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The Suncoast Grapevine

Newsletter of the Suncoast Native Plant Society, Inc.



Volume 27 Number 3

MARCH 2010

Protecting Florida's Coastlines from Oil Drilling

Presented by Joe Murphy

Hillsborough County Extension Service

Wednesday, March 17 @ 7pm

Florida's coastlines are some of the most diverse and ecologically valuable in America. From the 10,000 Islands to the Nature Coast to the Florida Panhandle, our coastlines are natural wonders that are home to numerous threatened and endangered species. Critical coastal plant species (both aquatic and marine) are integral parts of the mosaic of habitats along our coastlines. Our beaches, estuaries, and seagrass beds are places that we rely on for fishing, recreation, and tourism. Despite all that we know about the ecological and economic value of our coastlines, powerful forces are gathering to promote oil drilling within Florida's waters...just 3-10 miles from shore. Floridians united can stop this and protect the natural wonders of our coastlines! Join us for an evening of community and education as Joe Murphy, Florida Program Director of the Gulf Restoration Network, shares with us the perils of drilling and how we can stop it.

Joe Murphy is a native Floridian who grew up on and now lives in Florida's Nature Coast. Joe has been doing conservation work in Florida for 15 years, and currently lives with his wife, Becky, and their three dogs in Eastern Hernando County.

- Submitted by Shirley Denton



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

Field trip to Hillsborough River State Park March 20th 9am

We will explore some of the unique areas of the park that were discovered by Carmel and myself while collecting plants for the regional park herbarium. You will be tested, so brush up on your trees!

How to get there: Turn west off US 301 onto Model Dairy Road, located between Dead River Road and the entrance to Hillsborough River State Park. Drive west on the unpaved road for a few hundred yards, and continue to the parking lot.

Please call the field trip leader, Gail Parsons, at 928-1412 (cell) for more information.

- Submitted by Gail Parsons



Field Trip Report: Werner Boyce State Park

Suncoast Native Plant Society's field trip to Werner Boyce State Park on February 20th was attended by fourteen people. We started with visiting an area not seen on the previous trip—the only public site that has a diversity of habitats including the hydric hammock, with tropicals such as myrsine and marlberry (photo, left). This is the northern extent of the range for the marlberry.



We then visited the spring, which was bubbling up into the brackish creek. In this area, we found many Pineland Acacia - a plant only found in nine other southern counties in the state. An interesting place to visit, indeed!

- Submitted by Gail Parsons, photo by Shirley Denton

Fertilizer Ordinance Participation

The Hillsborough County Environmental Protection Commission is currently drafting a rule to address fertilizer usage and its role in contributing to the nitrogen content of our local waterways. Our chapter would like to recognize those who have given their time to attend these meetings and take an active role in local stewardship. Some of the attendees include **Mike Fite, Gail Parsons, Bev Griffiths, Troy Springer, Mariella Smith, Joel Jackson, and John Miller**. For more information on the proposed ordinance, please visit the EPC's website at: www.epchc.org.



USF Botanical Gardens Spring Plant Festival Saturday, April 10th and Sunday, April 11th

Please plan to attend and support one of our chapter's most beneficial fundraisers of the year. We need volunteers for Friday (4/9) to help unload plants, and for Saturday and Sunday to assist customers, recruit new SNPS members, help with the checkout lines, and provide educational information (pamphlets, etc.). Please email Troy Springer (troy@springerenvironmental.com) and/or sign-up at the SNPS monthly meeting on March 17th. Please see the map below to find our area! - Submitted by Daphne Lambright

Event Details:

**You know its springtime when it is time for the
Annual USF Botanical Gardens Spring Plant Festival!
Join us for the biggest plant sale of the season!**

Admission for USFBG members is FREE and \$5 for non-members. Children under under 12 are admitted free. Parking is FREE. The Gardens will host over 70 vendors - offering all sorts of wonderful plants, garden supplies and decorations and good food and drinks. Experts are on hand both days to answer all of your gardening questions. Free childrens activity area both days. All proceeds support the mission of the USF Botanical Gardens. Call the USFBG at 813-910-3274 for more information, or visit the Botanical Gardens Website at <http://www.cas.usf.edu/garden>. -Details and garden map, USF website



Local Meetings & Events

Tampa Bay Audubon:

March 11th @ 7pm : Joel Cleveland Gives Adventures On the Beach
Hillsborough County Extension Service, 5339 SR 579
<http://www.tampaaudubon.org/>

Hillsborough County Public Works—Lake, Pond and Stream Night:

March 12th @ 6-9pm: Various speakers
Free admission to the Museum of Science and Industry, 4801 E. Fowler Avenue
More information: 813-744-5671 x 262

ECO. Festival 2010:

March 27th @ 10am—8pm: Various vendors
Lykes Gaslight Park, Downtown Tampa
http://www.ecolutiontampa.com/_festival.php



The Suncoast Chapter of the FNPS received an invitation from the Southwest Florida Water Management District to participate in their Volunteer Appreciation Day. SWFWMD will provide us with a free table for this event.

