

April 2023

Report from Your President: Plant NativeDay by Linda Manley

Our Plant Native Day this year was the best we've ever had! All totaled, we hosted over 300 visitors and gathered nearly \$2000 in donations. Thank you to all who came to buy plants for your yards; enjoy the talks by our talented speakers, Laurel Schiller and Jeff Weber; or browse the Mangrove Treasures area. Additional thanks to all of our wonderful volunteers who worked so hard to make the day a success.

Our theme for Plant Native Day this year was Homegrown National Park and visitors were urged to "Get On the Map!" In fact, this is the theme for our entire year here at Mangrove Chapter. You'll find information about Homegrown National Park at our meetings. HNP is a concept envisioned by Doug Tallamy, who is probably today's primary mover and shaker in the world of advocating for native plants. The concept is that if half of every lawn in the United States were turned into native plants, we would have a new national park of 20 million acres. Wouldn't that be wonderful!



Bobbi reparing the greeting table.



Mangrove Treasures Table.



Peace River Butterfly Society display.

The Florida Native Plants Nursery was on site bright and early to set out a wonderful array of native plants for visitors to buy.



Their area was always busy, with people selecting plants, asking questions, and leaving with big smiles on their faces. Under the pavilion, we had over 500 member-grown plants that were fresh and ready for folks to

browse and make selections. Information was the order of the day as folks read the data sheets that accompanied each plant variety as they chose the plants best suited for the area they had.

In the meadow on the way to the pavilion, our friends from other nature organizations had tables of information and live animals for visitors to admire. The Peace River Wildlife Center brought their barred owl ambassador and some turtles, or maybe tortoises, that were hits with families. Venice Area Audubon Society had lots of information on birds, and the Environmental Conservancy of North Port had a variety of literature about land conservation and other important topics. Peace River Butterfly Society had live animals, too: caterpillars that were being hand-raised as they hatched, ate their way through lots of leaves, turned into chrysalises, and finally emerged as butterflies! Once arriving at the pavilion, both lookers and takers perused the Mangrove Treasures section of gently-used donated books and other items.

For those who ventured beyond the meadow and the pavilion, the newly renovated pollinator garden at Lemon Bay had fresh identification signs with QR codes that people could look up on their phones, a wonderfully helpful feature for those wanting to see more mature versions of the smaller potted plants.

In the building, a video loop of the Doug Tallamy video, "What's the Rush," played constantly through the entire event. In the classroom, Laurel Schiller spoke on native plants useful in home landscapes, followed by Jeff Weber, who talked about both native and invasive plants. The day wound up with a walk through Lemon Bay Park led by Jeff Weber and Kate Borduas.



Talk by Laurel Schiller.



Camphor Daisy



Some of the member grown plants

This day would not have been possible without the hundreds of volunteer hours spent by our PND Committee: Ruth Ward, who dug plants from the yards of members, potted them, and nursed them to selling size, as well as applied for our nursery certificate; Anne Risberg, who collected and sorted donations for the Mangrove Treasures area; Kate Borduas, who contacted the speakers and the organizations to host information tables; Dave Manley, who prepared the video

and loaned the TV to show it; and Laura Soule, who oversaw the entire event. Laura's contributions are far too numerous to list, from recruiting and scheduling volunteers to making and posting signs for the pollinator garden to researching endless rules and regulations to keep us legal, and on and on. Other volunteers raised plants at home and brought them in or spent a few hours greeting and helping visitors on that day. We are so grateful to these members for the monumental efforts they put into making this event a success.

Our 2023 Theme: Homegrown National Park®

Are you on the map yet? If you are, let us know! Our theme for Mangrove Chapter this year is Homegrown National Park, a concept created by Doug Tallamy and introduced in his book, *Nature's Best Hope*. I believe *Nature's Best Hope* should be required reading for every homeowner. It explains in clear English the critical loss of our natural lands, native species, and biodiversity. Then it explains how every one of us can help slow that loss by planting native plants. The concept of Homegrown National Park® is that if every single homeowner in the United States converted half of his or her lawn into native plants, we could create a new national park measuring 20 million acres—that's 20,000,000 acres!

Did you buy a plant at our Plant Native Day last month? If you did, then you can get on the map! Our goal for the year is to get every one of our members on the map. The website for Homegrown National Park® is easy:

<https://homegrownnationalpark.org>. Go there to register your property on the map, just as I did. Florida, with our beautiful environment and our many plants, is underrepresented and is on the second lowest tier, with few people on the map.

