



## President's Message

by Lois Cantwell

During January there were days when I was hesitant to open my email--there were so many requests for assistance from other groups it was hard to keep up. We like to help out whenever we can. Most times we can oblige, sometimes we have too much on our plate. Some members do step up and are willing to help out--others, not so much. It is disheartening to circulate a sign-up sheet for help with an event which comes back with only a few names on it.

We periodically campaign for people to fill vacant positions on the board or committee chair positions. Your current board members, who are playing musical chairs year after year, are not going to be around forever. We are not getting any younger and several have health issues. There is a need for "new blood". Please take this to heart and give us a hand when there is a need. And, thank you to those who pitch in on a regular basis. I am encouraged that some of our newer members have been helping out. We just need a few more "core" volunteers! There must be someone out there who has a special talent or skill to offer.

### Calling for Pots!

The theme for our annual "**Plant Native**" Day event (March 10<sup>th</sup>) will be "**Container Gardening with Native Plants**". We would like to be able to offer examples to the public during the event, either as a raffle, silent auction or donation. Therefore, if anyone has a **suitable pot (ceramic, clay, durable plastic) deep and wide enough to hold 3 to 5 specimens** of native plants, please either bring them to the February Membership Meeting, or drop them off with the "Garden Keepers" at our Demonstration Garden on any Monday morning (9 to 11) up until the 19th of February. (Thank you to those who have already contributed pots). Anyone wanting to **contribute plants** for this purpose, we would need them by that same date. That gives us 3 weeks to get them potted and looking presentable.

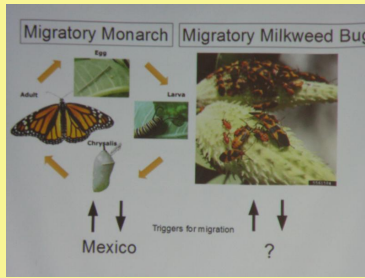
## January Meeting with Nick Blakely

As predicted, there was a great turnout (74 by headcount) for our January meeting, featuring Nigel Blakely's presentation on Monarch Butterflies. He provided us with a fountain of information on monarch migration, including

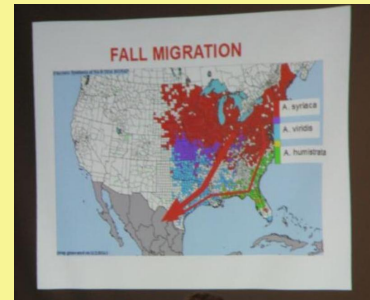
statistics on such things as DNA analysis that demonstrates which types of milkweeds that successive generations of monarchs utilize in their migratory mission. While there are some aspects of monarch behavior that are still subject to debate, including our own Florida population, this was a fascinating overview of what the majority of these little gems of nature endure during their long-distance roundtrip each year.



Nigel Blakely

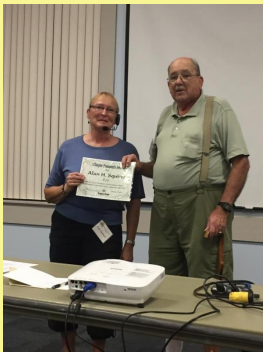


lifecycle of the Monarch butterfly



Migration paths

## Chapter President Award



AI Squires received the Chapter President's Award at the January 9th meeting of the FNPS Mangrove Chapter held at Lemon Bay Park in Englewood. AI was recognized for a decade of service from 2007-2017 as President, Vice-President, Chapter Representative, and Field Trip Coordinator. He is pictured here with current Chapter President, Lois Cantwell. Photo by CA Gregsak

[Visit our Website](#)

## Plant Native Day

Our 14<sup>th</sup> Annual "Plant Native" Day is to be held on **March 10<sup>th</sup>** this year. At our next membership meeting we will circulate a sign-up sheet for helpers. This will include things like setting up tables, chairs and displays and organizing plants on Friday afternoon beforehand. Then, continuing with the tent, tables and such on Saturday morning. PRBS is coming again, so they may also need help.

**We will need helpers in the following categories:** parking, greeters/floaters, hospitality, nursery plant sales, member plant sales, book sale/literature, and leading a nature walk at the end of the program. We will need donations of food items, beverages, paper plates, cups, napkins, etc. for the refreshment table. We also need plants for the sale in the garden. They must be healthy looking, labeled with common and scientific name, plus adding information (i.e. dry/wet/sun/shade requirements) is always helpful. The message regarding the need for "planters" or large pots for our container gardening display is in another section of the newsletter.



