



April 2021

## Report from Your President:

by Lois Cantwell

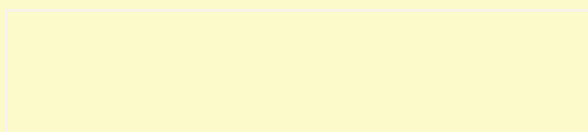
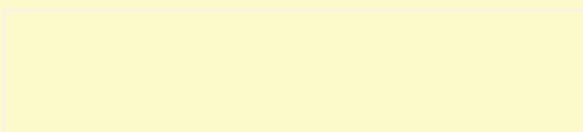
Many of our members may remember the brochures that FNPS printed by the thousands a few years ago, example “Native Landscaping”, West Coast, “Restoring Beauty & Balance to Florida”. Each brochure was specific to the geographical regions in the state, showing examples of trees, flowers and shrubs in various combinations of soil moisture/dryness and sun/shade. We handed them out at meetings and special events, and still have a bit of a supply.

Well, this concept has been taken to a whole new level. With input from each of the FNPS Chapters, they are designing a “Good Citizen” Brochure for Florida newcomers. The state has been divided into regions, with chapters in each region expected to collaborate on this project. The FNPS Education Committee has created the brochure, expecting us to develop a region-specific “insert” to go into the brochure. This focuses on local parks, preserves and other natural areas where certain plant communities/habitats can be found. In addition to that, a set of sample gardens, including individual plant photos are presented. These are designed to mirror those that are seen in nature that a newcomer can use as a guide to planting in their own landscape.

This all came down the pipe at the end of February, and needless to say, Linda Manley and I have spent hundreds of hours and sorted through thousands of photos during the month of March in an effort to get this accomplished before I leave in mid-April. Giving credit where it is due, and much appreciated, Linda, who has an editor’s background, has dedicated much more time to this effort than I have. This has left us both rather grumpy and somewhat punchy, so don’t ask us what we have been doing in our vast amount of spare time.

### **Native Plant Sale, March 20<sup>th</sup>**

With advertising going out to The Englewood Review and WaterLine magazine, as well as our Facebook and Website postings, we didn’t have a lot of expectation that we would be getting much interest in our native plants. It certainly wasn’t the crowd that we usually get at our “Plant Native” Day events of the past, but a steady influx of customers came by to browse and purchase our home-grown plants for “suggested donations”. To date, we have contributed \$455 to our chapter treasury and held another \$72 in singles to use for change at future sales. That was after I was reimbursed for purchases of bagged soil, and about 150 labels for plant ID. Yes, I wrote out all those little sticks by hand.





First carload of plants arrive



Customers shop and browse

Leading up to this Saturday event, we had a couple of pre-sales where I simply put a “Native Plants Available Today” sign out at the front entrance to Cedar Point Park on the Mondays that we were working there. We “sold” a fair number of plants, which put a dent in our supply, so I took to digging and potting even more plants from my yard to make sure there were enough for the advertised event. Even on the Mondays following that, we were still getting a few customers, so little by little we are getting down to about 20 or 30 remaining pots. There has also been a bit of collateral damage from playful resident critters. If you read this and think you might want to add something to your yard, come on by and check out what’s left any time. Gerald will be happy to take your donation on our behalf. Just check in with him upstairs. We actually need to thank him for promoting our plant sales in numerous Facebook postings. And a big Thank You to those of you who contributed plants from your own yards, and those who came out to help us with the event!



Jane talks about Spiderwort



Ruth assists with plant selection

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**Welcome New Members:** Steven and Elizabeth Plust; Joseph and Carolyn Backus; Barbara LaCorte, all from the Englewood area.

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## In Memory

John Sibley (1950-2021) was a long-time member of Coccoloba Chapter, FNPS; served the Florida Association of Native Nurseries (FANN) as president and co-president for 8 years; and Coccoloba Chapter for 10 years. He had moved to Florida from Connecticut to start a landscaping business, readily embracing native plants; worked with WGPU on a native plant landscaping documentary series, served on county advisory boards; and was personally involved in



hundreds of native plant sales and award-winning landscape and garden projects throughout SW Florida. As recently as December 2020, he was awarded the Mike Kenton Award by FANN at their Annual Members Meeting. John's well-established All Native Garden Center & Plant Nursery continues into the future with Joaquin Herrera at the helm. (Excerpted from an article in the recent Sabal Minor, authored by Marlene Rodak (Coccoloba) and Cammie Donaldson (Conradia) Chapters.

[Click here to Visit our Website](#)

## URGENT - Your help is needed!

Bills that would establish grants for the planting of native wildflower and grass roadside pollinator corridors have been introduced to the U.S. Senate and House. These bills could have a significant impact in the effort to support pollinators by providing the native habitat they need.

