

Message from the President

In my quest for native plants for my northern garden, I came across a catalog from Prairie Moon Nursery in Winona, MN (prairiemoon.com, 507-452-1362). They provide seeds and plants (bare root or potted or in kits) of authentic North American wildflowers for restoration and gardening. Just inside the cover of the catalog was the message: "The foundation of our ecosystem is rooted in native plants. Bee sustainable. Plant natives!" How concise! After all, native plants co-evolved with native insects and wildlife. They are interdependent on each other, as the plants provide food and shelter while the insects, birds and other critters in turn support larger predators in the food chain.

As we promote the virtues of native plants to others, we should stress that they are "building blocks", fundamental stepping stones of a healthy eco-system. We must strive to keep this circle of life complete. Whether it's a few square feet or several acres, we can all make a difference, one back yard at a time. Wherever you may dwell, plant on!

Lois Cantwell



Remembering Kit Henderson

I probably knew Kit Henderson as well as anyone in our area. We were kindred spirits who both loved writing and both enjoyed walking and studying native plants. I am the one who got her involved in our Native Plant Society. She joined us on many walks and actually did serve as Secretary for our Chapter. She turned her overgrown lot on the creek into a garden that featured many rare, but always native plants. Kit had an interesting history from surviving the wartime bombing of London as a child, to her unhappy marriage to a well to do businessman who traveled with her, and their children, all over the world. I never did understand how she ended up in our Englewood but I, and others who knew her, were fortunate to have and such an interesting and warm-hearted friend.

Kit was also proud of her championship badminton at the Senior Games.

She wrote five books that contained tales of her world-wide travels; and her own warm outlook on life. She was planning another book when cancer struck and took her away. Kit Henderson was a good friend and a good person
I wish she had had time to write that last book.
Denny Girard

2017 - 2018 Native Plant Walks Mangrove Chapter, F.N.P.S.

The Mangrove Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society invites the public to join in the following nature walks during the 2017-2018 season:

October 28, 2017 Venice Myakka River Park, (ADA Access)
7501 E. Laurel Rd, Venice

November 25, 2017 Old Miakka Preserve
251 Myakka Rd, Sarasota

January 27, 2018 Manasota Scrub, West side
Bridge St, Englewood

February 24, 2018 Yucca Pens WMA
Zemel Rd, Punta Gorda

March 31, 2018 Amberjack Environmental Park
End of Gasparilla Pines Blvd, Cape Haze

April 28, 2018 Myakka State Forest, North end
E River Rd (off S River Rd), North Port

May 26, 2018 Venice Lemon Bay Preserve
6200 Osprey Rd, Venice

Watch your local paper for more detailed information as the date approaches. You may also contact Trail Guide, Al Squires at 941-769-3633 or email him at ahsquires@embarqmail.com. The Florida Native Plant Society promotes the preservation, conservation, and restoration of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida. More information about the Mangrove Chapter of FNPS can be located on their website: fnps.org/chapters. Meetings, field trips and special events are free and open to the public.



Yard tour on Manasota Key

Twenty five members of the Peace River Butterfly Society and the Mangrove Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society visited the yard of Margaret and Bill Dunson on Manasota Key, FL, today. They were treated to a discussion of the merits of planting about 160 species of native and exotic plants in enhancing the yard habitat for wildlife, especially butterflies and birds. Bill emphasized that the decision to plant a specific plant should take into consideration seasonal flower and fruit production and how they are utilized by wildlife, the use by larval butterflies of the leaves as food, and the degree of cover provided for nesting and general protection.

Bill Dunson



Schedule of Chapter Meetings

The Mangrove Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society has the pleasure of welcoming the following speakers to their 2017-2018 season of monthly meetings:

FNPS Mangrove Chapter
Speaker List, 2017-18

October 10, 2017 - Girls Scouts, Sue Killion, Barbara Rao
"Improving Our Neighborhood, Protecting Our Planet"

November 14, 2017 - Alyssa Vinson, Environmental Specialist, Sarasota County
"Mangroves: Their Importance, Identification and Protection"

January 9, 2018 - Nigel Blakly, Biologist
"Milkweeds, Monarchs and Milkweed Bugs"

February 13, 2018 - Kate Borduas, Naturalist/Environmental Activist
"The Role of Cooperation in Evolution"

March 13, 2018 - Elizabeth Wong, P.E., Stormwater Manager, North Port
"North Port's Fertilizer Ordinance and Plants for Pollutant Reduction"

April 10, 2018 - Greg Vine, Owner/President of SunAcre Corp.
Chairman of the Urban Forest Committee in Venice
"Venice Beautification Project"

Mangrove Chapter meetings are held at Lemon Bay Park, 570 Bay Park Blvd. in Englewood, Florida with speakers beginning at 7:00 p.m. Evenings promise to be informative and inspiring with plenty of time for comments, questions and lots of good discussion with snacks included. We hope you can join us for some, if not all presentations.

