

## MANGROVE CHAPTER

### President's Message: by Lois Cantwell

#### Report from Annual Meeting and Election of Officers

We closed out the season with at least 20 members in attendance, contributing their favorite dishes to share and providing a variety of items and plants to the silent auction.

During the business portion of the meeting, we talked about a number of topics. Al mentioned the upcoming field trip at Morgan Park at the end of May, details and driving directions are on the website. At least 8 people raised their hands to indicate that they plan on going. Summer walks were also announced. See the list elsewhere in the newsletter. We voted to set aside \$1,000 in funds for 2019/2020 to continue offering Chapter Landscape Grants.



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Speaking of funding, we also discussed “The Warea Area Project” featured in the latest issue of *“Palmetto”*, the quarterly journal put out by FNPS. If you have read the article, great, then you know about the \$75,000 FNPS needs in order to purchase the 12.4 acre warea preserve. Al is donating \$1,000 to the cause in Denny Girard’s memory. We voted to contribute \$250 from Mangrove Chapter, as well. If any of our members wish to donate to this cause on a personal level, visit the FNPS website homepage and use the online link, or mail a check to: FNPS, P.O. Box 278, Melbourne, FL 32902. They need to raise a total of \$37,500 by the end of June 2019 to match a grant from the Felburn Foundation.



Lois brought to the attention of the group that we have removed the email contact information of the BOD officers from our website. Only the Mangrove Chapter email address

(MangroveFNPS@comcast.net) will be published as a contact for our officers and chairs. This comes from a recent “phishing scam” in which a person impersonating our president has contacted at least two other

BOD members, asking favors including purchasing various types of gift cards. If any member is on the receiving end of a suspicious email supposedly from a BOD member, please report it via a separate email. FNPS has been made aware of this situation, and have copied the Council of Directors leaders so that they can remind other chapters to take the same precautions.

The slate of officers presented to the membership was accepted by unanimous vote for the 2019-2020 season: **President: Open; Vice President: Al Squires; Secretary: Bobbi Rodgers; Treasurer: Linda Wilson; Chapter Representative: Al Squires.** Your Immediate Past President will continue as a BOD member, and fill in as “interim president” until the position is filled. (She is a chronic volunteer who needs an intervention...anybody?)

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## What’s Up in my Garden

by Lois Cantwell

I believe I wrote about my circular wildflower garden next to my driveway last season, which contains mostly yellow flowers. It is still going strong and the “star” of this group is one of my favorites, Starry Rosinweed. According to a description in Roger Hammer’s latest book on wildflowers, stems may reach 36” tall. How about 6 feet! All of the other *Silphium asteriscus* growing elsewhere in my yard are about as tall as they should be. This particular specimen didn’t get the memo. It looks to be on steroids. I had to tie it to a stake to keep the wind from blowing it over.

Reading further about Starry Rosinweed, I see that it blooms April to October, likes prairies, open forests, and roadsides, and ranges from Escambia County to Lee County along the Gulf Coast. The name rosinweed relates to the plant resin, which smells of turpentine and is used for medicinal purposes as well as a breath freshener in chewing gum. On an adjacent page, I also found Blackeyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*) and Cutleaf Coneflower (*Rudbeckia laciniata*). Yes, Roger lists the flowers by color, which is so helpful. Coincidentally, each of these beauties are also growing right next to my Starry Rosinweed. Rounding out the yellows, I also have Leavenworth’s Tickseed and Sneezeweed, who along with the Blackeyed Susan, are self-seeding sufficient to fill all the spaces in between. I hope they “out weed” the weeds during the summer months, so I have less to pull in October.

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

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## Volunteer Opportunities

Plant Sitters needed! We are in a bit of an overstock dilemma, with upwards of 180 pots of plants left from this season’s festivals. Our Garden Keepers would be hard pressed to take



care of these during the summer months, fearing that many may not survive. The garden workers that remain here in the summer only work every other week and with limited hours due to the heat and humidity. So, if there are any full time members who can adopt plants to nurture for the next 5 months, drop by the garden and gather up as many as you can manage. We are also willing to offer potted

specimens to any members who might want a particular species for their garden at no cost. We still need to earmark those that we plan on planting in select garden beds, so we will segregate them before our May 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. After that, come on by the Demonstration Garden at Cedar Point and help yourself to help us out. Plants that we have in the greatest quantity are: Pineland Lantana, Muhly grass, Wild Coffee, Lyre-leaf Sage, Tropical Sage, with at least a half-dozen each of: Rouge Plant, Elliott's Aster, Simpson Stopper and Wild Petunia.

