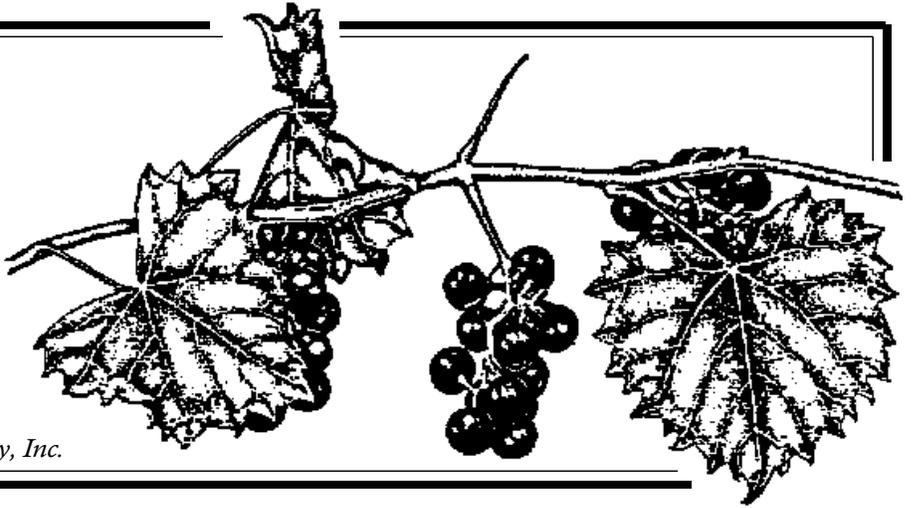


www.suncoastnps.org

The Suncoast Grapevine

Newsletter of the Suncoast Native Plant Society, Inc.



Volume 35 Number 10

November 2018



NOVEMBER CHAPTER MEETING

At the Hillsborough County Extension Office

Bugs in Your Bloomers

Presented by John Lampkin

Wednesday, November 7, 7 PM

**** Note the Meeting Date is November 7! ****

John Lampkin returns with a new presentation "Bugs in your Bloomers".

If you missed his March visit to Suncoast, you may not realize what a highly entertaining speaker he is. His insect close-up photographs are bizarre and beautiful.

John is a citizen naturalist and photographer and now retired from a New York music career, he explores and marvels at the Floridian universe with macro lens in hand. His long-range project is to photograph and catalog the flora and fauna of the Sun City Center Nature Trails. Not coincidentally, as a professional composer his woodwind quintet, "Insects: A Musical Entomology in Six Legs" won the Grand Prize in a Composers Guild international competition. John also constructs crossword puzzles for the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, the LA Times and other venues, with many of his puzzles having nature themes. Except for his fascination with bugs and plants he is totally harmless.

John will also be guiding us in a walk on, Friday, November 9, at the Sun City Center Nature Trails. See the field trip listing on MeetUp or Walks/Field Trips on the SNPS website for more information. John is the steward for the Sun City Center Nature Trails and is working on a project to photograph and catalog the flora and fauna of the area. He is an avid citizen naturalist and photographer of bugs among other things.

November is normally the annual meeting in which we vote on the SNPS BOD but we don't have the final slate yet, there will be a proposal to postpone the vote.

Light refreshments are served and a native plant auction follows the presentation.

- submitted by Virginia Overstreet



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



USF Fall Plant Sale

The Fall Plant Sale at USF Botanical Garden was busy and fun. The weather was nice and the plants we had for sale were beautiful and healthy.

Thank you to Troy for providing such a good selection and for making time to deliver and pick up. We appreciate you!

Also, thanks to all of the volunteers who came out on Friday, Saturday or Sunday to set up tables and signs and to sell, sell, sell! It was a pleasure to work with you.

Special thanks to our treasurer Niki Cribbs who provided transportation to and from the storage shed and is still working on our totals and profits report.



UPCOMING SPEAKERS-

December 1 – Holiday gathering at Brooker Creek Preserve, there will be food, talks and walks. Brooker Creek Preserve is a great spot for natives and we had a great time there in 2016. Please register on eventbrite <https://npscelebration.eventbrite.com/>.



Thanks for helping with the October meeting -

Linda Steele-Green for bringing snacks
Bunny, Joel, Janet and Nanette for bringing plants

Special Thank Yous -

JoAnn Hoffman for being our extension liaison and making our meeting place possible.
Joel Jackson for auctioning off plants.

