

Serenoa Notes

The Serenoa Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society

September 2010

Monthly meetings at Selby Gardens:

Every third Monday.
811 South Palm Ave. Sarasota.
Doors open at 7:00 p.m.,
business meeting at 7:30,
followed by program.
Everyone welcome!

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Serenoa Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society
and the Sarasota Bay Estuary Program present

NATIVE PLANT SALE

Saturday, October 9

9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Longwood Run Park (6050 Longwood Run Blvd. Sarasota 34243)
Off University Parkway in Sarasota—2 miles west of I-75

**Large selection of native trees, shrubs, grasses, and
blooming wildflowers for use in all garden types**

Get all the latest info from conservation groups:

- Sarasota Bay Estuary Program • Florida Native Plant Society
- Audubon Society • Sierra Club • Butterfly Club • and more!

Ask the experts—lots of volunteers available
to answer your native plant questions

For more information call

941- 794-8773 or 941-955-8085

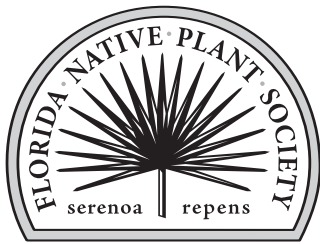
Landscape Architect's Workshop a Great Success! —Fran Palmeri

(<http://www.franpalmeri.com/>)

It could have been just another hot summer day. Instead, it was an informative, festive occasion at Marie Selby Botanical Garden, where sixty participants heard diverse viewpoints on how to create interesting landscapes.

Mike Miller started the day with his interpretation of “the nature of beauty—the beauty of nature” accompanied by a series of stunning natural landscapes of Florida. Then he got down to the nuts and bolts of

(Continued on page 2)



Officers & Committees

President: **David Feagles**
941-371-5045

Vice-President: **Cathy Page**
941-795-8973

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941-722-3701

Secretary: **Erica Timmerman**
941-727-8807

Membership: **Betsy Roberts**
941-922-9518

Chapter Rep: **David Feagles**
941-371-5045

Education: **Karen Fraley**
941-794-8773

Editor: **Nancy West**

Graphics: **Charlotte Thomas**

Historian: **Open position**

Web Site: **Bruce Holst**

At Large: **Steve Black**
Tom Heitzman
Fran Palmeri

Visit our chapter on the Florida
Native Plant society website:
www.fnps.org

Email: srepens@gmail.com

Workshop, continued from page 1

landscape design. Stressing that everything follows from “sand, the most important element in the coastal landscape” he urged us to not to mix natives and exotics, but instead use native plants, not to trim trees, to forget straight lines, symmetry, and edging, to keep snags, mulch with fallen leaves—in other words: garden by nature’s rules. Let a sense of place dominate the landscape.”Not man over nature but nature over man,”

Then Kathy Malone introduced us to Community ButterflyScaping where dry detention areas, parking lots, buffers and ponds all can be put to the service of butterflies and become beautiful accents in the landscape. In this part of Florida, we have a large array of native plants to choose from since we are on the temperate/tropical line. She followed with a series of slides of butterflies and their host plants: wild lime attracts giant swallowtails, passionflower attracts gulf fritillaries, wax myrtle attracts red-banded hairstreaks etc. Learn more at the University of Florida website: <http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/>

In her presentation on landscape aesthetics, Gail Hansen defined aspects of natural habitats, which appeal to people and how these can be put into practice in designing landscapes. We prefer savannahs with a few trees because that is what we came from. In our own yards, we prefer neat and organized to messy which is why lawns continue to “rule: despite the waste and expense. However, we can have our cake and eat it too! Keep a small area of lawn and garden with natives using traditional approaches such as paths, bold patterns, naturalistic mixed with formal plantings. “It’s a gradual process. If we educate we will have to do it over and over again” she said.

Tom Levin rounded out the day with his presentation of an urban model a “green” street. Palmetto’s Fifth Street has been retrofitted to make it more livable, more sustainable, and more pedestrian-friendly by using broad sidewalks planted with shade trees. “Streets are the backbones of a city.” A “green” street reduces the impacts of rainwater, improves air quality, works against the effects of heat island and integrates traffic, parking, bikes, people, water and vegetation. Natural plantings can be used to solve problems such as a row of cypress trees in a wet area off a parking lot. We need to be more tolerant of weeds. “If you see something growing watch it before you yank it out. You might like it”.

