



## Report from Your Acting President:

by Lois Cantwell, Past President

Our Mangrove Chapter “profile” has been raised a little in this past month. In addition to great publicity for our meetings and field trips, there have been a few articles in the “Sun” and other local event magazines. Chris Cameron from the Englewood Review did a feature on our chapter in the January 17<sup>th</sup> issue of “The Englewood Review”. This was part of a series that she is doing on the various local non-profit organizations in our community that she felt people should know about. She took a lot of information from website searches, visited my yard and took notes in the process. I sent her a few photos as well.

### Englewood Review Newspaper Article

Another “happening” that will hopefully get us “out there” is putting us on Facebook. One of our members came forward at our January BOD meeting to promote this idea and we decided to go for it! Anne Risberg teamed up with David Manley to get the project rolling and they were able to accomplish this task in very little time. There may be some additional tweaking, yet, but we are now on social media, as are a number of other FNPS chapters.

**Note from Anne Risberg:** The **Chapter's FaceBook Group** is now up. It will be used to give us visibility and shows upcoming talks, walks and events. The group can be found by searching for:

**"Mangrove Chapter of Florida Native Plant Society"**. Current members of the Chapter can request to join the group. As a member, please make relevant posts and like posts you see to keep our group active.

Additionally, we had to change our Mangrove Chapter email address while going through the establishment of our Facebook account. So please begin using the new one as we phase out the old:

**MangroveFNPS60@gmail.com**. Now that we no longer publicize our personal contact information, this (new) email will allow you to contact any of the BOD members, including our Committee Chairs. Just address your comment, inquiry, or message to a specific person and it will be forwarded to the appropriate party. Barb Seibel is our “inbox monitor”.

## Support Your Local Native Demonstration Garden!

Our “Garden Keepers” enjoy lots of camaraderie while working in 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 hope to have a variety of native plants available for sale on those Mondays as we continue to pot up more in the coming months. As an educational opportunity, you learn about “the natives” as you work with our group. We are in special need of help through February and early March, as we lead up to the advent of **“Plant Native” Day**, which takes place at Cedar Point Environmental Park on March 14<sup>th</sup>. The theme of this season’s event is **“Gardening for Butterflies”**. What better time to lend a hand as we beautify and prepare the garden for this popular annual event. Join us!

Lois sent out a call for help to unload and spread mulch in the demonstration garden for Monday Jan 27. Our volunteers rose to the occasion and provided plenty of help. A pallet of 75 bags of Melaluca mulch (Florimulch) was delivered around 8:30 am. The "crew" was up to the challenge and mulch was spread by 11:00. I want to thank each of you that helped. We couldn't have done it without you!

Pictured below is Debbie Wiggins, Al Squires, Gail Finney, Mitch Leavitt, Ann Caron, Linda Manley and Dave Manley.



[Al, Ann and Mitch]



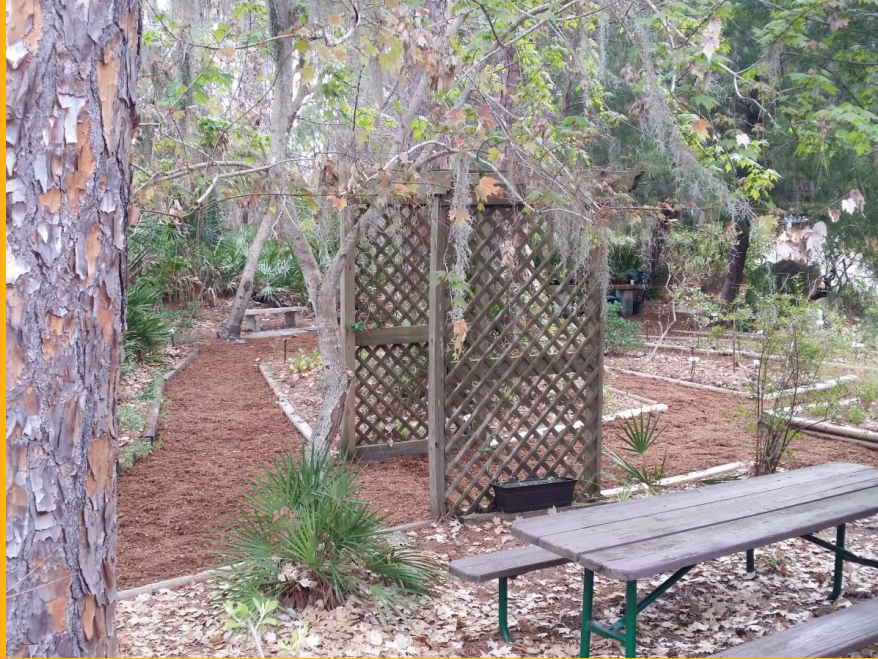
[Mitch and Linda]



[Debbie and Dave]

**The Finished Product** - The Demonstration Garden looks so much better and is safer also. The mulch has covered the tree roots in the paths making it safer to walk.





## Remembering our Mangrove Chapter Friend, Denny Girard



February 14<sup>th</sup> is Denny Girard's birth date. We traditionally celebrated his birthday as our February membership meeting happened to fall on or around that date. We always had fun with that and numerous pounds of Valentine's Day cake were consumed over the years. Born in 1928, he "walked on" in September of 2018.

From his arrival in Englewood, with his wife Pat, in 1963, he was a business man, civic leader, photographer, author and writer, amateur botanist and tour guide. In 1995, he and Al Squires established the trail system at Cedar Point Environmental Park. Over the years, that relationship morphed into what became "the Denny and Al Show", as they led trail walks through many Sarasota and Charlotte County Parks.

Denny joined our Mangrove Chapter in 1998 and was a member for 20 years before his passing. He received the FNPS Green Palmetto Award in 2006. His photographs can be found on the University of South Florida's Plant Atlas, and his writings appeared in many publications including his two books, "Branches" and "Falling Leaves". The following is a selection from his first book and seems appropriate for this time of the year:

A SPRIG OF GRAY (By Denny Girard)

I'm not much right now, just a sprig of gray  
Surrounded by brown leaves and yellowed grass  
On dull and barren ground.

But come back in a month and see me change.  
I'll sprout green leaves and push new growth  
Toward the warming sun.

Better yet, return in May and see me at my very best.  
My rebirth will be complete. My promised buds will burst  
Into blooms of bright hues.

You'll like me then, as I paint your world with blazing colors.  
I'll draw you near. I'll touch your heart.

So, forgive me now if I disappoint, if I am drab and bleak.  
I am only dozing, resting, until the nudge of spring  
Wakes me once again.

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## February Field Trip

AmberJack Environmental Park 4650 Gasparilla Pines Blvd. Rotunda Fl 33947  
Begins at 9:00 am. For more information contact Al Squires at 941-769-3633 or email at  
ahsquires1@comcast.net

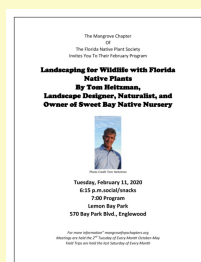
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## Feb 11 Chapter Meeting Landscaping for Wildlife with Florida Native Plants by Tom Heitzman

The Mangrove Chapter Of The Florida Native Plant Society  
Invites You To Their February Program

**Landscaping for Wildlife with Florida Native Plants**  
**By Tom Heitzman,**  
**Landscape Designer, Naturalist, and**  
**Owner of Sweet Bay Native Nursery**

**Tuesday, February 11, 2020**  
**6:15 p.m.social/snacks**  
**7:00 Program**  
**Lemon Bay Park**  
**570 Bay Park Blvd., Englewood**



**Landscaping for Wildlife with Florida  
Native Plants**

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## Seafood 101 – Cooking with Chef Warren

Join award-winning cookbook author and celebrity Chef Warren Caterson at a fundraising event for the Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center, Inc. on **Thursday, February 27** featuring great cooking tips, humorous anecdotes, and delicious seafood samples, made as you watch. Learn how to prepare your fresh catch (or market find) like a professional with his entertaining and energetic presentation that will inspire your inner chef while tickling your taste buds.

Included in the \$12 entrance fee (\$8 for Friends of CHEC) are complimentary light refreshments (in addition to Chef Warren's samples). Socializing is from 5:00 PM to 5:30 PM, with the presentation to begin at 5:30 PM. Space is limited so reservations are mandatory for the informational event. Phone 941-475-0769 to reserve your space.

