

## Serenoa Chapter: 1982-2022

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### May News from Serenoa Chapter

Zoom Meeting: Monday, 16th

Field Trip: Erin Schoenberg's garden: Saturday, 21st

See below for details.

We hope to see you soon!

- **Serenoa Board of Directors**



## Sustainable Gardens using Healthy Soil

[May 16, 2022 7pm, via Zoom](#)

Our May speaker is Dr. Lucas Majure. A plant systematist and avid gardener, Dr. Majure shares how to design a sustainable and biodiverse Florida garden using healthy soil.

Dr. Majure is Keeper/Curator of the Herbarium (FLAS) at the Florida Museum of Natural History. He earned his Ph.D. in Botany at the University of Florida and his master's and bachelor's degrees in Biology at Mississippi State University.



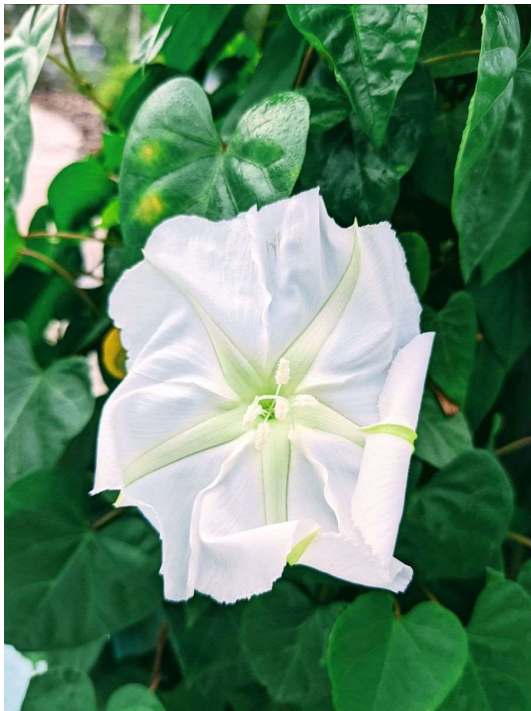
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After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

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*If you want to practice connecting to Zoom, Erin Schoenberg can help.*  
[Contact Erin for a quick practice session.](#)

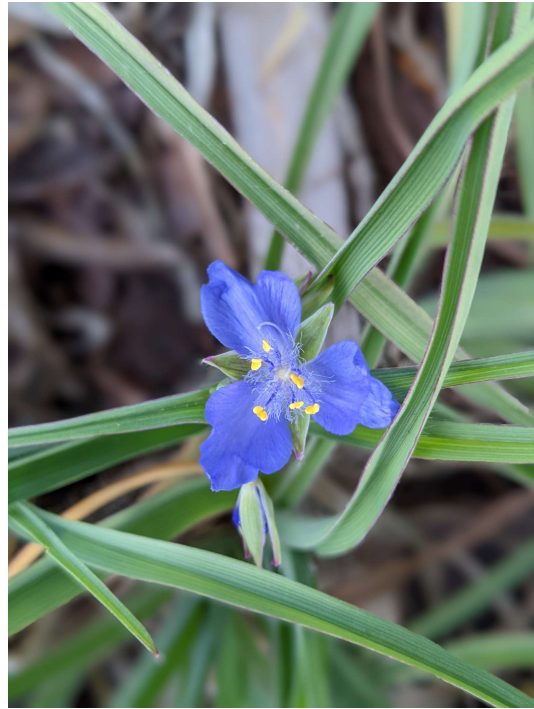
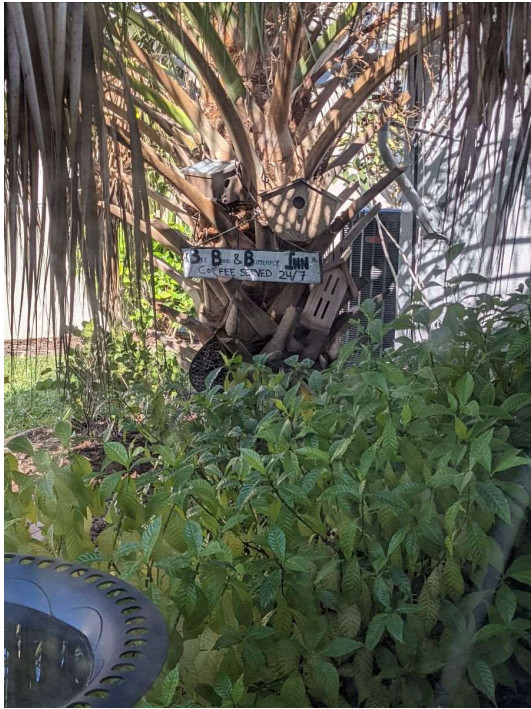
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On the left, moonflower (*ipomoea alba*), and Simpson's stopper (*Myrcianthes fragrans*) on the right. Photos from Erin Schoenberg.