This event could not have happened without the able assistance of Serenoa’s volunteers: Nancy West, our able organizer, plus the other volunteers who made it such a success: Tom Heitzman and Richard Beaupre (plants), President Dave Feagles and Margaret Dahl (public speakers), Cathy Page, Ann Seidenkranz, and Richard Beaupre (onsite registration), Fran Palmeri (photography), Erica Timmerman (Eventbrite registration), Laura Heath Brinkley (book reference table), Mary Foster (catering) and Karen Fraley (advertising, support and logistics).



View of the Sunshine Skyway
bridge from the key.

Mariposa Key Planting —Karen Fraley

About 2 years ago, a young man called Adam Gaylord came to the Serenoa Chapter board meeting and asked our chapter to sponsor him and his friend Damon Moore for a grant from the state FNPS board. The two are weekend kayakers in Terra Ceia Bay and discovered this key, noting that had quite a bit of upland habitat covered with Brazilian pepper. At first they thought they would cut through it on weekends, but soon realized they needed more help. They applied for an FNPS grant to remove some of the exotic vegetation. The project was well received, and the grant process didn't seem too daunting, so they applied for a rather large US Fish & Wildlife Grant to complete the exotic removal. The final phase took place on August 28, 2010 with a Tampa Bay Estuary Program grant to plant natives on the now exposed native soil.

I joined about 20 other folks on a hot day at the end of August to kayak out to the lovely Mariposa Key to plant about 400 native plants including buttonwood (*Conocarpus erectus*), cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*), sea grape (*Coccoloba uvifera*), gumbo limbo (*Bursera simaruba*), Spanish stopper (*Eugenia foetida*), Florida privet (*Forestiera segregata*), Jamaica caper (*Capparis cynophallophora*) and wildflowers including sea oxeye daisy (*Borrchia frutescens*) and railroad vine (*Ipomoea pes-capre*).

The crew was as varied as the local population. Pickett, a local fisherman, hauled plants, water and the key personnel on his mullet boat. Members of Manatee Sarasota Fish & Game, Serenoa Chapter Florida Native Plant Society, Keep Manatee Beautiful, Tampa Bay Estuary followers, and even two young boys with their dad paddled out to plant and water-in the native vegetation. With the steady rains we have been receiving, hopes are high that this planting will be a success.

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Connect with FNPS at these sites:

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<http://fnpsblog.blogspot.com/>

Goodsearch and Goodshop benefits FNPS

Add the Florida Native Plant Society—
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[http://www.goodsearch.com/toolbar/
florida-native-plant-society-melbourne](http://www.goodsearch.com/toolbar/florida-native-plant-society-melbourne)

Hanging out with the Birds and the Bees, the Flowers and the Trees

—Fran Palmeri (<http://www.franpalmeri.com/>)

Once again, Cathy Page has come up with a wonderful array of field trips for Serenoans to enjoy during the coming year. She takes her job seriously and puts in a lot of time scoping out and visiting sites to determine if they are good bets. Luckily, there are plenty of places to choose from. Sarasota County and neighboring counties are blessed with thousands of acres of public lands, most with multiple habitats including pine flatwoods, scrub, wetlands, prairies with lots of wildflowers and wildlife.

Cathy creates a different itinerary each year and lines up a speaker at our monthly meeting to introduce the park or preserve we will be visiting. On the day of the trip there are always rangers or biologists on site to enlighten us, along with our own Tom Heitzman and other members who know the plants well.

These are not grueling fast-paced hikes. Botanizers are slow pokes who often stop to consult flower guides and sometimes even go backward to check on something somebody just spotted. After the trip we relax at picnic tables with a brown bag lunch.

Sounds idyllic? This year we'll be visiting the Indian Mound at Emerson Point (led by Serenoan Russell Owens), Edward Chance/Coker Prairie (led by Tom Heitzman), Stump Pass State Park, Felts Audubon Preserve (led by Steve Black), Babcock Ranch, Myakka Islands Point, and Myakka City Lemur Reserve. Pick up a schedule and post it in a prominent place so you don't miss out!

KIDS ARE WELCOME ON OUR FIELD TRIPS!