This exciting program will be conducted at Cedar Point Environmental Park, 2300 Placida Road, Englewood, Florida. Space is limited so reservations are mandatory for the informational event. Phone 941-475-0769 to reserve your space.

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## Lemon Bay Fest Programs

### February 7, Friday

**Calusa: The Fierce People:** 10:30 AM, Englewood Charlotte Library Meeting Room. Learn about Florida's prehistoric settlers and their great accomplishments.  
**The Living Gulf Coast: Exploring Our Natural Treasures:** 2 PM, Elsie Quirk Library Meeting Room. Author Charles Sobczak presents on the many parks, preserves and eco-destinations in SW Florida.

**Cookie House Tours:** 1 to 4 PM. Tours of the historic Cookie House at Cedar Point Environmental Park, 2300 Placida Road. **Additional Tours:** February 14 and 21, 1-4 PM; February 22, 10 AM-2 PM; March 13 and 20, 1-4 PM.

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## Walks and Talks by Sarasota County Parks & Recreation

Register for these walks on [parksonline@scgov.net](mailto:parksonline@scgov.net) or see Facebook @SRQCountyPlay)

February 13 (Thursday) 9-11 AM: Wild Sarasota: Unique Preserves. Manasota Scrub

February 13 (Thursday) 9-11 AM: Mangroves, Estuaries and Uplands, Pocano Trail Pres

February 14 (Friday) 8-10 AM: Seasons & Serendipity Stroll, Shamrock Park

February 19 (Wednesday) 9-11 AM: A Winter Wander through the Preserve with Al Squires, Carlton Reserve

February 22 (Saturday) 8 -11:30 AM: Birding Opps. via a Walking Tour, Carlton Reserve

February 26 (Wednesday) 9:30-11:30 AM: Land Management in an Urban Setting, South Venice Lemon Bay Preserve



## Beach Walks (Sponsored by Lemon Bay Conservancy)

Learn about the ecology of a barrier island at Blind Pass/Middle Beach with Bill Dunson, 9-11 AM, February 13. For more info, email [wdunson@comcast.net](mailto:wdunson@comcast.net) (No reservation required).

Explore Myakka State Forest (2555 S. River Rd, Englewood with Bill Dunson, 9-11 AM, February 21. Follow a 1.5 mile loop walk along the Gordon Smith Trail revealing many interesting aspects of the natural history of pine flatwoods and a pristine pond. For those of you who missed our January 25<sup>th</sup> field trip, this is a good opportunity. (\$2 entry fee).

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## Free Programs from CHEC

**Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center** and the Charlotte County Natural Resource Department will be conducting the following free programs in **January 2020**. All programs can be found at [www.ChecFlorida.org](http://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 7, 14, 21** 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.

**Saturday February 8** 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.

**Tuesday February 11** Join **Denise Hart** 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.

**Tuesday February 11** Visit the waters of Lemon Bay on a single person, sit-on-top kayak with **Diane Drewry** 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 February 11** Join **Jean Leavett** on a **birding 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 at **8 AM**.

**Wednesday February 12** Join **Jessie Wilder** 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.

**Thursday February 13** Join **Al Squires**, Mangrove Chapter, Florida Native Plant Society, as he discusses and shows examples of “**Florida’s Non-native, Invasive Exotic Pest Plants**”, at **10 AM** at **Bayshore Live Oak Park** in Port Charlotte. The booklet, “Identifying & Controlling Invasive Exotic Plants in Southwest Florida: A Homeowner’s Guide” will be distributed to the first 15 people who register for this free program. Reservations are recommended.

**Friday February 14** 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 February 14** Join **Rich Linden** 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.

**Saturday February 15** Join Florida Master Naturalist, **Kate Borduas**, as she discusses, “**Florida Scrub Jays: Species in Peril**” at **10 AM** at **Bayshore Live Oak Park** in Port Charlotte.

Florida’s only endemic bird is in real danger of extinction, so learn what YOU can do to help save what the Cornell Lab of Ornithology has called a “Species of the Century.” Reservations are recommended.

