



October 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

Happy Fall, Y'All!

Happy fall, y'all, as the saying goes! Fall is officially upon us and a trickle of snowbirds has begun the annual migration southward. As their season begins, so does the season of the Mangrove Chapter. We have been busy planning programs for our membership meetings, scheduling walks and field trips to both new and familiar places, and preparing for nature festivals around the area. We anticipate an exciting year ahead of us!

The October 10 meeting will introduce a new option for our members. To get to know each other better, to ask questions, and just to socialize, you now have the opportunity to come to the meeting early—at 12:15—and bring a sack lunch to eat while you meet new people or reconnect with old friends. Our usual schedule did not allow much time for mingling, an aspect we have all missed. So come early and join us to make some new friends.

We are looking for volunteers to help with all our plans. If you are interested in helping in any of the following areas, please email the chapter at MangroveChapter@FNPS.org. We need people to help with the program committee, to go on site visits with the grant committee, and to assist with monthly plant surveys at Cedar Point Park. These positions do not require specialized knowledge and each one is a great way to get to know other members better. We also need someone skilled in online documents to replace our longtime newsletter editor, Gail Finney, who is resigning at the end of the year. This position is of critical importance, so please get in contact if you are interested in helping with this important monthly publication.

Most of all, we're looking for a replacement for me, the President. With not a little regret, I told the Board a few months ago that I would not seek reelection in January. I love what I do in this job, but age and health have caught up with me and I need to scale back. Dave will continue to do everything he has for the past two years. I will remain as Membership Chair and Dave and I will continue to post on Facebook and to help with outreach events.

Mangrove is a vibrant, growing chapter, having increased our membership by over 50% since October of 2020. We have talented, enthusiastic, knowledgeable

people both on our board and among the general membership, and many of you could serve as excellent presidents. We are open to creative ideas for the position, such as sharing responsibilities between two people or establishing multiple vice presidents, each to be responsible for smaller portions of the position.

I know you care about the future of our chapter, and this is an opportunity to help shape it. In a few days, we will send a mass email describing the core responsibilities of the President. Meanwhile, please contact me with any questions. I'm easy to talk to, I promise. 88lingo@gmail.com

Welcome new members, Keli Easton, Mike Evans, and Monaliza and Andrew Bresko. We're glad you've joined us!

Click here to **Visit our Website**

Out and About with Mangrove Chapter



Saturday, October 7: Mangrove Chapter will again have an information table at the Alligator Creek Fest, Saturday, October 7, 11 AM-2 PM, South Venice Yacht Club, 4425 Yacht Club Dr, Venice. Come and enjoy this first event of the season!

Alligator Creek Fest 2022

Tuesday, October 10: Our first chapter meeting of the 23-24 season is Tuesday, October 10 at 1:00 in the Visitors' Center at Lemon Bay Park in Englewood. Our speaker for this meeting will be Kristin Hoffschmidt, Florida Master Naturalist and Immediate Past President of Venice Area Audubon Society, who will speak on Native Plants for Birds. This season we are introducing a new social aspect: a BYOP 45 minutes before the meeting. The Bring-Your-Own-Picnic has been popular in the past, and we want to give everyone an extra opportunity to get to know other members before the meeting begins. Bring a light lunch to nibble on while you meet and socialize with us in the meeting room before each meeting this season. See you then!

Saturday, October 14: Our first guided walk of the 23-24 season is Saturday, October 14, 9-11 AM, at Old Miakka Preserve, at the end of Fruitville Road in Sarasota. Look for the dirt driveway at the intersection of Fruitville Road and Myakka Road, running east 0.4 mile to the preserve entrance. Our leader will be Jeff Weber, Environmental Specialist at Sarasota County Parks. Following the walk, we are invited to bring a sack lunch to eat at the Florida Native Plant Nursery at 730 Myakka Road, just a short distance from the preserve, followed by shopping. Mangrove FNPS members receive a 10% discount.

Monday, October 16, 1:00 PM. Mangrove member Jayne Neville will speak to

the South Venice Garden Club on the topic of *Supporting Migratory Songbirds*. The meeting, at 720 Alligator Drive in South Venice, is open to the public.

Wednesday, October 18, 4:30-5:30.

Join Dave and Linda Manley at the Venice Rookery, 4002 S. Tamiami Trail via Annex Rd, Venice, behind the county building. This beautiful nesting area for waterbirds continues to grow in diversity as more native plants are added each year. The recently planted native tree thicket and understory offer great native plant viewing. Meet at the pondside pavilion.



Mangrove Chapter walk at Old Miakka Preserve, 2022

Saturday, November 4, 10:00-12 Noon.

Newcomers Day at George Mullen Center, 3025 North Port Blvd, North Port. Visit with local businesses and nonprofit organizations at this free event, where Mangrove Chapter will have an information table.



Sunday, November 5, 11:00-4:00.

Mangrove Chapter is a sponsor for the Music in the Park land conservation fundraiser at Harbour Heights Park, 27420 Voyageur Drive, Punta Gorda.

Sunset Stroll at Venice Rookery, Spring 2023

We will have an information table there. The event will have music all day as well as food trucks, a 50/50 cash raffle, door prizes, and much more. Admission is \$10, with children under 10 free.

Library Display: Our library display for October is at the North Port Library, 13800 Tamiami Trail, North Port. Stop by and check it out!

We are on Facebook!!!

