

[www.fnps.org/chapters/suncoast](http://www.fnps.org/chapters/suncoast)



Club logo:  
"Beach Sunflower"  
*Helianthus debilis*

# The Suncoast Grapevine

Suncoast Native Plant Society,  
Inc., a Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society, Inc.

Volume 22 Number 8

AUGUST 2005

August Meeting 24 7:00 pm

- - - Contributed by Harriett Wright

**DIRECTIONS TO:**

Hillsborough County Extension Service, 5339 County Road 579, Seffner.

Take I-4 to Exit 10 (just east of I-75);  
Go South for two blocks. Office is at  
the corner of Old Hillsborough Road  
and County Road 579.

## President's Message

*George Kish*



### **HELP WANTED:**

#### FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT LANDSCAPERS

Many of you might know that Suncoast Native Plant Society members helped plant a native garden at radio station WMNF. It was a "blooming" success and now volunteers are needed to make sure that the planting becomes established. Your help is essential!

The landscaping schedule (please see below) offers opportunities every other Saturday morning to promote Florida's native flora. Maintenance gardening begins at 9:00 AM. to about 11:00 AM. When you arrive at WMNF's studio, please begin weeding, trimming etc., and offer advice to less experienced volunteers (such as which plants to leave and which to remove). Also, you can bring extra garden trowels and/or buckets since not everyone will remember to bring tools. A sign-in sheet can be helpful to thank and contact people afterwards.

The WMNF's station is located a few blocks east of I-275 in Tampa at 1210 E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. The schedule is flexible so if there is another time which is better for you or for more information please contact Carrie Core at (813) 238-8001x134 or [carriec@WMNF.org](mailto:carriec@WMNF.org)

Landscaping Saturdays at 9:00 AM:  
July 16    August 13    September 10  
July 30    August 27    September 24

Incidentally, on July 2, Davida Johns and Tammy Harman helped SNPS member Mike Fite weed the native garden at WMNF.

## PLANT PROFILE

- **Common name:** Spotted Bee balm; Horsemint
- **Botanical name:** *Monarda punctata* L.
- **Synonyms:** *Monarda punctata* var. *leucantha* Nash
- **Family:** Lamiaceae (mint family)
- **Zone:** 8-10A
- **Plant Habit:** Erect to spreading tap rooted annual or short-lived perennial, sometimes biennial
- **Habitat:** Sandy fields, disturbed areas
- **Size:** 1 ½-3 feet, occasionally to 4 feet
- **Leaves:** Opposite, oval to lance-shaped with toothed edges and a pleasantly pungent, oregano-like scent
- **Bloom:** White or pale pink flowers spotted purple on elongated spikes with conspicuous, leafy bracts, of white, pink or rose and blooming over a long period
- **Flowering time:** Late spring through early autumn
- **Distribution:** Pennsylvania south to Florida and Texas; also in California. It occurs nearly throughout Florida except the southernmost counties..
- **Growing conditions:** Well-drained soil
- **Light:** Light shade to full sun
- **Propagation:** Seed, cuttings, division of clumps
- **Motility:** Sometimes forms clumps by self-layering; occasionally self-sown
- **Maintenance:** Yearly pruning of older plants; removal of dead plants
- **Availability:** Generally available through native plant nurseries and FNPS chapter members
- **Comments:** The large colorful leafy bracts in consecutive whorls at the end of the branches surpass the smaller, less colorful, bilobed flowers and are the conspicuous part of the inflorescence. Oil from the leaves is high in thymol. Tea from the leaves was used by Native Americans for treatment of flu, colds, and stomach cramps.

Flower Detail

### References:

- Haehle, R.G. & Brookwell, J. 1999. **Native Florida Plants.** Gulf Publishing Co., Houston, TX.
- Osorio, R. 2001. **A Gardener's Guide to Florida's Native Plants.** University Press of Florida, Gainesville, FL.
- Taylor, W.K. 1992. **The Guide to Florida Wildflowers.** Taylor Publishing Co., Dallas, TX.
- Taylor, W.K. 1998. **Florida Wildflowers in Their Natural Communities.** University Press of Florida, Gainesville, FL.
- Wunderlin, R.P. and B.F. Hansen. 2003. **Guide to the Vascular Plants of Florida.** University Press of Florida, Gainesville, FL.
- Wunderlin, R.P. and B.F. Hansen. 2005. **Atlas of Florida Vascular Plants** (<http://plantatlas.usf.edu/>).

