

Report from Your President:

by Linda Manley

Summer! We all love summer, even Florida summer, hot and sticky as it is. Our members are like everyone else in that respect. Snowbirds have flown north by now and will return in a few months to share our little slice of paradise here in Southwest Florida. The Mangrove board members have been working hard all year to come back from our COVID-induced absence, to prepare a 35th anniversary celebration, to hold a Plant Native Day and a silent auction again, as well as to staff information tables at nature festivals. While we look forward to taking a deep breath, we continue to work on plans for October when we'll start having meetings and walks again. We already have program ideas, field trip dates and some locations, some potential projects, and an overall theme for the year that we will announce later. Our hands might be a little less busy, but our minds continue to search for improvements we can make to help everyone learn a little more about the value of native plants, not only in our landscape, but also in the functioning of the biosphere of our Earth.

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has contributed to making this past year such a success. Following Lois as president has been a steep learning curve for me. I can't say I replaced her because that would be impossible. Lois did more than was humanly possible for anyone else. But with the assistance, support, and hard work of our tireless board members and the patience of our membership, I've made it through these first few months without too many stumbles and flubs. I hope that by fall, I will have become more comfortable with the history and customs of Mangrove Chapter and I will be able to see a smooth road ahead. Thanks to all of you who have weathered a new meeting place, a new meeting time, and at least a partially new cast, and have continued to come to meetings to learn more about how we can support and save Florida and our Earth through native plants.

Welcome New Members!

Welcome to Kathy Kraft from Englewood, Becky Jacobs from North Port, and David Edmonds from Englewood. We're so glad to have you with us!

[Click here to Visit our Website](#)

Gopher Tortoise and Endangered Goldenrod

by Bobbi Rodgers



On Saturday, March 26, 2022, Linda Wilson, Zoe Bass, and Bobbi Rodgers, joined George Heinrich and twelve other conservation-minded individuals to survey gopher tortoise burrows at the 245-acre Boyd Hill Nature Preserve in St. Petersburg, Florida.

Boyd Hill Nature Preserve

Meeting at the Lake Maggiore Environmental Education Center, we were escorted via golf carts to “our” plot of land to survey. Here we split into several groups to walk 6-foot wide transects in search of anything resembling a gopher tortoise burrow. While many were armadillo holes, many were also the burrows, both active and inactive, that we sought. By the end of the 6-hour day, our group had counted 8 active or inactive gopher tortoise burrows that were added to the previous 137 burrows identified during the past several weeks.

Our survey group, including Linda Wilson in pink shirt



Altogether, George's volunteers had completed searching a total of 80.9 acres, comprising 54% of the habitat identified as the possible home of gopher tortoises. Obviously, more work was to be done. But, for our crew, the day was complete.

As Florida native plant enthusiasts, we found another exciting species within the gopher tortoise zones surveyed: Nuttall's Rayless Goldenrod (*Bigelovia nuttallii*). This is an endangered species in Florida, with one population found on thin soils of a protected conservation preserve in Washington County, and others at two locations of sand pine scrub in Pinellas County, both at Boyd Hill Nature Preserve. There are also disjunct populations in Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana, and Texas.

Nuttall's Rayless Goldenrod is not a goldenrod as the name implies, but a member of a small genus that is mostly confined to Florida. It is a perennial herb up to 28 inches tall with erect stems and basal leaves. The flat-topped flower clusters are small and yellow with 2-6 disk flowers and no ray flowers. They are small and elliptical in

shape, but bright canary yellow and attractive. They also attract the attention of insect pollinators. The population in Pinellas County blooms from September through October, although the populations in Washington County bloom several weeks earlier. Because it is a very rare, endangered plant species, we are very lucky to find it so close to our home in Southwest Florida. Photo by Roger Hammer
Enjoy!



Summary of Chapter Meeting and Silent Auction, May 2022



Our May membership meeting of BYOP and silent auction was so much fun! Everyone chatted while they ate their personal picnics, met some new members, got to know each other better, and

then chose the items they wanted to bid on. (Above left: Some of the beautiful artwork donated) We all came home with new treasures and new friends. Thank you to everyone who came early to help set up the auction items, and thank you to everyone who contributed to the auction through donations and purchases. Special gratitude goes to Marie and Gerald, whose donations helped make this one of our best auctions ever! Our donations totaled \$275, which will help fund our grants, activities, and garden renovation. If you missed the fun, you can watch the video here <https://youtu.be/w1MFLZizA4w>



Our membership table was a popular place to catch up



Plants and artwork up for bid





Members chat after
finishing lunch

Great books were donated

Vases, baskets, and
knickknacks found new
homes

Mangrove Chapter Grants

Did you know that Mangrove Chapter offers \$500 grants to establish or refurbish public gardens with native plants? Previous grant recipients have included entrances and community gardens in homes associations as well as the History Park in Punta Gorda. If you know of a public area that is tired and you'd like to update it with native plants, consider applying for one of our grants.

