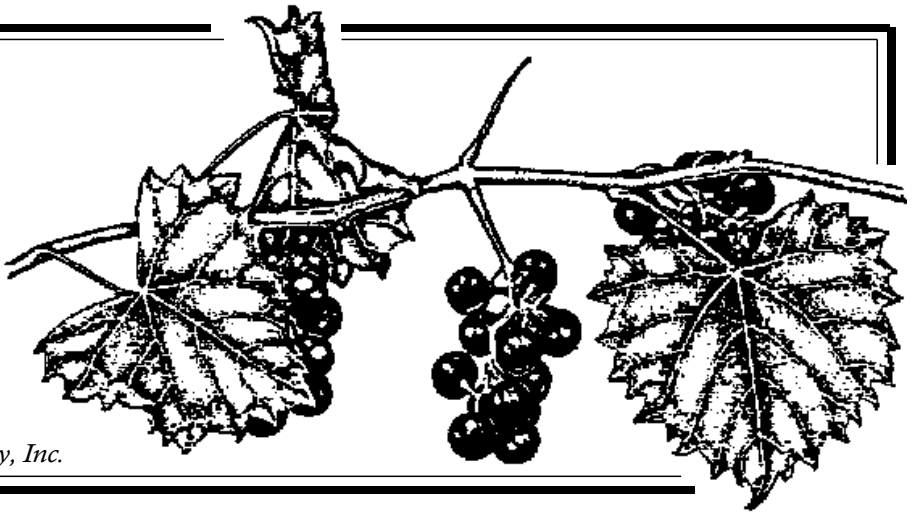


# The Suncoast Grapevine

Newsletter of the Suncoast Native Plant Society, Inc.



Volume 33 Number 5

May 2016



## MAY CHAPTER MEETING

At the Hillsborough County Extension Office

### Open Mic

Presented by You

Wednesday, May 25 2016, 7 PM



**NOTE:** THIS MEETING IS ONE WEEK LATER THAN USUAL  
DUE TO A CONFLICT WITH THE FNPS CONFERENCE

This is your time to brag about your native garden, talk about native plant related topics, and ask garden questions of our highly knowledgeable members. Each participant will have 10 minutes to give a Power Point from their USB drive or to just talk. We'd love to know about what you are doing to conserve, protect and restore native plants and native plant communities. Meichelle Long from Terrace Community Middle School will be one of our speakers, she will update us on the students' use of our grant money and how the native area is doing.

#### Some suggestions:

- ☆ Did you attend the FNPS Conference? Tell us what you learned or about a fieldtrip you enjoyed.
- ☆ Have you participated in the FNPS land management program? Tell us about your experience.
- ☆ Did you or your community put in a new native garden? Show us before and after pictures and tell us how you did it?
- ☆ Are you having difficulty growing a particular native plant or picking plants for your yard?: "Ask The Membership" about plants you may have had difficulty growing in your yard.
- ☆ Are you a photographer or illustrator of native plants?: Show us a few (3-5) of your favorite photos or illustrations and tell us why they are your favorites.

**Please NO politics or self-promotion.**

Our meetings include light refreshments and a native plant auction after the speaker. Please come and join us.

- submitted by Donna Bollenbach & Janet Bowers



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)

Once again, the SNPS Spring Plant Sale at USF was a success and our volunteers played a major role in it. I want to thank all the people who helped:

Bunny Worth  
Shirley Denton  
Frank and Lucy Fuchs  
Harriet Wright  
Devon Higginbotham  
Sue Dangelmaier  
Mike Fite  
Tina Patterson  
Steve Dickman

Nancy Wright  
Sandy Streit  
Virginia Overstreet  
Donna Carty  
Jane Halil  
Mary Miller  
Bob and Donna Bollenbach  
Janet Bowers  
Joann Hoffman

Special thanks to Troy for his handling of the plants and Cliff Brown and Eileen Reed for providing plants for the sale.

I probably left someone out, so please excuse the omission. Again to all, thanks for your help. We couldn't have succeeded without you.