We can do better! The slogan of Homegrown National Park® is Start a New **HABITAT®**. Please join us and start your own **HABITAT!**

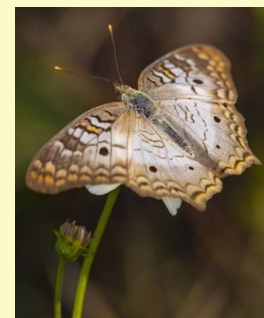


Click here to **Visit our Website**

Out and About with Mangrove Chapter

Chapter Meeting

Tuesday, April 11, 1:00. The April program will be *Insect Photography*, an educational program presented by Florida Master Naturalist Captain Josh Olive. Plants attract insects with many different lifestyles, including pollinators, sap suckers, leaf eaters, and predators. All of these insects are fascinating and even beautiful in an alien way. Josh will discuss methods for approaching, photographing, and identifying these wonderful creatures. Meet at the Environmental Center, Lemon Bay Park & Environmental Center, 570 Bay Park Blvd, Englewood.



Guided Walks

Saturday, April 15, 9:00-11:00 AM. Circus Hammock Preserve, a new park for us, at 4572 17th Street in Sarasota. Led by Jeff Weber, Sarasota County Parks Environmental Specialist. Park along the shoulder on the west side of the entrance road. Meet at the preserve entrance.



Wednesday, April 19, Sunset Stroll, 4:30-5:30 PM.

The pine flatwoods of Lemon Bay Environmental Park, 570 Bay Park Blvd., Englewood. Led by Dave and Linda Manley. Meet at the Environmental Center.

Photo: Bloodleaf at Lemon Bay Park

Special Events

Cookout for Conservation Rescheduled

Sunday, April 16, 2-8 PM, 6968 Reisterstown Road, North Port. The cookout was cancelled last month due to weather and has now been rescheduled. Mangrove Chapter will have an information table at this event hosted by the Environmental Conservancy of North Port, which features live rock 'n' roll by The Philharmonic Band from 4-8 (www.thephilharmonicband.com); guided walks; soft drinks, burgers, and hot dogs served up by North Port Boy Scout Troop 254, and \$4 beer with ID. \$30 per ticket through Eventbrite (12 and under free). <https://ecnorthport.com/>



Saturday, April 22, 1-4PM. Mangrove Chapter will have an information table at the Earth Day celebration at Cedar Point Environmental Park, 2300 Placida Rd., Englewood. This is a family-friendly event celebrating Earth Day, hosted by Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center (CHEC). If you are interested in assisting at our Chapter tent this day, please contact Bobbi at elipsi@comcast.net.



Friday, April 28, 9:00 AM to Noon. Mangrove Chapter will have an information table at the Arbor Day celebration at Centennial Park, 1120 Centennial Blvd., Port Charlotte. This year the Charlotte County Master Gardeners will give away free 3-gallon Florida elm trees at the event. If you are interested in assisting at our Chapter tent this day, please contact Bobbi at elipsi@comcast.net.

Saturday, April 29, 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Mangrove Chapter will have an information table at the Annual Tree Fair at North Port City Center Green, 4970 City Hall Blvd. This Arbor Day celebration is hosted by People for Trees, who will sell hundreds of native trees in 3- and 7-gallon sizes at amazingly reasonable prices of \$15-\$25.



Library Display

Our library display for April is at Frances T. Bourne Jacaranda Library at 4143 Woodmere Park Blvd. in Venice. This month we're sharing their massive display case with the Environmental Conservancy of North Port. You'll find many unique and surprising items in the case, so come and take a look.

Landscape Grants Update

by Bobbi Rogers

The Mangrove Chapter FNPS has been excited to offer both Public and Private Landscape Grants this past season. While the grant deadlines are April 30, we have currently granted one Public Grant for \$500 and three Private Grants totaling \$226.75. But we still have five applications that are pending site visits. This is where committee members visit the applicant's proposed site to determine that the grant outlines are to be followed. These site visits are presently being scheduled.

The grants have been a great success this year! Not only have we met many enthusiastic residents from Venice to Punta Gorda to Englewood, but we have provided dozens of Florida native plants to area landscapes. It is our hope that neighbors will see the positive attributes of these plants to their environment, such as increased wildlife (including bees and butterflies) and decreased use of water and chemicals in their yards.

We are on Facebook!!!

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

[Mangrove Chapter Facebook page](#)

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

April 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

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