



November 2020

## Report from Your President:

by Lois Cantwell

### Website

Mangrove Chapter members and friends, please visit our new website: <https://mangrove.fnpschapters.org/>. It has undergone a transformation that is impressive and more secure (note the "s" after http). I invite you to navigate all the nooks and crannies and discover what's there. Hover over the headers on our **Welcome** page where drop-downs take you to other areas of interest.

I like how you can **Contact Us** without having to remember our chapter email address.

The **Field Trips** page has a great list of **Plant Lists** in alphabetical order for close to 40 parks and preserves.

If you have missed any of our recent **Newsletters**, you can find the back issues from 2017 to present, or go farther back into those that are archived.

Check out our **Facebook** page and review recent postings.

If you are a Mangrove Chapter Member, **Join the Group**. This not a static website. Check our **News Blog** for announcements, new events and timely information. There is also a section for **Responses**, so we would appreciate your feedback. So, visit often and enjoy the read!

**Congratulations!** To Linda Wilson on her retirement! She has been an active and productive member in good standing with our Mangrove Chapter since 1994. (And she has graciously agreed to remain as our Treasurer through 2021). We know Linda will be out there, enjoying all that nature has to offer, not only in her own yard, but wherever the trails may lead.

### The Future of Zoom

Given the ongoing pandemic and subsequent meeting cancellations, we could move in the direction of "video conferencing". Many of you may already be using Zoom to participate in educational presentations offered by various groups. Our

chapter BOD members have been communicating during the last 7 months via email. We will try a Zoom meeting in early November for a "test drive" and see how that goes. For future reference, if you know of someone who has presented "environmental" programs on Zoom, please **Contact Us**.

### **Demonstration Garden Needs Your Support**

At this point, we seem to have at least 4 "garden keepers" committed to helping in the garden. We really need at least 4 more, as not everyone can always make it every Monday. So, if you have an interest in lending a hand, and looking for a way to serve our chapter, please **Contact Us**. Or just show up with an assortment of hand tools and a pair of gloves. We will be following the chapter's Covid19 Safety Guidelines. Start time is 9 AM. Don't think you have to know a lot about native plants, as this is a learning experience (and we have fun, too!) The Monday dates for November and December are: 11/9, 11/16, 11/23, 11/30, 12/7, 12/14, 12/21, and 12/28.

### **We Need Storage Space**

Most of our Mangrove Chapter property has been stored in the downstairs area at Cedar Point Environmental Center for many years. Educational materials, the tri-fold display board, tents, tables, plastic totes, etc., are in need of a home. If you know of a storage locker, or have spare room in a secure place, **Contact Us**. (Items have to be available for meetings and events as needed (when it becomes safe to have them in person).!"

[Click here to Visit our Website](#)

## **2020 Florida Native Plant Grant Indigo Isles MH Park**

Dear Mangrove Chapter Members:

Indigo Isles Mobile Home Park is a 72 unit park that was established in 1974. In 2014, we started to raise funds to build a boardwalk thru our mangroves to Lemon Bay. In the spring of 2018, our boardwalk was built. The front entrance was in need of improvement and your grant came at the perfect time.

My name is Sandy Weston and after reading of your plant grant in the Waterline, I recruited the help of our park gardener, Carol Prah. We invited park residents to discuss the layout and Carol researched the various Florida native plants and drew up a 2 year plan.

We were the recipients of a 2019 grant to establish our garden and in 2020 we obtained an additional grant to finish our plan which was for a Florida native tree. The tree

finalized our plan and in the future, will provide garden shade. In April, we purchased a bench from Recycled Plastic Factory of Englewood. This further completed an area where residents could sit and enjoy Florida's natural beauty.

For our 2020 grant, during Carol's research of Florida native trees, she found a tamarind tree at Lemon Bay Park that would be a nice addition. The tamarind tree purchased from Oaks Farm Nursery was approximately 8 foot. The tree was coming along great until September winds brought down a few branches. Attached are the following photos:

Photo 1 – tree in February – after planting and supports added.

