

The Suncoast Grapevine

Newsletter of the Suncoast Native Plant Society, Inc.



May 2019

Volume 36, Number 5

Chapter Meeting, May 8, 7:00 pm

Hillsborough County Extension Service
5339 South CR-579
Seffner, FL 33584

Note the Date! This meeting is a week early to avoid conflicting with the FNPS conference

Stories of Field and Garden – Member Sharing 2019 by Suncoast Chapter Members

We will continue a recent chapter tradition – a meeting where anyone in the chapter can share their memories and photographs from the past year. Bring your gardening successes and challenges. Share your favorite Florida plant events and natural areas. Share a native plant story or poem.

Guidance:

1. Keep your presentation to 10 minutes or less in length
2. Photographs encouraged (bring a thumb drive).
3. No politics. No pushing personal agendas.
4. Keep your presentation consistent with the mission of the Florida Native Plant Society

Bring snacks and drinks to share.

Board Meeting: May 8, 5:00

All members are welcome. You can propose agenda items. Contact Tina Patterson for more information and meeting location.



You may want to share field trip experiences or your favorite garden photos.

Photograph of Green Swamp West field trip, April 28, by Tina Patterson

The Making of a Great Plant Sale

By Virginia Overstreet

We recently completed our plant sale at the 2019 USF Botanical Gardens Spring Plant Festival. This event is our primary chapter fundraiser, and I am very grateful to everyone who contributed to the success of this sale. I am especially grateful to Troy Springer for all of his hard work

This year I decided to tag along with Troy, who plays a major role in these plant sales by coordinating with wholesale native plant nurseries in the Tampa area. He delivers these plants to the USF Botanical Gardens in his trailer and returns unsold plants after the sale.

On the Wednesday before the sale, we drove to Parrish, FL to pick up plants at Green Seasons Nursery. Troy had already submitted a plant list to the nursery, and the plants were ready to be loaded by the nursery staff into Troy's trailer. We also stopped by Sweet Bay Nursery. Sweet Bay Nursery hosts its own Spring Wildflower Festival and Native Plant Sale in conjunction with the Serenoa Chapter of FNPS on the same weekend as the USF plant festival. We were not sure how many plants they would be able to supply for our sale, but we were able to get more wildflowers and shrubs. The plants we got from these 2 nurseries filled the trailer and some had to go into the back of Troy's truck. We had lots of plants! We delivered them to our site at the botanical garden after getting back to Tampa.

On Thursday we drove to Groveland, FL to Green Isles Gardens Nursery to get more plants. Nursery staff were expecting us. We drove around the nursery in a golf cart selecting the plants. I enjoy visiting native nurseries, but I've never shopped for plants on this scale. We filled Troy's trailer again and delivered them to our site at USF.

Friday was set up day, and we had lots of volunteers to help. All of the plants were arranged for display, tagged with prices. On Saturday morning before the sale started, Troy and Dr. Shirley Denton double checked our signage to ensure the plants were correctly tagged. In addition to the plants from the 3 native nurseries, we also had plants from Springer Environmental Services, Farnsworth Farms Nursery, and Cliff Brown. These 6 vendors provided a total of 162 species of plants.

I enjoy working the plant sales at USF because it is fun to talk to people about native plants. **Thank you again to everyone who helped with the plant sale!** Let's make our October sale even bigger!

Choosing plants (by Virginia Overstreet) and Sale (by Shirley Denton)



Wings Over Florida: 2019 Butterfly Big Year

Modified from the Announcement in Kite Tales, a FWC Publication

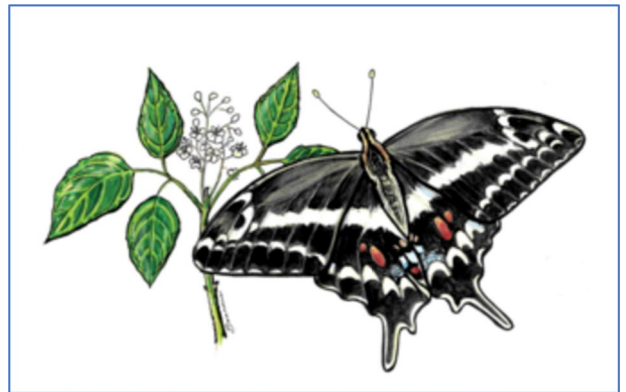
Many people are familiar with the concept of a birding big year, in which a birder tries to find as many species as possible between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31 – but have you ever heard of a butterfly big year?

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and the Florida Museum of Natural History are inviting Floridians to take part in the nation's very first butterfly big year! This seems very relevant to Native Plant Society Members too given that butterfly larvae are highly dependent on native plants, and adults enjoy nectar from native and non-native flowers. You can participate in the Big Year by identifying and recording as many species as possible. Earn certificates for listing milestones along the way and, when 2019 comes to a close, submit your butterfly checklist to earn a Wings Over Florida Big Year certificate.

While you keep your list, you can follow along with the sponsors to learn more about the ecological importance of these beautiful creatures and what you can do to promote butterfly conservation, from becoming a citizen scientist to creating butterfly habitat in your own back yard.

The Great Florida Birding Trail website (<http://floridabirdingtrail.com/wings-over-florida-butterflies/>) with information about the program and FWC official Wings over Florida rules.

Butterfly Artwork



A Schaus' swallowtail drawing will be featured on the official 2019 Butterfly Big Year certificates (this drawing was published in the FWC April Kite Tales)!

FNPS Annual Meeting

FNPS holds its annual meeting of the membership at the conference, on Saturday morning. You do not need to register for the conference to attend. Attendance is free.

This year there is an important vote on proposed by-laws changes. The changes do two major things:

1. Remove FNPS policy from the by-laws and put them in the FNPS handbook, <https://handbook.fnps.org>.
2. Make changes in the composition of the board of directors and how long a person can remain on the board. The current by-laws specify that most of the board members be the FNPS standing committee chairs, and the by-laws do not establish term limits for those standing committee chairs. The by-laws changes limit the term of all non-officer board members to 2 3-year terms. The committee chairs are nominated by the president and ratified by the board. There are potential consequences that you should be aware of, namely, the board will have more turnover, and currently there is no established procedure by which the standing committee chairs (who include Policy, Conservation, Education, and others) will be kept informed.

Please think carefully about these changes. Other organizations have other ways of selecting board members – most member-driven organizations elect them. Organizations, such as most foundations and organizations that are not member-driven, appoint them. There are pros and cons to both, but the choice will like effect how FNPS functions in the future and how it interacts with the chapters and the membership. Please make your preferences known by attending, sharing your visions of FNPS and its future, and voting.

Photos from April Events



© John Lampkin
Saltmarsh mallow at Green Swamp West (GSW), by John Lampkin.



Queen butterfly using rosin weed in the Suncoast demonstration garden at Morris Bridge Conservation Park by Mike Fite.



© John Lampkin
Blue metallic bee (*Osmia chalybea*) on thistle (*Cirsium horridulum*) at GSW by John Lampkin



Twinflower (*Dyschoriste oblongifolia*) by Tina Patterson



Photograph of the bee photographer (John Lampkin) by Shirley Denton.



© John Lampkin
Milkwort (*Polygala lutea*) by John Lampkin

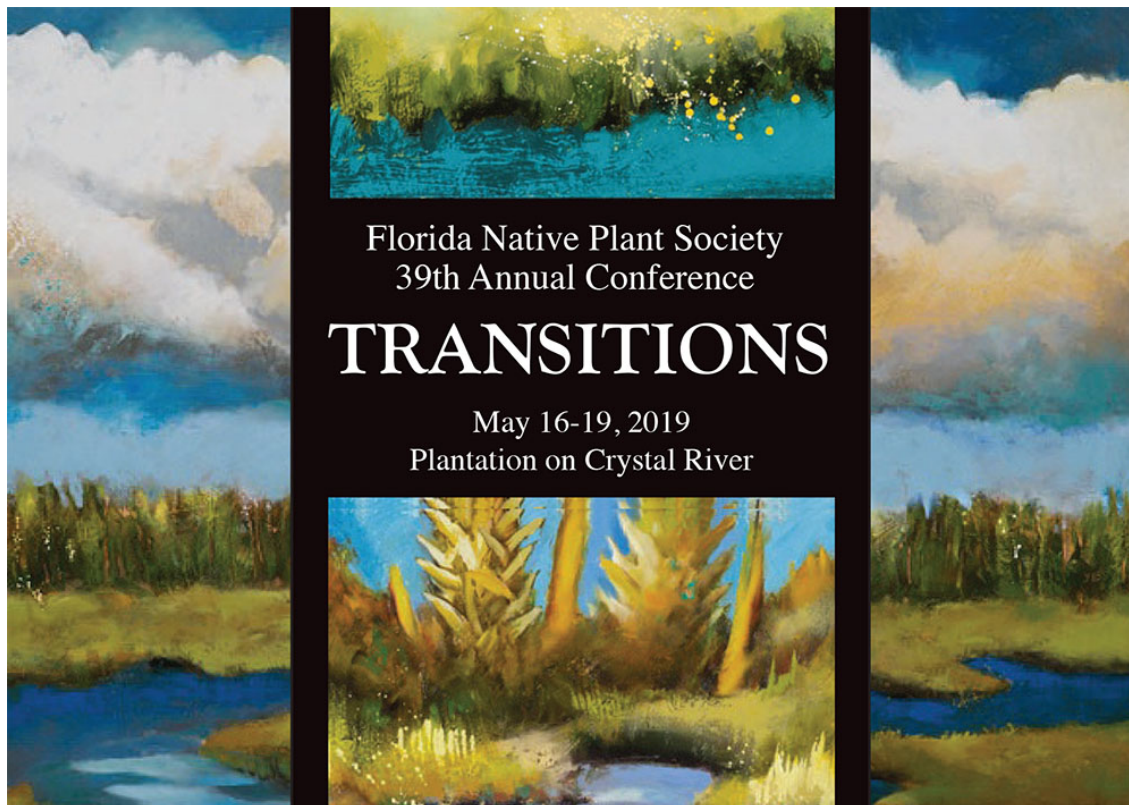
FNPS Conference

Register now for 4 days of field trips, seminars, and social events.

On-line registration ends May 8....

On-site registration will be available. Register when you get there.

<https://fnps.org/conference>



Thank You!

Thanks to all who made the April meeting a success.

Thank you to Cliff Brown and Virginia Overstreet for providing plants and to Barbara Mulholland for several classic Suncoast t-shirts, and to Joel Jackson for being the auctioneer, all for our Suncoast auction which helps support the activities of our chapter.

Sympathies Appreciated

Barbara and Joel Jackson would like to thank our chapter friends for all the love and support in the recent loss of their son, Joey Jackson. The many cards and prayers helped ease their pain during this difficult time.



Join FNPS to join our Suncoast Chapter,
<https://fnps.org/participate/membershipinfo>

Coralbean, Cherokee Bean (*Erythrina herbacea* L.)

Profile by George Kish and Shirley Denton

I love the Florida coral bean tree. It loops and improvises into the sun and so is like poetry in the garden. Maybe that is why it attracts hummingbirds. This pink one is of the tree I planted 4 years ago from a cut branch off one of my other trees; it is located in a public garden I maintain in Temple Terrace.

---- Louise Ratterman

Family: Fabaceae

Zones: 8 – 10

Plant Habit: Prickly, irregular, upright herbaceous to woody shrub

Natural Habitat: Dry, open woods

Size: 3 to 20 ft (h) x 5 to 10 ft (w)

Leaves: Compound leaf with 3 triangular leaflets, prickles

Bloom: Red, showy, tubular flowers on long, narrow spikes. Occasionally pink.

Flowering time: Spring to early summer

Fruit: Brown pods that split to expose shiny red seeds (poisonous to humans)

Bark: Smooth green turning light brown with age, branches have prickles

US Distribution: Throughout Florida and west to Texas and north to Oklahoma and North Carolina

Soil: Average, but prefers dry, fertile sands

Water: Somewhat moist to dry

Light: Part shade to full sun

Propagation: Stem cuttings, root cuttings, seed (scarify)

Motility: Low; seeds occasionally germinate near parent

Maintenance: Prune after flowering

Availability: Florida native nurseries and native plant sales

Landscape uses: Understory shrub in natural setting or specimen; attracts butterflies (nectar) and hummingbirds

Erythrina herbacea



Photo by Louise Ratterman. This is an unusual specimen in that it has pink flowers.



Typical coral bean with red flowers.

KEY REFERENCES

Florida Native Plant Society. 2019. <https://fnps.org/plants/plant/erythrina-herbacea>.

Florida Association of Native Nurseries. 2019. <https://www.plantrealflorida.org/plants/detail/erythrina-herbacea>.

Wunderlin, R. and G.R. Kisch. 2013. Native Florida Plants for Drought- and Salt-tolerant Landscaping. Pineapple Press.

Lettuce Lake Plant Walk

By Tina Patterson

Lettuce Lake provided spring flowers and opportunities to meet new people.





Lettuce Lake Park plant walk by Joel Jackson

Florida Friendly Landscaping 101

Many of the concepts that the Florida Native Plant Society recommends for creating human landscapes that are friendly to our native plants and wildlife are also taught in the UF/IFAS Florida Friendly Program. Just remember, use native plants to support native pollinators, butterflies, and birds. The research is showing that ative insects, especially, thrive much better on native plants than on non-natives. Registration is required:

<http://2019ffl101.eventbrite.com>

Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ PROGRAM   **Water Department**

UF/IFAS Extension Hillsborough County Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ 101 “Plants, Pollinators and Professionals” – Making Gardening Great!

Saturday, May 18, 2019 10 a.m. — 2:00 p.m.

Cost: \$10 non-refundable, includes gift bag containing gardening book, rain gauge, hose nozzle, water bottle and free soil test, one per household

UF/IFAS Extension Hillsborough County, Conference Center
5339 County Rd. 579 Seffner, FL 33584

Pre-registration is required at:
<http://2019ffl101.eventbrite.com>




Sponsored by Tampa Water Department & Hillsborough County Public Utilities

5 talks chosen by Extension clientele

1. Right Plant, Right Place
2. What Weeds Say About Your Landscape
3. Edible Gardens
4. Bees, Butterflies & Dragonflies
5. How to Hire & Manage a Landscape Professional

Plant, recycled yard art & other vendors available

Bring your plant questions, leaf & insect samples & problems to our diagnostic table. View specimens through our microscope. Extension Agents & Master Gardener Volunteers on hand to answer your questions & provide recommendations.

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Newsletter Submissions

Deadline for May Newsletter: May 25

Send contributions to Shirley Denton at ecotypes@outlook.com.

Contributions should be original, with references where appropriate. Photographs and drawings should belong to the submitter or submitted along with written permission from the owner, and be of appropriate resolution for printing (a width of 1000 pixels is generally adequate for this newsletter, but err toward larger so that they pictures can be cropped if needed). All submissions should be in formats standardly used in documents and readable on Windows PCs.

Submissions will be reviewed for accuracy with preference for being relevant to the FNPS mission and local environmental events.



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