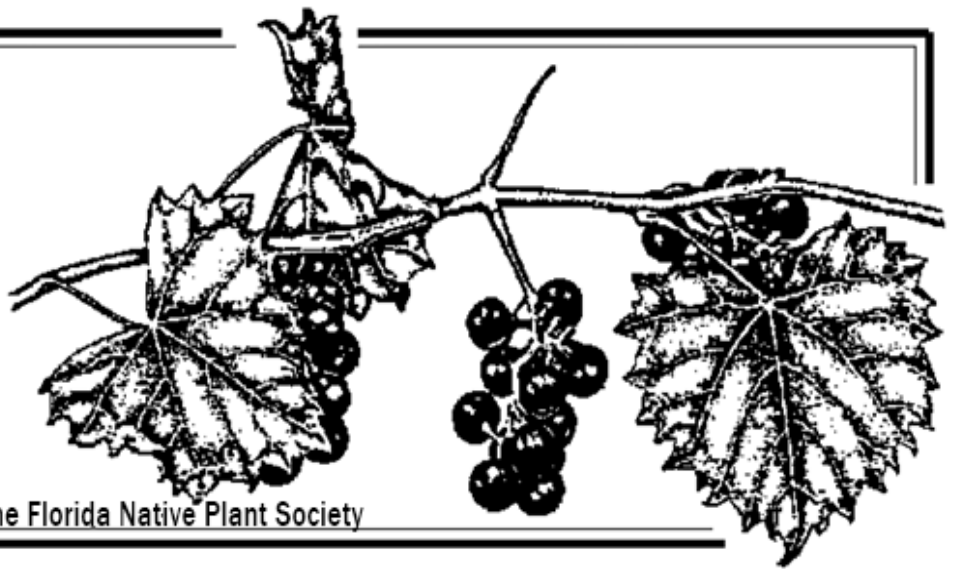


The Suncoast Grapevine

Newsletter of the Suncoast Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society



October 2023

Volume 40, Number 9

Community Native Planting Projects

October 18, 7:00 pm

Hillsborough County UF/IFAS Extension Office

5339 CR 579, Seffner 33584 (in the back)

Speaker: Tia Silvasy

Residential Horticulture, Master Gardener Volunteer Coordinator

UF/IFAS Extension Hillsborough County

The Hillsborough County Extension has led and participated in a variety of native plant restoration and enhancement projects since welcoming their new residential horticulture agent and Master Gardener Coordinator, Tia Silvasy. Come hear Tia's talk and learn about the community outreach native planting projects around Hillsborough County.

Tia Silvasy got her agricultural roots from growing up on her grandparents' farm in Pennsylvania. She's been working in the horticulture field for over 30 years. Tia received her undergraduate degree from University of Central Florida and her master's degree from University of Hawaii. Tia manages the Master Gardener Volunteer program and teaches horticulture classes with UF/IFAS Hillsborough County Extension.





Still looking for a plant sale coordinator to assist with ordering plants, scheduling pick up, and setting up our booth

We will be needing helpers on October 13-15. The 13th is setup.

Plant Sale Date and Time: October 14 & 15, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Contact Tina to volunteer.

Volunteer Opportunities

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.

Membership Coordinator – Welcome new members and remind members to renew.

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

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?



T Shirt Sales Coordinator. Thank you to Theresa Blanchard for volunteering to be our T-shirt coordinator. She will coordinate T shirt sales.



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

Native Plant Month

FNPS has events planned across the state for Native Plant Month. You can see these events at <https://teamup.com/ksxnn2jpp43qq7saxz> throughout October.

Expect to see people from other chapters at our events. Review the events from our neighboring chapters – Manatee, Pinellas, Nature Coast, and Heartland. Members are always welcome to attend any FNPS event, but in Native Plant Month, expect more events including field trips, plant sales, and good speakers.

There is a special t-shirt for sale for the month of October. To get it, visit <https://www.fnps.org/support/donate>. It comes in multiple styles and colors.



Board Meeting

Oct. 9, 7:00pm

All members are welcome. You can propose agenda items.

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

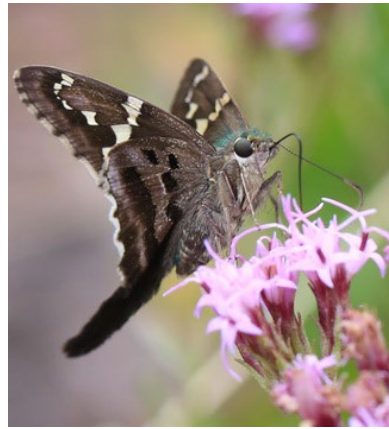
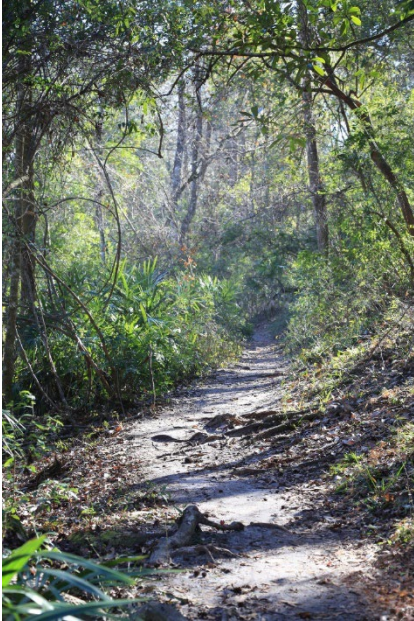


October Camping Trip – Mike Roess Gold Head Branch State Park

Thursday – Sunday, Oct. 19-22, Gold Head Branch.

Mike Roess 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.

We plan to walk the ravine and sandhills in the park on Friday and Sunday and join the Ixia Chapter at



Photos from our 2014 trip to Gold Head Branch . Photos by Shirley

THERE IS STILL TIME TO JOIN US!

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. 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.



Trestle Hike - Monday, February 6, 2023 - Remembrances

By Dan Duerr

Just because 75 registered hunters and who knows how many of their invited guests were scheduled to be banging away in the Upper Hillsborough Preserve on Saturday, this was certainly not an adequate reason to postpone our hike until Monday. But we did anyway.

Fast forward to this morning, 10:00 am and the trailhead on Chancey Rd., Zephyrhills.

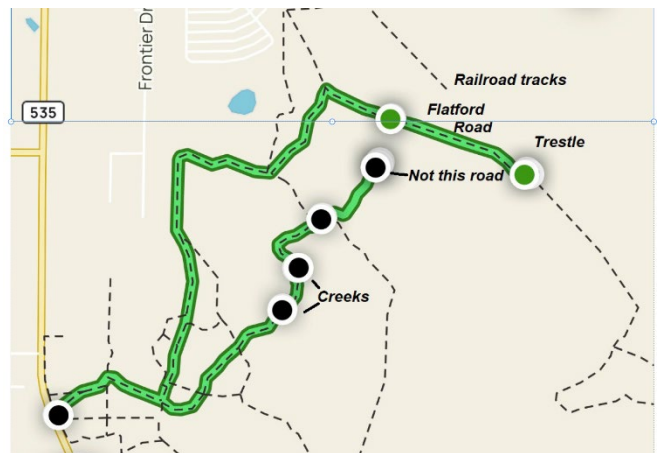
- Temperature: Borderline cool enough for me.
- Participants: Me, Janet Hills, Lynn Barr, Ben McPherson, Mike Fite. A fabulous adventurous fivesome.
- Destination: The railroad trestle spanning the scenic Hillsborough River.

The temperature was barely cool enough for yours truly as I always forget how open the Florida Trail is with the widely-spaced pine trees. Off we trekked.

Two small south-flowing creeks raised my curiosity about where they go. The easternmost creek had moving water this time, and someday I will follow it, hopefully to the river. Any takers? Janet marked them on the map on her phone.

Maps usually land at the end, but I'm including Janet's helpful map (right).

Along the way, we paused to talk to two hikers long enough for one to take our group photo.



Lynn, Dan, Janet, Ben, Mike.

The always attention-demanding question of which road really is Flat Ford reared its perplexing presence. A big Yippee to Janet's *All Trails* phone app that pointed the way and away we went.



Flat Ford Road was wet near the river, but we were able to navigate the puddles with dry shoes. The first sight of the railroad tracks sent a subtle thrill clear down to those same shoes. We reached the trestle at 12:20, about two hours of slow walking with only stops to cross the two creeks, view airplane jumpers, shade resting, picture taking, and location pondering.



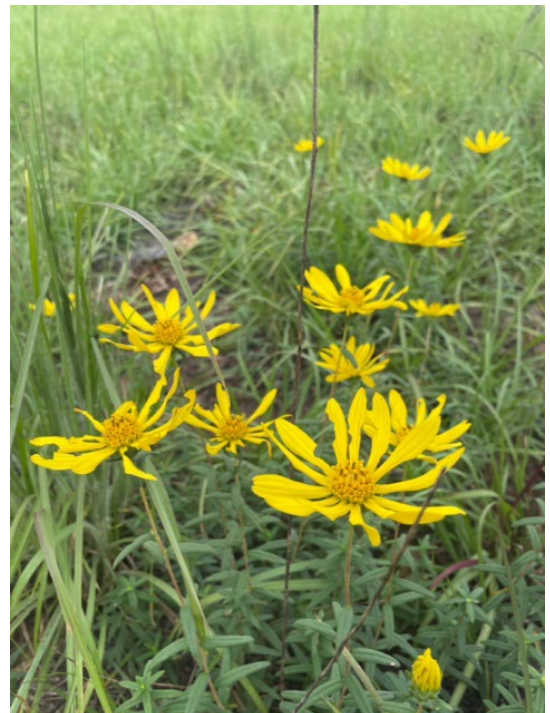
We settled on the rails a little north of the trestle, in the shade, with one eye open for trains and one eye checking out the strange object way to the north on the west side of the tracks. I snatched a loose rail spike for my hiking artifact collection. Lots of colorful red maples and their whirly bird seeds enhanced a pleasant eastern view. One wonderful hour at the trestle charged me enough for the return walk.

We retraced our steps along Flat Ford Road dodging the puddles as we went. When we reached the Florida Trail junction, we continued on Flat Ford Road and then made our way on the field roads west and south to the private property on the preserve western boundary.

Can't wait to return and sure hope this site can continue as a year-round destination.

September Field Trip - Update

Our September excursion was to Bell Creek Preserve. Merrilee found us the promised pine lilies. *Photos by Virginia and Tina.*



Dotted Horsemint (*Monarda punctata*)

Content and images by Shirley Denton

Family: Lamiaceae

Life Span: Short-lived perennial

Form: Clump-forming herb up to about 3 ft. tall.

Flower Color: White with dark pink spots subtended by showy pink bracts.

Phenology: Blooms spring to early fall.

Noted for: Showy flowers that attract hummingbirds, butterflies and moths, and bees..

Recommended Uses: Sunny wildflower garden.

Considerations: Easy to establish but not easy to get rid of if you change your mind.

Propagation: Divide clumps or grow from seed..

Light: Full sun to part shade.

Moisture Tolerance: Grows well in dry soils.

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

Salt Spray/ Salty Soil Tolerance: Not noted for high salt spray tolerance.

Soil: Prefers sandy soils..

References:

Florida Native Plant Society. 2023.

<https://www.fnps.org/plant/monarda-punctata>.

Haehle, Robert G. and Joan Brookwell. 1999. Native Florida Plants. Gulf Publishing Company. Houston, TX.

Hammer, Roger. 2015. Attracting hummingbirds and butterflies in tropical Florida. University Presses of Florida.

Osorio, Rufino. 2001. A gardener's guide to Florida's native Plants. University Press of Florida, Gainesville, FL.

Tras, Pamela. 2001. Gardening for Florida's butterflies. Great Outdoors Publishing, St. Petersburg, FL.

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/>).



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

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

Manatee County

Sweet Bay Nursery
10824 Erie Rd, Parrish, Florida 34211



Phone: 941-776-0501
Website: <http://sweetbaynursery.com/>
Email: sweetbaynursery@gmail.com

Green Seasons
12340 FL-62
Parrish, Florida 34219



Phone: 941-776-1605
Website: <http://www.greenseasonsnursery.com>
Email: 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

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



Phone: 727-822-5400
Website: <http://www.twigsandleaves.com>
Email: 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

Polk County

The Nectary
1047 E Main St.
Lakeland, FL 33801



Phone: 863-937-7879
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Email: thenectarylakid@gmail.com

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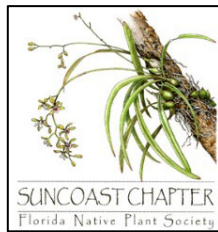
Newsletter Submissions

Deadline for November Newsletter: **October 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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