglings
- Winter residents leave area: American goldfinch, cedar wax wing, gray catbird, house wren, kingfisher, warblers, etc.
- Summer residents arrive: chimney swift, Chuck's will-widow, great crested flycatcher, purple martin, warblers, etc.
- Year around residents nesting: blue jay, cardinal, Carolina chick-adee, Carolina wren, mourning dove, red-bellied woodpecker, red shouldered and red-tailed hawks, red-winged blackbird, screech, barn and great horned owls, tufted titmouse, etc.

*Mimosa strigillosa*, powderpuff; pink  
*Myrcianthes fragrans*, Simpson's stopper; white  
*Nymphaea odorata*, fragrant water lily; white  
*Opuntia humifusa*, prickly pear cactus; yellow  
*Opuntia stricta*, erect prickly pear cactus; yellow  
*Phlox nivalis*, trailing phlox; pink-purple  
*Phyla nodiflora*, fog-fruit; white  
*Pinus palustris*, longleaf pine; brown  
*Pluchea rosea*, saltmarsh fleabane; pink  
*Plumbago scandens*, wild plumbago; white  
*Polygonum punctatum*, dotted smartweed; white  
*Pontederia cordata*, pickerelweed; purple  
*Psychotria nervosa*, shiny wild coffee; white  
*Ptilimnium capillaceum*, mock bishop's weed; white  
*Rivina humilis*, rouge plant; white  
*Rudbeckia hirta*, black-eyed Susan; yellow  
*Sabatia calycina*, river pinks; pink  
*Sabatia grandiflora*, marsh pinks; dark pink  
*Salvia coccinea*, tropical sage; red; pink  
*Salvia lyrata*, lyre-leaf sage; lavender  
*Sambucus canadensis*, southern elderberry; white  
*Saururus cernuus*, lizard's tail; white  
*Sophora tomentosa*, necklace pod; yellow  
*Stachytarpheta jamaicensis*, trailing porterweed; purple  
*Sisyrinchium angustifolium*, blue-eyed grass; blue  
*Tradescantia ohiensis*, spiderwort; blue  
*Trichostema dichotomum*, blue curls; blue  
*Tripsacum floridanum*, dwarf fakahatchee grass; brown  
*Zanthoxylum clava-herculis*, Hercules club; green  
*Zephyranthes atamasco*, rainlily; white

*Ilex vomitoria*, yaupon holly; red  
*Rivina humilis*, rouge plant; red  
*Zamia pumila*, coontie; deep orange

### (Bird information provided by Dave Bowman)

- Birds migrating through: barn swallow, blue grosbeak, eastern kingbird, indigo bunting, ruby-throated hummingbird, various thrush and warbler species, etc.
- Giant swallowtail caterpillars munch on citrus
- Gulf fritillary and zebra long wing caterpillars munch passion flower
- Red admiral, white peacock, sulphur, cassius and ceraunus blue butterflies flitting

**What's happening in your yard? Please give us your input. Call Sally Sun (935-1312) with additions to this**

## Directory

### Officers & Board of Directors

#### *Chair*

Richard Wunderlin 977-6484

#### *Vice-chair*

Carmel vanHoek 238-6901

Harriett Wright 908-9398

#### *Secretary*

George Kish 920-0853

#### *Treasurer*

Fred Spriggs 935-1312

#### *Chapter Representative*

Richard Wunderlin 977-6484

#### *Board Members*

Ken Albritton 985-3372

George Kish 920-0853

Alice Tryon 899-9352

Carmel vanHoek 238-6901

Betty Wargo 237-1509

Harriet Wright 908-9398

Richard Wunderlin 977-6484

### Activities & Committee Chairs

#### *Field trips*

Steve Dickman 936-7268

#### *Publications*

Betsy Davis 973-8524

#### *Historian*

Pat McDowell 949-4648

#### *Librarian*

Vikki Sinclair 989-2896

#### *Membership*

Nona Elder 727-815-3479

#### *Newsletter editor*

George Kish 920-0853

#### *Plant Table*

To be announced

#### *Programs*

Carmel vanHoek 238-6901

Harriett Wright 908-9398

#### *Publicity*

Susan Johnston 984-1322

#### *Refreshments*

Lucy Hoyt 960-3178

#### *Education*

Betsy Davis 973-8524

#### *Book Sales*

Ken Albritton 985-3372

## Newsletter Submissions

**Deadline for the next issue:**

**April 23**

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. in the Westside Conference Center, first floor, located on the USF campus at Banyan & Cypress. Entrance is at the north end of the building.

## 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.ficus.usf.edu/orgs/suncoast](http://www.ficus.usf.edu/orgs/suncoast)**

## Grapevine Subscription

You may subscribe to the Suncoast Grapevine (not including membership in the SNPS or the FNPS) for \$10 per year. Contact Nona Elder at (727) 815-3479.

**Stamp**

**Please deliver to:**