



Serenoa Notes

The Serenoa Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society

December 2011

You can heal the planet – We can help!

–Dave Feagles

Monthly meetings at Selby Gardens:

Every third Monday.
811 South Palm Ave. Sarasota.
Doors open at 7:00 p.m,
business meeting at 7:30,
followed by program.
Everyone welcome!

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We have a Native Plant Society because we are amazed by Florida's nature, astonished at the complicated web of life that has come to be here, humbled by its clever and complete self sustaining system and because we want it to be here for our descendants to marvel at.

We are here to learn and share. We share stories of where to see meadows turn golden, pink or purple overnight. We are delighted by the tale of a battle between a spider and a wasp near a pond. It was a draw. We learn that predator and prey will huddle together in gopher tortoise burrows during fires. Fires that some Florida plants have come to depend on for survival.

So we go outside and look around. On our field trips we become curious when we learn of plants named candyweed, wild coffee and beautyberry. We put them in our yards to learn their habits and tastes. We share the joy of this with our neighbors and family.

Along the way we learned some of these species may not survive and want to know why. We use the limited funds of the Florida Native Plant Society to provide grants to support research and publish what we learned. At our annual conferences we invite scientists, landscapers and enthusiasts from around the world to speak and share in our effort to care for the Earth.

When we find out what hurts these plants, disturbs their communities, and pushes them out of balance to the point of real danger some of us speak out in alarm. We see exotic plants and animals invading, even destroying ecosystems and ask, "What can we do?" and "How can we help?"

Mostly, we just want to see native plants in natural Florida persist in the splendor we met them in. That's why we say "The Purpose of the FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY is to promote the preservation, conservation and restoration of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida." We can't fix the damage to the planet by ourselves, but we can help point the way. We start by learning to love it. Together we can heal our planet.



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Visit our chapter on the Florida
Native Plant society website:
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Chapter Happenings *What You May Have Missed...*

Wingate Creek field trip, September 24—What a treat! As if a visit to the beautiful Wingate Creek Preserve State Park was not enough, we trekked in (no trails here) to visit the beautiful Florida bonamia blooms. It was as if they stayed open this late in the year just for us. We got an encore of beauty when we came upon several blooming pine lilies. A hike through the sandhill to the cool and wet respite of the bottomland forest rounded out the day. Thanks to Florida Park Service biologist, Chris Becker, for sharing this special place with us.

Plant sale at Longwood Run Park, October 8—Another successful fall plant sale for FNPS, Serenoa Chapter. A huge thanks for all who helped label, load and sell plants at our fall plant sale. We could never have done it without all the support everyone gave. The only problem is that you did such a great job we will probably end up asking you to help again!

Merci, Gracias, Danke, Cheers, Asante, Mahalo, Arigato, Köszönöm to Cathy Page, Tom Heitzman, Helga Man, Erica Timmerman, Margaret Dahl, Henrietta Wiley, Betsy Roberts, Karen Fraley, Matt Willey, Steve Black, Jennifer Mendoza, Rosalind Rowe, Emma Mason, Christine Eymann, Mary Foster, Maryanne Owens, Russell Owens, Dave Feagles, Richard Beaupre, Damon Moore, Fran Palmeri, Nancy West, Ann Seidenkranz, Brooks Armstrong, and Nancy Armstrong!

Thanks also to Sweetbay and Pine Lily Nurseries for the beautiful plants. If you missed it this year, make sure to get there next year to get more native plants in your yard and support your local FNPS chapter.

Babcock Ranch field trip, October 22—Postponed due to flooded conditions. Stay tuned for reschedule!

See page 12 for upcoming events!

A Walk on the Creative Side—Tampa Bay Estuary Program's Invasive Species Poetry Contest

Reprinted courtesy of the Tampa Bay Estuary Program. For more information, contact Nanette O'Hara, Public Outreach Coordinator at Nanette@tbep.org.

A call for creative prose brought in nearly 100 entries to the Tampa Bay Estuary Program's first-ever Invasive Species Poetry Contest. The theme of uninvited plants and critters taking over Florida's native habitats sparked a chord with the public, with entries submitted by residents ranging in age from 6 to 84!

Clever verse from humorous to serious described nasty invasives from bufo toads and Burmese pythons to lionfish, lovebugs, Brazilian pepper

Continued on page 4

Native Stoppers and Other Myrtles of Florida

—Text and photos by Bruce Holst, Botany Department, Marie Selby Botanical Gardens

The myrtles of Florida, many known by the common name “stopper,” belong to the plant family Myrtaceae. Worldwide, this family comprises a diverse, economically significant, and ecologically prominent group of some 5000 species of tropical and subtropical shrubs and trees. The family includes such notables as gum (*Eucalyptus*), bottlebrush (*Callistemon*), guava (*Psidium*), allspice and bay-rum (*Pimenta*), and Suriname cherry (*Eugenia*). Many lesser-known species produce surprisingly delicious tropical fruits or serve as handsome ornamentals in our landscapes. In Florida and elsewhere, native myrtles provide ecological value, particularly in coastal environments where they offer cover to animals through their dense branching habit and an abundant food-source through their flowers, fruits, and foliage. Some non-native myrtles, however, are among some of the least desirable exotic species in the state, particularly *Melaleuca quinquenervia*, but also *Eugenia uniflora*, *Psidium cattleianum*, *P. guajava*, *Rhodomyrtus tomentosa*, *Syzygium cumini*, and *S. jambos* (in order: punk tree, Suriname cherry, strawberry and true guava, rose myrtle, Java plum, rose apple).

Florida hosts the only native myrtle populations of the continental United States, though none of the species are endemic (unique) to the state. All of Florida’s native myrtles can be found extending at least into the greater Caribbean basin. Simpson’s stopper (*Myrcianthes fragrans*) has the broadest distribution range of any native Florida myrtle. It can be found from northeastern Florida in St. John’s County south to Bolivia, depending on how many local variants one wishes to recognize at the species level throughout its range. In Florida most myrtles are found in the warmer, subtropical, coastal regions, reaching their peak of diversity in the south. There, four or five species can be found growing together in the tropical hardwood hammocks and rocklands of the Everglades and the Florida Keys.

Nearly all myrtles of the New World produce berries, which range from many-seeded and large (e.g., guava) to the more ubiquitous one- or two-seeded, purple-black, rarely orange or red fruits, seen in the native Florida species. Most myrtle flowers around the world are white, fragrant, and bear the trade-mark features of having multiple stamens, one style, and inferior ovaries. The flowers are usually pollinated by bees, with seeds of fleshy fruited myrtles dispersed by birds. While there are no known Florida myrtles poisonous to humans, few would be considered palatable. Spicewood (*Calypttranthes pallens*) is an exception, with unusually succulent and spicy fruits. Most myrtles produce an essential-oil fragrance when their leaves are crushed, but one, the white stopper (*Eugenia axillaris*), emanates a smell from its foliage even when not



Calypttranthes pallens



Eugenia axillaris



Eugenia foetida



Eugenia rhombea

PHOTOS BY BRUCE HOLST



Eugenia confusa



Mosiera longipes



Myrcianthes fragrans



Calypttranthes zuzygium

crushed considered “skunky” by some. Perhaps the white stopper should have received the epithet “foetida” instead of our less-olerifious Spanish stopper (*E. foetida*). The odor of the white stopper may become tolerated with time, or even agreeable to some (this author), though certainly not to all (his children). The adaptive significance of the odor, which is perhaps unique among myrtles of the New World, is not known.

It is interesting to note that Florida myrtles bearing the common name of “stopper” belong to three different genera, *Eugenia*, *Mosiera*, and *Myrcianthes*. The name stopper may refer to the “stopping” ability of the plant as it relates to diarrhea. The fruits and other parts of the plant contain tannins, that when made into teas and infusions, would “stop up the plumbing” to relieve the symptoms of the malady.