Native Plant Society & Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve Holiday Celebration!



At Brooker Creek Preserve

3940 Keystone Road
Tarpon Springs, FL 34688

Saturday, December 1, 2018, 9 am to 4 pm

Please register at eventbrite

<https://npscelebration.eventbrite.com>

Free Admission, Public Invited!

9:00 am: Meet, sign-in, and drop off your dish in the auditorium

9:45 am: Announcements in the auditorium

10:00 to 10:45 am: **Ferns of Brooker** with James Stevenson, UF/IFAS Pinellas County Extension Specialist

11:00 to 12:00 pm: Your choice!

- Gazebo: Palm weaving with The Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve
- Porch: Leaf ID with Katie MacMillen
- Networking and stroll

12:00 to 1:30 pm: Lunch- bring a dish to share

1:45 to 3:00 pm: Hike with James Stevenson

3:00 to 4:00 pm: Clean up

Pinellas, Suncoast, and Pasco FNPS chapters: Friends of the Brooker Creek Preserve, Pinellas/UF IFAS Extension
Map & Info: <http://goo.gl/maps/zr7fg> <http://www.fnps.org/chapters/chapters>

NOTICE: A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Florida Division of Consumer Services by calling toll-free within the state (800-435-7352, reg. no. CH4271). Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the state





Fieldtrip Sun City Center Trail November 9, 9:30

We are trying a weekday trip this month. Come join us on Friday, November 9, 9:30-11:30 am.

John Lampkin will guide us as we investigate the flora and fauna of the Sun City Center Nature Trails.

1622 Del Webb Blvd. Sun City Center, FL 33573

The address above is a house near the entrance. Do not go to the house. The entrance is marked by a large sign. Park on the street and go through the gate. We will meet at the kiosk.

The Trails are maintained by SSC Audubon and other volunteers who remove invasive plants and plant appropriate native species. The approximately 0.5- mile long trail goes through varied habitats of pine flatwoods, hardwood hammocks, small wetland meadows and a cypress swamp.

Please wear long pants, closed toe shoes and a hat. Bring water, sunscreen and insect repellent.

Contact mablepatterson@hotmail.com if interested, or call 305-298-6381 (leave a message).

Nov 17 Fieldtrip



November 17 - Blackwater Creek Preserve - wagon ride 9 am – 12:00 pm , meeting in the parking area at 8:45. 2469 Patrinostro Rd., Plant City , FL 33565 . There is no potable water and there are no public restrooms. Visitors should bring their own water and sun and insect protection. Getting into and out of the wagon requires some dexterity and physical fitness. All attendees must fill out a waiver of liability form.

We have arranged a wagon tour with Hillsborough County. The cost is \$5 per person and there is a maximum of 20 people on the wagon. **We have 3 spots left. You must reserve your space in advance. Contact Tina Patterson to reserve or for more information. mablepatterson@hotmail.com**

Lettuce Lake Update

From Tina Patterson

Joel Jackson and Gail Parsons (Nature Coast) guided a troop of 20 Girl Scouts and parents as well as 7 other visitors at the October Native Plant Walk along the Lettuce Lake boardwalk. It was a great way to end Native Plant Month!

The next walk is November 24 and Joel will be out of town. Tina invites any members who need to work off Thanksgiving dinner to come join her. Meet at 9 at the visitor's center.

The walk is free but there is a \$2 per car entry fee. See you there!



Mark Your Calendar



November 24 Lettuce Lake Walk 9 AM

December 1 Holiday gathering at Brooker Creek Preserve

SNPS Camping Trips

I participated in the recent trip to Silver Springs State Park and it brought back memories of all the SNPS trips that I have been on. What a wonderful diversity of state parks we have in Florida and the members of SNPS have made some great trips even better. Fall of 2013 was my first trip, Devon helped me put my new tent up after I recovered from seeing all the fall wildflowers and grasses on the drive into Kissimmee Prairie State Park. My air mattress made sleeping in the tent quite comfortable. The communal meals were varied and always tasty. Fires in the evening encouraged long talks and learning about my companions. The swamp buggy helped us cover more miles to see some of the amazing plants that live in the Kissimmee Prairie.

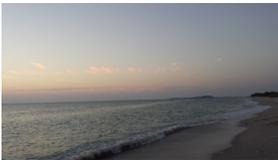


It was hard to follow up this trip but the next was to north Florida and my first experience in the panhandle. I couldn't believe we were still in Florida! The cabin at Torreya State Park wasn't quite like the full kitchen, nice bathroom place at Silver Springs. It was like going to summer camp, 4 bunk beds in a small room with a screened in room outside. The bathroom was across the road. We toured the historic house and saw red buckeye trees in bloom.



