



President's Message: by Lois Cantwell

It's getting to be that time of the season to start promoting and organizing our 16th Annual "Plant Native" Day, which is about 5 weeks from the time you read this issue. A sign-up sheet will be circulated at our February meeting. We will be needing help for setting up, parking, hospitality, greeters, plant sales, someone to lead the nature walk at the end of the program, and an MC for introductions, since Al Squires will not be present for the event. (Hope he lends us his cow bell).

Publicity has gone out to the local media and fliers have been printed. **See the link to the flier in this issue**, so that it can be shared, printed and posted locally. We will need donations of baked goods and snacks for the hospitality committee. Bring your home grown plants for our annual offering of "sprouts and starts" to get people introduced to "the natives". This is our best opportunity to share our love of native plants with the general public, and promote their importance to the environment.

Please Welcome New Members: Jodie Groves, Punta Gorda and Linda Manley, North Port.

Plant Native Day March 9, 2019

The Mangrove Chapter, Florida Native Plant Society will hold its 16th Annual "Plant Native" Day on Saturday, March 9th, 2019 from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Cedar Point Environmental Park, [2300 Placida Road, Englewood, FL](#). This half-day event is free and open to the public. The theme of this year's event is "SHADE: Planting for it & Planting in it". Learn about the various native trees, palms and shrubs that can be used to create shade in your sunny yard. Find out which native shrubs, ferns, groundcovers and wildflowers do well in a shady landscape.

The guest speaker is Laurel Schiller, Florida Native Plants, Inc., Sarasota, Florida. She will use live plants to demonstrate her lectures, which take place between 10:00 a.m. and Noon. Her nursery plants will be offered for sale, beginning at 9:00 a.m., outside the Environmental Center during the day's program. Mangrove Chapter members will also be offering their home-grown native plants for donations out in the Native Plant Demonstration Garden. The Peace River Butterfly Society is also participating in the event, with their monarch-raising paraphernalia, as well as nectar and larval host plants for sale at their booth. Additionally, educational handouts will be available, a light refreshment will be served and the program will be followed by a choice of a Garden Tour or Guided Trail Walk. For more information, contact Cedar Point Environmental Park at 941-475-0769.

[Click to View the Plant Native Day Flyer](#)

We've Got It Made in the Shade!

Since our theme for "Plant Native" Day is "SHADE: Planting for it and Planting in it", I dug out my copy of "Native Florida Plants for Shady Landscapes", by Craig N. Huegel (2015). The plan was to make a list of shade tolerant plants (for our area) for a potential hand-out. By the time I reviewed the topics of understory trees and shrubs; herbaceous plants, such as ferns, grasses, wildflowers, vines, and plants for wet places, the list was rather lengthy. It was a learning experience, as I discovered a few plants that I put in full sun would do better in shade.

This book is thorough treatment of gardening in the shade, including chapters on Light and Shade; Challenges and Advantages of Shade Gardening; Creating Shade; Working in Existing Shade; Planting Site Considerations; Setting Goals and Objectives; and Natural Shady Habitats. I will include this book on a "recommended reading" list among our hand-outs. If people with mostly sunny yards could be converts to shade gardening, the possibilities are endless. For those who are struggling with a shady yard, there is hope. And the ecological value is priceless!

[Click Here to VISIT THE MANGROVE CHAPTER WEBSITE](#)

A Celebration of Life for Denny Girard

Walk

**I walk along these trails each day
and note the sights along the way.
Each walk becomes another thrill,
through wet marsh and up sandy hill.
Some paths are known of old.
Other trails new secrets hold.
My eyes see many different things
the world of nature brings.
I see spiders and toads along the way.
There are butterflies, and squirrels at play.
I smile at birds and lizards that fly and creep,
and other creatures that croak and peep.
Mainly, though, plants take my eye;
the shrubs and trees against the sky,
and tiny sprouts that bloom and grow
with colors of an earthly rainbow.
Nature changes dress from gray to green
as seasons pass and change the scene.
And each walk I walk unveils
new friends along the trails.
Photos catch a glimpse of time.
But all are etched upon my mind.**



**A celebration of life for Denny will be held at Cedar Point Environmental Center on February 14, 2019. This is Denny's birthday.
2:00- 4:00 share remembrances resfreshments, books for sale.**

Field Trip Report

As a follow-up to the presentation at our well-attended (45) January meeting, “Land Conservation in Southwest Florida”, by Lee Amos, we had a tour of Bay Preserve at Osprey on January 26th, where Lee acts as Land Steward and Staff Biologist. Roughly 30 people gathered on a chilly morning to learn about this 4.2 acre parcel on Little Sarasota Bay. As part of a balancing act to please a number of groups who use the venue for various activities, Lee uses a combination of native and non-native plants, shrubs and trees, as well as an expanse of turf grass to create a setting that has landscape appeal for everyone, with the waters of the bay as a backdrop.

Huge live oaks draped in Spanish moss line the walkway leading up to a 2-story brick colonial style house built in 1931. For a “formal” looking landscape in the front of the building, we see bright blooming annuals in front of layered hedges of native shrubs. Two Yaupon holly “standards” serve as a gateway to the steps leading to the front door. These taller plants compliment the large white columns at the front of the building. Pepperomia and coonties serve as accent plants. On the back side of the building, which faces the bay, salt tolerant silver buttonwoods form a hedge along the porch. Larger shrubs and trees bordering the lot line include fire bush, strangler fig, laurel cherry, sabal palm, and a whole host of understory plants, some more salt tolerant than others. Moving along the waterfront, we see some plant beds in stages of transition. A certain amount of experimentation helps to produce the desired “look” for weddings and other ceremonies that take place down on the waterfront





A cement pathway leads back toward the parking area and restrooms, on the right side of the vast turf grass, which is a necessity, as it serves as a venue for big ticket fundraisers under a huge tent that is set up for these occasions. We venture off on a narrow pathway that leads to a hidden cottage, observing all sorts of native and not so native plants growing helter-skelter along the lot line. Coming back out on the sidewalk, we see a grouping of wild coffee, coontie, marlberry, murcine, and other native shrubs that have been systematically pruned and shaped to lend an air of formality to the landscape. Edged with ground covers and mulch, this presents a pleasing “curb appeal” landscape that is neat and orderly. The unsuspecting visitor has no idea this is done with native plants. This serves as an example to those who live in HOA’s with “plant rules” that the natives behave very well when called upon to do so, and should not be overlooked or under-appreciated.

Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center and the

Charlotte County Natural Resource Department will be conducting the following free programs in **February 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**

Friday February 1, 8 Take a tour of the historic “**Cookie House**” at Cedar Point Environmental Park from **1 – 4 pm** with Charlotte County Historical staff. Formerly known as the Bass Biological Laboratory, the scientific studies from this facility is linked to the world-renowned Mote Marine Laboratory.

Monday February 4 Learn to become a **Volunteer Trail Guide** for CHEC at this training session at **10 AM** at **Cedar Point Environmental Park** in Englewood. Registration advised.

Tuesday February 5 Join **Tom Becker**, UF/IFAS/Charlotte County Specialist II, at **Cedar Point Environmental Park** from **9 – 11 am** to learn how to “**Attract Wildlife to Your Backyard**” by designing natural areas, creating canopy layers, and adding native plants to feed and shelter birds, butterflies, and other wildlife like gopher tortoise. Attendees will receive educational literature. \$5 payable to UF/IFAS. **Contact Tom @ 941-764-4351 or Thomas.Becker@CharlotteFl.com**

Thursday February 7 Explore the evolution and function of cooperation in, “**Changes: Part 1 ‘Survival of the Fittest’ May Not Be What It Seems**”, with Master Naturalist **Kate Borduas** at Bayshore Live Oak Park, [23157 Bayshore Road, Pt. Charlotte, FL](#). **Reservations are advised. For information and/registration for this FREE program, call 941-475-0769.**

Thursday February 7 Join **John Phillips** 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 at **8:30 AM**.

Friday February 8 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.**

Friday February 8 Join **Ruth Ward** 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.

Monday February 11 Join **Cindy Christel** and **Phyllis Cady** on a guided walk through **Charlotte Flatwoods Environmental Park**, a 487-acre Charlotte County property of mature pines, dry prairie, marsh wetlands and freshwater ponds. Its location adjoining state lands make it an important wildlife corridor. Meet at the parking lot on US 41 at **8:30 am**.

Monday February 11 Join **Al Squires** on a guided walk through 308-acre **Tippecanoe Environmental Park**. This Charlotte County park includes habitats such as scrub, pine flatwoods, marsh and wetlands. Meet behind the Charlotte County Sports Park.

Monday February 11 Join **Greg Brezicki** for a free workshop on “**Identifying Native Plants of SW Florida**” at **Cedar Point Environmental Park** at **10:00 AM**. This workshop will combine lecture and field trip at the park to learn to identify some common native plants. Registration advised.

Tuesday February 12 Join **Mike Weisensee** on a guided birding walk through the scrub and pine flatwoods of 217-acre **Amberjack Environmental Park** in Rotonda. Meet at the end of Gasparilla Pines Blvd. Walk begins at 8 am.

Wednesday February 13 Join **Kate Borduas** 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 February 14 Explore past and, possibly, future extinctions with **Kate Borduas** during, “**Changes: Part 2, When ‘Natural Selection’ isn’t Enough**”, at **10 AM** at **Bayshore Live Oak**

Park, 23157 Bayshore Road, Pt. Charlotte, FL. Reservations are advised. For information and/or registration for this FREE program, call 941-475-0769

Monday February 18 Get wild & wet! Join **David Ellis 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.**

Monday February 18 Join **John Phillips** 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 at **8:30 AM**.

Tuesday February 19 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 February 21 Join Master Naturalist, **Kate Borduas**, as she examines, “**Changes: Part 3 The Acceleration of Change in The Anthropocene Age**” at **10 AM** at **Bayshore Live Oak Park, 23157 Bayshore Road, Pt. Charlotte, FL.** Reservations are advised. For information and/or registration for this FREE program, call 941-475-0769.

