



# ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

**North County Neighborhood Coalition**  
Location: The Country Club at Mirasol  
Tuesday, September 16, 2025





# ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

## Key Highlights

### 2012-Current

The Mirasol Environmental Working Group was formed in 2012, and the Board officially approved the request of the group to become an ad-hoc committee in 2014.

- **Sustainability Focus:** Environmental Committee promotes eco-friendly practices aligned with Mirasol Club & Association goals
- **Benefits:** Cleaner environment, stronger community, cost savings, and increased property value
- **Environmental Assets:** 2,300 acres, with 800 acres of natural preserve land; Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary member; 31 lakes
- **Initiatives:** Reduced plastic; eliminated Styrofoam; added butterfly gardens, birdhouses, bee hives, and natural meadow; incorporated electric landscaping tools
- **Community Engagement:** Member educational programs, nature tours, and industry tours
- **Future Vision:** Proposal for a data-driven Environmental Strategic Plan





# ENVIRONMENTAL LECTURES/EDUCATION

## 3-4 Complimentary Programs Offered Per Season



The Environmental Committee presents

### *Wings Over Mirasol* Land, Sea & Air

**Monday, March 20, 2023  
7 p.m. in the Gardenia Room.**

Join the Environmental Committee as they bring back Dr. Stephen Moss, who has a unique way of describing our local feathered and four-legged backyard visitors! His presentation will be built on photographs and videos made mostly by Mirasol residents.

Prior to the session, Dr. Moss suggests attendees might want to download the Merlin Bird ID app and record their local mockingbird.

**Reservations are required for this complimentary session.**

**RSVP:** [reception@mirasolcc.com](mailto:reception@mirasolcc.com) | (561) 776-4949, ext. 100



photo courtesy of Therese Vana-Brekke



An Environmental Committee Presentation

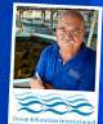
### **Coral Grief: Saving the Cities Under the Sea**

**Monday, January 23, 2023  
7 p.m. in the Gardenia Room.**

Coral reefs are among Earth's most endangered ecosystems, currently disappearing five times faster than the world's tropical rainforests. In fact, many experts now predict that, if things don't change in a big way, coral reefs will likely not survive beyond this century.

The major challenge to their conservation is the simple fact that, lying hidden beneath the sea, few people know or care about them.

This presentation with Dr. Alex Brylske will explore some of the unique and important aspects of the coral reef ecology, delve into exactly why reefs are critical to human survival, and why reefs are at such high risk. But most importantly, it will explain what each of us can do to save them from going down the path to extinction.



Combining four decades of experience as a dive professional with more than two decades as a marine biologist, Dr. Brylske currently serves as Director of Education for Reef Smart Guides and is the founding director of Ocean Education International, a consulting company specializing in marine environmental education and sustainable tourism.

**This session is complimentary. Reservations are required.**

**RSVP:** [reception@mirasolcc.com](mailto:reception@mirasolcc.com) | (561) 776-4949, ext. 100



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

### **LOVE LETTER TO THE PALM BEACHES**

*with Benjamin Studt*

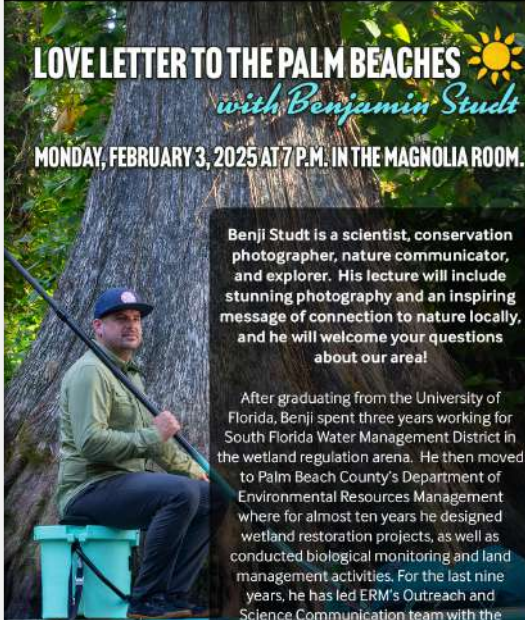
**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2025 AT 7 P.M. IN THE MAGNOLIA ROOM.**

**Benji Studt is a scientist, conservation photographer, nature communicator, and explorer. His lecture will include stunning photography and an inspiring message of connection to nature locally, and he will welcome your questions about our area!**

After graduating from the University of Florida, Benji spent three years working for South Florida Water Management District in the wetland regulation arena. He then moved to Palm Beach County's Department of Environmental Resources Management where for almost ten years he designed wetland restoration projects, as well as conducted biological monitoring and land management activities. For the last nine years, he has led ERM's Outreach and Science Communication team with the goal of inspiring real connections between the residents and visitors of the Palm Beaches, and the incredible public lands system that makes this area so special.

**This session is complimentary. Reservations are required.**

**RSVP:**  
**FORETEES CLUB CENTRAL APP**  
**RECEPTION@MIRASOLCC.COM | (561) 776-4949, EXT. 100**



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

### **THE TRANSFORMATIONAL INTERSECTION OF NATURE AND US - RESTORING BIODIVERSITY WITH SUSTAINABLE HABITATS**

*with CJ McCartney*

**Monday, March 31, 2025  
7 p.m. in the Gardenia Room.**

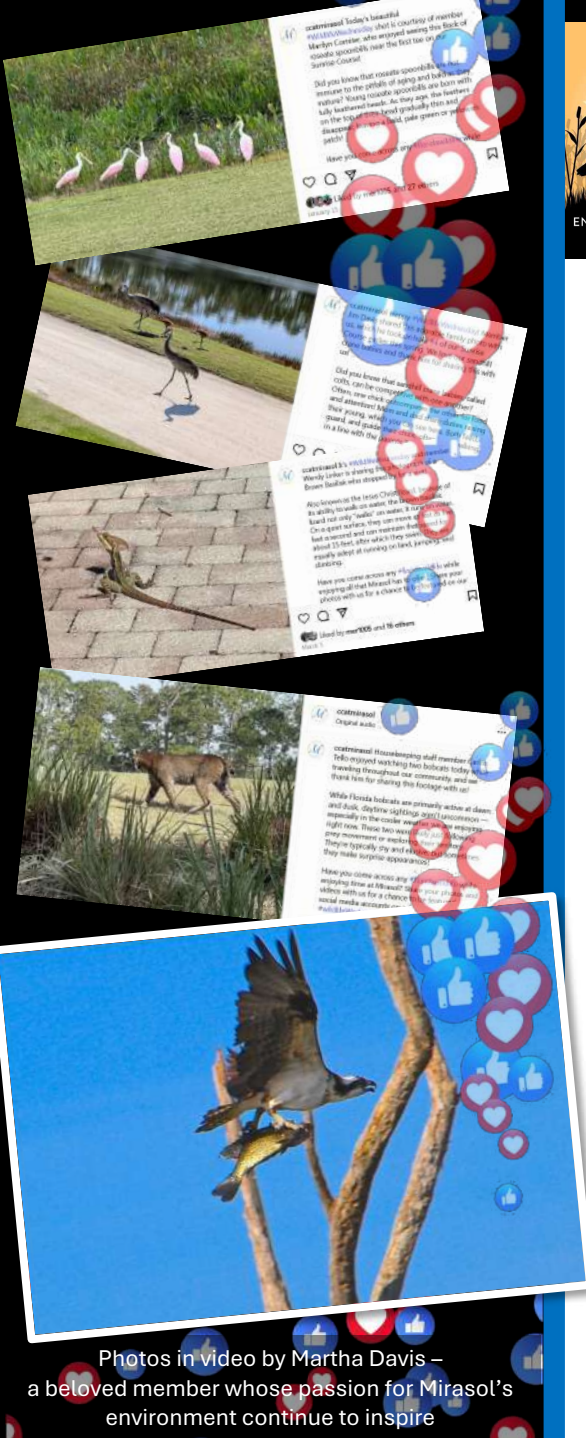
Join Environmental Steward CJ McCartney for an enlightening lecture on habitat restoration and transformation with a focus on pollinator and butterfly gardens, pollinators themselves, and the flowers and plants the pollinators rely on.

