



February 2022

Report from Your President:

by Linda Manley

As we begin a new season, I've been looking for a way to bring us together; something we can all buy into and around which we can develop our goals. Borrowing from a column I read by Tara Parker-Pope in The New York Times, I decided to adopt a word on which to have a new focus each month. The word this season is "create." Each month we will look at what we can create: as individuals, as members, and as a chapter.

For February, our focus will be to create renewed enthusiasm about Mangrove chapter. We got an Outstanding Chapter Award last year! That's pretty special, in my book. But hampered by COVID, as was everything else in the world, we hardly had a chance to announce it, much less celebrate it. Let's celebrate! Tell your friends! Tell your neighbors! Tell them they need to be part of this vibrant, prize-winning organization!

Did you know we've had articles mentioning Mangrove Chapter in two magazine handouts and a newspaper article in the past few months? We were in the October issue of Welcome Home and the November issue of Harbor Style, and we were featured in the Nonprofit Spotlight in the Sun in December. Not bad! Others are noticing—we've gained eleven new members since November 1st! Have you found your enthusiasm yet?

We have a new meeting place and time, accommodating the wishes of our members to try daytime meetings. Have you visited Cedar Point since its complete overhaul and remodeling? It's beautiful! If you haven't visited Cedar Point, that means you haven't been to one of our meetings lately. Come join us—we have had great programs, and this month, February 8 at 1:00, we're having our big anniversary party, 35 years strong! Come join us to meet old friends—and new ones—peruse old photos, check out pre-Chapter records dating back to 1981, take a walk in the woods, and tour our demonstration garden. You might even get a cookie!

If that's not enough celebrating for you, take a gander at the events we have coming up this spring. We will be at the North Port Newcomer Day on February 5, sharing our love of native plants with newbies who have just moved to Florida. On March 12 we will have our Plant Native Day again in full force. After a toned-down event last year, we're back to full strength. March 19 is the date for Rookery Day sponsored by the Venice Area Audubon Society (VAAS) and they have invited us to participate. Come see our tent, pick up our handouts, and check out our signboards, which haven't been used for a few years. It's going to be a great event.

Finally, rev up your enthusiasm and volunteer to help somewhere in the chapter. We've been bombarding you with requests for volunteers for a few months now. It's time to stop procrastinating and pitch in to help us make our chapter even better. Email me at

Farewell Message from your Past President

by Lois Cantwell

First off, I want to wish Linda Manley, our new President, good luck and a smooth path ahead. It feels great to leave office knowing there is someone who is dedicated and more than capable of filling that position. Since I am also leaving Florida at the end of the season, I want to thank all who I have worked with in our chapter, whether board members or people in the general membership, all of whom I consider friends and “family”. There is a lot of comradery in our chapter, which makes it so much fun and easy to participate in meetings, field trips, events and various volunteer undertakings. A common thread that brings us all together is the strong feeling about preservation of our natural environment.

Many of us belong to more than one group of people who are dedicated to similar conservation goals, whether it is plants, birds, mammals, fish, reptiles, water quality, climate change, the list goes on. Share what you learn from your experiences with our group, plant natives (especially for wildlife) as an example to your neighborhood, gift a native plant to a friends' garden, minimize your water usage, avoid pesticides and herbicides, create a rain garden in a low area of your property, use a rain barrel, avoid using gas-powered mowers and blowers, and anything else that improves the natural world one yard at a time. Just keep beating those drums...

Welcome New Members: Steve and Tonya Bramlage, Rotonda West and Diane Quilty, Port Charlotte.

January Membership Meeting Report

The “business” portion of the meeting included starting with our annual election of officers. In days gone by, we were doing this at our May meeting in combination with a pot-luck supper. A combination of rewriting our bylaws and the advent of Covid19 brought about a few changes.

Our slate of officers was presented, motions to accept were made and seconded, subsequently voted on unanimously by a show of hands. Linda Manley became our new President, and Linda Wilson stays on as our “perpetual” Treasurer. We did not have a firm candidate for Secretary at the time, but since then, Steve Bramlage, a very recent addition to our membership, has agreed to take that position.



