



We begin our season in the absence of one of our dearest members. Sadly, Denny Girard left us for that final trail walk on September 7, 2018. As a poet, story teller, philosopher, naturalist, and photographer, he will be remembered by us in many ways.

So, hold those thoughts and join us with your "Denny stories" on February 14, 2019 as we gather together in a "celebration of life" at Cedar Point Environmental Park. We will observe what would have been his 91st birthday, not to mention being born on Valentine's Day. I think I will dust off my favorite red hat for the occasion! Also note that there is a posting on the FNPS website remembering Denny, so check it out.



President's Message

by Lois Cantwell

October Meeting, Room Change: Due to a plumbing issue, the Meeting Room at Lemon Bay Park will be closed for the month of October for repairs. Therefore, we will go back to the Classroom for our first meeting of the season. Given that we usually have a lighter attendance for this meeting, it should be a cozy setting for our round-table discussion. See Carolyn's meeting announcement in another part of this newsletter.

Our 2018-2019 Calendar is now available. Thanks to the efforts of Al Squires over the summer months, our Mangrove Chapter schedule of meetings, field trips and events is now available in print. Carolyn has lined up a nice variety of guest speakers and Al has identified several new and different sites to explore on our monthly field trips. Barb continues to update our website as space is available. An informative and adventurous season awaits.

I would like to point out that this is YOUR Newsletter. Please help us to make it a group effort by sending us stories and photos. We would love to hear about happenings in your landscape, about trails that you have hiked, interesting places you have visited, etc. Please email your photos, stories, plant profiles, and more to our editor at migafinn@gmail.com.

[Click here to Visit our Website](#)

FNPS Mangrove Chapter September 29 Field Trip

The Mangrove Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society invites the public to join in their annual summer walk along the water at Hathaway Park, 35301 Washington Loop Road in Punta Gorda. The walk is on Saturday, September 30 and begins at 9 am. 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.

This little park is a few miles out of town with the main access at 35461 Washington Loop Rd. It's an access point for Shell Creek which is also the local water supply for Punta Gorda. The primary habitat is pine flatwoods with heavy undergrowth and nice wetlands along the creek. Field trips are the last Saturday of each month except for December.

DIRECTIONS: Rt 41 East over the Peace River to Punta Gorda. Turn left onto Rt. 17. Where Rt. 17 forks to the left, stay straight onto Washington Loop Rd (Rt. 764). Hathaway Park is on the left.

You may contact, Trail Guide Al Squires at 941-769-3633 or email him at ahsquires1@comcast.net. Directions and more information about the Mangrove Chapter of FNPS can be located on our website: <http://www.mangrove.fnpschapters.org> or you may email MangroveFNPS@comcast.net

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

Meetings, field trips and special events are free and open to the public.

As of today, Friday, it is not too wet for this walk as it is on high ground

Grants Available from the Mangrove Chapter FNPS

The Mangrove Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society is pleased to announce that a Grant has been established for the purchase of Native plants.

The Chapter has made available up to \$250 per Grant application “to create a public wildlife garden; to rehabilitate or enhance an existing garden; to replace invasive, exotic species with Florida native plants; to enhance a clubhouse, business, or non-profit entryway with Florida native plants; to plant native habitat around retention ponds; to add native plants to preservation areas; and/or for any educational planting.” The Grant Committee will supply a list of possible vendors.

Those eligible to apply for the grant must live within the boundaries of the Mangrove Chapter: Charlotte County, all of Boca Grande, and Southern Sarasota County, including Englewood, North Port, and Venice. Planting must be in a public place, or in the case of gated communities or other areas with restricted access, in a place open to that community. No private yards will be supported.

Awardees will be required to provide a final report with photos to the Grant Committee, as well as a short “before and after” presentation at a Mangrove Chapter monthly meeting.

Notice of the award, with photos, will be submitted to local media.

Grant applications can be accessed online through the Mangrove Chapter website mangrove.fnpschapters.org by clicking on “Newsletters” at the top of the Home page.