CJ works with Palm Beach County Environmental Resource Management vouchering plants and leading outreach activities, is the Master Gardener in Residence at Ann Norton Sculpture Garden, and serves on several boards and gardening committees. She approaches her service with an underlying belief that together, we can mitigate the loss of natural habitats by creating a patch or a plot of wildlife friendly yards to offer our homeless wildlife and native plants a safe and welcoming haven.

**This session is complimentary. Reservations are required.**

**ForeTees ClubCentral App**  
**RSVP:** [reception@mirasolcc.com](mailto:reception@mirasolcc.com)  
(561) 776-4949, ext. 100





# MEMBER ENGAGEMENT

## Various Programs Offered

Members are engaged in preserving our nature environment by participating in the following programs:

- **Nature & Bird Tours** – Guided tours by a professional birder to learn about the wildlife, plant life, and bird species in Mirasol
- **Golf Course Walking Program** – Available while our golf courses undergo summer maintenance
- **Wildlife Wednesdays** – Members submit nature photos taken on Mirasol property for our Wildlife Wednesday social media posts

Photos in video by Martha Davis – a beloved member whose passion for Mirasol's environment continue to inspire



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

### NATURE & BIRD TOUR

with Brian Beckner

Tuesday, February 18, 2025

Check-in and light refreshments will begin at 6:45 a.m. and the tour will start at 7 a.m.

Join us for a 90-minute early morning trip around our Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary-certified golf courses with professional birder Brian Beckner!

Brian's guided tour will include fascinating details about environmental correlations between our courses and our wildlife, identification of plant life, different bird species and their habitats, Audubon International, and more!

We will gather at 6:45 a.m. at the cart staging area outside the Grille Room for light refreshments, birding guides, and binoculars, and then we'll get on golf carts to take this spectacular tour.

**\$15 per person includes light refreshments.**

THIS EVENT IS LIMITED TO 20 MEMBERS WHO WILL PAIR UP IN CARTS IN ORDER TO REDUCE WAIT TIMES FOR ALL WHO WILL ENJOY THE UNIQUE TOUR. RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED AND THE ACTIVITY POLICY WILL APPLY.

**RSVP:** FORETEES CLUBCENTRAL APP  
RECEPTION@MIRASOLCC.COM  
(561) 776-4949, EXT. 100



# MEMBER ENGAGEMENT

## Tours

**Members are invited to join tours of local facilities to gain a deeper understanding of their processes and environmental efforts**

**Tours have included:**

- Seacoast Utility Authority
- Solid Waste Authority
- Florida Power & Light: Hibiscus Solar Farm



### **Solid Waste Authority Tour**

*organized by the Environmental Committee*

**Monday, February 3, 2025**

**Transportation will leave valet at 12:45 p.m. and we ask that you arrive at 12:30 p.m. We will return around 4 p.m.**

Join members of the Environmental Committee for an up-close look at the SWA's Integrated Solid Waste Management System. See what happens when your garbage and recycling leave the curb and gain a deeper understanding of why it is important to *Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Rethink!* waste.

Please wear closed-toe, comfortable walking shoes, as this tour will involve walking over their sky bridge, which is approximately three football fields in length, round trip.

*Space is very limited and reservations are required for this complimentary trip.*

**RSVP: ForeTees ClubCentral App**  
**reception@mirasolcc.com | (561) 776-4949, ext. 100**

*Mirasol*

# AUDUBON INTERNATIONAL

## Certified 2012-Current



In an effort to preserve the many diverse species of wildlife that inhabit Mirasol's 2,300 acres, our Golf Course Maintenance team entered into a valuable relationship with Audubon International in 2012 to be certified as an Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary

Certified as an Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary in 2012

Recertified in 2015, 2019, 2022, 2025





# BEEHIVES/HONEY

## "Bee Inspired" Initiative

### Beehives added in 2019

- 20 beehives to start, then lowered to 12 in 2023 due to an influx in honey
- Strategically placed around our golf courses
- Mirasol's **YES! HONEY** is available for purchase by our membership, and used in our culinary operations and spa/salon products

6,500 lbs. of honey  
produced since  
inception!





# NATIVE BIRD BOXES

## 30 birdhouse added in 2023

30 boxes were added throughout our Sunrise and Sunset golf courses.

