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Stocking Savvy Newsletter



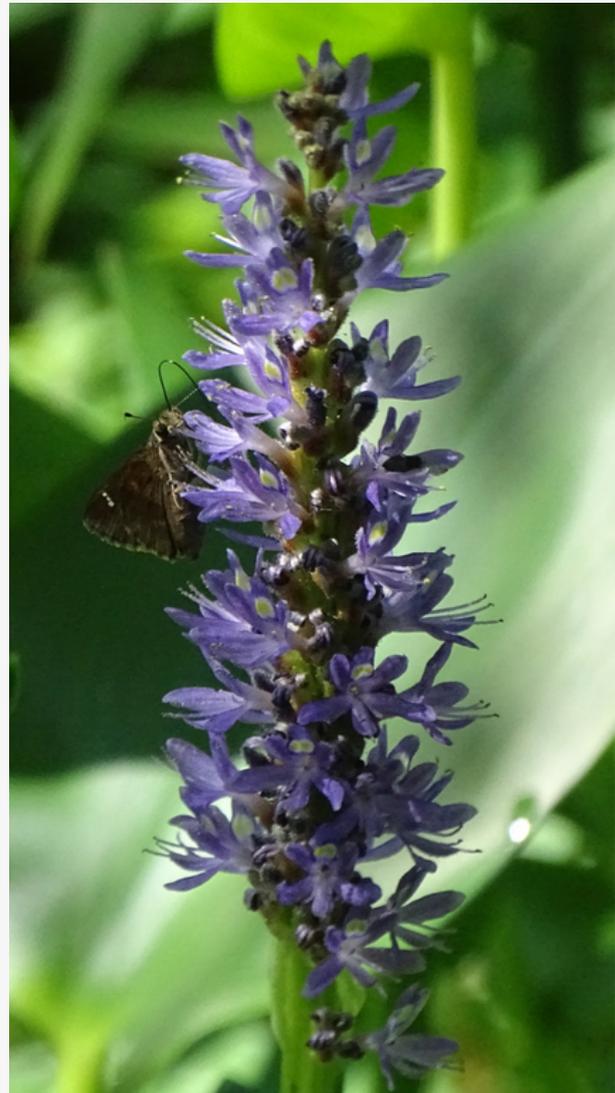
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New Year, New Opportunities for Habitat Restoration

It's the start of a new year, which means the team at Stocking Savvy is gearing up for another jam-packed 12 months of habitat restoration projects throughout the state of Florida. One of the projects we've been the most excited to share is the release of our upcoming book, "Stocking Savvy's Guide to Growing Your Own Wetland Butterfly Garden". This detailed, accessible guide on aquatic butterfly gardening will be the first of its kind in publication, and will fill a vital gap in pollinator-focused habitat restoration. The book will be debuted at the annual Florida Native Plant Society Conference, which will be held virtually May 20-22. Keep an eye out on our social media and website for updates on purchasing options and sneak peeks!



Pickerelweed is one of the most popular pollinator plants we'll be highlighting in our book.



SBEP Grant Funding Increase!

Whether you're looking to restore a local water body in your community or seeking financial support for an environmental research project, the start of the new year brings releases in grant funding that is available to you. One of the largest local grant opportunities comes to you from the Sarasota Bay Estuary Program, an amazing organization in our area that is dedicated to restoring our beautiful bay. The SBEP has increased their Sarasota Bay Partners Grant award this year to \$10,000 per project, providing a vital funding resource to our community.



The endemic, endangered scrub jay is one of the many crucial creatures in our state that benefits from restoration.



Planting projects, like the one seen here featuring Stocking Savvy staff, are eligible for financial award.

If you have a project you'd like funded this year but don't know where to start, Stocking Savvy can help. We offer project management and consulting services to individuals and organizations who are seeking to restore habitat and positively contribute to our local ecosystems.

Check out <https://sarasotabay.org/get-involved/apply-for-a-grant/> for more information on how to apply and project eligibility.

Habitat Restoration Kits Soon Available



After the success of our partner nursery Native Harvest's adorable, native and edible plant gift boxes, we have started working on a new project that we believe will make habitat restoration more straightforward, accessible, and fun for the community! We are in the process of constructing Habitat Restoration Kits that can be easily moved, stored, and utilized for backyard habitat restoration.

These kits will include pretreated seeds, instructions, educational information, and cuttings to match the conditions of the site, so whether you need a drought tolerant landscape or are looking to plant a wetland butterfly garden, we'll have you covered! If your organization would like to provide informational material to be included in our kits, or would like to order them in larger amounts, please contact us!



Species Spotlight



Sea lavender, *Heliotropium gnaphalodes*

Sea lavender is a highly endangered and underutilized drought tolerant native plant found in coastal dune habitats. It is an evergreen shrub that brings intrigue to the landscape, with enthralling silver-green foliage and a leaf structure like no other. If you're interested in adding this plant to your landscape, send us an email or message us over social media, as we have it available! We will also be selling sea lavender at the Sarasota Farmer's Market on Saturday, 01/29 from 7am-1pm!

Costing more than \$2 million a year in flood control systems, torpedo grass is not your average noxious weed. By 1992, the invasive torpedo grass had taken over 70% of Florida's public waters, spreading in rhizomatic mats over waterways, displacing native species and disrupting water flow and quality.

Although biological controls are currently being developed, current treatment options of torpedo grass are limited to herbicide and mechanical removal, although any methods of physical or mechanical removal will only serve to moderately control its spread. Planting dense living shorelines of native plants limits the spread of invasive species into our valuable waterways while restoring the ecosystem!



Torpedo grass is one of the most ecosystem damaging, commonplace invasive species in our state.