Florida native myrtles can be distinguished from other plant families in the state by just their foliage. Native myrtles have opposite leaves with smooth margins (no teeth or spines), frequently have a collecting marginal vein parallel to the leaf margin, are estipulate (lacking small scale-like structures at the bases of the leaf stalks), and have small round glands embedded in the leaf tissue (best viewed by holding a leaf up against a light source and examining it with a hand lens).

Want to see native myrtles locally? Two of the eight Florida native species can be found growing naturally on most of our neighboring barrier islands (*Eugenia axillaris*, *E. foetida*), and seven of them can be seen in cultivation at Selby Botanical Gardens (the exception, for now, is *Calypttranthes zuzygium*).

For more photos and tips on identification of Florida Myrtaceae go to <https://picasaweb.google.com/102424379799141500272/FloridaStoppersAndOtherNativeMyrtlesMyrtaceae?authuser=0&feat=directlink>.

A LIST OF FLORIDA STOPPERS AND OTHER MYRTLES

Calypttranthes pallens — Spicewood

Calypttranthes zuzygium — Myrtle-of-the-River

Eugenia axillaris — White stopper

Eugenia confusa — Redberry stopper

Eugenia foetida — Spanish stopper

Eugenia rhombea — Red stopper

Mosiera longipes — Long-stalked stopper

Myrcianthes fragrans — Simpson’s stopper

Continued from page 2

and air potatoes. The judges, representing a crosssection of backgrounds, were entertained by poetry in forms ranging from rhymes to haikus, and even a rap. One adult and two junior winners were announced. TBEP hopes to make the poetry contest an annual event so sharpen your creative pencils and maybe you too can share your feelings about your least favorite invasives in your own style!

You will find the poems on page 7.

Species Spotlight—The Sennas

—Elizabeth Gandy

The Senna genus is a rather large, mostly tropical group in the Fabaceae (pea) family. Until recently they were grouped with the Cassia genus and despite the taxonomic separation the plant names are often found listed by their Cassia synonyms. Here in Florida, we have several native Senna species that tolerate a more temperate range, several of which are somewhat common in cultivation. The only one native to our part of Florida is *Senna ligustrina*, privet-leaved sensitive plant. It is so named due to the shape of the leaflets resembling privet leaves and the habit of the leaflets folding up when disturbed and at night. It is found in moist to well drained hammocks and hammock edges, often near the coast.

One Senna species not native to our area, but common in cultivation, is *Senna mexicana* var. *chapmanii*, Chapman's wild sensitive plant. It is typically a shrub, 3-4 feet tall with spreading branches. The leaves are compound (having multiple leaflets) with 5-7 pairs of leaflets. The flowers are asymmetrical, about 1 to 1.25 inches tall, a brilliant yellow in color and appear in profuse clusters at the branch tips and upper leaf axils. The native range of this plant is Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties in pine rocklands and hammocks. While it is not particularly rare where it occurs, it is classified as a threatened species by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services due its restricted range in Florida.

The native Sennas make an excellent addition to the home landscape and do well in our area. One treat about them is that they tend to bloom in the fall and even into the winter, providing wonderful color at a time of year when there are not a lot of other plants blooming. If you plant them, be prepared for a little sacrificial gardening as they are host plants of sulphur butterflies which are common in our area. Once the sulphurs find your plants, you will be a nursery for many sulphur caterpillars. As supporting wildlife is a reason for planting native, you shouldn't mind!

Unfortunately there are a number of Sennas in Florida that have escaped cultivation, some becoming quite problematic in natural areas. Sennas produce seed pods with a number of seeds that germinate readily, making escapes common. Species such as *Senna obtusifolia* (sicklepod), *Senna occidentalis* (septicweed) and *Senna pendula* var. *glabrata* (valamuerto) are common offenders. As can be common with invasive peas, escapees often form thickets and sprout prodigiously after fire.