Gar Reed

## Opportunities to Help and have Fun



**October 14, 15 & 16 Birding and Nature Fest:** We are looking for people to help with the Audubon Birding and Nature Fest on October 14 – 16, which during Florida Native Plant Month. . SNPS is partnering with Audubon to put on this 3 day event. For our part we are leading three fieldtrips and have six speaker slots. We have already planned the locations of the fieldtrips and have 3 speakers. We need people to help register participants, man the SNPS outreach/sales table, and assist speakers and fieldtrip leaders. Volunteers will get to attend the talks and other events on the day they volunteer for free, except fieldtrips and meals. These speakers will be talking about birds, pollinators and native plants. If you feel you would like to volunteer one, two or all three days, please email donnna.bollenbach@gmail.com so she can add your name to a list to be provided to the Audubon Society.

See Page 4 for info about being on the SNPS board of directors. It takes a lot of people to keep SNPS going!

### UPCOMING SPEAKERS-

**June 15 – Cynthia Grizzle** – learn more about how invasive plants and animals impact our native habitats and species. Cynthia Grizzle is from the Suncoast Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA) . The presentation will describe how anyone can become a citizen scientist by utilizing available supports. To get you started, identification of several common species and early detection and rapid response (EDRR) species will also be covered.

**July 13– Joint meeting, Sierra Club hosting– Nature's Classroom** (Note date is not our normal one) more information will be coming

**August 17 – TBD**

**Sept 21 – Marianne Korosy** – Florida Scrub-Jays: Nowhere else in the world – found only in Florida, the curious scrub jays often lead to close encounters with people. Marianne leads the monitoring program.



*Thanks for helping with the March meeting -*

**JoAnn Hoffman, Fred Mulholland, Bunny Worth and Louise Ratterman**  
for providing plants for the plant auction

**Sue Dangelmaier and Jane Rawnsley** for bringing snacks

**Steve Dickman and Cliff Brown** for auctioning the plants

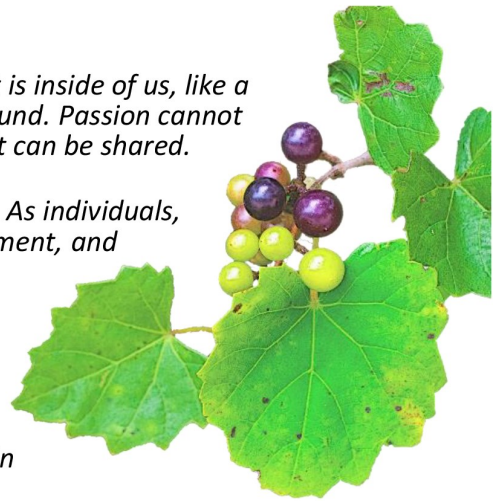
## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear SNPS members,

*Passion is not something we will on ourselves or others, it is something that is inside of us, like a seed, that grows over time. Passion cannot be sought after, but it can be found. Passion cannot be taught, but it can be learned. Passion cannot be forced on another, but it can be shared.*

*Isn't that what Rob Northrup was telling us in his presentation last month? As individuals, and as a group, we have so much passion for native plants and the environment, and while it is great that we share it with each other, we need to take that passion outside our group and share it with others.*

*The great thing about passion is, when you give it freely, you lose nothing. When you share your passions, they multiply in you, and others. Replace the word "love" with "passion" in the Beatles song "The End" and you'll understand: "The passion you give is equal to the passion you receive, and in the end it is equal to the passion you make."*



*I had the privilege of sharing my passion for native plants with a group of fifteen middle school students, their parents and teacher, and an adorable couple in their twenty's, at our Lettuce Lake Plant Walk on April 30. With over 30 participants for the walk, we decided to split the group up in two, and I led the youth.*

*It was as much a joy to share what I knew about the plants, as watching the students get excited over the perfectly symmetrical buttonwood flowers. When I explained to them that each "button" was actually a cluster of tiny flowers, they "oohed and awed" as they snapped pictures with their cell phones.*

*The monster thorns of the Water Locus trees drew them closer, then back, as they thought about an encounter with this tree's weaponry. They asked about the cypress knees, and seemed satisfied that we have theories, but do not fully understand why they exist. I wonder if they equated that about their own existence, as I did when I was their age.*

*At the observation tower, they studied the water below for turtles, alligators, and anything else that might move. They snapped selfies with the river and cypress in the background. Just off the boardwalk a young gator munching on spatterdock drew more oohs and awes. I let them look through my binoculars at an osprey nest, and they cooed over the babies.*

*At the end of the walk, I had no doubt a seed was planted in the students, and my passion was stronger as well. The young couple, Brianna and Fred, continued with me on a stroll in the uplands. In addition to a few more flowers, we saw a pair of pileated woodpeckers, lots of song birds, and a bullfrog. It was a shared experience.*

