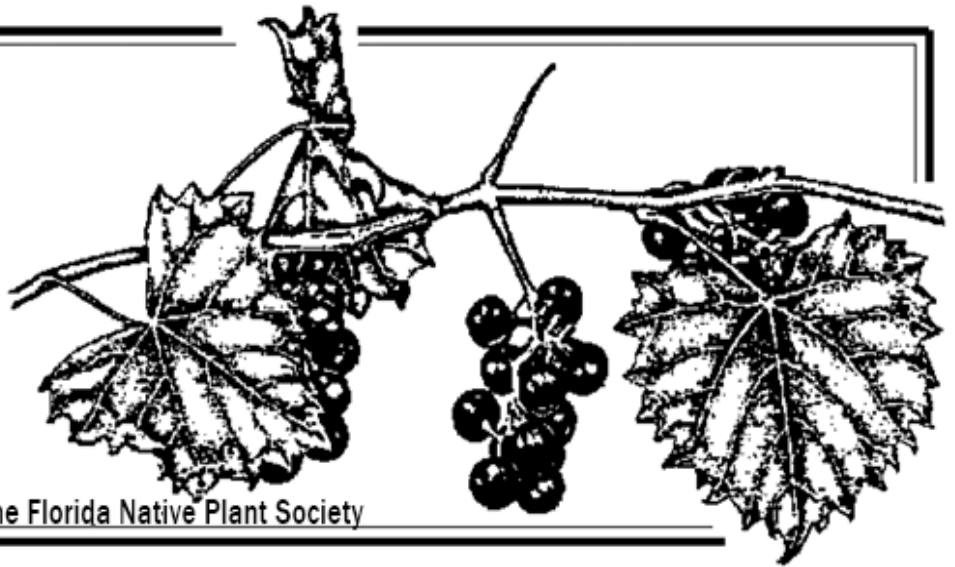


The Suncoast Grapevine

Newsletter of the Suncoast Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society



February 2024

Volume 41, Number 2

Members Only

Special Bromeliad Event

Host: William "Cliff" Brown

Saturday, February 10, 9 am - 11 am. Call Tina for the address.

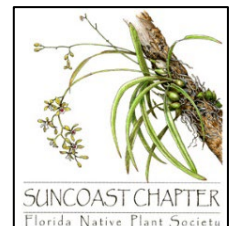
Cliff is inviting members of the Suncoast Chapter to see Florida native *Tillandsias* side by side to compare them and how to identify them. This will be like a mini meeting with questions and explanations. He has the following natives: *T. faciculata* var. *densipica*, *T. simulata*, *T. Baileyi*, *T. Baileyi* v. Halley's Comet, *T. x floridana*, *T. bartramii*. All of these are rather limited except for *T. x floridana* and *T. baileyi*.

Tillandsias and other plants will be on sale. For any native *Tillandsias* that are purchased, the chapter will receive 25 percent of the purchase price. *Tillandsia baileyi* will be included since it is an U.S. *Tillandsia*. It is the only *Tillandsia* native to the US that is NOT found in Florida but rather extreme southern Texas. Most of the plants in the back yard will be for sale, and natives will be marked. Most *Tillandsias* are already mounted. Some wood is available. This is a good time of year because most natives are in spike.

Cliff has been growing *Tillandsias* for 35 yrs and yes, they multiply. Some rapidly some not. Every 3-4 yrs Cliff divides them and starts them over. Cliff will have his *Tillandsia* books on display to show to members.

He is retired from the Hillsborough County Parks Department where he worked at Eureka Springs Park for 25 yrs. Cliff has been and FNPS member off and on for over 20 years. He volunteers at the USF Botanical Gardens for the Spring and Fall sales and supplies plants for the gardens. He is also an avid fern and aloe grower.

This event is for members only. Parking is limited and carpooling is encouraged.



Elections

At the January meeting, we voted in our board members for this year. They are the same people as last year. The board members then pick the officers and committee chairs who are as follows:

Officers

Virginia Overstreet: President

Shirley Denton: Vice President

Niki (Nicole) Marino (formerly Cribbs): Treasurer

Tina (Mable C) Patterson: Secretary

We need you!

1. Membership coordinator
2. Chapter representative

Please step up.