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## **39th Annual FNPS Conference MAY 16-19, 2019 , Crystal River Florida.**

**by Christine Holyland**

The Conference was held at The Plantation at Crystal River. A variety of field trips, lectures, workshops, feature presentations, research presentations, and panel discussions were offered on conservation, restoration, and current issues including birds, insects, native plants, landscaping, and some crafts. I also enjoyed talking and listening to the students who created posters related to :- Plants and Fungi: USF's contribution to the biota of Florida, Dune Restoration in the Florida Panhandle, and A Survey of UCF's Pollinators and Wildflowers.

The social events were on the Point. An area of land jutting out into the river with a large grassy area and Gazebo. This was very pleasant as the sun went down. They included a Welcome and Game night and a Dinner and Movie night outside at the Gazebo. The movie was made by a member who made musical instruments such as guitars, flutes, drums etc., out of wood and played and wrote his own music. We dined at tables on the grass lawn every night. There was a large variety of salad items to choose from, various pasta dishes, chicken, pork, fish, vegetarian dishes and fresh fruit and chocolate or yellow cream cake for dessert. I think my good friend Denny, who was always the Mangrove Chapter food critic could have found something he liked there. We missed him this year.

We also enjoyed meeting and dining with good friends we don't see often. This was an enjoyable and interesting conference.

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## **NOTES FROM THE 39<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL FNPS**



# CONFERENCE AT THE PLANTATION ON CRYSTAL RIVER, by Christine and John Holyland

Our first field trip was to the Crystal River Preserve State Park where we were guided by Scott Matthewman and Marla Chancey on a 7-mile loop road not normally open to vehicles. We rode on a tram pulled by a pick-up truck, stopping at several places en route to explore for plants.

The park encompasses a wide variety of habitats from mixed pine flatwoods(with Turkey oaks and some Red cedar) to salt marsh( Black needlerush transitioning to Cordgrass), hydric hammocks, floodplain swamps and basin marshes.

Following are some of the Plants we saw.







## 39th Annual FNPS Conference Field Trip to Citrus Tract - Withlacoochee State Forest

by Christine Holyland

Pictures by John Holyland

Our leaders were Nancy Dwyer and Susan Carr.

The Citrus Tract is the largest piece of contiguous sandhill plant community in the peninsular, about 50,000 acres. Due to Florida Forest Service's prescribed burn management, there are superb wildflowers and about 80 families of red-cockaded woodpeckers in the area.

In the 1800's this area was a phosphate mine. It was replanted later with longleaf pine, and turkey oak. Sand pine was already there as was smut grass (an invasive exotic, later eradicated). It naturally became a pine forest.



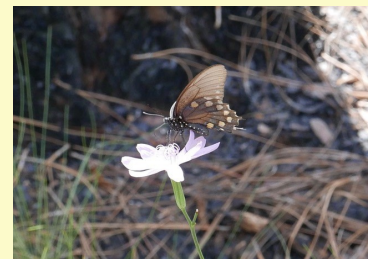
"Baby" Long Leaf Pine  
(looks like grass 6 weeks  
after burn)



New Savannah-like growth 6  
weeks post fire



Hercule's Club



Beggarweed"

We drove 4 ½ miles into the forest along a sandy road. The endangered red-cockaded woodpecker was nesting in this area. Just off the sand road in the woods we saw the female woodpecker leave the nest and heard the baby birds chirping. The woodpeckers need older mature longleaf pines with dead wood to create nests with sap wells that keep the smoke out, they do not nest in the turkey oaks. They like savannah areas created by



frequent lightning strikes producing fires in the area, this plus prescribed fire management keeps the undergrowth low. We explored a small area with no trail just off the road that was burned about 6 weeks ago. It was already looking like low savannah! There are about 60 species of native plants per acre in this area now.



oblong leaved Twinflower



fleabane



Silver Croton



Florida Indian Plantain



Hairy Indigo



Christine holding a Chinese Tallow (Invasive exotic) note long ta root

In addition to the photos included we also found bracken fern, twin flower, Darrow's blueberry, palafoxia, prickly pear cactus, pencil flower, piny woods dropseed, the exotic invasive chinese tallow removed by our leader, silver croton, trailing sandspur and many more native plants. We observed a pine warbler nesting with babies

We spent about 20 minutes on the other side of the sand road before leaving which was burned about 1 year ago. In this much more overgrown area we found blackberry with fruit, daisy fleabane, lob-sided Indian grass, blue jack oak (about 3 feet tall here), persimmon, desmodium, summer grape, and rose rush with seeds.