Photo 2 – tree in August – doing great, so supports were removed.

Photo 3 – tree in October – unfortunately, the winds brought down a few branches.

Photo 4 – our Florida Native garden with tamarind tree.

We would like The Mangrove Chapter members to know that your grant is more than just providing funds. We have learned of the importance of planting Florida native plants and what it takes to maintain a natural area. We will continue to share this information with our residents.

We look forward towards watching our garden and tree mature. This area has become a great photo spot for our residents.

We truly appreciate the grants and knowledge we gained.

Thank you,



our Florida Native garden with tamarind tree.



Tamarind tree in August – doing great, so supports were removed.



Tamarind tree in February –  
after planting and supports  
added.

Tamarind tree in October –  
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**We are on Facebook!!!**  
**Look for: Mangrove Chapter of the Florida Native  
Plant Society**

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**Mangrove Native Plant Society**  
**COVID-19 Safety Guidelines for Meetings and  
Field Trips**

**For All Events:**

If you are not feeling well, please don't attend this gathering.  
Properly worn masks or face coverings are always required for participation.  
Participants must maintain appropriate 6' social distancing at any event.  
Please do not gather in groups.  
Use provided hand sanitizers as needed.  
Nearby restrooms are available for hand washing.

**Additional Guidance for Indoor or Outdoor Meetings:**

Participants must maintain appropriate 6' social distancing inside and outside the meeting room, following the markings on the floor.  
Entrance/exit signs and arrows may be posted for directional traffic flow.  
Chairs are placed at least six feet apart.  
Surfaces of tables and chairs in use are sanitized before and after use.  
No food or beverages are served. Attendees may bring a personal beverage.  
Attendance may be limited, depending on state/county/city mandates.

**Additional Guidance for Outdoor Walks and Activities:**

Properly worn masks or face coverings are always required for participation.  
Social distancing of 6' is emphasized for sitting, standing, and walking activities.  
Surfaces of tables, chairs, and benches in use are sanitized before and after use.  
Attendees are encouraged to bring their own chairs, beverages, packaged snacks, and hand sanitizer.

**Butterflies and unusual flowers**

## in early October in NC mountains

by Bill Dunson

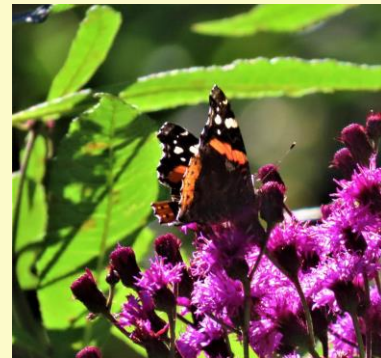
Given that it is Oct. 1 and the weather has been quite cool in the Blue Ridge Mountains of NC, I was surprised to see so many butterflies out active today. Some were basking but others were out feeding on flowers. I encountered a great spangled fritillary and a red spotted purple warming up with outstretched wings. A red admiral was gathering nectar on a late blooming iron weed, and an eastern tailed blue was on a calico aster (Picture on the right).



Fritillary great spangled



Red spotted purple



Red admiral on ironweed

I also encountered two types of gentians which I rarely see- a stiff gentian and a bottle or possibly a striped gentian. These gentian flowers are reputed to be only accessible by strong bumblebees that can force open the closed petals.



Gentian bottle *Gentiana Andrewsii*



Gentian stiff *Gentiana quinquefolia*

## Trip report Stump Pass native plant walk Oct. 28, 2020

article and photographs by Bill Dunson

We have embarked on the brave new world of field trips under Covid virus restrictions and fears. This initial walk at Stump Pass Beach State Park on Oct. 28 was a trial run to see if we could continue to enjoy field trips despite the fears about the pandemic. We restricted the publicity to the club roster and a few personal invitations. We provided four guides (Bill Dunson, Charlie Woodruff, Kate Borduas and Mike Wesiensee) so that the group could be split into small sections as necessary. As it happened we had 11 attendees and thus broke the group into two separate guided tours, one starting down the beach and the other going through the woods.

