



January 2022

Report from Your President:

by Lois Cantwell

I joined Mangrove Chapter in January of 2008. A year later, Jane Wallace talked me into serving as Garden Chair, which landed me on the Board of Directors. My first stint as President began in 2011-2014, also serving as Program Chair. Then, back to President in 2016 (having stood as VP the previous 2 years, as Al Squires and I traded places). Gail Finney took over as Garden Chair for a couple of years, then I got it back and to this day, I have continued in both President and Garden Chair positions. Talk about musical chairs! Just a little history about my BOD days.

I finally get to be Past-President in 2022! Linda Manley is the nominee for President this season and I am sure she will do an outstanding job of taking the reins. As current VP, she is already taking on many tasks, which lightens the load considerably. Linda Wilson has served as our Treasurer since 2010, and has agreed to continue in that position. That leaves us with an open position as Secretary, as Marianne Owen is preparing to move back north this spring. She has been in that position since 2015. We have done quite a bit of searching for her replacement, begging and pleading for someone to step forward, but so far to no avail--anyone? Our Annual Meeting and Election of Officers will be held on January 11th. We would love to have all the elected officers positions filled at that time. The clock is ticking...

Welcome New Members: Linda Hayes of Punta Gorda, and Kara Mullen of Rotonda West.

Demonstration Garden Report

One of the reasons we like to spiff up our Chapter-sponsored garden at Cedar Point Environmental Park is that we look toward the month of March as a goal. That is the month in which we hold our annual "Plant Native" Day and the Demonstration Garden is a perfect venue. We are a bit slow in getting after things this season, and do need more "garden keepers" to help us with a variety of tasks.

What we also need in preparation for "Plant Native" Day is a lot of plants! What you can pot up from your yard will be most helpful. We have 2 events for March this season. The very next Saturday after our event on the 12th we join the Venice Area Audubon Society in sponsoring "Rookery Day", held on March 19th. We will have plants for sale at that event, as well, so we are calling on all potters to make both events a success. We have a good supply of empty pots at Cedar Point out

behind the restroom building, so if you need some, stop by and see if there are any you can use. More information will be in the next newsletters.

Also, some of our plant beds have empty spaces to fill, so feel free to donate plants to the garden. We are there on Monday mornings from 9 to 11 AM. If you have some extra time, bring some hand tools, gloves, a kneeling pad, and whatever you think you need, and join us! It's a good way for newcomers to learn about native plants and their growth requirements, while getting to know your fellow members. I started working in the garden in 2009 and had only started to learn plant names, which I thought I would never remember. Helping with monthly plant surveys can also help with learning to identify plants and about their natural habitats.

[Click here to Visit our Website](#)

Sunset strolls



Mangrove has begun 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 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 first walk was in the Garden of the Five Senses in North Port. This garden is designed to address all our senses and we found plants and flowers for each one. All the flowers provided color for our eyes, of course. The cape honeysuckle was among the brightest of the blossoms.



The blue butterfly bush provided us with delicate blooms in a true blue, which is rare among flowers.

And fragrance—spider lily offered a sweet, delicate scent, among several others. The most prominent aroma came from the Florida false rosemary, which was amazing when we just ran our



fingers over the plant.

Clumping bamboo surrounding a small fountain offered a soothing, rustling, swooshing sound as the wind moved it. A nearby planting of tall grasses would provide additional sounds in a stronger breeze.

We didn't taste anything, of course, but the garden had several kinds of fruit trees: loquat, mango, and avocado, at least. Tactile plants addressed our sense of touch. Comparing the smooth, silky texture of the simpleleaf chaste tree with the sandpapery feel of the sweet almond shrub was surprising. The touch garden also had baby sunrose, a succulent with thick, juicy leaves.



While most of the garden was planted and manicured, mostly with nonnative plants from Asia, Africa, or the Caribbean, one section was allowed to remain native. Our one-hour time frame didn't allow us to explore the entire park, but we walked a short distance on the native path, just far enough to see the charming false rein orchid.



Sweet Almond Shrub



Bronze Loquat
eriobotrya deflexa



Baby Sun Rose

Perhaps our greatest enjoyment came from our sense of wonder. When we slow down and take the time to see, feel, and smell the world around us, we can appreciate the wonder of nature.

Our next Sunset Stroll will be January 19 at 4:00 PM near the lake at South Florida College, 8000 S Tamiami Trail, Venice. See our website for more details.

We are on Facebook!!!

