

Florida Native Plant Symposium - in the Gardens

Saturday March 5th 2022: 9.30a.m. – 4.30p.m.

Florida Botanical Gardens, Largo Fl.

Schedule of Events

9.30am – 10.00am: Participant check in at auditorium.

10.00am – 10.15am: **Introduction**, welcome and trivia ice-breaker.

10.15am – 11.15am: **Key note speaker #1.** *James Stevenson IFAS Extension Specialist*

Before They Were Native – a brief history of Florida's Flora Over millions of years Florida's geology and plant communities have undergone a myriad of changes. Driven by evolution, continental drift, ice ages and many more environmental pressures, today's native plant communities are just a snapshot of the rich diversity spanning millennia. Let's gently explore a simplified timeline of the events that lead to today's Florida Native Plants.

45 min presentation and 15 min question period.

11.30am – 12.15pm: **Docent led tour(s)** of native plants in the gardens.

12.15pm – 1.15pm: **Lunch Break** (Picnic lunch in the gardens – box lunch provided); Native Plant Sale; Informational tables.

1.15pm – 2.15pm: **Breakout Sessions** (Participants preselect one)

1. **Protecting Water Resources with Native Plants:** *Doris Heitzmann, Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ program manager, UF/IFAS*
2. **Native Plants and related Ethnobotany:** *Theresa Badurek, IFAS Extension Agent and Master Gardener Coordinator.*
3. **Dendrology Identification in the Aquatic Demonstration Area.** Follow along as a tree expert helps you identify some of Florida's native trees using a key system. *Lara Milligan, natural resources agent, UF/IFAS*
4. **Tour of the P2000 (Forever Florida) natural area** in the gardens. *Dave Perkey, Master Naturalist; assisted by Pam Schrader, Master Gardener.*

2.30pm – 3.30pm: **Key note speaker #2.** *Stacey Mattrazzo, Executive Director of Florida Wildflower Foundation.*

Native Plants for Florida Gardens Wildflowers are essential to Florida's ecological health, economy and natural beauty. They are a key component of the state's biodiversity and play an important role in many biological services. Wildflowers also provide food and habitat for birds, butterflies, bees and other wildlife, and support the pollinators that we rely on for many of our agricultural crops. Learn how the Florida Wildflower Foundation is working to protect, connect and expand native wildflower habitat and create pollinator pathways within our urban areas. Find out how you can help make a difference and learn about some of the easy-to-grow native plants you can use to transform your landscape into a living ecosystem with "real Florida" style.

45 min presentation and 15 min question period.

3.30pm – 4.30pm: Native plant sale; informational tables; free time to enjoy the gardens.

Preregistration required: \$75 per person general admission \$50 per person foundation member admission

Keynote Presentations will be held in the auditorium on the south side of the FBG campus and will be recorded for viewing on the foundation website.

Informational display tables will be on display down “Eco Alley” – the walkway to the auditorium. Florida Botanical Gardens Foundation, FNPS/Pinellas Chapter as well as IFAS and other environmentally friendly organizations will be on display. Besides showcasing a particular organization, the common theme will be environmental awareness and stewardship.

Presented by Florida Botanical Gardens Foundation and UF/IFAS.

Presenter's Bios

James Stevenson is an Extension Specialist with the University of Florida IFAS Extension Services in Pinellas County, working out of the Brooker Creek Preserve Environmental Education Center in Tarpon Springs. His classes include a variety of natural resource conservation topics, including: plant identification, botany, entomology, ecology and particular groups of native plants such as ferns, wetland wildflowers and epiphytes.

James grew up in Clearwater, then went on to University in Tennessee, worked in botanic gardens in North Carolina before moving to the UK to work at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and the University of Oxford Botanic Gardens from 1998-2006.

Stacey Matrazzo is the executive director for the Florida Wildflower Foundation. She has been with organization for 13 years, having served as a contractor for eight and program manager for five. She is an environmental educator with a bachelor's degree in environmental studies and a master's degree in liberal studies from Rollins College, where she is also an adjunct professor. A native Floridian, Stacey is a certified Florida master naturalist who spends much of her free time kayaking, hiking, birding and photographing Florida's amazing natural environments. She has been conducting native plant and edible plant hikes for 15 years and is the co-author of *Native Plants for Florida Gardens* (with Nancy Bissett; Pineapple Press, 2019). The **Florida Wildflower Foundation** protects, connects and expands native wildflower habitats through education, research, planting and conservation programs.

Doris Heitzmann is the Florida Friendly Landscaping™ (FFL) Program Manager for UF/IFAS Extension in Pinellas County. The FFL Program is an outreach program that teaches homeowners how to design and maintain their landscape using principles that are Florida-friendly. Doris specializes in educating Community Association members on the Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ concept to protect the area's precious water resources, while still creating and maintaining attractive and desirable landscapes. The Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Program in Pinellas County is grant funded by Tampa Bay Water.

Theresa Badurek is the University of Florida/IFAS Urban Horticulture Extension Agent/Master Gardener Coordinator in Pinellas County. Her program provides Pinellas County citizens with research-based, environmentally-friendly information on horticulture and landscape design. As the Master Gardener Coordinator she works with the volunteer team to inspire, educate, and motivate existing and new Master Gardener volunteers.

Ms. Badurek's educational background began with a bachelor's degree in biology from the University of Central Florida. Her studies there were concentrated on botany and Florida ecosystems. She then earned a master's degree in landscape architecture at the University of Florida, where she focused on the use of sustainable design. Ms. Badurek is also a certified arborist.

Lara Milligan is the Natural Resources Agent for UF/IFAS Extension Pinellas County. Her work focuses on wildlife, water, and general environmental education. Lara earned her Bachelors and Masters degree in Natural Resource Conservation from the University of Florida and is a graduate of the Natural Resources Leadership Institute.

Dave Perkey has a degree in biology from Indian University of Pennsylvania, is a Florida Master Naturalist and currently serves on the board of the Pinellas Chapter, Florida Native Plant Society. In his capacity as a biologist, he conducts and prepares environmental impact reports for sites throughout the United States. Perkey also volunteers at Florida state parks, where he participates in the maintenance of the Native Plant Garden, invasive plant control, shorebird surveys and stewardship, sea turtle nesting surveys, and educational programs.

Perkey oversees landscaping for his HOA and is moving it toward the use of more native plants. He also volunteers as a dog walker for the Suncoast Animal League. He and his wife live in Dunedin and have five grandchildren.