



MANGROVE CHAPTER

Report from Your President:

by Lois Cantwell

Well, here I am again, becoming your “renewable” President once again. Events seem to have conspired to keep me from retiring from the position, and I hope it is my FINAL term! Of course, we have to wait until our first Membership Meeting in the fall to have your approval of the full Slate of Officers for 2020-2021, presented by our Nominating Committee, Al Squires and Bobbi Rodgers, with one amendment. The Vice President position is still vacant. Marianne Owen has signed on for one term as Secretary, having held that position several years ago. Linda will remain as Treasurer for a final term, as well. And please welcome one of our newest members, Steve Gustafson, our new Chapter Representative. He was a member of The Villages Chapter until moving here to Englewood and served as their Chapter Rep., so he comes to us with experience, as well as a lot of enthusiasm. So, there you have it. Your Board of Directors is “on board”! We will continue to seek out a new VP, hoping someone will step into Al’s old shoes and help us forge a new path toward our Chapter’s future.

Parting words from Al Squires: “Thank you to all members of Mangrove Chapter for your friendship and assistance during my last 20+ years as a member and officer. I will fondly look back on my time with you all. I will be joining Cuplet Fern Chapter, which meets in Sanford.” Unfortunately, the opportunity to say farewell at a personal level escaped us, as the virus gone viral interfered with so many plans. Mitch Leavitt made a valiant effort to celebrate our BOD Officers that were leaving their long-held positions. He took the time to collect money to purchase gift certificates to Laurel Schiller’s Florida Native Plants Nursery & Landscaping for each of the retiring officers: Lois, Bobbi, Al and Linda. Well, 50% retention isn’t so bad, as Linda and I were “persuaded” to stay on for just one more term. Words from Mitch: “I want to thank all those who contributed to the gifts. I feel a little guilty that people contributed, and then didn’t get to participate in the celebration of the ‘gift presentation’.”

We will miss having Bobbi on the BOD, but she will still be around. That’s another celebration that didn’t happen—her retirement party! That would have been a blast. Thirty-five years at Cedar Point Environmental Park is quite a legacy and Bobbi did it so well. Her connection between Mangrove Chapter and CHEC was an invaluable asset to both. Words from Bobbi: “I thank all of you for your help and friendship over the many years we have worked and played together. I hope you will assist the new CHEC Resource Manager at Cedar Point Park, Susan Converse, with her transition when I

am gone". "I plan on coming to FNPS meetings and walks, as well as helping with plant surveys at Cedar Point."

The following words from Ruth Ward sum up our parting sentiments:
"Thank you, Al, for your many years of service to this Chapter and also to everything else you were involved with in the environmental community down here. Your service has been invaluable. Your absence will be felt for sure." "Thanks to Bobbi, also, for serving so many years in so many ways, and being a great liaison between our Chapter and CHEC. My hope is that you will be present at the Chapter events/meetings and that you maintain a place in the environmental community here."

I want to also acknowledge Linda Wilson's continued support of our Chapter, and her willingness to say on for one last term. She has served on the BOD in a number of ways, and it seems that she has been our Treasure for a very long time, and she does it so well! Not only has she been a Mangrove Chapter member since 1994, she supports other environmental organizations, as well, such as ECOSWF (Environmental Confederation of Southwest Florida) and the Coastal Wildlife Club/Turtle Patrol. She is truly a staunch champion of our Florida environment.

I managed to harvest a selection of photos from my files going back over the past seven years, which represent some of our Chapter's activities and feature the aforementioned officers. These are but a small glimpse of our recent history together.



Al and Denny identifying a native plant 11/30/2013 MC field trip



Plant Survey, Bobbi and Craig Huegel on golf cart 11/20/2013 Tangerine Woods HOA



Luncheon Fundraiser, Al in charge of food table 2/19/16 Charlotte area library



Al spraying exotics at Cedar Point (3/16/16)-Pond project



: Al lectures at a spring festival (3/17/16)-Hazeltine Nursery



Linda and Al calling raffle numbers (11/8/16)-Membership meeting at LBP

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Thank You from Linda Wilson

April 18, 2020

Dear Fellow Native Plant Advocates,

I hope this finds you well and I hope it stays that way for all of us.