Information compiled by Shirley Brown and Dick Wunderlin

Photographs by Allen Boatman and Julia Schulton



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).

# Suncoast Calendar

## REGULAR MEETINGS OF SUNCOAST

### NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY 7:00 PM

**JUL 20    AUG 17    SEP 21**

**FNPS PINELLAS CHAPTER:** (Moccasin Lake Nature Park, 2750 Park Trail, Clearwater; 727-544-7341); First Weds; 7:30 pm

**AUG 3—The Evil Weevil**

**AUG 6—Eco- Garden Conference;** Call 582-2100 to register

**AUG 7—Field Trip: Sawgrass Lake Park/Anderson Environmental Education Center**

**FNPS HERNANDO CHAPTER:** Meets first Monday of the month at county Extension service, 19490 Oliver St., Brooksville; 6:30 pm.

**AUG 1—FNPS Trip to Guatemala**

**FNPS PASCO CHAPTER:** Meets monthly on second Tuesday; 7:30 pm at St. Marks Fellowship Hall, 7922 State Road 52, Hudson, FL; 727-848-8000.

**BOK TOWER** [www.boktower.org/whatsnew](http://www.boktower.org/whatsnew)

**Pinewood estate**—now open for a small fee

**Fire & Flowers: Abstractions of Nature**

**JUN 6—JUL 18**

**Anne Malatesta of Lake Wales** presents high-resolution digital photography and black and white images of the rare species found on the Ridge as well as the prescribed fire that shapes most of Florida's ecosystems.

## CHINSEGUT NATURE CENTER

Meets 7:00 pm at Chinsegut Nature Center. Call 352-754-6722 or website: [/floridaconservation.org/chinsegut/schedule.html](http://floridaconservation.org/chinsegut/schedule.html)

**JUL 12—Gopher Tortoises**

**AUG 2—Wildflowers of the Sand Hills**

## LOWRY PARK ZOO

For information, (813) 935-8552, ext. 239. or visit the website: [http://www.lowryparkzoo.com/html/12/12\\_calendar\\_events.html](http://www.lowryparkzoo.com/html/12/12_calendar_events.html)

**NOW—Safari School** offered for a fee. Up close and personal with various animals.

## MASTER GARDENER PROGRAMS

Call 813-744-5519 for details and locations or website: [www.hillsborough.extension.ufl.edu/HomeHort](http://www.hillsborough.extension.ufl.edu/HomeHort).

**JUL 9—Rain Barrel Workshop** 9:00 AM.

**JUL 16—Landscape Design Workshop** 9:00 AM

## SELBY BOTANICAL GARDENS

see website: [www.selby.org](http://www.selby.org) or phone 941-366-5731.

**JUL 16-17—Fern Show and Sell** 10:00 AM

## SIERRA CLUB OF TAMPA BAY:

meets second Wednesdays at 7:00 PM  
Gulf Ridge Council of the Boy Scout's headquarters, 13228 N. Central Ave. Tampa; For information: 813-253-3555 or 727-824-8813.

