



Serenoa Chapter: 1982-2022



News from Serenoa Chapter

March Madness FL Native Plant Style

Our Zoom meeting this month is Monday, March 21. The Field trip is Saturday, March 26. Plant Sale coming soon - April 23!! See below for details.

~ Serenoa Board of Directors

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

Contact Erin for a quick practice session.

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Chickasaw plum (*Prunus angustifolia*). February, Bradenton.

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.



March 21, 7:00pm Zoom Meeting

Insects: Part One Insects in the Ecosystem
Why Insects Matter

Kate Borduas, Master Naturalist and Insect Enthusiast

Insects: Part Two: Why the insect Apocalypse Matters (Arriving Fall of 2022)

According to the late, great, entomologist, Eric Wilson, "If all mankind were to disappear, the world would regenerate back to the rich state of equilibrium that existed ten thousand years ago. If insects were to vanish, the environment would collapse into chaos... all life, and humanity with it, would most likely disappear from the land. Within a few months."

In other words, insects are the nexus of life on earth. In the next program we will explore the "death of a thousand cuts" that is befalling insects. Before we get to that program, however, we are going to explore the many ways that insects are among the most amazing creatures on earth.

Insects are miracles of evolution; insects were the first creatures to evolve flight and ruled the skies for millennia; insects outnumber all other living species combined; and come in a wondrous array of sizes, colors, and shapes. Along their evolutionary pathways, insects also invented agriculture, animal husbandry and manufacturing.

Humans put insects and their byproducts for uses such as dyes, honey, ink, silk, and shellac. And we didn't even mention pollination!

[A: Because they run the world!](#)

Please join Master Naturalist and Insect Enthusiast, Kate Borduas, as she explores the lives of the creatures that run the world.

Mar 21, 2022, 7:00pm

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



Kate is a self-described "Adult-onset" Naturalist. A transplant from coastal Maine, she is trained as a Florida Master Naturalist and as a

Following a life-long, long-distance love affair with nature, Kate is delighted to be living the life of a naturalist full time. Kate gives frequent walks and talks in Charlotte and Sarasota Counties with a specific focus on Scrub Habitat and the Endangered Florida Scrub Jay. As a naturalist and guide, Kate is committed to sharing with other the hidden wonders of nature all around us.

Kate was the recipient of Sarasota County Parks “Volunteer of the Year” award in 2018. Kate gives walks and talks for a number of organizations, including several Audubon chapters, Mangrove Chapter of Native Plant Society and Sarasota Libraries.



Rosette skimmer male dragonfly near Englewood Hospital, Dec 9, 2021, from Bill Dunson.

Field Trip: Lemon Creek Wildflower Preserve
March 26 at 9 am.

Bill Dunson will teach us about insects, including dragonflies and pollinators. His information will be wide ranging across plant identification, plant succession and large-scale habitat restoration. Here is a link to his archive of many previous nature notes/blogs:

The land that is now Wildflower Preserve operated as an 18-hole executive golf course from the early 1970s to 2006. For the next four years, the property sat abandoned and became overgrown with dense vegetation. After attempts to sell the land to developers collapsed, Lemon Bay Conservancy successfully negotiated to purchase the property and closed on the sale in September 2010.

The 80-acre preserve is located on the Cape Haze peninsula in Charlotte County, FL. It is an interesting property because it contains a variety of upland habitats along with several fresh water ponds that feed into salt-water Lemon Creek.

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



Lemon Creek Wildflower Preserve.



Bill Dunson, born in rural Georgia, skipped 12th grade and went directly to Yale. Bill subsequently received a PhD in Zoology from the University of Michigan, studying softshell turtles. Bill is Professor Emeritus of

ecotoxiciology of reptiles, amphibians and fish. Always curious about nature, Bill has dedicated his life to learning and sharing his knowledge with others. He has served on many advisory boards here in Southwest Florida to preserve the water that gives life to our region. Join Bill as he walks among wildlife and plant life throughout our neighborhoods here in Southwest Florida and his Virginia Farm. Each month we feature one of Bill's fascinating and educational nature notes.



