

MANGROVE CHAPTER

President's Message: by Lois Cantwell

Here we are sliding into the month of July already. According to the calendar, the first day of summer arrived on June 21st. Here in Michigan we were still in the 50's and 60's and having more rain than usual. With nighttime temperatures consistently in the 40's our May/June weather was a recipe for disaster for the local farmers. They are still planting or replanting, such as the soybean crop, whose seeds and sprouts rotted in the ground in some cases. Weather has been playing a destructive role all across the country and predicted to continue doing so.

To quote Mark Tercek, CEO of The Nature Conservancy, "our planet faces enormous challenges, and we are running out of time to address them. If we continue along the "business as usual" path, we will face major biodiversity loss, irreparable damage to ecosystems, catastrophic climate change, and severely degrade air and water quality." A very daunting task to the average citizen--how to combat all of this! Getting on board with innovative technologies as they become available is one way, and many are in the works.

On a personal level we can look for ways to protect nature and provide for a more positive future in our world and beyond. Make an effort to become more aware of the many conservation and environmental groups, and what they are trying to achieve on a local, national, or world wide level. Choose one (or more) that you favor, join their organization, pay your dues, subscribe to their publications so you can be in tune with their goals and accomplishments. In the political realm, voice your displeasure as you see fit and vote according to your values.

I hope your summers are going well, whether you are still in FL or off to your alternative homes. Our Michigan spring finally warmed up just a week before the summer solstice. At this point, we are hoping for a late fall. Enjoy the great outdoors!

Looking Ahead to October

by Lois Cantwell

Our new Program Chairperson, Ruth Ward (mangrovefnps@comcast.net) (Subject Attention Ruth Ward)) is planning our second "Open Forum" and has already lined up a few people to be our panelists. Now, we are needing your input: a list of questions to put before them. We are asking you to please send in any questions or topics that would be appropriate, or you would like to hear discussed. I would suggest a deadline of September 1st so that Ruth will have time to collate them and share them with the panel members so that they can formulate their responses. So, do some noodling, be creative and send your suggestions to Ruth as soon as possible.

Mangrove Chapter Field Trip, June 29th, 9:00 AM

T Mabry Carlton Jr Memorial Reserve, 1800 Mabry Carlton Parkway, Venice

Carlton Reserve is a Sarasota County Park with over 100 miles of trails. We will use one of the short looptrails for our walk. NOTE: If it is too wet at this park, we will move the field trip to Sleeping Turtles North-Ligon, which is a little over a mile away. This decision will be made at the time of the walk.

Directions: From Englewood, take S River Rd north for 11.5 miles to Venice Ave, turn left onto Venice Ave and proceed 1 mile to N Jackson Rd. Turn right onto N Jackson Rd and drive 1.6 miles to Border Rd, turn right onto Border Rd and go 1.1 miles to Mabry Carlton Pkwy. Turn left at Maybry Carlton Pkwy, drive 0.2 mile. You are there.

Be weather-wise, so dress and prepare accordingly. Use sunscreen and carry a good supply of water.

Latest news from the FNPS Website

by Lois Cantwell

I try to make it at least a monthly habit of checking fnps.org for the latest happenings, as well as our membership status and inputting our volunteer hours. Currently on the FNPS home page are a few items you should see: "FNPS and Florida Park Service Leadership Meet", "Native Plant Conservation Campaign News: Controlled Fires". Recent Blog Posts: "Recordings from the 39th Annual Conference", "Protecting native plants nationally with USDA-NRCS". Keep yourselves in the loop!

What a Difference a Year Makes

by Lois Cantwell

When Irma passed through our neighborhood in the fall of 2017, I was aghast at what happened to our very large Red Cedar. Since it was too compromised to remedy, there was no choice but to cut it down. We were able to repurpose the trunk of the tree (another story), but what to do about the gaping open space left by its absence.

Waiting until the following spring (2018), I undertook the process of creating a new garden bed to fill in that space, which was about 100 square feet. Meanwhile, some of the self-seeders were sprouting up, which were selectively allowed to remain, and obvious weeds were pulled out. Other native plants were installed from various parts of the yard, plus using potted plants from our raffles or overstock from past events. A light layer of

mulch was scattered around to define the bed. Then we left for our northern home in mid-May of that year only to return near the end of October.



Newly planted area where a Red Cedar was removed (5/18)



Overgrown with weeds (11/18)

I wrote an article last season about the overgrowth of weeds that overtook that bed (as well as the rest of the yard), while we were away for 5 months of summer rains and hot weather, so I will skip over the rehabilitation effort that took a few months to achieve. Long about April (2019) I finally got the area pretty much under control. Comparing a photo of the original plot newly established in 2018 to the one taken this past April just points out the amazing transformation that takes place in just a year's time. Most of the plants did more than just sleeping and creeping--they were leaping! Even with vigilant weeding and piling on mulch, I can only guess at what awaits my return this coming fall.



After weeding and mulching with leaves (1/19)



1-year's growth, with continued mulching and weeding (5/19)

Mangrove Chapter Summer Field Trips

June 29, Carlton Reserve. 1800 Mabry Carlton Pkwy, Venice. A short walk through a Sarasota County Water Management area.

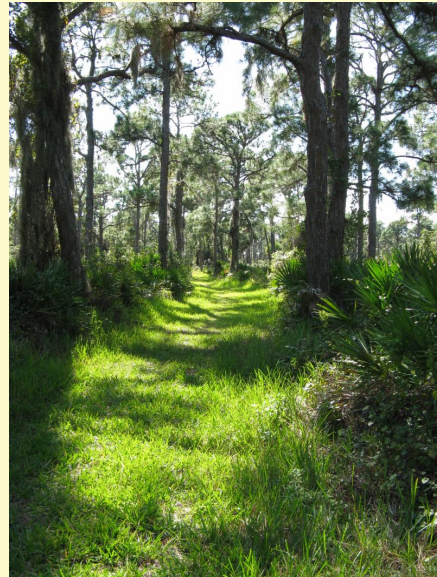
July 27, Lemon Bay Park 570 Bay Park Blvd, Englewood. We will have a walk in the shade.

August 31, Cedar Point Environmental Park, 2300 Placida Rd. We will see what has come up since the chopping.



Boardwalk through the Mangroves
Lemon Bay Park

September 28, Hathaway Park, 35461 Washington Loop Rd, Punta Gorda. This is our annual summer walk along the water. Shady and somewhat cool. We will be looking for the Pond Apple again.



Jeep Trail at Cedar Point
Environmental Park

The 2020 Photo Contest has begun Only 3 days left to get your entry in

We welcome your submissions of photography and art for the Annual Photo Contest for the 2020 CHNEP Nature Calendar.

The contest deadline is July 1st, winners will be announced in Late August.

The CHNEP Nature Calendar showcases the beauty and diversity of our program area and is distributed to thousands all over Central and Southwest Florida.

For further questions contact CHNEP Outreach Associate Intern, Sierra Moen:

smoen@chnep.org or 941575-3385

Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program]

www.CHNEP.org

941 575 3392

toll free 866-835-5785