SNPS is looking for 2 to 3 volunteers to help Ron Chicone staff the table and provide information about native plants, native plant communities, and SNPS/FNPS activities. The people who will be attending this event are already active volunteers with the SWFWMD, so it will be a great way to meet like-minded people, share conservation information, and recruit new FNPS members.

What: Volunteer Appreciation Day

When: **Saturday, March 27, 2010** from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm

Where: J.B. Starkey Wilderness Park, 10500 Wilderness Park Blvd., New Port Richey, FL 34655

Sponsored by the Southwest Florida Water Management District

Please contact Ron Chicone, SNPS Secretary, by email rchicone@yahoo.com or at the March 17th SNPS monthly meeting to participate.

—Submitted by Daphne Lambright

Thank You, Suncoast Members!

March Plant Donors: Fred Mulholland, Bunny Worth, Troy Springer, Marry Miller, James Wheeler

March Refreshments: Fred and Barbara Mulholland

Ink Jet Contributions: Frank Fuchs



PLANT PROFILE

Common name: Black mangrove

Botanical name: *Avicennia germinans* L.

Synonyms: 23 listed at www.plantatlas.usf.edu

Family: Avicenniaceae

Zone: 10-11

Plant Habit: Densely-foliated tree with numerous pneumatophores

Habitat: Low energy saltwater shores and inlets

Size: 10-40 ft (h) x 10-30 ft (w)

Leaves: Opposite, oval, green above, gray below, 2-5 inches long;
salt crystals secreted through salt glands in leaves

Bloom: Small, white with yellow base in short spikes at the ends of branches,
very fragrant

Flowering time: Year-round

Fruit: Green, fleshy

Bark: Smooth and gray when young; dark brown and fissured with age

Distribution: Southernmost Florida along east coast to Jacksonville;
along west coast to Levy County.

Growing conditions

Light: Full sun

Water: Moist, tolerates tidal inundation

Soil: Moist, salty soil

Propagation: Seeds

Motility: Carried by water during tidal fluctuations

Maintenance: None

Availability: Native plant nurseries

Comments: Excellent screen; used to reduce soil erosion along coastlines; somewhat cold tolerant – most cold tolerant of the 4 mangrove species along Florida's coastline; mangroves are highly susceptible to oil exposure; oiling may kill them within a few weeks to several months.

References:

Hoff, Rebecca, Hensel, P., Proffitt, E.C. and Delgado, P., 2002. *Oil spills in mangroves – planning and response considerations*: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Silver Spring, Maryland, 72 p.

Nelson, Gil, 2003. *Florida's Best Native Landscape Plants*: University Press of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, 412 p.

Wunderlin, R.P. and B.F. Hansen. 2010. *Atlas of Florida Vascular Plants* (<http://plantatlas.usf.edu/>).

Information compiled by George R. Kish

Photos 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.

Check pertinent category:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual/Renewal \$35 | <input type="checkbox"/> Not-for-profit organization \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Full time student \$15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Business or corporate \$125 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Library subscription \$15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family or household \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> Donor \$250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contributing \$75 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life \$1,000 | |

New Member Renewal

Name _____

Business name or organization _____

Address _____

City, State and Zip _____

Home phone _____ Email _____

Make check payable to **FNPS.**

Detach and mail to:

FNPS

P.O. Box 278

Melbourne, FL 32902-0278

Activities & Committee Chairs

Field Trips

Gail Parsons

Publications

Dick Wunderlin 977-6484

George Kish 920-0853

Librarian

Vikki Sinclair 989-2896

Membership

Shirley Denton 986-6485

Newsletter Editor

Shawna Everidge 659-4298

Mike Fite, Assistant 977-0892

Programs and Publicity

Shirley Denton

Outreach

Fred Mulholland

USF Plant Sale

Troy Springer 967-4538

USF Botanical Garden Liaison

Kim Hutton 974-2329

Chapter Representative

Troy Springer

Webmaster

Shirley Denton 986-6485

Conservation

Ron Chicone

Daphne Lambright

Bob Upcavage

Newsletter Submissions

Deadline for the next issue:

APRIL 1

Please send articles and original artwork for The Suncoast Grapevine to **Shawna Everidge**, by the **deadline**

of this month. Text should be in MS Word; graphics should be in a standard graphic format (.jpg, .bmp, .gif). Previously published artwork should be accompanied by a letter of permission from the original publisher.

Email...

severidge@plantcitygov.com



Meeting Locations

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

SNPS Web Address:

<http://www.SuncoastNPS.org>



Officers & Board of Directors

President

Troy Springer

Vice-president

Shirley Denton

Secretary

Ron Chicone

Treasurer

Daphne Lambright

Board Members

Gail Parsons

Fred Mulholland

The SNPS BOD meets regularly at a variety of locations. If you are interested in attending a BOD meeting, please check the location at a monthly membership meeting or call Troy Springer at 813-967-4538.

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

Please deliver to: