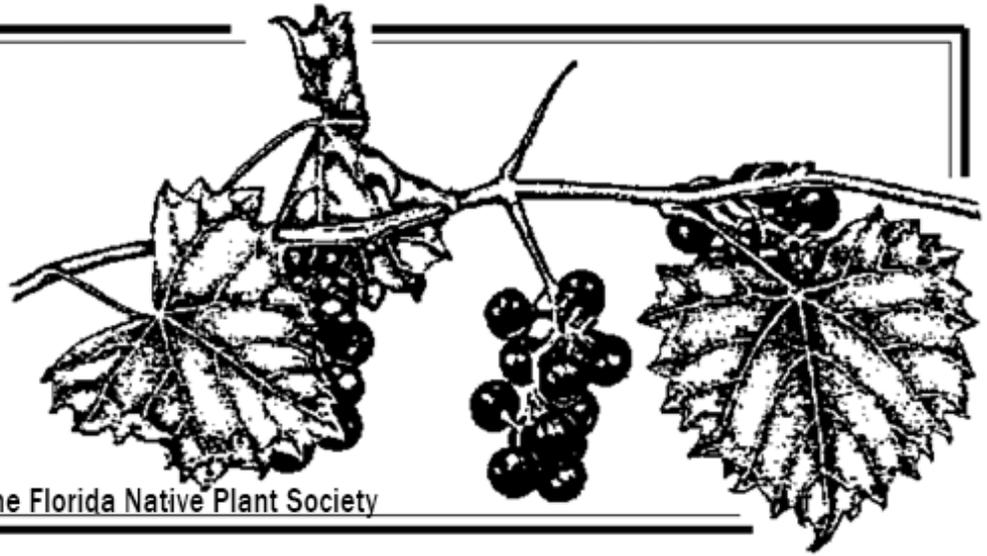


<https://suncoast.fnpschapters.org>

The Suncoast Grapevine

Newsletter of the Suncoast Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society



March 2022

Volume 39, Number 3

This is an online meeting.

March 16, 7:00 pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89675541544?pwd=TWJkEklL3lSbGRrb3JxbHNGQW9WQT09>

Program: Native Plant Gardening for Birds

Michelle and Kathryn own The Nectary, a retail native plant nursery located in downtown Lakeland. They both have science backgrounds (although not horticulture) and saw a need for native plants in their area. They decided to open The Nectary in 2019 at the Downtown Lakeland Farmers Curb Market, then moved to a permanent location on E. Main St. in the fall of 2019. They are passionate about making native plants accessible and attractive for home landscapes.

An Overview of Gardening for Birds:

Let's consider ditching the bird feeders and instead rely on native plants to bring birds to our yards. We will cover some tried and true plants that our customers have used successfully to attract birds, including berry-producing shrubs, caterpillar host plants, and reseeding wildflowers. We will also discuss the elements to include in a layered landscape where birds can find an inviting habitat in which to raise their families each year.



March Field Trip

March 19, 9:00 am

Stalking blossoms near the Little Manatee River



Our field trip this month is at a request from multiple Suncoast members. Several of us have great memories of spring flowering trees that we rarely see, and we wanted to go back.

We will be looking for Virginia fringe tree, pygmy fringe tree, American snowbell, and sparkleberry. We know we will find other spring blooming shrubs and herbaceous species. We will also have an opportunity to view the Little Manatee River where “little” is the right word – and we will be amazed at the evidence of periodic flooding many feet above the river channel.

The site is a seldom-visited Hillsborough County preserve.

This is a reservation-only trip limited to 15 people who must register in advance.



To register, contact Tina (Mable C) Patterson, email mablepatterson@hotmail.com or phone (305) 298-6381 , text or call and leave your name and message and contact information. Directions to the site will be provided upon signup.



Top left: Pygmy fringe tree, *Chionanthus pygmaeus*

Bottom left Sparkleberry, *Vaccinium arboreum*

Bottom right :Red rat snake

All Photos from previous field trip to this site by Shirley Denton



The mission of the Florida Native Plant Society is to preserve, conserve, and restore the native plants and native plant communities of Florida

Volunteer Opportunities

USF Botanical Garden Spring Plant Festival

The Spring Plant Festival is scheduled for April 9-10. We need volunteers with setup on April 8, and to assist customers and manage the “shop” on April 9 and 10. This is our major fundraiser of the year. The funds we get are used to purchase plants to maintain our gardens at county parks and to give grants for native gardens. Contact Tina, mablepatterson@hotmail.com or phone (305) 298-6381 to sign up.

if you have any questions about helping and to volunteer.

Thanks, Virginia



Native Plant Garden Maintenance

Our chapter coordinates with the Hillsborough County Parks to maintain native plant gardens at Lettuce Lake, Morris Bridge, Flatwoods Park, and Trout Creek.

