



Message From the President

by Lois Cantwell

President's Message

Here is an update for our membership from my notes from our last Board Meeting: A committee has been formed to develop a Grant that our Chapter will offer to the public beginning this coming fall. A majority vote of our members attending the April General Membership Meeting approved the funds. The initial draft proposed to us came from Jane Wallace. Al Squires and Bobbi Rodgers will be working with Jane over the summer months to fine-tune the rules and requirements. It is hoped that we can introduce this grant at the CHNEP Nature Festival in November. By the way, that festival has been moved to Lashley Park in Punta Gorda (this fall).

Our Chapter email address, which has been listed on our annual Calendar, as well as the FNPS website, has faded away through benign neglect. So, Barb Seibel, who manages our website, will set up a new Mangrove Chapter email address. This provides an opportunity for interaction with the general public, as well as with other chapters and organizations. Barb will monitor our email on a regular basis, once it is re-established and re listed.

Our Chapter will also show our support for the Florida Wildflower Foundation by sending in a membership application. FWF does so much to support pollinators by promoting native wildflowers for bees and butterflies. So, it is important that we support their organization. Several of our individual members also have FWF memberships. We encourage our readership to visit www.FlaWildflowers.org to learn more.

I hope all of you enjoy the remainder of our spring weather, as summer officially begins on June 21st. Some of us snowbirds might be a bit cooler and drier than most for now. With the hurricane season upon us and the general unpredictability of Mother Nature, keep your wading boots and emergency preparedness kits handy. Let's hope there will be very little need for them. Have a safe summer and happy trails. See you in the fall.

Visit our Website [click Here](#)

Report from the May General Membership Meeting

by Al Squires

The proposed changes to the bylaws were passed by majority vote of those present. There were 20 members in attendance at the pot luck supper and election of officers. Our new Officers for the 2018-2019 season are: Lois Cantwell, President; Al Squires, V.P.; Bobbi Rodgers, Secretary; Linda Wilson, Treasurer; Al Squires, Chapter Representative.

Al Squires reported on the Wildflower Symposium (Sponsored by the FWF) that he attended the last weekend in April. It was well attended and many FNPS members were there. Featured speakers included Craig Huegel (Sex in the Garden) and Walter Taylor (Florida's Yellow Flowers). Craig's talk was about the ways that plants are pollinated and seeds are dispersed. Walter's presentation covered a wide variety of the second most popular color of wild flowers (white is first). FWF members were able to acquire or pre-order quantities of a new brochure (24-page magazine) "20 Easy-to-Grow Wildflowers". Al obtained 200 copies. Some were shared at the May meeting, a case of 100 were set aside for our Chapter's outreach activities, and the remainder went to Cedar Point Environmental Park for public education.

38th Annual FNPS Conference

by Linda Wilson

I've been attending this conference for many years. The first was in Sarasota at the college. It is interesting visiting different parts of the state each year. This year it was at the Miccosukee Resort in Miami. Thankfully it wasn't in the city itself or I wouldn't have gone. I attended an interesting 2 hour program on Fungi on Thursday. I now have a name for several species I've seen on my property. We received a very comprehensive handout.

On Friday there were several excellent presentations on Orchids. Irma apparently did some damage to several large specimens at the Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park.

I also learned about the Custard Apple Swamp. Due to manipulation of the water system the area of study no longer exists as it was 70 years ago. Another speaker educated us on the landscapes, vegetation and hydrology of the Everglades. The last speaker was Rev. Houston R. Cypress, a member of the Otter Clan of the Miccosukee tribe. Some of their traditional villages are located on tree islands scattered throughout Water Conservation Area 3A which is also affected by the same water issue.

The featured speaker was Dr. Tiffany Troxler who is the director of the Sea Level Solutions Center at FIU. She was a positive note at the end of the day with nature-based solutions to extreme events in urban environments.

Saturday, Roger Hammer started us off with an amazing power point of his solo kayak trips around the Everglades. He is always so entertaining and educational.

