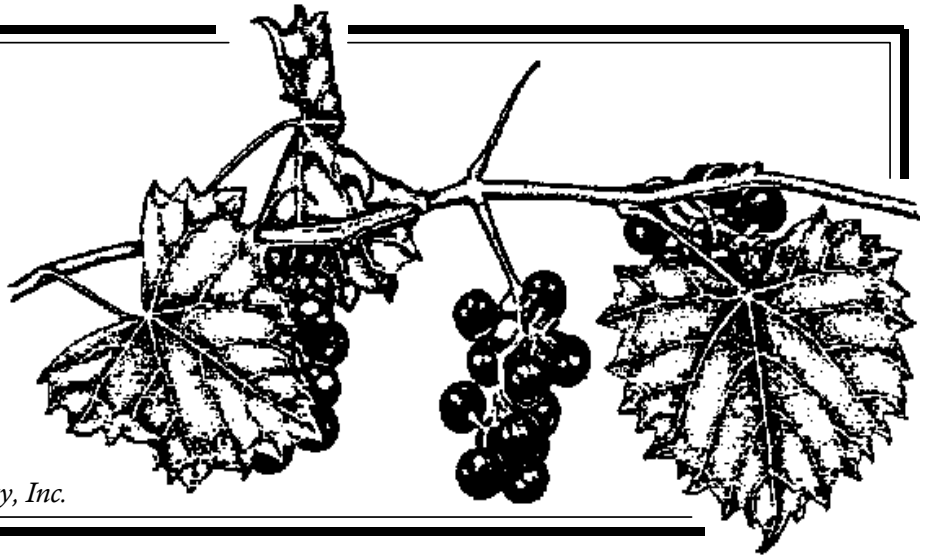


www.suncoastnps.org

The Suncoast Grapevine

Newsletter of the Suncoast Native Plant Society, Inc.



Volume 28 Number 12

December 2011

2011 Suncoast Native Plant Society End of the Year Party Friday, December 16 @ 5:30pm



This year's end of the year party will be at Troy Springer's house. The party will be an indoor/outdoor event that will feature a bon fire. Please bring a covered dish or dessert. SNPS will provide drinks, paper goods, and cutlery. For more information please contact Troy Springer at troy@springerenvironmental.com or call 813-967-4538.

Guests may arrive at 5:30pm to view the garden, but the party officially starts at 6pm. Parking will be on the property, but please be careful where you park; new gardens have been installed, and are not clearly visible at night. We will try to have a parking attendant.

The address is: 13831 Hwy 92 E
Dover, FL 33527

The house is located approximately two miles east of McIntosh Road, and one mile west of Branch Forbes Road and on the south side of Hwy 92, on the eastbound lane side.

Please join us to celebrate all of the contributions SNPS has made to our community during the year of 2011!

- Submitted by Troy Springer



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

2011 Holiday Gift Buying Guide

I know it can be difficult for you to decide on what to purchase for of your loved ones this year, especially if you're like me and the idea of braving the mall or Wal-Mart this time of year is less appealing than a root canal. I would like to take this opportunity to highlight a few ways that we can support our chapter, the Florida Native Society as our parent organization, and also some very special members of our chapter. Below, you will find my All Star Top Picks for this year, in a range of prices and tastes to help you brainstorm. And of course, your dear editor will gladly accept any or all, and multiples of each, if anyone is truly in the giving spirit this year, hehe!



This delightful stained glass **Luna Moth** can be found for sale from the Magnolia Chapter of the FNPS online, without even leaving your seat! Visit the site at www.thefnpsshop.com for pricing and other stained glass items, ranging from \$40-\$64.00. While you're there, check out the **2012 Calendar, Notes from the Field**, for \$15.00. And don't miss the **Pine Needle Turtles** offered by the Conradina Chapter for \$14.00 each! You can also find **FNPS logo totes** to package all of the great items in for the bargain price of \$5.00. Don't forget, a **membership to FNPS** is a priceless gift that goes on all year for \$35.00.

