

June 2021

Stocking Savvy Newsletter



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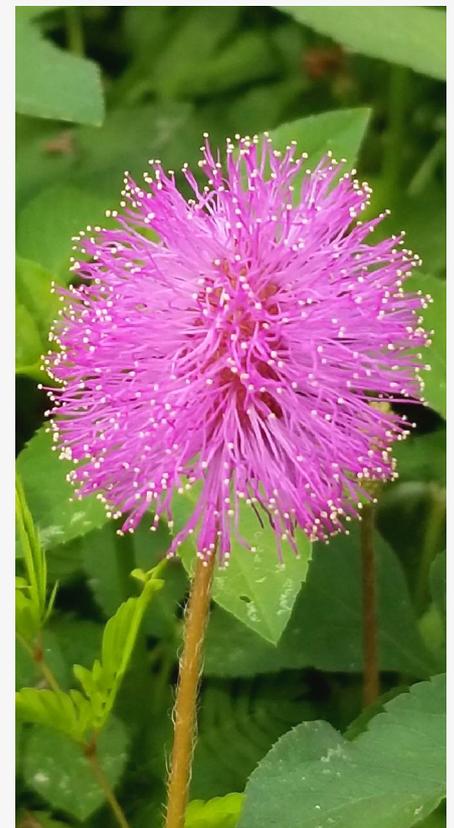
One of the native ground covers we carry, Sunshine Mimosa, is currently in bloom!

Stocking Savvy At The Sarasota Farmer's Market!

We are excited to announce our recent vending venture at the Sarasota Farmer's Market! You can now take a look at the interesting and diverse collection of native Florida plants we have available through our nursery, Native Harvest. We met hundreds of local Sarasota community members and out-of-towners alike and spent our time answering questions about sustainable lawn management, discussing how to support pollinators, and playing spot-the-caterpillar with the kiddos who swung by!

As the day progressed and the sun swung high overhead, we noticed something peculiar - butterflies had, despite all odds, found their way to our booth amidst the hustle and bustle of the increasingly-urbanized, human-packed downtown area and began sipping nectar from an assortment of our available species, including our Swamp Milkweed, Stoke's Aster, and more. To us, this was a tangible fruit of our dedication to serving *all* inhabitants of Florida's ecosystems - one butterfly at a time.

If you'd like to come meet the Stocking Savvy staff in person and chat with us about the projects we do and species we offer, you can find us on the south end of Lemon Ave every Saturday morning from 8am-1pm!

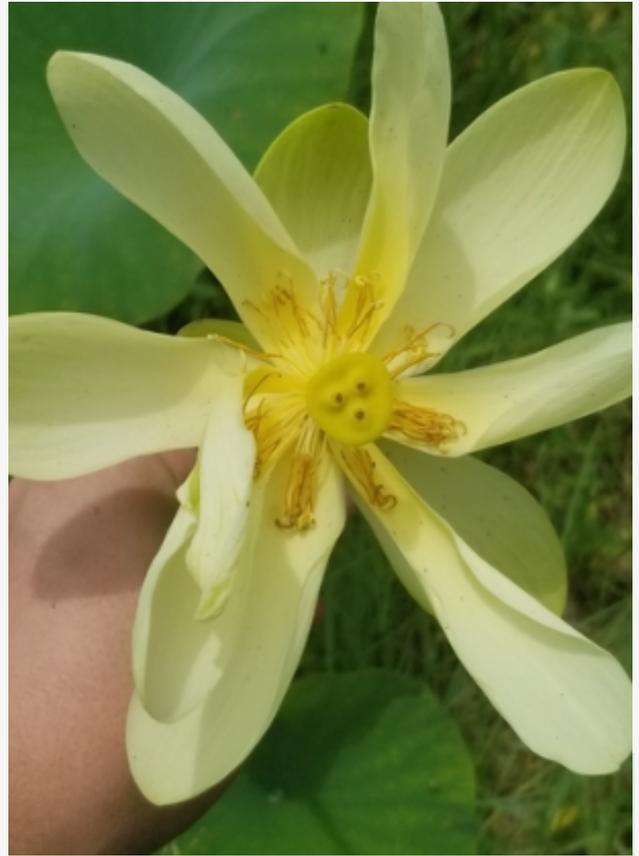


CULTIVATION NEWBIES



Our highly anticipated new research initiative for this Summer is now in full swing! This year we are bringing back and introducing several native species into captivity. We are growing at least 100 of both the American Lotus (*Nelumbo lutea*) and threatened Bog Spider Orchid (*Habenaria repens*) with the intentions of helping multiple local nurseries start carrying them as stock, increasing the biodiversity of native ecosystems we restore.

We've conducted a literature review and will be seeking publishing of the project following its completion! To our surprise, our seeds have already germinated and begun sprouting, so the possibility of providing access and cultivation to these unique native plants is becoming a reality!



You might know that American Lotus has a rich historical, cultural, and spiritual significance. But did you know it is also edible?

PLANTS, SHORELINES, AND VOLUNTEERS, OH MY!

Over the last two months, Stocking Savvy has been planting one shoreline after another! We've planted a wide range of lakes and yards for our clients, including one shoreline of more than 4,800 plants! These plantings are done to restore and rebuild shoreline, prevent erosion, provide food and habitat for wildlife, support pollinators, prevent algae growth, filter pollutants and sediments, and improve overall water quality! If you know of a local lake, pond, backyard, or even rain garden that could use the Stocking Savvy touch, email us at stockingsavvy@gmail.com!



A fresh shoreline planting of pickerelweed for one of our neighborhood clients!





Our living shoreline skills, alongside our iconic floating gardens, are on display at The Bay Sarasota in their Fountain Garden!

SECOND HEART, FIRST PLANTING

Stocking Savvy recently took a Saturday off from our Farmer's Market appearances to dedicate time to serving our community. On one weekend in June, we spent the morning installing an edible planting at one of the Second Heart Homes. Second Heart Homes is a non-profit organization whose programs are "designed to get people off the street, improve their quality of life by providing stability and services, and to foster the highest attainable levels of self-sufficiency". We aimed to contribute to this sufficiency by providing a variety of Florida-friendly and native edible plants like Mulberries, Cranberry Hibiscus, and Barbados Cherry to provide high-nutrient and delicious edibles to live off of in the coming months. Second Heart is committed to providing permanent housing to those with mental disabilities who have experienced or are at risk for homelessness, and we were thrilled to help them in their mission! If you'd like to learn more or donate, you can visit their website at secondhearthomes.org.

Stocking Savvy staff and volunteers from the Environmental Caucus and Second Heart Homes beside a newly established Barbados Cherry!

BACK FROM THE BOG

The Water Spider Bog Orchid is one of the plants we are growing as part of our summer research initiative, and we couldn't talk enough about it! This true orchid is one of Florida's natives and is rare for its existence as an aquatic-loving orchid. Occurring naturally on marshy shores, the Bog Orchid is occasionally also found on floating vegetative mats. It spreads by runners, as well as seeds, and grows around 1-2 ft. tall. Its conspicuous flowers grow in a stalk formation along the plant and can grow 2-9 inches tall. The petals are deeply divided and narrow, thus its namesake and creepy-crawly appearance. Bringing the Bog Orchid into cultivation for the first time would give local nurseries and community members the opportunity to reestablish this currently-threatened species and diversify our aquatic and semi-aquatic landscapes.