**Monday February 17** Join **Jessie Wilder** 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 17** Get wild & wet! Join **Dane Drewry** 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.**

**Tuesday February 18** Visit the waters of Lemon Bay on a single person, sit-on-top kayak with **Mike Weisensee** 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.**

**Thursday February 20** Join **Jean Leavett** 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.

**Thursday February 20** Join **Kate Borduas** 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.

**Monday February 24** 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.

**Wednesday February 26** 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.

**Wednesday February 26** Join **Ralph Mitchell**, Charlotte County Director and Horticulture Agent, as he displays dozens of exotic insects and non-insects at **10 AM** at **Bayshore Live Oak Park** in Port Charlotte. Mr. Mitchell will discuss, **“Exotic, Gigantic, Curious, Beautiful, and Venomous Specimens – Both Local and From Far-away Lands”**, using clues as to what they might be. Reservations are recommended for this FREE program.

**Thursday February 27** Join **Kate Borduas** 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.

**Thursday February 27** This fundraising event for CHEC at **Cedar Point Park** will feature award-winning cookbook author and celebrity **Chef Warren Caterson** presenting **“Seafood 101 – Cooking with Chef Warren”** including great cooking tips and delicious seafood samples. Learn how to prepare your fresh catch (or market find) like a professional. Included in the **\$12 entrance fee** (\$8 for Friends of CHEC) are complimentary wine and hors d’oeuvres (in addition to Chef Warren’s samples). Socializing is from **5:00 PM to 5:30 PM**, with the presentation to begin at 5:30 PM. Space is limited so **reservations are mandatory** for the informational event. Phone 941-475-0769 to reserve your space.

**Friday February 28** 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.

**Saturday February 29** Join **Al Squires** on a **plant identification walk** through the scrub and pine flatwoods of 217-acre **Amberjack Environmental Park** in Rotonda. Meet at the end of Gasparilla Pines Blvd.

Go to  
**[www.CHECflorida.org](http://www.CHECflorida.org)**  
for complete program calendar

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## 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:



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.

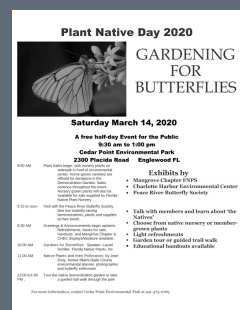
## The Florida Scrub Jay Seminar

### Scrub Jay Meeting

FREE seminar Feb 15, 2020 10:00 to noon  
Learn about a rare and unique bird living in your neighborhood and how you can be a good neighbor.

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

### Plant Native Day



## What's up in my Garden

by Lois Cantwell

What's Up in My Garden

Not a whole lot! It's that time of the year when there just isn't much happening in the blooming garden. Between some tropical sage, blue mist flower, a few starry rosinweeds and the remaining berries on the beauty-berry bushes, not a whole lot of color. Most of the color I see is coming from the parade of Monarchs that flit about the yard looking for anything to nectar on or milkweed to utilize.



On a cold, windy morning I found a Monarch butterfly lying on the driveway, seemingly incapacitated. I gently picked it up and brought it into the house to warm up in a cardboard box. Checking on it about an hour later, it was upright, but listless. I mashed up a banana, cut a piece of an orange and dripped it on the banana in a shallow dish and placed it in the box, setting the butterfly onto the "food". I then placed the box in the sun streaming through a window. Voila! The wings opened up, and it began probing the mashed fruit/orange juice concoction. Within moments it came to life, fluttering up into the window, so I recaptured it, took it outside to the sunny sidewalk and off it flew. I watched it travel away, up beyond the overhanging fire bush and sabal palms. I wished it well and was hopeful that it would survive, even though there were some chilly, windy days in the forecast. It's those little things in life that can really make your day!

How about you? If you have a story to tell about what's happening in your yard, please contribute any articles, photos, or stories about favorite native plants, or yard and garden happenings to our newsletter. Or, did you see something on a recent field trip that captured your interest? We love getting photos, as they help to tell the story. We want to hear from our members and other readers. Send them to our new email address **MangroveFNPS60@gmail.com**, attention Gail Finney, our editor.



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## Hpstis Brevipes - A New Invader

### Hypstis Brevipes - New Invader!

Looks like a new invasive species has gotten a lot of people excited about sightings in a couple of counties in Central Florida. It's called Lesser Roundweed, *Hyptis brevipes*. So, if you have an interest in checking this out, see the attached PDF file on the new invader.

Who knows if it will come this way, but at least be informed.

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Visit our website