Look for: Mangrove Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society

Rookery Day March 12

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**](mailto:mangrovechapter@fnps.org)

Adventures of the Natives Episode 6

by Linda Manley

Episode 6: Adventures of the Natives (Dec)

Cast:

Red Cedar, Nutty Thistle, Rusty Lyonia, Joe Pye, Elliot Aster
Laurel Oak, Starry Rosinweed, Summer Mimosa, Goldie Chapman, Penny Royal

The natives are restless. For the past few months, our friends have gathered for socializing at their favorite local spots while discussing volunteer positions in the Mangrove Chapter. But try as they might, they can't seem to inspire members to volunteer. Can you help? Elections for our chapter take place at our January 11 meeting and we don't yet have a full slate of officers to present. Linda Wilson, our faithful treasurer, is willing to serve another year in that position. Our vice president (that would be me, Linda Manley) is scheduled to take over for Lois Cantwell, who has been our president for some seven years now.

But we don't have a secretary, which puts us in the position of presenting an incomplete slate to members, not to mention trying to find a different volunteer to take notes at each meeting. The position of secretary doesn't require extensive amounts of time. The secretary needs to attend board and membership meetings, take notes, and then write them up. The notes are no longer read aloud at meetings, so no public speaking is required. If you can help us here, please email me at [**88lingo@gmail.com**](mailto:88lingo@gmail.com).

We have other positions to fill as well, and they are not elected positions but instead are appointed or even just occasional volunteering. In our chapter, if you volunteer, you can count on being able to help in the place that you want. Not all these areas mean you must be in charge. Some committees already have a chair but need assistance to carry out the duties. Garden helpers, for example, work with the crew already in place. If you can't

come every Monday, it's OK. If you can help only once or twice a month, that's OK too. The garden can use as many helpers as possible.

Publicity is an important role. We have a large database of media contacts but we regularly use only four or five of them. The publicity person needs to email our schedule (already compiled by someone else) to these four or five publications just once a month. That probably will take less than an hour each time. You can be a snowbird and still do a great job in this position.

I don't mean to be dramatic, but statewide, the Florida Native Plant Society has lost over 10% of its chapters in the past two years, with the number falling from 37 to 33. As I speak with people from other chapters, one of the primary reasons for a chapter folding is lack of people who are willing to serve in the committee and leadership positions. We don't want to be another chapter that dies due to lack of interest from members. Please contact me and let me know you want to help our chapter survive. 88lingo@gmail.com Together, we can do this.

Mangrove Chapter in the News

[Click here for Newspaper Article](#)

Subject: link to Chapter Non-Profit Spotlight

COLUMN: Mangrove Chapter helps promote, preserve native plants | News | yoursun.com

December Membership Meeting Summary



view the **Video of Dec 9, 2021 meeting**

Our second in-person membership meeting of the season was held on December 14th at 1 PM at Cedar Point Environmental Park, with 25 people in attendance. President, Lois Cantwell welcomed everyone, commenting that it was good to see people again after nearly 2 years of no meetings.

Lois made a point of emphasizing that, with the upcoming **Annual Election of Officers in January**, we are in need of a **Secretary** to round out the slate of new officers that will be proposed at that meeting. The state society (FNPS) **requires that Chapters must have at least 3 elected officers** on their Board of Directors, so it is imperative that we identify a candidate for that position before the January 11th meeting. It was also stated that we are looking for a couple of **new Committee Chairs** to take over **Membership and Publicity**. We also need more **Monday morning "garden keepers"**.

In lieu of announcements about upcoming field trips, meetings, and events, attendees were referred to our **Mangrove Chapter website/blog/calendar and Facebook** for detailed information about those. Linda Manley also reminded the group that our first “**Sunset Stroll**” would be held the following evening at the “**Garden of the Five Senses**” in **North Port**.

Our guest speaker, Jack Merriam, was introduced by Ruth Ward. His presentation, “**How Micro-forests Mitigate Climate Change and Red Tide**” was a fascinating overview of scientific data that identifies the causal relationship of what goes into the atmosphere and how it ends up in our water bodies, feeding the organisms that ultimately cause our red tides.

Two short videos showed the **micro-forest planting project at Celery Fields in Sarasota**, which took place the previous year, and how it looked at the one-year mark of growth. The planting process was based on a theory that if these native tree species were planted close together, it would encourage more upward growth to create a canopy. Planting a natural forest including a diversity of native species, rather than a monoculture of non-native trees, is projected to store 40 times more carbon. Annual scientific data collection regarding rate of growth and carbon storage potential will be ongoing.

Jack left us with four thoughts: **Keep vegetation and shorelines natural; Preserve and establish native trees around your home; Plant more native trees and shrubs in your landscape; Pay attention to your soil quality**, which also stores a lot of carbon. He recommended one book that emphasizes that what happens below the ground is as important as above: “**The Hidden Half of Nature**”, by **David Montgomery and Anne Bilek**. **Coty Keller**, one of our members, was there to assist Jack with his presentation, and he will be our guest speaker for the January meeting.

