



Report from Your President:

by Lois Cantwell

As the fall season approaches, there is a certain amount of angst among us, which was evidenced by a recent poll of our membership. Only 10% of our Chapter showed interest in attending an October meeting. In the grip of this ongoing pandemic, we have decided to dispense with regular Membership Meetings for the time being and focus on Field Trips, increasing the number of those as a way to compensate. When necessary, having a brief "meeting" at the beginning of a field trip can suffice. This will get us outdoors, provide a venue to safely practice social distancing, as well as offering fellowship and educational opportunities.

In the meantime, I hope everyone is staying safe, keeping well and finding creative ways to make use of the "stay at home" time we all are experiencing these days. Social distancing is an important thing, but also make sure you are "socializing from a distance", reaching out to friends, neighbors and relatives, maybe contacting an old acquaintance who lost touch over the years. Take advantage of those virtual educational programs, as well. I've spent much of the spring and summer working on yard and garden projects, which have caught me up on my original "five-year plan" after we bought this house. Meanwhile, there was a 1500-piece puzzle (Great Horned Owl--all those feathers!); packing picnic lunches and taking a drive in the country; parking by the lake and watching the wave action on stormy days, or looking for freighters; or reading an 875-page historical fiction novel set in ancient Rome. Never did get around to washing windows...so how are you spending your time?

Please Welcome New Member: Jack Foard, from Englewood.

Brief Announcements

Field Trips: Two Field Trips are planned so far. One in October and another in November. Details will be forthcoming via "blast email" to our membership list. We will start with those, getting a handle on our new Social Distancing Rules, and open them up to the public later on. FNPS is now requiring the Chapters to submit signed Field Trip Waivers for each outing, so those will be circulated at each walk. Your Co-coordinators for this season are Bill Dunson, Kate Borduas, and Laura Soule.

Bylaws: A final revised document has been approved by the BOD, and will be provided to members via email or on our website. The rather wordy paragraph form has been replaced by an outline format that is more concise and easier to read.

Website: The FNPS Website (<https://fnps.org>) has been remodeled, taking on a new

appearance. Our Chapter Website is still a work in progress. Dave and Barb are slowly getting there, adding content, working in the background on various sections, and rebuilding the front page. Even after we "go live", it will continue to be a work in progress regarding content.

Demonstration Garden: This will need a great deal of TLC! Since there was no real work being done, probably since May, one can only imagine how wild it has gotten over the hot summer months. For those of you who are looking for a way to serve our Chapter, this is a great opportunity, plus it's an outdoor activity. We can increase our plant identification skills and share experiences with cultivation. Lois Cantwell will be serving as Garden Chair this season.

Other Activities: You will be updated on other outdoor activities, such as Plant Surveys and Work Days as more information becomes available. These will not only get us outdoors, but offer educational opportunities, too. The Cedar Point Environmental Center building is closed for remodeling, possibly through the end of the year, so we will work on these activities moving forward.

[Click here to Visit our Website](#)

We are on Facebook!!!

Look for: Mangrove Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society

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.

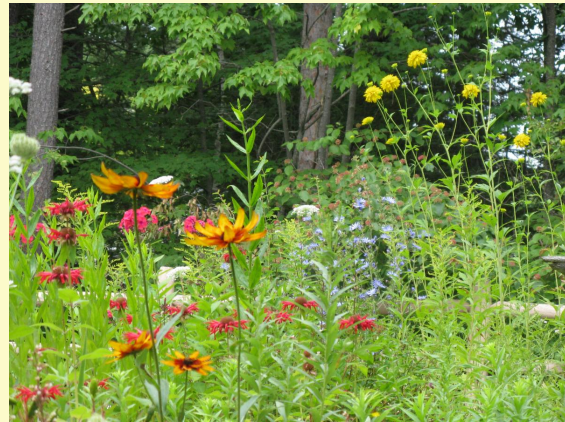
Additional Guidance for Outdoor Walks and Activities:
Properly worn masks or face coverings are always required for participation.

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.

Late Summer & Fall in my Northern Yard

Lois Cantwell

On the first day of fall here in Michigan, we were blessed with a lovely sunny day of about 73 degrees with a light breeze, heralding the advent of autumn. The forecast called for a full week of this treat. I gladly traded the long-sleeved flannel shirt and long pants I had been wearing the previous week, for a tee-shirt and shorts, as I spent the afternoon working on fall gardening projects. Last year at this time we had a September plagued by rainy days and 50-degree temperatures most of that month.



Tall Sunflowers near fence (background);
summer flowers still in bloom (foreground)



Looking around the cottage garden, it's interesting to speculate

on why some plants are more or less robust, blooming earlier or later, taller or shorter than previous seasons. Different weather patterns, soil quality, crowding,



Butterfly Milkweed

more critter activity (chipmunks, squirrels and rabbits, oh my), or fewer bees and other pollinators. Who knows! Once my various species of goldenrod began to bloom, I did see an uptick in bees, compared with the earlier months. The butterfly weed made it into September unscathed, with no monarch or milkweed tuft moth larvae, compared with last season when it was stripped bare. Saw half as many monarch cats on the tall native milkweed this summer, as well, and the moth cats came into the picture later than usual. Interestingly, they are still present. Hope they pupate before the next cold front arrives.

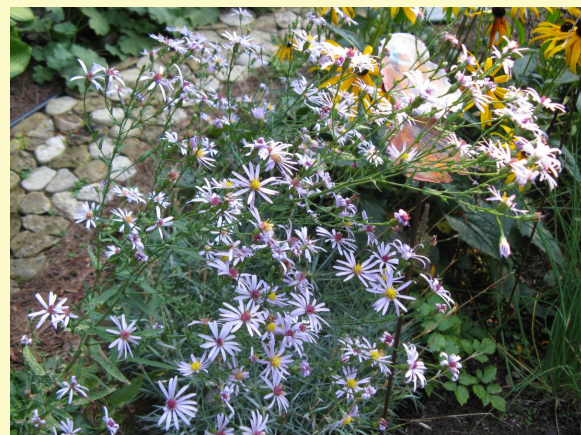


Obedient Plant, a late bloomer



This is the best time of the up-north season to do some transplanting, so I have been busy "re-designing". Some people rearrange furniture, I move plants. Now that the old "rock garden" is ready, space is filling up with plants that didn't seem to be thriving where they were originally planted. A little more shade, a bit more moisture, richer soils, less root competition, will make for an interesting spring.

Sedum turning to dark pink,
with Purple Coneflower in background



Wild asters

Fall Flowers

Reminder: No October or November Mangrove Chapter Meeting. The group will meet for Field Trips. Date and time will be sent via e-mail

[Visit our website](#)