Fall of 2014 was Mike Roess Gold Head Branch State Park. Those cabins were not primitive but not as snazzy as Silver Springs. We ventured into the fern ravine, a unique habitat and contrasting to the more scrubby trails we walked on.

Spring of 2015 found us at Suwanee River State Park looking at trees and springs. Lots of green dragon plants and rain lilies. Lovely pools of water at Peacock Springs and butterflies.



We went back to Kissimmee Prairie State Park in the fall of 2015.

Cayo Costa, April 2016, that was a trip to remember. The most lovely beach ever but hot and stuffy in the 'cabin' (no electricity, no bathroom). Lots of coastal plants we don't see much.



October 2016 found us at Jonathan Dickinson State Park and it pleasantly surprised me. Anne Cox came along to show us the pawpaws in the scrubby part. The walk through the forest area presented different flowers at every turn.

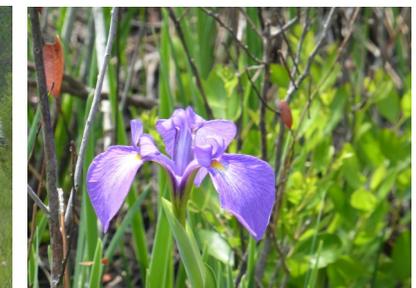


TH Stone St Joseph Peninsula State Park was the next trip. (If you've seen the recent news, you know it isn't accessible anymore since Hurricane Michael). We had fewer attendees than expected on this one but the plants at St Joe Buffer and in the Apalachicola National Forest did not disappoint. Wow, lots of plants I'd never seen before! A few orchids, hairy wicky, pitcher plants and an iris.



I missed the trip to Myakka last fall, I hope to visit that park soon. I am looking forward to seeing new areas in 2019. Hope to see you there!

-Janet



From a Native Plant Newbie

My wife and I moved to Tampa from Houston last October after Hurricane Harvey. While we moved mostly for work, we were certainly looking forward to the beach, and the nature the region had to offer. I must admit, as a water quality scientist native plants were not a predominant thought on my mind until I struck up a conversation about landscaping my new yard with one of my coworkers. I realized how negligent I had been given that native plants provide a host of ecological services beneficial to water quality especially sequestration of pollutants. He mentioned that I should use native plants as much as possible and suggested that I join the Florida and Suncoast Native Plant Society. I did, and so far, I have loved every minute of it. I participated in my first volunteer event at the USF Plant Sale in



early October. At first, I was very nervous as I knew essentially nothing about native plants. But Tina, Devon and the rest of the members put me to work and made me feel like I was part of the team. I attended the field trip to Silver Springs State Park on October 27th-28th and again had a wonderful time. The potluck dinner, which featured Spanish Bean Soup, Fruit Salad, and apple pie, was amazing. The Sandhill Trail morning hike started off cool at 56° but quickly warmed up as we learned an amazing variety of plants, and a bit of Florida history from the members. I still haven't chosen a favorite yet but Blue Salvia (*Salvia azurea*) and Florida Paintbrush (*Carphephorus corymbosus*) are the leading contenders. I am looking forward to many more hikes filled with learning about Florida Native Plants.



Byron Winston Ph.D, Environmental Scientist III

Camping at Silver Springs State Park

from Louise Raterman

Some members of the Suncoast Native Plant Society took a little excursion up to cabins in Silver Springs State Park near the Ocala Forest. It was late October and we experienced 'the grand freeze' (47 degree weather) while there but were greeted by abundance of attractive and dynamic flora! At the cabin I stayed in, there was a redbud and a yaupon outside the door, and a lovely tumble of flowering garberia – all purple; Byron and Maysill's garden next door exhibited a full-berrying Florida red cedar and a magnificent spread of gopher apple – two feet tall, and with apples!



These cabin landscaping displays – and elsewhere - were donated by FANN – Florida Association of Native Nurseries – and really enriched the tapestry.



Sunday, the weather had turned and it was like Christmas out, but it opened into a perfect cool temperature for walking in the burned place where we found an explosion of flora drama. Throughout was Pityopsis graminifolia or silk-grass – jewel-tiny flowers set upon a silvery gray-green foliage. We found pawpaws and there was vanilla-plant, deer's tongue, Florida paintbrush, bracken fern and summer farewell (*Dalea pinnata*)- a little bit finished but still regal.

