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Sarasota County libraries to host annual Sustainability Month in April

The Sarasota County Library System, in partnership with Sarasota County Area Transit (SCAT) and Keep Sarasota County Beautiful, celebrates Sustainability Month in April with an exciting lineup of cultural, education and social events for the entire family. To encourage participation, SCAT will offer free single trip tickets from April 12-30 to or from any Sarasota County Library. Tickets can be obtained at any Sarasota County Library.

First up is "John Moran's Journal of Light: A Photographer's Search for the Soul of Florida," sponsored by Friends of Fruitville Library. Florida nature photographer John Moran will appear at 2 p.m. Tuesday, April 7, at Fruitville Library, 100 Coburn Road, Sarasota, to present an exhibit that integrates history, music, and culture into a one-of-a-kind narrative featuring a slideshow of Florida photography. Seating for this event is limited and pre-registration is required.

Moran is a University of Florida graduate who worked as a photographer, writer and editor for the "Gainesville Sun" for 23 years. His photography has been featured in "National Geographic," "Life," "Time," "Newsweek," "Smithsonian," "New York Times Magazine" and on the cover of the "National Audubon Society Field Guide to Florida." His many awards include the prestigious Photographer of the Year for the Southeastern U.S. by the National Press Photographers Association.

Also during April, UF/IFAS Sarasota County Extension Service will offer several programs including "Container Gardening," "Stretching Your Food Dollar" and "Managing in Hard Times." Urban Forestry Operations, a division of the Department of Natural Resources, will offer a program, "Urban Trees: Growing the Future," and host a seedling-give-away. The Englewood Chapter of Solutions to Avoid Red Tide (START) will show the documentary film "Red Tide Refrain" and host a community forum with a guest speaker from Mote Marine. Youth Librarians will be offering a seedling-give-away. Young Adult Librarians will be offering various recycling craft projects.

From 8 a.m. to noon on April 18, residents can help spruce up Sarasota County during "The Great American Cleanup" and from 1-5 p.m. on April 22, citizens and businesses can observe Earth Day by sharing their thoughts on how to move our community to a clean energy future at the Venice Community Center, 326 S. Nokomis Ave., Venice.

Sustainability Month is made possible through the generous funding of Sarasota County, SCOPE, Home Depot and Publix.

To register for any of these programs or obtain additional information, contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000 and ask about Sustainability Month at your local library.

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