Identifying a plant as a Senna is relatively simple, but differentiating between them can be challenging as they can sometimes superficially resemble each other. The trick is to use the leaf glands, their presence/absence, location and shape and the seed pods as key characters. For help identifying Sennas in Florida, refer to the key in *The Guide to the Vascular Plants of Florida* and the on-line USF Plant Atlas at <http://florida.plantatlas.usf.edu/>.



Flower of *Senna mexicana*



Sulphur butterfly caterpillar



Gland on petiole of *Senna ligustrina*



Gland on petiole of *Senna mexicana*
var. *chapmanii*

PHOTOS BY ELIZABETH GANDY



Stokes aster

Cloudy with a Chance of Miracles

—Fran Palmeri

October 8 dawned cloudy with lots of cooling breezes. Tom Heitzman and his entourage of garden gnomes—Ann, Betsy, Brooks & Nancy, Cathy, Dave, Emma, Erica, Helga, Henrietta, Jennifer, Karen, Mary, Nancy, Richard and Steve—created a beautiful tableau of green growing things under the oaks at Longwood Run Park. Under cover, Auduboners, Betsy’s Bees, Around the Bend Nature Tours and Sarasota Bay Estuary Program set up displays and offered free educational materials.

Customers filtered in. Regulars who wait half a year for the plant sale piled carts full of trees, shrubs, grasses and wildflowers. Old friends like Mary Jelks stopped by for “one more plant” to cram into her already crowded yard and left with a carload. The coonties went early on to lend their ancient presence to some lucky person’s yard. Graceful in lavender, Stoke’s aster was easily “Best in Show.” A sycamore surveyed the scene, delighted with newfound company. The gnomes answered questions, pulled carts to cars, wrote out receipts and exchanged plant tips with newfound friends. It was exhausting, yes, but fun too.

Sometimes it seemed the place had gone to the dogs. Large and small, they looked over the plants and though tempted, no one lifted a leg. On his best behavior, the Australian shepherd barked sotto voce. A miniature dachshund got lost amid 5-gallon pots to emerge unscathed at the end of the row. Dog walkers whose route took them through the park left toting a plant or two along with their charges.

Cash and checks piled up in the cash box.

The Herald Tribune hung around making copious notes and photographing for next day’s edition and the paper’s website. (Check it out at SarasotaHeraldTribune.com)

It was a perfect Florida day. Even the rain held off until the last Sere-noan departed the parking lot.

Don’t miss April’s reprises: on the 7th at Felts Audubon’s Nature Days in Bradenton and on the 15th at Oscar Scherer State Park’s Earth Day Celebration in Osprey.



Native plants

A Trio of Evil

By Christine Jamesson

Lovely but deadly the Lionfish have spread their range
Released partly thanks to a Hurricane
Once numbers of only three
Their masses are now seen from RI to Belize

Divers and fishermen have to fight back
And hold Lionfish derbies for wads of cash
All have high hopes to contain the creature
And keep it as it was—a rare aquarium feature

Bufo Toad all warty and thick
Secretes a poison that makes pets sick
Grayish-Brown with a slimy belly of yellow
He is a most repulsive fellow

Released in 1936 to control pests on sugar cane
He has now become a Florida pain
Looks harmless enough with no knobs on his head
But a lick of his skin leaves poor Fido dead

Burmese pythons—threatened in their native land
Are now a serious threat to man
Unchecked they could cover 1/3 of the states
And make pets or a child suffer a terrible fate

They can lay up to 100 eggs a year
And make meals of the sweet and rare Key Deer
They are unhampered now, sunning and well fed
We must end their reign and put a price on their head

Winner in the Adult Category

Neglecting the Natives

By James Hsiung

Many plants and animals reside here in the Tampa Bay.
Some float on by, while others are here to stay.
Invading our natural habitats, many do not know,
These invasive species arrive, and like weeds, they grow.