I was amazed to see how many different plant species there were already growing in the small area we explored 6 weeks after a burn and the completely different plant species growing in the area one year after a burn. This was a very interesting field trip.

Christine Holyland





Southern Milkweed



Trailing Rotany



Tread Softly



Piriqueta



Roserush with Swallowtail



Rosinweed with Swallowtail

## 39th Annual FNPS Conference

by Linda Wilson

### 39<sup>th</sup> Annual FNPS Conference

I've attended these conferences for many years. The first was in Sarasota in the 80's. It's always nice to mingle with fellow native plant people and see a different part of Florida.

This year was in Crystal River about 3 hours north of us on the coast. I had traveled through the area before but never stayed for any length of time. It's a beautiful area that has not been hit with the development of the Englewood area yet. They are starting to widen roads and several large developments are starting.

The first day I took a 7 mile tram ride through Crystal River Preserve State Park. It's a beautiful area and I would love to go back to do some hiking. Two plants that I had never seen before were the Spiked Crested Coral Root Orchid (*Hexalectris spicata*) which is a yellowish brown to deep purple orchid which popped up recently in a sunny area created by a fallen tree. We also observed many Netted Pawpaw (*Asimina reticulata*).

Both were in bloom! We also saw deer and the effects of prescribed fire.

The Park has been cutting down Cabbage Palms as they have taken over large areas and tend to allow fires to get out of control. It is a huge park and provides a long

wildlife corridor with several other areas along the coast. I would encourage everyone to visit the area before it too gets overdeveloped.

Our hotel was very nice on the river. Good food, large trees providing a lot of shade and even a Manatee one afternoon.

There were so many programs, it was hard to decide which to attend. A pall was cast over the proceedings with the announcement of our Governor signing the roads bill. I hope everyone lets your representatives know your thoughts on these highly destructive roads and the money the landowners will make from the roads and the ensuing housing that will follow. One of the speakers was from DOT and urged us to let our feelings be known. The #1 irrigated crop now is turf grass and we are all aware(I hope!) of the massive amount of water and chemicals that they require. We as native plant people are doing our part to conserve water and keep more chemicals from our local waters. Do not forget the horrible summer we all had last year with Red Tide and Algae. They will continue to plague us if we don't change our ways.

I heard many speakers on Florida Springs & Aquifer Sustainability, Plants for Birds, Red Cockaded Woodpecker Habitat, Disappearing Monarchs and the Importance of NATIVE Milkweeds, Seasonality of Post Fire Response in Native Pine Savanna Groundcover, etc. Eric Draper, our new Director of State Parks, gave us a very uninspiring talk on our local parks. He did seem to feel that no parks should be logged, used for cattle grazing or allowed to be overused. We'll see if he follows that agenda. Please consider attending this conference as I think you will learn a lot and meet some wonderful, knowledgeable people. Next year it will be in Jacksonville.

Happy Gardening!

Linda Wilson, Treasurer/Membership

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## **NOTES FROM THE 39<sup>th</sup> FNPS CONFERENCE AT CRYSTAL RIVER    MAKE FLORIDA'S SPRINGS GREAT AGAIN**

**by John Holyland**

I attended a lecture by Robert Knight, Executive Director of the Howard T. Odum Florida Springs Institute. Dr. Knight has been studying springs and wetland ecology for 38 years and the purpose of the lecture was to draw attention to the deteriorating condition of Florida's springs.

Florida has over 1000 springs, more than anywhere else in the world. Early Florida tourism was centered around these springs long before Disney World became the main attraction. There are 27 State Parks with associated springs.

A spring is formed where the aquifer reaches the surface and is essentially a sink hole. The state of the spring directly reflects the health of the aquifer which supplies 90% of Florida's drinking water. Drainage of rain water into the aquifer comes from an area of about 100,000 square miles including parts of Georgia, Alabama and Mississippi (The Florida component is about 42,000 sq. miles).



The aquifer is threatened by reduced flow and pollution, particularly nitrates. Many springs show a 35% reduction in flow since the mid 70's and about 7 springs have dried up completely. Others have seen salt intrusion. Flow in the aquifer is about 12 billion gallons per day but already permitted wells can potentially withdraw 4.6 billion gallons per day. With the population of Florida at 21 million residents and 100 million visitors demand for water will continue to stress the aquifer.