*So, I ask you, please join me, and others, at a plant walk, a plant sale or other chapter event, and find your rewards in sharing your passion for native plants and the environment with others. The more people we share our passion with, the more people we will have to support our mission of preserving, conserving and restoring of native plants and native plant communities in Florida.*

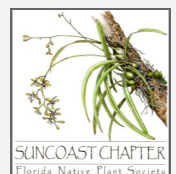
Sincerely,

*Donna*

### Need a Speaker for Your Group or Class?

The Suncoast Native Plant Society has speakers with a wide range of knowledge, eager to speak about the virtues of native plants - for pollinators, for birds, in the landscape and in the field. We have speakers for your civic group, gardening club or homeowner's association.

Contact Devon Higginbotham ([archiveproperties@gmail.com](mailto:archiveproperties@gmail.com))







## FNPS News....

The annual membership meeting will be held at the annual conference in Daytona on Saturday, May 21 at 8 a.m. at the general assembly meeting. Endowment and conservation grant awards, Palmetto awards, bylaws revisions and election of FNPS officers will be presented at this meeting. Notice of proposed officers is listed in the May-June Sabal Minor, available on-line at FNPS.org.

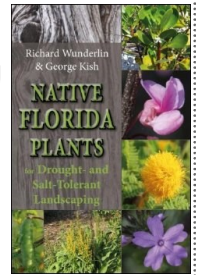
**Donna Bollenbach writes** - As the new social media director and committee chair, I would like to introduce myself and let you know how we can support each other in promoting the mission of the Florida Native Plant Society. I am the Suncoast Chapter president and the assistant director of the council of chapters. Most of you know me as the graphic designer for the landscape brochure. In addition to being an avid supporter of FNPS, I have a degree in journalism, and I love writing, photography and social media.

If you need any help posting to the Facebook page, or have any issues with a post, or if you do not use Facebook or other social media and you have news that you feel should be shared via FNPS social media outlets, please send an email to [fnps.online@gmail.com](mailto:fnps.online@gmail.com).

*From May-June 2016 Sabal Minor*

### Need Plant Ideas for a Dry Landscape?

We ended up with a lot of copies of a great book that can help you. Please help support SNPS by buying a copy at the next meeting or event. SNPS members Dr. Wunderlin and Dr. Kish are the co-authors of this book and have donated the royalties to SNPS.



**For more ideas, come to the USF Botanical Garden on June 25 to hear the SNPS talk - Beat the Summer Heat with Natives in Your Garden at 11 AM.**

### SNPS 2017 Board of Directors

Many of our SNPS board members have served the chapter for several years. We meet once a month, the week before the chapter meeting. We organize fundraiser and outreach events as well as discuss the fieldtrips, speakers and activities for the chapter. Being a board member is a good way to really get to know your fellow chapter members and learn more about native plants, and it is a lot of fun.

Next year we need to have some new people join the board, not only to replace those that will be stepping down, but to fill past vacancies and add additional positions. With a few more board members we can accomplish more without increasing any individual's workload.

It is a team effort. If you think you may be interested in joining the board, talk to one of our current or past board members, and attend a board meeting to see for yourself how you can fit in: Our next board meeting is June 9<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm.



### Mark Your Calendar

**May 19-22 FNPS conference in Daytona**

**May 28** Lettuce Lake - 8 AM work in garden  
9:30 AM native plant walk with Alan Franck

**June 25** Lettuce Lake - 8 AM work in garden / 9:30 AM native plant walk

**June 25** USF Botanical Garden 11:00 Beat the Summer Heat with Natives in Your Garden

**October Florida Native Plant Month**

**October 8-9** USF Fall plant sale

**October 14-16** Florida Birding and Nature Festival in Ruskin, we are partnering with Audubon, SNPS will be sponsoring a day of talks and fieldtrips

**December 3** Joint Holiday event with Pinellas and Nature Coast Chapters

## APRIL LETTUCE LAKE WORKDAY AND WALK

Our first Lettuce Lake Workday featured many SNPS volunteers and TCMS students! We planted 15 native plants including cinnamon fern, jack in the pulpit, twin flower, Fakahatchee grass, violet, rouge plants, milkweeds and a parsley haw. We also tidied up the garden and spread some pinestraw mulch. Thanks to everyone who helped make this a success.



Rouge plant

Each hole was prepped and watered before the plant was placed in it.