Thursday February 21 Join **Al Squires** on a guided walk through 308-acre **Tippecanoe Environmental Park**. This Charlotte County park includes habitats such as scrub, pine flatwoods, marsh and wetlands. Meet behind the Charlotte County Sports Park.

Saturday February 23 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 February 25 Join **Ruth Ward** on a guided walk through the scrub and pine flatwoods of 217-acre **Amberjack Environmental Park** in Rotonda. Meet at the end of Gasparilla Pines Blvd.

Tuesday February 26 Join **Bob “Coop” Cooper** 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.

A little Garden in the Sand

by Carolyn A. Gregsak

Just before Thanksgiving 2018, Bonnie Moore and I headed down to the tip of Gasparilla Island. We were on our way to meet Christine and John Holyland at the native plant garden in the State Park. I had heard about the garden from a few members of the Mangrove Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society (FNPS) - the “Little Garden-in-the-Sand” or as Christine Holyland sometimes calls it, “The Little Triangle Garden”.

The garden was initiated by Sharon McKenzie, Director of Barrier Islands Park Society (BIPS). She is a strong advocate for native plants and energetic in her support of the environment. Through BIPS, she appeals for grant money and donations. Her efforts have helped with hurricane clean up, repairs, boardwalk and dock replacement, as well as renovation of the lighthouse. Her duties cover Gasparilla Island, Cayo Costa, Don Pedro, and Stump Pass.

The native plant garden was approved a year after Sharon’s plan was submitted, with the stipulation that plants were to be purchased from only two native plant nurseries: Laurel Schiller’s All Native Plants Nursery in Sarasota and John Sibley’s All Native Garden Nursery in Ft Myers. New plants still can not be introduced without state approval.

Sharon had her support people ready. Denny Girard, Al Squires, Jane Wallace, and Linda Schilke from the Mangrove Chapter assisted in choosing plants and contributing advice on planting. The Boca Grande Women’s Club provided funds to buy the plants from Laurel Schiller’s Sarasota nursery. The work was started and finished on Tuesday, March 4th, 2008 by an enthusiastic group of Mangrove Chapter gardeners. The garden was mulched, but no amendments were added to the soil. The Park Rangers discovered vintage plant identification signs buried in a musty corner of a basement space and they were placed in their appropriate locations.



Identifying Native Plants of SW Florida Lecture

Join Greg Brezicki, teacher, Master Naturalist, Trail Guide, and lover of nature, for a free workshop on **“Identifying Native Plants of SW Florida”** at Cedar Point Environmental Park on Monday, February 11 at 10:00 AM.

This workshop will combine lecture and field trip at the park to learn to identify some common native plants. It is hoped to master at least 40 plant species.

Participants should dress appropriately for walking on the trail. You are reminded to bring drinking water and sunscreen.

This program is presented by Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center. Cedar Point Environmental Park is a Charlotte County facility located at **2300 Placida Road, Englewood, FL**. For information and/or registration for this FREE program, call 941-475-0769.

2019 Florida-Friendly Landscaping™

Series presented by UF/IFAS Charlotte County Extension Service at Cedar Point Park in Englewood, Florida.

A healthy, properly maintained lawn and landscape can absorb and/or filter storm water runoff and protect our coastal waters while attracting various backyard wildlife. Filtering rain through your landscape protect canals, creeks and local preserves that lead to Charlotte Harbor and the Gulf of Mexico. Three different, Florida-Friendly Landscaping sessions will be presented by staff with UF/IFAS/Charlotte County Extension Service. Each session will review Florida-Friendly landscape designs that incorporate many popular Florida natives.

*Location for each session is Cedar Point Park, **2300 Placida Rd., Englewood 34224**. The dates are **Feb. 5, 2019**. Times are from **9AM-11AM**. Each session explores in some detail the nine Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ principles and the practices gardeners can adopt that make a difference for the environment. Pre-registration is recommended. Cost is \$5 per session. **Call 941-764-4351**. Visit the on-line calendar at **<http://charlotte.ifas.ufl.edu>**.*

February 5, 2019

Learn the best ways to attract backyard wildlife to your yard. What habitat factors are used to design natural areas into your landscape? This session looks at principles of butterflyscaping and ways to create canopy layers in small backyards. What are the right native plants used in combination to attract ‘local’ wildlife like gopher tortoises, birds, butterflies and hummingbirds? What vines work best as host and nectar plants for butterflies and pollinating insects? A wide range of native trees and shrubs will be discussed that fit into smaller urban spaces that feed and shelter birds.

Attendees will receive a copy of the **‘Florida Friendly Landscaping™ Guide to Plant Selection & Landscape Design.’** The nine, Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ principles include: *right plant right place, water efficiently, fertilize appropriately, use mulch, attract wildlife, managing pests responsibly, recycle yard waste, reduce storm water erosion and protect the waterfront.*

Give nature hope for the New Year

David Wilson attended and represented our Mangrove Chapter, of which he is a founding member (since September of 1980), at the Florida Arbor Day Proclamation that took place on January 8th at the Charlotte County Commissioners meeting in Murdock.

Here are 2 photos of David and the Murdock Rotary Club President and some Rotarians present at the presentation . It is important that this issue be placed in front of Politicians regularly