## TAMPA AUDUBON

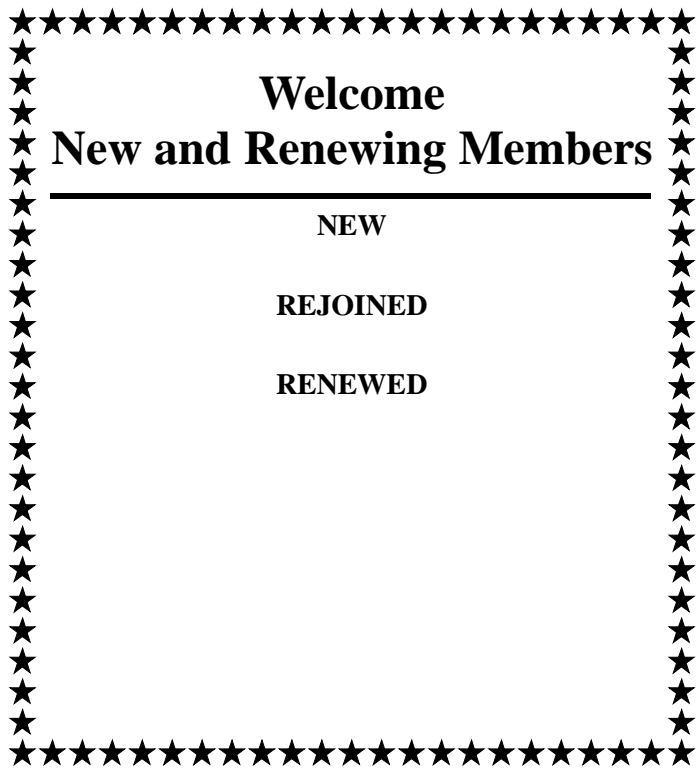
Meets at Lettuce Lake Park off Fletcher west of I-75; 3:00 PM.