Button bush

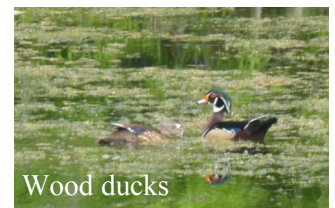
We had a great turnout for the walk and divided into 2 groups. Gar and Eileen Reed led one group and Donna Bollenbach and Joel Jackson led the other group. The button bush was in bloom, young gators were snacking and birds were to be seen. An osprey nest with babies was visible across the water from the boardwalk, they were making quite a bit of noise.



Osprey nest

Hope to see you next month- there should be new things blooming. Maybe tarflower in the flatwoods area by the entrance road and Encyclia orchids in the trees!

- Janet Bowers



Wood ducks



### 2016 Field Trip schedule

**May 19-22 - FNPS conference in Daytona**, many fieldtrips to choose from

**June 18 - Lake Dan Preserve** - It has had some improvements done recently and it should be a good trip.

**July 23 - Native nursery** buying trip - maybe Sweetbay

**August 20** - inside trip- Maybe the Aquarium

**September 24 - Moody Branch**- hopefully we will see scrub jays

**Oct 27-30 Fall camping at Jonathan Dickinson State Park**, join us in one of the three cabins we've reserved for \$109/pp. Each cabin has a kitchen and bath. We plan to hike some of the 11,500 acres, socialize and enjoy one of the most beautiful state parks in Florida. If interested, contact Devon at [archiveproperties@gmail.com](mailto:archiveproperties@gmail.com), or reserve you own site at [reserveamerica.com](http://reserveamerica.com).

**November 19 - Aripeka**

**Dec 3** - Joint event with Pinellas and Nature Coast chapters at Brooker Creek Preserve, more details to come



# Bok Tower Garden Developments

by Janet Bowers

I've been watching with interest as Bok Tower has expanded and revamped their gardens. Their fundraising campaign raised over \$15 million dollars to build and prepare for the future. The walkway to the tower is now more gradual and can easily be travelled on a tram if you wish. The entrance area at the parking lot remains silver palmettos, rosinweed, mimosa and other natives to entice pollinators to visit. Now there is a new native focus area past the Café that features Marlberry, Oakleaf hydrangea, native grasses and wildflowers.



The new outdoor kitchen area features beds of edibles, a lovely outdoor seating area and an outside oven.



*New wetland boardwalk*



Past the kitchen, over by the endangered plant garden is the Window by the Pond, overlooking a revamped pond that has new plants and will be lovely as it matures.

Behind the pond is a new Wetland & Bog area complete with white topped pitcher plants! The wetland is a model of a natural filtration system and is surrounded by plants from wet prairies and pine flatwoods.



*White topped pitcher plants*

Continue on the trail and you can cross the road to hike on the Ridge trail. Natives abound here, including gopher tortoises and many scrub plants.



*Florida Greeneyes flowers by the Ridge trail*



*Bee on Britton's beargrass*



*Endangered scrub lupine*

Coming up in the next 2 months -

# May 2016

# June 2016

| Sun                        | Mon | Tue | Wed   | Thu                        | Fri                        | Sat  |
|----------------------------|-----|-----|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| 1                          | 2   | 3   | 4   | 5                          | 6                          | 7<br><i>Fieldtrip<br/>To Triple<br/>Creek</i>    |
| 8                          | 9   | 10  | 11  | 12                         | 13                         | 14   |
| 15                         | 16  | 17  | 18  | 19<br><i>FNPS<br/>Conf</i> | 20<br><i>FNPS<br/>Conf</i> | 21<br><i>FNPS<br/>Conf</i>                       |
| 22<br><i>FNPS<br/>Conf</i> | 23  | 24  | 25<br><i>SNPS<br/>Meeting:<br/>Open<br/>Mic<br/>Night</i> | 26                         | 27                         | 28<br><i>Lettuce<br/>Lake<br/>Plant<br/>Walk</i> |
| 29                         | 30  | 31  |   |                            |                            |  |

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed  | Thu | Fri | Sat  |
|-----|-----|-----|--|-----|-----|--|
|     |     |     | 1  | 2   | 3   | 4  |
| 5   | 6   | 7   | 8  | 9   | 10  | 11   |
| 12  | 13  | 14  | 15<br><i>SNPS<br/>Meeting:<br/>Invasives</i> | 16  | 17  | 18<br><i>SNPS<br/>Fieldtrip</i>                  |
| 19  | 20  | 21  | 22   | 23  | 24  | 25<br><i>Lettuce<br/>Lake<br/>Plant<br/>Walk</i> |
| 26  | 27  | 28  | 29   | 30  |     |  |

