



# Florida SEE Grapevine

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## Meet Intern - Shannon Ash!



Shannon will graduate in May from the University of Florida with a B.S. in Natural Resource Conservation. She recently told us....

*"I want to work with the public and communities on topics about our environment and the role we play in living on planet Earth. I would love to help those that know nothing about nature to have a better understanding of the world around them and the beauty of it. I believe we all should do our part to minimize the trash that is cycled through our ecosystems and love planet Earth and every organism that inhabits it! I believe ecotourism is a fantastic way to guide the public and teach people about the beauty of nature while conserving the natural world".*

Shannon will develop **FL SEE's** annual Ecotour Provider Webinar Series, conduct a Certification program audit, and assist with membership development and social media.

## Certified Provider Spotlight: BIOTICA ECOTOURS



Meet Chris & Kris, founders of [BIOTICA ECOTOURS](#) - who 20 years ago, wanted a way to share their passion for the great outdoors combined with their desire to preserve it. They adhere to the International EcoTourism Society precepts that advocate for a smaller travel carbon footprint and practice Leave No Trace on all tours.



Certified at the highest level by FL SEE in 2016, BIOTICA specializes in small group tours led by guides who are biologists, ecologists and experts in the field. While they primarily guide in the Sarasota/Manatee area, they will customize tours based on their clients desire. One memorable excursion took them to the Silver River in Ocala where guests delighted in spotting Rhesus

Macaques! Check out that trip blog/video [here](#).



## SENSING NATURE - Educates & Inspires!

**GO GATORS!**



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*The Florida Society for Ethical Ecotourism is a nonprofit educational organization established in 2000. It is a state-wide Certification/ Recognition Program which maintains a professional code of ecotourism ethics in order to encourage an awareness of and stewardship for Florida's natural and cultural history. For more info visit [FloridaSEE.org](http://FloridaSEE.org).*



**SENSING NATURE** a long time FL SEE Member, offers a variety of educational experiences for nature lovers. Their mission: *Increase Florida Residents' and Visitors' Knowledge and Awareness of Florida's Ecosystems*

During the pandemic, Jeanne Murphy, biologist & Brian Lane, ecologist (with a combined 40 years of experience) pivoted to offer more online learning.

Check out their February calendar which includes the following webinars:

**History of Tampa Bay  
Native Flora and Fauna  
Wonderful Woodpeckers!**

**SENSING NATURE** offers [Florida Master Naturalist Training](#) and plan to present a new course on **Florida Invasive Plants** slated to begin in March.

**Check out their [calendar](#) of events and keep learning!**

### Wildlife News: Osprey Nesting Season

The **Cornell Lab** of Ornithology 

Ospreys are large predatory birds found throughout Florida. Although they can be seen all year, nesting season typically runs from December to late February. Breeding pairs will build large nests located on the top of large trees, or on manmade structures such as utility poles, channel markers, and artificial platforms.



For more information about Ospreys and their nesting habits, visit [All About Birds](#). It is a free web resource for avian enthusiasts created by The Cornell Lab of Ornithology.