

October is Florida Native Plants Month!

As president of the Serenoa Chapter of FNPS I would like to welcome everyone back to our in person meetings. It was great to see so many people turn out in person at our first meeting of the 2023 - 2024 season.

A special 'Thank You' to Selby Gardens for once again giving us the opportunity to hold our meetings at their beautiful location in Sarasota. Thanks for everyone's support in promoting the mission of FNPS.

See you at Selby!



News from Serenoa Chapter

October 2023 Announcements

It's Florida Native Plants Month! [Click here](#) to read the official proclamation. Celebrate every day by enjoying your contribution to native Florida - the native plants in your yard! [Check out Doug Tallamy's Homegrown National Park project.](#) The concept is that you add your speck of native planted land to the map, and then we see the combined effect of all of our efforts. Together, we make a Homegrown National Park! It is one meaningful way to celebrate Florida Native Plants Month. Also, [check out this "oldie but goodie" link about planting a fall garden in our part of Florida.](#)

Meeting: Monday October 16, 7pm at [Selby Gardens](#), Sarasota (and on Zoom). Our topic is "Protecting and Sharing Myakka's Magic," with Miri Hardy from Myakka State Park.

Field trip: Saturday October 21, 9am; [Myakka River State Park](#), led by Paula Benshoff

Old Miakka Hootenanny, Sunday October 1, 10am - 3pm,
Visit our information booth!

See below for more information.



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Monthly Meeting and Program Return to 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. We are planning to make the meetings hybrid (option to attend in person or via Zoom). We've had one hybrid meeting, and we learned a lot, but please bear with us if issues occur as we continue our venture into hybrid gatherings.

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 plant books you would like to re-home, 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:

Selby Gardens is currently under renovation so please follow these directions for parking and access to the conference center.

For parking:

Enter at the construction entrance on Orange Ave just south of US41.

Look for FNPS sign. (Palm Ave entrance is closed. Do not go into Parking Garage).

Follow construction entrance and park in the parking lot directly east or across from main gardens entrance.

Walk across Palm Ave and enter through iron gates just south or to the left of main entrance.

Follow path to the right going north past koi ponds continuing to the west of the orchid house to enter conference center on the west side doors.

Any changes to the above will be in the reminder email sent a few days prior to the meeting.

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 registration becomes available. Registration will become active about one month in advance.

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

2023 Old Miakka Fall Hootenanny & Schoolhouse Benefit

Sunday, October 1, 2023

10-3pm

at the Serenoa FNPS information booth!

It's time for a toe-tappin', knee-slappin', hootenanny of a good time!

Incredible paintings by local artists, crafts, educational booths, live music, homemade cards, broomstick pony races, bubble gum blowing contest, hog callin' contest, rooster crowing contest, silent auction, wheel of cake, homemade soap, a Silent Auction and more. Tour the old Schoolhouse. Fun for the whole family!

Proceeds of the event benefit preservation of the 1914 Old Miakka Schoolhouse.

**COME ON OUT TO THE COUNTRY AND CELEBRATE THIS 109 -YEAR
OLD HISTORIC BUILDING.**

**DIRECTIONS: GO TO THE EAST END OF FRUITVILLE ROAD
TURN RIGHT, YOU WILL SEE THE SCHOOLHOUSE AND ALL THE FUN!**

General Meeting & Program:



**Protecting and Sharing Myakka's Magic with Miri Hardy
Monday, October 16th, 7pm**

Miri will share with us the current state of [Myakka River State Park](#) with a particular focus on native and invasive plants.

We gather to socialize and enjoy a silent auction for plants and books at 6:30p.

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

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

Our speaker this month:



Miri Hardy, Executive Director of the Friends of Myakka River

In her new role as Executive Director of the Friends of Myakka River, Miri is working with the board to develop and implement a strategic plan for the organization, which includes building awareness about Friends of Myakka River, further increasing the non-profit's impact through environmental education, and continuing to ensure the organization's long-term financial viability. A Sarasota resident since 2014, Miri holds a PhD in Social Psychology from Washington University in Saint Louis. She is happiest exploring Wild Florida, oftentimes on her bike, and capturing its beauty through the lens of her camera.



October Field Trip:

[Myakka River State Park with Paula Benshoff](#)

Saturday, October 21st, 10am

Do spring burns bring fall flowers? Let's check out prairies that burned this year to see what plants responded with Florida's fall colors.

