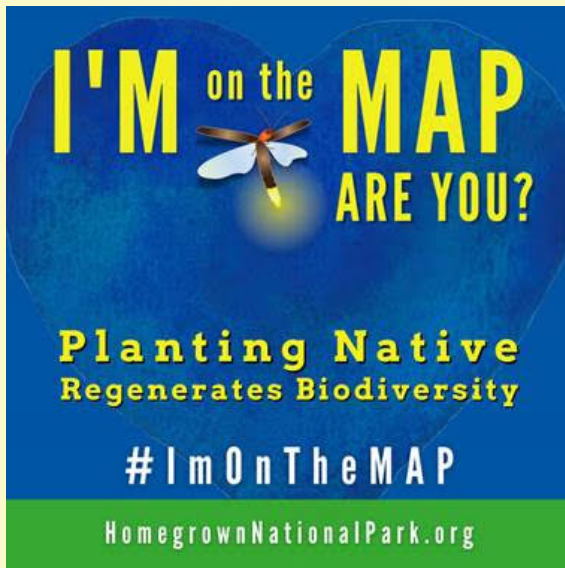


Report from Your President: by Linda Manley



Homegrown National Park®
Our theme for the year 2023 will be **Homegrown National Park®**, a concept created by Doug Tallamy, one of the primary movers and shakers in ecology and biodiversity today. His NYT best-selling book, *Nature's Best Hope*, laid the foundation of the homegrown national park and sparked the creation of a website of the same name. Our goal for this year is to have every one of our members "on the map;" that is, listed on the map on the website. The way to do that is to plant at least one native plant in your yard. And if you have no yard, a

native plant in a pot on your balcony will still get you on the map.

I believe *Nature's Best Hope* should be required reading for every homeowner. It explains in clear English the critical loss of 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. That would exceed the size of more than a dozen of our current national parks combined.

To quote Doug: "[A]s our population has expanded, we have exiled nature more and more to parks and preserves that are too small, too few in number, and too isolated to sustain it." The goal of Homegrown National Park® is to reverse that trend and give both our native flora and native fauna a place to exist, grow, and roam once again. Not only their lives, but our lives depend on it.

The website for Homegrown National Park® is easy:
<https://homegrownnationalpark.org>. Go there to register your property on the map, just as I did. You can add as much or as little detail as you want. You can list your exact street address or just your county or zip code. You can list every native plant on your property, or just one. But we urge you to get on the map. Florida, with our beautiful environment and our many plants, is underrepresented, being on the second lowest tier, with few people on the map. We can do better!

Throughout this year, we will post news, inspirations, and challenges for all of you, starting with Plant Native Day on March 4. More information for that appears later in this newsletter. The slogan of Homegrown National Park[®] is Start a New **HABITAT**[®]. Please join us and start your own **HABITAT**!



Welcome new members, **Mia Jaworski, Kathy Ferri, Sandy Tulenko, and Melissa Urda**. We're glad you have joined us!

Start a New Habitat

How is 2023 going for everyone? How are those New Year Resolutions coming along? "What resolutions," you say? How about starting a new habitat in your yard? As Linda Manley wrote in her president's message, this year's theme for Plant Native Day will be "Start a New **HABITAT**: Homegrown National Park[®]".

Plant Native Day 2023 (PND) will be held at a new location. Hurricane Ian disrupted many things and caused the need to find a new venue for PND, which we had held at Cedar Point Environmental Park for over a decade. The Mangrove Chapter board members are pleased to announce PND will be at the Lemon Bay Park and Environmental Center this year, on March 4 from 9 AM until 1 PM. The Florida Native Plant Nursery will again be there with their native plants for you to buy.

Over at the pavilion in the park, the Mangrove Chapter will have member-grown plants available for suggested donations. We will have Mangrove Treasures available as well, with art work, garden accessories, and books such as Doug Tallamy's book, "Nature's Best Hope."

On your self-guided tour of the pollinator garden, you will be able to see the native shrubs and flowers that volunteers planted on December 6. A printed plant list will be available and the plants will have signs with a QR code, so when scanned by your smart phone, you can view the FNPS plant data sheet in your browser. Later, our guided walk in Lemon Bay Park will focus on the park's native plants and how you can incorporate them into your own landscape.

There will be two presentations in the small classroom. The first one, by Laurel Schiller from the Florida Native Plant Nursery, will be about native plants for your yard. You will learn how you can start your own habitat for pollinators. The second talk will feature Jeff Weber from Sarasota County. His immense knowledge of Florida native plants will further educate you.

Doug Tallamy's video, "What's the Rush" will play continuously in the Environmental Center. This video describes his vision of the Homegrown National Park[®] and explains why we should put ourselves on the map. Venice Area Audubon Society, Peace River Butterfly Society, Peace River Wildlife Center, and

the Environmental Conservancy of North Port will have exhibits, along with our own. We are fortunate to have these organizations, who all share our mission and beliefs, be with us for this event.

