

Serenoa Notes

Florida Native Plant Society P.O. Box 564, Sarasota, Florida 34230



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Everyone's a winner!

2016 Fall Festival & Plant Sale

Yes, we get excited watching as wagons, full of plants, stream through the cashier line. But to consider our event to be "just another plant sale" is to diminish its overall impact. At our festival, **everyone's a winner!**

Over the years we have developed a loyal following. Be it spring or fall, we can count on seeing familiar faces. Others stumble upon the sale who aren't one bit familiar with native plants. As we explain why there are no Hibiscus, we are able to educate them on the difference between native and exotic plants. That first walk around the nursery is their introduction to the beauty (as well as the benefits) of Florida native plants. With the help of our knowledgeable volunteers, they usually walk away with a couple plants. In either case, our plant loving patrons win!

During the course of the day we added 20 new members, FNPS wins!

We had 184 people visit our host nursery. Afterwards, excited customers were posting photos of their haul and commenting on how much they love the nursery and how great the staff was. With such positive reviews you know there will be repeat business. Sweetbay Nursery wins!

The net profits fund our chapter grants. These grants offset the cost many organizations face as they add beauty and value to public areas using native plants. Because they are highly visible, more people are able to realize the beauty of Florida native plants. The community wins!

Butterfly people, bee people, Sarasota Bay Estuary Program, Audubon, and Around the Bend Nature Tours are a handful of organizations who set up information tables. We appreciate that they take the time to help make our festival more than "just another plant sale".

A big thanks to our board and especially our volunteer coordinator (Nancy West). Your commitment and attention to detail make the day enjoyable for everyone.

We couldn't do what we do without our volunteers - another area where everyone who participates wins. Spending a few hours outside our general allows us to become better acquainted.

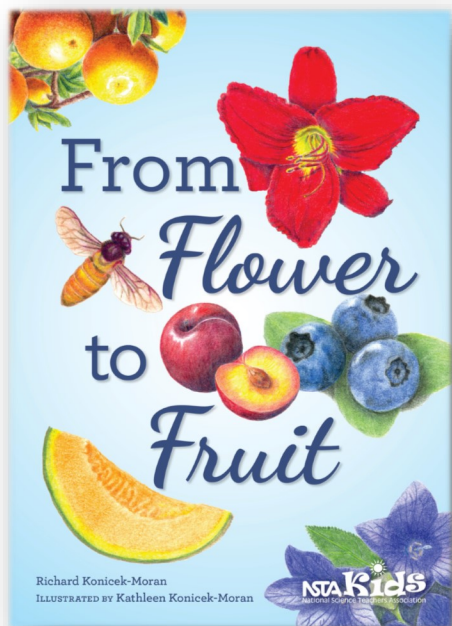
The next festival will be here before you know it. Plan on volunteering a couple hours. You will be glad you did!

December 2016

Member Spotlight

At a recent general meeting one of our new members, Kathleen Konicek - Moran, gave a brief description of the book she and her husband published this past September.

After years of research, Kathleen and Dick noticed there were too few books dedicated to teaching children about plants.



Dick is the author of 8 books, including the *Everyday Science Mystery* series, and Kathleen is a botanical artist, who has worked in the Everglades on rare and endangered plants since 2003.

<http://www.konicek-moran.com/contact.asp>

In response they teamed up to write *From Flower to Fruit*

The story is about a child whose neighbors are retired teachers. After discovering a magnifying glass in the couples attic, the child goes into their garden to examine the plants closely, allowing the child to learn about pistils, stamens, pollination and seed production.

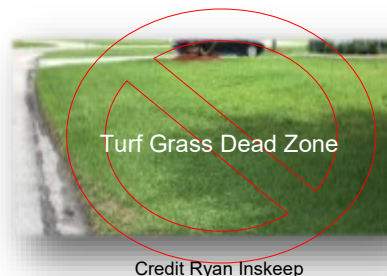
Targeted for children from kindergarten through 4th grade, *From Flower to Fruit* contains an introduction for the adults explaining why it is important for kids to learn about plants, an easy-to-comprehend background section about basic botany, and follow-up activities to explore more with plants.

The authors chose widely available plants so the plants depicted are not native plants. Even so, the book should prove to be a useful

tool in helping children learn more about flowers and the pollination-to-fruit process.

Does Your Garden Sing?

This morning when Zeke and I got home from our walk around the neighborhood, I noticed something. Not so much with my eyes, but my ears. I noticed the sound of life. Birds chirping and foraging about, frogs croaking, insects buzzing and the scratching of little squirrel feet. Our garden has a voice that sings a sweet tune. At that moment It became clear to me that these alluring sounds of nature were almost mute on our walk.