**Chapter Meeting February 13**

Kate Borduas

## “The Role of Cooperation in Evolution”

Kate came to us from Maine, part-time, in 2003, and has been in the area, now full-time, since 2012. In Maine, Kate was involved in local and regional politics, where she worked as an environmental activist. She has served as the President of the Greater Portland, Maine Council of Governments.

Kate is an active member in local, regional and national Audubon organizations. She led the Venice Golf and Country Club (VGCC) Audubon International Bio-blitz team to winning two back-to-back global biodiversity challenges. The Bio-blitz is a species-counting competition designed to create awareness among golfers and the general public about the environmental value of the habitats supported by golf courses.

As a Florida Master Naturalist and Certified Interpretive Guide, she leads birding and wildflower walks throughout Charlotte and Sarasota County. She is an active member in both the Mangrove Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society and the Peace River Butterfly Society. Kate says she is still trying to get back to Maine, but with her schedule as it is, I think we can count on her being around Southwest Florida for awhile.

This year, our February meeting comes just a day before Denny Girard’s birthday. With a birthday on the 14th of February and his outstanding contributions to the knowledge, identification, and preservation of the natural world of the Gulf coast of Southwest Florida, Denny has always been our Special Valentine.

Denny is a long-time member of the Mangrove Chapter of FNPS and, along with Marianne Owen and Al Squires, one of the original Cedar Point Trail Guides. Denny built the early trails at Cedar Point Environmental Park in Englewood and a trail at Cedar Point is named after him and his late wife, Pat. Prior to the construction of the main building, he and Al Squires worked Security at the Park. Bobbi Rodgers, the current director at Cedar Point, says: “Denny was everything here.” Denny has been a SW Florida resident for more than 50 years and his nature photography is well known to area enthusiasts. He was a major contributor to the University of South Florida (USF) Flower Atlas, which includes all Southwest Florida flowers found in the wild, including garden escapees. The Atlas can be viewed on the USF website. Denny has published two collections of poetry, as well as stories and articles in local newspapers.

**Please join us for a pleasant evening of birthday wishes, a slice or two of birthday cake, and Kate’s informative and thought-provoking presentation.**

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## FEB 10, A Busy Day for Mangrove Chapter, FNPS

The Mangrove Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society will be represented at the upcoming **Open House at Wildflower Preserve on February 10**. Lois Cantwell, the Mangrove Chapter president, will be on hand with plenty of valuable information about native plants, their use in landscapes and their benefits to birds and butterflies. Posters and literature will be on display and plants will be for sale.

Four Mangrove Chapter members, who also lead walks for the Lemon Bay Conservancy at Wildflower Preserve, will be leading walks during the program. Susy d’Hont and Nancy Clayton both have Birding Walks at 8 AM; Charlie Woodruff leads Nature Walks at 8:30 AM, 10 AM and 1 PM; and Dave Clayton will lead walks at 9 AM and noon. Walkers will learn about the ecology and various habitats at Wildflower and learn about the restoration efforts in progress. The Preserve is located at [6919 Gasparilla Pines Boulevard](#) off Placida Rd. in Englewood. The event is free and open to the public. The parking lot offers plenty of parking.

On the same day, Al Squires past-president of the Mangrove Chapter, will represent the chapter in partnering with the **Venice Area Audubon Society to offer a free workshop on Native Plants for Birds**. The workshop will demonstrate how birds are sustained by native plant gardens. Discussion will include: providing food and shelter for birds, creating small garden plots of bird-friendly plants, as well as planting small container gardens for birds.

The workshop takes place Feb. 10 from 9:30 to 12:30, at Venice Area Audubon Society on Annex Rd in Venice. The workshop is free and open to the public, but registration is required. To register, please email [annoleary9@icloud.com](mailto:annoleary9@icloud.com)

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## What’s up in my Garden

I have been back in Florida for about 3 months and the yard has reached a state of normalcy. This was achieved through weeding, raking, trimming and bagging the accumulation that normally occurs during my summer absence, plus the aftereffects of Irma. The bulk of the over-growth was weeds, weeds, weeds! First I was pulling about twice the amount of weeds and grass I usually expect to see upon my return. Now I am seeing a second generation popping up from the ones that reseeded post-Irma.