Early Bloomers

Sky Blue Lupine

With spring right around the corner, wildflower gardens are about to be flushed with beautiful flowers. Among them is the Sky Blue Lupine. It has exotic blue and lavender flowers that grow on upright stalks. These striking plants love full sun and can tolerate short very dry periods of time, and sandy substrate. A downside is the fact that they are hard to transplant. On the bright side, they attract a variety of special pollinators. This includes the endangered, frosted elfin butterfly, the gray hairstreak butterfly, Genista broom moth, bumblebees, and more. For more information go to, <https://www.fnps.org/plant/lupinus-diffusus>



Paw Paw

You know it's February at Oscar Scherer State Park when the Pawpaw flowers are in bloom. The unique flowers sometimes bud even before the leaves come back. The flowers have a cream color with a hint of maroon in the center. Although it's hard to transplant, once it's planted it makes a wonderful shrub that grows to be about 2 to 4 ft tall by 1 to 3 ft wide.

This greenery flourishes in full sun or part shade, somewhat moist soil, and sandy substrate. Contrary to the other plants listed, the Pawpaw attracts caterpillars, mammals, and birds. For more information go to, <https://www.fnps.org/plant/asimina-reticulata>



Spiderwort

The Spiderwort is beloved to many that want a casual or wildflower garden. The plant grows in clumps of grass-like leaves that will naturalize in their area. Its blooms last one day and rebud multiple times during the spring.

The flowers are petite and dainty, with three petals and a range of colors, including pink, blue, and purple. They were named after John Tradescant, the gardener for Charles I of England, who even believed these gorgeous flowers could cure spider bites. A myriad of pollinators also find this plant attractive including bumblebees, honeybees, carpenter bees, halictid bees, butterflies, and syrphid flies. The Spiderwort thrives in full or part sun, and with usually moist soil. For more information go to, <https://www.fnps.org/plant/tradescantia-ohiensis>



Written by Robyn Schoenberg, Age 14

Thank you, Robyn Schoenberg for this excellent presentation about early bloomers! We look forward to more articles from you in future newsletters.





Grants Approved since January 2022

Our chapter offers grants to groups and businesses to assist them in using native plants. Photos of the gardens coming soon! All grants below are \$500; and are approved with the restriction that the money can only be used to purchase native plants, or for signage related to the native plants chosen.

Network to Freedom Native Garden Grant; Reflections of Manatee, Inc.; 1305 4th Ave. E., Bradenton, FL 34208

Project description:

Reflections of Manatee maintains 3 historic properties in Old Manatee. We wish to beautify our visitor center with historic plants in our landscape. We recognize that not all of the plants on our list are native, and are only asking for the cost of the native plants from Serenoa Chapter. We will be educating our visitors about the historic landscape and how the plants may have been used by the early settlers here. We are most interested the possibility of roasting and selling yaupon tea as a fundraiser.

See below - planting help is needed on this project.

Tree Giveaway for Tree Foundation Grant; City of Sarasota Sustainability Office, 1565 1st Street, Sarasota, FL 34236.

Project description:

The City of Sarasota is partnering with the Tree Foundation to give away native trees at an event Monday, February 7th. This will hopefully mesh with the night (annual party) and reach people that we have not given trees out to in the past.

Holmes Beach Butterfly Garden Grant; City of Holmes Beach, Parks and Beautification Committee; 5801 Marina Drive; Holmes Beach, Florida 34217

Project description:

The City of Holmes Beach has proposed to turn a neglected section of the City

community garden. The size of the center circle butterfly garden is 30 feet in diameter. Working with the Manatee County Extension Office, a plan has been developed for the garden along with a list of appropriate native plants.

This butterfly garden is also just north of the Manatee County Island Library. Through the library and the Anna Maria Island Garden Club, learning opportunities will be provided to Anna Maria Island residents including elementary school children. Two Manatee County Master Gardeners (Mary Lange and Edward Upshaw) will coordinate public education opportunities with the Manatee County Extension Office.

