



Club logo:
"Beach Sunflower"
Helianthus debilis

The Suncoast Grapevine

Suncoast Chapter of Florida
Native Plant Society, Inc.

Volume 23 Number 1

JANUARY 2006

January 18. 7:00 pm at Hillsborough Extension Office

**Program: Pseudonatives –
Plants that people think are native but really aren't.**

By Steve Farnsworth

Have you ever purchased a plant identified as a native only to find out later, that it's not? What makes a plant a native anyway? These and other questions will be answered by our January speaker, Steve Farnsworth.

Steve earned his BS in Plant Science and his MS in Horticultural Science from the University of Florida. He is presently employed as an Environmental Analyst with the Palm Beach County Environmental Resources Management Department. Prior to that, Steve owned and operated Farnsworth Farms Nursery, specializing in Florida native plants. Steve is a former president of the Florida Native Plant Society and FNPS representative to the Exotic Pest Plant Council. He has also served as an environmental consultant and is on many environmental advisory boards.

In addition to authoring several guest columns on environmental issues for the Palm Beach Post, he has published management plans for sixteen natural area preserves for Palm Beach County Department of Environmental Resources Management and was a contributing author to the revised edition of **Rare and Endangered Biota of Florida, Volume 5, Plants.**

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.

Submitted by Mary Miller

Here's what's Happening at Lettuce Lake Park

On December 10, 2005, several members of our chapter joined with Tampa Audubon and the Tampa Bay Conservancy at ARC in the Park to celebrate volunteer appreciation day. Andrea College, the new director of ARC in the Park, welcomed volunteers and guests with a wonderful brunch. Andrea presented each volunteer with a beautiful, bound notebook for field observations.

Stan Kroh, president of Tampa Audubon, William Lorenzen, executive director of the Tampa Bay Conservancy and Harriett Wright, president of the Suncoast chapter, FNPS, discussed how our organizations could partner with Andrea to develop the ARC into an interactive, hands-on educational experience.

After the brunch, Dr. Richard Wunderlin led the ARC volunteers and guests on a plant identification field trip from the upland area near the ARC to the Hillsborough River along the boardwalk. Chapter members Betty Wargo and Ann Paul helped the volunteers with bird identification while chapter members Harriett Wright, Mary Miller, Debbie Butts, George Kish and Steve Dickman helped volunteers with plant identification.

Our chapter pledged support to assist Andrea College with educational displays and presentations about native plants. If you are interested in lending a hand for this important project, please contact Harriett Wright (813-908-9398) or George Kish (813-920-0853).

Submitted by George Kish

PHOTOGRAPHERS WANTED

Our webmaster is looking for pictures of native plants taken by Suncoast's membership to showcase on our website's opening page each month. Please send photos you would like published to Pat Clouser, mlvpat@verizon.net or mail negatives to our PO box. (See last page of this newsletter.) Don't forget to name the plant and include your name.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Where: WMNF - native garden landscape

Date: January 21, 2006

Day: Saturday

Time: 9 AM to Noon

What: Install 100 bales of Pinestraw Mulch.

Who: Anyone can join in on the fun.

Brian Schatz will be there to guide volunteers along. Bring gloves, pruners and drinking fluids. Call Brian, 908-8580, with questions.

Suncoast Calendar

REGULAR MEETINGS OF SUNCOAST

CHAPTER OF FNPS 7:00 PM

JAN 18 FEB 15 MAR 15

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

FEB 1—Habitat-friendly Natural Landscaping

FNPS HERNANDO CHAPTER: Meets first Monday of the month at county Extension service, 19490 Oliver St., Brooksville; 6:30 pm. Call 352-583-2384.

FEB 6—Natives Plants in our Yards

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

FEB 14—Why Hot is Cool: Without Fire, What would we lose.

TAMPA AUDUBON SOCIETY: Meets second Saturday, at the Audubon Resource Center at Lettuce Lake Park. Website: tampaaudubon.org
Email: smkroh@tecoenergy.com

JAN 14—Tampa Bay Estuary update 11:00 am

FEB 11—Tampa Bay Conservancy 11:00 am

ST. PETERSBURG AUDUBON

Meets at Science Center, 7701 22nd Avenue North, St. Pete; For information call 727-384-0027 or website, www.stpeteaudubon.org/main.htm; meets the 3rd Tues. of the month Sep.—Nov and Jan—April at the Science Center, 7701 22nd Ave. N.