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

[Mangrove Chapter Facebook page](#)

October is Native Plant Month at FNPS



We hope you've been thinking about using native plants in your landscape. If you need a little extra push, this is the month you should resolve to do it: Plant-tober! Planting native plants in your yard is the right thing to do for so many reasons. Native plants are already perfectly adapted to Florida's soil, climate, pests, and diseases, so you will need little or no fertilizer or pesticide, thereby saving the money you would have spent on those. Native plants have adapted over millions of years to thrive in our environment without help from humans.

You will do less watering once the plant is established, so you will have less expense and less water run-off, which is a needless waste of this valuable resource. You will probably do less weeding, as many native plants reseed easily and spread to fill the area in which they live, crowding out less desirable plants.

Native plants will help you will improve the habitat for pollinators, songbirds, and wildlife, something we all care about. You don't need to be reminded about the recent tragic losses suffered by our insects and songbirds. Native plants give these creatures everything they need: food, shelter, and places to raise their future generations. Nonnative plants are not recognized by our native birds, insects, and animals, so they can't rely on those nonnatives for food or shelter. When a plant they haven't evolved with is right in front of them, they pass by like it was just a rock. The animals have specific needs that can be filled only by native plants. Let's face it: you can't raise monarch butterflies on marigolds, and other creatures have needs that are just as specific. Plant native!

While you're planning your garden, consider making a Plant-tober donation to the Florida Native Plant Society. We don't ask for donations very often, but Plant-tober is the one month we encourage you to help support our organization. At the state level, the Society operates with a skeleton crew of very few staff members (less than six) to handle memberships, publications, publicity, workshops, political advocacy, webinars, communication, and all the other services we offer to our 33 chapters across the state. All the rest of the functions are handled by dedicated volunteers who work for the cause they believe in. Please take this opportunity to support our valuable work in spreading the word about the value of Florida's irreplaceable native plants. <https://www.fnps.org/support/donate>

Native Plant Grants

Mangrove Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society has created a grant to enhance or replace gardens in public areas within our Chapter boundaries (Englewood, Rotonda, Venice, Wellen Park/North Port, Port Charlotte, Punta Gorda) 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 from

<http://mangrove.fnpschapters.org/outreach/grants>

Complete the application along with the required drawing and either attach to an email to MangroveChapter@FNPS.org, OR mail the printed form to MCFNPS Grant Committee, PO Box 1153, Englewood, FL 34295-1153

2023 Members and Friends Survey Results

This is a brief, informal summary of the results of the FNPS Members and Friends survey that was distributed in June. Mangrove Chapter and the Society as a whole thanks you for taking the time to complete the survey. The entire 47-page detailed analysis is available to everyone at the link below:

<https://council.fnpschapters.org/initiatives/2023-fnps-members-friends-survey/>

44% of Mangrove members responded. 29% of Society members responded.

Mangrove average respondent age 68.4 (5th oldest). FNPS average = 62.4

For the Society, 71% do not volunteer. 28% of Mangrove are volunteers, about 10% are board members.

Mangrove meeting time: 49% prefer weekday mornings. About even at 25% for afternoon or evening. If Saturdays, mornings are preferred by 75%.

Top interest areas for Society are (1) landscaping and (2) ecosystems and natural Florida. Mangrove interests of 4.0 possible are: landscaping 3.79, plant ID 3.76, ecosystems 3.76, wildlife 3.70, habitat conservation 3.44, climate change 3.30, restoring 3.22, plant conservation 3.13, demo garden 2.93. Mangrove scored interests are below Society average in every category except plant ID.

Top activities for Society are field trips, workshops, and speakers, in that order.

Top for Mangrove are field trips to natural areas 3.44, speakers 3.37, yard tours 3.35, workshops 3.28, field trips to nurseries or gardens 3.23, plant sales 3.17.

Most valuable benefits to members for the Society are the Palmetto magazine, FNPS news alerts, chapter activities, and plant sales, in that order. Top for Mangrove are chapter activities 4.28, news alerts 4.28, plant sales 4.25, nursery discount 4.07, outreach 3.87.

Strongest areas of sense of belonging and satisfaction for the Society are Chapter contribution to mission 3.58, I impact FL through FNPS 3.42, chapter/FNPS is important in my life 3.36. For Mangrove, Chapter contribution to mission 3.57, important in my life 3.33, impact to FL 3.31, enjoy time together 3.26. This is the only category in which Mangrove scored above Society average on almost all factors.

Do you wonder where to buy native plants?

Save 10% on Your Plants: Buy Native

Below are a few area nurseries where you can confidently purchase native plants, plus they offer a discount for FNPS members! Too often, big box stores sell plants that they call native, but instead they are hybrids or cultivars, or even worse, the grower might already have treated the plant or the soil with pesticides that are fatal to native insects. Buying from a native nursery helps avoid those worries.

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

<https://sweetbaynursery.com/>

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

<https://nolawn.com/>

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

<https://www.floridanativeplants.com/>

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/>

Florida Wildflower Foundation <https://www.flawildflowers.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.

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

Social Media: Anne Risberg

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

Visit our website

Mangrove Chapter Florida Native Plant Society | P.O. Box 1153, Englewood, FL 34224-1153

[Unsubscribe migafinn@gmail.com](mailto:migafinn@gmail.com)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by mangrovechapter@fnps.org powered by



Try email marketing for free today!