Our Field trip leader:



Our Field trip leader, Paula Benshoff, is the author of the book "Myakka," and a former Park Naturalist with Florida State Parks.

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

Another chance to see plants together:

[Plant Walk at Perico Preserve: Sunday October 29, 9am](#)

Led by Elliot Prout



Board member Elliot Prout will discuss the history of the preserve, restoration efforts, and of course a variety of native plants, how to ID them and how you could use them in your landscape at home. Muhly grass and several wildflowers will be in peak bloom!

[Click here: Go to Meet up to register for Perico Preserve](#)

[Interesting Links & More](#)

[Click above to find out more about the Manatee County Commission meeting on October 5.](#)

[Education | Archbold Biological Station \(archbold-station.org\).](#) **Check out the 360 degree videos!**

[Manatee County Audubon](#)

[Sarasota Audubon 2023-2024 Calendar of events.](#)

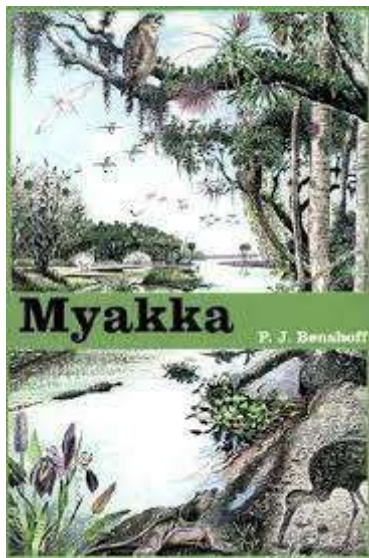
[Master Gardener Plant Sale, UF/IFAS Extension, Manatee County, October 7](#)

[Manatee County Calendar of Events.](#)

[Sarasota Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources.](#)

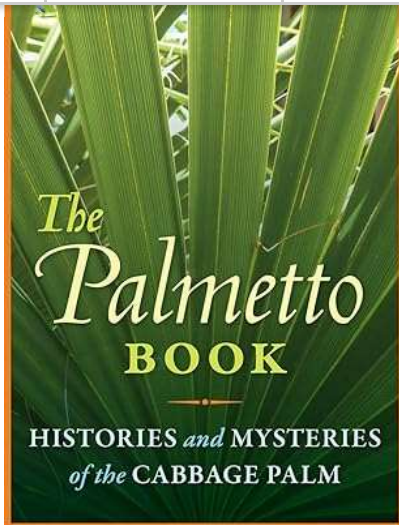
[Planting a Fall Garden in Florida](#)

Speaking of books, here are some by fellow Serenoa members:



"Myakka," by P.J. Benshoff

Discover the story of the land of Myakka. This book takes you into shady hammocks of twisted oaks and up into aerial gardens, down the wild and scenic river, and across a variegated canvas of prairies, piney woods, and wetlands all located in Myakka River State Park, the largest state park in Florida.



The natural and cultural history of an iconic plant. The palmetto, also known as the cabbage palm or *Sabal palmetto*, is an iconic part of the southeastern American landscape and the state tree of Florida and South Carolina. In *The Palmetto Book*, Jono Miller offers surprising facts and dispels common myths about an important native plant that remains largely misunderstood.

A Bouquet of Days
Rambles through the Natural Beauties of Florida



Fran Palmeri

"A Bouquet of Days," by Fran Palmeri

Explore not just Florida's magnificent beaches but the fabled swamp of Okefenokee, and parks lush with rare wildflowers. Pelican "comics", roseate spoonbills and friendly Florida scrub jays are just a few of the birds you'll meet in her essays and colorful photographs of everyone's "fountain of youth."

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.
- Lightly fertilize only those plants that seem stressed. Most natives, planted in the right spot, will not need fertilizing. Check your county

- 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.
- Add new plants! Take advantage of late summer rain. The top foliage may not grow much this time of year, but the roots will, and your plant will be better established to bear up during the dry season in the spring. Deep water the roots of trees and shrubs for better establishment. Many people water the roots/root ball before placing them in the ground.
- Feel the air! Is there maybe 3 degrees less humidity? Hello fall!

Serenoa Chapter Board Members

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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

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>



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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