



Your monthly news & updates

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Message from the President

FNPS is asking all Chapters to send them a copy of their bylaws. Ours were last updated in 2013, so we decided to review them for changes that will reflect current practice. Therefore, in order to have them approved by a vote of the General Membership at our next meeting (Dec. 12), the following changes are proposed for review. Current wordage is in **bold print**. Proposed changes appear in *italics*. Two Articles are to be updated: Article V, Committees and Article VII, Financial Operations. All others remain the same. For some of the Committees that are combined, we are separating them into individual committees and their descriptions, and subsequently renumbering them.

Lois Cantwell

Proposed Bylaw Changes for Mangrove Chapter, FNPS

Article V, Committees

(1) Chapter Representative. The Chapter Representative has 1 vote on the **FNPS Board of Directors Council of Chapters**.

(3) **Program and Field Trip Committee** *Program Committee*. This committee shall be responsible for planning and overseeing programs at general membership and Annual meetings. The committee shall provide lectures, discussions, and such other events as may promote interest in and appreciation for native plants and native plant communities of Florida.

(4) *Field Trip Committee*. This committee shall plan, organize and arrange for the proper conduct of the field trips that may be participated in by members of the MC and others interested in the purposes and aims of the MC.

(4) **Conservation and Education Committee** Changed to (5) *Conservation and Education Committee*

(5) **Publicity and Newsletter Committee** (6) *Publicity Committee*. This committee shall publicize, through newspapers, radio, TV and other media, the purposes, aims, programs and activities of the MC.

(7) *Newsletter Committee*. This committee shall publish at least eight (8) times a year, a bulletin or newsletter, written/email or on the website, for the members of MC and shall prepare other publications

helpful to the MC's success.

(6) History Committee *(8) History Committee*

(7) Bylaw Committee *(9) Bylaw Committee*

(8) Hospitality Committee *(10) Hospitality Committee*

Article VII Financial Operations

The ExC is empowered to approve expenditures of up to **\$150.00** *\$250.00* for appropriate projects and materials without prior general membership approval. The membership must be informed at the next general meeting.

December Meeting Potluck

Your next Chapter meeting is December 12 at Lemon Bay Park at 6:00 pm. This is a time to relax and reconnect with your fellow gardeners, discuss your latest planting and enjoy the company. Bring a dish to share and your own place setting. There will be a silent auction - so be ready to bid.

A direct and compelling headline

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

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. We encourage Floridians and our winter visitors to learn more about the importance of Florida's native plants and communities by becoming a member of the Mangrove Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society.

The Mangrove Chapter is one of 37 FNPS Chapters throughout Florida and meets the second Tuesday of each month from October through May. At each meeting a program on natural history, landscaping with native plants, or other similar topic is presented. Wildflower field trips are scheduled every last Saturday of the month (except in December) with walkers meeting at designated locations at 9:00 a.m. Meetings, field trips and special events are free and all are welcome. For more information about Mangrove Chapter activities and events, please visit [mangrove.fnpschapters.org](#). FNPS is a nonprofit organization whose mission is the preservation, conservation, and restoration of the native plants and native communities of Florida.

Welcome to the Mangrove Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society

Report from Charlotte Harbor Nature Festival, November 18, 2017



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It was a lovely day for a nature festival and the event was well-attended. Without an actual head-count, we can only guess at more than 100 people stopping by our booth. Many asked questions, chatted and bought plants, which garnered \$84 in donations. We also “networked”



with folks from other environmental groups. A big THANK YOU to the dozen volunteers who turned out to support our efforts to educate the public about native plants. Al's electronic board was popular with the kids, as well as adults, and his poster of the Florida State Wildflower was on the scavenger hunt, so it got lots of attention. Our Chapter Event Calendars kept disappearing from their holder, as they were going like hot cakes. A couple of people were overheard to be interested in joining us as new members. We will be on the look-out for them.



Magazine Article Review: “Hurricane Irma, Lessons Learned”, by Thomas Becker

I came across an article in the November issue of Harbor Style magazine, written by Tom Becker, who has spoken to our group a few times in recent years. He teaches workshops and classes for the UF/IFAS/Charlotte County Extension Service. In his article he outlines what is known about both native and non-native tropical tree species relative to their hurricane wind resistance ratings.

“Trees easily damaged by high hurricane winds include African tulip tree, banana, banyan tree, black olive, bottlebrush, golden shower, Hong Kong orchid, jacaranda, loquat, royal Poinciana, tropical almond, wax myrtle and yellow trumpet tree. Others easily damaged include Eugenia, firebush, fiddlewood, laurel oak, mahogany, varnishleaf and willow bastic.”