To volunteer, contact the lead green thumbs for the gardens as follows:

Lettuce Lake: Tina (Mable C) Patterson, email mablepatterson@hotmail.com or phone (305) 298-6381, text or call and leave name and message

Morris Bridge: Mike Fite, email fitemf@gmail.com.

Flatwoods Park: Mary Miller

Trout Creek: Mike Fite, email fitemf@gmail.com.

Reminder – Report Your Suncoast Volunteer Hours

Volunteer hours are unpaid work that you do as a member of Suncoast to promote the use of native plants, to preserve natural ecosystems and to educate the public about the benefits of natives. Every hour counts.

Tina reports some hours that are predictable automatically including meetings and field trip attendance, and assistance at plant sales. Others are less predictable and need you to let contact Tina to let her know. These include things like, speaking to organizations about native plants and participation in research projects, yard visits, etc. If in doubt, report.

Tina (Mable) Patterson -- mablepatterson@hotmail.com

Board Meeting: March 7, 7:00pm

All members are welcome. You can propose agenda items. Contact Tina Patterson for more information. This will be an online meeting.

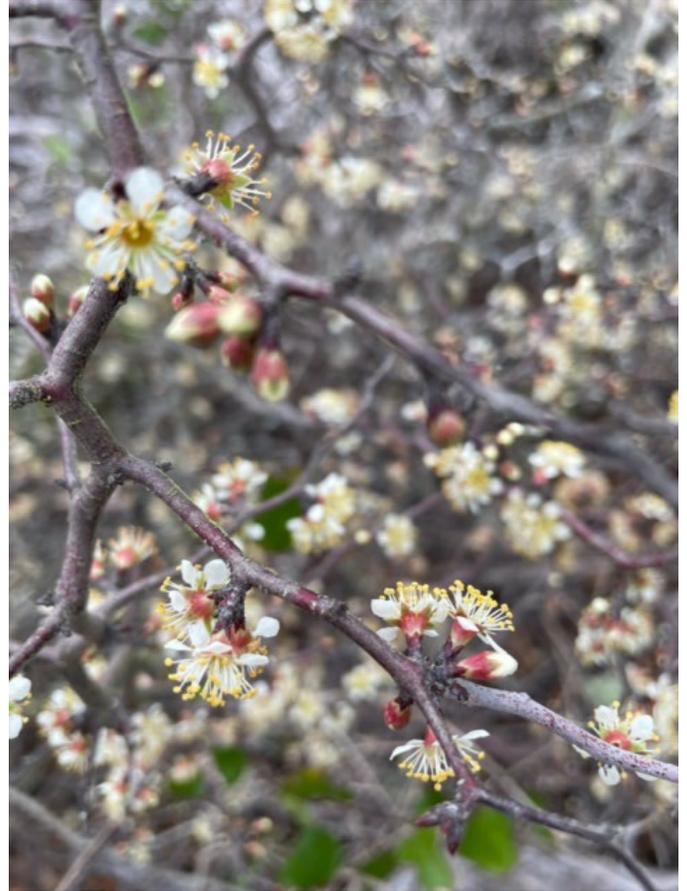
Events in Review –

Skinks and Rare Scrub Plants at Flaming Arrow Boy Scout Reservation

By Text and photos by Tina Patterson

Flaming Arrow is on the Lake Wales Ridge. It has both white sand scrub and yellow sand scrub with all four scrub oaks, sand pine, scrub bay, tough bully, and other characteristic scrub species. We got to see the endangered scrub plum in bloom. We also saw scrub holly and likely *Calamintha ashei*, Sky blue lupine was a blooming treat.

We also got to see both the Florida sand skink and extremely rare blue-tailed mole skink.



Top left: Blue tailed mole skink

Bottom left: Checking cover boards for skinks

Right :Scrub plum, *Prunus geniculata*

MOSI Water Days

The Museum of Science and Industry (MOSI) has announced its first annual Tampa Bay Water Days at the museum! Tampa Bay Water Days 2022, is a community event organized by MOSI in conjunction with support from Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, and Tampa Bay water in order to celebrate water conservation, stormwater management, and environmental stewardship.

Water Days will be hosted on the MOSI's campus Friday, March 25th, and Saturday, March 26th from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Friday's programs will focus primarily on serving students from 3rd - 5th grades from Hillsborough, Pinellas, and Pasco county schools. Saturday's programs will focus on serving the general public, scouting organizations, and homeschool groups. This event will feature hands-on activities, exhibits, shows, hiking tours, and more! MOSI is pleased to be able to offer 500 students and 1000 general admission tickets to the first guests to preregister, although the Water Days event itself is free to attend.

