View this Florida Native Plant Society email in your browser



Happy November!

If you haven't voted yet, please read our **conservation update** and make your plan to vote.

Our meeting this month will be in the Amicus Learning Center at Selby with limited space and the speaker will be via Zoom. So please register for the monthly meeting.

Monday, November 16, 2026 @ 6:30 PM General Meeting:
STEPS & TOOLS for Plant ID, an Easier Approach? Zoom watch party With Bobby Hattaway

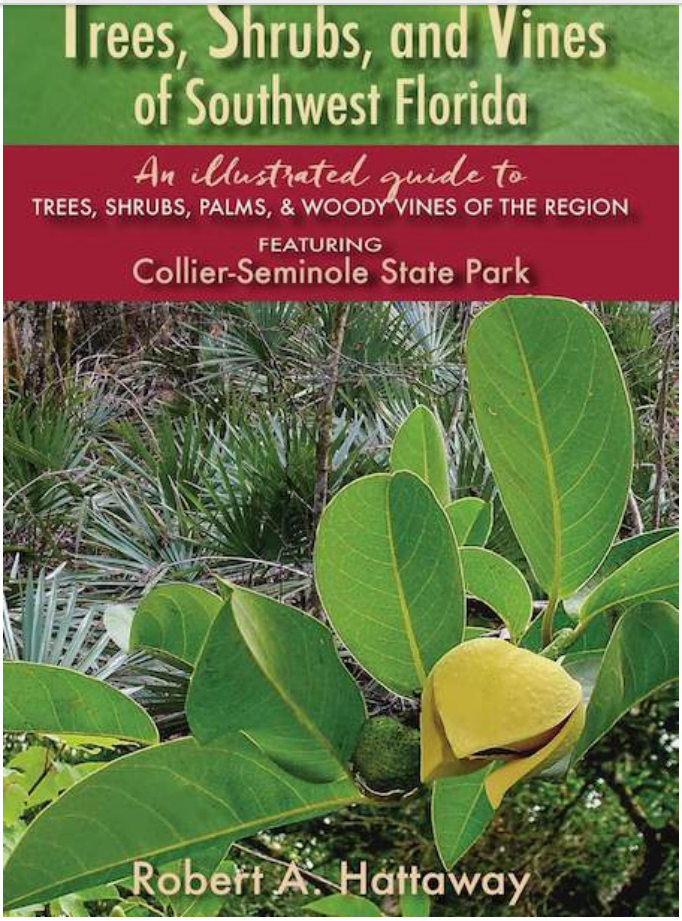
Saturday, November 21, 2026 @ 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM Field Trip -
Plant ID with Bobby Hattaway at Myakka River State Park

The Selby Gardens Research Library is missing some copies of the FNPS Palmetto journal from their collection. If you have any extra copies you'd be willing to donate, please reach out to **library@selby.org**!

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.

Renew your membership today!

Scroll down for links and information.



General Meeting & Program: Monday, November 16, 2026
STEPS & TOOLS for Plant ID, an Easier Approach? With Bobby Hattaway
Social @ 6:30 PM, Meeting @ 7:00 PM EDT
Zoom or Marie Selby Botanical Gardens - Downtown Campus

Join Bobby Hattaway who says, "The only thing I like better than identifying plants is teaching people how to identify them!" This noted botanist will give a Zoom program (with Q & A at the end) on plant identification. One of the steps and tools will be a process called HIPDAD.

Although the chapter will have an in-person meeting, this presentation will be on **ZOOM**.

RSVP in Eventbrite. Registration for events is free. Non-Members of FNPS are welcome, but we encourage you to **become a member**.

RSVP



Field Trip: Plant ID with Bobby Hattaway at Myakka River State Park
Saturday, November 21st, 2026 @ 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM EDT
Myakka River State Park - Meet in Parking Lot East of South Entry Gate House

Join us on a hike as we learn Plant ID with Bobby Hattaway at Myakka River State Park
Meet in Parking Lot East of South Entry Gate House