See, most landscapes in my suburban neighborhood are made up of turf grass. Not much lives in these yards. You don't see wildlife, you barely hear any at all. You're more likely to hear gas powered edger's, blowers and mowers than anything else.

Of course, there are the yards that have attempted a garden, mostly made up of exotic plants. The plants were plopped there for show and not much else. They do not attract many pollinators, hungry caterpillars or produce berries for birds. Despite the homeowner's best effort, these one-dimensional landscapes are superficial and void of life.

Because our landscape doesn't fit into the usual suburban design, I proudly display a few signs at the edge of our property. This way, curious passersby see what our landscape is about. Maybe they will pause to look at the beautiful wildflowers or stop to observe the butterflies. Maybe this will ignite their inner love for nature.



I can not change the entire neighborhood, but if I can inspire just one person then I've made a difference. A small one, but a difference nonetheless. A positive change that enhances their life and the lives of the wildlife that depend on native plants to survive.



Credit Ryan Inskeep
~Zeke walks himself~

The next time you are outside in your landscape, listen! Do you hear busy buzzing bees or the humming wings of dragonflies as they zoom past? Listen for the symphony of sounds that only Mother Nature can create. If you are not seeing or hearing much, it's time to plant native plants and

wildflowers.

~Ryan Inskeep~

NEW MEMBERS!!!



Amy Boohaker, Monique Boucher, Donna Canulette, Sylvia Colbert, Bobbie Gair, Monica Gillespie, Gail Greenburg, Vicki Hartberger, Lynn & Barbara Houser, Naaleninani Inocencio, Cheryl Joubert, K. Konicek-Moran, L Lawliss / C Haynes, Brad Oberlt, Pamela Palmer, Ruth Peterson, Glen & Claudette Schlonega, Robin Schoch, Colleen Swisher

Plant Profile

Quailberry (*Crossopetalum ilicifolium*) occurs naturally in South Florida's pine rockland (Collier, Monroe, and Dade County). It is a tough little plant that according to the FNPS website, is suitable to grow in zone 10A, 10B, and 11.

AKA Christmasberry will not call to you from across the landscape. As with many of our native plants, you have to get up close and personal to appreciate its beauty. With serrated foliage reminiscent of holly, it produces inconspicuous pink flowers throughout the year and about now, little red berries (aren't they pretty!). Yup, you guessed it... in the wild, those pretty red berries are consumed by quail.

Quailberry has a slow to moderate growth rate and it spreads wider (18") than it grows tall (12") so it would be another option when considering groundcovers.

Since it grows naturally in the nutrient poor soils of pine rocklands, why not tuck a few in between those landscape boulders or scatter it around your rock garden, then maybe add some Lopsided Indian Grass (*Sorghastrum secundum*) for a little height and added interest.



It won't tolerate salt or deep shade so plant in a sunny location with good drainage. Water regularly until you notice new growth.

To locate native nurseries in your area, visit plantrealflorida.org

You will also find all kinds of tools to help you select plants specifically suited to your area.

If you haven't picked up the newest edition of Real Florida Gardeners you can view it online on the website.

Just say no!

Pretty little things adorned with bows and glitter all wrapped up in pretty red cellophane. Norfolk Pines, a no thought, table top decoration. The market is flooded with them this time of year.

Don't get me wrong, in the hustle - bustle of the season, no thought alternatives are like welcome friends. But on this one thing, I ask, just say no! You know why? After the last fruitcake is consumed (or given away), these things end up in the landscape. It may not be right away. They may get booted outside. Tucked away in a back corner until that pretty red cellophane has deteriorated into shreds of its former glory. It may take a year or two but you know, sooner or later it will be planted. If you don't know, go outside and scan the horizon. What do you see towering above the Oaks ... Norfolk Pines (they might even cast a shadow over the Australian Pines).

There is a solution to the tabletop conundrum. It takes a little more time but our landscape, and I, will thank you.

Find a native nursery (see pg. 3) and invest in a native Red Cedar



dar (*Juniperus virginiana*). Repot it in a decorative container or wrap it in some burlap or red cellophane. Whatever you have laying around will work. If you giving it as a gift, add a tag with care instructions.

While your at the nursery, you might consider purchasing a larger specimen for

your regular tree. After the holidays if you don't have room for it in your landscape, maybe you know someone who does. Pass it on!

Florida Native Red Cedar

Red Cedars make a wonderful addition to your landscape. Their dense growth creates a buffer and offers cover for birds.

