



December 2022

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

As the calendar year is ending, I am completing my first year as your president. Did I just say “first year”? Does that imply that I’m going to do another year? My therapy is going quite well, thank you, so maybe another year is OK.

This year was certainly a baptism by fire. We had resumed in-person meetings, in a new meeting location, at a new time, following COVID, and the first meeting I chaired was the 35th anniversary celebration. Now I ask, is that fair? But all went well and we made it through those spring meetings at Cedar Point, including the noisy April meeting when Dr. Katherine Clements tried to present a program while workers were installing a new roof. Our Plant Native Day in March was a huge success, generating the most donation income we’ve ever had. Florida Native Plants Nursery sold nearly every plant they brought, and our tag sale, consisting of many items donated by Lois Cantwell before she moved back to Michigan, was wildly popular. We will continue this in the future. And yes, we miss Lois. We welcomed the summer respite, but planning and board meetings continued. Just when we thought things were going well, Mother Nature decided to add the excitement of Ian. I don’t mean to make light of the damage many of you suffered and from which you are still reeling. For the chapter, it meant that the return to our traditional meeting place at Lemon Bay Park was not so simple. With the Lemon Bay building damaged and not available, we had to cancel all our October activities. By November, we were able to schedule our first fall meeting at North Port Library. Our November board meeting was not at Elsie Quirk Library but at my home. It looks as though December meetings will be in their normal places: Lemon Bay Visitor Center for our chapter meeting and Elsie Quirk Library for our board meeting. Whew, another crisis weathered. But Ian destroyed the garden we had maintained at Cedar Point for over 20 years. Sadly, we are unable to continue with that garden.

I could not have gotten through this tumultuous year without the support and hard work of our board members. Every one of them has faced the often-daunting tasks of their job and come through with glowing colors. I have been thankful for each of them over and over again. If you know one, say “thanks” next time you meet. I also need to thank my husband, Dave Manley, for his unending patience and support.

In January, our Chapter year will begin again. We look forward to a season of meetings with informative and knowledgeable speakers, guided walks where we learn more about the native plants in our area, potlucks we can share, silent auctions where we trade

treasures, and with luck, a Plant Native Day.

Finally, I need most of all to thank you, our members, for staying with us through all the changes and upheavals our chapter has endured. It would have been easy for you to step aside and say you'd had enough, but you continued to come to meetings, to attend our walks, to volunteer to help where you could, and to learn ever more about our precious and irreplaceable Florida native plants. My sincere thanks to all of you.

Welcome new members, Ashley Ellis and Holly Vincent. We're glad you have joined us!

Click here to [Visit our Website](#)

December 6 - Planting Day at Lemon Bay

Mangrove Chapter has returned to our traditional meeting location of Lemon Bay Environmental Park. Before the hurricane, Friends of Lemon Bay Park had purchased over 70 native plants to enhance the gardens at the park. The plan had been to have a blitz day when employees from throughout Sarasota County would plant all the plants. Hurricane Ian changed all that as employees were deployed to repair damage to all the Sarasota County parks.

Mangrove Chapter has volunteered to step in and plant these native plants. Planting Day will be Tuesday, December 6, from 9:00 AM until we finish. If you'd like to help but are not able to dig holes, you can help with watering, carrying tools, and other lighter tasks. If you can help for only an hour or two, that's fine. Every pair of hands helps get the plants in the ground.

We hope to get everything planted in one day. Nathalie Smith, Park Manager at Lemon Bay, will furnish coffee and treats, and Mangrove Chapter will provide sub sandwiches for lunch.

Please wear closed shoes and bring plenty of water. A hat, sunscreen, and insect repellent are recommended. Please bring your own gloves and tools if you have them: shovels, trowels, watering cans, and so on.

If you can help, please let us know at mangrovechapter@fnps.org. Simply leave your name and type Planting Day. This is just to help us determine how much equipment we will need—and how many sandwiches. ☺ You can come even if you didn't email first, and if you are unable to come after emailing, it's OK.

We're looking forward to a big turnout. Thank you for your help!