Humans, not aware of the existence of these dangers,
Because all plants look alike, thus none look like strangers.
Brazilian Pepper Trees are conquering the shore,
along with air potatoes, cogon grass, and oh yes, there's more.

Asian Swamp eel are preying on native frogs,
while the aggressive marine toads are killing off our dogs.
Who is responsible for protecting plants with native features?
It is us, the citizens, to help remove these invasive creatures!

Now is the time to step up to the plate,
to save our original habitats, before it's too late.

Winner in Juniors 12-17 Category

The Evil Plant

By Kristen Gallo

Winding, twisting, rapidly growing,
the Air Potato strikes
a full grown Oak tree,
wrapping its sickening green leaves
around the tree's thick trunk,
moving closer and closer
to the canopy,
like a predator about to kill
its juicy prey.

The plant doubles its size,
squeezing out the life
of the helpless tree.
Finally, the Air Potato
reaches the canopy.

It secures for itself
a tough barrier of leaves
on top of the oak.

Hogging all of the sunlight;
The oak becomes weaker
and weaker.

Unable to perform photosynthesis,
it is slowly inching to its death.

The Air Potato finally covers
the helpless tree,
and sucks all the life
out of it.

The Oak tree dies,
by suffocation
and a lack of food.

The Air Potato has done its job.

It keeps growing and growing,
and killing and killing.

What can we do
to stop this evil plant?

*Winner in the Juniors
11 and Under Category*

PHOTO BY FRAN PALMERI



Seminole pumpkin

Growing Elderberry, Seminole Pumpkin and Papaya

—Fran Palmeri and Laurel Schiller

Last May on our way to give a talk in Orlando, we stopped at Hiloochi Preserve where fields of blackberries glistened in the noonday sun. We waded in stuffing the sweet ripe fruit into our mouths and a little while later, feeling caught in some time warp, we were at Leu Gardens listening to presentations on cultivating broccoli and peaches.

It's easy to forget that Florida's indigenous peoples lived off this bountiful land enjoying a variety of edible plants, seeds and fruit. At Windover, an 8000-year-old burial site excavated in the 1980's, thirty-one different plant remains were recovered including elderberry, which was used as food and medicine.

Plums, grapes, blueberries, sabal palm, sea grape, coontie, prickly pear cactus are just a few of dozens of native plants used as food. Most are easily grown and once established, will thrive in sand without pesticides or supplemental water. Substitute your own compost for fertilizer and you'll have chemical-free, fresh food at your fingertips. Plants will not become invasive and reseed into nearby natural areas. Perennial species will survive or revive after a frost.

Elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*), a shrub or small tree, grows abundantly in wetter areas from the coast inland. It will adapt to a moist site near an air conditioner or low spot in the yard where water accumulates, or plant it in a swale or along a pond edge. The showy, flat-topped white blossoms present much of the year, produce abundant clusters of blue black, berrylike drupes summer through fall.

PHOTO BY FRAN PALMERI



Seminole pumpkin



**Seminole
pumpkin**

Cherished by birds as a reliable summer fruit crop, Elderberry can be picked over a long period of time and stored in the freezer until ready for use. Everyone knows elderberry wine but they are also good combined with other fruit in pancakes, muffins and pies. Google “how to’s” and recipes. Cook before eating.

Although a non-native, Seminole pumpkins (*Cucurbita moschata*) are a trouble-free, vigorously vining, hardy squash. As the name implies, Native Americans treasured this pumpkin since at least the 1500’s. They often girdled young trees so that young vines could grow up the bare branches with the fruit hanging out of reach of livestock and rot. (The Second Seminole War is said to have started when Federal troops destroyed Billy Bowlegs’ pumpkin patch!)

Seminole pumpkin requires a strong trellis system or is best planted along a fence but it can be grown on the ground where there is ample room. Plant seeds after danger of frost. Their thick bright orange flesh is flavorful and can be stored off the vine for almost a year. They produce dependably year after year.