Keep them watered until they become established. Once established they are drought tolerant. They will do well in moist soils but they won't like landscapes that are over irrigated

Red Cedars grow best in full sun and are
Salt tolerant

Nature Craft 101

Remember stringing popcorn and making construction paper chains? It wasn't so much the finished product it was time spent with your family that made it great.

The directions for the woven basket appeared in volume 29:2 - Spring 2012 issue of the Palmetto. Take the kids and gather some Palmetto leaves and make some decorations for your family tree. The size of the leaf will determine the size of the finished basket so you don't want to use great big leaves if you want to make tiny baskets.

Look for fresh, young, symmetrical leaves and cut it off near the base of the plant. Scrape off the spines along the stem.

Avoid exposing the leaf to heat or direct sun. To remove any potential disease or vectors, clean the leaf with soap and water, then rinse. Pat the leaf dry and press them between sheets of newspaper for a day or two. Placing something heavy on top will help flatten the leaf, making it easier to work with.

Start the weaving process by laying the leaf face up on a flat surface (4). Visually follow the stem to find the center of the leaf and fold the first, centermost, leaflet over at a right angle (5). Fold

the second leaflet across the first (6). Proceed to fold the leaflets over, alternating sides and moving over and under until about 6 rows are completed (7—9).

The body of the basket is complete (10), but the top edges must be finished off by tucking them under. Start with the leaflets on the top of the basket, folding them down and tucking them underneath the parts you've already woven. Use the same "over and under" weaving technique used earlier to form the body of the basket (11—16). Proceed around to the back side of the basket, tucking in the loose leaf-



lets, folding them and weaving them into the body of the basket. Crease the leaflets with your fingernail as needed. Leaflets can be folded both inside and outside of the basket. Proceed until both sides are finished. Use a pocket knife or scissors to trim off the ragged ends of the leaflets so the basket looks neat.

The handle of the basket is formed from the stem or petiole. Use a sharp knife to carefully split the stem into two sections stopping when the split is about 5 inches away from the leaf end of

the stem. Always cut away from yourself when using a knife. Limber up the stem by carefully bending it a little at a time. Don't try to bend it all at once, or it will break. Once you can bend the stem all the way over in a smooth arc, push it through the basket from the inside, about 2 leaflet widths down from the top edge. Make sure that it is in a centered position before allowing it to come out the front of the basket. It will be necessary to lock the handle inside the basket, so push the end of the handle back through to the inside, making sure that its end goes to the bottom point of the basket. To create the lock, one half of the split stem will point at the bottom of the basket, and the other will fold upward. Push the upward folding section of the stem underneath one of the woven leaflets to lock it securely.

It's that time of year, there will be a lot of cork popping going on. Why not save them and make some of these cool corky things! When your out on a walk, look for those little air plants that are all over the place. Drill a hole in the top and add the air plant. You can also add a magnet to the back.



Have you delved into the world of nature crafts? Visit our facebook group page and post your photos. We'd love to hear from you. <https://www.facebook.com/group/serenoafnps>

The Serenoa Board meets on the first Tuesday of each month from 6:30 - 8:00. The meetings are held at Erica's house (she always feeds us) and we would like all of our members to attend. The meetings are a very informal and you will get to know your fellow members as well as have a better understanding of what our chapter has in the works.



Calander of Events

December 19, Annual Holiday Potluck Dinner

6:00 PM at St Andrew United Church of Christ, Sarasota

Bring a dish to share, your own dinnerware and utensils. The Chapter will provide turkey, iced tea, water, ice. If you want to participate in the Yankee Raffle, bring a nature oriented gift valued at no more than \$15.00.

January 16, General Meeting

“Changes in Florida’s Natural Areas due to sea level rise”, presented by Tonya Clayton

Expanding salt marshes and mangrove swamps accompanied by shrinking coastal forests are just a few of the changes observed by Dr. Clayton, co-author of a new book on the subject.

January 23 Field Trip

9:00 AM at Terra Ceia Preserve State Park in Manatee County, led by Park Specialist Tracy Telatyck and Tonya Clayton

Observe habitat conversion (uplands to mangroves) in this newly restored state park.

February 4, Fire Fest

T. Mabry Carlton Jr. Memorial Reserve, 1800 Mabry Carlton Parkway, Venice

Fire Fest is a great family event. It’s main goal is to educate the public about the necessity of using prescribed burns to keep our wild areas healthy and functioning. Our chapter will have an infor-

mation table so if you can volunteer for a couple hours, it would be appreciated. We will have more information as the event date gets closer.

February 20, General Meeting

“Mangroves in the Forefront of Change” , presented by Dr. Brad Oberle

Dr. Oberle, (assistant professor of biology at New College) whose research centers around the relationship of climate change to plant diversity, will focus on changes in the mangrove forest as it gets hotter and wetter.

