



Serenoa Chapter - 1981 - 2021

This is our 40th year as a chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society. A peek into our history will be included in each newsletter this year. We have members who were here at the beginning! If you have a story to share, contact newsletter editor, Susie Venters. [Contact Susie.](#)



Season's Greetings!

This month we forego our usual meeting and will gather *in person* for a holiday celebration, pot luck dinner and gift exchange. It's Dec 20th, 6-8pm at Celery Fields. See below for more info!

~ Serenoa Board of Directors

Palms along the Myakka River.



Please join us for a holiday celebration in person!

The party is Monday evening, December 20, and is in place of our monthly meeting. This year we are at a new location - the Celery Fields Nature Center at 999 Center Rd., Sarasota, 34240.

6-8 pm, with dinner at 6:30p

Roast turkey, ice, napkins and tea provided by the chapter.

We'll play a gift exchange game. If you want to participate, bring a wrapped, untagged gift, \$20 value max, nature/plants themed. Expect a lively game of exchange and re-exchange!

If you have your own name tag, please wear it. We will have some at the door also. It will be nice to meet and greet in person!

Masks are recommended, especially if unvaccinated.

The Nature Center has recently undergone improvements to the air system. The COVID retrofit includes double purification - both methods removing 99% of airborne pathogens.

- HEPA Air purifier with 6-stage filtration.
- Bi-polar ionizer in air conditioning unit.
- MERV 11 filters in the air conditioner.

We will be inside/outside depending on the weather.

Looking forward to seeing you there! Please RSVP for our planning purposes.

Click [here](#) to RSVP.



We welcome you to join the Board!

serenad Chapter vibrant and active. If you are interested in any of the open positions below, or would enjoy being on a committee of folks working those positions, please let us know! Your input and valuable time are needed and welcome.

We have many experienced board members who will help you learn the ropes, and there is room for your creative input. We're a friendly group - please come to a meeting and find out!

Slate of Board Members, and current open positions:

President: Erin Schoenberg

Vice President: Erica Timmerman (past president)

Treasurer: Leah Wilcox (re-elect)

Secretary: Cindy Watts (re-elect)

Chapter Representative – Pamela Callendar

Programs: Open. Gather, organize and announce speakers/topics and field trips for each month's meeting for 2022-2023 (Susie Venters is willing to work with one or two others to accomplish these tasks)

Field Trips: Open. Facilitate monthly signups and trips

Membership: Open. Manage and promote our membership

Newsletter: Susie Venters

Website: Yiwen Chow

Zoom Meetings: Erin Schoenberg, Assistant: Open

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

[Click here to volunteer or ask for more information](#)



Winter Gardening Tips:

- *Do your final clean up (weeding, mulching) before you take your winter break.*
- *Prune beautyberry after they lose their leaves and berries. Cut them back to 12-24" height if you want to have your plants bushy and under 5' height. Otherwise, let them go and they will grow to about 8'.*
- *Newly planted trees and shrubs should be watered at least once a week to keep them from drying out. This is the dry time of year here, and even native plants need to be watered until they are well-established for optimum health.*

Check out these sources for information about Florida native plants:

[Florida Native Plant Society: Native Plants for Your Area](#)

[University of Florida Gardening Solutions/Native Plants](#)

[Florida Wildflower Foundation](#)

[Treasure Coast Natives](#) This is a blog about flora. Sign your email up for the blog, you will be delighted with the humor and interesting botany of many species of plants.

Grants and Donations



These are pictures from the Sensory Garden at the Manatee County Agricultural Museum in Palmetto. Serenoa Chapter provided a grant to assist in including native plants among the plants used. The Ag Museum is located at 1015 6th St W in Palmetto. Click [here](#) for their website.

We have grants for up to \$500 for community organizations using

Recently an ultimate Frisbee team from Boston was in a tournament in Lakewood Ranch. In lieu of team gifts, the team decided to donate to a local charity. They recognized that the playing field was covered with non-native turf grass. To mitigate the impact of the turf grass, they chose to donate to the local chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society (us!) Their thoughtfulness is impressive and we appreciate it!

Interesting links for you, suggested by other members:

Click the titles to open the links

[My Garden of a Thousand Bees, Nature/PBS series.](#) A photographer's story of the life and times of the bees in his yard.

[James A. Kushlan: Seeking the American Tropics, South Florida's Early Naturalists](#) from the Key West Art and Historical Society, Distinguished Speaker Series, Nov 9, 2021. Stories of explorers, pioneers, naturalists and scientists who over centuries unveiled the tropical environment of South Florida.

and saving the best for last...

Fran Palmeri, long time Serenoa member and Programs director: [Photo Essay: Walking the Tracks](#), Sarasota News-Leader, November 26, 2021.

40_{Years of Serenoa}

The Dec 2002–Feb 2003 newsletter reports on the great success of the FIRST Plant Sale, in Oct 2002, at Sarasota's

For more plants, we needed a truck & a group of volunteers. Scouts helped people carry their new plants to their cars. ..There were presentations about water conservation and Master Gardeners were on hand to answer questions."

We still have native plant sales! Members get a discount on plants, there is lots of information about native plant gardening and other related subjects, and great vendors! Stay tuned to Blooming News for information about upcoming plant sales.



***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:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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>

941-704-4325



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