Papaya (*Carica papaya*), a small tree native to Mexico and Central America, has been documented in Florida for centuries. In a recent issue of the “Palmetto” Dr. Dan Ward reports that archaeologist Lee Newsom in her excavations on Pine Island, documented the presence of papaya seeds dating back to 300 AD. Thus it is considered to be a native plant.

It grows well along our southern coasts and will survive mild frosts inland if planted in a protected location (southeast side of the house) and during a freeze, wrapped in blankets overnight. Papaya requires a well-drained, sunny location out of the wind. Once established, it will take care of itself and produce melon-like fruit, summer and fall. The fruit is considered by many to be the most healthful and delicious subtropical fruit grown.

Cultivars are available but Papaya grows easily from seed. Find a neighbor who grows it successfully and whose fruit you have tasted and like. Plants are either male or female, though there are bisexual forms available. When buying young plants, buy both sexes. Female flowers are borne in short pedicels at the base of the leaves whereas male flowers are smaller, much more numerous and borne on branched panicles. The male flower is fragrant and coveted as a nectar source by local butterflies.

Volunteer!

Tampa Bay Estuary Program—Tampa Bay “Give A Day For The Bay” program.

December 3, 8 a.m.–noon. Invasive plant removal at South Gandy Park: Contact 727-893-2765 or Colleen@tbep.org

March 17, 8 am - noon. Invasive plant removal at Sawgrass Lake in Pinellas County. Contact 727-893-2765 or Colleen@tbep.org

Local Hidden Treasures in Manatee County

—Damon Moore

Help Our Natives: Be Aware of Threats to Our Native Plants!

CISMA Update

—Meeting September 29

The most recent CISMA meeting, held at the Sarasota SWFMWD office, was very informative. The first half of the meeting allowed time for each of the sub-committees to update participants on their progress and plans. Sub-committees have formed to address topics such as training and workshops, education, outreach, liaisons, workdays and volunteers, early detection-rapid response, and legislation. The sub-committees formed around the needs the members of the CISMA have determined to be priority roles for the CISMA to both its members and the local community to treat and prevent the spread of invasive species.

For the rest of the meeting, participants got to hear a presentation by Jeff Eickwort, Biologist/Supervisor with the Florida Forest Service, Forest Health Section, on laurel wilt. Jeff's presentation was excellent and proved to be informative and foreboding. Here are some highlights that we should all find interesting:

- Laurel wilt has now been positively identified in Pinellas County. This is alarmingly close to us and a big jump from the nearest counties where it has been confirmed.
- Only one ambrosia beetle (female) is required to start a new colony in a tree.
- The fungus can be controlled in an infected tree with moderate success using infusions of anti-fungal chemicals. No treatment is effective once a tree becomes symptomatic.
- In 2010 legislation was passed in Florida prohibiting the movement of

When Karen Fraley asked me to do a write up on secret places in Manatee County it took me all of three seconds to think of the exact place... or places really. Those of you who know me could have guessed it, the numerous and seemingly forgotten bits of uninhabited coastal berm habitat scattered throughout the northwest portion of the County. They can be found from Robinson Preserve on the south shore of the Manatee River to Piney Point, located just north of Port Manatee, including Emerson Point, Terra Ceia Point, Rattlesnake Key, Eds Key, Skeet Key, Paradise Island, Mariposa Key, and Harbor Key.

These small islands are usually given away by the appearance of a few cabbage palms (or Australian pines, grrrrr) poking up from inside the mangrove fringe. My experience exploring these areas started by spotting a few palms from my kayak then making note of where they were, then later that night pulling up some aerial photographs to try and figure out the island's extent and if it looks like there may be some open areas that can be explored without hacking my way through 100 feet of nickerbean. If it looks promising I'll go back with a friend (and a bottle of Garlon (after getting full permission from the property owner, of course) and both the explorative ten-year-old boy and exotic-species-hating semi-grown-up comes out in me with full force.