A grant can be used to enhance or replace gardens in public areas within our Chapter boundaries with Florida native plants. These areas may include community clubhouses, businesses, or non-profit entryways. Grants are limited to \$500 per grant request.

For further information or to apply for a grant, download the grant application from

www.mangrove.fnpschapters.org/outreach/grants/

Complete the application and either attach it to an email to MangroveChapter@fnps.org

OR mail the printed form to:

MCFNPS Grant Committee

PO Box 1153

Englewood, FL 34295-1153

We are on Facebook!!!

**Look for: Mangrove Chapter of the Florida Native Plant
Society or click this link:**

[Mangrove Chapter Facebook page](#)

Episode 9: Adventures of the Natives

Cast:

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

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

The Natives gathered at the Native Roots Bar, happy to see each other again after a busy, busy spring. The ladies even skipped their sessions at the Pampered Petals Spa to join the fellas at the bar. Elliot Aster was substituting as bartender and he filled tankards for the guys with Myakkahatchee Creek Water while the gals opted for sweet nectar from spotted beebalm. Before they drank, Red proposed a toast: "To a grand spring at Mangrove Chapter!" he exclaimed. Everyone replied, "Hear! Hear!" and took a sip. Then they all sighed and sat down.

"You all are sure a sight for sore eyes," said Laurel. "It's been ages since we had a chance

to get together. I've missed you."

"Me too," chirped Goldie. "Where has everyone been?"

"I've been busy as a walk leader for Mangrove," replied Red, proudly. "I really enjoyed it, too! Each month I led people on a trail in a different park and we looked to see how many of our native friends we could find."

Penny asked, "How did you learn how to do that?"

Red replied, "I shadowed some of the other walk leaders and they helped me learn what to do, what to look for, and how to keep the interest of the walkers. They were great teachers and I caught on in no time."

"I've been helping in the chapter garden at Cedar Point," said Rusty. "All you friends convinced me that was the right place for me, so I gave it a try. And you were right! I've enjoyed showing up and seeing the progress we've made each week as the garden looks better and better."

Turning to Laurel, Starry asked, "Laurel, did you volunteer for hospitality committee? You thought you would like to do that."

Laurel said, "Yes, I did volunteer, and I loved meeting all the members as they signed in at each meeting. It was a great experience. As it turns out, they need a new hospitality chair for this fall because of retirement. I think I'm going to ask if I can fill that position."

"What great news, Laurel," said Starry. "I just know you'll be a great hospitality chair. And what about you, Summer? I believe you were going to think about being secretary." Summer replied, "Well, yes, I'm still thinking about it. But now I wish I had volunteered back then because they still have no secretary. I guess they really needed me. I didn't realize that when they asked for help, they really meant it."

Penny said, "I know what you mean. It seems like everyone is always asking for volunteers, but I don't always feel like I make a difference."

"Mangrove isn't like that," Laurel responded. "When I volunteered, they put me right where I said I would like to help. And I really did get to help, right away."

"That's right," Goldie said. "I decided to ask to help with membership and they let me work at the membership table, helping people find their name tags. It didn't seem like a big job, but it was a real help and I got to say hello to a lot of people. I liked that part." The Natives all agreed that their volunteer experiences had been fun and that they felt needed. Although they are taking the summer off too, they decided they'll volunteer again next year. If you'd like to help Mangrove Chapter by volunteering, email Linda at

88lingo@gmail.com

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

The Art of Saving Seeds

by Lois Cantwell

I recently attended a very interesting presentation about saving and sharing seeds, sponsored by our two local garden clubs and the district library, which owns the old

theater in my home town. The speaker was Bevin Cohen, writer, poet, herbalist, gardener, seed saver and wanderer, according to a bio on his website. His engaging and dynamic personality held the interest of nearly 100 attendees while highlighting the importance of saving and sharing garden seeds and how to successfully do it at home.

Mr. Cohen is also the founder of the "Michigan Seed Library" network, with several of our neighboring libraries participating in a "One Seed, One State" program. The 2022 seed for this program is the Boston Pickling Cucumber, which has been sent to libraries across the country for sharing with their communities. The cucumber is an American heirloom with a Michigan connection. To use an analogy, compare this process to checking out a book, reading and learning from its content, and returning it to the library for the next reader to enjoy. With the seed saving program, you take out envelope(s) of seed, plant them, grow them, harvest the seeds, package them and return them to the library for the next person to do the same.

While this program highlights mostly vegetables and fruits and the use of "seed banks" in the libraries supporting communities in rural areas, it can certainly include flowering annuals and perennials. Could this model be adopted by the various states' native plant societies to promote the preservation of native plants in their respective communities?

Photographer Needed

Volunteer Photographer Opportunity

Our chapter needs volunteer photographers to take photos at membership meetings and occasionally at events like those listed above. We have missed some wonderful opportunities to keep all of you informed of our activities as well as to promote our organization to the general public. You don't have to be at every meeting or every event, just those that are convenient and interest you. We don't care whether you use a phone or a camera. Our only requirement is that you are able to email or otherwise transmit the photos to Linda Manley (88lingo@gmail.com) or Dave Manley (godave@boun.cr) so they can appear in our newsletter and be kept for our historical archives. Just send us labelled photos from the events you attend and we'll sort through them. To volunteer, please contact either one of us at the email addresses given..

FNPS Annual Conference

Two of our members, Linda Manley and Linda Wilson, attended the Florida Native Plant Society Annual Conference. In the links below you will find their reports.

[Conference report from Linda Manley](#)

[Conference report from Linda Wilson](#)

Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center

May Programs

Programs by Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center (CHEC)

For more June CHEC events, see <https://www.checflorida.org/calendar>

Please call 941-475-0769 to register or for more information about any event.

Saturday, June 4th, 8-10 AM. Join CHEC on a guided walk through the scrub and pine flatwoods of 217-acre Amberjack Environmental Park, 6450 Gasparilla Pines Blvd, in Rotonda. Meet at the end of Gasparilla Pines Blvd.

Tuesday June 7th, 8-10 AM. Join CHEC on a guided walk through 308-acre Tippecanoe Environmental Park, 2400 El Jobean, Port Charlotte. This Charlotte County Park includes habitats such as scrub, pine flatwoods, marsh, and wetlands. Meet behind the Charlotte County Sports Park.

Saturday, June 11th, 8-10 AM. Join CHEC on a guided walk through Tippecanoe II Mitigation Preserve, Joppa Ave in Port Charlotte. This 150-acre preserve is home to several families of the threatened Florida scrub jay. Meet in the parking lot.

Tuesday June 14th, 8-10 AM. Join CHEC on a guided walk through the old-growth pine flatwoods and mangrove fringe of 125-acre Ann Dever Regional Park in Englewood, 6791 San Casa Drive. Meet at the San Casa entrance.

Saturday, June 18th, 8-10 AM. Join CHEC on a guided walk through the 81-acre Bill Coy/Buck Creek Preserve, 5350 Placida Rd in Englewood. The scrubby flatwoods and mangrove swamp border Buck Creek, which flows into Lemon Bay. Meet in the parking lot.

Tuesday June 21st, 8-10 AM. Join CHEC on a walk at Bayshore Live Oak Park, 23157 Bayshore Rd, Port Charlotte, 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.

Saturday, June 25th, 8-10 AM. Join CHEC on a guided walk through the scrub and pine flatwoods of 217-acre Amberjack Environmental Park, 6450 Gasparilla Pines Blvd, in Rotonda. Meet at the end of Gasparilla Pines Blvd.

Tuesday June 28th, 8-10 AM. Join CHEC on a guided walk through the old-growth pine flatwoods and mangrove fringe of 125-acre Ann Dever Regional Park, 6791 San Casa Drive, in Englewood. Meet at the San Casa entrance.

News from the Environmental Conservancy of North Port (ECNP)

<https://ecnorthport.com/>

Guided Walks by Lemon Creek Wildflower Preserve

<https://lemonbayconservancy.org/>

UF/IFAS Eco-Walks

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/pollinators-registration-270977329487>

Saturday, June 18, 11-Noon: Pollinators: Insects, Birds, and Mammals. North Port Library, 13800 S. Tamiami Trail, North Port

Mangrove Native Plant Society

COVID-19 Safety Guidelines for Meetings 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](#)