**UF IFAS Manatee County Extension; Native Demonstration Garden
#5; 1303 17th Street West Palmetto; Palmetto, FL 34221**

Project description:

This garden is in a prominent location at our Extension office that is now bare. I think it would be an excellent location to showcase native plants that do well in sandy, well-drained, part-sun locations. It is intended for the promotion of native plants to our clientele who visit us, homeowners as well as green industry professionals. Part of the funding would be going to plant signs to identify the native plants in all of our native gardens, which we believe is very important for educating people about what plants they are looking at. This prominent area of new native plantings is approx. 6' wide by about 50' long





Sarasota County needs members for a Native Plant Rescue Team

Sarasota County is looking for a team of community members to help salvage native plants from healthy habitats on county lands that are being developed. We need scouts to go onto the land once we realize it will be altered to see what is there. We need boots and shovels to help dig once the time is right. We need foster locations to keep plants in pots until they are homed. We need homes (public or private) to immediately put plants in the ground when they are rescued.

Would you like to scout, dig, foster or adopt? Or just learn more about what Sarasota County Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources are up to?

**Contact: Brooke Langston, Supervisor,
Sarasota County Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources**

Office: 941-929-2088

Cell: 941-237.0723

blangston@scgov.net

www.scgov.net



One of our Serenoa Chapter Grant recipients, [Reflections of Manatee, Inc.](#) is inviting you to join them for a planting event at their Visitor Center in Old Manatee (east Bradenton), the 1921 Theodosia Curry House. This is the newest site on the National Underground Railroad.

What: Planting a lovely native garden

When: Saturday March 19, 2022, 9:30-11am

Where: Theodosia Curry Lloyd House at 1305 East 4th Avenue East, Bradenton, FL 34208

Google Map Link: <https://goo.gl/maps/B6Z2bH1BWcVrcaBRA>

Please RSVP to Karen Willey via email: KarenWildFL@gmail.com.

She will answer any questions you may have as well.

Come on out for some fun gardening - and see the [Freedom Seeker Exhibit](#) while you are there!



Gardening tips for March

- Use the oak leaves for compost and mulch.
- Cut your grasses back to the ground.
- Keep weeds under control, hand pull or apply mulch as a deterrent.

Mulch 2-3" to form a nice weed barrier. Get them out before they go

- **Mulching not only helps control weeds, it also helps keep the soil cooler and retain more moisture. Recycled mulch is available, as is pine straw, pine bark, Eucalyptus or Florimulch.**
- **Your new plantings of all types – flowers, shrubs, trees, etc, will need watering. We are having an especially dry dry season. Plants that have been in the ground even for a few years might needs some help this year! Check your county’s water use guidelines. Use rain barrels if you can. Water rings are good around trees and shrubs to keep the water over the root zone. Encourage deep rooting by giving plants a good soaking once or twice a week.**

[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.





The Mission: To preserve and protect the ecological integrity of the watersheds and estuaries of the Peace and Myakka Rivers of Florida.

They are working to defend the Wild and Scenic Myakka River from the issuance by FDEP of seawall permits that are contrary to law, to build public resistance against unlawful boat channels being promoted by Charlotte County and by certain residents that will cut through protected mangroves and dredge critical sawfish habitat into Tippecanoe Bay, and conducting environmental investigations into the harmful impacts of the phosphate process that has been liberally permitted by FDEP through both watersheds.

If this work sounds like something you support, please consider joining. As one of the first generation of members, you will pay only \$10 for the first year, \$30 thereafter, and will forever be listed as a Founding Member of the Peace Myakka Waterkeepers.

While donation capacity is being built into their web site—peacemyakkawaterkeeper.org—please send an email to Waterkeeper [Andy Mele, at andymele@mac.com](mailto:Andy.Mele@mac.com), expressing your interest in becoming a Waterkeeper.

Their website still being completed, but there is more information there now: Peace+Myakka Waterkeeper



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



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: 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:

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](#)



plant communities of Florida.
Go Wild! Go Native!
<https://serenoa.fnpschapters.org>
941-704-4325



Join Newsletter List

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You are on this list because you are a member of the Serenoa Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society serving Manatee, Sarasota, Hardee & DeSoto counties.

Our mailing address is:

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