Please let Virginia know if you would like one of these positions

Committee Chairs

Shirley Denton: Newsletter editor

Mike Fite: Newsletter chief assistant

Kathryn “Kat” Jones: Social media

Merrilee Wallbrunn: Site visit coordinator

Field trips: Tina Patterson and Merrilee Wallbrunn

Board Meeting

Feb. 12, 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.

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.



We have T-shirts for Sale

They come in different colors and styles. Men's and Women's. Long sleeves, short sleeves. Multiple colors. Buy yours soon.

<https://www.bonfire.com/suncoastfnps/>

FNPS Grant Application Deadline

Coming Up

If you or someone you know would benefit from an FNPS Grant, please let them know.

The Florida Native Plant Society maintains an **Endowment Research Grant** program for the purpose of funding research on native plants. These are small grants (\$2500 or less), awarded for a 1-year period, and intended to support research that forwards the mission of the Florida Native Plant Society which is "to promote the preservation, conservation, and restoration of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida."



FNPS Conservation Grants support applied native plant conservation projects in Florida. These grants (\$5000 or less) are awarded for a 1-year period. These projects promote the preservation, conservation, or restoration of rare or imperiled native plant taxa and rare or imperiled native plant communities. To qualify for a Conservation Grant, the proposed project must be sponsored by an FNPS Chapter.

The **Dan Austin Award for Ethnobotany** will provide up to \$1500 to graduate or undergraduate students who are studying Florida ethnobotany – i.e., the study of the relationship between peoples or cultures with plants native to Florida or Florida ecosystems. These can be current uses or historic uses.

The Florida Native Plant Society has established a **Cornelia McNamara Grant** program for the purpose of funding applied research on native plants and habitats, particularly those that are rare or imperiled. These are small grants (\$1500 or less), awarded for a 1-year period, and intended to support research that will yield data to inform the management for or restoration of native species and habitats.

Application guidelines and details are on the FNPS Web site (<https://www.fnps.org/what-we-do/awards>). Questions regarding the grant programs should be sent to info@fnps.org.

Application deadline for the 2024 Awards is March 1, 2024. Awards will be announced in May 2024.

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.



Field Trip in Review -- Bullfrog Creek

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.



Photo by Ron Theumler



Photo by Merrilee Wallbrunn

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.

Calendar

- Saturday, February 3, 9 - 11 am:** Native Plant walk at Lettuce Lake
- Saturday, February 10, 9 - 11 am:** Chapter meeting, tour and plant swap
- Monday, February 12, 7 pm on Zoom:** Board of Directors, ask for a link
- Saturday, February 17, 9 am - 12+pm:** Field Trip to Blackwater Creek
- Tuesday, February 27, 8 - 10 am:** Garden Workday at Lettuce Lake

Tillandsias on Display in Fakahatchee Strand

I was just at an in-person meeting of the Florida Native Plant Society down in the Naples area. After the meeting, two of us met and went into Fakahatchee. I have to say that the day was chilly and dark, and I decided to stay dry. We walked a mile or so down a tram road at a typical FNPS pace where most of our time was spent searching the swamp for things of interest. Our President Mark Katelli was leery, but after the day warmed a bit and the clouds backed off, he decided to try wading. On the way out, we got a special Fakahatchee cool weather treat – walking right beside, well you guessed it, alligators that had come up on the tram road and were now sunning themselves. Luckily, they were still chilly and allowed us to pass.

The pictures on this page are bromeliads that we were seeing that were showy.

Shirley Denton



Top left: Tillandsia setacea

Bottom left: Tillandsia variabilis

Top right: Tillandsia balbesiana

Bottom right: Tillandsia pruinose

All photos by Shirley Denton

Rainlily (*Zephyranthes atamasca* var. *treatiae*)

Profile by Carmel vanHoek, with Updates by Shirley Denton

Family: Amaryllidaceae

Distribution: Predominantly west-central peninsular Florida, northeast Florida extending north into southern Georgia.

Zones: (8 and 9 in Florida)

Plant Habit: Perennial herb growing from a bulb.

Natural Habitat: Moist flatwoods, floodplain forests and roadsides

Size: Flowering stalk app. 6-10 inches

Leaves: Grass-like, about the length of the flowering stalk.