The natural background level of nitrogen in water is <0.05 mg/L. Toxic effects (cancer, birth defects and "blue baby syndrome") are more likely at levels >0.4 mg/L. Some springs have levels >1.5mg/L and 80% show nitrogen levels of >0.35mg/L. The source of this nitrate pollution comes 50% from septic tanks, 29% from fertilizer, 5% from golf courses and 9% from livestock.

The Institute feels that the aquifer can be saved by regulating the number of new wells drilled, water conservation measures and applying a fee on wells for aquifer protection. A fee on all fertilizer purchases related to the nitrogen load is also suggested. Septic tanks should be centrally collected and advanced nitrogen removal methods utilized similar to those at public sewage treatment facilities.

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### 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.

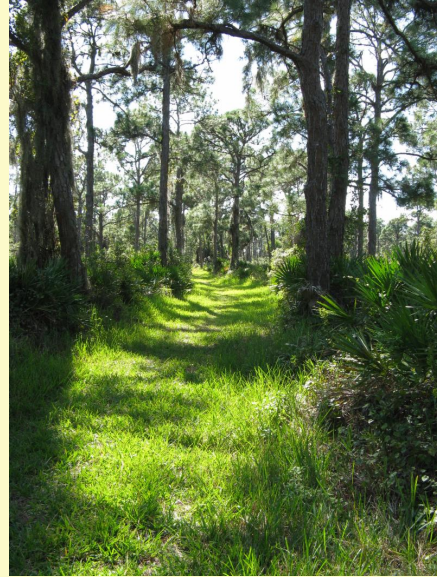
**August 31, Cedar Point Environmental Park,** 2300 Placida Rd. We will see what has come up since the chopping.

**September 28, Hathaway Park,** 35461 Washington Loop Rd, Punta Gorda. This is our annual summer walk along the water. Shady and somewhat



Boardwalk through the Mangroves  
Lemon Bay Park

cool. We will be looking for the Pond Apple again.

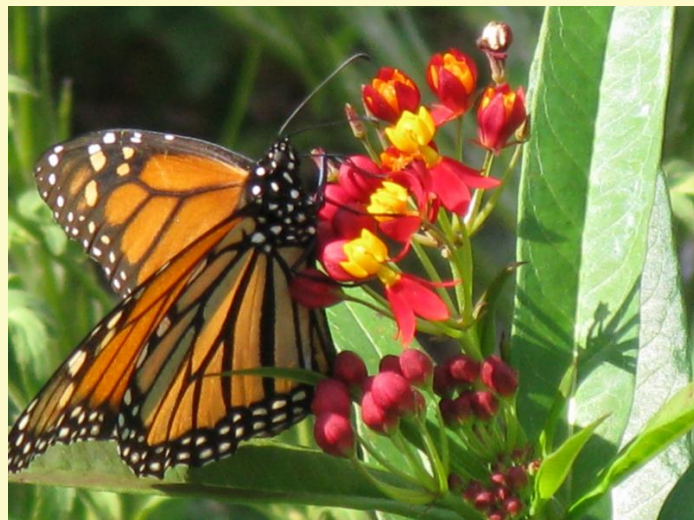


Jeep Trail at Cedar Point  
Environmental Park

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## The Florida Monarch Research and Educational Project

The founder and Project Manager, Joyce Samsel, working closely with Dr. Marc Minnow, is reaching out to all of the FNPS Chapters for help with researching the Florida Monarchs, exploring the reasons for the rapid decline of the resident population. The Project will provide education to schools, communities and to the general public on how to provide safe, chemical-free habitats that will support



healthy and necessary larval and butterfly plants. The initial study will focus on *Ophryocystis elektroscirrha* (“OE”), which is a protozoan parasite that larvae ingest on host milkweed and is spread through microscopic spores.

This will include testing and tagging both wild and farmed butterflies; documenting wild born and farmed larvae; documenting the species of milkweed used to raise the larvae, and documenting the location. This will encompass the entire state of Florida, which will be divided into zones. Participation would be on a volunteer basis, with all necessary materials provided at no cost. If you would like to take part in this Project, please contact Joyce Samsel at [\*\*florida.monarchproject@gmail.com\*\*](mailto:florida.monarchproject@gmail.com).

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## The 2020 Photo Contest has begun

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](mailto:smoen@chnep.org) or 941575-3385

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