

Serenoa Chapter: 1982-2022

April News from Serenoa Chapter

Zoom Meeting: Monday, 18th

Plant Festival and Sale: Saturday, 23rd

See below for details.

We hope to see you soon!

- *Serenoa Board of Directors*



Firebush (hamelia patens), flirting with a hummingbird.

Planting for Backyard Wildlife

[April 18, 2022, 7pm, Zoom Meeting](#)

Forest Hecker

*Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Community Outreach Specialist
Sarasota County UF/IFAS Extension and Sustainability*

Attracting Wildlife is the 5th principle of Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Program. The presentation will cover plants with seeds, fruit, foliage, flowers, or berries that provide food. It will also cover the importance of sources of water, such as a rain garden or bird bath to attract wildlife.

[Register in advance for this meeting: Click Here](#)

If you want to practice connecting to Zoom, Erin Schoenberg can help.

[Contact Erin for a quick practice session.](#)



Forest Hecker is the new Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Program Community Outreach Specialist for Sarasota County UF/IFAS Extension and Sustainability as of late March. Forest most recently worked as the Outreach Coordinator for Peace River Botanical & Sculpture Gardens in Punta Gorda, Florida. A graduate of University of South Florida and a native of southwest Florida, Forest comes from a family of environmentalists, hence the name. Forest loves planting for pollinators and wildlife, as well as personal passions for tropical permaculture and ethnobotany.



Calling all wagons! It's plant sale time!

Spring Wildflower Festival and Plant Sale
Saturday April 23, 9a-3p
Sweet Bay Native Plant Nursery

Join us at Sweet Bay Nursery in Parrish for our annual (except for the last two years) festival and plant sale! There are demonstration gardens to view; we hope you get lots of ideas for your own yard. Our plant experts will be on hand to help choose the best plant for starting a garden for butterflies or expanding your native garden. Vendors will be there with nature related items for sale as well as information from environmental groups. Carousel's Sweet Treats food truck will be there to indulge your sweet tooth.

Members receive 15% off your purchases that day. As a member, you will also receive 10% off purchases at Sweet Bay throughout the year.

Volunteers receive an additional discount on the day of sale*!

***Volunteers are needed for the sale. Volunteers who work at least 4 hours get a 20% discount on plants they purchase on the sale date. [Click here to see the volunteer jobs](#) at the plant sale. [Please click here to volunteer.](#)**



EARTH DAY
April 22, 2022

There are hundreds of wonderful events in our area to celebrate our planet and to encourage people to care. One way to celebrate, of course, is to add more native plants to your garden! We hope you stop by, shop, visit, or volunteer at the Wildflower

[Click here](#) for information about the origins of Earth Day, April 1970.

I remember making posters for the first Earth Day in grade school. Later, all the classes came together, and we made a parade on the street in front of the school, carrying and waving our posters. It was a new, odd, and appealing concept for celebration.

Where were you on the first Earth Day? Tell me at the plant sale. :)

Susie V

Speaking of Volunteering: FNPS has determined that fewer than half of the hours volunteered for the organization have been recorded. Volunteer hours and projects are important data for requesting grants and other support. If you volunteer for Serenoa Florida Native Plant Society, we now need to record the hours and the activity involved. Those participating in group events need not be concerned, as those hours will be recorded by a coordinator. If you take on a project please send the # hours, type of project and dates of the work to us at srepens@gmail.com.

[Click here](#) to see the way hours are categorized.

American Snowbells

By Robyn Schoenberg

With the arrival of Spring, local bees, butterflies, and moths gravitate towards the enchanting flowers of the American Snowbell tree. The flowers resemble small bells lined up along the branch of the stem. They specifically attract bumblebees, carpenter bees, honeybees, small wasps, bee flies, and are the host plant for the *Promethea* moth. Where there are insects there are also insect

eating animals. This means that while the flowers are in bloom there will also be Great Crested Flycatchers and the occasional northern cardinal if they are in your area.

When it comes time for the flowers to turn to fruit, many birds and other animals enjoy the tree as well, such as songbirds, squirrels, and mice. The fruit is green when it's young and matures to be about 8mm, round, and brown.

The tree itself is 6-10 feet tall and wide and makes for a gorgeous specimen plant.

You can find the American Snowbell in areas that are annually flooded or have water at or above the waterline. This includes the understory of a floodplain, wet forests, swamps, shoreline thickets, and cypress-gum depressions. So, they generally enjoy being planted in loam or sand that is wet or not extremely dry. As an understory plant, the tree thrives in part shade or shade.



Promethea Moth

Photos of plant are taken by Erin Schoenberg
Photo of Promethea Moth: Copyrighted free
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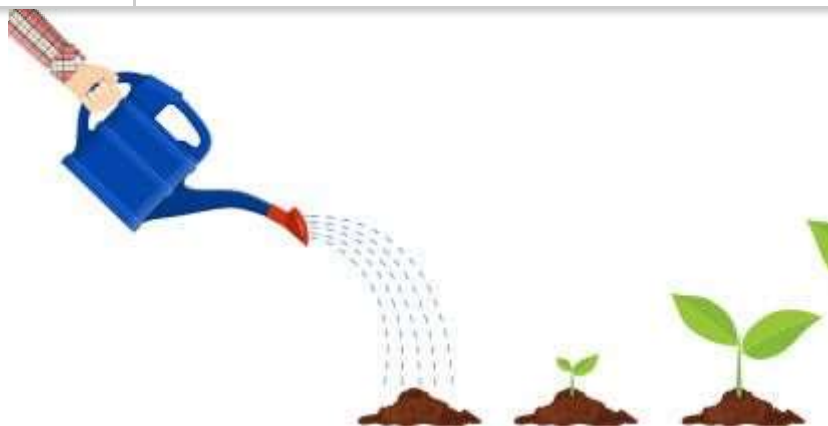




Field Trips - Past and Present..

