

News from Serenoa Chapter

November 2023 Announcement

Field trip: Carlton Preserve, Saturday November 18

Meeting: Selby Gardens and Zoom, Monday, November 20

See below for more information.

We love meeting at Selby Gardens! Click below to find out more about their upcoming Clyde Butcher exhibit at Historic Spanish Point. [The Orchid Show 2023](#) continues at Selby Gardens through November 26.

BUTCHER | LENS**OPENS
NOVEMBER 11**SELBY
GARDENS
HISTORIC SPANISH POINT

Monthly Meetings and Programs at Selby Gardens

We are meeting in person this year! Our monthly meetings are at [Selby Gardens](#) on the 3rd Monday of the month, 7pm, through May 2024. The meetings are hybrid: you can attend in person or virtually via Zoom.

We will gather in person to socialize at 6:30pm. Bring a little cash (Zelle code is also available). There will be a silent auction for plants and used plant books prior to the meeting. Proceeds support our chapter's grant program.

If you have native plants and/or plant-related books you would like to re-home and benefit the chapter, please bring them to the meeting!

Selby Gardens is located at: [1534 Mound St., Sarasota, 34236](#)

For those attending the meeting in person at Selby Gardens:

The Selby Gardens campus is currently under renovation. We will send you the latest information about parking for the meeting in the reminder email sent a few days ahead of the meeting date.

We're using Meet Up for all Field Trip signups

All field trip sign ups this year will be via Meet Up. [Click here](#) to join our Meet Up group. You can sign up for trips as soon as the

[Click here to see our list of monthly programs and field trips](#)

Our speaker and field trip leader this month:



Meghan Meyer is the Carlton Reserve Land Manager and Environmental Specialist III – Land Manager at Sarasota County Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources.

General Meeting & Program:

Monday November 20, 2023

Selby Gardens and Zoom

6:30p - gather and socialize

7p - meeting and program begin

November Program: Fire & Native Plants with Meghan Meyer

Find out more about prescribed fires and their impact on native plants.

[Click here to register to attend the meeting via Zoom](#)

After you register, a meeting link will be sent to your email.

Field Trip: Saturday, November 18th, 10am

T. Mabry Carlton Reserve with Meghan Meyer

Come with us on a walk to learn more about prescribed fire and native plants.



[Click here to go the Friends of Carlton Reserve site.](#) Lots of great videos and photos of this beautiful park.

[Carlton Reserve](#) | [Visit Sarasota County](#)

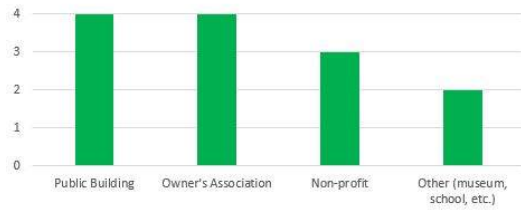
[Click here to go to Meet up for Field Trip Registration](#)

You will receive an email confirming your registration, and later receive one with the details about the trip.

A Quick Look at Grants Program Accomplishments

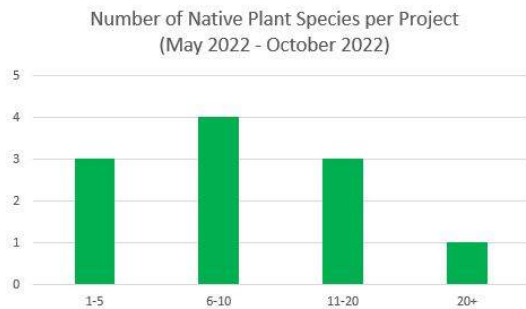
by Zack Westmark

What more could we ask for as FNPS members than to see some of our favorite native plant species finding new homes in the urban landscape? The grants program's goal is just that, and disbursed approximately \$5,867.31 between May 2022 and the present. Thank you to all who have applied! Let's take a quick look at some of these accomplishments.



