



Report from Your Acting President:

by Lois Cantwell, Past President

We had 32 people at our November Membership Meeting who heard Kate Borduas present a very intriguing topic about “Lost Old-growth Forests”. Thinking about how complex the relationships are between trees and the ecological scheme of things that humans are just beginning to understand puts in perspective our present-day situation. We have been losing vast acres of forested land since this continent was discovered by the early settlers. We are still losing vast acres of land in the name of “progress”. Our legislative representatives continue to find ways to chip away at the environment, now planning on sacrificing pristine lands containing rare and endangered native plants so that rural areas can be opened up to commerce.

If you haven’t heard about the “M-CORES Project” by now, you may want to pay attention. It will affect communities across much of Florida and will certainly impact our native plants and native plant communities. Short for Multi-use Corridors of Regional Economic Significance, the project proposes to build 330 miles of new toll roads through huge swaths of rural land for the stated purpose of promoting economic development.

If you have recently visited the **www.fnps.org** website; read the latest issue of the Sabal Minor; or read the recent email from FNPS Administration containing a “Toll Roads Analysis” detailing the impacts on native plants and native plant communities, then you are in the loop. The bottom lines on that email sent on 11/19/2019 list the sites of various upcoming Task Force Meetings. The closest one seems to be the Community Open House Meeting on December 12th (5:30 PM-7:30 PM), North Collier Park-Exhibit Hall, 15000 Livingston Road, Naples, FL. You can also submit an email to **FDOT.Listens@dot.state.fl.us**.

As promised at our November Membership Meeting, "job applications" for a variety of positions on our Board of Directors, plus other Volunteer Opportunities, are arriving in your In-boxes. You are receiving 2 sets of forms. Read each carefully and follow the instructions on the last pages of each set.

We have reached a "turning point" in the 32 years that Mangrove Chapter has been operating. All of your elected officers are vacating their positions for a variety of reasons. (I will remain on the Board as "Immediate Past President", so I will be available for guidance during the replacement

process). It is imperative that we have new leadership as we move forward.

I am hopeful that we can accomplish this in the coming months. I am already encouraged by having 3 volunteers step up and create a new Field Trip Committee following our last meeting. (We can also use a couple more field trip leaders on that committee). So, please give the open positions your consideration. We hope to hear from you soon. The sooner we get folks comfortable with their new responsibilities, the easier the transition will be.

Thank you all for volunteering in any capacity that you can serve. We appreciate the commitment of time and effort no matter how big or small the job may seem.

If you have any questions regarding the content of the 2 attached forms, send me an email or call (941-697-2756).

Open Committee Positions

Board of Directors for the Mangrove Chapter

And, if I don't see you sooner than later, Happy Thanksgiving everyone!

[Click here to Visit our Website](#)

Peace River Audubon Society Meeting Announcement

Learn Bird ID Secrets from a Panel of Expert Birders: December 7th, Saturday, 10 AM-11 AM, Port Charlotte Library, 2280 Aaron Street, Corner of Aaron St. and Gertrude Ave. Upstairs meeting room. Learn to look for color, song, silhouette, habitat; develop funny stories to help memory; learn about usual places for nesting, feeding, roosting. Panel members: Tony Licata, Stephen Buczynski, and Kenneth Blackshaw. Call Bren Curtis if you have questions 615-477-9067.

Field Trip: NOVEMBER 30, 2019 SHAMROCK PARK Family Friendly and Handicapped Accessible

November Field Trip is Family Friendly (special scavenger hunt is planned) and Handicapped Accessible (please contact regarding specific needs prior to event if you have a disability that we can accommodate)

NOVEMBER 30, 2019 SHAMROCK PARK, 3900 Shamrock Dr, Venice
While our walks are usually aimed at an adult audience, this walk is especially designed for families with children. The park has many interesting plants and animals to see, including the elusive scrub jay.

DIRECTIONS: From Englewood, take SR776 north until it ends at US41, turn north onto US41 and continue going to the fourth stop light. This is Shamrock Dr, turn left onto Shamrock Dr and follow it around several bends to the park entrance on the right.

FIELD TRIPS: All field trips begin at 9AM, unless otherwise stated. All field trips are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted.

FURTHER INFORMATION: For all field trips, call Al Squires at 941-769-3633, or email him at ahsquires1@comcast.net

Support Your Local Native Demonstration Garden!

