

August 2023

Mission of the Florida Native Plant Society

The mission of the Florida Native Plant Society is to promote the preservation, conservation, and restoration of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida.

Report from Your President:

by Linda Manley

You Take Cides?

No, it's not a typo. I'm not talking about football teams or political agendas or social issues here. I'm talking about 'cides like herbicides, fungicides, pesticides, and the other 'cides that have the purpose of killing something.

Let's see now: you have nasty weeds of some kind that are ruining your perfect lawn. Get out the weed spray! Or after the last big rain, a whole bunch of mushrooms suddenly appeared and ruined your vast swath of beautiful green grass. Better buy some fungicide! Or a terrible infestation of caterpillars has your passionflower or your milkweed in shreds. Why, there's hardly any left! Find that poison and spray those little critters!

No, no, and no!

If you care for your own lawn, find other ways to control what you consider invaders. Pull those weeds, or leave them alone to add richness to your lawn. Don't worry about the mushrooms—they'll be gone in a couple days. If a service cares for your lawn, they are trying to earn a living, after all, and they are going to tell you that you must have this and must have that. Once you get off the merry-go-round of spreading fertilizer, spraying herbicides, scattering pesticides, and applying fungicides, you will likely find that you didn't need most of those chemicals at all. Doing without this and that for a year can be an eye-opener, and you will end up with a property that again has beneficial bugs to control the pests, earthworms that aerate your soil, and a much healthier underground mycorrhizal network.

As for what's eating your plants, they are caterpillars, also known as baby butterflies. If you wonder why you see so few butterflies anymore, take a look at what you're doing to your plants. The same is true of the birds you used to love so much. Where have they gone? Some 96% of chicks need insect food to survive, even the chicks of hummingbirds, which depend largely on nectar

YOU WOULD TAKE
FOOD FROM
A HUNGRY BABY?



**96% OF BABY BIRDS
REQUIRE INSECT-FOOD**

**SAVE THE BABY BIRDS
STOP PESTICIDE USE**

POLLINATOR FRIENDLY YARDS ON FACEBOOK

when they grow up. If you break out the bug spray for every gnat or fly you see, the chicks will starve.

If you value our earth, Please don't turn your property into a lifeless landscape. Learn to live with nature and make room for all its critters. The birds and butterflies will thank you

Welcome New Members: Tina Babiak, Pamela Vernon, and Erik Terdal. We're glad you have joined us!

Hila the Earth

Hila the Earth is an environmental educator and entertainer. She creates music videos and songs about ecological topics such as tree canopies, vegetables, compost, food storage, zero waste, soil health, and water. She recently created this 42-second rap for Homegrown National Park, our theme for 2023. They urged us to share the video, so here it is. It's rated completely PG and is very clever. Take a peek!



[Follow Hila the Earth on Instagram](#)
[Follow Hila the Earth on TikTok](#)

[Click here to Visit our Website](#)

Special Thanks to Special Donors

The chapter wants to extend special gratitude to members Steve and Barbara Gustafson and to Marie McCaughan, who have given exceedingly generous membership donations to our chapter. We also extend our thanks to those who went

above and beyond with membership donations: Carolyn Cook and Benjamin Burkland, Mary Davis, Hilda Dillman, John and Christine Holyland, Kyrsten Lemke, and Steven and Elizabeth Plust. Thank you all for your faith in our mission and dedication to our cause. We are so very lucky to count you among our members.

Community Bag Project

We have the results of the June Community Bag project sponsored by Winn-Dixie. We sold 23 bags and will receive a check for \$25 as our reward! Thank you to everyone who made the trip to the Winn-Dixie store at 4100 McCall Road in Englewood, and thank you to Winn-Dixie for its generous community spirit.

Out and About with Mangrove Chapter

Our library display for August is at the Port Charlotte Public Library, 2280 Aaron St, Port Charlotte. Stop by and check it out!

Volunteers continue to conduct monthly plant surveys at Cedar Point Park and could use extra help, especially during this summer. We have also resumed our Adopt-A-Pond cleanup at Cedar Point, usually completed on the same day as the plant surveys. If you would like to help with either of these projects, please email us at MangroveChapter@FNPS.org to volunteer.

We have no guided walks scheduled until the fall. Next season we also hope to schedule one or two longer field trips to interesting places farther away. Details coming soon.

Our next chapter meeting is October 10 at 1:00 in the Visitors' Center at Lemon Bay Park in Englewood. Our speaker for that meeting will be Kristin Hoffschmidt, Immediate Past President of Venice Area Audubon Society, who will help us learn about Native Plants for Birds.

FNPS Annual Landscape Awards

Each year, FNPS recognizes as many as 14 landscapes and gardens in Florida as exemplary in the use of native plants. They award one "Native Garden of Excellence" Award winner in each of the four categories and up to ten "Native Garden of Honor" awards across the four categories. The four categories are (1) Single-family residential; (2) Multi-family residential or nonresidential such as retail, office, school, church, governmental entity, not-for-profit organization, or industrial; (3) Restoration, which includes private or public projects that restore or enhance Florida native plant communities; and (4) Butterfly or wildflower gardens.



The award includes local and statewide media exposure, including in FNPS publications, and an FNPS native plant sign to display in your garden. Entries must conform to a number of rules and pay a fee (potentially paid by Mangrove Chapter), and all prizes might not be awarded if too few entries meet requirements. Completed applications and fees must be received by 5:00 pm, August 31, 2023 to be considered for this year's awards.

We know we have beautiful gardens among our membership and would love to have bragging rights for a local award winner. You can find more information on the FNPS website at <https://www.fnps.org/what-we-do/landscaping/landscape-awards-information>.

We are on Facebook!!!

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

[Mangrove Chapter Facebook page](#)

Mangrove Chapter FNPS Grants Program 2022-23

By Bobbi Rodgers

Every year for the past several, our Chapter has awarded Landscape Grant Funds to qualified public entities for up to \$500 each to increase native plants within their communities. This past year, 2022-23, we expanded the program to include funding to private homeowners of up to \$100 each either to create new native plant landscaping or to replace plantings lost due to Hurricane Ian.

The grant process involved interested entities completing an application, which included a plant list and a drawing of their proposed project area. This plant list was checked by the Grants Committee to verify that each listed plant was indeed native to our area. The official website used for verification was the USF Atlas of Florida Plants (www.florida.plantatlas.usf.edu). If the applicant was unsure of native plant species, this was addressed during the next step.

Once the application was checked as being complete and verified by the Plant Atlas, a site visit was performed by 1-3 members of the grant committee. While this was certainly the most enjoyable step – meeting the applicants, visiting yards, advising as to possible species to use, etc. – it was also the most time consuming. Applications came from Punta Gorda to Nokomis to Cape Haze, and each site visit (not including travel time) took from 1-3 hours.



Silver Buttonwood, Private Grant



Pond Apple Hedge,
Private Grant

During the site visit, the location of the proposed plantings could be addressed according to the specific plant needs at that location. Once planted, a watering source had to be identified to establish the planting, especially during summer months. If all was agreed upon, the site and application was approved and help was given as to possible local native plant nurseries. Plants could then be purchased, receipts (with Genus and species listed) sent to the Chapter Treasurer, and reimbursement was sent, up to \$100 for Private Grants and up to \$500 for Public Grants.



Gateway Point HOA, Public Grant

As of mid-July, eleven private and one public grants had been reimbursed at a total expenditure of \$1526.15 from the Chapter Grants Fund. Deadline for nursery receipts is September 30, 2023.

A huge THANK YOU to the 2022-23 Grants Committee for donating much time and expertise to this project: Jane Wallace, Jayne Neville, Sheryl Bickel, Joan McGowan, Aurora Walsh, Bobbi Rodgers, and Linda Manley, with assistance from Linda "Willie" Wilson.

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

Events with Our Nature Related Friends

The Environmental Conservancy of North Port (ECNP) <https://ecnorthport.com/>

Venice Area Audubon Society
(VAAS) <https://veniceareaaudubonsociety.wildapricot.org>

Lemon Creek Wildflower Preserve <https://lemonbayconservancy.org/>

Peace River Butterfly Society (PRBS) PRButterflySociety@gmail.com

Sarasota County <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/ufifas-extension-sarasota-county-422952084>

Charlotte County Environmental Center <https://www.checflorida.org/calendar>

Mangrove Chapter meets the second Tuesday of the month, October through May, at 1:00 at the visitor center at Lemon Bay Park and Environmental Center, 570 Bay Park Blvd., Englewood. Our meetings are open to the public

Your Mangrove Board of Directors

President; Membership: Linda Manley 88lingo@gmail.com.

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[Visit our website](#)

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