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February 2026 News From Serenoa Chapter

General Meeting: Monday, February 16, 2025

6:30 PM - 8:30 PM EDT at Marie Selby Gardens & Zoom

Speaker: Zach Zildjian on Native and Edible Landscapes

Field trip: Saturday, February 21, 2026

Native & Edible Landscape Tour with Zach Zildjian

9:00 AM to 12:00 PM EDT

Free Class: Saturday, February 14, 2026

9:00 AM to 11:00 AM EDT at Sarasota Audubon

Free talks on Home Landscape Design with Native Plants by Pamela Callender (Chapter Grant Appraiser) the second Saturday of February and March from 9 to 11am. Free, open to the public and covering HOA mitigation, maintenance of Native plants, and steps to follow when designing your Landscape. Register by emailing callenderpamela@gmail.com

Conservation Update & Alerts

Apply for a grant to plant Native Plants

You could receive up to \$1,000 a grant from our chapter to build a Native Plant Garden.

More February Learning Opportunities

Scroll down for links and information.



Zach Zildjian on native and edible landscapes

Social @ 6:30 PM, Meeting @ 7:00 PM EDT
Marie Selby Botanical Gardens

In this talk, Zach will share the core principles he uses when designing and planting ecological landscapes. He will walk through the key factors he evaluates before any plants go into the ground—especially soil preparation for long-term resilience. Zach will also discuss the often underutilized native plants that are edible or medicinal. By reconnecting with native plants as food and medicine, we strengthen biodiversity while nurturing a more reciprocal relationship with our landscapes.

RSVP in meetup please. Note that Serenoa Chapter does not collect any payments via Meetup and registration for events is free. Non-Members of FNPS are welcome, but we encourage you to become a **member**.

RSVP



Field Trip: Native & Edible Landscape Tour with Zach Zildjian
Saturday, February 21, 2026 @ 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM EST

Join Zach for a guided tour of a thriving 1.5 acre ecological landscape on the Sarasota Bay. Now just over a year old, the site features a resilient mix of native, edible, and medicinal plants designed to support wildlife, restore soil health, and provide beauty and abundance year-round.

The location will be sent to meetup registrants before the event - this is a private residence in Indian Beach (North Sarasota). Please make sure you have not disabled your email notifications in order to get the emailed location info.

RSVP in meetup please. Note that Serenoa Chapter does not collect any payments via Meetup and registration for events is free. Non-Members of FNPS are welcome, but we encourage you to become a **member**.

RSVP



Zach Zildjian

Zach Zildjian is the founder of ZZ Design Services, an ecological landscaping business. A graduate of New College with a degree in Environmental Science, Zach focuses on creating resilient, biodiverse landscapes that integrate native and edible species, with soil health as the foundation for long-term success. He has also led the planting and design of eight microforests across the region—collectively covering more than 3.5 acres and incorporating over 10,000 native plants. His approach blends ecology with practical design strategies to help communities and clients grow landscapes that are functional, beautiful, and resilient.

Conservation Update

The state legislature is in full swing. This year's session began on January 13 and is scheduled to end on March 13. Each session sees bills that will protect or, too often, harm natural Florida. FNPS' 2026 legislative priorities can be viewed [here](#). The Florida Wildlife Federation has a recording of a livestream they did in late January, "The Conservation Consensus," [here](#). And on February 11 1000 Friends of Florida will have its legislative update, for which you can register [here](#). Let your legislators know what you care about.

One of the most urgent conservation issues in our area is a proposed cruise terminal in Terra Ceia. Details in this typically top-notch environmental reporting from Max Chesnes and colleagues at the Tampa Bay Times: [In Tampa Bay, a proposed cruise port reignites an old Florida battle](#)

A YouTube channel recently posted [a video](#) on what many of us feel: our area is becoming a "continuous urban region built along the Gulf." 1000 Friends of Florida's [Agriculture 2040/2070](#) initiative, featuring the host of our May outing, shows how we might skillfully promote conservation so our area doesn't become, minus fragmented conservation area, a continuous ribbon of concrete and asphalt.

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