License Plate Vouchers



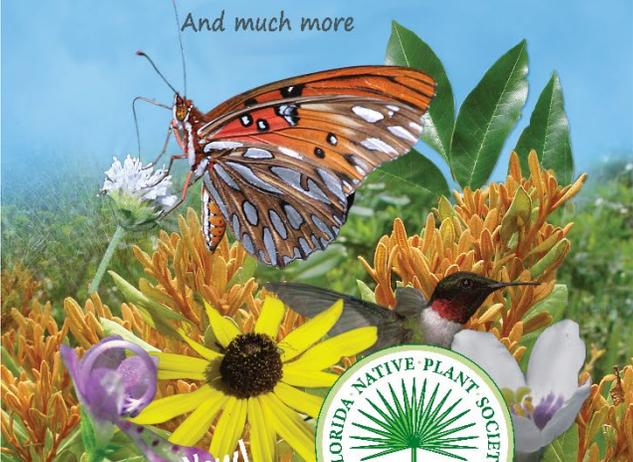
FLORIDA
SAM PLE
NATIVE

Why Reserve a Voucher?

Money from your purchase will

- Conserve Native Habitats
- Provide habitat for native birds
- Provide habitats for butterflies and pollinators
- Encourage smart policies for clean water
- Encourage state-wide conservation planning

And much more



Reserve Now!

<https://forms.fnps.org/license-plate-voucher>



FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
serenoa | repens

Reserving 3000 vouchers by October is incredibly important to FNPS as, if successful, it will provide long-term funding for the organization and its conservation efforts. And yes, it will benefit our chapter.

Support native plants by reserving a license plate voucher.

To learn more and reserve your voucher, please visit <https://forms.fnps.org/license-plate-voucher>.

Each voucher costs \$34 to reserve. This is a low-risk proposition since your money will either be returned or provided as credit (by the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles) which can be used for an alternative voucher or credit toward your next tag renewal..

Please buy one or give one or more as a gift.



SUNCOAST CHAPTER
Florida Native Plant Society

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

FNPS 2022 Conference Update

Registration for the conference is now open. The 2022 Conference is all virtual. Learn more and register at <https://fnps.org/conference/2022>. \$50 for the entire conference, full-time student members free.



Announcing the 41st Annual Conference of the Florida Native Plant Society

We invite you to join us for this year's virtual conference featuring expert speakers, a plant identification competition, online networking, virtual vendors, online auction, and field trips: May 20-22, 2022.

Keynote Speakers

Dr. Emily Coffey
Torreya and other rare plant conservation cooperation with FNPS

Ginny Stibolt
Building better gateways to Florida's biodiversity

Larry Weaner
Growing, planting and maintaining native plants: Turning a challenge into an opportunity

<https://www.fnps.org/>

Additional Expert Speakers

Nancy Bisset, Anne Mackay and Carolyn Schagg – *Florida Wildflower Foundation: The early days.* Travel back in time to experience the statewide campaign to gain acceptance for and appreciation of Florida native plants.

Jim Draper – *Defining radical naturalism*

Ellen Honeycutt – *Strategies for effective social media outreach*

Pete Johnson – *Crosby Sanctuary: Progression of a nature preserve*

Bruce Means – *Biodiversity of the Florida Panhandle*

Sean Patton – *Aquatic butterfly gardening*

Chadd Scott – *Engaging native plant advocates through current events in conservation*

Renee Stambaugh – *Enhance your yard and attract wildlife with native plants*

Conservation and Research Grant Presentations

Jessica Balerna – *Evaluating trade-offs among biophysical and cultural ecosystem services in freshwater wetlands impaired by groundwater extraction*

Caitlin Bumby – *Uncovering the true origins of a rare orchid endemic to Florida*

Shelby Krupar – *Genetic diversity and spatial genetic structure of *Guzmania monostachia* (Bromeliaceae) in Florida*

Gage LaPierre – *Seed mixture strategies in groundcover restoration of pine savannas*

Mandy Morgan – *Preliminary floristic inventory for the recently-protected Gladys Douglas Preserve in Pinellas County*



Conference presentations will be available online to registrants for six months after the conference.



Sky Blue Lupine (*Lupinus diffusus*)

Content and images by Shirley Denton



Family: Fabaceae (Pea Family).

Life Span: Biennial

Flower Color: Blue, lavender

Phenology: Naturally sprouts in autumn and blooms the following year in mid-spring.

Noted for: Showy flowers, Showy fruits, Interesting foliage

Recommended Uses: Wildflower garden where it can be used as a specimen plant.

Considerations: Hard to establish. Biennial, though may reseed.

Propagation: Seed. Seedlings are known to be difficult to transplant especially if roots are disturbed.

Light: Full Sun

Moisture Tolerance: Needs well-drained dry to extremely dry soils.