Your help is needed to keep these bills moving. Please ask your U.S. representative to co-sponsor [H.R. 1982](#) and your U.S. senator to co-sponsor [S. 806](#).

To find your lawmakers' contact information, [click here](#).

## What's Up in Our Demonstration Garden

We have reached a point in our rehabilitation efforts, that there isn't much more to do in the way of projects, just keeping the garden in order until such time as our crew disbands for the summer months. We have had just a handful of helpers the last couple of weeks, dressing up the beds in the main garden area, keeping remaining potted plants watered in hopes that the inventory will be as low as possible unidentified aster above (not wanting to leave them sitting around unattended and probably not surviving the heat and humidity with or without rainfall). Much has been accomplished in the three and a half months of toiling in the dirt, removing exotics, cutting back overgrowth, weeding, transplanting, and standing back and admiring the results from time to time.



Coral Honeysuckle on arbor



Rain Garden in early  
January



Rain Garden in late March

We have a great crew that works well together, and 6 out of 8 are Mangrove Chapter members, 4 of whom are new to our organization. One surprise that greeted us the last Monday in March was to see the resident mulberry tree bent over to the ground in the back of the garden. It is loaded with ripening berries, not

that they were heavy enough to weigh it down, but someone or something caused it to bend (but not break) over the weekend.



Varnish Leaf

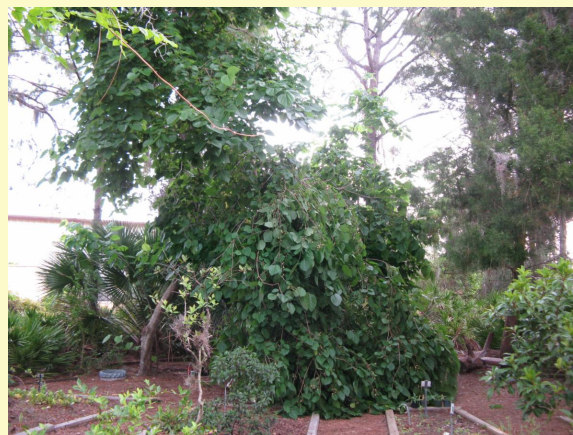


Dune Sunflower



unidentified Aster

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**We are on Facebook!!!**  
**Look for: Mangrove Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society**

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## **Yard Share: March 13**

### **March 13<sup>th</sup> Yard Tour**

Thank goodness the three yards included in the tour were all in the same general neighborhood. On the other hand, I had no idea that the South Gulf Cove area was to vast. We saved time by splitting 2 of the yards (Thomas Hill and Susy D'Hont) between people in the first and second half of the alphabet. It was a lovely day, starting with a 9:15 AM arrival time and allowing about an hour for each tour, then switched places, finally driving to the third yard (newly landscaped by Annie Schiller and her crew from Florida Native Plant Nursery, Inc. in Sarasota for Jayne Neville and her husband). Jayne (one of our new members) was particularly excited to show off her front yard designed with wildlife in mind. Fruiting and berry-producing plants will support pollinators while blooming and birds and other critters when fruits and berries are ripe. It will be interesting to re-visit next year. Back to Thomas and Susy's yards:

Thomas's front yard presented the



typical landscaper's version of a grouping of mostly non-native trees, shrubs and other plants that are seen in most neighborhoods, although he doesn't care about a pristine lawn, doesn't use chemicals or much irrigation. The back yard was an adventure in seeing how one can utilize the land to create a wildlife-friendly habitat, incorporating mostly natives, combined with interesting exotics. A large collection of berry and fruit producing trees and shrubs was seen, including marlberry, elderberry, wild coffee, holly, stopper, wild lime, cocoplum wax myrtle, and beautyberry. Left is a sea grape with quail berry in the foreground.



Cherokee Bean behind weathered Brazillian Pepper trunk

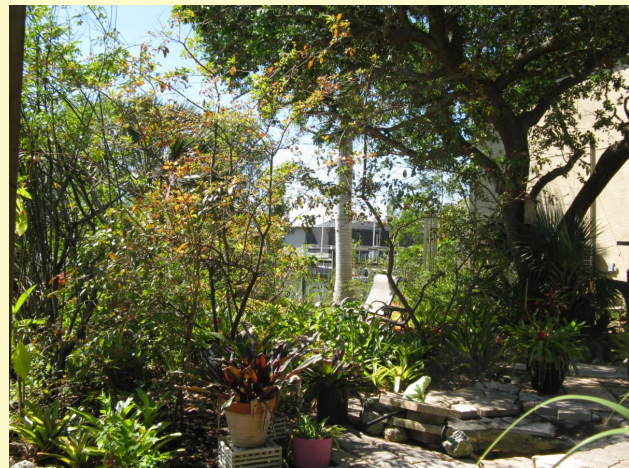


Thomas talks about plantings, removal of Brazillian Pepper



Open area that floods in summer, trees shade the house.

Susy's yard differs in content, yet still supplying habitat that supports birds (her primary area of interest), but can be home to a variety of small animals with many plants for pollinators. She loves bromeliads and we saw many varieties in all the nooks and crannies of the yard. Following many winding pathways, some covered in pavers that she rescues from construction "dumps", as well as grassy paths, we wound around from place to place seeing a number of trees, shrubs, vines, wildflowers and ground covers that make up this wonderful composition. In one section there were numerous pots containing a variety of plants and vegetables, illustrating that when you run out of space, this arrangement works, too.







Bromeliads in front of shrubs/trees catch the sun



One of many garden paths, setting area



When you run out of space, use posts (raise veggies in winter)

## Mangrove Chapter Field Trip Reports

by Lois Cantwell

Four field trips in a 19-day period might be a record for our chapter. I managed to walk at all of the locations and somehow survived, especially when we got into the very warm weather for the last two outings. It looks like there will be at least 3 more in April.

**March 10<sup>th</sup>, Lemon Creek Wildflower Preserve, Western Trail:** We revisited LCWP for a third time in order to complete our plant list on a tour of the western tidal areas. One of our newest members, Joe Backus, who is a professional photographer, captured much of the action, taking about 90 photos, with awesome close-ups of many of the plants and flowers.



Bill and Barb ID a new plant



Pond with new plantings in foreground



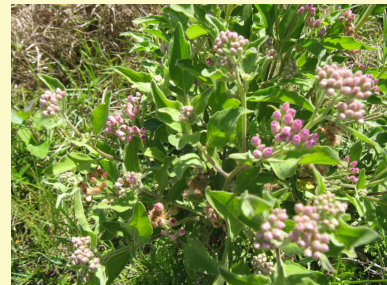
Group hears about effects of salinity



Pond with Mangrove sprouts at water's edge



Spanish Needles and Peppergrass



Camphorweed (Pluchea)

**March 24<sup>th</sup>, Myakka Island Point:** The last time our chapter visited this area was in late March of 2013. This 100-acre park, running along the eastern bank of the Myakka River presents a very diverse mixture of terrestrial, brackish and salt water habitats. These include white mangroves, home to the uncommon golden leather fern, hardwood hammocks and pine flatwoods. Observed plants ranged from blueberry, to milkworts,



candyroot, bay lobelias, primrose willows (both native and exotic), camphor weed, and many more.



A crowd gathers in the parking lot



Sabal Palms, Leather Fern, other wet area plants



Wax Myrtle shines in the sun



Sabal Palms, Muhly Grass and Pluchea in foreground.



Narrow-leaf Salt Bush



Poison Ivy adorns a Sabal Palm trunk



Pre-walk Instructions

**March 27<sup>th</sup>, Old Miakka Preserve:** Jeff Weber and Kate Borduas teamed up to lead us on a very educational tour of this property, with additional parcels acquired since our last visit there around Thanksgiving, 2017. Sarasota County will add even more acres of preserved land in the near future. As manager of this property, Jeff gave us an informative tour through the oak scrub area, where we saw 4 different species of oaks in their lovely spring-green foliage. Numerous types of flowering shrubs included blueberry, deer-berry, gallberry, and sparkleberry were seen, along with a rarely seen scrub olive.



Exploring the dried creek bed





Large Sand Pine



Myrtle Oak



Deerberry



Water Oak



One excellent find was a Florida Scrub Roseling in the Spiderwort (Commelinaceae) Family. According to WKT's latest Florida Wildflowers book, it is endemic to sandhills, scrub and dry ruderal areas. Checking with Jeff, it has been vouchered in Sarasota County. Some rather large scrub pines were also pointed out. A creek that had been running with water the previous week had dried up enough for us to foray into a shady area with just a few remaining Savannah Iris. In a recently burned area, we had a discussion about the emergence of spring flowers and how the seed bank is triggered by fire/smoke to germinate.





Quest for the Savanna Iris



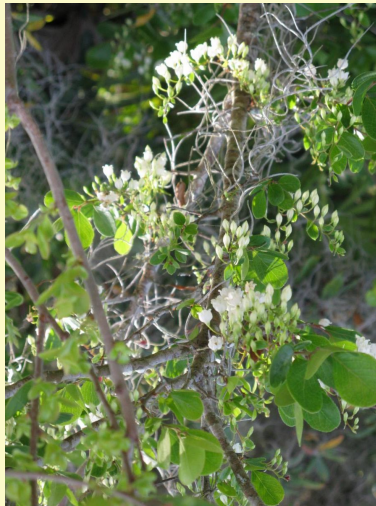
Savanna Iris



Huckleberry



Discussion at burned area



Sparkleberry



Chapman's Oak

After the walk, we caravanned over to Laurel Schiller's place to refresh, enjoy a picnic lunch and browse the nursery. Some of us left with acquisitions and I finally had the opportunity to "spend" my gift certificate that had been "burning a hole in my pocket" for over a year. (Thanks, Mitch, et.al!!) It was a very enjoyable day!

**March 28<sup>th</sup>, Myakka State Forest:** This was a hastily-arranged add-on to round out the month. Bill discovered so many "blooming things" on the Gordon Smith Trail that we felt compelled to get out there before the next scheduled field trip date. They would not have been as varied and plentiful had we waited another couple of weeks. The western area had been recently burned, while the eastern area had not, creating an interesting comparison between quantity and variety of flowering plants. Add an open wetland to the mix, and any wonder we had 109 species on our list, with only 4 exotics. Drumhead, procession flower, pineland sabatia, pine hyacinth, wild petunia, skullcap and many more made for fabulous photo-ops.





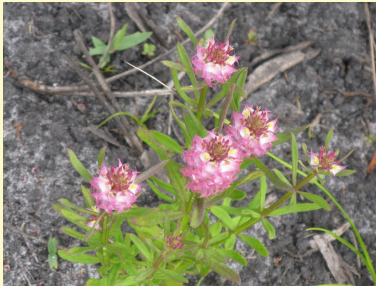
Very Tall Purple Thistle  
ready to bloom



Pineland Daisy



White Lobelia



Drumheads



Sabatia in pathway



Blueberries riping in the sun

## Field Trips for March

### Field Trip Dates for April:

**7<sup>th</sup> (Don Pedro State Park, land side),** Don Pedro Island State Park on the Cape Haze Peninsula, Charlotte County, FL, is not a high-profile natural area. If people know anything about it, they would think that it is simply a mainland gateway to the island park and a convenient place to rent and launch kayaks. However, it is much more as an example of the fast-disappearing coastal habitat mixture consisting of salt marshes/mangroves and pine flatwoods. The approximately 1.7-mile trail shown in red on the aerial map illustrates one way to experience this wonderful mixture of natural landscapes. See e-mail from Lois for more detailed information and pictures taken by Bill Dunson. For further information contact Bill Dunson ( [wdunson@comcast.net](mailto:wdunson@comcast.net) ).

### **24<sup>th</sup> (Carlton Reserve),**

so mark your calendars (they will be listed on our Website Calendar) and you will receive field trip announcements and reminders as we approach each date.

## What's Up In My Garden

by Lois Cantwell







## Get to know spring wildflowers

Spring is a great time of year to see native wildflowers along Florida's roadsides and in natural areas.

Want to know what to look for and where? Join us at 2 p.m. Tuesday, April 13, for a free webinar with the Foundation's Research and Planting consultant Dr. Jeff Norcini as he talks about Florida's common spring wildflowers of every hue, even true blue! Orchids, carnivorous plants and everything in between will be featured. Many of the wildflowers included in the presentation occur throughout the state.

[Click here to register to learn more about Florida's spring wildflowers.](#)

[Read Jeff's report](#) on this year's spring wildflowers.

### National Wildflower Week kickoff

Save the date! National Wildflower Week is the first full week of May, and we're planning a special roadside **wildflowers webinar workshop at 2 p.m. Monday, May 3**, that will mark the official launch of our efforts in the territory covered by FDOT District 2.

Plan to tune in to hear from butterfly expert Dr. Jaret Daniels, meet the Foundation's North Florida Wildflower Alliance Liaison Geena Hill, hear about Alachua County's amazing wildflower program and more!

*Stay tuned - registration information is coming soon.*

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## Annual CHNEP Calendar Photo Contest



The Coastal & Heartland National Estuary Partnership welcomes your photography submissions of nature in the CHNEP area. Our

annual photo contest site is now underway. Please join in the fun and help us spread the word!

The CHNEP annual nature calendar showcases the beauty and diversity of our program area and is distributed to thousands all over Southwest Florida.

*Submissions will be accepted until July 1st* and winners will be notified mid-September. To learn more about submission guidelines or to enter the contest, please click the button below:

[Submit Photos Here](#)

## 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.

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[Visit our website](#)

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