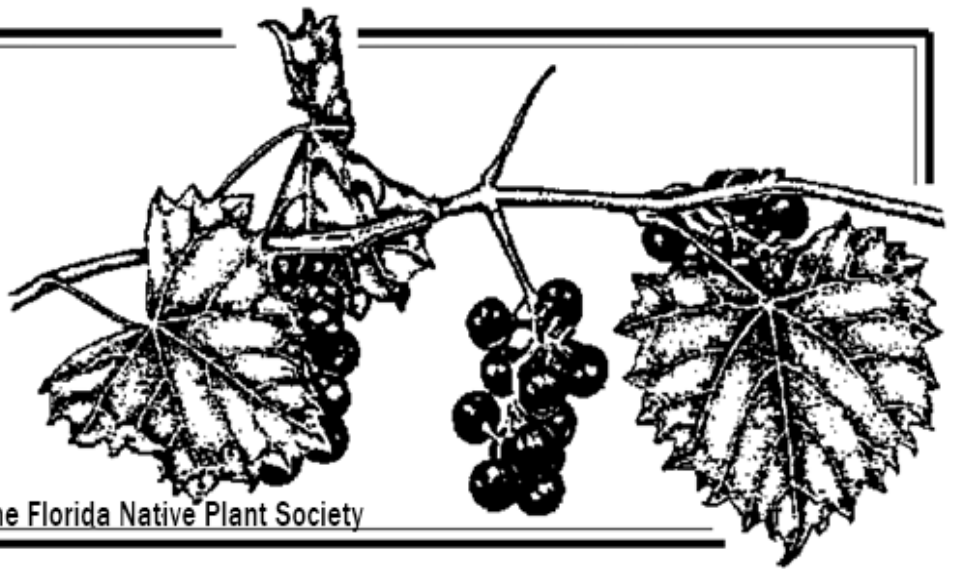


# The Suncoast Grapevine



Newsletter of the Suncoast Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society

June 2023

Volume 40, Number 6

## *To Weed or Not To Weed: That is the Question*

(With apologies to Wm. Shakespeare's Hamlet)

**June 21, 7:00 pm**

**Little Red Wagon Native Nursery**

**4113 Henderson Blvd., Tampa 33625**

**(Tampa Bay Butterfly Foundation event spaces to right of plant shop)**

**Speaker: Susan Earley**

*Rosinweed. Ironweed. Milkweed. Chickweed. Pokeweed.*

When so many plants include the term weed in their names, how do we know whether we should welcome that plant into our yards or if we should dump the plant in the yard trash can? To confuse us even more, lawn maintenance or pesticide companies insist they know the answer, and for a fee they will be pleased to take care of a problem we didn't even know we had.

Instead of relying on a profit-driven sales representative or anyone else to tell us the answer, this presentation will suggest 4 questions we can ask to help us make this decision ourselves based on what we value and then ask these questions about several common plants that we might find in our Florida yards.

Susan was born in Tampa and has lived there almost all her life. In fact she lives next door to the house she grew up in and her son lives in her childhood home. After graduating from USF, she taught high school English for 38 years, almost all at Pinellas Park High School. When she retired in 2011, she happily filled her time with travel and gardening instead of teaching literature and essay writing.

She joined the Florida Native Plant Society in 2016 and the newly formed Florida Native Gardening FB Group in 2019, eventually joining the group's admin team. She remains committed to native gardening and her goal of building a safe habitat for urban wildlife, her 2 pups and herself on Tampa's Interbay Peninsula.

There will be light refreshments and a plant auction at the meeting. If you have plants to exchange or a snack to share, please bring them along.

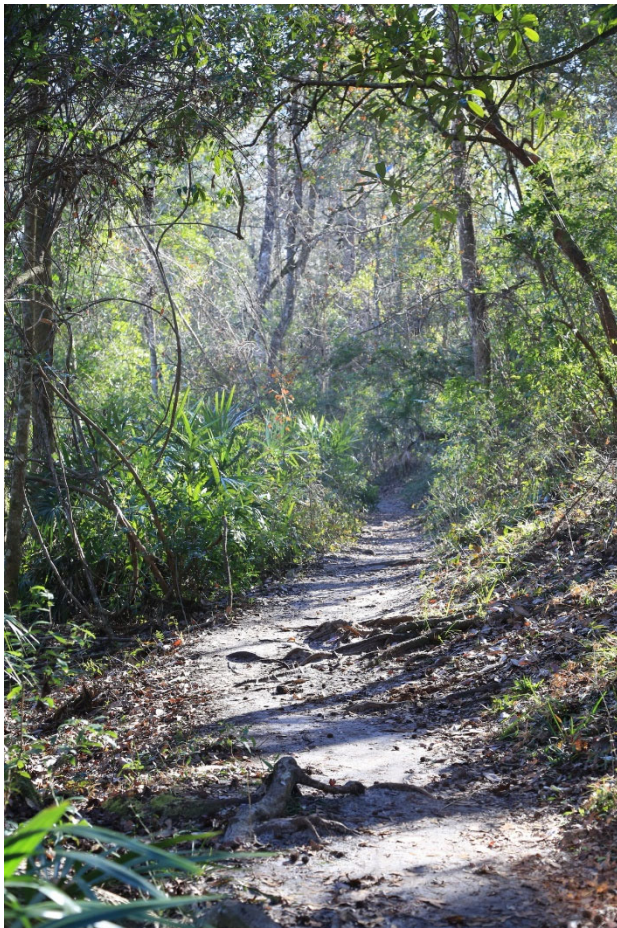
## June Field Trip

Saturday, June 24. 9:00 am.

Our June field trip will be to the Brooker Creek Preserve. It is mostly shady and includes a boardwalk through a wetland as well as mostly shady upland paths.

There is plenty of parking and restrooms at the preserve.

Contact Tina (305-298-6381 ([mablepatterson@hotmail.com](mailto:mablepatterson@hotmail.com))) if you need directions. We are well into the heat and humidity season, so be sure to have sun protection and plenty of water.



## 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.

*Gold Head Branch trail. Photo by Shirley Denton*

---

*Board Meeting*

*June 12, 7:00pm*

*All members are welcome. You can propose agenda items.*

*Contact Tina (305-298-6381 ([mablepatterson@hotmail.com](mailto:mablepatterson@hotmail.com))) for more information. This will be an online meeting.*

---



SUNCOAST CHAPTER  
Florida Native Plant Society

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

## Volunteer Opportunities

**Special garden workday** - Wednesday, June 28, 8 am - 11 am. We are receiving a large number of plants for the Lettuce Lake Native Garden and need lots of help planting. Contact Tina for information (phone ( 305) 298-6381 or email [mablepatterson@hotmail.com](mailto:mablepatterson@hotmail.com)).

**Chapter Representative** - 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.

**Site Visit Coordinator** - We offer site visit to new members who want help identifying plants in their landscapes. We also conduct site visits when an organization submits a request for a grant to plant a native garden. These site visits are interesting and educational for those of us who participate. We could use another set of eyes to lead this team. You don't need an advanced level of plant knowledge. This is a fun way to help the chapter.

**T Shirt Sales Coordinator** - It's been quite a few years since our chapter ordered T shirts. We are looking for someone to coordinate T shirt sales. We plan to use a company that allows members to order their own shirts in colors of their choice. We can provide a file with the chapter logo for the front of the shirts.

Contact Virginia, 8135413187, if you have any questions about these volunteer opportunities.

## 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.

## 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).



# Double Branch Bay Preserve hike with SNPS

Text and photos by Dan Duerr

I decided to set aside my dislike of warm-weather hiking and join the Suncoast Chapter on their monthly field trip to search out interesting and rare biological specimens. Today's adventure was at the Double Branch Bay Nature Preserve, a Hillsborough County ELAPP site south of West Hillsborough Avenue.

Ten plant lovers and two bird seed lovers met and received general route info from trip leader Steve Dickman with warnings about the dangerous crossing of busy Hillsborough Avenue, all 64 lanes, so it seemed. But we did it safely, and in fine style, with no bumps, bruises, feather ruffling, or bone crunching. A Hard Morning's Night it wasn't. Secure on the other side, we walked west along Hillsborough Avenue 3/10 of a stressful mile to the small parking area and preserve entrance.



I was excited to finally be visiting this property, with Tampa Bay lurking to the south. Next, we followed Steve, and followed Steve, and followed Steve, down treelined trails, through bushes and scrubs, along beautiful marshy shorelines... to the ends of the preserve, probably not the ends, but we could see them from there.

Lots of interesting sites to hang our eyes and ears on. Invasive plants not excluded.



During one break, Theresa unzipped pack compartments, and served water to her two complacent, tag-along friends. I heard one squawk a

“sincere” thank you. Must admit, their squawks sounded a bit more intelligent than some of my recent utterings.

I found eyeglasses along the trail and hung them on a fence for future passersby interaction. Not wine glasses, but I could sense the whine from the owner over the lost glasses.



## Double Branch Bay Preserve (Continued)



Meanwhile, back on the excursion, Steve pointed out another rare find: A golden leather fern.



Neither confusing trail blazes nor leash-less snarling dogs could deter our return.

All good adventures must end, and ours ended where it started, with an even more dangerous trek across Hillsborough Avenue that had been widened to 66 lanes while we sight sawed across the saw palmettos.

### Preview - July Joint Meeting

Tampa Audubon, Sierra Club Tampa Bay Group, Suncoast Chapter of FNPS  
July 12, 2023, 6 pm – 8:30 pm

**Tampa Garden Club**  
**2629 Bayshore Blvd, Tampa 33629**

Potluck dinner and program hosted by Suncoast Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society. *Bring a dish to share* and meet with members of all 3 organizations for good food and an inspiring presentation. Suncoast will provide drinks, plates and eating utensils.

Our speaker is William Freund, president and founder of fStop Foundation, a nonprofit using videos and photography to create conservation awareness. Mr. Freund will present on the importance of wildlife crossings and corridors. Using wildlife cameras, fStop has captured stunning footage documenting panther movement. The footage supports the design and placement of crossings on major roadways, which would otherwise be significant barriers.

## Extension Services Uses Suncoast Grant to Enhance Garden and Front Entrance

By Text and Photos by Tia Silvasy

The UF/IFAS Extension Service received a \$500 grant to buy plants for the garden and front entrance and to give native milkweeds to participants in the native gardening workshop.

The UF/IFAS Extension Discovery Garden serves as a living classroom and is open to the public during office hours. This spring, the front entrance and butterfly garden at UF/IFAS Extension Hillsborough County got a makeover. Native milkweeds including Swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*) and white milkweed (*Asclepias perennis*) were added to the butterfly garden in the back of the building along with yellowtop (*Flaveria linearis*), stokes aster (*Stokesia laevis*), and twinflower (*Dyschoriste oblongifolia*). The front entrance got enhanced by some yellow and purple flowering natives including lanceleaf coreopsis (*Coreopsis lanceolata*), narrowleaf silkgrass (*Pityopsis graminifolia*), beach verbena (*Glandularia maritima*), pineland lantana (*Lantana depressa* var. *depressa*), scrub mint (*Conradina canascens*) and Georgia calamint (*Calamintha georgiana*). These new plantings will help to educate the public about the use of natives in landscaping and native milkweeds in butterfly gardens. The gardens are maintained by the Master Gardener Volunteers.



## FNPS Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the FNPS Membership will be held on June 17, 2023 from 10-11:30am EST. It will be on YouTube just like the Lunch and Learns. A link is below, was emailed to all members on May 27, is on the members-only Facebook group, and is on the calendar.

This is the opportunity for all members to catch up on the major events of 2022, learn who the very deserving Palmetto award winners are, who is getting a Conservation or Research grant, and to vote on incoming Board Members!

Please take the time to review the agenda and the minutes from last year's meeting.

We will be voting on new Board members; each "membership" gets one vote. So, if you have a business or non-profit membership or a multi-member membership, select who will make your vote ahead of time.

You will find everything you need on the FNPS news page: <https://www.fnps.org/news/news>. You will see links to the minutes, bios of people running for office, and a Zoom link.

Our own Susan Earley is one of those running for office.

## Volunteer Opportunity

One of the instructors at Nature's Classroom is running a camp called Young Naturalist and it is 2nd-4<sup>th</sup> graders. It is June 5-29<sup>th</sup> Monday to Thursday. Each week the camp gets a new set of campers. The instructor invites you to meet with her campers and share your love of nature with them. She would love your ideas and ideas, She is very flexible, I am open to any ideas/activities you may have!

If you are interested in helping with this, please contact Virginia Overstreet at 813-541-3187.



## 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).



*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)



## Officers and Board of Directors

President –Virginia Overstreet  
[vaoverstreet@gmail.com](mailto:vaoverstreet@gmail.com)

Vice President – Shirley Denton  
[ecotypes@outlook.com](mailto:ecotypes@outlook.com)

Secretary - Tina (Mable) Patterson  
[mablepatterson@hotmail.com](mailto:mablepatterson@hotmail.com)

Treasurer - Niki Cribbs  
[cribbs813@gmail.com](mailto:cribbs813@gmail.com)

Anita Camacho – Director  
[anita.camacho@suncoastchapter.org](mailto:anita.camacho@suncoastchapter.org)

Mike Fite - Director  
[fitemf@gmail.com](mailto:fitemf@gmail.com)

Linda Steele-Green -Director  
[mfg452004@vahoo.com](mailto:mfg452004@vahoo.com)

Susan Heyer - Director  
[susanheyerp@gmail.com](mailto:susanheyerp@gmail.com)

## Newsletter Submissions

### Deadline for June Newsletter: June 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.



All content copyrighted by the Suncoast Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society, 2023

## Program Managers

### Fieldtrips

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

Tina Patterson  
[mablepatterson@hotmail.com](mailto:mablepatterson@hotmail.com)  
305-298-6381

### Newsletter

Shirley Denton - editor  
[ecotypes@outlook.com](mailto:ecotypes@outlook.com)  
813-625-5031

Mike Fite – chief assistant  
[fitemf@gmail.com](mailto:fitemf@gmail.com)

### Social Media

Kathryn “Kat” Jones  
[k4fryn@gmail.com](mailto:k4fryn@gmail.com)