Tom also mentions that “palms do better in high wind events due to their pencil thin, spaghetti-like roots, solid trunks and wind-resistant leaves.” Except for Queens and Washingtonians, best performers include Pindo, bottle, Chinese fan, cabbage (Sabal), thatch, Canary Island date, Christmas and Florida royals. He also spoke to the practice of over-pruning or “hurricane cutting” done by homeowners and tree trimmers as NOT acceptable. When you are pruning palms, only remove fronds that are completely brown. Otherwise, severe pruning weakens a palm's ability to recycle nutrients and resist wind damage.

Having emailed Tom regarding his article, and describing my experience with trees effected by Irma (my neighbors call it the “Irma-lean”), he also sent me a list of trees with low wind resistance, sorted by variety, native vs. non-native. I will share those either at a meeting or in the next newsletter. This could be a guide to choosing a replacement tree in place of one that is damaged or declining due to a storm event.

Lois Cantwell

Report from November Membership Meeting Speaker Program

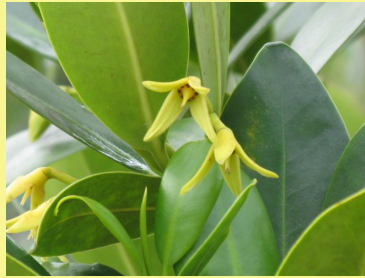
“Mangroves: Importance, Identification and Protection” was the topic at our last meeting, with 40 people in attendance. This was a first-rate speaker program, presented by Alyssa Vinson, an Environmental Specialist with Sarasota County’s Environmental Protection Division. She began by talking about the growth habits of the individual members of this group, as well as their beneficial roles in the ecosystems.

An outstanding fact that I learned during this presentation is that mangroves remove 6 to 8 times more CO2 from the atmosphere per acre than a rainforest! And there is a relatively new term called “blue carbon” which refers to the carbon capture and storage capacity of wetland vegetation. Related to this is the “march of the mangroves”, which is the migration of mangrove forests into treeless salt marsh ecosystems, a worldwide phenomenon that is expected to continue as sea levels and global temperatures rise. In Florida mangroves are now expanding because of changes in winter climate, probably due to fewer of the historically cold winter snaps that had kept them in check.

The second half of the program dealt with a newly delegated mangrove program that teaches and certifies professional mangrove trimmers, involves a permitting process with specific rules and regulations, and provides a guide to homeowners about the do’s and don’ts of mangrove trimming (with penalties for illegal trimming). For additional information about mangrove shoreline management or permit requirements in unincorporated Sarasota County, call the Sarasota County Contact Center at 941-861-5000.



Mangrove at water's edge



[Mangrove BlossomCaption]



[Mangrove Seedling]

Yard Tour at Susy d'Hont's Native Garden

Around 200 people visited Susy d'Hont's native plant yard on Nov. 17 & 18. A table was set up to welcome visitors with brochures about plants and pollinators. Fifteen people signed up for the “Plants for Birds” workshop to be held on Feb. 10 and jointly sponsored by the Venice Area Audubon and Mangrove Chapter of the Native Plant Society. The proceeds for this tour event, that included 8 yards in the Englewood area, are going to student scholarships.



The Importance of Native Plants by Dr. Craig Huegel

Join Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center (CHEC) at this fundraising event which includes a lecture by Dr. Craig Huegel on "The Importance of Native Plants" at Cedar Point Environmental Park, [2300 Placida Road, Englewood](#) from **5 PM to 7 PM on January 23, 2018**. Included in the \$12 entrance donation (\$8 for Friends of CHEC) is complimentary wine, hors d'oeuvres, music by Gotfried Creek as well as book signing by Dr. Huegel and a silent auction.

Craig Huegel, PhD, is wildlife biologist with a special interest in the interaction of wildlife and habitat, especially as it relates to developed landscapes. He is a founding member of the Pinellas Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society, writes a popular blog about Florida native wildflowers, and operates a small native wildflower nursery from his home in Seminole.

Dr. Huegel has written five books about native plants. His sixth, a book about "How Plants Work" is due to be published spring 2018 by the University of Florida Press. Currently, he serves as an adjunct professor at St. Petersburg College in the Biology Department and as a consultant on a wide variety of native plant projects.

Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center is a private, non-profit 501 (c) 3 corporation providing environmental education, passive recreation, research, and conservation land management to citizens and visitors of the greater Charlotte Harbor area. Your donation to this CHEC fundraiser provides educational environmental programs to local adults and students within the Englewood area. Your attendance will help all.

For further information and/or reservations, phone [941.475.0769](tel:941.475.0769). Space is limited.

CHEC Programs for December 2017

Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center and the Charlotte County Natural Resource Department will be conducting the following free programs in **December 2017**. All programs can be found at www.ChecFlorida.org

Unless noted, all walks begin at **9:00 AM**. For directions or further information, call Cedar Point Environmental Park at [941-475-0769](tel:941-475-0769)

Friday December 1 Join **Al Squires** on a guided walk through the old growth pine flatwoods and mangrove fringe of 125-acre **Oyster Creek/Ann Dever Regional Park** in Englewood. Meet at the San Casa entrance.