Following that, Linda Manley came forward and presented a “Certificate of Appreciation” to Lois Cantwell, who was breathing a sigh of relief to (finally) be Past President! To inject a bit of humor into the presentation, a large stack of 40 yard-waste bags was wheeled in. A perfect parting gift, as she had already burned through more than that in the previous 4

worth of overgrowth in her yard.

weeks in an effort to purge 7 months-



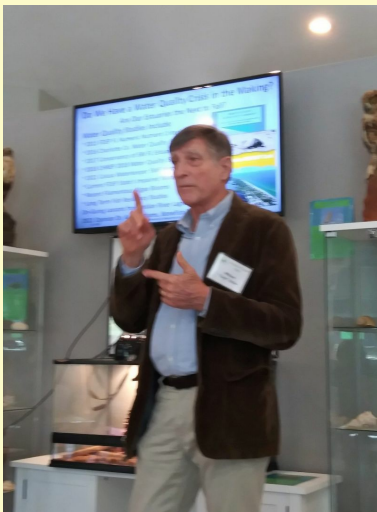
Linda Manley presenting
Lois Cantwell with
certificate



Linda Manley presenting
Lois Cantwell with yard
waste bags



Judy Ott M.S.



Linda then introduced our speakers: Dr. William (Coty) Keller, PhD, and Ms. Judy Ott, M.S. who presented “Charlotte County’s exceptional and invaluable estuaries and waterways—ideas for their restoration and safeguarding”. It was a very detailed overview of the problems and potential solutions inherent in water quality issues in the Charlotte Harbor area. A lively Q and A session followed. This presentation can be seen by going to our website/blog page. Under the January 11 meeting listing, click on the link to our YouTube video.

Following the program, Bobbi Rodgers gave a brief overview of our upcoming 35th Anniversary of Mangrove Chapter Celebration to take place on the February 8th membership meeting date. The raffle was held followed by social time. The meeting ended at 3:45. We had 27 members and guests in attendance.

[Click here to Visit our Website](#)

Out and About with Mangrove Chapter

North Port Newcomer Day. Mangrove Chapter will have an informational table at the North Port Newcomer Day event on February 5 from 10:00 AM to noon. Whether you are new to our area or a long-time resident, this event offers a way to connect with local nonprofits, businesses, and government entities and to learn more about available services. Many of the participants offer free literature and advertising tokens such as pens—and candy! Mangrove Chapter will have drawings for several free native plants. The free event will be held at the George Mullen Activity Center at 1602 Kramer Way.

Venice Area Audubon Society (VAAS) Rookery Day. Mangrove Chapter will join other nature organizations by having a tent at the Rookery Day festival on March 19 from 9:00 AM to noon. This family-friendly event will have nature stations, conservation demonstrations, a tree giveaway, and a native plant sale by Annie Schiller’s Florida

Native Plant Nursery, among other attractions. There's even a bat house tour! This first annual event helps fill a void created by the cancellation of many annual nature festivals in the wake of COVID. Mangrove will offer a variety of literature about the value of native plants and will have a limited number of native plants available. Please come and immerse yourself in nature!

Mangrove Chapter Aprons

We're delighted to let all of you know that we have purchased custom aprons for our chapter! These will serve as advertising when we have an information table at events like nature festivals, Earth Day celebrations, and similar places. They will also identify people who can offer assistance and answer questions for guests at our own Plant Native Day at Cedar Point on March 12. That will mark the premiere showing of our aprons, and the second opportunity to see them will be at Rookery Day sponsored by the Venice Area Audubon Society on March 19. Be sure to attend these festivities to learn more about native plants and ecosystems.



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

Rookery Day March 19

The Venice Area Audubon Society (VAAS) has asked Mangrove Chapter to participate in their first Rookery Day, which will take place Saturday, March 19. We would like to be able to give away small native plants to those who attend. This date falls just one week after our own Plant Native Day, which will be on **Saturday, March 12**. It looks like we're going to need an extra-large supply of little plants to get us through these two events this spring! If you usually grow plants for our Plant Native Day, please consider growing extras for our event on the 19th, and if you haven't tried starting plants from the seedlings that self-seed naturally from your established plants, this is a great time to start. The VAAS Rookery Day is a wonderful opportunity to interest people in native plants and to recruit new members for our chapter. Our chair for the Rookery Day event is Anne Risberg. You can contact her through our chapter website at mangrovechapter@fnps.org

Adventures of the Natives Episode 7

by Linda Manley

For the past few months, native friends have gathered for socializing at their favorite local spots. At the Native Roots Bar, Red Cedar, Nutty Thistle, Rusty Lyonia, Joe Pye, and

Elliot Aster are discussing volunteer positions in the Mangrove Chapter, while Laurel Oak, Starry Rosinweed, Summer Mimosa, Goldie Chapman, and Penny Royal think about their own volunteer possibilities at the Pampered Petals Spa.

Cast:

Red Cedar, Nutty Thistle, Rusty Lyonia, Joe Pye, Elliot Aster

Laurel Oak, Starry Rosinweed, Summer Mimosa, Goldie Chapman, Penny Royal

The natives are resting a bit easier now. Elections are over, we have a new president, and although we didn't have a secretary on the election ballot, Steve Bramlage has volunteered to accept that position. Thank you, Steve! We also have a new publicity chair, Stephanie Thornton. All this is good news, but our friends are still thinking about places they might help as the need for volunteers continues.

Sitting at the Native Roots bar and surveying the bottom of his tankard of Myakkahatchee Creek water, Red asked Rusty, "How do you like being a garden helper for Mangrove Chapter?"

Rusty looked up a little sheepishly and said, "Actually, I haven't volunteered yet."

"You haven't volunteered yet? Why not? You were so excited about helping," questioned Red.

"I don't really know. I guess I've just been procrastinating. I thought maybe some other folks would volunteer and they wouldn't need me," Rusty replied.

Red looked at him disparagingly and chided, "That's a pretty poor excuse, Rusty. You know how much they need your help. They have their annual Plant Native Day coming up in a few weeks and they need all the help they can get right now. They want to have the garden in tip-top shape for all the visitors they will have."

Rusty sat up straight and said, "You're right! I'm sorry I've put this off for so long. I'm going to volunteer this afternoon!"

Meanwhile, Laurel and Penny found Starry lounging in the Pampered Petals Spa. They were so excited that they rushed right up to her. "Starry, Starry, guess what? We've both volunteered to help Mangrove Chapter!"

Starry said, "Calm down, calm down. What's this? You both volunteered?"

"Yes!" they chirped in unison. "Laurel decided she wanted to help with hospitality, and when she volunteered, she found out that the current hospitality chair is going to retire next year. She agreed to teach Laurel all about what she has to do before taking over next year."

Starry said, "That's great! You will get to learn on the job from someone who has been doing a great job already. But Penny, why are you so excited?"

Penny replied, "I couldn't decide exactly where I wanted to help so I decided to volunteer for a temporary committee and get a taste of how things work. I'm helping with the Plant Native Day committee. I'm having a great time, getting to know more of the members and learning the names of some of the native plants. Starry, why don't you help us and come serve on the committee too? It will just be for the one event on March 12, and then your obligation is over. Of course, you can always help with it next year if you enjoy it."

"Hmm, that sounds like a good idea," replied Starry. "Are there other events I could help with?"

"Sure," said Penny. Mangrove will have a table at Rookery Day on March 19. It's the first of what Venice Audubon hopes will be an annual event. Several nature organizations will be there with information about our natural world. You know how important that is to us natives."

Laurel added, "I think Mangrove Chapter might be involved in an Earth Day event in April, but I'm not sure yet. That might be another time you could volunteer. In fact, we need to tell Summer and Goldie too about these new chances to help Mangrove."

Starry said, "You know what? We should all plan to meet at the Mangrove special 35th anniversary open house on February 8. The meeting is going to be at 1:00 at Cedar Point

Environmental Park; you remember, where the Chapter has its demonstration garden.” Summer added, “It will be a great meeting and a chance to see all our friends again! We still have to be careful and wear our masks. I’m bringing some of this wonderful Peace River tea—it’s my favorite!” And with that, they all planned to attend the Mangrove Chapter Anniversary Meeting.

Tune in next month for another exciting episode of **Adventures of the Natives** as they continue to discover how they can volunteer to help Mangrove Chapter. We encourage you all to think of how you, too, can contribute. Garden helpers—and a garden chair—are desperately needed. Lois, our immediate past president and current garden chair, is returning to the North permanently, leaving the garden with no chair and few helpers. Our hospitality chair is indeed retiring at the end of this year and we invite you to think about volunteering for that vacancy. Nearly all our positions can use assistance, and new faces and ideas are especially welcome. If you want more information, you can email Linda Manley, President, at 88lingo@gmail.com.