If the people on your list are more into traditional stores such as Macy's, **you can still support the Society from home by using GoodSearch**. It's a portal site that tracks your shopping and participating stores give a certain percentage of your purchase to your specified cause (FNPS!). Log on to <http://www.goodsearch.com/>, choose us, and let the shopping begin! Stores that participate include Oriental Trading Company, the Disney Store, Avon, Kohls, Ebay, and also dining and traveling vendors... way too many to list in this article!

Now, this is probably a no-brainer, but don't forget your lawn can be an economical teaching tool and help you provide gifts as well. Shop thrift and second hand stores for **unique planting containers** (yours truly loves the crazy ceramic planters from the 70's—I have several hippo's, frogs, and other characters) and transplant some of your natives. If the gift recipient has a green thumb, **seeds** may be a good option too—you can also buy them at our SNPS meetings if you're low in your garden. Remember to give easy, aesthetically pleasing varieties of plants—you want your loved one to enjoy having the new native in their landscape and become inspired by it so that they will speak well of native plants to others. If you want to give something more **unique and perhaps with an edible or medicinal twist**, why not give long time member Willow LaMonte a call? Her nursery, Willow Herbal Delight Gardens, is open by appointment by calling 813-643-7285. She provides a wealth of knowledge on her stunning plants and you'll have a true to the name, delightful experience touring her garden! You may also register a loved one for one of her **classes**—give the gift of wisdom!



This next site is truly dangerous to my credit card any time of the year. Etsy is an amazing site that features handmade art, soaps, ceramics, fabrics, stuffed animals—you name it, if it's artsy or vintage, it's on the site! And a few of our amazing chapter members are also selling goods on the site. Debbie Butts, owner of EcoFarm, has a site that features **home made soaps, loofahs, and gourds**: <http://www.etsy.com/shop/EcoFarmFL>. What's even more amazing is that a lot of the materials for the items are grown on her farm using organic practices. The farm has a mailing list for their fresh food, which you can subscribe to by emailing ecofarmfl@yahoo.com, or you may also visit them at Sweetwater Farms on Sundays or the Lakeland Farmer's Market. They also offer **fresh pies, jellies and cane syrup**. You can easily bring the safest, tastiest food to your holiday table by shopping their produce!

Now, those of us lucky enough to know Mary & John Miller are always in awe of their generosity and talents. The nut doesn't fall far from the tree, and their daughter Jana also has an Etsy site that features her **amazing nature photography**: <http://www.etsy.com/shop/GatoRanch>. Prints range from \$10-\$25, which is very humble for her body of work. At a price that low, you will have a little bit left over to purchase a frame from a second hand store or even take advantage of some of the 60% off coupons that commercial box stores are offering this time of the year for framing. If your gift recipient likes things a little on the dark side, check out her sister site that offers **unique jewelry and momento mori prints**: <http://www.etsy.com/shop/bonelust>. Jewelry prices range from \$15-\$20. This shop is my secret; everyone wants to know where I got my porcupine quill necklace... and I have never told until now! John Miller also penned **Citrus White Gold, an alternative history book** this year, available at Amazon.com for \$14.95: <http://www.amazon.com/Citrus-White-Gold-Alternate-History/dp/1463719272>



2011 Holiday Gift Buying Guide

Continued from Page 2...

I could go on and on with all of the wonderful things to buy, but sometimes another something just isn't what we're in the spirit of looking for. For something a little more sentimental, don't forget you can always make a **one time donation to our Chapter** in the name of someone else. Or, if there's a certain natural area that you enjoy because they incorporate natives, why not consider giving that organization a donation? Donations aren't strictly monetary... you can provide tools, printing services, grant writing and research, or, the hardest thing to part with — **your time**. We shouldn't wait to doing things "in honor of" someone until they are diagnosed with cancer... if someone inspires you to be a better person, pass it on!

Good luck to you this fine holiday season, and may your hunting & gathering for gifts be rewarding!

- Submitted by Shawna Everidge, photos by FNPS.org website, Tiffany Morgan Peri, & Jana Miller

PLANT PROFILE

Common name: Carolina holly

Botanical name: *Ilex ambigua* (Michx.) Torr.