Understory Plants —Shade Tolerant

Shrubs

Beautyberry, *Callicarpa americana*
Yaupon holly, *Ilex vomitoria*
Wild coffee, *Psychotria nervosa*
Sparkleberry, *Vaccinium arboreum*
Yellow anise, *Illicium parviflorum*
Rougeplant, *Rivina humilis*
Walter's viburnum, *Viburnum obovatum*
Simpson stopper, *Myrcianthes fragrans*
Fringe tree, *Chionanthus pygmaeus*
Florida privet, *Foresteria segregata*
Coontie, *Zamia pumila*

Vines

Coral honeysuckle, *Lonicera sempervirens*
Yellow Jessamine vine, *Gelsemium rankinii*

Wildflowers

Starry rosinweed, *Silphium asteriscus*
Giant ironweed, *Veroninia gigantea*
Blue mistflower, *Conoclinium coelestinum*
Lyre-leafed sage, *Salvia lyrata*
Tropical sage, *Salvia coccinea*
Seaside goldenrod, *Solidago sempervirens*
Spiderworts, *Tradescantia ohiensis*
Native porterweed, *Stachytarpheta jamaicensis*
Scorpiontail, *Heliotropium angiospermum*

Mariposa Key, continued from page 3

Mariposa Key Restoration

"Located at the entrance to Bishop Harbor in Tampa Bay, Mariposa Key is a unique ecological and cultural resource in Manatee County Florida. Starting in spring 2009, two local ecologists are trying to restore the island, which has been taken over by exotic species, to its natural state. Join this group to lend your support, hear about volunteer possibilities, and keep track of the Mariposa Key Restoration project."

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=86513151002&ref=ts>

<http://www.baysoundings.com/Stories/Mariposa-Key-Back-from-the-Brink.asp>

America Out Front with Lawn Obsession

—Craig Chandler

On recent walks around my neighborhood, I noticed several newly re-sodded front lawns. It seems like some homeowners replace their front lawn more often than they replace their carpet. This prompted me to finally read *The Lawn: A History of an American Obsession*, a book I purchased some years ago, only to have it sit on my bookshelf and collect dust. (I have many such books, which I hope to work my way through now that I have retired from my job as director of UF's strawberry breeding program.)

The lawn, written by cultural historian Virginia Scott Jenkins and published by the Smithsonian Institution Press, is a fascinating and well documented exposé. Jenkins points out that only in America has the front lawn become truly ubiquitous. This is despite the fact that large regions of the country have climates that are too hot, cold, or dry for turf grasses to grow naturally. Science and technology, in the form of new varieties, power mowers, string trimmers, irrigation systems, synthetic fertilizer, weed killers, and pesticides, have made it possible for homeowners from Florida to California to grow front lawns. Billions of dollars are spent annually on this landscape aesthetic, and yet many front lawns fall short of what is considered ideal: a single type of grass, without brown patches, bare spots, or intruding weeds, kept neatly edged and mown to a uniform height.

Is a front lawn—an area of seldom used space—really worth all the time, energy, and money we devote to it? Before the mid 1800s, very few Americans had lawns. "... the houses in many towns were built close to the street with perhaps a small, fenced front garden... Front lawns did not catch the popular imagination ... until the development of suburban housing after the Civil War" and did not become an American icon until after World War II, according to Jenkins. "Americans ... moved from regional landscapes based on local vegetation to a national landscape based on an aesthetic that considers grassy front yards necessary to domestic happiness" says Jenkins.

In the last few decades, however, there has been movement toward the use of lower input landscapes in the front yard. These include shade gardens and beds of low growing shrubs and herbaceous perennials separated by paths made with stepping stones or mulch. Ecologically, these alternative landscapes make more sense than a monoculture of non-native turf. And although beauty is in the eyes of the beholder, many now think they are more beautiful and interesting, as well.

A Gulf Fritillary butterfly rests on a purple passionflower, *Passiflora incarnata*. The passionvine species are the host plants for the Gulf Fritillary and the Zebra Longwing butterflies.

Tidbits heard at the conference:



FRAN PALMIERI

From our Butterfly Mentors: "Don't trim the bottom branches of Red Cedars." This is the home turf of Hairstreak. (*Callophrys* sp.).



FRAN PALMIERI

Phyla nodiflora, frog fruit, or lippia growing in hanging baskets provides porch side nectaring for about four butterfly species.



