



President's Message:

by Lois Cantwell

What is the best way to combat global warming? From what I have been reading lately, the most effective way is to plant lots of trees. Swiss scientists are saying a trillion of them, or more. There appears to be enough space, even with existing cities and farmland, for new trees to cover the equivalent of the continental U.S. or 3.5 million square miles. The study calculated that over decades, those new trees could suck up nearly 750 million metric tons of heat-trapping carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

Planting trees is not a substitute for weaning the world off of burning fossil fuels, which is the main contributor to global warming. Nor is it easy or realistic to think the world will suddenly go on a tree-planting binge, although many groups have started. For example, the city of Milan, Italy has ambitious plans to plant 3 million new trees by 2030.

Take the example of New York City. More than 8.6 million people live in the city, but 7 million trees grow alongside them. Spurred by concerns over climate change, cities across the U.S. have committed to growing what city planners call the "urban forest". Trees soak up rainwater, helping to prevent flash flooding and reduce storm-water runoff, as well as cooling the air.

Florida is one of the states at highest risk from the effects of climate change. We are losing our trees at a steady pace in the name of development. Shouldn't we be making an effort to replace them?

[Click here to Visit our Website](#)

Tiny Bugs Fight the Brazilian Pepper Tree.

The Brazilian Pepper Tree was brought to Florida in the 1800's as an ornamental tree. Since then it has become a very real problem as an invasive tree in the state of Florida.

Now a biological control is being used to try to keep the Brazilian Pepper tree in check. Recently, a joint partnership which includes the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and Florida Department of Environmental Protection took a big step with a little bug, or should we say hundreds of little bugs, to combat the problem.

June Field Trip T. Mabry Carlton Jr. Memorial Reserve

by Christine Holyland Photos by John Holyland

On June 29th at 9am 14 members Of the FNPS Mangrove Chapter met at the Reserve parking lot in Venice, for our monthly hike. This is a 24,565acre property named after a former Sarasota County commissioner, a fifth generation Florida cattleman. It is comprised of pine flatwoods, freshwater wetlands, oak hammocks and dry prairie. There are 100 miles of marked backcountry trails including a 9 mile bike trail and a kayak/canoe trail on the Myakka River, horse riding is also available.

We walked a short loop nature trail where we saw pinebarren goldenrod, muscadine grape, shoestring fern, wax myrtle, ceasarweed, swamp fern, poison ivy and beautyberry right at the trail head. It was a very pleasant morning with a light cool breeze. Many plants were in flower on the trail including morning glory, roserush, rattlebox, rose of Plymouth, tickseed, candyroot, sky flower, tampa vervain, many-flowered beardtongue, rattle snake master, wood sage and many more (see photos). This seems to be a good year for finding flowers in bloom that we either haven't seen before or haven't seen for a long time in our area. We had the rare treat of seeing 5 swallowtail kites circling together above our heads near the end of our walk.



above: Pinebarren Goldenrod



Above: Frostweed



Candyroot



Rose of Plymouth



Leavenworth's Tickseed



Rattlebox



Skyflower



Musky Mint



Wood Sage



Tampa Mock Vervain



Many Flowered
Beardtongue



Roserush



Poor Joe



Dotted Smart Weed

Whenever I take a little stroll through my yard, which is most days of the week, I seem to discover something new or different or just plain surprising. With the diversity of what is growing out there, something is either sprouting, budding or blooming, or weeds need pulling and some plant needs to be deadheaded. Then there are the critters. Different species of birds, a rabbit, a raccoon, squirrels, an interesting bug or spider weaving its web.

And then there are the butterflies. Especially the monarchs that are there for the modest amount of (non-native) milkweed that I selectively control by thinning and systematically cut back in the winter months. The fun part is searching for the whereabouts of the chrysalis that forms when they pupate. These are not always easily found. The obvious ones are hanging off of the eaves or other parts of the house and garage. Then, there are the ones I happen upon by accident and I find some in the most peculiar places.

They have been attached to a garden rake leaning up against the house, a fern frond, a bowl brush hanging next to a bird bath, clinging to the base of a tree trunk, or hanging off of a palm frond. I never know what I will find on the next excursion outdoors, which is the fun part of maintaining a mostly native yard. Truly rewarding. So, what have you been seeing in your yard? Send us a story and photos!





Florida Wildlife Federation

Keeping the Wild in Florida since 1936!

FWF Defends Amendment 1 Decision in Court

On July 16, 2019, Florida Wildlife Federation (FWF) attorneys defended the will of the people at the appellate court in Tallahassee. This case stems from the overwhelming support of voters in 2014 in approving Amendment 1, the Water and Land Legacy Constitutional Amendment, that was to provide adequate funding for land conservation and thereby water protection in our state in the face of growth. Following passage, the Legislature did not spend the money as directed by the Amendment, and FWF sued. The trial court sided with FWF, and the Legislature appealed that decision to the First District Court of Appeals. Oral argument was heard earlier this week. We now await a decision by the three judges on that court.