Synonyms: Sand holly

Family: Aquifoliaceae

Zone: 8 to 9

Plant Habit: Low deciduous shrub

Habitat: Upland mixed forested and sand ridges

Size: Up to 20 ft (h) - highly variable

Leaves: Alternate, simple, crenate to serrate margins; serrate from mid-leaf to tip; 0.5-3.0 in. long; 0.5-2.0 in. wide

Bloom: Male flowers in small white clusters; female flowers solitary; borne on separate trees

Flowering time: Late spring

Fruit: Red drupe 1.5-3.5 in. in diameter in winter

Bark: Light gray

Distribution: Throughout northern Florida and south to Lee County

Growing conditions

Light: Full to part sun

Water: Dry

Soil: Sandy

Propagation: Seeds, cuttings

Motility: Rarely

Maintenance: None

Availability: Native nurseries

Comments: Dense clusters of showy fruit appear in winter on female plants; male and female plants are needed for fruit production; excellent choice for xeric conditions

References:

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

Nelson, Gil, 2010, *Best Native Plants for Southern Gardens: a Handbook for Gardeners, Homeowners, and Professionals*: University Press of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, 412 p.

Wunderlin, R.P. and B.F. Hansen. 2011. *Atlas of Florida Vascular Plants* (<http://plantatlas.usf.edu/>).

Information compiled by George R. Kish

Photo by Craig Huegel



Ilex ambigua
Photo by Craig Huegel

SWFWMD has a web page for comments about hunting on district lands available at: http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/recreation/hunt_comments.php. Please check the "representing self" box to avoid your input being received as a canned response for FNPS.

Activities & Committee Chairs

Field Trips

Ron Huston 951-0946

Publications

Dick Wunderlin 977-6484

George Kish 920-0853

Librarian

Vikki Sinclair 989-2896

Membership

Shari Blissett-Clark

Newsletter Editor

Shawna Everidge 659-4298

Mike Fite, Assistant 977-0892

Programs

Troy Springer 967-4538

Publicity

Shawna Everidge 659-4298

Outreach

Ron Chicone 803-603-8912

USF Plant Sales

Troy Springer 967-4538

USF Botanical Garden Liaison

Kim Hutton 974-2329

Chapter Representative

Troy Springer 967-4538

Webmaster

Shirley Denton 986-6485

Conservation

Open

Newsletter Submissions

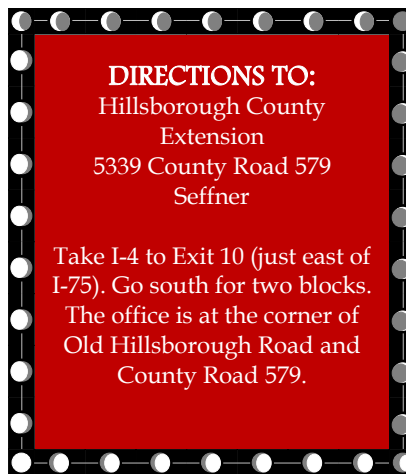
Deadline for the next issue:

JAN 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 Location

The Suncoast Native Plant Society, Inc. meets the third Wednesday of the month @ 7pm @ the Hillsborough County Extension Service office in Seffner.

SNPS Web Address

<http://www.SuncoastNPS.org>

Board of Directors New for 2012

- ★ Shirley Denton
president@suncoastnps.org
- ★ Devon Higginbotham
archiveproperties@comcast.net
- ★ Daphne Lambricht
daphne.lambricht@verizon.net
- ★ Ron Huston
RonLHuston@cs.com
- ★ Janet Bowers
jbowers27@yahoo.com
- ★ Carrie Laks
- ★ Yvette Wilmath

Position elections will take place in January of 2012. Troy Springer and Ron Chicone have opted not to rejoin the BOD, however, they made excellent contributions during the year of 2011 and we thank them greatly!

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



The SNPS BOD wishes you and yours a magical holiday season!

Please deliver to: