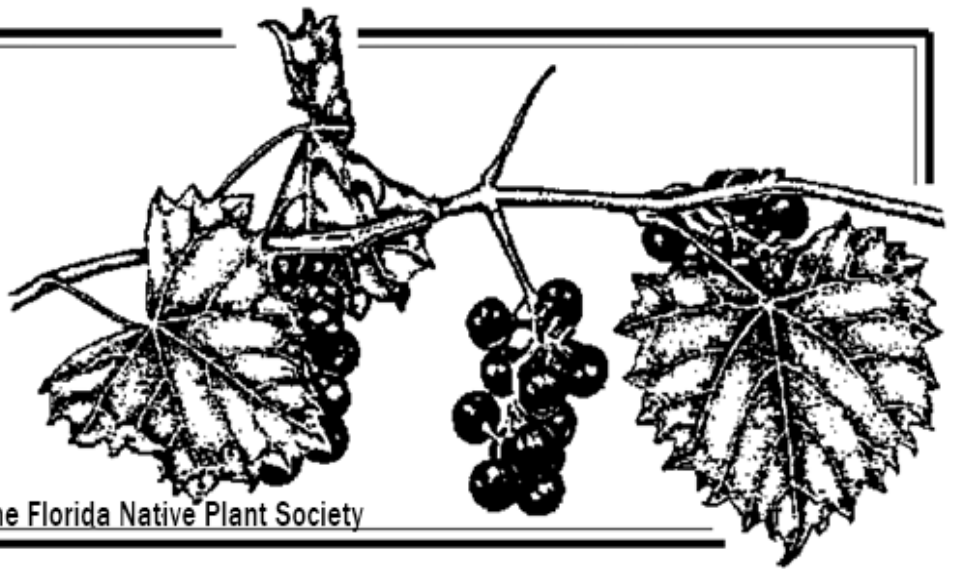


The Suncoast Grapevine

Newsletter of the Suncoast Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society



January 2024

Volume 41, Number 1

All About Us

January 17, 7:00 pm

ZOOM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4697814198?pwd=aXZ2MVVzNFo5RE1YeVRWYXFuUE9Qdz09>

Our next speaker wants to be in-person and we are trying to negotiate the perilous world of potential venues – we hope that the February meeting will be at a library.

But we have plenty to do and share.

1. We need to officially elect our Board for this coming year.
2. We will give you a preview of what is happening both in our chapter and in FNPS.
3. We always enjoy sharing and doing our own thing, so you have a role to play in this meeting.
 - a. Share up to 10 of your nature or garden-related photos – send your photos to vaoverstreet@gmail.com.
 - b. Ask questions about Florida nature or gardening.
 - c. Ask questions about FNPS.



Elections

We were unable to hold our November election meeting in 2023, but the following people have volunteered to serve again in 2024 and await member approval at our next chapter meeting.

Most of our 2023 Board has agreed to continue on for another year. However, these people have almost all been on the Board for years.

Anita Camacho has decided not to return to the Board this year. Thank you for all that you do to promote native plants, Anita.

It is not too late to join us – the Board is open to all members.

Candidates

Virginia Overstreet- has served as Vice President, then President, since 2017. Virginia is retired Navy, a master gardener, and a committed traveler and kayaker. She has represented Suncoast on the Council of Chapters and has organized meetings, coordinated Plant Sales, managed our Facebook page, and does Site Visits. She would love some more help with these jobs! She lives in Seminole Heights.

Shirley Denton- is currently Vice President, newsletter editor, and a field trip leader but has been in leadership in both Suncoast and FNPS for about as long as these organizations have existed. A PhD in Plant Ecology and retired from a career in environmental consulting, Shirley travels, canoes and kayaks, is an expert plant photographer, is Outings Chair for the Tampa Bay Sierra Club and Director for FNPS. Shirley lives in Thonotosassa but also spends time in New York State.

Niki (Nicole) Marino (formerly Cribbs)- stepped into the Treasurer role for Suncoast in 2018 and has managed club finances and paperwork impeccably. Niki is Chief Environmental Scientist and a project manager for environmental contracts, working in gopher tortoise relocation. Niki has 2 sons, one at FSU, lives in Plant City and just got married in November. Congrats!

Tina (Mable C) Patterson- became a board member and secretary for Suncoast in 2017. She handles updates to the website and MeetUp and communicates with members on field trips, volunteer activities and programs. Tina is a retired math teacher who has volunteered at Lettuce Lake since 2016, where she leads Native Plant Walks and works in the garden. She lives in Riverview.

Mike Fite- became a board member in 2019 but has been a leading participant in Suncoast doings for many years. He manages the native plant gardens at Trout Creek and Morris Bridge and is active in Audubon and Sierra. He lives in northern Hillsborough.

Linda Steele-Green – joined the board in 2023 but was active at meetings for several years before that. Linda is a retired pediatrician who lives in Plant City. She shares her passion for native plants through outreach events like speaking to church groups, garden clubs and classes. You may have seen her managing the information table at Plant Sales or heard her speak at meetings.

Susan Heyer- also joined the board in 2023 and has been in Suncoast since 2021. She is a retired teacher who has actively promoted native plants through community groups and Facebook groups for her Sun City Center neighborhood. Her garden club used a Suncoast grant to plant natives in a common area at King's Point, learning valuable lessons about HOA's in the process. She has volunteered on site visits, a school tour and at Plant Sales and she would like to do more outreach activities to civic organizations and schools.

Field Trip -- Bullfrog Creek

January 20, 9 am

Call Tina Patterson to sign up and get directions to the site.

Bullfrog Creek Wildlife and Environmental Area is a Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission preserve south of Big Bend Rd and west of US 301. The area was established in 1998 for protection and management of wildlife – among the species we may see are gopher tortoises, bobcats, and white-tailed deer, and a variety of birds. Expect to see well managed flatwoods and wetlands. This is NOT the ELAPP preserve with a similar name. A trail guide is available at <https://myfwc.com/media/32521/bullfrog-trail-guide.pdf>.



Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission image

New! Native Plant Swaps Made Easy

We invite you to join our Plant Swap Google Group: SuncoastPlantSwap@GoogleGroups.com. Go to the site and request to join. The email that it will send you might land in your junk or spam folder, so be prepared to tell your email that you want to receive emails from this group.

FNPS.org is Your Friend and a Great Source for Native Plant Information

Did you know that you can get information on plants suitable for landscape uses in our area. Go to <https://fnps.org/plants> and when asked, give it your zip code. You can also tell it to give you plants specifically for your soil and moisture conditions, sun/shade, and soil, or ask for butterfly plants or wildlife plants.

Board Meeting

Jan. 8, 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.

Volunteer Opportunities

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

Field Trips – Do you enjoy exploring and leading trips? This is for you.

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?

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



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

Invite Your Family and Friends to Come on a Native Plant Walk!



First Saturday of the Month, 9-11am

monthly except No walks in July, August or December

Meet behind the Joel E. Jackson Nature Center in the Native Plant Garden for a walk on the paved trail and boardwalk with a representative of the Suncoast Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society. Learn what grows naturally in the hardwood swamp and how native plants benefit wildlife. **Walks are free but there is a \$2 charge to enter the park. Dogs are not allowed on the boardwalk.**

Lettuce Lake Conservation Park, 6920 E Fletcher Ave, Tampa 33637

Suncoast.fnpschapters.org

Lettuce Lake Native Garden

2023 was a big year for the garden at Lettuce Lake.

Tia Silvasy wrote a grant to the Florida Wildflower Foundation VIVA program which brought us a truckload of new flowering plants in June. Suncoast and Master Gardener volunteers and the park staff were able to place and plant them in record time. Thanks to everyone.

Volunteer workdays have been well-attended all year and have helped keep the garden in shape. The new goldenrod and returning muhly grass and bluecurls were spectacular in October!

In November, Tampa Audubon installed a water feature in the garden to provide moving water for the birds to enjoy. On our December workday, we installed plants in and around the water feature to soften the rocky edges and provide shelter and food for wildlife. Some of the new plants were *Bacopa monnieri*, *Rhynchospora colorata*, *Tiedemannia filiformis* and *Clinopodium brownei*. Plantings will continue as we learn more about our new microhabitat!

Join us any 4th Tuesday the park is open, 8 am – 10 am. Jobs include planting, weeding, watering, cleaning signs, raking, mulching and trimming. Bring your own water, gloves, and personal tools. If you have questions, contact Tina at mablepatterson@hotmail.com.

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.



Holiday Party

We had a nice turnout for our 2023 holiday party which we held in one of the shelters at Lettuce Lake. We had a great day for it. More than enough treats. And we were very pleased to have several members who ordinarily cannot attend our events: Carmel VanHoek, Jane Halil, and John and Mary Miller. We were also pleased to have two new members join us: Denise Bruner and Diane Koon.



Photos by Tina Patterson



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Black Creek Ravines

Oct. 20, 2023, Part of our Mike Roess Gold Head Branch Camping Trip

We joined the Ixia Chapter to explore part of the Black Creek Ravines site in Clay County. We met the Ixia group at the site and then walked in for several miles before returning to the site and going on to enjoy lunch at a local restaurant.



Photos by Virginia Overstreet.

Well, the boot is a photo of what Zoe Trautman found when she got home – sand spurs all over her boot. I hope that those did not get tossed outside! That lovely mess was shared by Zoe.

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: seoater@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
Website: <http://thenectarylkid.com>
Email: thenectarylkid@gmail.com

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President –Virginia Overstreet
vaoverstreet@gmail.com

Vice President – Shirley Denton
ecotypes@outlook.com

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

Treasurer - Niki Cribbs Marino
cribbs813@gmail.com

Mike Fite - Director
fitemf@gmail.com

Linda Steele-Green -Director
mfg452004@yahoo.com

Susan Heyer - Director
susanheverkp@gmail.com

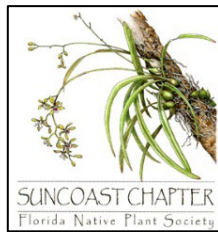
Newsletter Submissions

Deadline for February Newsletter: Jan. 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 chapter and local environmental events.



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Fieldtrips
open

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