We heard about the National Native Plant Society for the U.S. Please check out their website. I had planned to go to Hole-In-The-Donut in the Everglades National Park on Sunday(which I didn't attend) so one of the programs was an overview of the project. One of the in holdings in the park was purchased and major restoration has taken place. It was old farmland that had become a Brazillian Pepper forest. The trees were removed and the soil was scraped down to the rockland. it was expensive but has apparently flourished. They did not replant anything but waited to see what would move in. I learned about Periphyton which is a health indicator and aids to building soil. Another program was on creating native gardens under overhead transportation lines. What an improvement for the bikers, walkers, families etc. who live in the neighborhoods adjoining. The day ended with Craig Huegel on "Sex in the Garden". His next book is focusing on the plants themselves and all wonders of pollination and survival.

It was another enriching conference. It was raining for the Sunday field trip so I came home through the Everglades. It's nice to see so much wilderness if we can only keep it functioning.



Rough Velvetseed



Florida Tree Snail on Wild
Tamarind Tree



Allamander augustifolia.
Naturalized to Florida



twinflower



Wild Tamarind



Wild Olive

FNPS 38TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE **May 17th -20th Miccosukee Resort, Miami.**

Renewal! Preservation, Conservation, Restoration.

by Christine Holyland

The conference had 3 tracts. Orchid Conservation, Current Issues and Research Presentations. I attended three research presentations on pollinators, Using a Pine Rockland Plant to restore Agricultural Lands in South Florida, and The Custard Apple Swamp. Lectures By Mike Owen on Orchid Conservation, Emily Robertson on The Native Plant Conservation Campaign, Steve Woodmansee on Restoring Wetlands From Farmland in the Everglades, and Creating Native Gardens on the Miami Underline.



I took a field trip to Camp Owaissa Bauer Addition, a 9.4 acre environmentally sensitive, very diverse, imperiled Pine Rockland habitat. Our Guide was Gwen Burzychi. Management of the area is reversing successional progression to Hardwood Hammock and restoring Pine Rockland habitat. This is an outcropping of limestone in south east Florida which covered 187,000 acres in presettlement times, now only 3700 acres remain outside Everglades National park. Soil is only 1-2 inches thick over an uneven surface covered by rubble and leaf litter. Over 400 species of native plants are found here, a large portion are endemic and 6 species are federally listed endangered. We saw numerous Florida tree snails on the trunks of Wild Tamarind, a Locust berry – host plant for the Duskywinged Butterfly, a Gulf Fritillary Butterfly on Passion Vine, and many plants I never heard of, too numerous to mention. It was hard to walk here trying not to step on the many small flowers covering the Rockland. A few plant species like Florida Poinsettia, Love Vine, and Poisonwood which I have seen before were also here. Species are mixed together here so they use fire boxes for prescribed burns, as some plants need burning and other will die if burned.

The Casino conference center worked well for our needs especially because it was so rainy on all four days and everything was in the building. The food was better than I thought it would be. All our meals were buffet style with something for everyone. Seafood night had everyone wrestling with large sections of crab

legs. It tasted great but we did have to work for it.

Pictures by John and Christine Holyland



Bahama Senna (Threatened)



Partridge Pea (Rockland variety)



Poisonwood (irritant)



Piriqueta caroliniana (no common name)



Christmas Berry or Quail Berry



Locust Berry

THE PROMISE AND SOME OF THE PERILS OF ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION

by George Gann

sent to us by John Holyland

George Gann has travelled the world working on restoration and conservation projects. He was the founder of the Institute for Regional Conservation (IRC) and is Emeritus Chair of the Society for Ecological Restoration (SER).

In his talk he called attention to the following points and guidelines:-

1. Plants that are native here are often plentiful in other locations globally. We define “native” as relating to pre-Columbus but clearly this is not relevant in Europe or Asia.
2. We can't reverse human existence and to be “anti-human” only serves to alienate other groups.
3. Humility should be encouraged since what we see as knowledge today will undoubtedly be modified in the future.
4. Change is inevitable. It occurred before and will again. What we call “native” initially came from somewhere else.
5. Identify goals that are achievable. We can't stop all extinction so

we need to be selective.

6. Partial success may be all that can be achieved.

7. Use all available tools to spread the word. Other conservation groups are often “plant blind”. Without plants there would be no birds, mammals or fish. Restoring plant habitat is essential for all life.

8. Play the long game. Restoration of damaged habitat takes a long time.

9. Include all stakeholders. Try to win over the opposition by convincing them of the benefits to them of restoration or conservation.

