

Serenoa Chapter
The Florida Native Plant Society
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Serenoa Chapter Schedule

2010-2011



Monthly general meetings at Selby Gardens:

Every third Monday of the month, 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!

Please check our website, www.fnps.org for maps, changes, and more information: Look under chapters and then use the drop-down menu to Serenoa.

For all field trips, we invite you to bring a bag lunch, trail snacks and water. We usually picnic after our hike, depending on its length. Directions will be given as each of the trip dates approaches. If you cannot attend the prior general meeting, please contact Cathy Page at (941) 795-8973 for directions and carpool information. Please remember to help pay for gas to the driver of the carpool. All travel times are estimated from carpool sites.

Carpool Meeting Points BRADENTON: Twelve Oaks Plaza, Bank of America, 7223 55th Avenue East, State Road 70, 1/4 mile west of I-75, south side.
SARASOTA: Taco Bell at Sarasota Crossings, NE corner of Fruitville Road and Honore Avenue.

September

- 20 General Meeting 7 p.m. Nature of SW FL, Cultural Beginnings & Natural Endings**
Speaker: Karen Fraley, Serenoa member and owner of Around the Bend Tours, will talk about Florida's first people, Native Americans, and discuss their culture and how they used the land. She will end with current practices in land development and the impacts of our culture, including invasive exotics and possible solutions for the long term.
- 25 Field Trip 9 a.m. Emerson Point, Palmetto**
Karen Fraley will guide us to the largest remaining Native American temple mound on Tampa Bay including the surrounding middens. We will walk the Restoration Trail to Terra Ceia Bay, a coastal strand ecosystem with snowbush, *Lantana involucrata*, stoppers and Gumbo-Limbo.

October

- 9 Plant Sale at Longwood Run Park, 6050 Longwood Run Blvd, Sarasota**
Plant Sale hours are 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Longwood Run is located off University Parkway. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!
- 18 General Meeting 7 p.m. Bok Tower *Chrysopsis floridana* Project**
Speaker: Cindy Campbell, Rare Plant Curator for Bok Tower, will give a summary of the restoration project and what lies ahead. Introduction sites include Pinellas County and Manatee County (Cordell/South Fork).
- 23 Field Trip 9 a.m. Edward W. Chance Reserve/Coker Prairie, Myakka City**
Tom Heitzman, Serenoa member and owner of Sweet Bay Nursery, will lead a short hike in the northern part of the prairie in search of fall wildflowers and grasses.

November

- 15 General Meeting 7 p.m. Stump Pass State Park**
Speaker: A park ranger from Stump Pass will speak about the parks at the Gasparilla Island Administration (Gasparilla Island, Stump Pass Beach, Don Pedro, Cayo Costa). The main focus will be a brief history and things to do at Stump Pass.
- 20 Field Trip 9 a.m. Stump Pass State Park, Englewood**
Al Squires, Mangrove Chapter member, will take us through the main trail that follows the central ridge and bay side of Manasota Key. Possible plants we will see include Hercules club, bay cedar, Jamacian caper, sea-side evening primrose.

December

- 20 General Meeting 7 p.m. Annual Holiday Potluck Dinner**
Bring a dish to share, your own dinner plate and utensils. If you want to participate in our Yankee Raffle, please bring a nature-oriented present (approx \$15). The chapter will provide the turkey, ice, iced tea and water.

January

- 17 General Meeting 7 p.m. Felts Audubon Preserve**
Speaker: Steve Black, Serenoa member and Manatee Audubon member, will talk about the Felts Preserve from inception to its present use, discussing how the 27.5-acre parcel went from farmland to nature preserve and education center.
- 22 Field Trip 9 a.m. Felts Audubon Preserve, Palmetto**
Steve Black will guide us on the trails at Felts which consists of two small lakes, a wildflower meadow, pineland and oak hammock habitats. The property has a bird blind and butterfly garden where over 100 different bird species have been identified as well as some unusual butterflies.

February

- 21 General Meeting 7 p.m. Babcock Ranch**
Speaker: Bill Wilcox, professor of biology at Edison State College and serves on the Board of Directors of Babcock Ranch Inc., will talk about the natural habitats of the ranch and how ranching, farming and timbering have modified those habitats over the years.
- 26 Field Trip 9 a.m. Babcock Ranch, Punta Gorda**
Bill Wilcox will take us on a truck ride primarily on an 18,000 acre tract that is relatively undisturbed. We will go through long leaf pine flatwoods, dry prairie, slash pines, oak hammocks, wet prairie and cypress swamp. We will also visit some of the historic sites on the ranch.

March

- 21 General Meeting 7 p.m. Butterfly Gardening with Native Plants**
Speaker: George Kish, a US Geological Survey hydrologist and past president of the Suncoast chapter, says "if you build it, they will come." He doesn't mean a monoculture ballpark, but a selection of plants that provide "the right stuff" for butterflies. His presentation will discuss ecosystems and larval host plant "must haves" along with nectar plants to attract a variety of butterflies.
- 26 Field Trip 9 a.m. Myakka Islands Point, Port Charlotte**
Chris Meyer, Environmental Specialist for Sarasota County, will lead a walk at one of Sarasota County Environmentally Sensitive Lands Protection Program's more unusual parcels. Myakka Islands Point topographical variations and soil types offer a wide variety of habitats, from scrubby flatwoods, maritime hammocks, seasonal island flatwoods with tidal swamp and tidal marshes.

April

- 2 Nature Days at Felts Audubon Preserve, Manatee County**
Plant sales, exhibits, guided walks, kids activities. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED.
- 17 Earth Day Celebration, Oscar Scherer State Park, Sarasota County**
Plant sales, exhibits, music, guided walks, food. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED.
- 18 General Meeting 7 p.m. Myakka City Lemur Reserve**
Speaker: Michael Stern, Lemur Conservation Foundation Executive Director and CEO, will discuss the work on the 100 acre reserve in Myakka City, the lemur's use of native Florida plants, and the current conservation situation for forests in Madagascar.

May

- 14 Field Trip 9 a.m. Myakka City Lemur Reserve**
FNPS members can participate in a volunteer workday at the Reserve. Projects include: surveying the native plants inside and outside the lemur enclosures; planting or relocating native plants; eradicating invasive plant species. Members must have proof of a negative TB test to go inside the reserve.
- 16 General Meeting 7 p.m. Florida Bat Conservancy**
Speakers: Cynthia and George Marks founded the Bat Conservancy, a nonprofit organization dedicated to bat conservation in Florida. Their program consists of a slide presentation on bats around the world and how they help maintain balanced ecosystems. Also, they will present some live native Florida bats.
- 19-22 FNPS Conference, Maitland**