35th Anniversary Open House

Be sure to join us to celebrate our 35th anniversary with an open house at our regular meeting time from **1 to 3 p.m. on Tuesday, February 8, at Cedar Point Environmental Park** (2300 Placida Road, Englewood). Members will share memories of their time with the chapter and historical documents will be available for perusing, dating back to pre-chapter days in 1981. A running photo loop will feature early field trips and other events. You can take a walk with longtime walk leader Al Squires or stroll through the garden with Lois Cantwell, our recently retired president. If you are thinking of joining our chapter, this would be a great way to get to know us. Masks are required inside the education center.

Demonstration Garden Report

In the seven weeks that our “garden keepers” have been active, we have made slow but steady progress in the garden, working with just 3 or 4 volunteers on any given Monday. We started with just getting the general area weeded, trimmed and brought into some semblance of order. The area around the front staircase was very “weedy” looking, so unwanted growth was removed to make it more attractive to visitors. Rumpled weed barrier cloth was exposed by summer rains that had partially washed away the overlying mulch, so that has been spiffed up.

We will keep working toward having the garden beds presentable by the advent of Plant Native Day on March 12th. As the chairperson for that event, I will be looking for helpers. We will need people to assist with setting up tents, tables, and unloading plants for the participants (Florida Native Plants Nursery and Peace River Butterfly Society). We need people for our plant sale activities, a possible “garden/art” sale, and just being on hand to answer questions and shepherd our visitors. Of course, if you wish to dig and pot some native sprouts and other plants as a contribution to our event, all are welcome. Just make sure to label them!

A Tale of Two Wetlands
February 1, 2022

Manasota Scrub Preserve/East

by Bill Dunson

This is a description of the walk I will lead at **Manasota Scrub Preserve/East on Feb, 1, 2022.**

The famous "Denny and Al" show took us almost every year on nature walks to the western side of Manasota Scrub Preserve which is indeed quite fascinating, with pine flatwoods and scrub habitat. However, there is a very interesting and different natural story on the eastern trails. Although there are mesic pine flatwoods there, the most remarkable ecological demonstration is the differences in plants between one wetland degraded by ground water pumping for the Englewood Water District (wetland 1) and one much less impacted by such drying (wetland 2).

On the map you can follow the 1.5 mile loop we will walk starting from the parking area at **2695 Bridge St. Englewood FL 34223**. We will progress from trail numbers 1, 2, left to wetland # 1, then to trail number 9, 10, 6, 7, around the loop circling wetland # 2 to trail number 5, then 4, 3, 2, 1. Meeting the parking lot just a few yards from Manasota Beach Rd at **9 am for a 2 hour hike**. If you are not vaccinated, please do not come. No reservations needed. No dogs or smoking please.

Wetland #1 is close to route 776 and not far from a well pumping field east of 776. Bioindicators such as inappropriate red maples growing in the center of the wetland and slash pines along the outer rim tell us that this wetland is drying up. It does still contain obligate wetland species such as redroot and sandweed or marsh St. Joh's wort, which is likely so unusually healthy due to absence of abnormal winter fires. It occupies a zone about 2/3rds of the way out to the rim of the wetland.

Wetland #2 is further away from the well field which may explain its better hydrology. It has an extensive growth of buttonbush, very few invading maples, and most of the small slash pines around the periphery are dead.

Our walk around Manasota Scrub Preserve will reveal many interesting facts about plant bioindicators of wetland ecology and how they change with depletion of ground water.

Sunset Stroll: Lemon Bay Environmental Park

Mangrove has a new series of walks called Sunset Strolls. These walks are from 4:00 to 5:00 in the afternoon and take place in smaller parks with paved or otherwise smooth paths. The pace is slow, with time for questions and observations. If you are looking for a different experience from our longer morning walks in the woods, you might want to try one of these new walks. Led by Dave and Linda Manley, our next Sunset Stroll will be **Wednesday, February 16 at 4:00 PM at Lemon Bay Environmental Park, 570 Bay Park Blvd., Englewood**. While Lemon Bay is a large park, we will walk only the short trip on the boardwalks along the mangroves. We may see wading birds or other wildlife, and with luck, we'll see the approaching sunset over the bay. Meet at the nature center.

