

Report from Your President: by Linda Manley

Plan to join us at our annual Plant Native Day on March 4. This is the perfect time for you not only to restore your garden, but also to update it to align with the growing movement to use only native plants in your landscape. While old ideas advocated that your lawn should look like a perfect green carpet, modern sensibilities decry the incredibly wasteful—and harmful—nature of that belief. Consumers today prefer to spend both their money and their time in more responsible ways. Have you ever added up the costs of a traditional nonnative landscape?



Lawn supplies such as fertilizer, insecticide, herbicide, and fungicide are exorbitantly expensive. And if you pay someone to apply all those for you, the cost increases. Nonnative shrubs and trees involve similar costs, and worse, create a barren habitat for our native insects, birds, and other small animals. Because these natives did not evolve with exotic and introduced plants, they can neither eat them nor use them to feed and raise their young. Did you know that nearly all seed-eating birds feed insects to their chicks? The current and ongoing precipitous decline in insects and birds is due largely to loss of habitat, including homeowners' use of nonnative plants in their yards, yards that were originally carved out of the Florida wilderness of native plants.

Come to our Plant Native Day—March 4, 9-1, at Lemon Bay Park—and take home some native plants to feed the birds and insects in your yard.

**Welcome New Members:** Laurene Via, Sheryl and William Bickel, and Russell and Eileen Boehm. We're glad you have joined us!

Start a New Habitat

Plant Native Day 2023: Start a New HABITat; Homegrown National Park®

Plant Native Day 2023 is almost upon us. We are fortunate to be able to have our event at beautiful Lemon Bay Park in Englewood this year. You will be able to purchase native plants from Florida Native Plant Nursery and Landscaping, located just inside the entrance to the meadow. Ruth Ward has been overseeing the operations for the Mangrove Chapter to have member-grown native plants available. She and other members have been caring for their native plants, which will be under the pavilion. We will have many shrubs and flowers, including native milkweed plants. You will be excited with the selection and quality of plants.

Anne Risberg and Kate Borduas have been overseeing the Mangrove Treasures, gently used items such as books, art, and garden accessories donated by Mangrove Chapter members. These are also under the pavilion. Stop by to find that unique item you must have for your home.

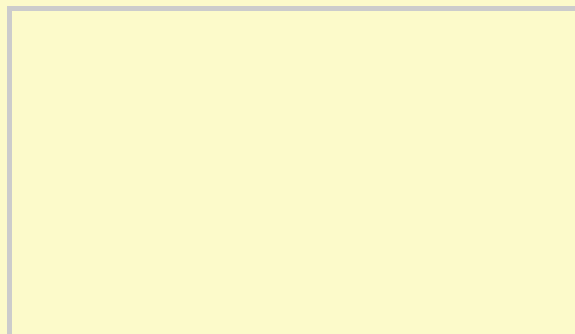
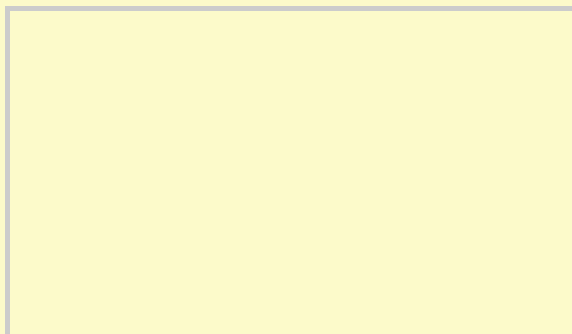
The exhibitors in the meadow near the pavilion include the Venice Area Audubon Society, the Peace River Butterfly Society, Peace River Wildlife Center, and the Environmental Conservancy of North Port. Each of these groups shares the values of the Florida Native Plant Society. We all recognize the need to preserve, conserve, and restore native plants and their habitats. Please be sure to stop by and visit their booths to learn more.

The Mangrove Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society will have a table with educational materials available where you can learn more about the Homegrown National Park<sup>®</sup> concept. Our yards, neighborhoods, and communities are all connected, but many are fragmented and the natural world is experiencing habitat and biodiversity loss. We can each help change that.

Speakers Laurel Schiller from Florida Native Plant Nursery and Jeff Weber from Sarasota County Parks will speak in the small classroom at the main building at 10:00 and 11:00 AM. Following the speakers, Jeff Weber and Kate Borduas will lead a walk through the native plants of Lemon Bay Park. The Environmental Center will have Doug Tallamy's video, "What's the Rush?" running in a continuous loop, explaining why it is so urgent for us to change our gardening practices and protect biodiversity.

You'll be able to see many native plants in the gardens at Lemon Bay Park. We will have signs with QR codes placed in front of the plants that are good choices for your own landscape. When scanned, the FNPS plant data sheet will have photos of the plant and growing requirements.

We might not be able to change or control many things in this world, but we can choose what we grow in our gardens. Please come to Plant Native Day on March 4th to learn why you should "get on the map". We're looking forward to seeing you all there!







Leavenworth coreopsis



Oakleaf fleabane



Frogfruit



Camphor daisy



Lyreleaf Sage

## 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](mailto:88lingo@gmail.com)

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## Landscape Grant Update by Bobbi Rogers

This season (October 2022–September 2023), our Chapter has offered both Public and Private Landscape Grants to applicants within our area. To date, two applications (both in Englewood) have been completed by purchasing native plants according to the grant protocol. Both have been reimbursed by the Private grant, which is up to \$100 each.

One applicant, a Homeowners' Association in Punta Gorda, has been approved as a Public Grant of up to \$500, and is currently purchasing plants to complete a native garden within the Common Area of their Villas. Photographs will be upcoming from this site.