BOK TOWER www.boktower.org/whatsnew

Pinewood estate—now open for a small fee

JAN 14—One-Man Play “George Washington Carver: From Slave to Scientist” 11:00am/ 7:30pm

BROOKER CREEK PRESERVE

3940 Keystone Rd. Tarpon Springs; 727-453-6800 or website: BCPEEC@co.pinellas.fl.us

JAN 14, 21, 28—Nature Hikes for ages 10 & up 9-11 am

JAN 15 & 22—Nature Hikes for ages 10 and up 8-10 am

JAN 11—Choices for Sustainable Living 6:30 pm \$

JAN 28—Return of the Whooping Cranes 1:00 pm

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). NOTE: The Chinsegut Nature Center is now open to the general public on Friday & Saturday from 8 am - 2 pm.

LOWRY PARK ZOO

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

FEB 11—Valentine’s Day “Wild at Heart” 7-9 pm (for adults 21 and over) \$\$ includes a progressive dinner. Call 813-935-8552, ext. 239.

MASTER GARDENER PROGRAMS Call 813-744-5519 for details and locations or website: www.hillsborough.extension.ufl.edu/HomeHort.

JAN 12 & 18—Wonder, Ponder and Prune 10:00 am

JAN 17—Pruning 7:00 pm

FEB 11—Compost Happens & Water Wise Workshops 8:30 am –11:00 am *Pre-registration required*

FEB 14—None steps to a certified yard 10:00 am

SELBY BOTANICAL GARDENS see website: www.selby.org or phone 941-366-5731.

Now - JAN 19—Selby's Plants Photographic Exhibition

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

Sierra Club's South Hillsborough Committee

meets on the first Thursday of the month, 7:00 pm, at Camp Bayou Outdoor Learning Center, 4202 24th St. SE, Ruskin. Call 813-645-4218.

USF BOTANICAL GARDEN 974-2329.

Volunteer orientation last Saturday morning of the month 10:00. Workshops require fee & registration. Website: www.cas.usf.edu/garden/calendar.htm.



Photo by T. Ann Williams

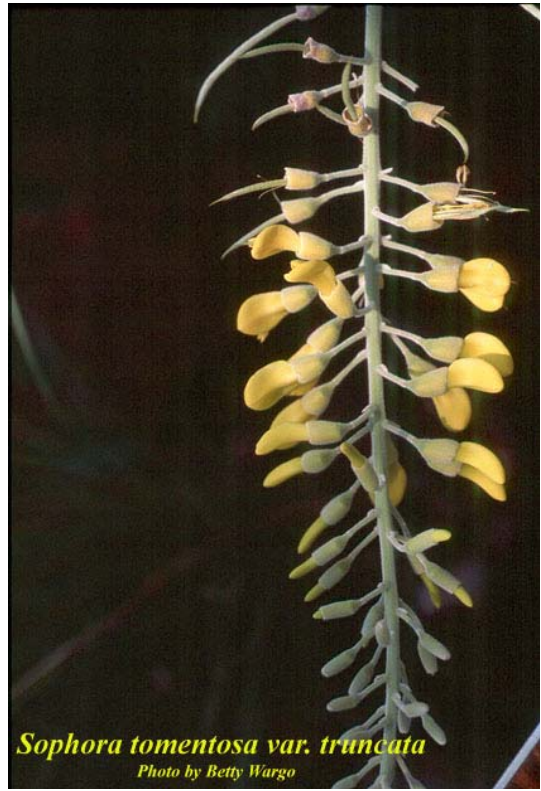


Photo by Betty Wargo



Photo by Shirley Denton

PLANT PROFILE

- **Common name:** Yellow necklacepod
- **Botanical name:** *Sophora tomentosa* L. var. *truncata* Torr. & A.Gray
- **Synonyms:** None
- **Family:** Fabaceae (Pea)
- **Zone:** 8B – 11
- **Plant Habit:** Erect, sprawling, evergreen shrub
- **Habitat:** Coastal strands and hammocks
- **Size:** 4 to 15 ft (h) x 4 to 8 ft (w)
- **Leaves:** Alternate, compound to 12 inches long, leaflets are oval, 2-in. long; mature leaflets are light to dark green and shiny; young leaflets are gray-green and pubescent
- **Bloom:** Pea-like yellow flowers in long, terminal racemes
- **Flowering time:** All year
- **Fruit:** Elongated, brown bean pod, sharply constricted between seeds; resembling a necklace
- **Distribution:** Central and southern peninsula
- **Growing conditions:** Well-drained, slightly-alkaline, sandy soils
- **Water:** Dry to moist; drought tolerant
- **Light:** Part sun to shade
- **Propagation:** Seed
- **Motility:** Low; seeds may germinate near parent
- **Maintenance:** Occasional trimming of leggy branches and seed pods
- **Availability:** Usually at Florida native nurseries and native plant sales
- **Comments:** Nectar source for butterflies; often confused with the non-native Texas necklacepod (*Sophora tomentosa* var. *occidentalis*) which has all pubescent leaves
- **Landscape uses:** Foundation or specimen