### Residents include:

- 8 Screech Owl
- 4 Eastern Bluebird
- 4 Carolina Wren
- 5 Red-bellied Woodpecker
- 3 GC Flycatcher
- 2 Wood Duck
- 2 Black-Bellied Whistling Duck
- 2 Purple Martin

2 Bat Houses added in 2024!

*In partnership with Native Bird Boxes –  
[brian@nativebirdboxes.com](mailto:brian@nativebirdboxes.com)*

EASTERN SCREECH  
OWL NESTING



Black-Bellied  
Whistling Duck Eggs



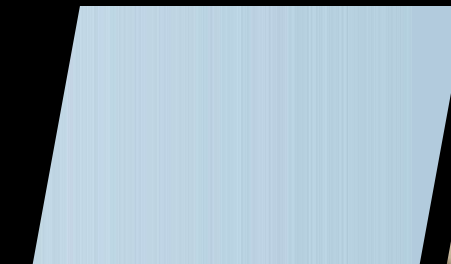
Purple Martin  
Hatchlings



Native Bird Box



Grey-Bellied Warblers  
Following Parent



Eastern Screech Owl  
With Eggs



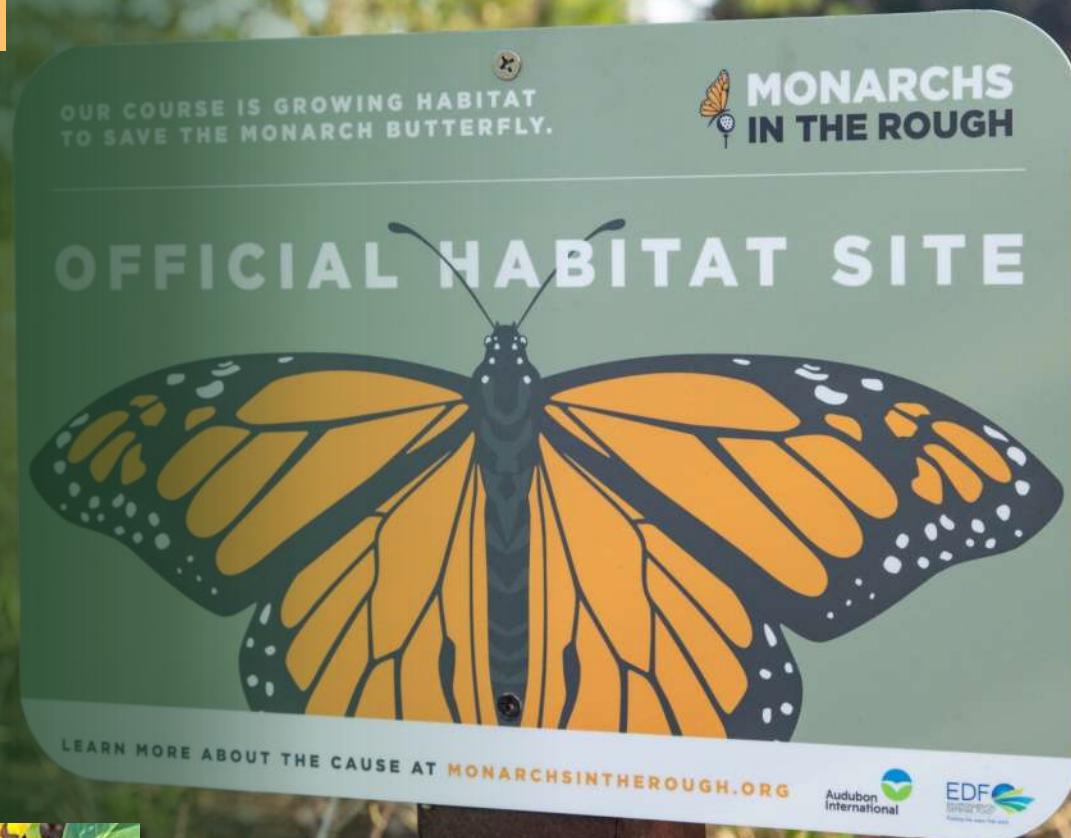


# BEE & BUTTERFLY GARDEN

## Monarch Butterfly Habitat

### 2,500 sq. ft. habitat added in 2023

- Lush habitat of milkweed plants and other pollinator plants benefits our European Honeybees and Monarch butterflies
- Located at the north end of our Sunrise Golf Course #9 hole next to our bee hives
- Members and their children/grandchildren have a front-row seat to observe the four life stages of the Monarch, as shown below



EGG



LARVAE (caterpillar)



PUPA (chrysalis)



BUTTERFLY

6 Milkweed stands were added to golf courses as part of Monarchs in the Rough program, with natural growth resulting and over 300 chrysalis formations!



