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Happy October!

All across Florida, parks, reserves and other wild places are in full bloom. We encourage you to get out there to enjoy how amazing our native plants look this time of year. Such experiences will also (we hope) encourage you to consider the FNPS statement on **Amendment 3** and support local conservation referenda on the ballot in Sarasota and Manatee counties for the November 3, 2026 election. Learn more in our conservation update and tell your friends please!

And a reminder "No Chapter Board member will ask for money via Venmo, Zelle or bank transfer/wire transfer." Beware of scams people!

Monday, October 19, 2026 @ 6:30 PM General Meeting: The Landings Microforest Project with Douglas Booth and Pamela Callender

Saturday, October 24, 2026 @ 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM Field Trip - Tour of the Microforest Project at the Landings

Remember Eventbrite is replacing Meetup for this season. So "Follow" us to be alerted when new events post.

For the best experience we recommend you download the **Zoom app** ahead of time.

Field Trips

There's now something happening at least once a month – an educational tour, informal hike, or advocacy in the community. Some trips have limited availability. Register in advance to confirm your spot. Please wear appropriate clothing, pack trail snacks, & bring water. Details and Directions will be emailed to registrants as the trip date approaches.

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, October 19, 2026

**The Landings Microforest Project with Douglas Booth and Pamela Callender
Social @ 6:30 PM, Meeting @ 7:00 PM EDT**

**Marie Selby Botanical Gardens - Downtown Campus
and Zoom**

Come learn about the Landings Native Plant Microforest in Sarasota. It is a high-performance community reforestation project designed to restore biodiversity, filter runoff, and enhance urban resilience. Located within The Landings—a waterfront community along South Tamiami Trail known for managing the largest area of privately owned mangroves in the country—the microforest turns underutilized green space into a dense, rapidly maturing ecosystem.

Key Highlights of the Project

- With plots designed with more plants of various sizes, the project triggers shade competition. This forces young trees to stretch upward quickly, accelerating growth.
- Scale & Native Biodiversity: Installed in phases starting in late 2024 through 2025, the project features approximately 1,800 plants representing 60 distinct native Florida species—with planned expansions expanding the footprint close to a full acre.
- Soil & Sheet Mulching Prep: Prior to planting, volunteers created a simulated forest floor using a "mulch-cardboard layer cake". Cardboard suppresses invasive turf, while a heavy layer of wood-chip mulch fosters fungal networks and organic soil microbial activity essential for long-term health.

The microforest has already demonstrated dramatic growth—with early plantings shooting up from 3-foot saplings into a 15-foot canopy within a single season. Winding paths integrated through the pocket forest allow residents and local naturalists to walk through, observe caterpillar-to-butterfly life cycles, and experience native habitat restoration firsthand.

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: Tour of the Microforest Project at the Landings
Saturday, October 24th, 2026 @ 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM EDT
The Landings, Sarasota, FL

Join us on a tour of the Landings Native Plant Microforest with Doug Booth and Pamela Callender. **Reserve your spot** to get the address.

Get an inside tour of the Landings Native Plant Microforest in Sarasota. It is a high-performance community reforestation project designed to restore biodiversity, filter runoff, and enhance urban resilience. Located within The Landings—a waterfront community along South Tamiami Trail known for managing the largest area of privately owned mangroves in the country—the microforest turns underutilized green space into a dense, rapidly maturing ecosystem.

RSVP

Doug Booth is the Chairman of the Nature Preserves Committee in the Landings where he has lived for over 25 years. He is a 66 year resident of Sarasota and his career spanned 45 years as a tradesman in high end drywall, plaster and framing. Doug brings his love of nature and his meticulous craftsmanship together as he stewards the Landings Preserves among other special projects.

Pamela Callender is a Sarasota-based interdisciplinary eco-artist, native plant landscape designer, and educator dedicated to regional conservation. She has been designing native plant landscapes and forests for about 4 years. Holding an MFA in Interdisciplinary Arts from Goddard College, she merges creative expression with environmental advocacy. Callender was the previous Art Curator at Fogartyville, as well as a recipient of the 2019 John Ringling Towers Grant. Her community impact extends beyond the gallery, and through her design business and collaborations with the Sarasota Audubon Society, she creates native habitats and leads educational workshops.

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 through conservation easements
- Creating and expanding public preserves

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 separate questions. 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' September Fieldtrip

Photo by Steven White



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!





[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.**

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Florida Native Plant Society Serenoa Ch



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Fly Year Round



April 30, 2025 General Meeting - Butterfly Landscaping with JP Charisma

[See past presentations on our YouTube Channel](#)