We examined with great enthusiasm the plant Elephant's foot – named after the shape of the leaves; there was muhly grass – startling in its silver cranberry shimmer. A persimmon tree was loaded down with fruit.



That evening we built a fire – yes, still chilly! We congregated like homeless people around that fire at Devon's campsite. The rising flames were startling in height and exposed a satinleaf tree, *Chryso-phyllum oliviforme*. From beneath, it appeared the tree was hurt and at least parched by the heat but on closer examination, we learned the copper under-leaf gave it the look of being slight in flame! Such a gorgeous small tree! There was another shared supper of pasta, olives and mushrooms (Devon's) and Shirley's outstanding yellow tomatoes and cheese slaw. Wow! We had lovely conversations beneath the satinleaf tree and let us hope it keeps our secrets. (see next page)



Plant Profile - Bushy bluestem grass

Andropogon glomeratus

Family - Poaceae

Bushy bluestem is living up to its name this time of year. It is lovely along roads where it has been allowed to grow tall. It grows 3-5 ft tall and likes to be in average soil with sun. Native bunching grasses are a great addition to any landscape.

Plants and seeds are available from Native Nurseries and Native Seed providers.

Plant Atlas link -

<http://http://florida.plantatlas.usf.edu/Plant.aspx?id=3338>

FNPS link -

<https://https://www.fnps.org/plants/plant/andropogon-glomeratus>

~Janet Bowers

Camping (continued)

The next day, in canoes and kayaks we took off and almost immediately were greeted by very friendly manatees! Unbelievable! Tina was overjoyed. "It was so cool to watch the manatees come right up to us, to swim right under the boat!" she said. The preponderance of manatees led some of us to wonder whether this was a sign that the Rodman (Kirkpatrick) Dam was opened and perhaps the Ocklawaha was free-flowing again. But, alas, it was probably just the chill.

Symphytotrichum carolinianum! The climbing aster, in symphony of color – mostly amethyst and mustard - cascaded along river banks. A favorite of mine, for sure. Also in the water I found near where the large boats docks, outside a wall – a flower looking so much like blackberry rosettes, trailing white appearances in regular frequencies – submersed throughout, may have been a swamp sagittaria.



Shirley's favorite sighting she said was the spring run spider lily *Hymenocallis rotata*.

As we rowed our way through for almost 3 hours in good pace, we passed under tupelo and persimmon trees – with fruit; we ducked under ash and photographed bur marigolds. Turtle lined up – sometimes 10, 11, 12, 13 along a log and occasionally gators sunned along the shore. The anhingas snaked through our waters and waved from their perches. Orange-billed cormorants dotted the trees, and the Dahoon and Yaupon hollies delighted us. Pat was mesmerized by the opulent hollies – which, although they were almost a constant, were a pleasure one could never tire of. All had berries and appeared fancy. Pat recently planted a dahoon sapling at her place and now is ever so much more looking forward to watching it grow up!



Maybe we will take this trip again next year, so you look for it and be sure to sign up!

Join FNPS on-line - <http://fnps.org/participate/membershipinfo>

When it comes time to renew, FNPS will send you an email with a link in it. Your information will already be filled out, but you can edit it if it is out of date. This link is unique to you and not to be shared with others.



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>Publicity/ Social media</i>	
Andy Taylor	
<i>Outreach</i>	
Open	
<i>USF Plant Sales</i>	
Open	
<i>USF Botanical Garden Liaison</i>	
Kim Hutton	974-2329
<i>Chapter Representative</i>	
Virginia Overstreet	
<i>Webmaster</i>	
Shirley Denton	625-5031

Newsletter Submissions

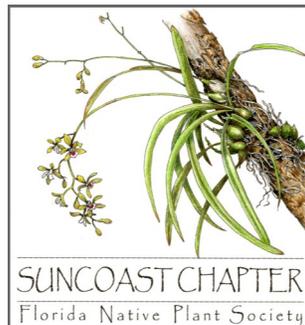
Deadline for the next issue:
January 1, 2019

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

SNPS Web Address

<http://www.SuncoastNPS.org>

We're on Meet Up & Facebook



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
Go south on 579 for two blocks.
Turn left on Old Hillsborough
Ave and park on the North side of
the office.



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