December 13 Meeting and Potluck and Silent Auction

Happily, we will be able to return to Lemon Bay Park for our December 13 meeting. At this writing, the large meeting room had not yet been repaired, but we will be able to meet in the smaller room. This is our Holiday Potluck and Silent Auction and we will meet at 4:30. We will not have a speaker, but instead will have a social meeting where you can

catch up with each other, meet new friends, and share all the yummy dishes we bring for our potluck dinner, as well as find some treasures at our silent auction. We already have some interesting auction items that members have donated. We generally focus on nature-related items but we're flexible. Please dig through to the back of your dusty shelves and find that garden book you never read, that picture that no longer matches your décor, that gardening tool set your aunt gave you, or that pretty flower pot that you've grown tired of. Clean them up and bring them to our auction so someone else can enjoy them. Also, of course, bring a covered dish to share, your own beverage, and your own table service. We will have coffee available. See you there!

Garden Update Tidings of Comfort and Joy

By Laura Soule

This is the time of year when the phrase “tidings of comfort and joy” gets stuck in my head. I hear the Christmas carol “God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen” and have an ear worm for the rest of the day. As I'm humming “tidings of comfort and joy” to myself, I think of past Christmases with loved ones. The memories then progress to other times of the year when I recall time well spent with them. Some of my happiest memories are when we were in the backyard and I was learning how to garden.

If you're reading this, I'll assume that native plants bring you comfort and joy. You take comfort in planting them and joy when they flourish. I hope you take comfort in knowing that when you choose to plant natives, you are offsetting habitat loss. Your yard can support food webs, sequester carbon, clean groundwater, and support pollinators. Isn't it joyous to realize you can make a difference by choosing a native plant that's right for your area instead of a cultivated plant, which may offer little ecological benefit?

The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines “tidings” as news. This newsletter brings you tidings. Did you know Lemon Bay Park has some wonderful natives that live up to the names of the season? Two of them are Christmasberry; *Lycium carolinianum* and Snowberry; *Chiococca alba*. You can find them along the south bayside trails. Christmasberry and Snowberry are in their full glory this time of year. The Christmasberry has purple flowers and red berries. The Snowberry has yellow flowers and white berries.

The other native plants in the park which evoke memories of the holidays are Wax Myrtle aka Southern Bayberry; *Morella cerifera*, and Red Cedar; *Juniperus virginiana*. Both can be found in the vicinity of the pond that's near the building. Note that the genus of the red cedar is actually a juniper (*Juniperus*) and not a cedar (*Cedrus*). Red cedars can also be found along the south trail before you walk on the boardwalks.

Wax myrtles and red cedars are dioecious. Dioecious is Latin for “two houses”. In other words, there is a male plant and a female plant. Both the male and the female plant produce flowers. Holly plants are also dioecious with the female plant producing the red berries if a male plant is in close proximity. The male wax myrtle has yellowish green flowers that produce pollen. The female flowers produce the gray/white fruit. Monoecious plants will have both male and female flowers on one plant.

The red cedar is dioecious. The male has pollen cones and the female has seed cones. Did you know the berries on the red cedar are actually fleshy seed cones? *Juniperus virginiana* is the eastern red cedar and has a wide range in the eastern United States that goes down

You may consider planting a red cedar tree in your yard if you have the space. This may not be the tree for you if you have a small lot or will be planting near the house. Cedars needs room to grow. The red cedars can provide privacy for you and habitat for the birds. Cedar waxwing birds love eating the “berries”.

November Activity Report

Bobbi Rodgers and Barb Seibel hosted an information table at the Alligator Creek Festival on November 12 and spread the word about our new \$100 grant available to individuals for replacing their hurricane-damaged gardens with native plants, handing out every single business card they had. They also signed up 11 people who requested our newsletter.



plants in conserved areas and in your yard can help preserve the homes of our wildlife. The raffle prizes were won by six lucky people.



Thank You For Your Time!

The Environmental Conservancy of
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Environmental Conservancy
of North Park and Farmington Area

*"In the end we will
conserve only what we
love, we will love only
what we understand,
and we will understand
only what we are
taught."
(Baba Dajany, 1968)*

Barbara Lockhart presented an interesting program.

Library Display

Our library display for the month of December will be at Charlotte County Public Library, 2280 Aaron Street, Port Charlotte, near the old Cultural Center. Stop by and check it out!

