

From: Serenoa Chapter FNPS

Sent: Sunday, September 4, 2022 7:46 AM

To: Susie Venters

Subject: 🌴🌻 Blooming News from Serenoa Chapter FNPS - September 2022 🌿🌴





News from Serenoa Chapter

Welcome Back!

Our Zoom meeting this month is Monday September 19. Our Field trip will be on September 24 at Duette Preserve, a scrub habitat in Myakka City, Manatee Co.

We're continuing to have our monthly meetings on Zoom this year. We want to gather and socialize together though, so Seasonal Serenoa FNPS Coffee and Conversation at the Sarasota Audubon Nature Center are planned. The first one will be November 12. Mark your calendars! It will be great to see you!

Next year we're hoping to be back at Selby Gardens for each meeting.

~ Serenoa Board of Directors

Check out our updated website:

[Serenoa Chapter -- Florida Native Plant Society \(fnpschapters.org\)](https://fnpschapters.org)

You can find out about our grant program, register for field trips and meetings, see our future event plans, view the past presentations, and more!



Photo: ironweed (*Vernonia gigantea*)

Gardening Checklist for Fall

- Keep weeds under control. Check for weeds weekly before they get ahead of you.
- Prune trees and shrubs. Remove crossing branches and those which are growing too near the house or other plants. Be careful not to cut plants back too hard since you will not get much growth this time of year.
- Dead-head the flowers. Remove spent flower stalks. Thin out or split perennials if needed.
- Lightly fertilize only those plants that seem stressed. Most natives, planted in the right spot, will not need fertilizing. Check your county

fertilizer ordinance, many say no nitrogen (N) or phosphorus (P) June 1 – September 30.

- Mulch the beds. Mulch helps suppress weeds and protect the roots from heat and cold while adding organic matter to the soil. We recommend recycled hardwood, pine straw, leaf litter, melaluca (bagged as “Florimulch”) and eucalyptus mulch.
- Add new plants! Take advantage of late summer rain. The top foliage may not grow much this time of year, but the roots will, and your plant will be better established to bear up during the dry season in the spring. Deep water the roots of trees and shrubs for better establishment. Many people water the roots/root ball before placing them in the ground.
- Feel the air! Is there maybe 3 degrees less humidity? Hello fall!

General Meeting: September 19, 7pm, Zoom

**Restoration and Conservation of the Scrub Habitat: Vital for Florida
Native Species**



Neal Halstead is Research Director and a Senior Ecologist with Wildlands Conservation in Tampa. He has 20 years of research and field experience in Florida. His primary focus is on conservation issues associated with Florida native species and habitats, with an emphasis on experimental design and analysis of research studies. He is the lead instructor for Wildlands' FWC-approved Authorized Gopher Tortoise Agent training curriculum, and is currently conducting a range-wide study on the federally threatened Florida sand skink and blue-tailed mole skink. Neal completed his B.S. in Biology from the University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point, and his M.S. and Ph.D. in Integrative Biology from the University of South Florida.

[Register here](#) for the meeting. Once you have registered you will receive a confirmation with the link from Zoom.

*Field Trip: September 24, 9am
Neal Halstead will lead our group at Duette
Preserve, a scrub habitat in Myakka City.*

At over 21,000 acres, the Duette Preserve is the largest Preserve in Manatee County. It is located in the northeastern part of the County and contains the headwaters of the Manatee River. Duette Preserve is host to many of the native plant communities throughout Manatee County, providing protection and preservation of pine flatwoods, hardwood swamps, xeric oak scrub, depression marsh, and vast dry prairie.

[Register here](#) for the field trip. Space is limited. We will email you with location to meet and additional information about the field trip.



Duette trees



Duette Preserve

October Program:

Meghan Meyer: Prescribed Fire: A Vital Role in Our Ecosystem.

General meeting Monday October 17, 7pm, via Zoom. In Florida, professionals plan and execute fires year-round. Learn about prescribed fire and its benefits to the soil, plants and wildlife.

Meghan Meyer is a first-generation Floridian and has lived on both the Gulf coast and the Atlantic coast throughout the years. Being outdoors always brought her enjoyment. After graduating from the University of Florida in 2008 with a BS in Wildlife Ecology, she began working with Camp Blanding Joint Training Center and FWC doing various environmental jobs. In 2010, she became the Environmental Specialist for Talbot Islands State Parks in Jacksonville. During her time there, she earned her MS in Forest Resources and Conservation. Meghan Meyer began her current position as Land Manager with Sarasota County in 2020. Her passion is prescribed fire and restoration, she says "it's a job that you will work hard at and it's quite possible you won't see the end result of the project since it takes such a long time to properly restore natural areas. I get excited to take part each day in managing Florida's natural areas." Outside of work, she and her husband enjoy camping, hiking, kayaking, fishing, working in the garden, canning and preserving their mini homestead goodies, and generally staying busy.

Field trip Saturday October 22, Meghan Meyer will lead our group at the Carlton Reserve in Sarasota.

The Reserve land was purchased in 1982, for the purposes of developing a

wellfield to provide drinking water for the county. 24,565 acres are set aside for natural resource protection and nature-based recreation. This site is also where many prescribed fires are executed along with the Fire Fest, an annual event centered on planned fires.

Sign up links for October will be in the October newsletter.

Interesting Links

[Article by Rusty Chinnis, from the Anna Maria Island Sun. Reel Time:](#)

[Mangroves - Critical Habitats](#)

[Fall Wildflowers at Tosohatchee Wildlife Management Area](#)

[The Green Planet on PBS, with David Attenborough](#)



CELEBRATION AND PUBLIC MEETING OLD MIAKKA PRESERVE PROPERTIES

We value your input.

Sarasota County Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources will be hosting a celebration of the expansion of Old Miakka Preserve, followed by a public meeting to gather input from the community for potential future uses. These properties were acquired with Environmentally Sensitive Lands Protection Program (ESLPP) funds to expand Sarasota County's Old Miakka Preserve. ESLPP properties are environmentally sensitive but do allow for passive recreation. Sarasota County staff will begin the meeting with a brief introductory presentation. Following the presentation, maps and photos of the properties will be on display and staff will be available to listen to ideas, discuss potential uses and answer questions.

Date: Wednesday, Sept. 7

Time: Celebration: 6:30-7 p.m.

Public Meeting: 7-8 p.m.

Location: Old Miakka Schoolhouse
15800 Wilson Road, Sarasota

For more information, call the Sarasota County
Contact Center at 311.



Serenoa Chapter Board Members:

President: Erin Schoenberg

Vice President: Erica Timmerman

Treasurer: Leah Wilcox

Secretary: Cindy Watts

Chapter Representative: Pamela Callendar

Programs and Field trips Coordinator: Rachel Desrosier

Membership: Open: Nancy West is serving now, and wishes to resign the position. Training will be provided! Manage and promote our membership.

Newsletter: Susie Venters

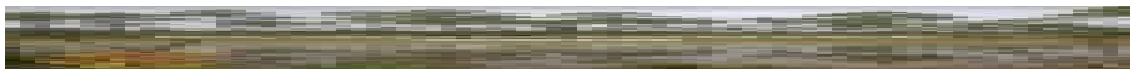
Website: Yiwen Chow

Zoom Meetings Facilitator: Erin Schoenberg

Assistant Zoom Meetings: Open

Directors at Large: 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



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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