It doesn't require a lot of "plant knowledge" to qualify for this Volunteer Opportunity. Whether you are a Mangrove Chapter member, local resident, or snow bird, this job is for you. Our "Garden Keepers" enjoy lots of camaraderie while performing the simple tasks of weeding, dead-heading, pruning, raking, refilling bird baths, potting up plants, mulching pathways, etc. We are at the demonstration garden on Monday mornings from 9:00-11:00 AM at Cedar Point Environmental Park. Stop by and check in with us. We also have a variety of native plants available for sale on those Mondays. We will continue to pot up more in the coming months. This is also an educational opportunity. Learn about "the natives" as you work with our group.

All Creatures Great and Small

(a special holiday read)

written by the unstoppable Laurel Schiller, co-owner of The Florida Native Plants Nursery

with editing and photos by Fran Palmeri and Annie Schiller

Let's plant for them — the birds, butterflies, bees, other beneficial insects and critters that share our urban and suburban places.

Let's plant for them everywhere — our front and back yards, our schoolyards, churchyards, condo and apartment common areas and our civic centers.

Why? Because they will come and hopefully stay — and multiply — if we plant Florida native plants. These plants are locally adapted and hardy. They thrive without irrigation, fertilizers or pesticides. And they attract birds and butterflies to our yards, adding to the enjoyment of our surroundings.

Nature is in trouble in the Sunshine State. Florida continues to be a magnet for people. A thousand of us move here every day. By 2060, our population might double to 36 million residents. To accommodate them, seven million additional acres of land — an area equivalent to the state of Vermont — will have to be converted from rural to urban uses. Roads, shopping malls and subdivisions could replace more than 2.7 million acres of native habitat (Wildlife 2060: What's at stake for Florida. Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 2008).

Unfortunately, when we move in, we take over. We clear, develop, change hydrology, suppress fire, pollute, spread pathogens, plant invasive species and

indiscriminately use pesticides and herbicides which contribute to climate change. We are already experiencing hotter weather for longer periods of time, bigger storms, flood and drought, wildfires and a marked decrease in wildlife.

What do birds, butterflies, bees and other beneficial pollinators and critters do when we buy and develop a lot? Some species move elsewhere if there is an "elsewhere." Some species cope and adapt. Others become "locally extinct."

We can do things differently. First, we can protect natural areas/open spaces close to our neighborhoods so that those creatures who can't adapt to us and our yards have somewhere to go.

Second, we can connect these natural areas to others by creating protected corridors of natural habitat plantings. Then the young of the year can move off on their own. Those looking for new territories can find them and those searching for new food supplies or mates will be successful.

Third. We can do a much better job of sharing the land with those creatures able to adapt to living with us. Our yards can serve as mini oases for them.

Here is how.

When building a home, clear as little as possible of the natural vegetation. Treasure native pines and oaks, shrubs like wild coffee and beautyberry and native groundcovers. All provide food and housing for critters. Would it be too much to leave a little saw palmetto for the hundreds of pollinators which nectar on its blossoms?

Your Grass is on the Line

By Eric Holthaus on May 2, 2019

As a new homeowner, my strategy for finding a house was probably a little different than most: I looked for the one with the smallest lawn I could find. The privilege of homeownership is increasingly rare these days, and I wanted to make sure my little plot of land would have a net benefit to my city and the environment. My city, St. Paul, Minnesota, bills itself as "the most liveable city in America." I want to help make that statement a bit more true. My strategy: Rip out my grass lawn as soon as possible.

Lawns do provide some benefits: Green spaces help reduce the **urban heat island effect**, lowering the temperature of the entire metro area. Lawns can help restore groundwater and reduce urban flooding, and because they're plants, they help pull a **small amount of carbon dioxide out of the air**. Plus, they are generally pleasing places to play.

But, on balance, lawns are awful for the planet. **Our addiction to lawns** means that **grass is the single largest irrigated agricultural "crop" in America**, more than **corn, wheat, and fruit orchards combined**. A **NASA-led study** in 2005 found that there were 63,000 square miles of turf grass in the United States, covering an area larger than Georgia. Keeping all that grass alive can consume about 50-75 percent of a residence's water.

Lawnmowers suck up gas and pollute the air: Every year, U.S. homeowners spill

some **17 million gallons of gas** while filling up mowers. We use **tens of millions of pounds of chemical fertilizer and pesticides** on our lawns. All this effort, of course, isn't cheap. Americans spend **more than \$36 billion every year on lawn care**, four-and-a-half times more than the annual budget of the Environmental Protection Agency.

American lawns have so, so much potential — and right now, it's going to waste. It's time to culturally stigmatize the classic over-watered, over-fertilized, over-mowed American lawn — a symbol of excess that's persisted for far too long. Minnesota is one of the few places in the country where traditional turf grass can grow without much help, but it's still no match for native grasses if your goal is to reduce your planetary impact. All grasses pull carbon dioxide out of the air and bury it underground, but **native grasses have much deeper roots** — and can store carbon much more efficiently.

In places like Southern California, there is no reason for conventional lawns to exist — and amid an ongoing megadrought, cities are **offering buyouts** for homeowners to convert their grass lawns into native vegetation or shaded, **xeriscaped rock**.

A lawn filled with native plants provides habitat for animals, from insects to birds and everything in between. A lawn that's used to produce food could feed your family, boost neighborhood-level community, and provide jobs (if you don't have a green thumb). When you run the numbers, it turns that almost anything is better than a grass lawn — except pavement.

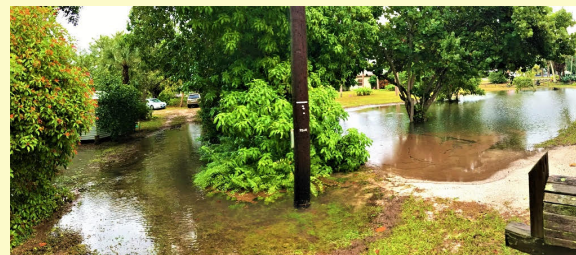
My lawn's days as a grass-based environmental scourge are numbered. I have big plans for my outdoor area: Fruit trees, garden space, native plants. It's small enough that this project should be manageable, even for a single parent with two small kids.

Rain Gardens- Good for Water Quality and Wildlife

Adapted from an article by Bill Dunson

After prolonged periods of red tide in the Gulf and blue green bacteria and green slime in bays and creeks, people are wondering what they can do to solve these problems. Although one might think that these "harmful blooms" are at a scale beyond our immediate help, such is not the case. Indeed they all feed on pollution which to some degree can originate in our yards, derived from fertilizers which are carried by rainfall into aquatic habitats. There are two solutions to this which cost very little and can have a huge benefit: 1. Stop applying fertilizer to the lawn and let your yard be a natural mixture of grasses and herbs/"weeds", many of which are used by butterflies, 2. Divert all rain runoff into basins which recharge groundwater rather than spilling directly into aquatic habitats. Such groundwater can thus be purged of many pollutants before reaching adjacent aquatic habitats.

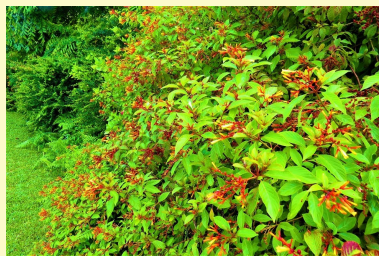
One simple method to divert rain runoff so that it recharges groundwater is to provide swales or "rain gardens" that catch and hold rainwater until it rapidly enters groundwater. This happens quite quickly in most dry land habitats since groundwater is often several feet below the ground surface, even on islands such as Manasota Key. For example look at the photo showing the



roadside swales along the front of our island yard after a heavy rain; this ponding of water disappeared within several hours. A second example is a small rain garden which I constructed by hand to receive runoff from a portion of our roof and yard.



These temporary ponds can be made into real rain gardens by planting them with species particularly beneficial to wildlife. Ideally these would be native plants. If you look at the photo of a dense growth of plants in our front swale you may recognize native firebush and Walter's viburnum which attract insects and birds with their flowers and fruits. A monarch is shown drinking nectar from flowers of firebush. Native sea grapes do well in this habitat and attract birds, such as this Cape May warbler in Spring when the flowers are blooming.



native firebush



Monarch butterfly



seagrape



I have found that ferns provides very good ground coverage in the shade and has attracted several box turtles which live in our yard. They move among the different rain gardens and natural areas within our yard which have natural litter and good ground cover.

So do the right thing, divert all your rain runoff water into swales or rain gardens which are planted with wildlife friendly native plants. The environment will benefit with less pollution and the animals will thank you by frequenting your created habitats.

Take a Walk on the Wild Side SeaGrass Wading Trips

Join a Seagrass Wading Adventure at Cedar Point Environmental Park in Englewood at 9 AM on the following dates:

December 3, 2019

December 4, 2019

January 6, 2020
January 7, 2020
January 20, 2020
February 6, 2020
February 17, 2020
March 10, 2020

After an introductory program on aquatic environments, participants will walk a short distance to Lemon Bay where, using dip nets and hand viewers, they will wade into the mangrove-protected waters in search of the plants and animals that reside there. This exciting hands-on activity is both educational and fun for people of all ages. Participation is limited therefore **pre-registration is necessary** for this free program. All children must be accompanied by an adult. For further information and/or to register, call Cedar Point Park at (941) 475-0769.

Seagrass Adventures are organized by the Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center and Charlotte County Parks, Recreation & Cultural Resources. Cedar Point Park is a Charlotte County facility located at 2300 Placida Road in Englewood. For further information, call (941) 475-0769.

Peace River Butterfly Society Special Event

Learn Bird ID Secrets from a Panel of Expert Birders: December 7th, Saturday, 10 AM-11 AM, Port Charlotte Library, 2280 Aaron Street, Corner of Aaron St. and Gertrude Ave. Upstairs meeting room. Learn to look for color, song, silhouette, habitat; develop funny stories to help memory; learn about usual places for nesting, feeding, roosting. Panel members: Tony Licata, Stephen Buczynski, and Kenneth Blackshaw. Call Bren Curtis if you have questions 615-477-9067.

Fall Walks sponsored by Lemon Bay Conservancy

submitted by Bill Dunson

Nov 29 9-11:30 am: Stump Pass State Park walks led by **Charlie Woodruff**. Enjoy a 2.5 mile walk on Stump Pass beach to explore the ecology of a barrier island. Plants, animals/birds will be identified and discussed. Learn where the beach comes from and where it is going. No reservations. Info cgw3@icloud.com

Dec. 5, 9-11:30 am: Stump Pass State Park walks led by **Charlie Woodruff**. Enjoy a 2.5 mile walk on Stump Pass beach to explore the ecology of a barrier island. Plants, animals/birds will be identified and discussed. Learn where the beach comes from and where it is going. No reservations. Info cgw3@icloud.com

Dec 19, 9-11:30 am: Stump Pass State Park walks led by **Charlie Woodruff**. Enjoy a 2.5 mile walk on Stump Pass beach to explore the

ecology of a barrier island. Plants, animals/birds will be identified and discussed. Learn where the beach comes from and where it is going. No reservations. Info cgw3@icloud.com19,

Dec 26. 9-11:30 am: Stump Pass State Park walks led by **Charlie Woodruff**. Enjoy a 2.5 mile walk on Stump Pass beach to explore the ecology of a barrier island. Plants, animals/birds will be identified and discussed. Learn where the beach comes from and where it is going. No reservations. Info cgw3@icloud.com

Dec. 17. 9-11 am. Blind Pass/Middle Beach led by **Bill Dunson**. A one mile walk passes through mangroves, upland hammocks and beaches and we will discuss the community ecology of these habitats. No reservations. Info wdunson@comcast.net

Charlotte Harbor Upcoming Events

Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center and the Charlotte County Natural Resource Department will be conducting the following free programs in **December 2019**. 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

Sunday December 1 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.

Monday December 2 Visit the CHEC Christmas & Holiday Tree at **Cedar Point Environmental Park** from December 2 through January 6. The tree is decorated by the **Englewood Shell Club** using decorations made entirely from shell. Visitor's Center is open **8:30 AM – 4:30 PM**, Monday through Friday.

Tuesday December 3 Join **Mike Weisensee** on a birding 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 at **8:00 AM**.

Tuesday December 3 Get wild & wet! Join **Eileen Gerle** 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 December 4 Get wild & wet! Join **Eileen Gerle** 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 December 4 Join **Kate Borduas** 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.

Thursday December 5 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.

Thursday December 5 Join **Denise Hart** 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.

Saturday December 7 Join **Bob “Coop” Copper** 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.

Saturday December 7 Visit the waters of Lemon Bay on a single person, sit-on-top kayak with **Eileen Gerle** to search for marine life. All equipment provided. Participants must be ages 16 and above for the free educational program. Space is limited to 10 participants, so **registration is required**. Meet at **Cedar Point Environmental Park**.

Wednesday December 11 Join **Ruth Ward** 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.

Thursday December 12 Join **Denise Hart** 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 December 13 Join **Bob “Coop” Cooper** 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 December 14 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.

Saturday December 14 Join **Tamara Barnes** 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 December 17 Visit the waters of Lemon Bay on a single person, sit-on-top kayak with **Eileen Gerle** to search for marine life. All equipment provided. Participants must be ages 16 and above for the free educational program. Space is limited to 10 participants, so **registration is required**. Meet at **Cedar Point Environmental Park**.

Tuesday December 17 Join **Ruth Ward** 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 December 19 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.




Friday December 20 Join **Bob “Coop” Cooper** 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.

All CHEC programs can be found at
WWW.CHECflorida.org

Save the Date 14th Annual Plant Native Day March 14, 2020 Gardening for Butterflies

Trek for CHEC

Saturday, January 25, 2020
10941 Burnt Store Road, Punta Gorda, FL 33955



Hosted by and held at the
Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center

Same day on-site registration from 6:30 - 7:30 a.m.
10K event begins at 7:45 a.m.
Performance T-shirts included for all 10K and 5K participants registered prior to December 20, 2019!




Family-friendly activities until 3 p.m.
Food Trucks!
Go to RunSignup.com and our [web page](#) for more information!

1st Annual Trek for CHEC
Formerly "Hands Across the Harbor"
2020

- 10K Competitive Trail Run
- 5K Trail Run / Fun Walk
- 1 Mile Trail Fun Walk

Raffle Tickets for Sale!
Fabulous Door Prize!
1 Ticket - \$1.00 ~ 6 Tickets - \$5.00
15 Tickets - \$10.00
Need not be present to win! Winners will be notified.

25/25 - 50 Raffle!
2 Lucky Winners!
1 Ticket - \$2.00 ~ 6 Tickets - \$10.00
9 Tickets - \$15.00 ~ 13 Tickets - \$20.00
Need not be present to win! Winners will be notified.



www.checflorida.org/trekforchec

We welcome all runners & walkers to our first annual Trek for CHEC event on **Saturday, January 25, 2020**. This event will feature competitive runs and fun walks for people of all ages. There will be food trucks, a band, special activities such as “how to fish” lessons for younger children, a Fabulous Door Prize raffle, a 25/25-50 raffle, and more! Our mission is to build awareness and encourage conservation of our area’s rich natural resources while protecting the environment. Proceeds will help further environmental educational programs for children and adults. We hope to see you

there!

The first event is a 10K competitive run. The second event is a dual 5K competitive run and 5K fun walk. The third event is a 1 mile fun walk for younger children. The first event begins at 7:45 a.m. Several (trail) routes will be used simultaneously and at staggered times – see attached and/or

website (www.CHECflorida.org) for further information and to register.

Call for Research Track Papers and Poster Presentations Florida Native Plant Society 2020 Conference

The Florida Native Plant Society Annual Conference will be held at the University of North Florida, Jacksonville, Florida, May 14-17, 2020. The Research Track of the Conference will include presented papers and a poster session on Friday May 15 and Saturday May 16.

Researchers are invited to submit abstracts on research related to native plants and plant communities of Florida including preservation, conservation, and restoration.

Presentations are planned to be 20 minutes in total length (15 min. presentation, 5 min. questions).

Abstracts of not more than 200 words should be submitted as a MS Word file by email to Paul A. Schmalzer paul.a.schmalzer@nasa.gov by February 1, 2020. Include title, affiliation, and address. Indicate whether you will be presenting a paper or poster.

Volunteer Sweeps for Kayak Trips Cedar Point Environmental Park

We need volunteer sweeps for the following kayak trips dates with the following leaders:

FY 2020 Kayaks 15 CP; 5 AC

Dec 7	Eileen/
. Dec 17	Eileen/
Jan 21	Eileen/
Feb 11	Diane/
Mar 7	Eileen/
. Mar 21	Diane/
Apr 14	Diane/
May 2	Eileen/

From 8:30 AM to 1 PM.

Contact for more information:

Bobbi Rodgers

Resource Manager

Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center

Cedar Point Environmental Park site

941-475-0769

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