The entire hike is about 2.5 miles round trip to the pass and some people chose not to go that far and returned after two hours. The rest continued for three hours. We had a somewhat cloudy and relatively cool day in the high 80's and thus sweated but did not suffer too much from the heat.

We introduced these plant lovers to a few of the many interesting animals that occur in this area. For example there was a dragonfly migration underway and we watched common green darners (top ), wandering gliders (lower), and saddlebags (not pictured) fly overhead. The beach also has many spectacular animals including this ghost crab and the shed carapace of a speckled crab with a very intricate pattern.



Jamaican Dogwood Seedling

There were plenty of plants to identify to challenge the best of us. A previous list supplied by Barb Seibel showed 83 species present and we added at least 9 more. One of the least expected was a seedling of the Caribbean species Jamaican dogwood (*Piscidia*- so named because it contains a fish poison rotenone in its tissues- used by the plant as an insecticide). Some other tropical species not often seen in this area were mayten (*Maytenus*) and sea mahoe (*Thespesia* not *Hibiscus*).



A native Lantana (button sage) (above) was common and the tiny flowers attracted many insects. The native inkberry was beginning to bloom and you can see why it is sometimes called "half-flower." A take home question is what is the purpose of the unusual structure of this flower- what pollinator(s) does it attract? Cocoplums are abundant on the spit despite the fact that 20 some years ago they were excluded by winter frosts. They are quite unusual ecologically in inhabiting both low fresh water hammocks in the Everglades and sandy island soils. The wild "coffees" were covered in fruit (do NOT brew into a drink!) but the birds will be enjoying the bright red fruits. In contrast snowberry vine-like plants (above right) were covered in white berries which are eaten by some birds but perhaps not until late in the season when little else is available.



Coffee wild fruits



Inkberry native flower



Cocoplum fruit

One of the most unexpected plants to find on this barrier island spit is rouge plant. Its bright red fruits are picked off by birds but it is more typical of damp fresh water soils in the interior. Ground cherry is a nightshade family plant with a pretty orange "lantern" holding an edible "tomato" when it is ripe. Note that in general only **RIPE** fruits should ever be eaten from any wild plants, even those that are toxic when green and whose foliage may always be toxic. The scorpiontail is another surprising plant to encounter in this dry silica sand island habitat. Do not confuse it with the lizard tail which is a freshwater species Scorpion Tail





Rouge plant



Ground Cherry tomatoe  
fruit



Ground Cherry Fruit

Some characteristic vines of the island beach are railroad vine, ocean blue morning glory and bay bean. All three have exceptionally beautiful flowers. The railroad vines have colonized the upper beach on the southern end of the park to such an extent that birders asked for them to be removed to allow the least terns to breed more successfully. Bay bean has also flourished to a great extent in several areas behind the dunes and flowers were being visited by many gorgeous green Mexican orchid bees. These bees have a very long proboscis and can reach far into flowers with long corolla tubes. Thus they are able to obtain nectar even from firebush flowers. The ocean blue morning glory also had orchid bees plunging into the depths of their flowers.



Railroad vine



Bay bean



Ocean Blue Morning Glory

If you can tear your gaze away from the beauties of the beach, sand and surf you will find a world of amazing nature among the wild plants at Stump Pass Beach State Park.



Speckled Crab Carapace



Ghost Crab

## More Pictures from the Stump Pass Walk

pictures by Mike Weisensee

These pictures are from the group that went the beach route during the Stump Pass walk.



The group that went on the  
Stump Pass Walk  
10/28/2020



Beach Bean *canavalia rosea*



Baycedar *Suriana maritima*



West Indian Milkberry  
*Chiococca alba*



Sea Oats  
*Uniola paniculata*



Poorman's Patch  
*Mentzelia floridana*



Nickernut  
*Guilandina bonduc*



Necklace Pod  
*Sophora tomentosa*



Hercules' Club  
*Zanthoxylum clava-herculis*

Many of our members are not only "plant people" but also "bird people". Our walks have something for all our nature lovers..



Sandwich Tern



Black Bellied Plover



Semi Palmated Plover

## CHEC Volunteer Opportunities

There are volunteer opportunities out there, especially in the outdoor environment, so plenty of ways that you can get outside, socialize to some extent and serve your chapter! See the link below for the CHEC Calendar.

Lois sent in this note about our Chapter and CHEC opportunities:

I spoke with Shelby Festa, Volunteer/Program Coordinator at the Alligator Creek location. She was inquiring as whether our Chapter would be leading any walks on any of the CHEC managed preserves, such as Oyster Creek, as we have in the past. I will keep in touch with her as we get into the season.

Shelby has inherited some additional responsibilities associated with Cedar Point Environmental Park, since the Resource Manager's position\* is open again (Susan Converse has resigned) and the building is still closed for remodeling. She is gathering information on volunteers, so if you have been or are planning to be a CHEC Volunteer at that location, contact Shelby at 941-575-5435

or [shelby@checflorida.org](mailto:shelby@checflorida.org). She may be short of trail guides at the moment.

\*This position will soon be posted on the CHEC Website, so anyone out there with background and qualifications should inquire.

She has also just found out that we have a history of doing monthly Plant Surveys there. If anyone among you has been continuing to do these, let me know. If those of you who have done them in the past would like to help, perhaps the best person to contact would be Barb Seibel. She has been the keeper of the data. If this is no longer a CHEC project, it can continue to be a Mangrove Chapter project.

I also updated Shelby on our Chapter's ongoing sponsorship of the Demonstration Garden at Cedar Point and that many of us in Mangrove Chapter have also been CHEC Volunteers. I will be looking to our membership to add people to our "garden keepers" list, as we have lost a few people for various reasons. Let me know if you are interested in participating. We meet on Monday mornings at 9 AM and work for just a couple of hours. As soon as we have identified a group, we can get started, although I will not be back until mid to late November. (Someone would need to keep track of who is working so that volunteer hours can be recorded until I return).

See the link below for the CHEC Calendar.

Lois

<http://www.checflorida.org/Calendar.html>

## Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center Schedule of events

Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center and the  
Charlotte County Natural Resource Department will be conducting the following  
free programs to the public in **November 2020**.  
All programs can be found at [www.ChecFlorida.org](http://www.ChecFlorida.org)

**Seagrass Wading Trip- Wednesday, November 18<sup>th</sup>** Join CHEC for a wading adventure through the seagrass beds of Lemon Bay! All participants will be guided approximately a half-mile to the wading site, where they will collect and view creatures of the bay. Participants will need to wear closed-toe shoes and clothes that may get wet during the trip. Participants are also encouraged to wear sunscreen and insect repellent and to bring plenty of drinking water. Advance registration is required. Call 941-575-5435 for more information or to register. Meet in the Cedar Point parking lot near the restrooms at 10:00 AM.

## Nature Walks

All walks begin at **9:00 AM**. On these casual walks with CHEC volunteers, you will search and learn about plants, animals, fungi, and more that live in Charlotte County preserves.

Prepare for each hike with plenty of water, insect repellent, sunscreen, and clothing that will protect you from insects and plants. For more information or to register, call at **941-575-5435**.

**Tuesday, November 3rd** Join a CHEC 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. Please call 941-575-5435 for more information or to register.

**Thursday, November 5th** Join CHEC 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. Please call 941-575-5435 for more information or to register.

**Wednesday, November 11th** Join CHEC 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. Please call 941-575-5435 for more information or to register.

**Friday, November 13th** Join CHEC on a walk at **Bayshore Live Oak Park** along the shoreline of Charlotte Harbor to explore the various mangrove species found there. We will cover mangrove identification, general ecology including special adaptations that allow mangroves to thrive in salty environments, and why mangroves are important and protected in Florida. Reservations are recommended for this program. Call 941-575-5435.

**Friday, November 20th** Join CHEC 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. Please call 941-575-5435 for more information or to register.

**Tuesday, November 24th** Join CHEC 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. Please call 941-575-5435 for more information or to register.

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

[Visit our website](#)

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