Following the program, we held our raffle and allowed time for social gathering and conversation, and wrapped up around 2:30 PM

Saving the World One Yard at a Time



I am forwarding this article from Bill Dunson, as it serves as an example of how we, as individual home/yard owners can make a difference in our neighborhoods and set an example for others by planting "the natives" to support wildlife habitat. See Bill's synopsis below. When you click on the attached PDF, you can read the entire article, complete with some very nice photos. The photo of the couples' yard is quite something.

No matter what your religious beliefs may be, this is an enjoyable story. Following that, take time to get out and enjoy the natural surroundings...listen for the twitter of birds, buzz of insects, chatter of squirrels, and watch for the flutter of those lovely butterflies. Nature calms the mind and soothes the soul. We need it! Here's hoping that 2022 will be a better year.

[Click here for the New York Times article](#)



Charlotte County Florida P R O C L A M A T I O N

WHEREAS Florida's Arbor Day is January 21, 2022; and

WHEREAS native trees and shrubs provide a haven for our quickly disappearing wildlife; they preserve the health of our population by reducing ever-increasing amounts of carbon dioxide in the air and creating oxygen essential for the survival of man; they filter the airborne pollutants and dust for the health and well being of the citizenry; and they retain soil with their root systems, preventing erosion; and

WHEREAS, their unplanned and uncontrolled removal causes unnecessary surface run-off, which causes increased costs to the county government by requiring extra maintenance of canals, swales and streets; and

WHEREAS, when left in their naturally formed clumps, native trees and shrubs retain moisture in the soil and are drought resistant, thereby alleviating the excessive and unnecessary drain on our seasonally hard-pressed water supply; and play a key role in purifying water passing through the ground from the surface to ground water tables and lower aquifers; and

WHEREAS, large numbers of trees can be preserved through planning simple modifications of development practice, such as Charlotte County's excellent example of native tree plantings in front of the Administration Building.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the week of January 16th through January 22nd, 2022, shall be known in all of Charlotte County as

Native Tree and Shrub Preservation Week

and all citizens are urged to protect and/or plant native trees and shrubs in their neighborhoods, thereby preserving a natural public resource for all Charlotte County's present and future citizens.

PASSED AND DULY ADOPTED this 11th day of January 2022

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY, FLORIDA

By_ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Roger D. Eaton, Clerk of Circuit
Court and Ex-Officio Clerk to the
Board of County Commissioners

William G. Truex, Chairman

Hector Flores, County Administrator

What's Up in My Garden

by Lois Cantwell



After the “big wind” that blew through my yard on December 21st, it was more like “what’s down” in my garden. Holy yard-waste bags, Batman! The dead palm fronds, boots, and berry branches that came raining down out of my numerous sabal palms more than doubled the amount of stuff I had piled out on the curb the previous trash night. The yard I had tidied up

Monday looked like a war zone on Tuesday. I did manage to process the piles of debris in the front yard over two and a half days’ time before Christmas Eve Day. The mountain in the back yard still waits.

The things that are “up” in my garden are the reproductive end products of all that self-seeded in the yard in the more than 7 months I was away. Man, do they party hardy while I am gone. My natives were more than restless during that hot, rainy period that fosters so much growth. Thank goodness they slow down for the winter months. It gives me a chance to catch up with the unruly masses.



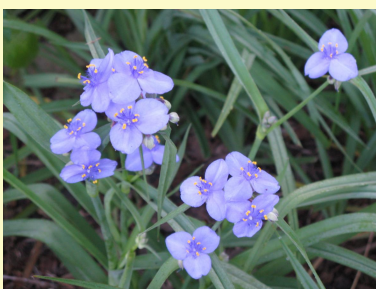
Scorpion tail



Ironweed



Wild Petunia



left: Spiderwort.

In retrospect, the lesson I learned from repeatedly returning to a chaotic jungle each winter season, had not so much to do with how much you plant, but what you plant. So, a word of caution to our newer members who have recently come to Florida and are still “snow birds”: beware of the self-seeders. They go forth and multiply! What I am consistently culling from my yard are things like Blood-leaf, Poinsettia, Mistflower, Scorpion-tail, and Ironweed. Other

plants that proliferate, but I enjoy and share with others, are Wild Coffee, Spiderwort, Rouge Plant, Tropical Sage, and Wild Petunia. So, keep an eye out for those at our raffles and plant sales. They are kind of a gift that keeps on giving.



Tropical Sage



Rouge plant



Wild coffee

January's Chapter Happenings

(Check our website/blog/calendar for details)

January

- | | | |
|----|--------|--|
| 4 | 9:00AM | Field Trip destination Myakka State Forest (see note below for details) |
| 7 | 3:00PM | Board of Directors Meeting |
| 8 | 9:00AM | Field Trip to Lemon Bay Environmental Park |
| 11 | 1:00PM | Membership Meeting at Cedar Point Environmental Park |
| 15 | 9:00AM | Field Trip to Deer Prairie Creek Preserve South |
| 18 | 9:00AM | Field Trip destination TBA |

Guided Walks sponsored by Lemon Creek Wildflower Preserve

(www.LemonBayConservancy.org)

12/1 (Wed), Early (8 AM) Morning Birding, leisurely walk, bring binoculars

12/11 (Sat), Plants of the Preserve, led by Charlie Woodruff

12/15 (Wed), Successional Changes, led by Bill Dunson

12/23 (Thurs, held at Stump Pass State Park), led by Charlie Woodruff (Registration required, 914-799-0664)

12/29 (Wed), Explore an Estuary, led by Bill Dunson

UF/IFAS Eco-Walks

12/1 (Wed), Scrub Stroll, South Venice Lemon Bay Preserve

12/21 (Tues), Mangroves, Lemon Bay Park

CHEC Walks: Refer to a separate listing in this newsletter, or our website.

MYAKKA STATE FOREST walk led by Bill Dunson, 1.5 miles along Gordon Smith Trail to examine ecology of pine flatwoods, and a pristine fresh-water pond. No reservations. **wdunson@comcast.net**. Meet at parking lot 1 mile east of highway, 2555 S River Rd, Englewood. Note this is NOT the state park. \$2 entry fee - bring cash to parking area if you do not intend to pay on-line . **9-11 am. Jan. 4, 2022.**

This is an early season walk to see what flowers are out and to learn some of the classic flatwoods and wetland plants. A check of the walk loop on Dec. 7 yielded a number of

interesting species of which six examples are shown: 1. Female salt bush with long leaf pine, 2. Scorpion tail, 3. Four petaled St John's wort, 4. Horned bladderwort, 5. Wetland panorama, 6. Bluehearts



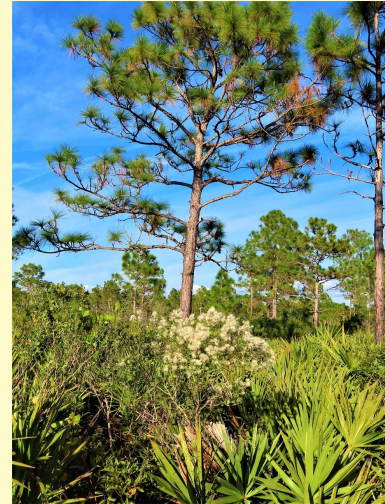
Wetland panorama at the
Gordon Smith Trail



Bladderwort horned
Utricularia



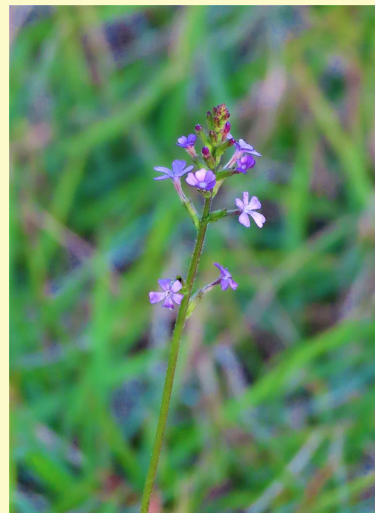
Scorpion tail
heliotrope



Long leaf pine with salt
bush



St John's word
Hypericum tetrapetalum



Bluehearts
Buchnera

Propagation Workshop Report – December 3

by Ruth Ward

Five participants joined me on Wednesday November 17th 2021 and four participants joined on Friday November 19, 2021

We talked about both ways that plants are propagated, with several methods for each. The plants we propagated by

seed were: Coontie (*Zamia integrifolia*), Tropical Sage (*Salvia coccinea*), Sunshine Mimosa (*Mimosa strigillosa*). We showed examples and propagated the following plants by asexual methods: Coral Bean (*Erythrina herbacea*), Firebush (*Hamelia patens*), Silver Buttonwood (*Conocarpus erectus*), Twinflower (*Dyschoriste oblongifolia*), Fogfruit/Frogfruit/Turkey Tangle/Matchstick (*Phyla lanceolata*), Muhly Grass (*Muhlenbergia capillaris*). Our final method example was to demonstrate air layering on a Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*) in the Demonstration Garden. We hope that it will be successful and anxiously await the arrival of roots. At that time, we will separate it from the “mother” and grow it as a new specimen.

This is a photo of the supplies we used.



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](#)

