

# The Suncoast

Suncoast Native Plant Society,



Volume 21 Number 4

APRIL 2004

## April 21 Meeting (at the Learning Gate Charter School)

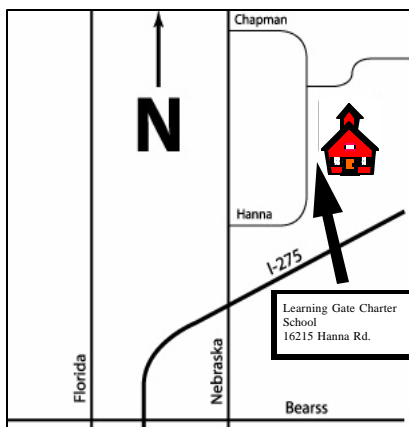
### CLEVER PLANTS INTERACTING WITH CANNY BUGS

By Mark Deyrup

To the entomologist Mark Deyrup, all bugs are beautiful. Although ants are his favorites, he's never encountered an insect he didn't like. We can't be sure which members of the class Insecta he'll feature at our April program, but we can be certain that his presentation will be informative and entertaining, and that we'll come away with many new insights into the ways plants and insects interact.

He declined to provide any biographical information on the grounds that the average fly or wasp is more interesting than he is, a contention that from all I've heard is open to serious doubt. From his web page I learned that he earned his B.S at Cornell and his M.S. and Ph.D. at the University of Washington, is a Senior Research Biologist at Archbold Biological Station in Lake Placid, and has been widely published in scientific journals.

- - - Contributed by Harriett Wright



### Subject: Free Exotics CD

A new CD-ROM offered by the USDA Forest Service, "Invasive Plants of the Eastern United States-Identification and Control" features the complete text and images from four recent books on the topic: \* Nonnative Invasive Plants of Southern Forests: A Field Guide for Identification and Control, \*Biological Control of Invasive Plants in the Eastern United States \*Plant Invaders of Mid-Atlantic Natural Areas \*Southeast Exotic Pest Plant Council Invasive Plant Manual Request FREE copies of this CD-ROM from Richard Reardon, FHTET, USDA Forest Service, Morgantown, WV (304) 285-1566, reardon@fs.fed.us, or from > www.invasive.org. The project was funded by the USDA Forest Service, Forest Health Technology Enterprise Team in Morgantown, WV. Request Publication No. FHTET-2003-08.

## **Message from the President**

This weekend is the USF Botanical Garden's Spring Plant Festival. The Festival always happens on the second weekend in April and this year it falls on Easter weekend. If you are planning to buy plants for your loved ones, make the USF Plant Festival your choice for a great selection. Please stop by our chapter's booth and choose from a wide variety of native plants while showing your support for the USF Botanical Gardens and our chapter.

**George Kish**

## **Plant Raffle Guidelines**

By Harriett Wright

When you bring plants to the plant raffle, please sign the raffle sheet and record the number of plants you donated. Before the start of the raffle, we will offer first choice of a plant on the raffle table to our speaker, followed by plant donors in the order of the number of plants donated. After these selections have been made, we will begin the raffle.

Thank you to all the members who donated plants at the last meeting.



## **FIELD TRIP ("PARTY")**

Suncoast Native Plant Society

**The Mulhollands**  
15410 Stonecreek Lane  
Tampa, FL 33613

**Sunday, May 23, 2004**  
**From 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM**

There are more than 160 species of native plants in the yard. An identification list will be provided that shows what and where located.

**FREE "YOU-DIG" PLANTS**  
Bring a few small pots, we provide "Dirt & Diggers"

It's a party, mostly outdoors, rain or shine, so dress casually. There is some seating outside, but a few extra lawn chairs would help. Drinks and snacks will be provided. If you need more information call: (813) 962-7020

*SEE NATIVE PLANTS IN SUBURBIA: ONE WAY TO DO IT WITHOUT A LAWN*

## SUNCOAST NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY PROGRAM 2004

January 21: *Talking With the Animals*, by Bill Thomas, photojournalist. How to get up close and personal with animals in the wild.

February 18: *Smart Growth*, by Miki Renner, Senior Planner at Swiftmud. Replacing current sprawl-dominated development with town-centered planning that serves the economy, the community, and the environment.

March 17: *Earth Etiquette*, by James Mendenhall, Park Naturalist with the Florida DEP, Division of Recreation and Parks. Strategies to make our presence in the natural world less offensive and more positive for all concerned.

April 21: *Clever Plants Interacting with Canny Bugs*, by Mark Deyrup, Senior Research Biologist, Archbold Biological Station. Fascinating relationships between native plants and insects.