Tuesday December 5 Join **Kate Borduas** on a guided walk through the old growth pine flatwoods and mangrove fringe of 125-acre **Oyster Creek/Ann Dever Regional Park** in Englewood. Meet at the San Casa entrance.

Wednesday December 6 Learn about "**The Florida Scrub Jay: Bird in Peril**", with **Kate Borduas** at **10 AM** at **Bayshore Live Oak Park** in Port Charlotte. Learn what you can do to help save what Cornell has called a "Species of the Century." **Reservations advised.**

Thursday December 7 Join **Jim Knoy** on a guided walk through 308-acre **Tippecanoe Environmental Park**. This Charlotte County park includes habitats such as scrub, pine flatwoods, marsh and wetlands. Meet behind the Charlotte County Sports Park.

Saturday December 9 Join **Dave Clayton** on a guided walk through the 81-acre **Bill Coy/Buck Creek Preserve** in Englewood. The scrubby flatwoods and mangrove swamp border Buck Creek, which flows into Lemon Bay. Meet in the parking lot.

Sunday December 10 Join **Jean Leavitt** on a guided walk through **Tippecanoe II Mitigation Preserve** in Port Charlotte. This 150 acre preserve is home to several families of the threatened Florida scrub jay. Meet in the parking lot.

Tuesday December 12 Join **Nancy Clayton** on a guided birding walk through the scrub and pine flatwoods of 217-acre **Amberjack Environmental Park** in Rotonda. Meet at the end of Gasparilla Pines Blvd. **Walk begins at 8 am.**

Tuesday December 12 Join **Kate Borduas** on a guided walk through 308-acre **Tippecanoe**

Environmental Park. This Charlotte County park includes habitats such as scrub, pine flatwoods, marsh and wetlands. Meet behind the Charlotte County Sports Park.

Wednesday December 13 Discuss “**Poisonous Plants of Southwest Florida**” with John Fenton at **10 AM at Bayshore Live Oak Park** in Port Charlotte. Learn to identify and understand the toxicity of various SW FL plant species. **Reservations advised.**

Thursday December 14 Join **Bob “Coop” Cooper** on a guided walk through the old growth pine flatwoods and mangrove fringe of 125-acre **Oyster Creek/Ann Dever Regional Park** in Englewood. Meet at the San Casa entrance.

Saturday December 16 Join **Al Squires** on a guided walk through the old growth pine flatwoods and mangrove fringe of 125-acre **Oyster Creek/Ann Dever Regional Park** in Englewood. Meet at the San Casa entrance.

Sunday December 17 Join **Dave Clayton** on a guided walk through the 81-acre **Bill Coy/Buck Creek Preserve** in Englewood. The scrubby flatwoods and mangrove swamp border Buck Creek, which flows into Lemon Bay. Meet in the parking lot.

Tuesday December 19 Join **Al Squires** on a guided walk through **Tippecanoe II Mitigation Preserve** in Port Charlotte. This 150 acre preserve is home to several families of the threatened Florida scrub jay. Meet in the parking lot.

Wednesday December 20 Join **Bob “Coop” Cooper** on a guided walk through the scrub and pine flatwoods of 217-acre **Amberjack Environmental Park** in Cape Haze. Meet in the parking lot at the end of Gasparilla Pines Blvd.

Thursday December 28 Join **Bob “Coop” Cooper** on a guided walk through the scrub and pine flatwoods of 217-acre **Amberjack Environmental Park** in Cape Haze. Meet in the parking lot at the end of Gasparilla Pines Blvd.

Go to
www.CHECflorida.org
for complete program calendar

What's Blooming in the Garden

Marlberry (*ardisia escallonioides*)

Marlberry is a long lived perennial shrub that is evergreen known for its showy flowers and fruits. It is hurricane and wind resistant and has interesting foliage. It grows 8-15 feet tall and 3-8 feet wide. Some references describe marlberry as a moderately compact shrub or a slender tree.

The flowers are white fragrant small blossoms in a dense showy bunch near the tip of the branches. The fruit is shiny black very small drupes borne in conspicuous clusters.

The Leaves are dark lustrous green about 6 inches long and may flex upward. This makes a nice specimen plant or hedge.

Marlberry will tolerate full sun or shade, often seen as an understory shrub. Water requirements are from moist to very dry and also tolerates alkaline soils as it likes sand. It is moderately salt tolerant.

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



The Mangrove Chapter GardenKeepers are sending out a call for volunteers. If you are interested in learning more about native plants and would like to garden with an interesting and fun group of people, join us at the Cedar Point Demonstration Garden on Monday mornings from 9-11.

The Demonstration Garden is looking for shade to part shade loving plants and ground covers. If you have any plants in your garden that need a new home, think about donating them to the Demonstration Garden instead of the trash heap.

**However you celebrate the Holidays We wish
you Peace and Joy this Season**