If you venture to these sites you will not only be rewarded with a unique and increasingly rare assemblage of coastal upland species, but in some cases clues of the historical Native American usage of the sites such as shell middens and mounds. Some of my favorite species that are commonly encountered are Gumbo limbo (*Bursera simaruba*), Jamaica caper (*Capparis jamaicensis*), Hercules club (*Zanthoxylum clava-herculis*), wild lime (*Zanthoxylum fagara*), stoppers (*Eugenia spp.*), snowberry (*Chiococca alba*), and saffron plum (*Sideroxylon celastrinum*).

These islands are botanical gems and fantastic hidden treasures of Manatee County. Though they are mostly protected from development due to their relative isolation and current public ownership (except Joe Island), exotic species invasion and sea level rise are putting these habitats at risk of being lost. Travel by kayak is the best way to get to most of these islands but coastal berm habitat can also be observed on shoreline trails at Robinson Preserve and Emerson Point Preserve. These are wonderful places for botanizing and stretching out your legs after being in a kayak. So, pack a lunch and some ID books and happy island hopping!

Upcoming Things To Do This Fall & Winter!

Early Bird Nature Walk

DECEMBER 9, 8:00 AM TO 9:30 AM., Shamrock Park, 3900 Shamrock Drive, Venice. Join Sarasota County Parks naturalist Jennifer Rogers for an early bird nature walk through upland scrub at Shamrock Park. Guests will learn about scrub habitat and have a chance at seeing the resident Florida scrub jays. The park supports populations of Florida scrub jay and gopher tortoise. For more information or to register over the phone, contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000 and ask for Jennifer Rogers (jrogers@scgov.net). Information from http://www.scgov.net/calendar/view_event.asp?CalendarID=17193. See website for more information.

Wading Trips-Cedar Point Environmental Park

9:00 A.M.- Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program is pleased to sponsor wading trips through several local environmental organizations. Muck about in the shallow waters of our local estuaries to see for yourself some of the aquatic critters that call these shallow waters home and you'll quickly understand the importance of these waters. To register, contact the organization that is offering the program of interest to you. Dates are subject to change due to weather, etc. An updated list will always be posted on this page of the website at www.CHNEP.org.

Call CHEC Cedar Point Environmental Park at 941-475-0769.

- Thursday, December 15, 2011
- Tuesday, December 27, 2011
- Tuesday, January 3, 2012
- Wednesday, January 11, 2012
- Thursday, January 19, 2012

Information from <http://www.chnep.org/Events/wadingtrips.htm>. See website for more information.

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untreated wood more than 50 miles. Any wood known or suspected to be infected with laurel wilt should be burned or chipped on site.

For more information on laurel wilt, see September's newsletter or visit the following websites:

- www.fs.fed.us/r8/foresthealth/laurel-wilt/
- www.freshfromflorida.com/pi/enpp/.../laurel_wilt_disease.html
- www.fl-dof.com/publications/fh_pdfs/Laurel_Wilt.pdf
- <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/in886>

If you have not already done so, please get on the e-mail list for the Suncoast CISMA (contact Michael Sowinski@myfwc.com OR Cynthia Grizzle@rsandh.com) so you can stay current with what is being done to control and prevent the spread of the invasive species threatening the native plants, animals and habitats the Native Plant Society was formed to protect.

FNPS Membership Enrollment

Serenoa Chapter Newsletter

Name _____ E-mail _____ Phone (day) _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Membership number, if renewing _____ **Dues:** ___ Life: \$1,000 ___ Donor: \$250 ___ Business or corporate: \$125

 ___ Supporting: \$100 ___ Contributing: \$75 ___ Not-for-profit organization: \$50 ___ Family or household: \$50

 ___ Individual: \$35 ___ Full-time student: \$15 ___ Library subscription: \$100

Payment: ___ Check/MO ___ Visa ___ MC ___ Discover

Check/Money Order # _____ Please do not mail cash. Make Checks payable to FNPS

Credit Card # _____ - _____ - _____ - _____ Exp. Date _____ 3-digit CV code on back _____

