

Report from Your President:

by Lois Cantwell



One thing about the month of March, it was always the time of our annual outreach event, “Plant Native” Day. Among many traditional events everywhere, it will also not take place this season due to this pandemic situation. As a sort of substitute, we are planning to have a rather “low key” sort of “homey” plant offering at the Cedar Point Environmental Center, on Saturday, March 20th, from 9 AM to Noon. We will be offering our home-grown native plants for suggested donations in the Demonstration Garden. No fan-fare, no commercial nursery plants. Our Covid19 Safety Guidelines will be implemented.

There will be some advertising and we will have a simple sign out at the park entrance. Leading up to that date, we will also be putting out that same sign on each Monday morning that our “garden keepers” are on duty (March 1, 8, and 15). After the Saturday event, we will continue with additional Mondays through April in order to reduce our inventory for the summer. So, if any among you have any plants you would like to pot up and contribute to the cause, please drop them off at the garden.



Laura and Muffy potting lilies

Mondays are best, but if you stop by when our crew is not there, leave them in the area where you see our potted specimens, and do NOT leave them on the picnic tables—on the ground next to the others is best. We will sort them. Make sure they are labelled. If you need pots, or have pots to donate, there are still a few 1-gallon pots, and several larger ones behind the restrooms.

Welcome New Members: Mary McDowell and Harry Barnes, from Englewood. Mary has been working with the “Garden Keepers” at Cedar Point since December.

In Memory: Ron Mills (and wife Tobi) had been Mangrove Chapter members for

nearly 10 years. Residing in Punta Gorda, they traveled a good distance to attend our meetings at Lemon Bay Park. He had grown up in Ohio with a love of nature, ultimately serving with the Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Recreation in that state. Upon retirement, the couple moved to Punta Gorda. He eventually became president of the Peace River Audubon Society there. He was also committed to giving back and helping others through the Lions Club and the Early Learning Coalition of Florida Heartland. I remember him as a gentle person with a quirky sense of humor. He was also artistic and would contribute some of his cartoons and drawings to our meeting raffles. He will be missed by many.

[Click here to Visit our Website](#)

What's Up in Our Demonstration Garden



We now have the “woodland garden” pretty much under control. That three-some of ladies who have done most of the clearing in that entire area are quite a team. I have nicknamed them the “Vegematics”, as they can create a huge pile of debris in no time. While they were doing their thing, our other garden keepers, a couple from Michigan (my home state), have made great strides in the original “butterfly garden”. It is also

getting an overhaul, where the overhanging Wild Lime branches were trimmed back, tons of accumulated pine needles removed, Bloodberry that self-seeded in too many places is under control, weedy grass removed, 2 Muhly grasses in the wrong places relocated, a dead-looking Necklace Pod is coming back to life with little green sprouts, and the Twinevine is getting more sun.

Our next project will be the “rain garden”. Yes, lots of gardens within our garden. It has become a bit more accessible now that other surrounding vegetation is under control. We are slowly identifying which plants remain compared to the multitude of species we originally planted when it was established in 2015 and featured that year as the theme of our “Plant Native” Day. Taking it slowly, we will eventually sort out the “weeds” Taking it slowly, we will eventually sort out the “weeds” from the “keepers” and build on that.

One transplant that will be placed in the bottom of the rain garden is a Leather Fern that is currently residing in a pot at my house. And there are several plants that I hope to donate to the gardens from my yard that have to be moved. Never want to waste a perfectly good plant! Picture Below: Bob and Martha transplant Muhly Grass

Below: Martha raking pine mulch.





Above: Rain Garden
View, sidewalk area

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

Yard Share: March 13



Marlberry from Thomas Hill's yard

A Yard Visit with one of our members, Thomas Hill, who lives in South Gulf Cove and describes his yard as a “wildlife sanctuary” will take place on **March 13th beginning at 9:30 AM**. In addition, Susy d'Hont will also offer a tour of her gardens, as they are in the same community. We will split the groups between the two yards and then swap places to avoid overcrowding. Location and driving instructions will be sent out to the membership about a week prior to the visit.

A sneak preview of the plants you will see at the Yard share event.



From Thomas Hill's yard



From Thomas Hill's yard



Coreopsis at Thomas Hill's yard



An overview of Susy dHont's yard



Mexican Flame Vine from Susy's yard



Salvia from Susy's yard

Mangrove Chapter Field Trip Report February 10, 2021



On February 10th, we returned to the Venice area, this time visiting the Sleeping Turtles/Rohlfing Preserve. Barb and I walked with Charlie Woodruff's group of about 9 people. She was keeping track of the plant list, and I did my best to balance on 2 walking sticks and spy out plants along the way as an assistant. We did well as a "team-ette". It was a lovely walk below an over-story of predominately large Live Oaks, draped in all sorts of epiphytes, comingled with some Laurel Oaks and a smattering of pines, with an understory of young Cabbage Palms. The scenery was back-lighted by the sunshine, creating a rather ethereal effect. The contrast in foliage of the bright green new leaves emerging from the Laurel Oaks against the Live Oaks' rather bare branches was picturesque.



Oaks



Tillandsia (unspecified)



Charlie examining plant structure



At one point on the trail, an area had been "flagged" by Bill when reconnoitering the preserve on a previous day. It was thought that there may be a rare and endangered species of *Tillandsia balbisiana* lurking about in the trees among all the other myriad of epiphytes, but we couldn't spy it out. Our consolation prize was a rather huge bromeliad perched on high with a sunny aura behind it. It made for a good photo-op at least.

Field Trip Report at Lemon Bay Park



On **February 27th** Kate Borduas led a field trip to Lemon Bay Park, with 11 attendees. The original plan was to walk the “mangrove” side of the park, but with the number of people in the group on the narrow walkways being a negative factor, we decided on the pine flatwoods area where trails were more accommodating. It promised to be a warm day, so the shade of the trees was welcome and there was a slight breeze.

We identified quite a number of natives, as well as a few “escapees” from nearby yards, with a variety of ferns in both wet and dry locations, the usual slash pines, saw palmettos, rusty lyonia, elderberry, privet, willow, a fair amount of poison ivy, a variety of vines, grasses, and a few “mystery plants”.

One treat was to spot an osprey in a snag, as well as a bald eagle in flight. Almost on cue, each one made a dive down behind the trees, presumably to catch a fish or two. Then, cue the gopher tortoise, we spotted one munching grass, choosing to ignore our presence. On the way back to the parking lot we saw a few additional plants, including bloodleaf, oakleaf fleabane, day flower, oxalis and quite a few “miniaturized” plants that were routinely mowed on the edges of the pathway.

It was a fun day, lots of camaraderie, as well as shared knowledge, and no one got lost, even though we had to round up a few stragglers from time to time.

Field Trips for March

Field Trip Dates for March:

March 10th (Wednesday): Lemon Creek Wildflower Preserve, Western Trail, Bill Dunson.

March 24th (Wednesday): To be announced

March 27th (Saturday): Old Miakka Preserve, Kate Borduas

What's Up In My Garden

by Lois Cantwell



My Viburnums decided to bloom just before the middle of February, I have a nice,

relatively full, tall Walter’s viburnum (*V. obovatum*) on the south side of the house, getting a fair amount of sun and benefiting from a nearby sprinkler head during dry weather. The birds love to hang out up there. I took a photo the other day, and

while looking at it, I saw a cardinal, a gray catbird and a mockingbird all hanging out among the branches at the same time. Before that, the warblers were up there singing their chirpy songs. It could be that the burst of blossoms has attracted the little pollinators and it's like a "fast food" stop-over for the birds.



Above: Viburnum blossoms
Below: Viburnum dense growth



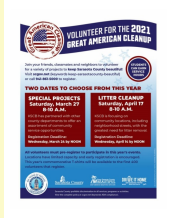
Other viburnums around the yard are of the "dwarf" variety, as in Mrs. Schiller's Delight. They are also coming into bloom, but a little later, as they got trimmed a bit during the great purge I have been doing in the yard since the first week of December. One of them was a bit over-run by surrounding shrubs and looking a bit out of sorts, but rebounding nicely. I was over-joyed to see it sporting blossoms. Another Walter viburnum got a major hair-cut around the end of January. This one was at the demonstration garden at Cedar Point. We might have stunted it a bit, but it still found a way to produce a few blooms simultaneously with the one's in my yard. Not only that, but, the dwarf variety in another section of the CP garden is also blooming. As in a symphony, they are all on the same page! I never get to see the fruits, though, as I am gone during the time that they develop and ripen through the summer and fall. At least the birds get to enjoy them.

According to Craig Huegel, these densely branched, shrubby trees occur in a variety of moist soil habitats, from the central Panhandle to parts of south Florida. It is one of the best shrubs for wildlife cover because its branches are dense and rigid. It is extremely adaptable and quite tolerant of nearly every growing condition. It is best used in relatively sunny locations within a mixed hedge or thicket, or as a specimen planting where its flowers can be easily seen and admired. The one drawback is its tendency to spread by root suckers. (Taken from "Native Plant Landscaping for Florida Wildlife")



Charlie and Jayne in front of a Walter's Viburnum at STN walk

Keep America Beautiful Volunteer Opportunities



KEEP SARASOTA COUNTY BEAUTIFUL

The first 400 volunteers to register will receive this year's commemorative T-shirt, featuring Sarasota County's centennial logo, celebrating 100 years!

See attached flier on how to get a T-shirt! This year KSCB is hosting two Great American Cleanup events!

[Click Here to enlarge.](#)

Locations have limited capacity so be sure to register soon.

The first event will take place on Saturday, March 27 and will focus on special projects such as invasive plant removal, mulching and painting.

The second event is scheduled for Saturday, April 17 and will focus on litter removal from local roadways, parks and beach areas.

Important information about participating in this year's event

- All volunteers must **INDIVIDUALLY** register to participate by submitting a unique registration form (see links below).
- Volunteer groups may no longer register as one entry.
- Walk-up volunteers will not be accepted on the day of the event.
- Students can earn service hours.

How do I register to participate?

- Review the list of [locations and projects](#).
- Click on the registration link for the date of your preferred project.
- [Saturday, March 27 - Special projects](#). Registration closes at 12 p.m. on Wednesday, March 24.
- [Saturday, April 17 - Litter removal](#). Registration closes at 12 p.m. on Wednesday, April 14.

Visit their web page for all things Keep Sarasota County Beautiful

<https://www.scgov.net/government/public-utilities-water/keep-sarasota-county-beautiful>

Brenda Canales

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KSCB Flier.pdf

322K [View as HTML Download](#)

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.

Visit our website