RSVP

Bobby Hattaway

Robert A. (Bobby) Hattaway was interested in plants at an early age. Compared with animals, Bobby believes too many people consider plants as the "underdog" in the biological world and for most of his career, he fought to change that. Bobby got his MS in Botany from the University of Tennessee (Knoxville) in 1973. He went to Pennsylvania State University for his Doctorate in Botany. His academic career spans some 30 years. Bobby considers himself a general botanist, having taught everything from Microbiology to Bryology and Mycology. Woody plants are his favorite because you don't usually need to learn floral terms to identify them. As for south Florida, Bobby first became interested in the botany of south Florida in the mid-80s, when during spring break, he would take students there. Those forays eventually led Bobby to his "dream" job as a botanist for southwest Florida for the Florida Park Service. He lived in Nokomis for 7 years and was in the Serenoa chapter. Bobby's infatuation with the botany of southern Florida culminated in 2025 with the publication of his magnum opus, ***The Trees, Shrubs and Vines of Southwest Florida***. Since 2003, he has been active in the Georgia Botanical Society, with a two-year term as President.

Conservation Update

Both Manatee and Sarasota counties have crucial environmental land referendums officially locked in for the upcoming November 3, 2026 ballot. Additional funds are needed to continue the success of these tax-payer funded conservation land acquisition programs.
If approved by voters, the **Manatee County Referendum** will continue and expand the Manatee County Environmental Lands Program by providing additional funds to acquire and protect land with the goal of:

- Protecting drinking water sources
- Protecting water quality of bays, rivers, lakes and creeks
- Protecting natural areas from overdevelopment
- Preserving land to provide natural floodwater storage to help reduce flooding
- Protecting working farms and ranches though conservation easements
- Creating and expanding public preserves

A "yes" vote for the additional 0.16 mils ad valorem tax would allow for up to $75 million in general obligation bonds. For the median Manatee County homesteaded property, that means about $34 a year
If approved by voters, the **Sarasota County Referendum** will extend the Environmentally Sensitive Lands and Parkland Program and the Neighborhood Parkland Acquisition Programs for an additional 20-years. The purpose is:

- Continued protection of wildlife habitat, parklands, and natural areas
- Public access and recreation opportunities
- Preservation of drinking water sources, improved water quality, and reduced flood risk
- Conservation of sensitive lands to prevent future development

If approved it will maintain the existing, dedicated 0.25-mill property tax and authorize the issuance of bonds not to exceed $250 million. For a home value of $350,000 that mean $87.50 per year. Note that the Sarasota ballot is set up as two separatequestions. The first question is for 0.25 mill property tax. The second question is for the bond funds (up to $250 million). **A great video overview of the referendum is available here.**

Statewide, see the FNPS statement on **Amendment 3**

Subscribe to Statewide Action Alerts

Photo from Serenoa Chapters' October Fieldtrip

Photo by Don Blackowiak



Your Florida Native Plant Society Membership

Name: Yiwen Chow
Membership #: 2956
Email: yiwen.chow@gmail.com
Membership Type: Individual - Annual
Member Since: 09/24/2026
Expiration Date: 09/23/2027

Renew Today

Apply for a Grant to Build a Native Plant Garden

You could receive up to $1,000 a grant from our chapter to build a Native Plant Garden. On our **grants page**, you will find important information about the new grant cycles, and tips to assist applicants in preparing strong proposals. Do you know of an organization that may be interested in applying for a grant? Please encourage them to apply! Are you intimidated by the application? We're still like to hear about your project.

Below is the installation of Native Plants at the Easter Seals Butterfly Garden this past July!



Application



New Serenoa Chapter T-Shirts - Shop Online

Serenoa Chapter Florida Native Plant Society

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!
See our calendar of meetings and programs on the **Serenoa FNPS website.**

This **QR code** 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.**

Send Money with Zelle®
Scan in your banking app to pay
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See past presentations on our YouTube Channel

Serenoa Chapter Board Members

President: Elliot Prout
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Field Trips Leader: Cathy Page
Conservation: Debra Woithe
Social Media: Rachel DesRosier
Newsletter: Don Blackowiak
Technology: Alison Bishop
Website: Yiwen Chow
Past President: Tom Heitzman
At large: Liz Gandy
Historian: Open

Contact us via email: srepens@gmail.com

Members are welcome at board meetings! Email us If you are interested in attending and we will send you a link.

Serenoa Chapter FNPS
The Mission of the Florida Native Plant Society is to to champion Florida's native plants and their habitats.
Go Wild! Go Native!
https://serenoa.fnpschapters.org

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