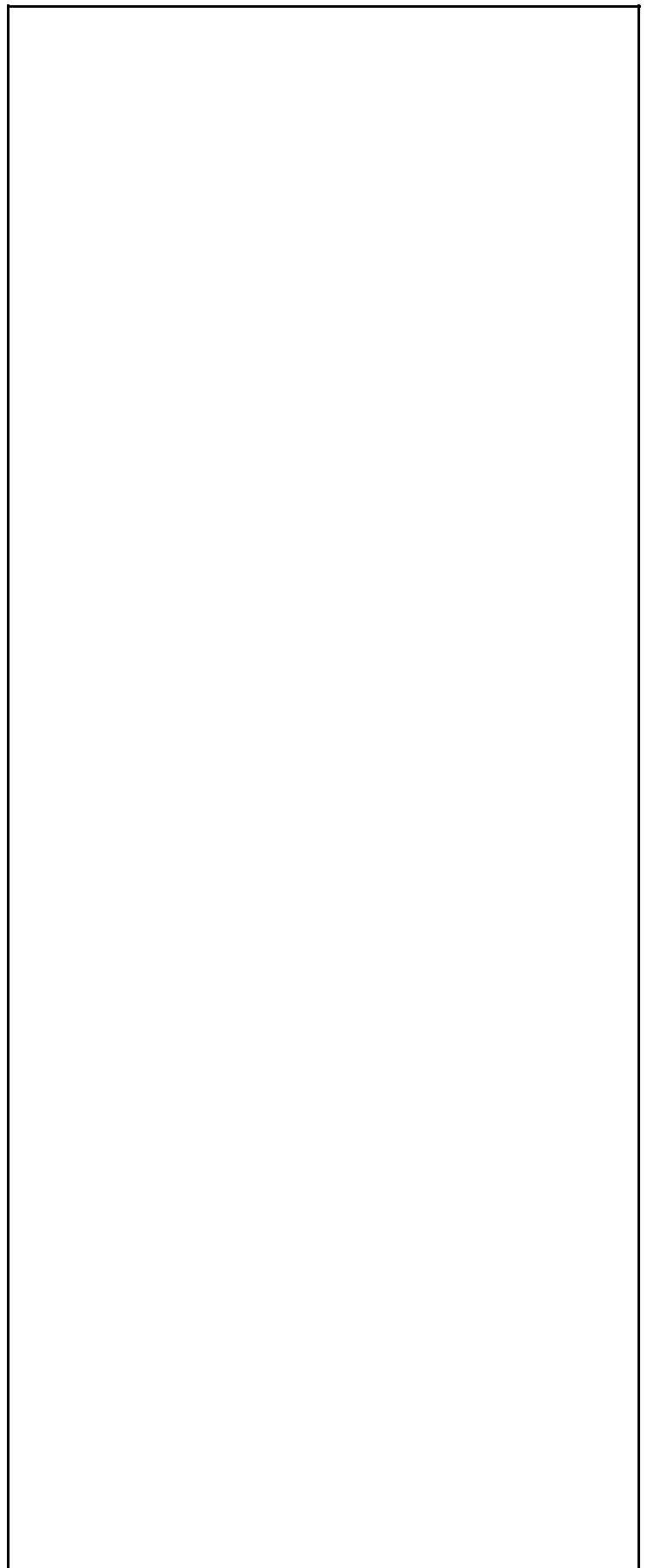
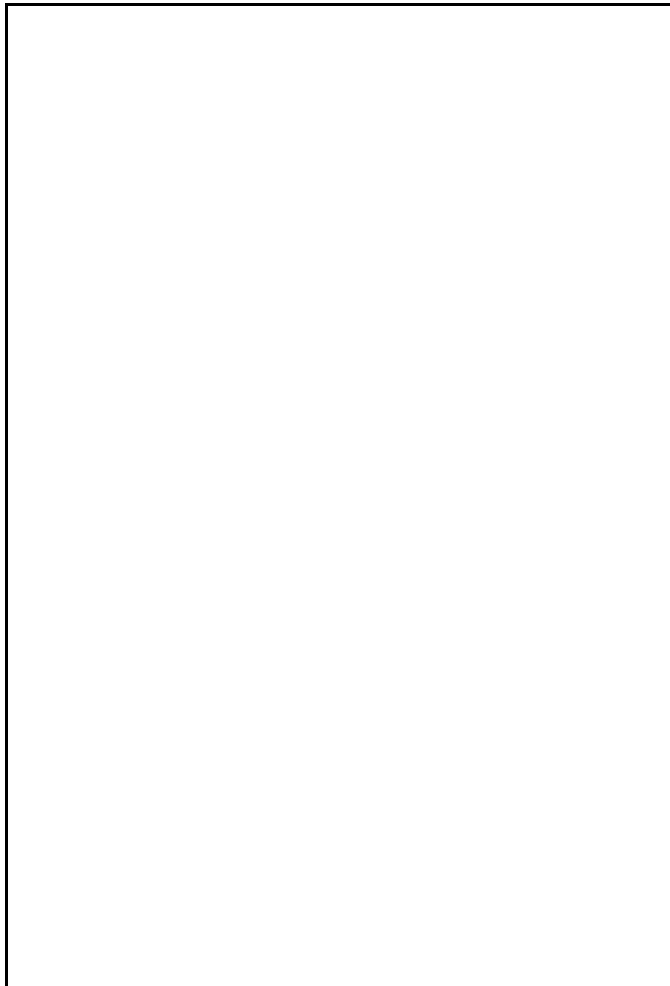
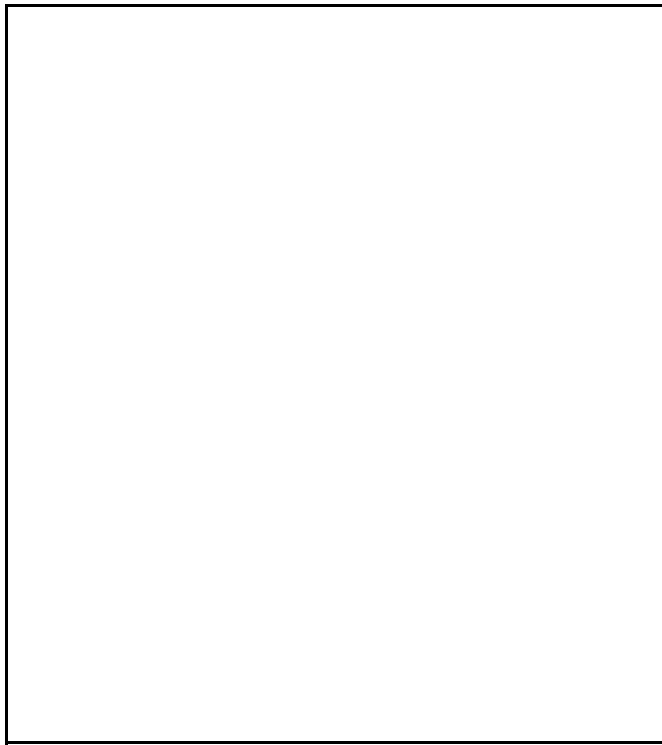
## USF BOTANICAL GARDEN

974-2329.  
Volunteer orientation last Saturday morning of the month 10:00. Workshops require fee & registration.