Many thanks to our attorneys at Earthjustice for representing us, especially David Guest, Alisa Coe, Bradley Marshall and Judge Bob Benton.

Keep the good thought!

Grant For Native Plants from the Mangrove Chapter of FNPS



The Lemon Bay Historical Society applied for one of our grants to help comply with requirements for the new placement of the historical Green Street Church Museum at 510 S. Indiana Ave. (SR 776). After having a professional landscape plan prepared and discovering huge costs associated with county requirements, they appealed for an amendment of those plans. After lots of back and forth, they had the original extensive plan of required landscaping amended to require fewer “code” trees and bushes and proceeded with installation. On June 25, 2017 Bobbi Rodgers and I met with some of the Board of Directors of the Lemon Bay Historical Society to place the recognition sign.

Carol Leonard, Grant Committee Chair



Daytime Moths



Many people consider moths to be creatures of the night, but Jean's presentation will highlight moths that people can see during the daytime.



Come learn about
them from Jean Evoy
of the Peace River
Butterfly Society

26 July 2019

1PM

RWA Community Center

 **ROTONDA WEST ASSOCIATION** 
646 Rotonda Circle, Rotonda West Florida 32947
941-697-6788 | info@rotondawest.org | www.rotondawest.org

They are colorless and dull. This is based on ignorance. Once the uninitiated learns about the wide variety of natives and how to use them properly, they discover that these plants have much to offer. Colorful flowers, interesting textures, colorful fruits, and year-round interest. Their subtle beauty may not rival a lot of introduced plants, but they can be just as effective in the landscape.

They are sources of pollens that cause allergies. The truth is, most native plants are insect pollinated rather than wind pollinated. (Those who blame allergies on goldenrod should look at ragweed as the real culprit).

They are invasive. Most aggressively invasive plants are imported from other countries or another part of the U.S. Any plant can become invasive if it is given the right conditions, a site more conducive to rampant growth than its preferred habitat, for example.

They are hard to grow. This misconception probably arises from the fact that many natives have evolved in a rather specific habitat. Once we learn about the different plant communities and their soil and sunlight requirements and determine which plants are best for our conditions, we find that most of them are easier to grow than their cultivated counterparts (probably because they don't require pampering with quantities of water, fertilizer and pesticides).

They are messy. We come to appreciate that mother nature is "messy" with plants weaving together rather than lay out in straight lines. In the right conditions, most native plants produce larger and better flowers than their wild counterparts. One can always create the allusion of neatness through the use of small patches of lawn grasses, pathways, neat edges, and judicious pruning. The neighbor across the street with the anti-native plant attitude would be none the wiser.

They are hard to find. In every part of the country, you can find nurseries that specialize in native plants, and many of them offer mail-order. It may also be surprising how many are available at local nurseries. (Skip the "big box" stores and visit an actual nursery).

Mangrove Chapter Members: If anyone has an interest in hearing about the Florida Conservation Planning Atlas, etc., read through the message below and contact Becky Ayech at her email address listed below.

I am reaching out to introduce you to the **Florida Conservation Planning Atlas** and the **Florida Conservation Blueprint**. At FWC, we recognize that achieving lasting statewide conservation of Florida's natural resources is not something that any single organization can do alone.

Although the idea of common priorities across conservation organizations has been around for a while, the aim is to move this idea from discussion to implementation by leveraging the wealth of information available in the state to create a shared vision, or Conservation Blueprint, for the future of natural resources in Florida. We are building a system of prioritized conservation resources based on input from partners around the state that all stakeholders can access on a regular basis through the Florida CPA.

The Florida Conservation Planning Atlas, CPA, is an excellent resource for anyone that wants to collaborate about conservation. The platform is set up beyond firewalls which allows for easier collaboration across traditional organizational lines. The CPA enables stakeholders throughout the state to work collaboratively with fewer organizational obstacles.

As the user support specialist for the Florida Conservation Planning Atlas, I can help get any organization up to speed on CPA tools and usage through webinars, phone calls, and one-on-one meetings. If you are interested in the CPA, then I am happy to travel to you and give a personalized training on the CPA tailored to the needs of your organization.

Please let me know if you have an interest in CPA training or if you have any questions about the platform.

If anyone is interested in this please contact Becky environmentalconfederation@gmail.com.

Sarah Sharkey

User Support for Conservation Planning Atlas

Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute

850-404-6111

Mangrove Chapter Florida Native Plant Society
P.O. Box 5197, Englewood, FL 34224-1153