





Resurrection fern, (*Pleopeltis polypodioides*) on an oak.

## News from Serenoa Chapter

January 2023

Our monthly meeting (via Zoom) is Monday, 16th, 7pm. The topic is Native Orchids! Our speaker is Dr. Tatiana Araís from Selby Botanical Gardens.

Our Field trip this month is to Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park, on Saturday January 21st. We are meeting there at 10am.

Volunteers Needed for the Sarasota County FireFest on January 28.

Kayak trip: Manatee River, Monday January 16th, 9am.

See below for all the details!

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**Cold Weather Recovery for Native Florida Plants**

**colder in many cases! Below is an article from Sweet Bay Nursery with helpful information.**



Pictured above is the Pinxter Azalea (*Rhododendron canescens*) showing off a few early blooms. You don't need to worry about our native azaleas, they are no stranger to the cold and will do just fine throughout this big freeze event!

### **Gardening Tips for Cold Weather in Florida**

Winter in Florida can be very unpredictable. One minute it's in the 80's, the next there's a freeze warning, leaving gardeners scrambling to figure out what to do. Whenever the possibility of a freeze is reported we get a lot of worried customers concerned about their plants.

If you have a mostly native garden, not much needs to be done! Some native plants will and can experience leaf loss due to the drop in temperature such as the Firebush or native Blue Porterweed, covering these would be beneficial, but they will likely recover with time. Most natives can benefit from the cold, but if you would like to create a little more warmth for your plants naturally, you can

For all our central and north Florida native gardeners, there may be a bit more preparation needed if you have plants that are considered a south Florida native. These would include Lignum Vitae, Geiger Tree, Bahama Cassia, Spiny Black Olive, Bahama Strongbark etc. So please do cover these as they may not be able to withstand a deep freeze.

If you need verification on where a plant is vouchered (found naturally in the state) you can always check out the Florida Plant Atlas here:

<https://florida.plantatlas.usf.edu/> or Florida Native Plant Society here:

<https://www.fnps.org/plants>

When a freeze occurs your plants may have some leaf damage, but do not worry! They should recover with time. Even though it might be hard to look at, we would suggest not doing any intense pruning until we get closer to the spring season. The dead foliage will help insulate the plant and it is still possible for us to drop in temperature again before winter ends, so try to hold off on any big maintenance in the garden for the time being.

Lazy gardening is also super beneficial for our pollinators. If we do have colder nights, many creatures and pollinators will take refuge in spent flower heads, stems and grasses. We have found bees, ladybugs and the occasional lizard hiding in the dead leaves of muhly grass! So, try to post pone any big garden cleanup till spring, the bees, butterflies, moths, lizards and other critters will thank you!

The UF/IFAS extension has some great tips on what to do with your plants after a big freeze, check out the link below!

<https://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/care/weather/treating-cold-damage.html>

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Butterfly orchid (*Encyclia tampensis*)

**Monthly Meeting:**

**Florida Native Orchids**  
**Speaker: Dr. Tatiana Arias**  
Monday January 16th  
Meeting via Zoom at 7:00 pm

**[Click here to register for the meeting.](#)**



**Dr. Tatiana Arias is the new orchid research botanist at Selby Botanical Gardens. She has been leading an eponymous research lab for the past several years focused on orchid genomics, horticulture, and conservation. She has over 15 years of experience working in plant sciences, particularly in the understanding and conservation of plants. She earned recognition and awards from the World Academy of Sciences and The Colombian Academy of Sciences, among other professional achievements. She also has taught and mentored young scientists from Colombia and beyond.**

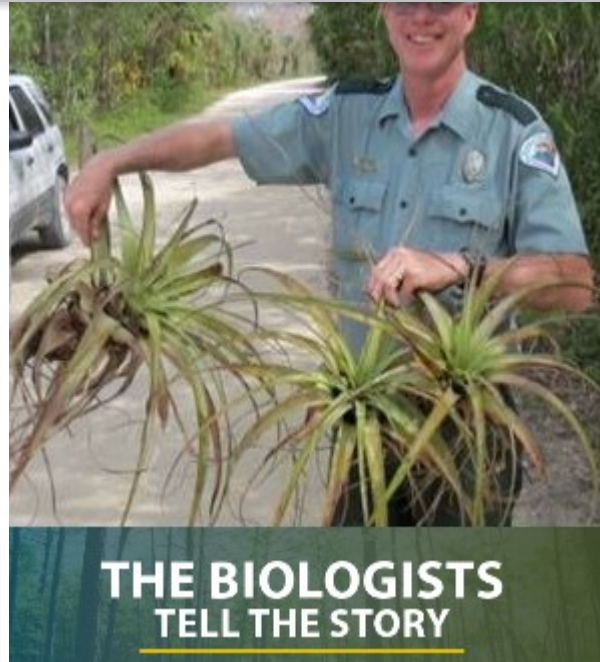
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**Field trip: Saturday, January 21st  
Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park  
Meet there at 10am**

With more than 85,000 acres, this is Florida's Largest State Park & worth going the distance to visit. Mike Owen, Biologist, will lead our venture into Florida's largest state park and will talk about endangered plants. Here is a link to the park's website: [Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park](#).

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



Mike Owen

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**Volunteers needed: Sarasota County FireFest**



**Serenoa Chapter will have a tent and table at the Firefest. We**



provide information to people about planting natives and the benefits of FNPS membership. There are lots of other vendors, displays and activities at Firefest. It is a fun family event. Volunteers usually work 3-4 hours, and will have time to enjoy the festival. [Here is a link](#) to the Firefest information from the Friends of Carlton Reserve website.

**Saturday, January 28, 2023**

**T. Mabry Carlton, Jr. Memorial Reserve, Sarasota County**

**8:00am - 2:00 pm.**

**[Please click here if you would like to volunteer to work the Serenoa table at FireFest.](#)**



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## **Manatee River Kayak Trip Monday January 16, 9am**

We're meeting at Ray's Canoe Hideaway  
1289 Hagle Park Rd, Bradenton, 34212 [Google Maps](#)

[Click here for Ray's Canoe Hideaway info](#)

Pay Ray's \$8 per car/truck, (for those bringing their own boat, this is your only fee)

Ray's boat rentals: \$25 half day single canoe/kayak  
Cash only!

We will meet at 9am, hold a short safety and paddling review, and depart at 9:15am. The plan is to enjoy a leisurely paddle on the river. The trip is estimated to take about 3 hours. Bring a lunch and beverage if you wish, we can eat together at Ray's when we return.

We won't see blooming fringe trees on this trip, but keep an eye out for palmettos, cypress, water locusts, sweet gums, cabbage palms, hickory, live oak trees and more!

If you bring your own boat, be sure to have a lifejacket (and a whistle if your boat is under 16 feet) aboard.

[Click here to sign up.](#) Please register by Saturday, Jan 14.



**Vice President: Nancy West**

**Treasurer: Leah Wilcox**

**Secretary: Cindy Watts**

**Chapter Representative: Pamela Callender**

Contact us via email: [srepens@gmail.com](mailto:srepens@gmail.com)



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## 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>



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