Yard Tour

On **Friday, December 3, at 9:00 AM**, Bill Dunson will lead a tour of his Manasota Key yard. In less than one acre there are (or were) more than 165 species of plants, some of which were severely damaged by Hurricane Ian. We will identify and determine the types and severity of damage for the major plants. We'll compare the very distinct results for different species with your own experiences and consider how landscaping should be modified to cope with future storms. The address is 2535/2545 N. Beach Rd, Englewood and is located almost exactly 0.5 mile north of Englewood Beach Park. You can park there and walk, or park along the roadsides, but be sure to stay off the bike path. By that time, most of the storm debris piles should be gone. For those of you who would like to keep track of the plants on Bill's property, you can find the

list here <https://mangrove.fnpschapters.org/news/?post=mangrove-chapter-tour-of-bill-dunsons-manasota-key-yard-dec-2> . For more information, please email Bill at wdunson@comcast.net .

December 6: Planting Day at Lemon Bay

Mangrove Chapter has volunteered to help plant 70+ native plants at Lemon Bay Park, our meeting place. Planting Day will be Tuesday, December 6, from 9:00 AM until we finish. Coffee and lunch will be provided. See more information in the longer article in this newsletter. If you can help, please let us know at mangrovechapter@fnps.org . Simply leave your name and type Planting Day to help us determine how much equipment we will need.

Guided Walks

Both our walks will be at Shamrock Park. If you'd like to keep track of the plants we see for your own purposes, this is the link to the list of plants we've seen there in the past: <https://mangrove.fnpschapters.org/field-trips/shamrock-park/>

Our first walk this month is led by Florida Master Naturalist Kate Borduas on Saturday, December 17th, 9:00-11:00 AM at Shamrock Park and Nature Center, 3900 Shamrock Drive, Venice. This park is the remnant of a once vast stretch of coastal scrub and is home to a small family of endangered Florida Scrub Jays. Sarasota County carefully manages the scrub habitat in the park for the benefit of all scrub species. We will see a variety of scrub oaks, many of them hybridized, together with wax myrtle, both lyonias, and a number of other scrub species. Shamrock Park is an excellent example of how managed fire is essential to maintaining a native scrub plant habitat in a developed area. Meet at the Nature Center.

Our final December walk is a sunset stroll led by Dave and Linda Manley on Wednesday, December 28, from 4:30 to 5:30 at Shamrock Park and Nature Center, 3900 Shamrock Drive, Venice. The park has a 1.2-mile paved trail that winds through the central portion of the park and a demonstration garden featuring Florida-friendly plants. Part of the trail is beside the Venice Waterway where dolphins and manatees are seen occasionally. Meet at the Nature Center.

Call for Articles

We'd like to see more articles in our newsletter from members at large. We know that many of you volunteer with other organizations, help with special projects, go on vacations where you see plants in other areas, and so on. And of course, we'd love to see and read about your own native garden. Please, write a few words about your adventure, attach a couple photos, and send it to me: 88lingo@gmail.com I'll be sure that it gets to our newsletter editor and makes it into the next emailing. We love to know what's going on with our many active members!

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.

New \$100.00 Grants for Private Gardens

Due to plant loss from Hurricane Ian, the Mangrove Chapter is expanding its Landscape Grants to include private homeowners as well as public clubhouses, businesses, and non-profit entryways. These grants are meant to enhance or replace gardens with Florida native plants within the Chapter boundaries (Englewood, Venice, North Port, and Port Charlotte). Grants are limited up to \$100 for private homes and up to \$500 for public groups, per grant request. The private grant is available for this grant cycle only (October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023).

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



Before Planting



Six months after planting

Indigo Isles MH Park received the 2020 Mangrove Chapter Grant to create a garden at the entrance to a mangrove boardwalk. Could your church or organization use a new garden

of native plants? Apply for a grant today!

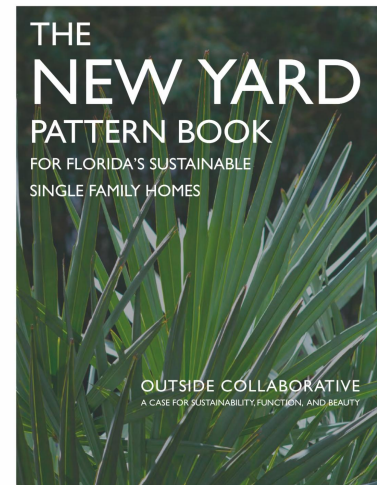
The New Yard Planning Book

This amazing e-book is made available to us at no cost through the Florida Native Plant Society. It was designed and assembled by a group called the Outside Collaborative, which has an impressive roster of collaborators including the Florida Native Plant Society, University of Florida IFAS, Florida Department of State, and Florida Wildflower Foundation, among many others.