Come join us at beautiful Lemon Bay Park on March 4th for PND 2023. We will make it easy for you to start a new habitat.

Volunteer Opportunity

Our volunteer opportunity for this month is the position of Chapter Representative. This is a position you can do from Florida or from another location, if you're a snowbird. The primary responsibility of this position is to attend monthly ZOOM meetings of the Council of Chapters, a state-level organization, and report back at the Board meeting. Each chapter has the opportunity; indeed, the responsibility to send a representative to this meeting, where important information is shared and casual chats often take place. The meetings are held at 6:30 PM on the fourth Sunday of each month, with an occasional month off. While minutes are posted online, normally by the following Tuesday, the representative should also report on the proceedings at Board meeting. If you are not in Florida, it can be a written report, although a live report is preferred.

This is an excellent position for those of you who have been members for a few years and now find that you must cut back your activities but still want to remain involved. The Sunday meeting takes an hour or two, and the report to the Board takes a bit more time. The position is easier if you have some background and knowledge of the Florida Native Plant Society, but new members are welcome to volunteer. Initially you might feel a bit overwhelmed, but the knowledge and experience shared at these meetings provides a world of information.

If you're interested, please email me for more information at 88lingo@gmail.com

Click here to **Visit our Website**

Out and About with Mangrove Chapter

Chapter Meeting

Tuesday, February 14th, 1:00. The February program will be *Insects in the Ecosystem: Why Insects Need Our Help*. Last spring, Master Naturalist and insect enthusiast Kate Borduas presented a program about the critical roles of insects in the ecosystem. This month Kate will explore the multiple causes of insect decline and what we can do as groups and individuals to support healthy populations of these little creatures that run the world. Meet at the Environmental Center, Lemon Bay Park, 570 Bay Park Blvd., Englewood.

Guided Walks

Friday, February 3, 9-11 AM, Wildflower Preserve, Lemon Bay Conservancy. 3120 Gasparilla Pines Blvd, Englewood. Led by Bill Dunson.

Plant List: <https://mangrove.fnpschapters.org/field-trip-plant-lists/lemon-creek-wildflower/>

Wednesday, February 22, 4:30-5:30 PM, Venice Audubon Rookery. Led by Dave and Linda Manley.

No Plant List available

Saturday, February 25, 9-11 AM, South Venice Lemon Bay Park (Osprey entrance), 6125 Osprey Rd, Venice. Led by Kate Borduas.

Plant List: <https://mangrove.fnpschapters.org/field-trips/south-venice-lemon-bay/>

Library Display

Our library display this month is at Elsie Quirk Library in Englewood. Come check it out!

Grants Help Hurricane Ian Homeowners with Native Plants

by Bobbi Rogers

Several years ago, the Mangrove Chapter FNPS began a grant project to encourage and assist public businesses to incorporate native plants into their landscaping. Many non-profits, home owner associations, and businesses applied and received the funding. This entitles applicants to up to \$500 for landscaping using native plant species. This project is educational for both the applicants and the public who visit these sites in learning the importance of using natives.

With the success of the MCFNPS Landscape Grant for public businesses, and the vegetative destruction due to Hurricane Ian, the project was expanded in October 2022 to include home residences affected by the storm. A multitude of homes had their landscaping decimated by wind, water, and the associated equipment traffic to complete home repairs. But we could help! For this season (October 2022-September 30, 2023) only, homeowners within our Chapter's borders (Punta Gorda, Port Charlotte, North Port, Englewood, South Venice) can apply for the Mangrove Chapter Residential Landscaping Grant of up to \$100 for rehabilitation, enhancement, or creation of a new yard utilizing Florida native plants. All grant applications can be found on our website, and all applications must be received by April 30, 2023.



Venice Audubon Rookery, 2021

- To date, we have had 17 applicants. Of these, five were incomplete (missing a required condition on the application), one was declined by homeowner after approval, seven have been approved, and one has been completed.
- Click on this link to find the grants application: [**Mangrove Chapter Grant Application**](#)



Congratulations to Suzanne Sherman of Venice for her completed hedge row of Florida native plants.

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

February Events with Our Nature Related Friends

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

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 PRButterflySociety@gmail.com

Nature Walks from Sarasota County UF/IFAS <https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/program-ecology-and-natural-resources-213209>

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

Election of Officers

The annual election of officers for the Mangrove Chapter, Florida Native Plant Society, took place at the Chapter meeting on January 10, 2023. Officers elected were President, Linda Manley; Secretary, Jayne Neville; and Treasurer, Linda Wilson.

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

Secretary: Jayne Neville

Treasurer: Conservation and Policy: Linda "Willie" Wilson

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

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

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