Salt Water Flooding Tolerance: Not salt tolerant of inundation by salty or brackish water.

Salt Spray/ Salty Soil Tolerance: Low/no tolerance of salty wind or direct salt spray

Soil: Sand, typically low in nutrients.

References:

Florida Native Plant Society. 2022.

<https://www.fnps.org/plant/lupinus-diffusus>

Wunderlin, R.P. B.F. Hansen and A. R. Frank, 2016. Flora of Florida, Vol. III. University Press of Florida, Gainesville, Florida.

Wunderlin, R.P. and B.F. Hansen, 2022, Atlas of Florida Vascular Plants: University of South Florida, Institute of Systematic Botany (<https://plantatlas.usf.edu/>).



MOSI Backwoods

On February 13th at the invitation of MOSI staff, several Suncoast Chapter members visited the backwoods area of MOSI to help identify native plants that should be maintained and invasive plants that should be removed. The area contains hardwood wetland, pine flat wood, pine-scrub oak sandhill, and xeric oak hammock. The area would be improved by prescribed fire, aggressive treatment of invasive plants, and updated signage, but it has great potential as an educational tool for adults and children.

2022 Tentative Schedule

March	5	Lettuce Lake walk for the general public
	16	Meeting – Native Plant Gardening for Birds – the Nectary
	TBD	Field Trip
April	2	Lettuce Lake walk for the general public
	9-10	Plant Sale – USF Botanical Gardens Spring Festival - volunteer and enjoy the sale
	20	Meeting”
	TBD	Field Trip: –
May	7	Lettuce Lake walk for the general public
	18	Meeting
	19-22	FNPS Conference – Jacksonville - virtual and in person
	TBD	Field Trip
June	4	Lettuce Lake walk for the general public
	15	Meeting
	18	Field Trip
July	TBD	Joint meeting with Sierra and Audubon
	TBD	Field Trip
August	17	Meeting k
	TBD	No field trip (too hot)
September	NATIVE PLANT MONTH	
	3	Lettuce Lake walk for the general public
	21	Meeting
	TBD	Field Trip
October	TBD	Plant Sale – USF Botanical Gardens Fall Festival or Suncoast Chapter Plant Sale
	19	Meeting :
	TBD	Camping Trip? – Johnathan Dickinson or Ochlochonee SP
November	16	Meeting topic: Elections, program TBD
	TBD	Field Trip
December	TBD	No meeting – Holiday Party

Local Native Nurseries

Our local native nurseries are our fans, and they need our business. Call for retail days and hours.

Hillsborough County	Polk County
<p>Little Red Wagon 4113 Henderson Blvd Tampa, Florida 33629</p>  <p>Phone: 813-755-9579 Website: http://www.littleredwagonnativenursery.com Email: Info@ButterflyTampa.com</p>	<p>The Nectary 1047 E Main St. Lakeland, FL 33801</p>  <p>Phone: 863-937-7879 Website: http://thenectarylkid.com Email: thenectarylkid@gmail.com</p>
Manatee County	
<p>Sweet Bay Nursery 10824 Erie Rd Parrish, Florida 34219</p>  <p>Phone: 941-776-0501 Website: http://sweetbaynursery.com Email: sweetbaynursery@gmail.com</p>	<p>Green Seasons 12340 SR 62 Parrish, Florida 34219</p>  <p>Phone: 941-776-1605 Website: http://www.greenseasonsnursery.com Email: seaoater@gmail.com</p>
Pinellas County	
<p>Wilcox Nursery & Landscape</p>  <p>12501 Indian Rocks Rd Largo, Florida 33774-3037</p> <p>Phone: 727-595-2073 Website: http://www.wilcoxnursery.com Email: Wilcox12501@gmail.com</p>	<p>Twigs & Leaves</p>  <p>610 27th St S St Petersburg, Florida 33712</p> <p>Phone: 727-822-5400 Website: http://www.twigsandleaves.com Email: twigsandleaves@gmail.com</p>
Lake County	State-wide
<p>Green Isle Gardens 11303 SR 33 Groveland, FL 34736</p>  <p>Phone: 407-948-8980 Website: http://greenislegardens.com Email: gignatives@gmail.com</p>	<p>Florida Association of Native Nurseries (find a nursery) https://PlantRealFlorida.org</p> <p>Wildflower seeds (Florida Wildflowers Growers Cooperative) https://floridawildflowers.com</p>

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Vice President – Shirley Denton
ecotypes@outlook.com

Secretary - Tina (Mable) Patterson
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Treasurer - Niki Cribbs
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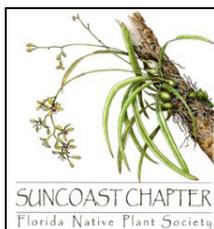
Newsletter Submissions

Deadline for April Newsletter: Mar. 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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