We are planning field trips for next year. [Click here](#) to see a list compiled of all the trips we've been on, ever, that records could be found for. In our 40 years of existence, we have visited over 100 different locations!

Please let us know what kind of field trips you are interested in! What day(s) of the week work best for you? If you would like to volunteer for the field trip committee, or would like to provide input about future trips please [click here](#).



Gardening tips for April

- Stay on top of the weeds. Hand pull regularly or use a heavy mulch to keep them suppressed. If you get them out before they go to seed, you keep yourself way ahead.
- Mulching: your flower and plant beds, besides helping with the weeds, keeps your soil shaded, retains more moisture and helps keep the soil temperature cooler. Mulch from recycling is readily available, as is pine straw, pine bark, eucalyptus and Florimulch. A thick layer gives the advantages mentioned above as well as adding organic matter to our sandy soils.
- Prune as needed. Now is a good time to cut back and thin out trees and shrubs. Dead head any flowers that have finished blooming; most of the time this will reward you with additional blooms. Hurricane season is approaching. You may want to contact a qualified arborist now to get trees trimmed by August, when our season generally gets busier. Don't over-prune!! Check out the UF extension's advice on this: [Pruning and Maintaining Trees - Gardening Solutions - University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences \(ufl.edu\)](https://edis.ifl.edu/AN107).

Check out these sources for information about Florida native plants:

[Florida Native Plant Society: Native Plants for Your Area](https://www.floridaplanet.org/)
[University of Florida Gardening Solutions/Native Plants](https://edis.ifl.edu/AN107)
[Florida Wildflower Foundation](https://www.floridawildflower.org/)
[Treasure Coast Natives](https://www.treasurecoastnatives.com/)

interesting links.

[Florida Native Plant Society Lunch and Learns - YouTube](#)

[Florida Native Plant Society \(FNPS\)](#) - 2022 Virtual Conference information

[Conservation Foundation - Events](#) - Art exhibits, lunch and learns, activities for all, saving land for the future

[Sarasota Bay Estuary Program](#) - Improving the health of Sarasota Bay, April events include cleanups via kayak, and the upcoming Seagrass Survey & Festival

[Florida Wildlife Corridor](#) - 16,706 acres, on 7 different parcels of land, have recently been added for acquisition and conservation easement.

Ansel Adams and Clyde Butcher exhibit at the [James Museum](#) in St Petersburg, from April 9, 2022 - July 31, 2022

Serenoa Chapter Board Members:

President: Erin Schoenberg

Vice President: Erica Timmerman

Treasurer: Leah Wilcox

Secretary: Cindy Watts

Chapter Representative: Pamela Callendar

Programs Coordinator: Rachel Desrosier

Field Trips: Organize and facilitate the trips

Membership: Open. Manage and promote our membership.

Newsletter: Susie Venters

Website: Yiwen Chow

Zoom Meetings Facilitator: Erin Schoenberg

Assistant Zoom Meetings: Open

Directors at Large: Karen Willey, Ryan Inskeep, Lee Breyer, Cathy Page, Nancy West, Tom Heitzman

If you are interested in joining the board - please send us an email: srepens@gmail.com



***Our Meetings are held the third Monday of the month,
September - May, via Zoom.***

[Click here](#) for this year's amazing [lineup of speakers!](#)

Previous Programs on YouTube:

Mar 21, 2022: Coming soon

Feb 21, 2022: Coming soon

Jan 17, 2022: Coming soon

Nov 15, 2021: [Florida Scrub Life, Archbold Biological Station with Dustin Angell](#)

Oct 18, 2021: [Climate Wise Landscaping with Ginny Stibolt](#)

Sep 20, 2021: [Uncovering the Mysteries of Herbaria with Elizabeth Gandy](#)

May 17, 2021: [Phosphate and Wildflowers with Brooks Armstrong and Stacey Matrazzo](#)

Apr 19, 2021: [The Palmetto Book with Jono Miller](#)

Mar 15, 2021: [Old Growth Forests with Kate Borduas](#)

Feb. 15, 2021: [The Clean Water Playbook for SW Florida](#)

Jan. 18, 2021: [Aquatic Gardening with Sean Patton](#)

Jan. 11, 2021: [Climate Change with Tim Ramage & Karen Willey](#)

Nov. 16, 2020: [Florida Native Gardening with Tom Heitzman](#)

Oct. 19, 2020: [Conservation Lands with Debi Osborne](#)

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>

941-704-4325



Join Newsletter List

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Our mailing address is:

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Serenoa Chapter
PO Box 1224
Palmetto FL 34420

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