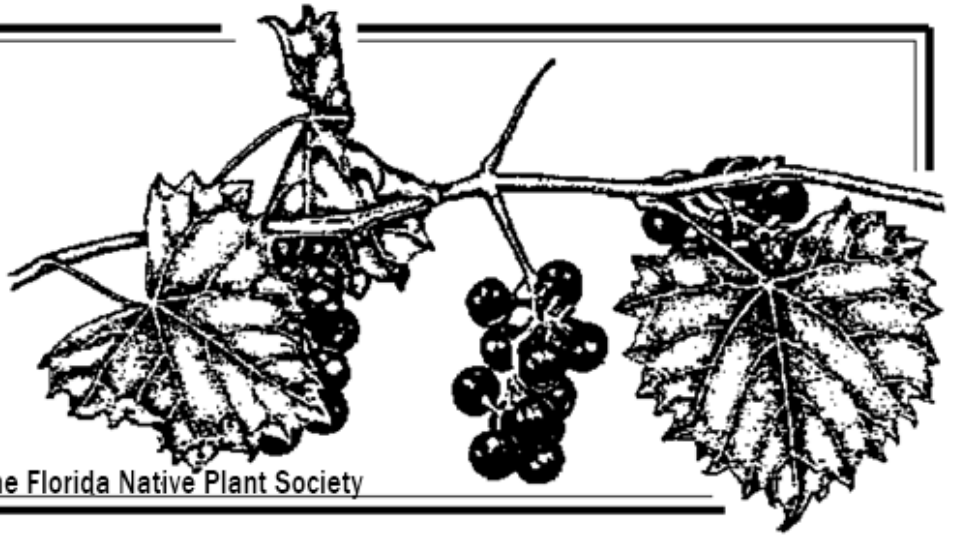


<https://suncoast.fnpschapters.org>

# The Suncoast Grapevine

Newsletter of the Suncoast Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society



April 2023

Volume 40, Number 4

## *What's Next at the USF Botanical Gardens?*

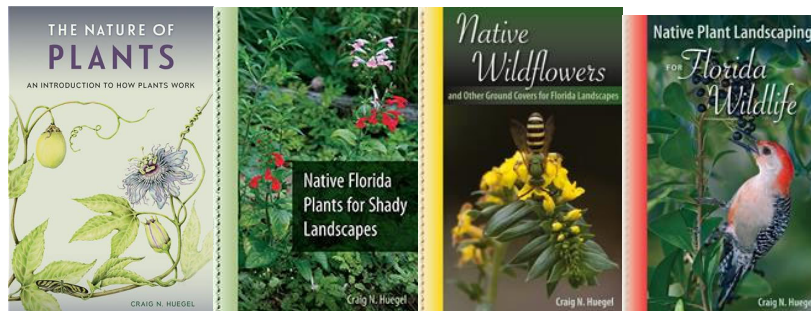
**Speaker: Craig Huegel, PhD**

April 23, 2023, 2 pm

**In Person at MOSI**

Craig will be talking to us about the USF Botanical Gardens and his plans for them under his leadership.

Craig has a long history as an advocate, educator, scientist and author working to advance the conservation and appreciation of native plants has distinguished him as a mentor to the FNPS membership. In 1987, he co-founded the Cooperative Urban Wildlife Program while serving as a member of the faculty at the University of Florida. It was a program that helped reveal the direct connection between native plants and wildlife occurrence, and the concept of “landscaping for wildlife”, to a much larger audience. Our understanding of that connection, which seemed academic and somewhat radical 37 years ago, is easily taken for granted now. He also established the Florida Backyard Wildlife Habitat Program and Pinellas County’s Environmental Lands Division, where he served as Administrator for 12 years. He also was a founding member of the Pinellas County Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society. In 2020, he was honored with and FNPS Mentor Award, and award given to people who have demonstrated a lifetime history of supporting FNPS and its programs.



2019

2015

2012

2010

## It is Plant Sale Time Again

April 15-16



We need a good volunteer crew to make this easy and fun! Opportunities on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Saturday morning will be busy!

The sale starts at 10:00am, 9:30am for garden members. It ends at 3:00 each day. \$5 admission is waived for volunteers.

### Make Your Plans Now.

Mike Ross Gold Head Branch State Park. Fall camping Thurs. night Oct. 19 departing on Sun. Oct. 22. Some cabin and tent sites are available (contact Tina) or reserve your own. It should be the height of fall wildflowers.



*Photos by Tina Patterson – Lithia Springs/Fishhawk ELAPP trail*

A logo for the Suncoast Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society. It features a detailed illustration of a plant specimen with long, narrow green leaves and small yellow flowers, set against a white background. Below the illustration, the text "SUNCOAST CHAPTER" is written in a serif font, followed by "Florida Native Plant Society" in a smaller, sans-serif font. At the bottom, there is a call to action: "Join FNPS to join our Suncoast Chapter, <https://fnps.org/join>". The entire logo is enclosed in a blue rectangular border.