FRAN PALMIERI

Local Sellers of Native Plants

Sweetbay Nursery, Open the first Sat. of the month from 8 A.M. to noon. 10824 Erie Rd, Parrish, FL

Florida Native Plants Inc., Open Mon.–Sun. 10 A.M. to 4 P.M.
730 Myakka Rd, Sarasota, 34240
www.floridanativeplants.com

Accent Trees and Nursery, Open Mon.–Fri. 8 A.M. to 4:30 P.M., Sat. and Sun. 10 A.M. to 3 P.M.
6205 16th Ave. East, Palmetto, FL 34221
<http://www.accenttreesandnursery.com>

Pine Lily Nursery, Call ahead to make sure someone will be available. 813-993-3966, please leave message.
7301 Redge Rainey Rd Ona, 33865

Also, check out Association of Florida Native Nurseries for specific plants and nurseries in other counties: <http://www.afnn.org/gardening-public>

Websites

HOW TO IDENTIFY A TREE Wonderful illustrations and clear descriptions.
<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/fr296>

SUPPORT FLORIDA FOREVER <http://www.supportfloridaforever.org/>

AUTHOR GIL NELSON'S WEBSITE A database of Plant Images, Flowering Times and Plant Information for Florida and the greater southeastern U.S. <http://www.gilnelson.com/PanFlora/>

ATLAS OF GLOBAL CONSERVATION <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/nation/green/atlas/?sid=ST2010041103603>

TEXAS PHOENIX PALM DECLINE is a disease effecting the *Sabal palmetto* (cabbage palm) <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pp163>

FLORIDA ORCHIDS Beautiful website plus a blog on Florida orchids
<http://flnativeorchids.blogspot.com/> <http://www.flnativeorchids.com/>

NATIVE AND INVASIVE PLANTS Lots of photos and plant ID videos.
<http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/node/266>

POP ASH (*Fraxinus caroliniana*) <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/fr318>

SPARKLEBERRY (*Vaccinium arboreum*) <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/fr320>

TURKEY OAK (*Quercus laevis*) <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/fr312>

INVADER UPDATER WEBSITE on invasive animals
<http://ufwildlife.ifas.ufl.edu/invaderupdater.shtml>

THE ROLE OF BIRDS IN THE DISPERSAL OF INVASIVE PLANTS Citizen scientists can help understanding <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2010/06/100616102900.htm>

COMPACTED SOIL Live in a new neighborhood? Then you may have it.
<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/SS/SS52900.pdf>

FLORIDA BUTTERFLIES AND NATIVE PLANT HOSTS
<http://www.nsis.org/butterfly/butterfly-species.html>

COMMON HORTICULTURAL MYTHS
<http://ag.arizona.edu/maricopa/garden/html/pubs/1004/myths.html>

Our field trip in October will be at the Edward W. Chance Reserve/Coker Prairie.
This photo shows Pineland Dropseed or Pineywoods Dropseed, *Sporobolus junceus*



KAREN FRALEY

Wanted!

NEWSLETTER EDITOR FOR THE SERENOA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER.

We have a wonderful graphic's artist, Charlotte Staub Thomas who will put the newsletter together, so all you have to do is gather the material.

Wanted!

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR.

Send welcome information to new members. Send out newsletters and post cards at certain times of the year. Membership information is organized by the Society and not by our chapter. Membership info is sent quarterly to our chapter. Some computer experience necessary.

Wanted!

MEMBERS TO JOIN THE BOARD.

We have a wonderful group of friendly people who meet once a month who keep this club going. We need more people to get involved. Please contact anyone on the board. Just come to a meeting and see what happens, no pressure.

FOR ANYTHING ABOVE PLEASE CONTACT:

srepens@gmail.com, or 941-794-8773 for more information.

Volunteers needed for our Plant Sale

All kinds of volunteers needed: plant movers, cashiers, brochure dealers, plant experts. Volunteers needed on Friday night to help load plants. Volunteers needed on the day of the sale, Saturday.

Please call 941-794-8773

or 941-955-8085

or email: srepens@gmail.com

Welcome New Member!

Nancy Paul, Osprey

Join now! Come to the meetings and field trips! Learn about conservation, restoration of native habitat, and landscaping with native plants.