Not only was there volume, but the numerous varieties of weeds that I don't usually see was also amazing. I found ragweed, night shade, chamber bitters, eyebane, and tassel-flower in abundance. There was a very small morning glory-like vine with little flowers climbing up and over some of the palms and shrubs. Bidens alba and my blue mist flower and scorpiontail had self-seeded into colonies. Then I found the dreaded shrimp-plant creeping into the back yard, and some larger specimens in a couple of plant beds. The ones in the lawn are nearly impossible to pull.

And I am forever finding re-sprouts of the purple tassel-flower popping up in so many places. At least they are shallow rooted and easy to pull. I would rather physically remove weeds, but sometimes it becomes necessary to bring out the industrial strength stuff. So far I am resisting using weed killer with all the birds coming to my feeders in this chilly weather. But that shrimp plant marches on. Advice is most welcome.

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## CHEC EVENTS FOR February

Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center and the Charlotte County Natural Resource Department will be conducting the following free guided walks and programs in **February 2018**

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)  
[WWW.CHECflorida.org](http://WWW.CHECflorida.org)

**Thursday February 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.

**Sunday February 4** Join **Ben Blackshaw** 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 February 6** Join **Kate Borduas** on a guided walk through the scrub and pine flatwoods of 217-acre **Amberjack Environmental Park** in Rotonda. Meet in the parking lot at the end of Gasparilla Pines Blvd

**Wednesday February 7** Explore, "**Evolution and Function of Cooperation**", with Florida Master Naturalist **Kate Borduas** at this 10 AM free lecture at Bayshore Live Oak Park in Pt. Charlotte. As we look around at the amazing diversity of life on earth, we might keep a few things in mind: (1) Species are more alike than they are different and (2) Most species survive by cooperating – or at least by not competing. Lecture begins at **10 am**. Call for reservations.

**Wednesday February 7** 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.

**Friday February 9** Take a tour of the historic "**Cookie House**" at Cedar Point Environmental Park from **1 – 4 pm** with Charlotte County Historical staff. Formerly known as the Bass Biological Laboratory, the scientific studies from this facility is linked to the world renowned Mote Marine Laboratory.

**Sunday February 11** Join **Al Squires** on a guided walk through the scrub and pine flatwoods of 217-acre **Amberjack Environmental Park** in Rotonda. Meet in the parking lot at the end of Gasparilla Pines Blvd

**Tuesday February 13** 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.**

**Wednesday February 14** Get wild & wet! Join **Bobbi Rodgers** at **Cedar Point Park** on a **Seagrass Adventure Wading Trip** into Lemon Bay in search of marine organisms such as sea horse, crabs and juvenile fish. **Registration required**

**Thursday February 15** Join **Gloria Hansen** 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 February 17** Join **John Phillips** 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.

**Sunday February 18** Join **Laura Soule** on a guided walk through the scrub and pine flatwoods of 217-acre **Amberjack Environmental Park** in Rotonda. Meet in the parking lot at the end of Gasparilla Pines Blvd

**Tuesday February 20** 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 February 21** Drawing from Elizabeth Kolbert's book, "Sixth Extinction," Florida Master Naturalist Kate Borduas will explore, "**But, Ma - I'm Adapting as Fast as I Can!**", at this free 10 AM lecture at Bayshore Live Oak Park in Pt. Charlotte. Kate will explore early extinctions & examine the challenges facing some endangered species today. Lecture begins at **10 am**. Call for reservations

**Thursday February 22** Welcome **Nancy Scot Willie and Esther Ainger Horton**, at this evening lecture event on "**A History of Englewood & Surrounding Areas**" from **5 – 7 pm** at Cedar Point Environmental Park. Nancy and Esther, both long-time members and founders of the Lemon Bay Historical Society representing generations of local pioneer families, will present a Powerpoint presentation depicting photographs of historical Englewood and surrounding areas while sharing original stories of early life in this area. This is a CHEC fundraiser. For your donation of \$8 (CHEC member), \$12 (non-member), the evening will include the pictorial presentation as well as complimentary wine, hors d'oeuvres, music, and a silent auction. Call for information and/or to reserve a space.