## April Field Trip

We will be going to the Cypress Creek Preserve. Lizard's Tail entrance off on New Tampa Boulevard, on April 22. **Please contact Tina Patterson ([mablepatterson@hotmail.com](mailto:mablepatterson@hotmail.com) for the address** and to let her know that you will be attending. The trip will be led by Steve Dickman.

Your editor can't come on the field trip (will be kayaking instead), so she went to the site today (March 3). She liked it. It was dry, though if it rains, it won't be. The flatwoods have had a fairly recent burn, and spring flowers were blooming enthusiastically. You will enjoy it.

## Take-Homes from Recent Field Trips



*Photo by Becky Clayton (Upper Tampa Bay Park trip)*



*Photos by Janet Bowers – Lithia Springs/Fishhawk ELAPP trail*



*Photos by Amanda Seeley– Lithia Springs/Fishhawk ELAPP trail*



More



*Eight-spotted Forester*



*Coral Honeysuckle*



*Festive Tiger Beetle*



*Flat-tailed Leafcutter*



*Gulf Fritillary proleg pair*



*Redbud*

*Photos by John Lampkin – Lithia Springs/Fishhawk ELAPP trail*



*Photos by Virginia Overstreet – Lithia Springs/Fishhawk ELAPP trail*



## Thank You

We are so grateful to chapter member, Susan Early, for her generous donation of plants. They will be sold at our plant sale at USF or offered for auction at a future chapter meeting. The collection includes blackeyed Susan, ironweed, rosinweed, *Coreopsis* (both lanceleaf and Leavenworth's), blue-eyed-grass, false nettle, and goldenrod. Thank you, Susan!

----- Virginia



## Library Books

Books are being kept at our storage location and we will only be bringing requested volumes to meetings.

To check out books from the library:

Review the list of books available in the library and available at <https://suncoast.fnpschapters.org/data/uploads/pdfs/suncoast-library.pdf>.

Select a book from the link below and contact [mablepatterson@hotmail.com](mailto:mablepatterson@hotmail.com). You must be a current member on file in our data base. The book will be brought to the next in- person meeting or workday and you will need to sign the checkout form. Books must be returned at the next in- person meeting. The 2 reference-only volumes can be viewed at meetings by request.

## Seeking a Chapter Rep

Do you know what a Chapter Representative does? Do you like meeting people with similar interests? Would you like to help create educational materials relevant to our area?

Most meetings are virtual (Zoom), but there are occasional opportunities to travel and see new places.

If you are interested, contact Virginia Overstreet.

## Volunteer Opportunities

### Native Plant Garden Maintenance

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

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

**Lettuce Lake:** Workday every 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday. Tina (Mable) Patterson, email [mablepatterson@hotmail.com](mailto:mablepatterson@hotmail.com) or phone ( 305) 298-6381 , text or call and leave name and message.

**Morris Bridge:** Mike Fite, email [fitemf@gmail.com](mailto:fitemf@gmail.com).

**Flatwoods Park:** Mary Miller, email [limpkin1945@verizon.net](mailto:limpkin1945@verizon.net)

**Trout Creek:** Mike Fite, email [fitemf@gmail.com](mailto:fitemf@gmail.com).

# Earth Day Ideas

*Some ideas for celebrating Earth Day with native plants*

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Every year on April 22, Earth Day marks the anniversary of the birth of the modern environmental movement in 1970.

Senator Gaylord Nelson, the junior Democratic senator from Wisconsin, championed Earth Day as a teaching event and as a public support for improving environmental conditions in the U.S. One of the specific concerns in 1970 was a massive oil spill in California in 1969. Nelson enlisted a conservation-minded Republican to join him, Pete McCloskey. The idea included teach-ins and sit-ins on college campuses to attract the media. The events focused on college campuses. The specific day was chosen to hold the event on a spring weekday to encourage student participation.

That first Earth Day did just that, apparently inspiring 10% of the US population to demonstrate against continued pollution.

The popularity of the first Earth Day contributed to creation of the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the passage of other seminal environmental laws, including the National Environmental Education Act (NEEA), the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA), the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, the Endangered Species Act and the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act. We can credit these federal laws with tangible improvements in air quality (less smog), stream water quality (burning rivers are much rarer today), and we have at least some protections against environmental dangers and workplace hazards.

## Ideas for celebration

1. Take your favorite young people for a walk in one of our local nature preserves.
  2. Do you have a friend who can no longer drive? Invite them on a stroll or bench sit in an easy-to-access natural area such as Lettuce Lake Park.
  3. Participate in a cleanup. There are cleanups at Rowlett (<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rowlett-park-earth-day-clean-up-tickets-579581091647>) and Cypress Point (<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/earth-day-clean-up-at-cypress-point-park-tickets-536191191287>) Parks. Both on Saturday April 22 in the morning.
  4. There is a celebration, complete with vendors and music at the Plant City Community Gardens. April 15. <https://business.plantcity.org/events/details/earth-day-celebration-13906>
  5. The Tampa Bay Electric Vehicle Association is showing off vehicles and inviting your questions about them. See. <https://www.meetup.com/tampa-bay-electric-vehicle-association/events/292391357/>.
  6. Attend the Earth Day Celebration at the USF Botanical Gardens (Apr. 21) <https://www.usf.edu/arts-sciences/botanical-gardens/news-and-events/>.
  7. Attend the Earth Day Celebration at MOSI (<http://www.learninggate.org/ecofest>), <https://www.facebook.com/EcofestTampa/>. Saturday, Apr. 22.
  8. Plant a plant (or better yet, plant 20 plants).
- AND MORE

## The FNPS Conference is Coming Soon!

### Registration is Open!

Join us for Florida's premier event focusing on the preservation, conservation and restoration of our natural lands, ecosystems, and local communities.

This year, the conference is a hybrid between online and in-person. The program days are on-line, and the fieldtrips are scattered across multiple weekends in May, and you can register for any or all of them. Registration for the program days is required for participation in the field trips.



### Virtual Conference (Program Days)

April 28th to 30th

Join other FNPS members to experience expert speakers, panel discussions, games, silent auction and more!

### Field Days

As part of our Conference Program, FNPS is offering 3 Field Day weekends, hosted by Chapters in the Naples, Tallahassee, and Sanford areas of Florida. Each Field Day weekend is unique, with botanical field trips, socials, and workshops appropriate to their chapters in the state. Explore native plant communities, learn about native plants, socialize with fellow plant folks, and get to know the local area. Tickets are limited, so we encourage you to plan early to ensure you get a space. Choose to attend one, two, or all three weekends – it's up to you!

NAPLES FIELD DAYS MAY 6 - 7

TALLAHASSEE FIELD DAYS MAY 13 - 14

SANFORD FIELD DAYS MAY 19 - 21

- Reservations for the Virtual Conference are separate and are required to attend a Field Day weekend.
- Field Days must be purchased in advance.

Please note, transportation and accommodation are not included and are the responsibility of the attendees. Our Chapters will be happy to assist with recommendations if needed.

Get more information on the fnps website: <https://fnps.org/conference/2023>

Register at

<https://fnps.org/conference/register>



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

## Local Native Nurseries

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

### Hillsborough County

**Little Red Wagon**  
4113 Henderson Blvd  
Tampa, Florida 33629



Phone: 813-755-9579  
Website: <http://www.littleredwagonnativenursery.com>  
Email: [Info@ButterflyTampa.com](mailto:Info@ButterflyTampa.com)

**Springer Environmental**  
5926 US92, Plant city, FL 33566

Retail:  
M-F 9:00-4:00,  
Sat. by appt.



Phone: 813-659-0370  
Website: <http://springerenvironmental.com>  
Email: [troy@springerenvironmental.com](mailto:troy@springerenvironmental.com)

### Manatee County

**Sweet Bay Nursery**  
10824 Erie Rd, Parrish, Florida 34211



Phone: 941-776-0501  
Website: <http://sweetbaynursery.com/>  
Email: [sweetbaynursery@gmail.com](mailto:sweetbaynursery@gmail.com)

**Green Seasons**  
12340 FL-62  
Parrish, Florida 34219



Phone: 941-776-1605  
Website: <http://www.greenseasonsnursery.com>  
Email: [seaoater@gmail.com](mailto:seaoater@gmail.com)

### Pinellas County



**Wilcox Nursery & Landscape**  
12501 Indian Rocks Rd  
Largo, Florida 33774-3037

Phone: 727-595-2073  
Website: <http://www.wilcoxnursery.com>  
Email: [Wilcox12501@gmail.com](mailto:Wilcox12501@gmail.com)

**Twigs & Leaves**  
610 27th St S  
St Petersburg, Florida 33712



Phone: 727-822-5400  
Website: <http://www.twigsandleaves.com>  
Email: [twigsandleavessp@gmail.com](mailto:twigsandleavessp@gmail.com)

### Lake County

**Green Isle Gardens**  
11303 SR 33  
Groveland, FL 34736



Phone: 407-948-8980  
Website: <http://greenislegardens.com>  
Email: [gignatives@gmail.com](mailto:gignatives@gmail.com)

### Polk County

**The Nectary**  
1047 E Main St.  
Lakeland, FL 33801



Phone: 863-937-7879  
Website: <http://thenectarylkid.com>  
Email: [thenectarylkid@gmail.com](mailto:thenectarylkid@gmail.com)



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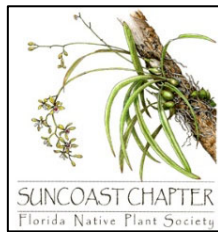
## Newsletter Submissions

### Deadline for May Newsletter: April 25

Send contributions to Shirley Denton at [ecotypes@outlook.com](mailto: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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## Program Managers

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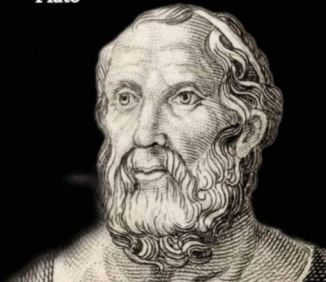
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**“The price good men pay for indifference to public affairs is to be ruled by evil men.”**

– Plato



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