Bloom: Six-parted, white, sometime tinged with pink, solitary and terminal on each stalk.

Flowering time: Spring to early summer or after rains.

Fruit: Three-lobed capsule

Soil: Sandy to loamy

Water: Moist to moderately dry but not highly drought tolerant

Light: Full sun to moderate shade

Propagation: Seed and division of clumps (bulbs)

Availability: Some Florida native nurseries and native plant sales

Landscape uses: Edges of flower beds, planted in masses as a ground-cover, scattered in informal lawns and in woodland settings

Status: Listed as Threatened in Florida

KEY REFERENCES

Florida Native Plant Society. 2024. <https://fnps.org/plants/plant/zephyranthes-atamasca>.

Florida Association of Native Nurseries. 2019. <https://www.plantrealflorida.org/plants/detail/zephyranthes-atamasca-var-treatiae>.

Haehle, Robert G., and Joan Brookwell, 1999, Native Florida Plants: Gulf Publishing Company, Houston, Texas, 360 p.

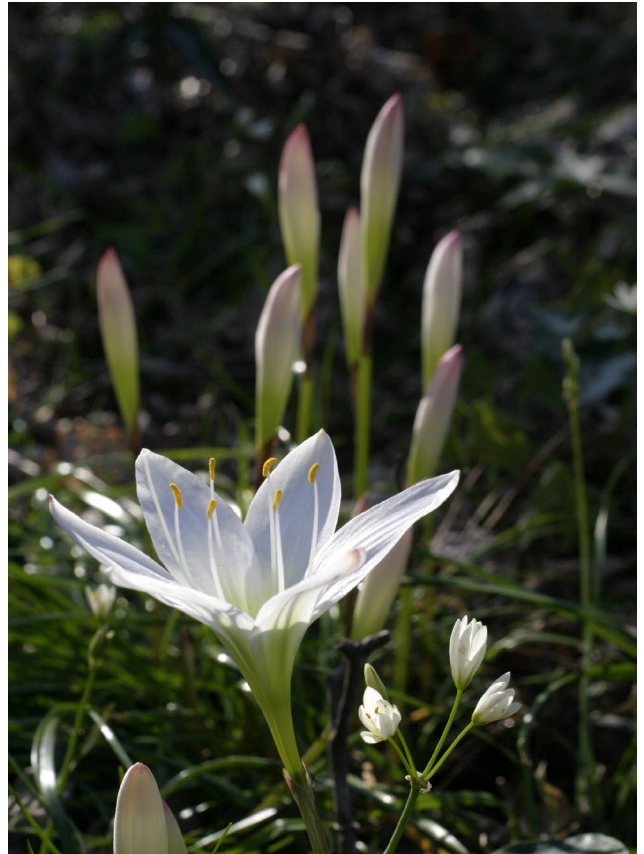
Huegel, Craig. 2012. Native Wildflowers and other Ground Covers for Florida Landscapes. University Press of Florida.

Nelson, Gil. 2003. Florida's Best Native Landscape Plants. Florida Association of Native Nurseries.

Osorio, Rufino, 2001, A Gardner's Guide to Florida Native Plants: University Press of Florida, Gainesville, FL.

Sweet Bay Nursery. Parrish, FL. <https://sweetbaynursery.com/>

Zephyranthes atamasca var. *treatiae*



Support Our Native Plant Nurseries

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

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Email: sweetbaynursery@gmail.com

Green Seasons
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Parrish, Florida 34219



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

Pinellas County



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12501 Indian Rocks Rd
Largo, Florida 33774-3037

Phone: 727-595-2073
Website: <http://www.wilcoxnursery.com>
Email: Wilcox12501@gmail.com

Twigs & Leaves
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St Petersburg, Florida 33712



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Email: twigsandleavessp@gmail.com

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Email: gignatives@gmail.com

Polk County

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Mike Fite - Director
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Linda Steele-Green -Director
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Susan Heyer - Director
susanheverkp@gmail.com

Newsletter Submissions

Deadline for February Newsletter: Feb. 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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When we use plants as fashion statements, or as sculptures to collect and place on a pedestal, we miss the full power of plants as sources of life for specific species of fauna. Plants aren't decorations for one species; plants are the foundation of life.

BENJAMIN VOGT
"A NEW GARDEN ETHIC"