We have found that completing a grant seems to incur various waiting times. To date, one is awaiting a site visit (done before approval process can occur), three need to supply us with plant lists (to identify that these are, indeed, native species), seven need to actually purchase the selected plants and send a receipt for reimbursement, and one needs additional committee assistance to identify native plants to select.

This is an important and educational project that not only introduces the concept of planting native to many people and communities, but also encourages those same people to actually take steps to increase their native plantings within their landscapes. But the Grant Committee needs your help. Often several individuals and communities need site visits to start their grant application process. This is the fun part! Committee members (at least two) visit a yard and talk with the owner over ideas for plantings. Sometimes, the owner knows exactly what they want to use; other times they have no idea. Sometimes, they want a plant that is non-native, perhaps even invasive, and the committee members need to explain the differences. It's a great outreach project. If you would be interested in helping, even to "tag along" to see how this all works, please contact us at [MangroveChapter@fnps.org](mailto:MangroveChapter@fnps.org)!

Click here to **Visit our Website**

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## Out and About with Mangrove Chapter

### Chapter Meeting

**Tuesday, March 14th, 1:00.** The March program





will feature *Promoting Bees through Knowledge* by Christy Linke. Christy is the State Bees Chair for the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. She loves the world of bees, started speaking on bees 9 years ago, and now speaks on bees all over the state of Florida. Come learn the differences between native bees and European honey bees

and the benefits of both. Meet at the Environmental Center, Lemon Bay Park, 570 Bay Park Blvd., Englewood.

### **Cookout for Conservation**

**Saturday, March 18, 2-8 PM, 6968 Reisterstown Road, North Port.** 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 Philharmonica Band from 4-8 ([www.thephilharmoncaband.com](http://www.thephilharmoncaband.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)

<http://www.eventbrite.com/.../cookout-for-conservation...>

### **Guided Walks**

**Friday, March 10, 9-11 AM, Don Pedro Island State Park, 8450 Placida Road** \$3 entrance fee. Led by Bill Dunson.

Plant List: <https://mangrove.fnpschapters.org/field-trips/don-pedro-state-park/>

**Wednesday, March 15, 4:30-5:30 PM, Venice Urban Forest, 308 E Venice Ave, Venice.** You may need a GPS to find this. Led by Dave and Linda Manley.  
No Plant List available

**Monday, March 20, 9-11 AM, Broadmoor Park, 646 Rotonda Circle, Rotonda West.** Led by Bill Dunson.  
No Plant List available

**Sunday, April 2, 9-11 AM, Gordon Smith Trail, Myakka State Forest, 2000 South River Road, Englewood.** \$3 entrance fee. Led by Bill Dunson.  
Plant List: <https://mangrove.fnpschapters.org/field-trips/myakka-state-forest/>

### **Library Displays**

Our library displays this month are at both Englewood Charlotte Library in Englewood and Shannon Staub Library in North Port. Come check them out!

### **Looking for Walk Leaders**

Mangrove Chapter is always looking for walk leaders and now is no exception. If you have some knowledge of native plants and enjoy helping others learn about all the benefits of growing

native, consider letting us know and volunteering to lead a walk or two. We won't throw you in the deep end to start with. You can choose what park you would like to be in and the day you'd like to lead a walk. If you want, you can shadow any of



our walk leaders and see how they do things while you think about how you'd like to put your own spin on things. Please email us at [mangrove@fnpschapters.org](mailto:mangrove@fnpschapters.org)

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## Lemon Creek Wildflower Preserve Open House

by Bobbi Rogers



On February 11, 2023, the Mangrove Chapter FNPS participated in the Wildflower Open House Festival in Englewood, FL. It was a beautiful day, and very well attended. Several Chapter members assisted with set-up and tear-down of our vendor tent, and others greeted and answered questions raised by interested passers-by.

It was refreshing to witness the interest of visitors to our display area. Some had questions as to what native plants might best be planted in their landscapes; others were visitors to the area who were native plant enthusiasts in their hometowns. All

discussions were informative and interesting.

Photo Left: Hairy Cowpea

Two Chapter members also conducted plant walks at the festival. Anne Risberg took a group of 27 attendees through the butterfly garden. Together they searched for pollinators as they identified the numerous native plants found in the garden. Charlie Woodruff led hearty souls on a guided walk up the “mountain” at the Preserve in search of any flora and fauna found there. The line of participants could be seen trudging up to the top, only to disappear as they moved to the other side. Both walks provided educational experiences for all involved as they learned the importance of using natives.

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**We are on Facebook!!!**

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

[Mangrove Chapter Facebook page](#)

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## 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

## March Events with Our Nature Related Friends

Venice Area Audubon Society (VAAS)  
<https://veniceareaaudubonsociety.wildapricot.org>

The Environmental Conservancy of North Port (ECNP) <https://ecnorthport.com/>

Lemon Creek Wildflower Preserve <https://lemonbayconservancy.org/>

Peace River Butterfly Society (PRBS) [PRButterflySociety@gmail.com](mailto: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>

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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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## Your Mangrove Board of Directors

President; Membership: Linda Manley [88lingo@gmail.com](mailto:88lingo@gmail.com)  
Secretary: Vacant  
Treasurer: Conservation and Policy: Linda "Willie" Wilson  
Chapter Representative: Kate Borduas  
Education and Outreach: Grants: Bobbi Rodgers  
Digital Services: Historian: Dave Manley  
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To reach any Board member, email [mangrovechapter@fnps.org](mailto:mangrovechapter@fnps.org) and allow 48 hours for a reply.

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