



President's Message

by Lois Cantwell

In a recent email from Lisa Roberts, Executive Director of the Florida Wildflower Foundation, she mentioned that National Pollinator Week was held the third week in June. FWF now has 3 brochures available, which Lisa referred to as a "trifecta" for wildlife: "Attracting Birds"; "Attracting Butterflies"; and "Attracting Bees and Other Beneficial Insects". So, check these out on their website: www.FlaWildflowers.org. Also, if you happen to have a copy of their "20 Easy-to-Grow Wildflowers", there is a highlighted section on each page with specifics about the butterflies and bees that are associated with each plant. Elsewhere in this issue of our monthly newsletter, you will find several suggested ways that you can help "feed the bees that feed us".

Five Ways you Can Help Save the Bees

Bee Safe: Plant any flowers that attract bees, using organic starts or untreated seeds to avoid any residual chemical contaminants known to kill bees (and other pollinators)

Bee Aware: Use alternative pest control methods, like landscaping to attract beneficial insects, and eco-friendly pest-control products.

Bee Vigilant: Read labels and avoid products containing neonicotinoids or chlorpyrifos.

Bee Vocal: Tell your friends and family about the importance of bees and their role in pollination.

Bee an Activist: Ask your local garden retailer(s) to stop carrying products containing neonicotinoids. Look for ingredients (such as acetamiprid, clothianidin, dinotefuran, imidacloprid or thiamethoxam).

For more information, visit Friends of the Earth at www.foe.org or BeeAction.org.

Bee Gardening Basics

When gardening for bees, here are a few general rules of thumb: 1. Choose a range of flower shapes and colors to attract the most bee species. Use complex flowers for bumblebees and simple flower shapes for smaller bees (flat places to land). 2. Plant season-long blooms to support bees from early spring until fall. 3. Provide areas of undisturbed ground or vegetation for nesting sites. 4. Bees and flowers have evolved in tandem, so make sure to choose non-hybrid natives. 5. Plant in masses for efficient pollen collection. Sunny areas are most attractive. 6. Avoid pesticide use. Even some organic mixtures can harm insects. 7. Provide a muddy area or shallow trough for water. Source: Gardening for Birds & butterflies plus Bees, Birds & Blooms, April/May, 2018.

Visit the Mangrove Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society website.

FNPS Mangrove Chapter July 28, 2018 Field Trip

The Mangrove Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society invites the public to join in a leisurely walk through Carlton Reserve at 1800 Mabry Carlton Parkway in Venice on July 28th at 9 am.

The T. Mabry Carlton Reserve is a Sarasota County Water Management Area, located less than 12 miles from downtown, Venice, Florida. It covers more than 24,000 acres of protected land, with over 80 miles of multi-use trails along the Myakka River floodplain, including a 12-mile connector to Myakka River State Park.

The trail system circles wet prairies and flatwoods ponds as it wanders through a mix of pine flatwoods, scrubby flatwoods, oak hammocks, and open prairies. The 1.6 mile loop around the lake provides an introduction to the various habitats in the reserve. Trails are well-maintained by a dedicated group of volunteers, The Friends of Carlton Reserve. A short segment of trail is wheelchair accessible (paved with paving stones), and numerous benches make this an easy walk for hikers of all abilities.

DIRECTIONS:

From I-75 exit 193, Jacaranda Blvd, drive north 0.6 miles to where the road ends at a T intersection. Brown signs direct you to the park: turn right onto Border Rd. After you cross the Myakka River, the road comes to another T intersection at 2.5 miles. Turn left at the park sign; a broad drive leads into the reserve. At the next sign on the right, turn right to enter the public parking area, which is down a lengthy gravel driveway.

ALTERNATE DIRECTIONS:

Take River Rd. north to Venice Ave. Take a left and proceed to Jackson Rd. Take a right and go to Border Rd. Take a right on Border Rd. and follow to Reserve. From there, follow the above directions.

For more information you may contact Trail Guide, Al Squires at 941-769-3633 or email him at ahsquires1@comcast.net

The Mangrove Chapter is one of 37 FNPS Chapters throughout Florida and meets the second Tuesday of each month from October through April. At each meeting a program on natural history, landscaping with native plants, or other similar topic is presented. Field trips are the last Saturday of each month except for December. Field trips, meetings and other FNPS activities are free and open to everyone.