Outstanding Plant of the Outing Lemon Bay Park North January 8, 2022



outing to Lemon Bay Park on Saturday, January 8th was well attended and proved to be a productive morning, despite this being the season where blossoms are few and far between. Many identifications were made from leaves and seed pods. One flower in bloom that has almost certainly been overlooked in the past, this time caught our eye and proved to be quite the catch. The flower heads are a mere 3/8" across with a faint trim

of dull white petals – very easy to miss. All references I found to False Daisy led with the fact that it is easily overlooked, so we are in good company.

False Daisy, *Eclipta prostrata*, is native to all of North America. While it is absent or sparse in the northwest it is abundant in Florida and it occurs around the world, particularly in Asia where it has many medicinal uses.

False Daisy, also known as Yerba de Tago and Gunta Kalagaraku, is widely used as a liver and kidney tonic, to treat athlete's foot, and as a treatment for scorpion stings and venomous snakebites. Interestingly, it is believed to counteract baldness and premature grayness. A decoction will produce a powerful blue-black dye that can be used for hair or even tattoos, so you may want to be careful with its use.

Do you wonder where to buy Native Plants

Big box stores sometimes have plants that are native, or that they call native, but too often they are hybrids or cultivars and you can't be certain that the plant is a true native. Other times, the grower might already have treated the plant or even the soil with pesticides that are harmful or fatal to native insects. Buying from a native nursery helps avoid those worries. Here are a few area nurseries where you can confidently purchase native plants:

Sweet Bay Nursery, 10824 Erie Rd, Parrish, FL 34219

Florida Native Plants Nursery, 730 Myakka Rd, Sarasota, FL 34240

All Native Garden Center, 300 Center Rd, Fort Myers, FL 33907

January Membership Meeting Summary

January's program is:

Charlotte County's Exceptional and Invaluable Estuaries & Waterways - Ideas for Restoration and Safeguarding by William (Coty) Keller, Ph.D, and Ms. Judy Ott, M.S.

You can also download the slideshow by clicking [here](#):



Plant Native Day March 12, 2022

The Mangrove Chapter, Florida Native Plant Society invites you to join us for our annual **Plant Native Day**. This free half-day educational outreach event will be held on **Saturday, March 12, 2022 at Cedar Point Environmental Park, 2300 Placida Road in Englewood from 9:00 AM to noon.**

The theme, “Planting for Pollinators”, illustrates the use of native plants in your landscape to attract butterflies, bees, beneficial bugs, and other pollinators.

Plant sales begin at 9:00 AM. The Florida Native Plants Nursery from Sarasota, managed by Annie Schiller, and the Peace River Butterfly Society will have a variety of plants to purchase. Mangrove Chapter member-grown plants will be available for donations. A variety of educational handouts will be available. Plant sales will close at noon.

For more information, contact Cedar Point Environmental Park at 941-475-0769. This event is sponsored by the Mangrove Chapter, FNPS; Charlotte County; and Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center. For more information about native plants, go to www.fnps.org. Mangrove Chapter activities are described at www.mangrove.fnpschapters.org. CHEC programs are listed at www.checflorida.org.

What's Up in My Garden

by Lois Cantwell



Since I will be bidding farewell to my mostly native yard after 14 years of planting and tending, I think back to what it looked like when we inherited it from the former owner. All of my early photos are in albums, so I don't have those available for comparison. They were into palms (non-native) of every kind, most of them being lost to those few frosty winters we used to have. Over the first 7 years I collected as many species of native plants as I could acquire from plant sales, shared specimens, and the few native nurseries that are unfortunately a bit of a distance. Upper left: Robin in the birdbath.

Now that the property will be going on the market, what is now more of an overgrown “beast” needs to be tamed. The

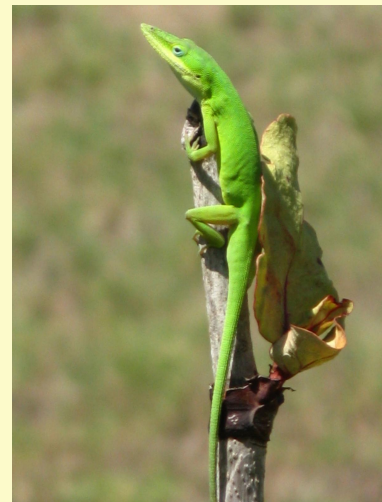
average family looking for a new home will most likely not want to inherit what I consider a wildlife oasis and my “happy place”. It was all about the critters and pollinators (flitting butterflies), and a walk around the yard always turned up anything from the local anoles, to interesting insects and spiders, many birds, several squirrels, and a few rabbits. right: Cuban tree frog.



Carolina wren nest on window sill



Rabbit



Green anole

Back before our neighborhood underwent an invasion of new homes, I would spot sand hill cranes, great egrets, flocks of ibis, even limpkins and bobwhites. Turtles would come from the canals, cross the street and lay eggs in the sandy lots adjacent to us. Bobcats and raccoons were seen on a regular basis along with an occasional coyote. Quite a few gopher tortoises roamed the lots. To me, that was the Florida “paradise” I enjoyed. Now there is constant traffic, service trucks zipping by the house, the steady roar of mowers and blowers, and continuing construction.



Gopher Tortoise



Turtle

In the first week of April we will return to a quieter, simpler way of life in the northeast part of Michigan, surrounded by tall pines, oaks, maples, cedars and birch trees near Lake Huron. Sandy beaches you can actually access are nearby. Wildlife abounds and I have enough garden space in which to putter. It's a small town with no “big box” stores, not much traffic and friendly people. This will be our alternative “paradise”.

Left: Squirrel



Mangrove Chapter Nature Walks

Tuesday, February 1, 9:00-11:00 AM Join Dr. Bill Dunson on this walk at the Manasota Scrub Preserve. The natural story on the eastern trails takes us to mesic pine flatwoods, where the most remarkable ecological feature is the differences in plants between one wetland degraded by ground water pumping for the Englewood Water District and one much less impacted by such drying. We will walk the 1.5-mile loop starting from the parking area at 2695 Bridge St, Englewood, and progress left, then around the loop circling the other wetland. Meet in the parking lot just a few yards from Manasota Beach Road. If you are not vaccinated, please do not attend. No dogs or smoking please.

Saturday, February 12, 9:00-11:00 AM Join Kate Borduas for a walk at the T. Mabry Carlton Reserve, 1800 Mabry Carlton Parkway, Venice. This 24,565-acre preserve was acquired by Sarasota County in 1982 to provide a wellfield for the county's drinking water. With 100 miles of trails, the Carlton Preserve offers unparalleled nature-based recreation in our area. This walk will cover 1.6 miles of pine flatwood, oak hammock, and a large depression marsh. In addition to multitudes of native plants, lichens, epiphytes, and flowers, we may also see Red-headed Woodpeckers and Swallowtail Kites, and perhaps a Crested Caracara! Directions: Go west on Border Road in Venice to the T junction. Take a left on Mabry Carlton Parkway. The parking lot will be signed on the right.

Monday, February 14, 9:00-10:30 AM Join Linda Hayes for a walk at Ollie's Pond Park, 18235 Avon Ave., Port Charlotte. This park is a 41-acre man-made pond surrounded by pine flatwoods and is managed by Charlotte County. We will walk a one-mile loop around the pond to identify various native plants and flowers in and around the pond. Bring your binoculars to view raptors, migratory, and wading birds. The trail is easy and well groomed. Location: 18235 Avon Ave., Port Charlotte. The parking lot is located off of Wintergarden on the northern part of the site near the intersection of Avon Avenue and Gobron Street.

Wednesday, February 16, 4:00-5:00 PM Join Dave and Linda Manley for a Sunset Stroll at Lemon Bay Environmental Park, 570 Bay Park Blvd, Englewood. The Sunset Strolls are a new series of walks that take place in parks with paved or otherwise smooth paths. The pace is slow, with time for questions and observations. If you are looking for a different experience from our longer morning walks in the woods, you might want to try one of these new walks. While in Lemon Bay Environmental Park, we will walk only the short trip on the boardwalks along the mangroves. We may see wading birds or other wildlife, and with luck, we'll see the approaching sunset over the bay. Meet at the nature center.

Saturday, February 19, 9:00-11:00 AM

Join Sarasota County Environmental Specialist Jeff Weber for a walk at Manasota Scrub Preserve, 2695 Bridge St, Englewood. Most walks at this preserve are on the wetlands (east) side, but we will be visiting the west side of the preserve. Jeff will lead us on a leisurely 1-mile hike to explore mesic flatwoods and oak scrub habitats and look for blooming pawpaws, false pennyroyal, and yellow jessamine, among others. We'll also see the three scrub oak species and some old, gnarled Florida rosemary shrubs. Bridge street is off of Manasota Beach Rd, just west of the intersection with Englewood Rd. Limited pull in parking is available at the main Bridge Street entrance with additional parallel parking available along the road shoulder.

Tuesday, March 1, 9:00-11:00 AM. On March 1, 2022 there will be a nature walk at South Venice Lemon Bay Preserve/Kenisco Entrance from 9-11 am. Guides will be Bill Dunson (long loop about 1.5 miles) and Anne Risberg (short loop about 0.5 miles). We will meet at the entrance at 5472 Kenisco Rd, Venice, FL, at the corner of Euclid Rd. The preserve is mainly scrubby flatwoods with extensive scrub oak stands managed for scrub jays. There are both fresh water and saline wetlands and the long loop extends down to Lemon Bay. Although the emphasis will be on plant ecology and identification, we will also identify any animals seen. We will especially be searching for wild lupine in bloom which thrives primarily on poor soil. The roles of fire, soil fertility, water salinity, management goals, and site history will be considered in understanding the habitat types seen. Walking is predominantly on sandy trails. No reservations required. Participants must be fully vaccinated, no smoking/vaping and no dogs. Contact Bill Dunson (wdunson@comcast.net) for further information.

February's Cedar Point Programs

(Check our website/blog/calendar for details)

Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center and the Charlotte County Natural Resource Department will be conducting the following free programs to the public in **February 2022**.

All programs can be found at www.ChecFlorida.org

Seagrass Wading Trips

All public wading trips take place in Cedar Point Environmental Park. On these guided programs with local experts, you'll experience a short guided hike through various ecosystems of the park, and then you will get to wade into the shallow waters of Lemon Bay and use dipnets to sample all the incredible wildlife that lives within the seagrass flats. **Prepare for each trip with plenty of water, insect repellent, reef-safe sunscreen (no oxybenzone or avobenzone), and clothing comfortable both for hiking and being in the water.**

Advance registration is required. The health and safety policies for our programs are subject to change. For information on mask requirements and Covid-19 safety precautions, please contact gerald@checflorida.org. For more information or to register, call at **941-475-0769**. Trips are currently limited to 12 people, and wait lists are available for every trip.

Thursday, February 3rd Seagrass Wading Trip: Join CHEC for a free 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.** Trips fill up fast! Meet in the Cedar Point Visitor Center at 8:30 AM.

Saturday, February 5th Kids Fishing Clinic: Come out and learn how to fish with us!

These clinics are an introduction to the basics of fishing! Cedar Point is surrounded on three sides by productive fishing waters, including the cool, clear waters of Lemon Bay. We will begin the program inside the Visitor's Center and learn about the supplies, techniques, and regulations of saltwater angling, and the second half of the program will feature putting those new skills to use by fishing in Oyster Creek and/or Lemon Bay!

As introductory courses, these programs are geared toward children, but the entire family is encouraged to attend! Children must be 6 years or older to participate, and any child under 12 years old must have an adult participating with them. The cost of the program is \$10 per person, and anyone over the age of 16 must have a valid Florida fishing license. Space is limited and advanced registration is required.

Tuesday, February 8th Seagrass Wading Trip: Join CHEC for a free 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.** Trips fill up fast! Meet in the Cedar Point Visitor Center at 9:30 AM.

Friday, February 11th Slices and Scientists Lecture: Come out to Cedar Point at 6:00 PM for a free lecture from a local environmentalist about a myriad of topics relating to Florida nature! This is a great opportunity to learn from an expert about some of the local wildlife and habitats we have surrounding us here in South Florida. The lecture is open to all ages, and will include pizza and refreshments for sale and activities for kids. Speaker and topics TBA.

Tuesday, February 15th Nighttime Seagrass Wading Trip: Come explore the park's nocturnal side! This trip will meet behind the Visitor Center 1 hour before sunset (meet time: 4:30 PM) and take a short guided hike through the park down to the vibrant waters of Lemon Bay. There, we will have the chance to wade into the water right at sunset with nets and buckets to see what creatures we can observe living in the seagrass flats!

We will also get to be in the water as day turns to night and see what sort of nocturnal animals we are able to find! All animals will be released at the end of the program. The price of the program is \$15 per person, and children must be 8 years or older to attend. We will be providing headlamps and glowsticks to use in the dark while in the water, but you are welcome to use your own flashlights on the night hike back to the visitor center!

Saturday, February 18th **Seagrass Wading Trip:** Join CHEC for a free 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.** Trips fill up fast! Meet in the Cedar Point Visitor Center at 8:30 AM.

Friday, February 25th **Slices and Scientists Lecture:** Come out to Cedar Point at 6:00 PM for a free lecture from a local environmentalist about a myriad of topics relating to Florida nature! This is a great opportunity to learn from an expert about some of the local wildlife and habitats we have surrounding us here in South Florida. The lecture is open to all ages, and will include pizza and refreshments for sale and activities for kids. Speaker and topics TBA.

Go to www.CHECflorida.org for a complete program calendar.

Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center February Programs

Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center and the
Charlotte County Natural Resource Department will be conducting the following
free programs to the public in **February 2022**.
All programs can be found at www.ChecFlorida.org

Free Guided 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 walk with plenty of water, insect repellent, sunscreen, and clothing that will protect you from insects and plants.

Advance registration is required. The health and safety policies for our programs are subject to change. For information on mask requirements and Covid-19 safety precautions, please contact gerald@checflorida.org. For more information or to register, call at
941-475-0769.

Tuesday, February 1st 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 941-475-0769 to register or for more information.

Friday, February 4th Join CHEC on a guided walk through the old-growth pine flatwoods and mangrove fringe of 125-acre **Ann Dever Regional Park** in Englewood. Meet at the San Casa entrance. Please call 941-475-0769 to register or for more information.

Monday, February 7th Join CHEC on a guided walkthrough **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 941-475-0769 to register or for more information.

Wednesday, February 9th 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, special adaptations that allow mangroves to thrive in salty environments, and why mangroves are important and protected in Florida. Please call 941-475-0769 to register or for more information

Saturday, February 12th Join CHEC on a guided walkthrough the 81-acre **Bill Coy/Buck Creek Preserve** in Englewood. The scrubby flatwoods and mangrove swamp border Buck Creek, which flows into Lemon Bay. Meet in the parking lot. Phone 941-475-0769 to register or for information.

Saturday, February 15th 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 941-475-0769 to register or for more information.

Friday, February 18th 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 941-475-0769 to register or for more information. All participants are required to wear face masks during the program.

Tuesday, February 22nd 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 941-475-0769 to register or for more information.

Friday, February 25th Join CHEC on a guided walk through the old-growth pine flatwoods and mangrove fringe of 125-acre **Ann Dever Regional Park** in Englewood. Meet at the San Casa entrance. Please call 941-475-0769 to register or for more information.

Sunday, February 27th 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, special adaptations that allow mangroves to thrive in salty environments, and why mangroves are important and protected in Florida. Please call 941-475-0769 to register or for more information.

Go to www.CHECflorida.org for a complete program calendar.



UF| IFAS Extension has put together an exciting list of programs. Choose from Florida-Friendly Friday, 2022 Landscape Gardening Series, The Basics of

Bonsai Bromeliads, or the Joys of Art in the Garden. Click here to learn more about these programs.

[Click here to find more about these programs](#)

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

COVID-19 Safety Guidelines for Meetings, Events and Field Trips

If you are not feeling well, or if you or a family member has been exposed to COVID, please do not attend our events.

For indoor meetings and events, wearing properly worn face masks is recommended and will align with rules of the facility. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own beverages and packaged snacks.

For outdoor events or field trips, wearing masks is optional for vaccinated participants; strongly recommended for unvaccinated participants. Bring water, insect repellent, and sunscreen. A hat or head covering is recommended.

Participants are encouraged to maintain appropriate 6' social distancing when possible.

[Visit our website](#)