“Grant Application” will appear in the drop box below “Newsletters.”

Applications are also available at Cedar Point in Englewood at 2300 Placida Rd. or at monthly membership meetings at Lemon Bay Park, also in Englewood. They will be available at trail walks, and other events, such as the Nature Fest on November 17 held this year at Laishley Park in Punta Gorda.

Grants will be accepted through April 30, 2019 and must be mailed to: MCFNPS Grant Committee PO Box 1153 Englewood, FL 34295-1153. If you have any questions, call Al Squires at 941-769-3633.

The Chapter would like to recognize Jane Wallace, for initiating the Grant, and to extend their appreciation to the committee of five, including Carol Leonard, Bobbi Rodgers, Bonnie Moore, and Al Squires, who brought the idea to fruition.

Friends of Little Salt Springs

The Friends of Little Salt Spring will hold their fall meeting October 30 at 7:00 PM at the Jockey Club Community Center, 3050 Pan American Blvd. in North Port. Dr. Craig Huegel, his colleague, Katherine K. McConnell, and orchid experts from Selby Botanical Gardens in Sarasota, initiated a study of the Leafy beaked ladies'-tresses (*Sacoila paludicola*) orchid population at Little Salt Spring in North Port.

Little Salt Spring is home to five ground orchids, one of which, the Leafy beaked ladies'-tresses or *Sacoilia paludicola*, had never been found north of the Fakahatchee Strand in Collier County. Leafy beaked ladies'-tresses has a very limited distribution and is classified as a state-threatened species. Prior to the discovery of a population of this terrestrial orchid at Little Salt Spring, it had been seen only in southernmost Florida, specifically Collier, Broward, and Miami-Dade counties.

The researchers discovery of what appears to be the largest population in Florida was a significant range extension and subsequent fieldwork provided some of the only ecological information collected for this rare species. Dr. Huegel's presentation will be a discussion of this study and the findings of the team.

The presentation is co-sponsored by the Allamanda Garden Club and is free and open to the public.

For beautiful photographs and an article about this rare orchid by Dr. Huegel in PALMETTO The Quarterly Journal of the Florida Native Plant Society go to: https://www.fnps.org/assets/pdf/palmetto/vol26_no2_huegel.pdf

Beginning the 2018-19 season with an Open Forum

For our first meeting of the 2018-2019 season, the Mangrove Chapter of FNPS will hold an Open Forum, a question, answer, and discussion session addressing the glories and pitfalls of native plant gardening in our area of SW Florida.

Bring your questions, comments, stories of success and seeming failures to the October 9 meeting at Lemon Bay Park, 570 Bay Park Blvd. in Englewood.

Doors open at 6 pm. The Forum will begin at 7 pm after a brief business meeting. You may also email questions to MangroveFNPS@comcast.net. Questions about particular plants should be accompanied by clear, detailed photos, or detailed descriptions.

CHEC programs for October

Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center and the Charlotte County Natural Resource Department will be conducting the following free programs in **October 2018**. 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

Saturday October 6 Join **Greg Brezicki** on a guided walk through the pine flatwoods of 115-acre **Cedar Point Environmental Park** in Englewood. Meet at the Visitor's Center.

Monday October 8 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.

Saturday October 20 Join **Al Squires** 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.

Sunday October 21 Join **Greg Brezicki** 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.