The Florida Native Plant Society promotes the preservation, conservation, and restoration of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida.

To learn more about the Mangrove Chapter or the Florida Native Plant Society, visit

Welcome to our New Members

Please welcome new members:

Shannon Collins, Port Charlotte;

Naomi Voit, Venice; and

Thomas Zinneman, Punta Gorda.

Bee Sustainable!

Providing native plants on our properties offers forage and cover for many species of native bees along with other pollinators and insects. There are nearly 4,000 species of native bees that live around us, many going unnoticed. These North American species are essential for pollination, even doing a better job than their European cousins. Providing habitat for all pollinators is crucial.



You can do your part to help native bees: 1) Provide forage for bees by offering diverse mix of native plant species, ensuring an abundance of flowers from early spring through late fall; 2) Give bees a safe place to nest and overwinter. Roughly two-thirds of native bees need undisturbed bare soil or sand to provision a nest. The remaining third of native bees need hollow plant stems or wood to nest. Leaving dead vegetation undisturbed in your garden or on a brush pile allows native cavity nesters to overwinter and emerge the following year; 3) Avoid using pesticides! Even indirect, non-lethal exposure causes harm, effecting their ability to forage and reproduce.

We continue to see our acres upon acres of land being plowed up for development or paved over, contributing to the ongoing loss of native habitat and their ecosystems. Besides helping our precious pollinators, efforts at ecosystem restoration have other positive outcomes. Our air is cleaner, as plants help filter pollutants and carbon from the atmosphere. Large plantings can help to mitigate climate change. Our water is cleaner as deep root systems filter out excess nutrients and pollutants. Interaction between native flora and fauna helps build soil fertility, creates topsoil and curbs soil erosion. Bring sustainability home--go native!



Bee Facts

*Bees are the only insects that produce food consumed by humans.

*They have 6 legs, 2 compound eyes with thousands of lenses, 3 single eyes, 2 pair of wings, a

nectar pouch and a stomach. They also have 170 odorant receptors.

*Their wings beat 200 times per second.

*They can fly 5-6 miles at up to 15 miles per hour.

*If a bee flew around the world, it would only consume 1 ounce of honey.

*During one collection trip on any given day, a bee will visit up to 100 flowers.

*A bee's brain is about the size of a sesame seed, yet it can differentiate and remember all flowers in its range, calculate distances, and communicate all that information with the other bees in its hive.

*They communicate all of the above by dancing!

*They can sense an air pressure change so as to know if it is wise to go out and forage or better to stay in the hive.



What's Blooming in the Garden

gold lantana (*Lantana depressa*)

This native lantana plant is a small shrub that grows about two feet tall and 3-5 feet wide. It is considered a long lived evergreen perennial.

It grows best in very dry sandy and is highly salt

tolerant, making it a good plant for beach dunes. It also likes pine rocklands. This plant does prefer calcareous soil and full sun. It is endemic to Dade County Florida and SW coast of Florida.

It is best known for its showy yellow to gold flowers which are actually a small mound of clustered blossoms. *Lantana depressa* will have a purple berry.

The Demonstration Garden had originally planted *lantana depressa* in an area that grew to be more shade than sun. The plant lived but did poorly and did not bloom. It was transplanted in the spring of 2017 to an area that is getting more sun and so far, appears to be a much happier plant with yellow blooms.

This is a rare south Florida native that has unfortunately entered the nursery trade. This plant has been hybridized and some varieties are invasive. You can learn more about the "lantana mess" in a very nice article by Roger L. Hammer titled *The Lantana Mess: A critical Look at the Genus in Florida*. The web address is <https://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/files/caip/pdfs/TheLantanaMess.pdf>

You can see it now in a visit to the Cedar Point Environmental Center Demonstration Garden.

Mangrove Chapter Florida Native Plant Society | Email fnpsmangrovechapter@yahoo.com |
Website <http://mangrove.fnpschapters.org/>

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