**JUL 30—Florida's Native Orchids**







## A Big Thank You

Thanks to those who contributed Raffle plants at the last meeting,

Remember, you get a free plant before the raffle begins when you donate plants for the raffle.

(Please sign the donor sheet so that we can acknowledge you in the Grapevine. Thanks.)

## Plant Raffle Guidelines

By Harriett Wright

When you bring plants to the plant raffle, please sign the raffle donor 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.

## Programs For 2005

By Harriett Wright

**January 19, Brian Schatz:** WMNF Project. A native plant demonstration garden for Tampa.

**February 16, Warren Clark:** History of Native Gardening in Florida.

**March 16, Carl Weekley:** Florida's Fire Ecology. The history of fire in Florida ecosystems, and the consequences of fire suppression, particularly in scrub and sandhill communities. How fire structures these pyrogenic communities, how a few endemic species respond to fire, and devices used at Archbold Biological Station to measure fire's intensity.

**April 20, Mark Hostetler:** Why the Hell Should I Mow My Lawn?: Thoughts, Issues, and Research on Developing Eco-Intelligent Communities

**May 18, William Lorenzen:** Tampa Bay Conservancy Project.

**June 15, Pinellas Chapter:** Landscaping and Gardening with Native Plants.

**July 20, Dr. Gregory A. Jones:** Birds, Bugs, Sunflowers, and Sustainable Farming; Joint meeting with Sierra and Audubon clubs.

**August 17, Sid Taylor:** Historical Commercial Exploitation of Pinus in The Land of Flowers. An expose of Naval Stores and turpentine Distillation.

**September 21, George Kish:** Native Grasses of Florida

**October 19, John Tobe:** Pitcherplants of Florida

**November 16, Steve Farnsworth:** Pseudonatives: Plants that are passed off as natives but aren't.

## 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"/> Donor \$250                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contributing \$40         |   |

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

Vacant

### Publications

Richard Wunderlin 977-6484

### Librarian

Vicki Sinclair 989-2896

### Membership

Vacant

### Newsletter editor

Shirley Brown 977-0454

Mike Fite, Assistant 977-0892

### Programs

Harriett Wright 908-9398

### Publicity

Amee Bailey Speck 863-206-3439(c)

### Refreshments

Lucy Hoyt 960-3178

### Education

Betty Wargo 237-1509

### Book Sales

Sally Sun 935-1312

### USF Plant Sale

Sally Sun 935-1312

### Conference

Amee Bailey Speck 863-206-3439(c)

### Meeting Location

Harriett Wright 908-9398

### USF Botanical Garden Liaison

Shirley Brown 977-0454

## Newsletter Submissions

**Deadline for the next issue:**

**SEP 5**

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:..... Shirley Brown  
1804 Curry Road  
Lutz, FL 33549

Email:...srbrown11@msn.com

## Meeting Locations

Suncoast Native Plant Society, Inc. meets the third Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at either the **Hillsborough Extension office in Seffner** or 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 813-920-0853.

## Officers & Board of Directors

### President

George Kish 920-0853

### Vice-president

Harriett Wright 908-9398

### Secretary

Amee Bailey Speck 863-206-3439(c)

### Treasurer

Pat Clouser 662-7222

### Chapter Representative

Amee Bailey Speck 863-206-3439(c)

### Board Members

Amee Bailey Speck 863-206-3439(c)

Shirley Brown 977-0454

Pat Clouser 662-7222

JoAnn Hoffman 671-2131

George Kish 920-0853

Bob Scheible 626-6815

Harriett Wright 908-9398

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

Stamp



**Please deliver to:**