Above Left: Grant recipients by organization type... Right: Reflections of Manatee native plant installation!

Who? Public buildings (extension service, libraries, etc.) and owner's associations have been the most frequently funded projects. Volunteers typically complete native plant installations and have ranged from school aged children to retirees!



What? Approximately 97 native plant species have been installed through the Serenoa grants program since May 2022. Project goals for owner's associations usually involve improving water quality and erosion control. Most

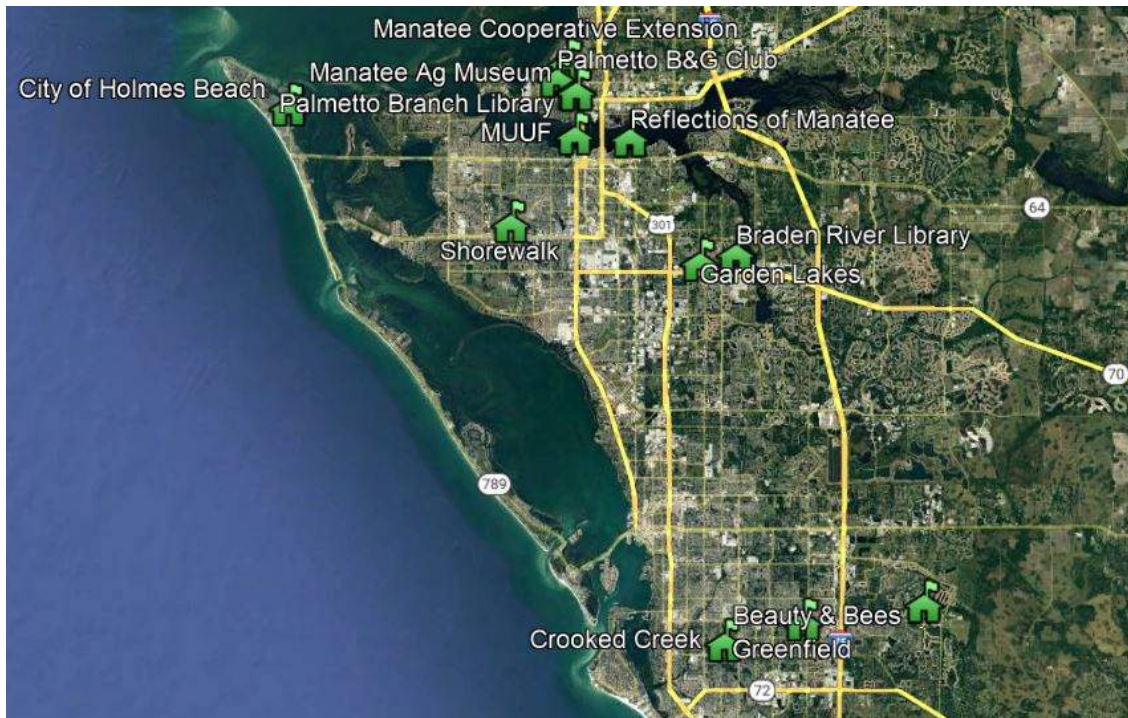


Above... Left: Native landscaping around the Reflections of Manatee Visitor Center... Right: Signage from the Greenfield Homeowner's Association pond water quality improvement project.

other projects are educational/demonstration gardens. Several add native

6,300 square feet of native plants. Wow!

When? A majority of grant applications are received between September and May. Because the grants program is funded primarily by the spring plant sale in May, the board intends to institute a grant cycle, so proposals can be compared more easily, helping to ensure funds will be spent on high quality proposals.



Where? A majority of grants awarded in the past year were in and around Bradenton, with a small cluster in south Sarasota. As major population centers, these are good locations in terms of native plant exposure, but the board would like to encourage applicants in DeSoto and Hardee counties as well. Do you know a prospective candidate in either of these counties? Please encourage them to [apply](#)!