**Join or Renew FNPS on-line -** <http://www.fnps.org/participate/membershipinfo>

## 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 SNPS membership chair, Devon Higginbotham, at 478-1183.

☐ New Member

☐ Renewal

Name

Business name or organization

Address

City, State and Zip

Home phone  Email

### Check pertinent category:

- ☐ Individual \$35      ☐ Business or non-profit \$150  
☐ Full time student \$15      ☐ Supporting \$100  
☐ Family or household \$50      ☐ Gold \$500  
☐ Patron \$250  
☐ Sustaining - \$10 a month w/credit card  
☐ Visa   ☐ MC   Expiration   
 Card #  Code

Make check payable to **FNPS**.

Detach and mail to:

**FNPS**

**P.O. Box 278**

**Melbourne, FL 32902-0278**

## Activities & Committee Chairs

|                                     |          |
|-------------------------------------|----------|
| <i>Field Trips</i>                  | (813)    |
| Shirley Denton                      | 625-5031 |
| Stephen Dickman                     | 597-5888 |
| <i>Librarian</i>                    |          |
| Vikki Sinclair                      | 989-2896 |
| <i>Membership</i>                   |          |
| Devon Higginbotham                  | 478-1183 |
| <i>Newsletter Editor</i>            |          |
| Janet Bowers                        | 759-2822 |
| Mike Fite, Assistant                | 977-0892 |
| <i>Programs</i>                     |          |
| Janet Bowers                        | 759-2822 |
| <i>Publicity/ Social media</i>      |          |
| Donna Bollenbach                    | 679-5597 |
| <i>Outreach</i>                     |          |
| <i>Open</i>                         |          |
| <i>USF Plant Sales</i>              |          |
| Gar Reed                            | 323-0927 |
| <i>USF Botanical Garden Liaison</i> |          |
| Kim Hutton                          | 974-2329 |
| <i>Chapter Representative</i>       |          |
| Donna Bollenbach                    | 679-5597 |
| <i>Webmaster</i>                    |          |
| Donna Bollenbach                    | 679-5597 |

## Newsletter Submissions

Deadline for the next issue:

**June 1, 2016**

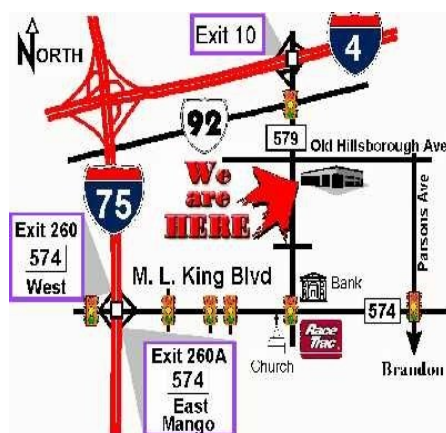
Please send articles and original artwork for The Suncoast Grapevine to **Janet Bowers**, by the deadline above- [jbowers27@yahoo.com](mailto:jbowers27@yahoo.com)

## SNPS Web Address

<http://www.SuncoastNPS.org>

**We're on Meet Up & Facebook**

**Regular meetings are in Seffner**



**Meetings are normally the third Wednesday of the month at 7 PM. (no December meeting)**

**DIRECTIONS TO:**  
Hillsborough County  
Extension  
5339 County Road 579  
Seffner

Take I-4 to Exit 10 (just east of I-75). Go south on 579 for two blocks. Turn left on Old Hillsborough Ave and park on the North side of the office.

## 2016 Board of Directors

### President

Donna Bollenbach  
[donna.bollenbach@gmail.com](mailto:donna.bollenbach@gmail.com)

### Co Vice-president

Stephen Dickman  
[palmettobug13@yahoo.com](mailto:palmettobug13@yahoo.com)

### Secretary & Co Vice-president

Janet Bowers  
[jbowers27@yahoo.com](mailto:jbowers27@yahoo.com)

### Treasurer

Gar Reed  
[gar0426@yahoo.com](mailto:gar0426@yahoo.com)

### Board Members at Large

Shirley Denton  
[ecotypes@verizon.net](mailto:ecotypes@verizon.net)

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



**Please deliver to:**