May 19: *Members' Forum*. What we're doing in our gardens.

June 16: *The Conservation Program at Historic Bok Sanctuary*, by Cheryl Peterson, Conservation Manager of Bok Sanctuary. Using molecular genetics to augment the more traditional conservation efforts on rare plant species in north and central Florida.

July 21, joint meeting with Audubon and Sierra: *The Horticulture of Butterfly Plants*, by Craig Heugel, manager of Brooker Creek Preserve in Pinellas County, How to grow the plants that butterfly larvae love to munch.

August 18: *The Ericaceae in Florida*, by Michael Kenton, owner of Environmental Equities native plant nursery. Members of the Heath Family in Florida: how to identify them, how to grow them, and where to get them.

September 15: *Florida's Fire Ecology*, by Carl Weekley, Research Biologist, Archbold Biological Station. Fire is a central force defining most Florida ecosystems from marshes to xeric uplands.

October 20: *Life History of the Gopher Tortoise*, by Ray Ashton, of the Ashton Biodiversity Research & Preservation Institute.

November 17: *Medicinal Plants*, by Maureen Bonness.



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).

## **Moonstruck**

### **A Field Trip Report**

March's Suncoast Native Plant Society full moon river walk led by Cliff Brown went off without a hitch nor any mosquitoes and about 11 "adventure associates" attended. Although Steve Dickman made all the arrangements, he unfortunately became ill and could not attend.

There were plenty of flashlights and much good conversation as we strolled the trail. Many interesting hickory trees, sparkleberries, orchids and ferns were seen and even a few fireflies. Several owls were heard talking with one another in the swamp's hardwood hammock and also a chuck-will's-widow was heard.

The full moon rose among a low cloud ceiling, emitting a milky hue over the old homestead where we anxiously waiting its ascent. The moonlight shown on a sidewalk that once led from the old house to the river's bank. The group followed this sidewalk back to the main trail and towards Dead River where our journey through unspoiled Florida had begun several short hours earlier. Some of the participants stayed a little behind the main group so their eyes could adjust to the moonlight away from the flashlights. Here they heard different frog and insect sounds and also the sounds of unknown critters rustling through the bushes.

The time had passed much too quickly and now it was time for us to get in our vehicles and leave. Driving along the moonlit road towards the park's entrance, I could not help but think how it would have been for early people to travel the trails, aided only by the light of the moon. I bet that would have been a journey not soon forgotten and perhaps not too unlike our own journey tonight.

Submitted by Mike Fite

## **Future Electronic** **Grapevine**

Because of concerns over cost and our desire to use less paper, the Board will be making the newsletter available through our web page in a couple of months. We will notify you by email when the Grapevine is "Now Available". A paper version will continue until you indicate that you would like to help save us money and a few trees.

## **Sudden Oak Disease**

Update:

DACS has verified the presence of Sudden Oak Death (SOD) at 3 retail nurseries in Florida. the complete press release is below. California is now inspecting the stock of any nursery that wants to ship host plants out of state. To my knowledge Georgia and Mississippi, along with Florida, have quarantined California plants. I suspect other states like Texas and Louisiana may have as well but I have no confirmation. [http://www.doacs.state.fl.us.press/03312004\\_2.html](http://www.doacs.state.fl.us.press/03312004_2.html)

Dave Palmer - Extension Agent  
Professional Horticulture Services  
5339 County Road 579  
Seffner, FL., 33584-3334  
813-744-5519x103  
813-744-5776 Fax

## **PLANT PROFILE**

**Common name:** Jack-In-The-Pulpit

**Botanical name:** *Arisaema triphyllum* (L.) Schott

**Family:** Araceae (Arum Family) This is the same family containing duckweed, water lettuce, golden club and spoonflower.

**Plant Habit:** A tuberous-rooted perennial herb.

**Size:** One to two feet tall.

**Leaves:** One, usually two, compound leaves with three leaflets

**Inflorescence:** A thick spike of tiny whitish flowers called a spadix (“Jack”), with a modified leaf called a spathe, (the “pulpit”) arched over the flower spike. The spathe is variable in color, often entirely green and sometimes purple and white striped.

**Flowers:** The spadix can be unisexual with either all male or all female flowers, or will have both, with female flowers below, male flowers towards the middle.

**Fruit:** A cluster of brilliant red berries in the fall.

**Habitat:** Mesic to wet hammocks.

**Flowering time:** Spring to summer.

**Distribution:** Northern counties south to central peninsula, and Collier County.

**Light:** Dappled to deep shade.

**Soil:** Rich soil.

**Propagation:** Seed sown immediately after ripening, according to Rufino Osorio.

**Maintenance:** None.

**Availability:** Several native plant nurseries.

**Wildlife:** Not known.

**Related Species:** *Arisaema dracontium*, Green Dragon, is found occasionally in mesic to moist woods, in the north and central part of our state. It differs from Jack-In-The-Pulpit in its leaves of five or more leaflets arranged in a semi-circle, in its more slender spadix, and in its spathe which is prolonged, whip-like, resembling a dragon’s tongue.

### **References:**

Godfrey, Robert K. and Wooten, Jean W., 1979, **Aquatic and Wetland Plants of Southeastern United States**, Monocotyledons, The University of Georgia Press, Athens, Ga., pp.458-459.

Osorio, Rufino, 2001, **A Gardener’s Guide to Florida’s Native Plants**, University Press of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, pp.80-81.

Taylor, Walter Kingsley, 1998, **Florida Wildflowers In Their Natural Communities**, University Press of Florida, p178.

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. and Hansen, B.F., 2003, **Guide To the Vascular Plants of Florida** second edition: University Press of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, p78.

**Information compiled by Carmel vanHoek**

**Photograph by Dan Tenaglia**



# Suncoast Calendar

## REGULAR MEETINGS OF SUNCOAST NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY at the Learning Gate Charter School, 16215 Hanna Road, in Lutz. 7 PM

APR 21 MAY 19 JUN 16 JUL 21

**SNPS 2004 FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE** Field trips begin at 9:00 am. Contact Steve Dickman, 813-936-7268 for more information. Trails are rated moderate unless noted. Dates subject to change.

## PROGRAMS AND EVENTS at the FNPS

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

**SIERRA CLUB** (Meets second Wednesdays at Chamberlain High School) Meeting time is 7:30 pm with a new member & guest orientation at 7:00. (813) 253-3555

## TAMPA AUDUBON FIELD TRIPS

They meet 7 times a year on Saturdays at Lettuce Leaf Park off Fletcher. Call 983-0258.

APR 17 "Bald Eagles, Sky Masters" by Lynda White, Audubon's Center for Birds of Prey.

**ST. PETERSBURG AUDUBON** Call 582-2461 or website, [stpeteaudubon.org/main.htm](http://stpeteaudubon.org/main.htm)

APR 20 - 6:00 pm Beach Potluck and Bird walk.

## LOWRY PARK ZOO

MAY 2 - All day for \$2.00 9:30 am - 5:00 pm

## HISTORIC BOK SANCTUARY

March 1 - April 30

Nature's Places of Spiritual Sanctuary:  
Black and White Landscape Photography by Clyde Butcher who was honored by the state of Florida with the highest award the state can give a private citizen: *The Artist Hall of Fame Award*.

## HILLS CO. MASTER GARDNER

**PROGRAMS.** Call 813-744-5519 x144 for information about locations or website: [hillsborough.extension.ufl.edu/calendar.htm](http://hillsborough.extension.ufl.edu/calendar.htm).

APR 15 - Simple Backyard Arrangements 10:00 am

APR 17 - Compost Happens, Rain Barrel & Water Wise Workshops. Pre-registration required.

APR 20 - Florida Perennials 7 pm

APR 21 - Butterfly Gardening 10 am

APR 21 - Landscape Design Workshop 9 am—12 noon. Pre-registration required.

APR 24 - Florida Friendly Landscaping 101 8 am-1 pm. Pre-registration and fee required.

MAY 4 - Begonias 7:00 pm

MAY 10 - Florida Natives 7:30 pm

MAY 11 - High Color, Low Maintenance 7 pm

MAY 11 - Plant Trouble Shooting Panel Discussion 7 pm

MAY 13 - Garden Art 10:00 am

MAY 13 - Shade Gardens 10:00 am

MAY 13 - Native Plants 10:00 am

## CHINSEGUT NATURE CENTER

(352)754-6722 or website: [/floridaconservation.org/chinsegut/schedule.html](http://floridaconservation.org/chinsegut/schedule.html)

APR 13 - 9:00 am Big Pine Spring Migrant Bird Walk.

APR 24 - 7:30 am – 4:00 pm. Welcome Back Songbirds/ Earth Day Festival

MAY 3 - 9:00 am Nature Center Butterfly Walk

MAY 11 - 7:00 pm. Flora of the Sandhills

## USF BOTANICAL GARDEN 974-2329

APR 17 - Planting and Transplanting 10:00 am

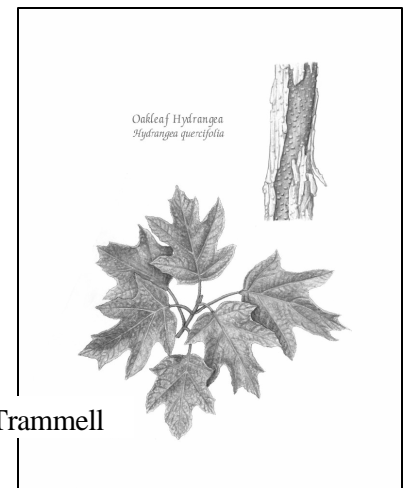
APR 17 - Beginning Bonsai Workshop 1:00 pm

APR 18 - Nature Walk in the gardens 9:00

APR 24 - Bamboo Workshop

APR 24 - Volunteer Orientation

MAY 15 - Landscaping with Tropical Plants



Artwork by Susan Trammell

## Save Cypress forests -- stop shredding them into mulch

Thursday, April 15, at 10:00 a.m., at County Center in Tampa, our County Commissioners have scheduled time to listen to citizens asking them to consider policies to save cypress forests by encouraging the use of alternatives to cypress mulch in Hillsborough County. The citizen group includes members of local Audubon chapters, led by Billie Leeper who is asking for help from our South Hillsborough Sierra Committee, the Suncoast Native Plant Society, and other environmentalists.

**Please consider joining these citizens Thursday at this public meeting, and/or writing or calling your county commissioners in support of their efforts this week.** (And please forward this e-mail to others.)

Here is a sample e-mail you can send all your County Commissioners at the same time at this Web site:

<<http://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/mail/email.html>>

Dear Commissioner,  
On April 15 you are scheduled to hear from citizens asking you to protect our native cypress forests by

encouraging the use of alternatives to cypress mulch. I would like to add my voice to theirs.

Cypress trees are being clear-cut from our native wetlands, simply to feed entire trees into chippers, producing nothing but mulch. Once those trees are gone, that land is easily taken over by invasives like Brazilian Pepper, or the area is planted in pine for future logging or drained for development. Either way, the cypress forest wildlife habitat is lost forever.

Please consider implementing county ordinances that would (1) prohibit cypress mulch in landscaping on county property and (2) restrict the use of cypress mulch in new developments. Perhaps other, stronger measures could be considered as well.

Dade County's code for new developments #1897-15 (G)(3) says, "cypress mulch shall not be used because its harvest degrades wetlands." And Florida Dept. of Transportation Standard Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction #580-8 says, "no cypress mulch is allowed." I would like to see Hillsborough County set similar standards protecting our native cypress forests.

For more information, see the brochure, "Cypress Mulch -- Why Kill a Tree to Grow a Flower?" (online at: <http://www.fnps.org/chapters/suncoast/mulch.pdf>). This was written by Barbara Waddell and the Pepper Patrol of Ruskin, Florida, and is produced by the Suncoast Native Plant Society, Inc.

Thank you,  
Mariella Smith  
108 Janie St., Ruskin, FL 33570

## 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.

New Member                       Renewal

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

E-mail and/or FAX \_\_\_\_\_

### Check pertinent category:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$25           | <input type="checkbox"/> Not-for-profit organization \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Full time student \$15    | <input type="checkbox"/> Business or corporate \$100      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Library subscription \$15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting \$100                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family or household \$30  |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contributing \$40         |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Donor \$250               |   |

*Make check payable to FNPS.*

*Detach and mail to:*

**Suncoast Native Plant Society  
P.O. Box 82893  
Tampa, FL 33682-2893**



## 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

Shirley Brown 977-0454  
Mike Fite, Assistant 977-0892

### Programs

Harriett Wright 908-9398

### Publicity

Ameé Bailey 863-206-3439

### 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 863-206-3439

## Newsletter Submissions

**Deadline for the next issue:**

**May 3**

Please send articles and original artwork for The Suncoast Grapevine to the editor, Shirley Brown, 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:...srbrown11@msn.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.

## Officers & Board of Directors

### President

George Kish 920-0853

### Vice-president

Harriett Wright 908-9398

### Secretary

Ameé Bailey 863-206-3439

### Treasurer

Fred Spriggs 935-1312

### Chapter Representative

Ameé Bailey 662-5954

### Board Members

Ameé Bailey 863-206-3439  
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Steve Dickman 936-7268  
George Kish 920-0853  
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Fred Spriggs 935-1312  
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**Stamp**



**Please deliver to:**