Name on card _____

Billing address and zip code if different from above _____

Credit card payments can be faxed to (815) 361-9166; or mail this form to: FNPS, PO Box 278, Melbourne, FL 32902-0278

Florida Native Plant Society Membership benefits: *Serenoa Notes* newsletter, Member discounts at events, subscription to the quarterly magazine *Palmetto*, Bi-monthly newsletter *Sabal Minor*

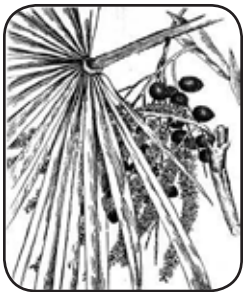
Join Now! Come to the meetings and field trips—learn about conservation, and native habitat

Events Calendar

Monthly general meetings at Selby Gardens: Every third Monday, Sept. through May at 7:00 p.m.; speaker begins at 7:30. Selby Botanical Gardens Activity Center, 811 South Palm Avenue, Sarasota. Everyone welcome!

Carpool Meeting Points: BRADENTON: Twelve Oaks Plaza, Bank of America building, on SR 70, 1/4 mile west of I-75.
SARASOTA: DaRuMa in Sarasota Crossings shopping center (5459 Fruitville Road).

- Dec. 19** ANNUAL HOLIDAY POTLUCK DINNER, 7 p.m. Bring a dish to share, your own dinner plate and utensils. The Chapter will provide turkey, ice, iced tea and water. If you want to participate in our Yankee Raffle, please bring a nature-oriented present (approximately \$15.)
- Jan. 11** SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT SURPLUS LANDS MEETING, 6 to 8 p.m. Do NOT miss this opportunity to have your say about the SWFWMD proposal to surplus precious public conservation lands. Land in our area has been proposed for surplus. These lands are critical conservation areas for our native plants and animals as well as buffers for keeping our water clean. These lands belong to all of us and should not be allowed to be sold off for development! This is a do not miss! Meeting is at the Sarasota Service Office at 6750 Fruitville Rd.
- 16** GENERAL MEETING—MANGROVES: WHERE LAND MEETS SEA. Bruce Holst, Director of Research and Collections, Marie Selby Gardens, will present a program about these trees which are natural conservators, bulwarks against storms, nurseries for sea life, and shorebird habitat.
- 21** FIELD TRIP, 9 A.M. HISTORIC SPANISH POINT, OSPREY. Led by Bruce Holst, we'll focus on mangroves, but there are other attractions including Indian mounds and rare flora. In exchange for free admission, we'll build upon their plant list and supply them with photographs. <http://www.historicspanishpoint.org/>
- Feb. 20** GENERAL MEETING—BOGEYS TO BLOOMS. Dr. Bill Dunson, retired Professor Emeritus from Penn State will talk about seven years of remarkable transformation of this abandoned golf course in Englewood.
- 25** FIELD TRIP, 9 A.M. WILDFLOWER PARK. Bill Dunson will show us some of the rapid natural rejuvenation of this 78-acre parcel, a process he calls "the hand of nature drawing a veil across the landscape" <http://www.lemonbayconservancy.org/wildflower.htm>
- Mar. 19** GENERAL MEETING—CREATING A CONSERVATION EASEMENT. Environmentalist Allan Horton, a 3rd generation Floridian, outlines the steps in creating the conservation easement at his Myakka Valley Ranch and discusses the importance of emphasizing native habitat preservation on a working ranch.
- 24** FIELD TRIP, 9 A.M. HORTON RANCH, MANATEE COUNTY. Martha and Allan Horton will lead us on a riding/walking tour to see how this 50-year-old working ranch is integrated into uplands, marshes, & a rare peat bog.



**The Serenoa Chapter
of the Florida Native
Plant Society**

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