**Friday January 23** Join **John Phillips** on a guided walk through **Charlotte Flatwoods Environmental Park**, a 487-acre Charlotte County property of mature pines, dry prairie, marsh wetlands and freshwater ponds. Its location adjoining state lands make it an important wildlife corridor. Meet at the parking lot on US 41 at **8:30 am**.

**Monday February 26** 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 February 27** Get wild & wet! Join **Bobbi Rodgers** at **Cedar Point Park** on a **Seagrass Adventure Wading Trip** into Lemon Bay in search of marine organisms such as sea horse, crabs and juvenile fish. **Registration required**

**Wednesday February 28** Join **Bob "Coop" Cooper** on a guided walk through the scrub and pine flatwoods of 217-acre **Amberjack Environmental Park** in Rotonda. Meet in the parking lot at the end of Gasparilla Pines Blvd

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## A History of Englewood and Surrounding Areas

**Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center, Inc.**

Cedar Point Environmental Park

[2300 Placida Road](#)

PO Box 163

Englewood, FL 34295

Join Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center (CHEC) at this fundraising event which includes a lecture by Nancy S. Willie and Esther A. Horton on “A History of Englewood & Surrounding Areas” at Cedar Point Environmental Park, [2300 Placida Road, Englewood](#) from 5 PM to 7 PM on February 22, 2018. Included in the \$12 entrance donation (\$8 for Friends of CHEC) is complimentary wine, hors d’oevres, music by Gottfried Creek, as well as a silent auction.

Nancy Scot Willie is a 5<sup>th</sup> generation Englewood resident and has been an active founding member of the Lemon Bay Historical Society who enjoys working on the history of the area & creating visual displays for public viewing.

Ester Ainger Horton is an Englewood native and is a member of one of the area’s original pioneer families which include landmarks such as L.A. Ainger Middle School, Ainger Creek, and Ainger Fishing Pier. She, too, is a long-time member of the Lemon Bay Historical Society.

Nancy and Esther will present a Powerpoint presentation depicting photographs of historical Englewood and surrounding areas while sharing original stories of early life in this area.

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 are. 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](#). Space is limited.

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## Book Review by Lois Cantwell

Last season, I borrowed (and eventually purchased) a native plant reference book from AI that I found to be rather interesting to browse through. It is small enough to be used as a field guide and lists the plants by color (love this feature) with high quality photos. Each plant is represented by a description of its growth habits, bloom season, habitat and range, followed by comments. This comment section I find very interesting, as one can learn certain facts, such as the derivation of the scientific name, various botanists that are honored by including their name in the genus/species name of the plant, or what the species name refers to relative to the growth characteristic of a plant, such as *spicata*, *resupinata*, *savannarum*, *immaculata*, *rigida*, *frutescens*, *incarnata*, etc.

Did you know that *pulchella* means “beautiful”, *flaveria* means “yellow”, *sagittaria* is Latin for “an arrow”, *polygala* means “much milk”, or *cirsium* means “swollen vein”? Learning what these Latin or Greek names mean in relationship to a particular plant helps one to understand how the heck did that plant get its botanical name? Now, this book does contain quite a few plants that are associated with Central Florida, but I found those just as interesting as the ones that are familiar to our area here in Southwest Florida.

So, if you haven’t figured out which book I have been describing, it is **“Central Florida Wildflowers”, by Roger L. Hammer**, A Falcon Guide, Roman & Littlefield, 2016.

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## Roger Hammer: February 21, 2018, 10 am

### Peace River Butterfly Society

Roger Hammer, award-winning Florida naturalist, will give an informative and entertaining lecture on Using Native Plants to Attract Butterflies and Birds at the PRBS meeting on February 21, 2018, 10 am. Seating will be limited.

Roger has written several guidebooks and pamphlets about Florida native plants, including a book and a pamphlet about native wildflowers in central Florida. Since retiring as a senior



interpretive naturalist in the Miami-Dade Parks Department, Roger has given lectures and field trips throughout the state of Florida. As anyone who has heard him speak can attest, Roger is a riveting and witty speaker. He will have copies of his field guides and pamphlets available for purchase at the meeting. RSVP to Steve or Olivia Scott, 941-625-0381 sfscott2011@hotmail.com PRBS Meetings are held at GFWC Woman's Club of Port Charlotte 20271 Tappan Zee Drive, Port Charlotte, FL 33952

Mangrove Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society || Visit Our [Website](#)