





Redbuds are starting to bloom - late January, Parrish.



News from Serenoa Chapter

Cool calm February

It is a GREAT time to be outside! The links below for several county parks and recreation sites might give you some new ideas of places to get outside and into nature.

Our meeting this month is Monday, February 21. The Field trip is Saturday, February 26. See below for details.

~ Serenoa Board of Directors



Serenoa Chapter: 1982-2022



Save the Date!

Our next Native Plant Sale & Festival will be April 23 at Sweet Bay Native Plant Nursery in Parrish. Volunteers will be needed to spend part of the day with nice people helping others to enjoy native plants. It's a day in the park! FNPS members get a discount.

Volunteer positions: Greeting the customers and providing them with info about the sale; Parking; Working the FNPS table; and more. Please consider helping out - it is a lot of fun.





Protecting Florida's Waterways Justin Bloom from Suncoast Waterkeepers

A virtual tour through our local waterways to discover how Suncoast Waterkeeper protects and restores them through enforcement, field work, advocacy and education.

General Meeting on Zoom: 7pm, Monday February 21

Suncoast Waterkeeper's founder Justin Bloom got his J.D. at Tulane Law School and has been a practicing environmental attorney specializing in prosecuting pollution cases and representing communities for over 18 years. His experience includes investigation, enforcement and litigation of Clean Water Act violations and “Toxic Tort” cases. He has successfully represented many plaintiffs affected by the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill and other oil spills in the US. Prior to returning to the Suncoast, he worked in New York City as Waterkeeper Alliance’s Eastern Regional Director. Justin’s family first came to the area in the ‘70s. He attended New College, where he graduated with a concentration in environmental studies in 1991.

[Register here for the link to the Zoom meeting](#)



Field Trip: Myakka River State Park
Saturday, Feb 26, 9am

What grows along the Wild and Scenic Myakka River? Discover the intricacies of this habitat. Space is limited! More details will be emailed later to those registered to attend.

Trip to be led by Chris Oliver, Biologist, FDEP/FPS District IV – Myakka Wild and Scenic River (MWSR) Program.

[Click here to register for the field trip.](#)



Chris Oliver (pictured above) is a Biologist with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection/Florida Parks System District IV – Myakka Wild and Scenic River (MWSR) Program. He is responsible for implementing management objectives to “protect and enhance” resource values, as well as, performing inspections of the Wild and Scenic River. He coordinates management entities and stakeholders with interest along the river and acts as liaison for the Myakka River Management Coordinating Council. Chris has worked Biologist for the MWSR Program for eight years. He earned a BS in Biology from the University of Utah.



In Memoriam: Gar Reed

Gar Reed was a wonderful man with a quick wit and loving heart. He was an avid supporter of the FNPS mission and a regular fixture on field trips, volunteer events, and one of those people you would regularly bump into on a trail while he was out

indeed clearly for the giving heart and marvelous commentary during field trips. The world has lost a truly great one in Gar, but he will live on through the memories of those who loved him and the many plants he personally installed volunteering to make our natural areas a little more special.

Gar passed away November 9, 2021.

[Obituary: Edgar McCook Reed \(thebradentontimes.com\)](https://thebradentontimes.com)

Thanks to Damon Moore for the memory and Karen Willey for the pictures



Gardening tips for February

- Late February is the time to prune mature grasses (particularly Fakahatchee grass, dwarf Fakahatchee, Muhly and lovegrass) back to the ground. Historically they would burn each year. You can burn yours too. Here's info from FNPS about Muhlygrass. [Page 19 has maintenance tips. Muhly Grass](#)

Late February is also the time to prune back summer flowering shrubs. This can include wild coffee and firebush. Wait to prune Walter's viburnum, privet, Virginia willow and other spring flowering plants, then selectively prune so you don't cut off all the fruit.

Remove completely dead palm fronds and dead branches.

Don't forget to water newly planted trees and shrubs at least once a week. This is our dry season, and even native plants need watering until they are established.

[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.





Years of Serenoa

Our chapter logo featuring native wildflowers (shown at the top of the newsletter and on our tshirts), is delightful. The back of our tshirts have this quote from Janet Marinelli: “As wilderness shrinks and backyard acreage increases, the ecological impact of home gardeners grows ever greater.”

The logo was created in 2003. The winter 2003-2004 newsletter tells the origin story. The original concept of the logo was created by Tom Heitzman. That concept was given to a local artist, Kitty Kelly, of Sarasota. She created the perfect design – colorful and botanically accurate. Cindy Clifton of Swan Graphics in Sarasota designed the lettering of the plant names on the logo.

The quote on the tshirts from Janet Marinelli was suggested by Nancy West. It is from Janet’s book “Stalking the Wild Amaranth: Gardening in the Age of Extinction.” Nancy contacted the author for permission to use the quote. Not only did Janet Marinelli approve, she also requested shirts for herself and her husband.

Thank you to all who were inspired to create all the elements of our logo. Well done! s.v.



Some sources of outdoor activities and maybe new paths for you to explore:

Manatee County [February 2022 EcoEvents Calendar \(civiclive.com\)](https://www.civiclive.com/calendar/2022/02/)

Sarasota County [Events and Activities Guide | Sarasota County, FL \(scgov.net\)](https://www.sarasotacountyfl.gov/activities)

Hardee County [Visit Hardee](#)

Charlotte County [All Parks](#) | [Charlotte County, FL](#)
([charlottecountyfl.gov](#))

And this one is just fun!

Kelly Quinn, **Canvas of the Wild**, shows you how to draw a red mangrove. [How to Draw a Mangrove - YouTube](#)



A grassroots call-to-action to regenerate biodiversity and ecosystem function by planting native plants and creating new ecological networks.

Catalyzing a collective effort of individual homeowners, property owners, land managers, farmers, and anyone with some soil to plant in...to start a new HABITAT™ by planting native plants and removing most invasive plants.

It is the largest cooperative conservation project ever conceived or attempted.

Start a new HABITAT® has no political, religious, cultural or geographic boundaries because everyone - every human being on this planet - needs diverse, highly productive ecosystems to survive.

Homegrown National Park is led by Doug Tallamy, an author, educator and enthusiastic supporter of native plant gardeners

impact known. You register your yard by county and zip code on the site and become part of the Homegrown National Park. The goal is to register 20,000,000 acres of native plantings in the US, which is approximately equal to the space taken by half of the privately owned green lawns. The website also has a wealth of information and inspiration from Doug about planting natives.

[Click here to go to the Homegrown National Park website](#)



Serenoa Chapter Board Members:

President: Erin Schoenberg

Vice President: Erica Timmerman

Treasurer: Leah Wilcox

Secretary: Cindy Watts

Chapter Representative: Pamela Callendar

Programs Coordinator: **CANDIDATE: Rachel Desrosier We will vote soon!**

Field Trips: Open. Facilitate monthly signups and 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:

Jan 17, 2021: 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](#)



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plant communities of Florida.
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