

News from Serenoa Chapter
Spring is in the air!
Our Zoom meeting this month is on Monday March 15 and the following Saturday field trip will be March 20 at two home gardens in downtown Palmetto, FL. FNPS members are required to wear masks and follow CDC guidelines for social distancing.

~ Serenoa Board of Directors



**Lost American Old-growth Forests:
When Will we see the Forest and the Trees?**

~ Kate Borduas, CIG, Florida Master Naturalist

March 15, 2021 at 7:00pm via Zoom

Vast swaths of old-growth virgin forest - from American Chestnut to Long-leaf Pine once covered America east of the Mississippi. Most have been felled for lumber or have succumbed to disease. We now understand that forests are not simply a commodity to be exploited but are, instead, complex eco-systems that are home to great diversity. There are no simple answers about the future of old growth forest but exploring these questions is quite an eye opener.

Kate Borduas is a self-described "Adult-onset" Naturalist. A transplant from coastal Maine, she is trained as a Florida Master Naturalist and as a nationally Certified Interpretive Guide. As a naturalist and guide, Kate is committed to sharing with others the hidden wonders of nature all around us.

[Register here](#) Once you have registered you will receive a confirmation with the link from Zoom.
***If you want to practice with Karen Willey on connecting to Zoom, [Contact Karen](#) for a quick practice session

Two Gardens in Historic Palmetto

Field Trip, Sat. March 20

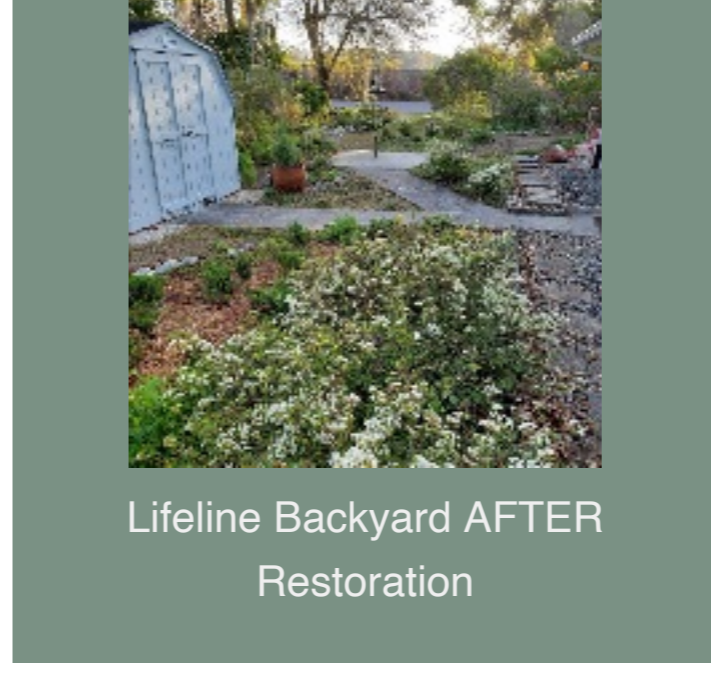
We will tour three properties in downtown Palmetto, two of which are home to restored historic houses. There are many mature and newer native trees and plants throughout the landscape and gardens. Field trip is limited to 15 people and masks are required.
--> Lunch at Sutton Park afterward if you like. (Bring your own).



Participation limited [Register Here](#)



Lifeline Backyard BEFORE Restoration
Pam's LIFELINE project :



Lifeline Backyard AFTER Restoration



What One Citizen Can Do

by Erica Timmerman, Photo Credit Pam Callendar
Pam Callendar is a member of the Serenoa Chapter of the FNPS, Adjunct Professor of Eco Art History at Eckerd college in St. Petersburg, a part time employee of Sweetbay Nursery in Parrish FL and a woman with a mission. While providing 24/7 care for her infirm mother, Pam picked up gardening and landscaping as a way to get out in nature and gain perspective during stressful times. A webinar featuring Doug Tallamy and his book "Nature's Best Hope" inspired her to take action in her own community to make her neighborhood a viable pathway for insects, birds and other native creatures

Researching the internet, she found information on active pollinator pathways being developed in other areas. She decided to try to develop a pollinator pathway and wildlife corridor in her own neighborhood with the hope that the idea would spread to neighboring communities. She calls her project "Lifelines".

[Read her full story](#), with more photos [click here](#).



What to do with those Free Oak Leaves?

by Paula Wehr, Audubon Florida
Living in an HOA can be limiting on the landscape, but Paula Wehr found a way to keep her native yard (literally, she built around the *Serenoa repens* saw palmettos!) and keep her HOA happy. [Read all about it here.](#)



Screen shot of the new Florida Native Plant Society Website

Next month: April Serenoa Program

Histories & Mysteries of the Cabbage Palm – Jono Miller – the latest word on *Sabal palmetto* in his book entitled **The Palmetto Book**. He will offer surprising facts and dispel common myths about this often-misunderstood native plant. The book itself is very readable and fascinating, don't miss this talk on Zoom! The book is available at local bookstores and through the University Press of Florida. [Zoom Registration](#).

Previous Programs on YouTube:

- Oct. 19, 2020: [Conservation Lands with Debi Osborne](#)
- Nov. 16, 2020: [Florida Native Gardening with Tom Heitzman](#)
- Jan. 11, 2021: [Climate Change with Tim Rumage & 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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