More information about the Mangrove Chapter of FNPS can be located on our website: <http://www.mangrove.fnpschapters.org>.

What's Up in My Garden

Last winter I planted quite a variety of flowering shrubs in a now-sunny location at the back of the house, as part of a recovery from Irma project. One of these is Giant Ironweed, *Vernonia gigantea*, a bushy perennial, averaging 3 to 4 feet in height. It blooms from May to December. The showy purple flower heads are about an inch wide, the panicles that hold them can reach more than 12 inches across. In nature they can be found at forest margins and flood plains of eastern North America south in Florida to Martin and Lee Counties. "Vernonia" honors British botanist William Vernon (1666-1711). "Gigantea" relates to its large stature compared to other species (Tall Ironweed, *V. angustifolia* and Florida Ironweed, *V. blodgettii*).



To round out my collection, I added *Lantana depressa* to the mix. My first one was killed by freezing weather about 7 years ago. The second was just

planted in the wrong place. So I am hoping that the third will survive. Pineland Lantana is a low, sprawling shrub with bright yellow flowers. It can be found in pinewoods and other dry areas. Lantanas are generally drought-tolerant and good when used near the coast. They tend to become leggy as they age, so periodic pruning helps them bush out.



A variety of Lantana cultivars and forms are available in local nurseries and, unfortunately, purchased for landscape use in too many Florida yards. Almost all of those are derived from the non-native and weedy *L. camara*. Some of these selections are dwarf forms and produce bright yellow flowers similar to the native trailing *L. depressa*, with which they are often confused, even in native nurseries. *Lantana camara* should be avoided due to its invasive nature.

A Lecture on Invasive, Exotic Plants

Join Alan (Al) Squires, Mangrove Chapter, Florida Native Plant Society, at 10 AM on Wednesday, July 25 at the Fireplace Pavilion at Bayshore Live Oak Park in Port Charlotte, Florida as he discusses and shows examples of Florida's non-native, invasive exotic pest plants.

These plants are designated by the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council (FLEPPC) as plants that are detrimental to natural ecosystems of Florida. Introduced either purposely or accidentally, they colonize quickly and can overtake native species which provide habitat to wildlife.

Mr. Squires will have examples of many of these plants and will distribute free literature to help residents identify and remove them. The booklet, "Identifying & Controlling Invasive Exotic Plants in Southwest Florida: A Homeowner's Guide" will be distributed to the first 20 people who register for this free program.

This program is presented by Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center. Bayshore Live Oak Park is a Charlotte County facility located at 23157 Bayshore Rd, Pt Charlotte, FL 33980. For information and/or registration for this FREE program, call 941-475-0769.

What's in a Name?

Let's pick a few "pink posies" and see how they got their names. How about Florida Paintbrush, *Carphephorus corymbosus*. The genus name translates to "chaff-bearing" or "weathered hay", in reference to the dry, scaly, floral bracts. The name *corymbosus* refers to the flowers being arranged in a corymb, a flat-topped inflorescence, progressively flowering from the margin inward.

Rose-rush, *Lygodesmia aphylla* gets its first name from the Greek *lygos*, "a pliant twig", and *desme*, "a bundle", referring to the clustered, rush-like stems. The name *aphylla* means "without leaves". Sunshine Mimosa, *M. strigillosa*, refers to the tiny, straight, appressed (strigose) hairs. *Sabatia stellaris* (Rose of Plymouth) gets its name from its star-like flowers. The common name came from the seventeenth-century Pilgrims of Plymouth.

Lastly, There is False Dragonhead, *Physostegia purpurea*. Its genus name is Greek for "bladder" and "covering", alluding to the inflated calyx covering the fruits. The name *purpurea* refers to the purple flowers, even though they range from rose purple to light

pink. It was once placed in the genus *Dracocephalum*, meaning "dragon head".

Mangrove Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society | Phone:941-769-3633
Email: fnpsmangrovechapter@yahoo.com | Website: <http://mangrove.fnpschapters.org/>