This book comes at a critical time, when many Florida residents face replanting all or part of their yards and gardens in the wake of Hurricane Ian. It's more than just a plea to replant with native plants. It offers valuable information about saving water, keeping your soil healthy, minimizing use of pesticides, and saving money while doing all that. It includes plans for specific yard areas such as entertaining, activities, quiet areas.

We hope you will find it to be a useful guidebook.

Click this link to download: [**The New Yard Pattern Book**](#)



We are on Facebook!!!

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

[Mangrove Chapter Facebook page](#)

Coastal Wetlands

An Excerpt from the Environmental Defense Fund's "Solutions" newsletter, Fall 2022

by Lois Cantwell

Mangrove forests, salt marshes and seagrass meadows sequester carbon 10 times faster than mature tropical forests, but they are disappearing 4 times faster. Fast-growing coastal wetland plants take in CO₂ during photosynthesis and deposit carbon-containing leaves, branches and roots in underwater sediment. These decomposing plant materials can persist for thousands of years. But, development, overfishing and other pressures can transform coastal environments from sinks to sources of CO₂ as well as methane, another potent greenhouse gas.

Clustered along tropical and subtropical coastlines, mangrove forests are among the most efficient carbon capture and storage systems. Since the late 20th century these forests have disappeared at an alarming rate. Conservation and restoration efforts are now slowing the loss.

Salt or tidal marshes sequester carbon at a much higher rate than land ecosystems, but have lost more than 50% of their historical global coverage. Fortunately, marsh restoration can be very effective.

Seagrass roots accumulate vertically beneath the seafloor, creating a vast repository of buried carbon. Though these habitats occupy only a tiny fraction of the ocean's floor space, they store more than 10% of its buried organic carbon.

What is "blue carbon"? This is the carbon that is captured and stored by the world's ocean and coastal ecosystems. Warming waters and unsustainable exploitation can disrupt deep-water carbon cycles and release long-trapped gas back into the atmosphere, accelerating climate change. Marine environments have absorbed about a third of human carbon emissions since the start of the Industrial Revolution. Scientists estimate that the oceans are currently as acidic as they were 26,000 years ago. Is this like "going back to the future"? We all need to continue to build the case for preservation and restoration. Action is the antidote to helplessness!

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

New Native Plant Nursery Planned for CHEC Alligator Creek

by Rob Mills

The Peace River Audubon Society has been awarded a \$2500 grant from FPL and Florida Audubon as part of the Audubon Plants for Birds program. We will work with the Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center (CHEC) to create a native plant nursery located at CHEC. The nursery will be open to the public to purchase plants. Plants will also be used in the new Butterfly House at CHEC to provide nectar for the butterflies and food for the caterpillars. The plant nursery will be open during normal CHEC hours. Plants will include a variety of native trees, bushes, vines, flowering plants and ground covers. The goal is to educate the public about the benefits of landscaping with native plants in order to create a micro habitat for pollinators and birds. Plans are to open the nursery by the end of the year. Stay tuned for updates.

Events from Our Nature-Related Friends See links for cancellations and updates

Because many parks and facilities remain under repair from hurricane damage, please check the links given for the latest updates.

Events from the Environmental Conservancy of North Port (ECNP)

<https://ecnorthport.com/>

Events from Venice Area Audubon Society (VAAS)

<https://veniceareaaudubonsociety.wildapricot.org>

Nature Walks at Lemon Creek Wildflower Preserve

<https://lemonbayconservancy.org/>

Events from Peace River Butterfly Society

Jjpeterfeso@gmail.com

Nature Walks from Sarasota County UF/IFAS

<https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/program-ecology-and-natural-resources-213209>

Nature Walks from 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

Your Mangrove Board of Directors

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

Secretary, Open

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Chapter Representative: Kate Borduas

Education and Outreach; Grants: Bobbi Rodgers

Digital Services; Historian: Dave Manley

Field Trips; Publicity: Stephanie Thornton

Garden, Laura Soule

Hospitality: Joan McGowan

Immediate Past President: Lois Cantwell

Newsletter: Gail Finney

Programs: Ruth Ward

Social Media: Anne Risberg

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