



## *News from Serenoa Chapter*

### July 2023 Announcements

Keep in touch with us on social! Following us on social media makes for a great reminder of our upcoming events, interesting news in the native plant

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/serenoaFNPS/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/serenoa.fnps/>

TikTok: <https://www.tiktok.com/@serenoachapterfnps>

**The icons shown below are in every newsletter.**



Facebook Twitter Email Website

TikTok: <https://www.tiktok.com/@serenoachapterfnps>

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## [Summer Field Trip to Myakka River State Park](#)

[July 9, 2023, 9a](#)

**It has been awhile since we had a summer trip! Yes, the weather is hot, and it might be buggy and wet, but Myakka River State Park is still so rare and beautiful. Cover up, drink plenty of water ahead of time, bring some water with you, and join us!**

**Our guide for this trip is Mike Stanfield. Mike is a ranger at Manatee River State Park. He provided a great article about wildflowers for our newsletter in April 2023. He will help us spot the plants and identify what we see.**

**We are doing sign ups via Meet Up for this trip. Click the link below and you'll go to the Meet up app page to register and get more information.**

[Click here to register for the MRSP field trip July 9](#)



*Myakka River, above, at Myakka River State Park.*

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**Grant project completed at Manatee Unitarian Universalist Fellowship.  
Congratulations!**





Thank you to FNPS Serenoa Board Member and Membership Coordinator Elliot Prout for organizing a landscape makeover at Manatee Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (MUUF)! On Saturday, May 20th nine volunteers removed non-native plants and installed fifteen native species that will provide food and shelter for native wildlife (several are larval host plants) and beauty and inspiration for the congregation and visitors to downtown Bradenton. The plants were funded by the FNPS Serenoa grants program. Thank you MUUF for embracing the power of native plants!

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**Breaking news!**

**Rare Atala butterflies (*Eumaeus atala*) have been seen in**

Three different Serenoa chapter members have spotted Atala butterflies on the coontie (*Zamia integrifolia*) plants in or near their yards in Bradenton. This is so exciting! The Atala butterfly was once thought to be extinct, and it is still rare.

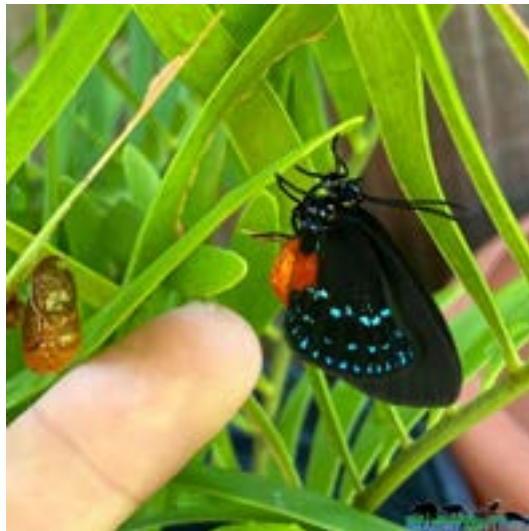
An Atala was seen on a coontie in the MUUF planting project. (see picture above).

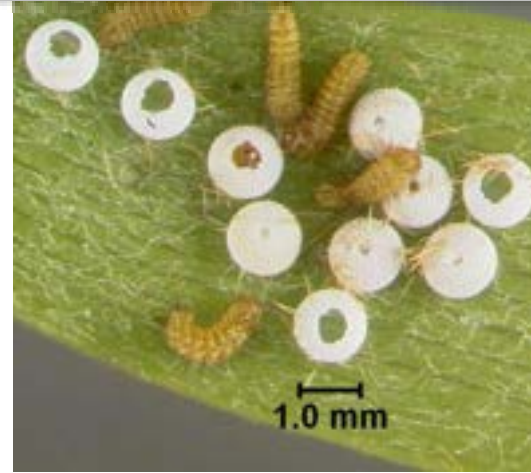
Click below to learn more below about the Atala butterfly and the plants it needs. **Check your coonties!**

[Click here](#) Florida Wildflower Foundation

[Click here](#) University of Florida

The photos below are taken from the internet. They show the adult Atala, the chrysalis, caterpillars and eggs.





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### Interesting links and more:

**Sarasota Bay Estuary Program's Restoration Projects.** (Several native plant installations). [Link to the article on SBEP's website here!](#)

**"The Florida Conservation Corps Wants You!"** Do you know someone who has completed their education and seeking on the job experience in conservation? The [Florida Conservation Corps](#) provides hands-on service learning opportunities designed to develop leaders in the fields of land management, cultural preservation, resource-based recreation and park facility management.

**Did you make it to the Summer Wildflower Walks at Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park?** We'd like to see your pictures and even better if you'd like to write a short story for the next newsletter. E-mail: [srepens@gmail.com](mailto:srepens@gmail.com)

the boat, and to announce their new citizen pollution monitoring program. Food truck, Kids events, raffle, music and more. Here is the link for more information: [Events \(suncoastwaterkeeper.org\)](http://suncoastwaterkeeper.org)

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### **Serenoa Chapter Board Members**

**President: Tom Heitzman**

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

**[Click here.](#)**

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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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