Thursday October 25 Explore the “**Myths & Mysteries of Migration**” with **Kate Borduas** at **10 AM** at **Bayshore Live Oak Park** in Port Charlotte. Kate will focus on the fall and spring migration of birds that we see here in Florida. **Reservations advised.**

CONSERVATIONISTS REQUEST COURT ORDER IN CONSTITUTIONAL LAND-BUYING CASE TO GO INTO EFFECT IMMEDIATELY

This is a press release that went out with the motion to vacate the stay:

In Face of Algae Crisis, State Should Not Wait to Act During Lengthy Appeals Process

September 19, 2018

Tallahassee, FL — Conservationists who successfully sued the state for misspending hundreds of millions of dollars of land acquisition moneys today requested the trial court to make its order effective immediately before further funds are misspent. If granted, the motion would immediately restrict the use of over \$600 million per year in the state’s Land Acquisition Trust Fund to purchases of conservation land. In 2014, a 75 percent majority of Florida voters adopted an amendment to the state constitution that dedicates several hundred million dollars per year to the Land Acquisition Trust Fund to acquire and restore Florida conservation lands. When the Legislature spent most of the funds on agency salaries and expenses, a coalition of conservation organizations sued, and won. Although a circuit court in Tallahassee entered an order on June 28 and declared Legislative appropriations in 2015 and 2016 from the Land Acquisition Trust Fund unconstitutional for purposes other than land acquisition, the Legislature appealed the order, which stays the effect of the order while the appeal is pending unless the circuit court reinstates it. The motion filed today requests the court to vacate that stay, making the order effective immediately.

If the order were reinstated pending appeal, as much as \$600 million per year would be freed up to acquire lands to address the algae crisis throughout Florida. Lands for holding or storing water are desperately needed because the only short-term solution to the algae crisis is to capture large amounts of fertilizer-laden water and cleanse it with wetlands and natural processes in new water retention and storage areas. Analyses have shown that more water storage and treatment is needed. Funding limitations have prevented state acquisition of lands for that purpose.

“The devastation of what has happened to our waterways shows that we cannot afford to wait any longer to buy more land,” said Alisa Coe, a staff attorney with Earthjustice who is representing several of the plaintiffs. Prominent environmental attorney David Guest who is also representing several plaintiffs noted, “The Legislature has sat on its hands in dealing with this crisis and it is long overdue for them to comply with what the voters instructed. We need to buy the land now.”

The plaintiffs in the case are Florida Wildlife Federation, Florida Defenders of the Environment, the Sierra Club, St. Johns Riverkeeper, the Environmental Confederation of Southwest Florida, and several individual plaintiffs.

Contacts: Alisa Coe 850-681-0031

David Guest 850-228-3337

Cedar Point Volunteers Needed

Enjoy learning about and teaching others about nature? Looking for a fun and educational way to meet like minded people? Consider becoming a volunteer

with Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center at Cedar Point Park, 2300 Placida Road in Englewood.

Office volunteers work shifts from either 8:30 am to noon or noon to 3:00 pm Monday through Friday. Volunteers can work one shift per week or just a shift a month. Duties include answering the phone, taking messages, scheduling programs, greeting the public and answering questions.

From October through April, volunteers are need as Trail Guides to lead guided nature walks through several local Charlotte County properties. These are usually from 9:00 am to 11:00 am on various days of the week. If interested, a training session will be scheduled. You will learn some plants, animals and interpretive techniques that may help you lead these “walks in the woods”.

If interested, contact Bobbi Rodgers at 941-475-0769 or bobbi@CHECflorida.org. To learn more about Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center (CHEC), go to www.checflorida.org or visit us on FaceBook.

The Demonstration Garden at Cedar Point Environmental Park, 2300 Placida Road, Englewood, FL 34224 is always in need of volunteers. If you have 2 free hours on Monday morning come and join our group. We meet from 8-10 in the summer and 9-11 in the winter to care for the plants and enjoy the company of fellow gardeners.

Plants Available

If your garden needs a bit of sprucing up - come and see us. A variety of member grown plants are available for a donation. You can find necklace pod, shiny leaf coffee, elephant's foot, lyre-leaf sage, tropical or scarlet sage, spiderwort and others. The plants are available Monday from 8-10 am.

Save the Date for Plant Native Day

Sat **Mar 9** 2019, 9:30 A.M.- 1:00 P.M., **Annual “Plant Native Day”**: Cedar Point Environmental Park, Englewood.

“Shade: Planting for it and Planting in it”. Lectures, walks and plant sales.

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