



Winging in the Gap

Looking for something to do while distancing?

Week of April 27, 2020

Since we are unable to greet you at the Celery Fields Nature Center, we are sending you news, links to activities and learning sites to keep you up to date and actively learning about birds, wildlife and other topics of interest.

Bird Blog

Purple Gallinules & Wetlands

by Chase Bonano

Alligator Flag and Purple Gallinules go together at the Celery Fields. Wetlands are important bird habitats and plants play an important role in attracting them. Purple Gallinules are able to walk on floating vegetation, and clamber across reeds in wetlands.

[Read more.](#)



Purple Gallinule on Alligator Flag *Thalia geniculata*
[Cornell Lab Video here.](#)



Bird is the Word: 5 Fascinating Far-Flung Features...

- Swiftlets --> Birds Nest Stew?
- Eagle Falconry
- The Parrots of Brooklyn
- Falcons Oversee Airports
- Her Majesty's Swans

These stories presented in a 13-minute video are worth a look! [Video here.](#)

Social distancing: We should take our cues from birds

by Bryan Watts, College of William & Mary

For bird behaviorists, the term

social distance and its variants (territoriality, individual space, social spacing) are familiar and have been in use for over a century. Social distancing was initially used to describe the common observation that birds often exhibit a uniform distribution with incredibly even distances between individuals. [More here.](#)



Social distancing in the sky: An example of three-dimensional social distancing within a cormorant colony. Nests are spaced along individual limbs and are also staggered between upper and lower limbs. Such spacing is forced by aggressive interactions. Photo Credit: Bryan Watts



Can you ID this bird?

April 2020 sitings from The Bird Recorder, Claire Herzog [Click here for list!](#)



Online Classes



DEEP DIVES

Live interviews and audience Q&A with people working to protect and restore Sarasota Bay.

Watch live online! [f](#) [YouTube](#)

Search "Sarasota Bay Estuary Program"

APRIL 2020

TUESDAY, APRIL 14 11:00 AM EST	TUESDAY, APRIL 21 2:00 PM EST	THURSDAY, APRIL 23 11:00 AM EST	TUESDAY, APRIL 28 11:00 AM EST	THURSDAY, APRIL 30 11:00 AM EST
Florida Horseshoe Crab Watch Armando Ubeda Florida Sea Grant Agent	Environmental Planning for Healthy Communities Ramon Quintero Environmental Health Community Planner, Office of Environmental Health	Seagrass Keeps Sarasota's Bays Alive Sheila Scolaro Science and Outreach Coordinator, Sarasota County Stormwater Environmental Utility	Neighborhood Projects for Clean Water Mollie Holland Neighborhood Environmental Stewardship Team (NEST) Coordinator, Sarasota County Stormwater Environmental Utility	Manatee River Oysters: Past, Present, Future Damon Moore Division Manager, Ecological and Marine Resources, Manatee County Parks & Natural Resources

Sarasota Bay Deep Dives

Learn about projects, programs, and plans for a healthy Sarasota Bay. Interviews with local environmental experts live on Facebook and YouTube. Interactive Q&A - you can ask the experts

[Check out offerings here](#)

Other Critters - Snakes!

by Lynda Becherelli

The Celery Fields is primarily an aquatic habitat, although there are enough uplands to expect both aquatic and uplands snake species. Aquatic snake species are often mistakenly assumed to be venomous cottonmouth snakes. Common snakes that may live at the Celery Fields



Florida (formerly Banded) Water Snake Photo Credit Karen Willey

include [Read more here.](#)



Citizen Science participants posting on iNaturalist

Citizen Science

Through citizen science, people share and contribute to data monitoring and collection programs.

Sarasota-Manatee EcoFlora Project from Selby Gardens

Using your smartphone or a camera, snap a picture of a plant in Sarasota or Manatee county and upload it to iNaturalist. Each month, Selby Gardens will feature a new EcoQuest

Challenge to focus on different species and keep things exciting!

[Program details here](#)

Share Feedback

The Nature Center Is Closed
Nature Is Open!

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