I want to send a thank you to those who contributed to the Florida Native Plants Nursery gift certificate. \$75. WOW!! Also the hand made

thank you notes are lovely. It is nice to be appreciated but I hope you

will step up next year for the Mangrove Chapter to continue it's mission.

I will continue one more year as Treasurer but someone needs to take over

next year. It is not a difficult job and I will continue to be active in the Chapter to assist the new volunteer. Thanks again for everything!

Linda Wilson, Mangrove Chapter FNPS Treasurer

COVID 19 Response

We have had messages from FNPS regarding suspension of all Chapter activities for the duration of the ongoing virus threat.

All Field trips and membership meetings for April and May are canceled.

The State Conference is also postponed indefinitely.

All Cedar Point Enviromental Park trips (walks, kayak, and wading trips) are canceled. The building is also closed.

Continue social distancing and stay safe, healthy and well. We will see you in the fall.

We are on Facebook!!!

Join us for a free Doug Tallamy webinar

We are excited to announce that we'll kick off our observation of National Wildflower Week at 2 p.m. Monday, May 4, with a webinar featuring **Doug Tallamy**, author of the popular book, ***Bringing Nature Home***.

Dr. Tallamy is nationally renowned as an advocate for restoring landscapes with native plants. As he'll point out in this compelling webinar, *A Guide to Restoring the Little Things that Run the World*, we must bring native plants to our landscapes to preserve the biodiversity upon which our own health and well-being depends.

Please join us for this free event — **just click here to register**.

Click to follow Florida's wildflowers on the web

www.FlaWildflowers.org | info@FlaWildflowers.org
225 S. Swoope Ave., Suite 110, Maitland, FL 32751 | 407-622-1606 |

Protect pollinators — get your tag today!

The Florida Wildflower Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization; contributions are tax deductible. A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION FOR THE FLORIDA WILDFLOWER FOUNDATION, A FLORIDA-BASED NONPROFIT CORPORATION (REGISTRATION NO. CH12319), MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE 1-800-HELP-FLA (435-7352) WITHIN THE STATE OR VISITING THEIR WEBSITE **HERE**. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.

What's Up in My Garden

Lois Cantwell

Having left Florida about 3 weeks earlier than normal, I found my northern garden just waking up to the advent of spring. What a contrast to all that was in bloom in my southern yard. Our extra warm weeks in Florida during March and April got things rolling early. The Simpson Stoppers around the yard broke out into the most plentiful blossoms I can remember seeing, bringing on the pollinators. Wild Coffees matched the pace and the little honey bees, as well as the butterflies did a lot of hovering and buzzing. I could hear the humming as I worked in the beds beneath these shrubs.



Giant Ironweed

One “bloomer” that caught my eye in early April is the Giant Ironweed (*Vernonia gigantea*) that I planted a couple of years ago. The original plant seemed to have died back, but its progeny abound. Plenty to dig and pot next season. It is obviously a prolific self-seeder, as I had oodles of sprouts popping up everywhere. One noticeable clump is already nearly 18” tall and sporting those deep purple flower heads, which are in corymbs or panicles covering the top of the plant, with 12 to 20 flowers in each head. Its normal bloom season is June to October, and it is usually gone to seed by the time I return in the fall. I haven’t had the occasion to really watch it for pollinator activity, spending the last couple weeks before heading north just getting the yard as “summer ready” as I could before departure. I looked at Roger Hammer’s “Complete Guide to Florida Wildflowers” so learn more about this interesting plant. I found Tall Ironweed (*Vernonia angustifolia*) honoring British botanist William Vernon (1666-1711), who came to the United States in 1698 to collect plants, animals, fossils, and shells for Cambridge University.



Simpson's Stopper in bloom



Close up of Simpson's Stopper

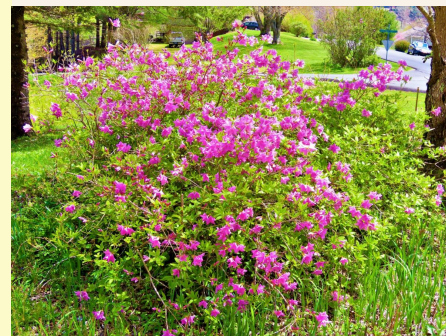
The name *angustifolia* relates to the narrow leaves. Giant Ironweed (*Vernonia gigantea*) has similar flower heads, but is much taller, with large, toothed leaves. According to folklore, members of this genus served a medicinal purpose, treating “the bite of serpents” and “women’s problems”.

Spring in the Blue Ridge

by Bill Dunson



As I write this in late April we have just recently migrated from FL to NC. So we find ourselves in our summer home in Boone, NC, which is at an altitude of 3400 feet. You can see from the photo that dogwoods, azaleas and viburnums are



Azalea pink NC yard
4.20.20 Bill Dunson

bursting into blossom. We have planted these on our two mountain-side acres with various perennials, shrubs and trees that benefit wildlife. We were also fortunate to inherit some older well grown plants which attract animals from the former owners. For example the dogwood flowers are pretty but their wildlife value mainly lies with the fruits which are avidly consumed in the fall by migrating Swainson's thrushes and tanagers. The striking azaleas attract many bumblebees for the nectar.

We are close to the Blue Ridge Parkway and thus to the escarpment that drops down as much as 2000 feet to the Piedmont. My photo shows a view of this drop-off from the parking lot of the Cascades Trail. When that was taken April 22 the nearby trees were leafless, yet you can see the trees down below in a warmer micro-climate are green and leafed out. This geological feature is due in large part to the collision of proto-Africa (Gondwana) and N America (Laurentia) about 330 million years ago and their separation 220 million years ago. The originally high peaks of the Appalachians (more than 20,000 ft) have now been worn down to their rounded current elevations.

The forests are famous for the communities of wildflowers that bloom and thrive in the ephemeral burst of light delivered to the ground before the trees leaf out. Here are a couple of examples from a hike along the Blue Ridge Parkway. The plant commonly referred to as "Jack in the Pulpit" should also be termed "Jill in the Pulpit" since the plants are either male or female. But they can switch sexes dependent on the resources available for growth and reproduction from the previous year. High resources support a female with consequent high demands for production of seeds, whereas low resources lead to males (pollen is cheap to make).

Trilliums can be abundant in some areas with suitable growth conditions and protection from serious deer herbivory. In this area steep slopes seem to discourage deer to some degree. It is interesting to consider what might pollinate these large flowers so early in the season when flying insects are not common. The red Wake Robin flower stinks and attracts flies as pollinators. The large flowered white trillium is odorless and is likely pollinated mainly by bumblebees which are warm blooded and can fly in cool spring weather. The seeds are dispersed mainly by ants.



Tree leaf out from
Cascades overlook 4.22.20
Bill Dunson



Jack Jill in the Pulpit MST
4.24.20 Bill Dunson



Trillium large flowered
MST 4.24.20n Bill Dunson



Trillium Wake Robin MST
4.24.20 Bill Dunson

Bluebirds are a conspicuous bird in early spring and begin to breed early and continue to breed several times. This male was sitting on a fence post near its nest box supplied by a local bird club. Hole nesting species such as bluebirds and tree swallows compete vigorously for the few natural nest cavities so we can help them out with boxes. The spectacular blue color of the male is not due to a pigment but to structural arrangement of keratin molecules and tiny air pockets in the feathers.

So wherever you are during Spring you can enjoy the biological changes that occur during this transitional period between winter and summer. The further north you go the more distinct these changes are but they occur even in southern areas. There is probably greater human enjoyment of spring in the north simply because winter can be so harsh, but spring flowers and a study of their pollinators is fun in any location.

Bill Dunson

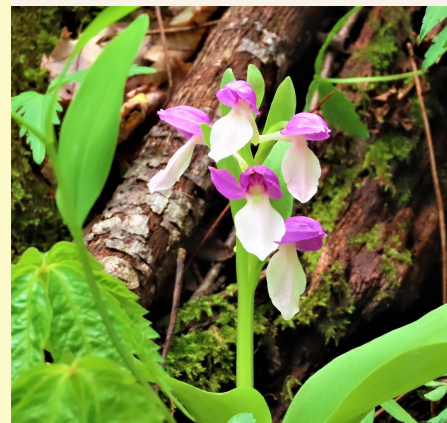
Boone, NC and Englewood, FL

<https://lemonbayconservancy.org/news/nature-notes-by-bill-dunson/>

Visit our website



Bluebird Brookshire NC
4.21.20 Bill Dunson



Showy orchids MST
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