# NATURAL MEADOW PLANTING

## 4-Season Natural Meadow added in August 2025

- Over 25 different native plants added to #15 Sunrise, behind the black tee, that will flower at different times of year providing Mirasol with a 4-season meadow
- Ben Hyduk, Golf Course Maintenance Director, worked with CJ McCartney, Master Gardener at Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens, on this innovative project, reclaiming habitat for wildlife in a developed setting





# CLUB SUSTAINABILITY PROJECTS

## Environmentally Friendly Products

### The Club transitioned to environmentally friendly products/policies in 2017

- **Styrofoam Cups Eliminated**

- Reusable Tervis cups distributed to Membership when rolled out
- Currently using recyclable plastic cups
- Saving over 400K/yr Styrofoam Cups from ending up in landfill

- **Straws upon Request**

- Elimination of over 300K plastic straws from ending up in landfill
- Currently using “green” plastic straws that are 100% recyclable and made from recycled product

- **Environmentally Friendly To-Go Containers & Silverware**

- Using a “green” clear plastic to-go containers that are recyclable & reuseable

- **Plastic Bags Eliminated – Using Paper Bags**





# CLUB SUSTAINABILITY PROJECTS

## Recycling Program

**Club facilities has over 1,200 cubic yards of recycling per year**

### Cardboard & Paper



72 yards per week  
is recycled and  
diverted from the  
waste stream.  
That's 864 yards  
per year.



Report shows 95% of  
yard roll off from  
Mirasol is recycled

### Glass, Plastic & Metal

35 yards per  
month is recycled  
and diverted from  
the waste stream.  
That's 420 yards  
per year.



Members can also deliver used  
batteries to the Clubhouse as part of  
our battery recycling program

**RecycleMania**  
**Volume Conversion (Estimate)**  
1 cubic yard = 201.974 gallons



# CLUB SUSTAINABILITY PROJECTS

## Maintenance Practices

### Battery Powered Landscape Equipment

Mirasol now uses electric equipment, including 3 electric rollers for greens, 4 Toro Triflex Hybrid mowers (Surrounds, Tee Tops, etc.), 3 Electric Carts for Supervisors, and 2 Hand blowers.

*Pictured below is our electric rollers*



### Pest Management

Mirasol utilizes integrated pest management (IPM) strategies. We eliminated the use of 2,4-D herbicides and organophosphate insecticides on our golf courses, while still maintaining our turf quality. IPM focuses on long-term pest prevention by combining cultural practices, natural alternatives, and targeted treatments.

### Water Conservation

Much of the water consumed on the golf courses and parts of the community is reclaimed water used for irrigation.

The Environmental Committee also created a proposal to conserve water for Club consideration. This resulted in the use of low flow and drip irrigation for annual plants, and our pumpstations for the golf courses and common areas being upgraded in the next two years.





# CLUB SUSTAINABILITY PROJECTS

## Other Notable Items

### Biodegradable Dog Bags



Biodegradable waste bags are used at the Mirasol dog park, which are made with 65% certified post-consumer recycled plastic. Over 7K bags are used each year.

### Dyson Hand Dryers

Dyson Dryers were installed at our Sports Complex and Golf Course Comfort Stations to reduce the use of paper hand towels



Utility bills through FPL all under 'clean energy segment' for which FPL uses solar power



### LED Lighting



In 2017-2018, the Club transitioned approximately 169 street light poles in the common area to LED bulbs

In addition, 64 street light poles at the Club were also changed to LED bulbs

### Shredding Event

Mirasol Realty hosts a yearly shredding event for the Membership.

In 2025, 4.56 tons of paper was shredded by Total Shredding, which equals 9,120 pounds.





# ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES

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For more information, please contact:

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