February 25 Field Trip

9:00 AM at Soldier’s Hole, Fort De Soto in Pinellas County, led by Tom Heitzman and Richard Beaupre

We will explore this portion of Fort De Soto known for its mangroves and take a walk along the river.

General Meeting & Field Trip Information

General meetings are held every third Monday of the month, September - May. We meet in the Carriage House at Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, 811 South Palm Avenue, Sarasota. The gate is open at 6:30. The meeting begins at 7:00 PM, program starts at 7:30. You don’t have to be a member to attend!

We usually picnic after our field trip so bring a lunch if you would like. Water, bug spray and sun screen are suggested. Directions are given at the prior general meeting. If you can’t attend that meeting, contact Fran Palmeri, (941) 544-6148, for directions. If you sign up for a field trip and find you can’t make it, notify Fran so we will know not to wait for you.

Name: _____

Membership # (if renewing): _____

Email: _____ Daytime Phone: _____

Street: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Dues:

____ Life: \$1,000 ____ Donor: \$250 ____ Business or corporate: \$125 ____ Supporting: \$100 ____ Contributing: \$75

____ Not for profit organization: \$50 ____ Family or household: \$50 ____ Individual: \$35 ____ Fulltime student: \$15

____ Library subscription: \$100

Payment:

____ Check/Money Order ____ Visa ____ MC ____ Discover

Check/Money Order # _____ Make checks or money orders payable to FNPS. Do not mail cash.

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

Name on card _____

Credit card payments can be faxed to (815) 3619166; or mailed with this form to:

FNPS, PO Box 278, Melbourne, FL 329020278

Billing address if different than above: _____

FNPS Membership benefits: *Serenoa Notes* newsletter, Member discounts at events, subscription to the quarterly magazine *Palmetto*,

ACTION ALERT - SPEAKERS MUST REGISTER BY DECEMBER 13

The Manatee County Legislative Delegation will conduct a meeting at the Manatee County Commission Chambers on Tuesday, December 20th, at 8:30 am. This meeting will provide local constituents with a rare opportunity to speak directly with the state lawmakers who represent them in Tallahassee.

The delegation is comprised of Senator Bill Galvano and three Representatives (Jim Boyd, Joe Gruters, and Wengay Newton, Sr.). Senator Galvano is a member of the Appropriations Committee, which confers special influence over issues of importance to FNPS. Committee assignments for Representatives have not yet been announced.

MAJOR POINTS TO EMPHASIZE

1. Restore Florida Forever funding. Let them know that when you voted in support of Amendment 1, you intended for a large portion of the funds to be used to conserve land. Annual funding for Florida Forever should at least equal the \$300 million that was allocated before funding was cut in response to the recession. This amount is not cost-prohibitive given that annual Amendment 1 funding exceeds \$700 million.
2. Manage Florida's conservation lands responsibly. The land we have already conserved represents a valuable investment and proper management is necessary to protect our investment. Management shouldn't be short-changed by inadequate staffing or funding. Funding should be sufficient to implement the management plans that have been adopted for each property.
3. Do not spend Amendment 1 funds on items previously provided from other funding sources, such as staff salaries. Amendment 1 was intended to supplement funding for conservation, not replace pre-existing funds that came from other sources.
4. Adopt a comprehensive approach to protection of our water resources. Such an approach must account for the water needs of our springs, rivers, estuaries, and other water-dependent natural systems.
5. Florida's extreme vulnerability to sea level rise must be recognized as an immediate and long-term threat to our economy, groundwater resources and environment. It demands a comprehensive statewide response to conserve our beaches, coastal wetlands and seagrasses, and the fisheries that depend on them.

In order to ensure your opportunity to speak you should submit a request by phoning Whitney Legrand, Legislative Assistant to Senator Galvano, at (941) 741-3401 **no later than noon on Tuesday, December 13, 2016**. You may also email Ms Legrand at legrand.whitney@flsenate.gov for additional information. Following the consideration of local bills, the public will be invited to address the delegation on various issues of concern.

Each speaker may only be allotted a maximum of 3 minutes so it is important to prepare your remarks in advance. Always state your name and address. It is not necessary to claim affiliation with any particular group. If multiple FNPS members will be present it may be appropriate for one member to speak on behalf of the *Serenoa* Chapter of FNPS, provided their remarks have been vetted by the Chapter, while the others speak simply as concerned constituents. If you wish, you can prepare a longer, written version of your comments and include photos or other information to support your message; however, be sure to bring sufficient copies of your document to provide one for each legislator. This approach ensures that the lawmakers and their staff can refer back to your comments after the meeting.