[Field Trip May 21, 2022, 9:00am](#)  
[The White Garden, Erin Schoenberg's Garden tour](#)

This month we will visit the yard of Erin Schoenberg, Serenoa board president and passionate gardener. Erin expresses her love of white flowers in her yard, carrying on a centuries-old tradition.



On the left, coffee corner. "Bees, Birds & Butterfly Inn." On the right, Common spiderwort (*Tradescantia ohiensis*). Photos from Erin Schoenberg.

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### Follow up: Wildflower Festival and Plant sale on April 23



Images above from Wendy West.

**Thank you all for your hard work at the Serenoa Plant sale! We could have not done this without you.**

**We earned about \$4500 for the chapter which we use to give out native**



our application is on the FNPS website.

<https://serenoa.fnpschapters.org/grant-application/>

We had about 377 people come to buy native plants and thirty new members joined our chapter!

Please consider joining our board of directors. We all have the same goal and so there is no rancor in this board.

Thank you again! Nancy West



**History note: The December 2014 newsletter reports the results from the October 2014 plant sale as having 100 people and gaining 7 new members.**

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**Farewell wishes to our Karen Willey. Karen and her husband Matt have moved to Asheville, NC. The photo above is from the Plant Festival and Sale on April 23, which was Karen's last activity with us. Karen has impacted tens of thousands of people in our area through her leadership with Florida Native Plant Society; her environmental educational**



local environmental political actions, and in many many more ways.

Thank you, Karen, for everything.

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**From our friends at Florida Wildflower Foundation**

**Attention educators:**

**Seedlings for Schools grant application deadline is May 15!**

The Florida Wildflower Foundation's Seedlings for Schools grants program is accepting applications through May 15, 2022.

Teachers at Pre-K–12 public and private Florida schools may apply to receive an assortment of small Florida native wildflower plants with which to establish or enhance a native wildflower garden. Professional guidance on garden establishment and classroom resources also are provided. These gardens can beautify school grounds and provide an outdoor classroom that helps create connected pollinator pathways.

Grant awardees will receive plants in September for fall planting. Species supplied will be a good fit for smaller garden spaces and should thrive year-round. Those who successfully establish fall gardens will be eligible to receive more plants in spring 2023.

In the 2021 school year, a total of 49 schools were awarded and approximately 4,887 students were impacted. [Read the report here.](#)

Visit the [Seedlings for Schools grants page](#) for more information and to apply.

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**Follow up from Forest Hecker with the resources from his presentation:**

Extremely useful print publications can be requested from Southwest Florida Water

This publication in particular is extremely valuable for residents of Florida:  
*Florida-Friendly Landscaping(TM) Guide to Plant Selection & Landscape Design*  
Florida-Friendly Landscaping has a new application and great resources located here:

[Resources - Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Program - University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences - UF/IFAS \(ufl.edu\)](#)

Serenoa Native Plant Society members can reach out to me at [fhecker@scgov.net](mailto:fhecker@scgov.net) if they want to start the process to get a Florida-Friendly Landscaping yard. I am looking forward to getting the program restarted.