Celebrating Plantober

by Zack Westmark



pepper hot sauce and [beautyberry](#) jelly. The hot sauce came first because my [Capsicum annuum var. glabriusculum](#) has been sweating peppers this past summer and I love hot sauce. It was my first attempt at canning! Bird peppers score high in scovilles, so I used only about an eighth cup of the native, about a cup of home grown sweet red peppers, and a mess o' maters. It turned out to be the perfect level of heat.



The jelly came about because this specimen sticks into my folks' driveway. My first inclination was to cut it back, but then I remembered it was FL Native Plant Month! The process was rather simple, and it has been so much fun. I'd love to make pickles from the [native creeping cucumber](#) ([Meloithria pendula](#)... FNPS.org could use a species profile for this) but the #2 cukes grown at Jessica's made a fine substitute!



Interesting Links & More

Manatee County Environmental programs & events. [November 2023](#)

Gulf Coast Conservation Foundation: Check out the great family events. See how to get involved. Save Land! [Conservation Foundation - Events](#)

[UF/IFAS Manatee County offers entertaining research-based educational YouTube videos](#) on subjects such as: **Marvelous Mushrooms, Nature Journaling, and all about mangroves, invasive species, native plants, orchids, veggies, palms and snakes!** [Link to You Tube](#)

[Florida Environmental Film Festival](#), November 3-13, 2023. The online film festival will showcase films from local and international filmmakers, all of whom address environmental issues that could impact Florida and the world.

3000 photos from FNPS: [About Florida Native Plant Society | Flickr](#)

Mangrove propagule project: [Propagule Collection Project \(manggear.com\)](#)

The National Wildlife Federation makes it easy for you to make your voice heard on many issues affecting the land and environment we love. [Check out the action opportunities here.](#) Last row, on the left, action for Pollinators and Native Plants.

[Green Living Tool Kit](#) Your guide to sustainable living, and information about an upcoming [EcoSummit/Green Living Expo](#) in Sarasota in early December.



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Late Fall Gardening Tips

- Keep weeds under control. Check for weeds weekly before they get ahead of you.
- Prune trees and shrubs. Remove crossing branches and those which are growing too near the house or other plants. Be careful not to cut plants back too hard since you will not get much growth this time of year.
- Dead-head the flowers. Remove spent flower stalks. Thin out or split perennials if needed.
- Mulch the beds. Mulch helps suppress weeds and protect the roots from heat and cold while adding organic matter to the soil. We recommend recycled hardwood, pine straw, leaf litter, melaluca (bagged as "Florimulch") and eucalyptus mulch.

Serenoa Chapter Board Members

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Vice President: Nancy West

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Secretary: Cindy Watts

Chapter Representative: Pamela Callender

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Field Trips/Programs: Steve White

Field Trips Leader: Cathy Page

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Newsletter: Susie Venters and Zack Westmark

Technology: Alison Bishop

Website: Yiwen Chow

Past President: Erica Timmerman

At large: Chris Meyer; Lee Breyer

Contact us via email: srepens@gmail.com

The Board meets on the first Tuesday of the month. email us If you are interested in attending.

[Click here to see our calendar of meetings and programs on the Serenoa FNPS website](#)

Did you miss a meeting? Want to check out a past Serenoa FNPS program? They are now on You Tube!

[Click here.](#)



Serenoa Chapter FNPS

The Mission of the Florida Native Plant Society is to promote the preservation, conservation, and restoration of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida.

Go Wild! Go Native!

<https://serenoa.fnpschapters.org>

Use the QR code below to join FNPS. Our chapter is Serenoa, which represents Sarasota, Manatee, Hardee and DeSoto counties.



The QR code below can be used to donate directly to Serenoa Chapter FNPS. If you would like to donate via check, please make it payable to Serenoa FNPS and sent to PO Box 1224; Palmetto, FL 34420.



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