



News from Serenoa Chapter

Our monthly meeting (via Zoom) is Monday, 20th, 7pm. The topic is the preservation of mangroves, and Dr. Brad Oberle of New College is presenting the program.

Our Field trip this month is to Leffis Key Preserve, Manatee County, on Saturday February 25, 9am, and will be led by Mike Elswick, Division Manager, Manatee County Division of Natural Resources.

Rescheduled Kayak trip: Manatee River, Monday February 20th, 9am.

Coffee and Conversation: We are gathering February 11, Audubon Nature Center

See below for all the details!



**Monthly Meeting
Monday February 20, 2023, 7pm**

**Tidy Island - Mangrove Preservation and Restoration
Speaker: Dr. Brad Oberle**

Protecting coastal communities from sea level rise requires restoring mangroves, which are among the most productive and imperiled habitats on earth. Dr. Oberle will present results from a recent experimental restoration of Tidy Island, the largest mangrove left in Sarasota Bay. On disturbed dredge spoil mounds, removing invasive trees, and the litter they use to suppress competition, transformed an invasive carrotwood seedling monoculture into a diverse collection of 22 native and introduced plants. However, carbon loss from invasive removal may take decades to offset because adjacent mangroves responded slowly.

Monday February 20, 2023
Meeting via Zoom at 7:00 pm

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



About our presenter:



Dr. Brad Oberle is the Associate Professor of Biology and Environmental Studies at New College. He is an Environmental biologist and liberal arts educator dedicated to promoting sustainability through strong community partnerships. Experienced with research project management, staff supervision, and communications for grants totaling over \$1 million and 20+ peer-reviewed publications

**Field trip: Saturday, February 25, 2023
Leffis Key Preserve, 9am**



Trip Leader: Mike Elswick, Manatee County Division of Natural Resources

Leffis Key Preserve in Bradenton Beach is Anna Maria Island's only nature preserve. While this preserve is on the smaller scale, it is still a special and beautiful place to visit. The preserve is made up of footpaths, 1,500ft of boardwalks through the mangrove forest, and a 26-foot high hill

Recently, new Chickee hut shade structures on top on the mound were installed, and the boardwalk has received some renovation. A large replanting was done back in July with support from the Sarasota Bay Estuary Program. Participants are encouraged to pack a lunch and plan to eat together onsite after the field trip.

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

About our Field trip leader:

Mike Elswick is a Florida Native, suburban refugee, land manager, diver and naturalist.

He has undergraduate degrees in Biology and Anthropology from the University of South Florida. He has worked at Archbold Biological Station, Bok Tower Gardens Rare Plant Program, FWC, FDEP-Bureau of Mine Reclamation, Sarasota and Manatee Counties.

He has been Division Manager of the Resource Management division with Manatee County since 2015. His dvision manages nearly 30,000 acres of conservation lands (preserves and nature parks),including places like Robinson Preserve, Emerson Point Preserve, Rye and Duette preserves. The division runs a hunt program and generally works towards achieving a balance of visitor services and resource protection; instilling an ethic of stewardship through public access and interpretation of Manatee County's natural spaces.





**Seasonal Serenoa FNPS Coffee & Conversations
February 11, 9:00 am**

Find us at the Sarasota Audubon Nature Center picnic tables. Bring your favorite mug, pour some joe, and talk about Native Plants with fellow members. Coffee and doughnuts will be provided. No registration needed. Hope to see you there!

[Location: 999 Center Rd, Sarasota, 34240](#)

**Manatee River Kayak Trip
Monday February 20, 9am**

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

If you want to rent a kayak or canoe, call Ray's at 941.747.3909

[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 might not see blooming fringe trees on this trip, but keep an eye out

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, Feb 18.



February is the height of "season" here, and certainly there are numerous interesting things to do and read this time of year, Here are a few:

Duette Wagon Tours 2023: These are free tours of Duette Preserve, sponsored by Manatee Fish and Game Association.

February 11th: manatee-fish-game.ticketleap.com/duette-wagon-tour---prarie-tour/

March 4th: manatee-fish-game.ticketleap.com/duette-wagon-tour---pioneer-tour---march-4th/

Manatee County is seeking citizen scientists to be Water Stewards: [Florida Waters Stewardship Program 2023 Registration, Wed, Mar 8, 2023 at 4:00 PM | Eventbrite](#)

The Florida Wildflower Association will open grant applications for Seedlings

information: [Seedlings for Schools - Florida Wildflower Foundation](https://www.flawildflowers.org/seedlings-for-schools)
([flawildflowers.org](https://www.flawildflowers.org))

Our website has been updated with some photographs from the Fakahatchee Field Trip. [Click here.](#)



Some of the native plants in the garden at the Manatee County Agricultural Museum.

Manatee County Agricultural Museum sent pictures of their garden. Last year they received a grant from our chapter, Serenoa FNPS, for plants in their sensory garden. [Click here](#) for more information about the Manatee County Agricultural Museum. It is located in the [Palmetto Historical Park](#). Well done! The garden looks like a nice addition to your beautiful facility!



Serenoa Chapter Board Members

Treasurer: Leah Wilcox
Secretary: Cindy Watts
Chapter Representative: Pamela Callender

Contact us via email: srepens@gmail.com

Did you miss a meeting? Want to check out a past Serenoa FNPS program? They are now on You Tube!

[Click here.](#)

Help Wanted: Would you like to be a part of creating the newsletter? Two volunteers are being sought to help seek information and write articles, to assemble the newsletter in Mailchimp. We would work on the newsletters together with the goal that any of the three of us can put a newsletter together independently. If interested, email me at susiev@hotmail.com. Thanks!
Susie Venters



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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