10. Transparency, sharing of data and local action to unite all conservation groups is essential.

Spring by Lois Cantwell

Those subtle changes that announce the advent of spring-time in Florida include the emerging blossoms on several of my established shrubs and small trees. By early April I had blooms on Necklace Pod (*Sophora tomentosa*) and Seagrape (*Coccoloba uvifera*). Within a few more weeks, others got into the act. Those included Gallberry (*Ilex glabra*), Marlberry (*Ardisia escallonioides*), and Simpson's Stopper (*Myrcianthes fragrans*). In my recently planted, post-Irma flowering shrub garden, my Bahama Cassia (*C. chapmanii*), Giant Ironweed (*Vernonia gigantea*), and Pineland Lantana (*L. depressa*) were making their contribution to the spring show. More about those in a later edition.

I try to plant for wildlife habitat, for the most part using shrubs that serve more than one purpose. Most provide nectar for pollinators followed by production of fruit or berries for birds and other wildlife. Some, like the Necklace Pod, with its showy yellow flowers and distinctive dangling pods, provide an ornamental aspect to the landscape. A few actually bear fruit nearly year round. like the



Necklace Pod, *Sophora tomentosa*



Seagrape, whose disadvantage lies in the large leaves that fall continuously, decay slowly and need regular removal. Conversely, the Marlberry not only bears dense, showy, branching clusters of small, white, fragrant flowers, it has lustrous dark green leaves, and bears shiny black clustered fruits. It is an excellent shrub for shaded landscapes, often not exceeding 10 feet.

One of my favorites is Simpson's Stopper. It occupies at least 5 different areas of my yard, and 2 of them have attained the height of small trees (they can top out at about 20 feet). They respond well to pruning, make excellent specimen plants, or work well in mixed shrub beds. They are also very cold tolerant. The profusion of fragrant flowers is something I look forward to every spring. In the fall, I return to find showy orange to bright red fruits that are highly attractive to birds. Sometimes they get there first and there are just a few remaining.

My Gallberry (a.k.a. Inkberry) is getting along in a just-okay way, kind of spindly, but producing at least a sparse number of flowers. Could be that I planted it in the wrong place, as the reference (I didn't check before planting) states that it does best in a moist to wet, acid soil. Perhaps it will adapt. Only time will tell. Typically, a healthy Inkberry attracts bees to its flowers and the showy, shiny black fruits are useful for wildlife. Hopefully, the summer rains will remedy what is lacking while I am up north toiling away in my northern yard. (My daffodils were fabulous this spring!)

Marlberry, *Ardisia escallonioides*



Seagrape *Coccoloba unigera*



Simpson's stopper, *Myrcianthes fragrans*



Gallberry *Ilex glabra*

FNPS Summer 2018 Field Trips

The Mangrove Chapter of the Florida Native Plant has announced its Summer 2018 field trip schedule. Field trips are the last Saturday of the month.

On June 30th we will take a leisurely walk in the shade at Lemon Bay Park in Englewood to a wildfire area to check out the new plants sprouting after the fire. Lemon Bay Park is located at [570 Bay Park Blvd.](#)

Our trail guide will lead us through Carlton Preserve at [1800 Mabry Carlton Parkway](#) in Venice on July 28th. It will be a short walk through a Sarasota County Water Management Area.

On August 25th, we will walk the Jeep Trail at Cedar Point Environmental Park located at [2300 Placida Rd.](#) in Englewood.

On September 29 we will take our annual summer walk along the water at Hathaway Park, [35461 Washington Loop Road](#) in Punta Gorda. This is the last walk of the summer season, shady and somewhat cool and, once again, we will be in search of the Pond Apple. For more information you may contact our 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.

Since its incorporation in 1985 as a nonprofit organization, the mission of FNPS has been the preservation, conservation, and restoration of the native plants and native communities of Florida. Because few native plants survive the transplanting process from their natural habitat, it is critical that native plant communities remain as undisturbed and undamaged as possible.

We ask that FNPS members provide leadership in educating and promoting the preservation of existing native plants in their natural habitats, and encourage the planting of additional native plants grown under nursery conditions from seeds or cuttings. This should result in a gain of native plants. The one exception to this would be the salvage of plants in areas where land is being cleared. 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.

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

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