An interesting article about Vanilla and the UF/IFAS citizen science program that is going to start soon: <https://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/news/2020/08/06/uf-researchers-expand-vanilla-project-hope-to-meet-consumer-grower-demands/>

A good article about the Atala butterfly and its host plant the coontie can be found here:

[pdf\archived\MG\MG347\MG347-4892444.pdf \(ufl.edu\)](#)

This Atala project is being run on Florida's east coast - it is super cool. I hope that something like this can be put together here in SWFL. [The Atala Steppingstone Project - UF/IFAS Extension St. Lucie County \(ufl.edu\)](#)

*Forest Hecker*





**Stay on top of weeds. Hand pull them regularly, or use heavy mulch to keep them suppressed. If you get them out before they to go seed you keep yourself way ahead.**

**Mulch not only suppresses weeds, it gives your garden a fresh look. It helps keep your soil shaded, retains moisture and keeps soil temperatures cooler. Suggested mulches include pine straw, pine bark, eucalyptus and Florimulch.**

**Now is a good time to cut back and thin out trees and shrubs. Always trim back to another branch rather than just a random cut. Dead head any flowers that are finished blooming.**

**Watering: Water only as needed. April – June is typically the dry period of year here. To avoid stressing recently installed plants, water them until they are firmly established. Placing water rings around trees and shrubs is an effective way to keep the water over the root zone. Encourage deep rooting by giving plants a good soaking once or twice a week. Use rain barrels if possible. Rain water tends to have more nitrogen in it than well or municipal sources.**

**This is an interesting article about how much water is needed: [Watering to Establish Shrubs - Gardening Solutions - University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences \(ufl.edu\)](#)**

**Here is an excerpt from an article about watering in our sandy soil, by Sally Scalera, an urban horticulture agent and master gardener coordinator for the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agriculture Sciences. The link to the article is below. "...When planting new plants in a location that has sandy soil, I recommend soaking the plant's root ball in water for at least half an hour prior to planting. The goal is to get the root ball thoroughly soaked so that when you pick it up, it is heavy and dripping wet.**

**This is important because if a new plant's root ball is dry when planted in sandy soil, it will be very difficult... to thoroughly wet it after planting. That is because most potting mixes have a high percentage of peat moss which, when dry, repels water. If sandy soil surrounds a dry**

[.floridatoday.com\)](http://floridatoday.com)

See you in September! Here are some tips from UF to get you through until we meet again: [ENH1191/EP452: South Florida Gardening Calendar \(ufl.edu\)](http://enh1191/EP452:SouthFloridaGardeningCalendar.ufl.edu).



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Summer Reading for Native Planters:

From Alyssa Vinson, UF Residential Horticulture Agent and Master Gardener Coordinator in Manatee County. [Florida's Fab Five: Plants - UF/IFAS Extension Manatee County \(ufl.edu\)](http://Florida'sFabFive:Plants-UF/IFASExtensionManateeCounty.ufl.edu)

Not just for spring but for all things native Florida plants, check out the Florida Association of Native Nurseries (FANN) website. The popular "Guide for Real Florida Gardeners" publications are available there, plus so much more. Fair warning: Do not click unless you have an hour or so. It is fantastic! OK ready? Click here: [Plant Real Florida | Bring Your Landscape to Life with Native Plants](http://PlantRealFlorida.BringYourLandscapetoLifeWithNativePlants).

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We have openings. Please consider joining the Board.

**President:** Erin Schoenberg

**Vice President:** Erica Timmerman

**Treasurer:** Leah Wilcox

**Secretary:** Cindy Watts

**Chapter Representative:** Pamela Callendar

**Programs Coordinator:** Rachel DesRosier

**Field Trips:** Rachel DesRosier

**Membership:** Nancy West

**Newsletter:** Susie Venters

**Website:** Yiwen Chow

**Zoom Meetings Facilitator:** Erin Schoenberg

**Assistant Zoom Meetings:** [Open](#)

**Conservation/Education:** [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](mailto:srepens@gmail.com)***



***Our Meetings are held the third Monday of the month,***

## Previous Programs on YouTube:

Apr 18, 2022: Coming soon

Mar 21, 2022: Coming soon

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](#)

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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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**Our mailing address is:**

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