References:

- Nelson, Gil, 1996, **The Shrubs and Woody Vines of Florida:** Pineapple Press, Inc., Sarasota, Florida, & 391 p.
- Osorio, R. 2001. **A Gardener's Guide to Florida's Native Plants.** University Press of Florida, Gainesville, FL.
- Wunderlin, R.P. 2003. **Guide to Vascular Plants of Florida, Second Edition.** 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 George R. Kish

Photos by T. Ann Williams and Bob Bierman



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.

SNPS 20056 **FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE**

Saturday, February 4 A day hike at the Alafia River State park through a restored phosphate mine.

For more information, call Troy Springer, 813-967-4538.

Electronic Grapevine will be available soon.

The newsletter will be available through our web page and be available in color if you have a color printer. We will notify you by email when the Grapevine is "**Now Available**" on the website. A paper version will continue until you decide which method you would prefer. Call or email Pat Clouser with any questions.



Glossary

Need help identifying native plants? Here are a few more definitions to help you from the Guide to the Vascular Plants of Florida by Richard P. Wunderlin

P

- Perianth.** Collectively the calyx and corolla.
Pericarp. The wall of a fruit.
Personate. A tubular corolla with the lip nearly closed by a palate.
Petaloid. Resembling a petal in texture and color.
Petiole. The stalk of a leaf.
Pinnate. A compound leaf divided once with the leaflets arranged on both sides of the axis.
Plumose. Feathery
Procumbent. Trailing or lying flat, but not rooting at the nodes.
Pubescent. With dense, short, soft, straight trichomes.
Pustule. A small, blister-like elevation.
Pyriform. Pear-shaped.

R

- Raceme.** A simple, elongate, unbranched inflorescence with pedicellate flowers.
Rachis. The primary axes of an inflorescence or a pinnately compound leaf.
Ray. The branch of an umbel.
Reniform. Kidney-shaped.
Repent. Creeping.
Retuse. With a shallow notch of an otherwise rounded or blunt apex.
Revolute. With the margins rolled backward, the edge turned under.
Rhombic. Diamond-shaped.
Rotund. Circular.
Rudimentary. Imperfectly developed and non-functional.
Rugose. Wrinkled.

(To be continued.)

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 2006

January 18—Steve Farnsworth: Pseudonatives – Plants that people think are native but really aren't.

February 15—Will Moriarty: FDOT uses natives along state roads

March 15—Cliff Brown: Tilandisias

April 19—

May 17—

June 14—

July 19—

August 16—

September 20—

October 18—

November 15—

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 1158

Seffner, FL 33583-1158

Activities & Committee Chairs

Field trips

Troy Springer 707-1524

Publications

Dick Wunderlin 977-6484

Librarian

Vicki Sinclair 989-2896

Membership

Shirley Brown 977-0454

Newsletter editor

Shirley Brown 977-0454

Mike Fite, Assistant 977-0892

Programs

Bob Scheible 626-6815

Publicity

Mary Miller 960-8132

Refreshments

JoAnn Hoffman 671-2131

Education

Betty Wargo 237-1509

Book Sales

Sally Sun 935-1312

USF Plant Sale

Sally Sun 935-1312

Conference

USF Botanical Garden Liaison

Shirley Brown 977-0454

Chapter Representative

George Kish 920-0853

Newsletter Submissions

Deadline for the next issue:

JAN 30

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

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

Harriett Wright 908-9398

Vice-president

Bob Scheible 626-6815

Secretary

JoAnn Hoffman 671-2131

Treasurer

Pat Clouser 662-7222

Board Members

Pat Clouser 662-7222

JoAnn Hoffman 671-2131

Mary Miller 960-8132

Bob Scheible 626-6815

Troy Springer 707-1524

Harriett Wright 908-9398

Suncoast Native Plant Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 1158
Seffner, FL 33583-1158

Stamp



Please deliver to: