

June 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

Your Native June Garden

Most everyone seems to believe that June is the time your garden flourishes. According to the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, June 4-10 is National Garden Week, and June 18-24 is National Pollinator Week. Whoo-hoo, we love both these recognition weeks! We hope you all have gardens, even just small ones, because gardens are good for you. They get you outdoors in the sunshine to absorb Vitamin D, they provide you with a bit (or more) of exercise, they improve mental health, and in general, are “good for what ails you,” as Mom used to say. And our hearty recommendation is to grow native plants.

About National Pollinator Week: Probably the pollinator people think of first is bees. They are probably our most important pollinators, based on the popular fact that bees pollinate one of every three bites of food we eat. They pollinate about 75% of the world’s flowering plants, and the more than 3,500 species of native bees help increase crop yields. Did you know that most native bees are not communal, living in hives, but instead are solitary and often live in burrows in the ground? Others live in the hollow stems of plants, which is why we recommend that you leave the annual growth of plants in place until the following spring. If a bee has laid eggs in some of your plants and you cut them down in the fall, you have destroyed the next generation of that bee. You can replicate favorite nesting places by placing a bee house in your garden.



As I’m sure you know by now, growing native plants is critical to having butterflies and other pollinators in your yard. Because they have evolved together, insects don’t recognize nonnative flowers as food and so ignore them. If you have a yard filled with hibiscus and Ixora, you are not likely to find butterflies on them, and you can be certain they will not lay eggs there to produce next season’s sparkling,

flying jewels. Everyone knows that monarchs lay eggs only on milkweeds, but other butterflies need special plants, too. Did you know that one of the favorite host plants of the zebra longwing, our state butterfly, is purple passion flower, also called maypop? And brilliant yellow senna plants are larval hosts to sulfur butterflies. The thorny wild lime tree hosts the beautiful giant swallowtail butterfly, and on and on.



Zebra longwing



Maypop Passionflower

Bottom line: If you want pollinators in your yard, not only this year but in years to come, you must plant native plants. Without natives to host caterpillars, we cannot have adult butterflies and other insects. Help save “the little things that run the world.”

Click here to **Visit our Website**

Volunteer Opportunities

Mangrove Chapter is growing, thriving, and adding members with a variety of interests and priorities, which opens opportunities for volunteers in new positions. To help meet our expanding needs, we'd like to create four new positions: a publications manager, a youth outreach liaison, a volunteer coordinator, and a garden tour planner. None of these require attendance at Board meetings, and one might be right up your alley! To volunteer for any of these, email Linda at 88lingo@gmail.com or the chapter at MangroveChapter@fnps.org . Descriptions follow.

Publications Manager: Mangrove maintains a library of informational brochures and handouts centered on native plants and including topics such as attracting birds and butterflies, learning about mangrove identification and care, choosing plants for shady gardens, learning how to reduce turfgrass areas, and many, many others. We obtain these mostly free pamphlets from sources such as FNPS and Florida Wildflower Foundation, and others we send to our print company, where we pay to have them printed. Maintaining an adequate inventory for distribution at outreach events such as festival information tables and library displays is an ongoing task. This volunteer opportunity is ideal for someone who is organized, is willing to aid in distributing an appropriate selection to those doing the outreach events—and—has extra storage space. The brochures take up an estimated 15-20 linear feet of shelf space. If this sounds like an area in which you would like help, let us know.

Youth Outreach Liaison: As you may know, Charlotte County has the largest

percentage of residents over 65 of any county in Florida. Many of our members fit this demographic, and we'd like to reach out to younger people, as well. Many young people today have a deep interest in ecology and the environment, and the Florida Native Plant Society is a perfect fit for this group. Several of the local high schools have ecology clubs, and most of them require students to donate specific numbers of volunteer hours. Scout troops also seek places to learn about the environment while helping. South Florida College is another location where we could make a difference. We would like to reach out to these young people and offer them opportunities to learn about Florida native plants as well as fulfill their quota of volunteering. Our chapter would be willing to hold special events to which this age group might be attracted. This would be an ideal position for someone who has working experience with youth, such as a high school or junior college teacher or a troop leader, but that is not a prerequisite.

Volunteer Coordinator: Our chapter receives offers from people who want to volunteer from several different sources, including New Member Surveys, attendance at guided walks, library displays, outreach events, and solicitations at meetings. It's sometimes difficult to connect all these willing hands with the committees who need their help, and we'd like to have someone to oversee the process so no one ends up being left out. We value our volunteers, who are the backbone of our chapter, and we couldn't survive without their help. Some events require lots of volunteers, such as our Plant Native Day, and other events might need just one or two people. Some of our committees need members to assist on a regular basis and others need help only occasionally. Having one person in charge of this valuable process would be a tremendous help to both the volunteers and the committee chairs. If you'd like to help with this, email and let us know.

Garden Tour Planner: If you have joined our chapter in the past two or three years, you probably received a New Member Survey. The results of these surveys have indicated a strong interest in touring the native plant gardens of other members. To meet this desire, we are looking for someone who would like to find members willing to share their success in growing native plants and make arrangements for tours of their gardens. We don't anticipate a flurry of tours; perhaps just two or three during the season. Additional tours during the summer are also a possibility because many of our members are here in Florida year-round. If you like finding new gardens and arranging local trips, you might be the one for this position.

Out and About with Mangrove Chapter

Our next membership meeting will be October 10 at 1:00 in the Visitors' Center at Lemon Bay Park.

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.

We have resumed our Adopt-A-Pond cleanup at Cedar Point. If you would like to help with this project, held at irregular intervals, please email us at MangroveChapter@FNPS.org to volunteer.

Arbor Day celebration. On April 28, Bobbi Rodgers and two assistants staffed an information table at Centennial Park in Port Charlotte, sponsored by Charlotte County Master Gardeners. They demonstrated how to make biodegradable seed planters from cardboard toilet paper tubes and collected names for new newsletter subscribers.

North Port Tree Fair. People for Trees held its annual Tree Fair on April 29. Dave and Linda Manley set up an information table to distribute literature and collect new subscribers for our Mangrove Messenger. They reconnected with a contact from North Port High School and hope to extend that relationship.

Newcomer Day. Dave and Linda Manley staffed an information table at the North Port Newcomer Day on May 6. The event was so popular they ran out of literature, and collected 14 new subscribers for our newsletter.

Linda “Willie” Wilson and Bobbi Rodgers attended the virtual **42nd Annual Conference of the Florida Native Plant Society** on April 28, 29, and 30. Tom Chambers and Rosanna Sutherland attended the **Naples Field Day** associated with the conference. Their combined reports have been sent in a separate email.

Our library displays will resume later this summer.

We are on Facebook!!!

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

[Mangrove Chapter Facebook page](#)

Surprise Opportunity

Our chapter email received a message with an offer from Winn-Dixie. For every \$2.99 reusable Community Bag sold during the month of June 2023, Mangrove Chapter will receive \$1. We have no obligations whatsoever connected with this offer. It is a generous community-based charity offer and we urge you to participate. Please note, this offer applies to Community Bags purchased **only at the Winn-Dixie store located at 4100 McCall Road (776) in Englewood**. This store is at 776 and Sunnybrook. This is **not** the Winn-Dixie at McCall and Placida Road near Goodwill and Suncoast Thrift. Bags purchased from any different Winn-Dixie store will not count toward our total; only bags from the store at 776 and Sunnybrook.



I urge you to visit Winn-Dixie and purchase a bag or two during the



Showing your support is a picnic!

**Buy this bag.
We get \$1.**

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Purchase this picnic perfect \$2.99 Community Bag any time in June at our designated Winn-Dixie and we'll receive \$1.

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month of June. I certainly will do so, even though this is a distance from my home. The novelty of shopping at a different store is always fun, and you'll be doing a good deed for our chapter, which means a good deed for our Florida environment. If we could get each

one of our members to pick up one or two Community Bags, Mangrove Chapter could easily earn \$100 or more!

Thank you, Winn-Dixie, for this kind and generous opportunity!

Survey Coming Soon

The state level at FNPS has designed a survey to learn how the organization can better serve the interests and needs of our members and supporters. Your survey will arrive in a few days from our own Mangrove Chapter. Alternatively, you can click on the QR code below to take the survey.



When you receive the survey, please complete and return it promptly. The survey will take **less than 10** minutes, and all individual responses will be completely anonymous. Your honest responses will help us plan programs and activities for what we all love: native plants and native plant communities.

If you supply your email address at the end of the survey, you will earn an entry into a drawing for a free 1-year membership or renewal.

Please participate!

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

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.

Secretary: Kristin Hoffschmidt

Treasurer; Conservation and Policy: Linda "Willie" Wilson

Chapter Representative: Laura Soule

Education and Outreach; Grants: Bobbi Rodgers

Digital Services; Historian: Dave Manley

Hospitality: Joan McGowan

Immediate Past President: Lois Cantwell

Newsletter: Gail Finney

Programs: Ruth Ward

Publicity and Field Trips: Laurie Via

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To reach any Board member, email mangrovechapter@fnps.org and allow 48 hours for a reply.

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