Florida Native Plant Society Membership benefits: *Serenoa Notes* quarterly newsletter • Member discounts at events • 1 year subscription to *The Palmetto*, a quarterly magazine • *Sabal Minor* bi-monthly newsletter

FNPS Membership Enrollment

Serenoa Chapter Newsletter

Name _____ E-mail _____ Phone (day) _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Membership number, if renewing _____

☐ Life: \$ 1000 ☐ Donor: \$ 250 ☐ Business: \$ 125 ☐ Supporting: \$ 100 ☐ Contributing: \$ 75

☐ Nonprofit: \$ 50 ☐ Family: \$ 50 ☐ Individual/Renewal: \$ 35 ☐ Full-time student: \$ 15 ☐ Library: \$ 15

Payment: ☐ Check/MO ☐ Visa ☐ MC ☐ Discover

Check/Money Order # _____ Please do not mail cash. Make checks payable to: FNPS

Credit Card # _____ - _____ - _____ - _____ Exp Date _____ 3-digit CV code on back _____

Name on card _____

Billing address & zip code if different from above _____

Credit card payments can be faxed to 815-361-9166, or mail this form to: FNPS P.O. Box 278 Melbourne, FL 32902-0278

Events Calendar

Monthly general meetings at Selby Gardens: Every third Monday, Sept. through May at 7:00 P.M.; speaker begins at 7:30. Selby Botanical Gardens Activity Center, 811 South Palm Avenue, Sarasota. Everyone welcome!

Carpool Meeting Points: BRADENTON: Twelve Oaks Plaza, Bank of America building, on SR 70, ¼ mile west of I-75.
SARASOTA: DaRuMa in Sarasota Crossings shopping center (5459 Fruitville Road).

September 20 General Meeting –Nature of SW FL, Cultural Beginnings & Natural Endings Speaker: Karen Fraley, Serenoa member and owner of *Around the Bend Tours*, will talk about Florida's first people, Native Americans, and discuss their culture and how they used the land. She will end with current practices in land development and the impacts of our culture, including invasive exotics and solutions for the long term.

25 9 a.m. Field Trip–Emerson Point, Palmetto Russel Owens will guide us to the largest remaining Native American temple mound on Tampa Bay including the surrounding middens. We will walk the Restoration Trail to Terra Ceia Bay, a coastal strand ecosystem with snowbush, Lantana involucrata, stoppers and Gumbo-Limbo.

October 9 Plant Sale at Longwood Run Park, 6050 Longwood Run Blvd, Sarasota. Plant Sale hours are 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Longwood Run is located off University Parkway. *Volunteers needed!*

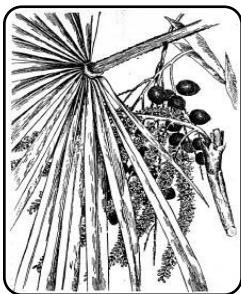
18 General Meeting–Bok Tower Chrysopsis floridana Project Speaker: Cindy Campbell, Rare Plant Curator for Bok Tower, will give a summary of the restoration project and what lies ahead. Introduction sites include Pinellas County and Manatee County (Cordell/South Fork).

23 9 a.m. Field Trip–Edward W. Chance Reserve/Coker Prairie, Myakka City. Tom Heitzman, Serenoa member and owner of Sweet Bay Nursery, will lead a short hike in the northern part of the prairie in search of fall wildflowers and grasses.

November 15 General Meeting–Stump Pass State Park A park ranger from Stump Pass will speak about the parks at the Gasparilla Island Administration (Gasparilla Island, Stump Pass Beach, Don Pedro, Cayo Costa). The main focus will be a brief history and things to do at Stump Pass.

20 9 a.m. Field Trip–Stump Pass State Park, Englewood Al Squires, Mangrove Chapter member, will take us through the main trail that follows the central ridge and bay side of Manasota Key. Possible plants we will see include Hercules club, bay cedar, Jamacian caper, seaside evening primrose.

December 20 General Meeting–Annual Holiday Potluck Dinner Bring a dish to share, your own dinner plate and utensils. If you want to participate in our Yankee Raffle, please bring a nature-oriented present (approx \$15). The chapter will provide the turkey, ice, iced tea and water.



**The Serenoa Chapter
of the Florida Native
Plant Society**

P.O. Box 564
Sarasota, Florida 34230

www.fnps.org