



November 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.

November 8 Meeting Location

Ian's damage continues to thwart our resolve to return to our traditional meeting place, and our meeting on **Tuesday, November 8, will be in the Veranda Room at the North Port Library, 13800 Tamiami Trail**. That is the intersection of Hwy 41 and Biscayne in North Port. Meeting time is **1:30-3:30** due to a technical glitch in reservations. Our speaker is Barbara Lockhart from the Environmental Conservancy of North Port, who will speak on the topic, "Nature Conservation Starts in Your Neighborhood." We will have our usual raffle, with prize selections of books on plants and gardening donated by our members. We are excited to start a new season and look forward to seeing all of you again. Please plan to join us!

December 13 Meeting

Speaking of meetings, our December 13 meeting program will be a potluck and silent auction. It will take place at 4:30 PM at Lemon Bay Park. We will not have a speaker for this meeting but instead will have a social meeting where you can catch up with each other, meet new friends, and find some treasures at our silent auction. We already have some art and some books that members have donated, and we may have some native plants. 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 and your own table service.

Report from Your President:

by Linda Manley

Many of our members continue to recover, however slowly, from the ravages of Hurricane Ian. We have you in our minds and in our hearts through this challenging time.

Amid all the destruction, we focus on rebuilding. I cannot think of a better time to emphasize the importance of replanting your garden—and all your property—with native plants. We have received several requests for presentations to garden clubs and other organizations concerning the benefits of using native plants in your yard. We're working

on fulfilling those requests and will publicize the presentations when they are finalized. My own neighborhood was spared the worst of the damage although we endured the 140 MPH winds in the eyewall for over six hours. Many of the trees simply could not withstand winds of that force for so long. Some finally succumbed and were blown over; others were left leaning at precarious angles. What I noticed first was that almost 100% of our native sabal palms survived. They had not been trimmed in two years, and even then, it was not a hurricane cut. With their full crowns of fronds, they did just fine. What we did lose was many of the queen palms, a popular but nonnative species.

Most of our oaks survived, although many lost limbs and a few even toppled over. The neighborhood lost about 90% of the southern magnolias, a native species. One of our residents noted that all our trees have underground drip irrigation, which contributed to shallow root growth. That's another lesson learned. These trees can survive on their own without irrigation, once they are established. In this case, providing water was not a kindness.

Among the destruction debris have been many, many white vinyl fences. We urge you to consider planting a native green hedge instead of purchasing more white vinyl fence. PVC/vinyl is made from a series of processing steps that convert hydrocarbon-based raw materials (petroleum, natural gas or coal) into synthetic products. Southern red cedar makes an unbeatable privacy fence within a short time and it tolerates pruning well. If you prefer the appearance of deciduous plants, try cocoplum, which also tolerates pruning and bears small edible fruit. Both provide thick hedges and excellent nesting sites for birds. You may be wondering where to start in replanting your yard: what to plant and where to find reliable advice. Please, don't start at your local big box store. Visit one of our local native plant nurseries, where you will find dependable guidance and knowledgeable suggestions for replanting. The best plants for your yard will depend on the specific conditions of your yard: sunny, shady, inland, beach, dry, moist, and so on. Classic shrub choices include firebush, beauty berry, tea bush, wax myrtle, wild coffee, Walter's viburnum, and lyonia, but you have many other choices.

Our nearest native nurseries are All Natives Garden Center in Ft. Myers, Florida Native Plants Nursery in Sarasota, and Sweet Bay Nursery in Parrish. You can find contact information for them elsewhere in this newsletter, as in all our newsletters. Be aware that some of the nurseries suffered hurricane damage, too, and might not be at full capacity. If you're up for a road trip, visit www.PlantRealFlorida.org, the website of the Florida Association of Native Nurseries, which has a full list of all the native nurseries in Florida. Nurseries in other parts of the state suffered less damage, may have more complete inventories, and are eager to help you find suitable native plants.

Photo: Southern Red Cedar hedge



Welcome New Members: Rosanna Sutherland and Tom Chambers, James Demarest, Joy Wolski and Stephanie Ogg. We're glad you have joined us!

Click here to [Visit our Website](#)

Garden Update

By Laura Soule

Nothing Gold Can Stay

Robert Frost, 1874-1963

*Nature's first green is gold,
Her hardest hue to hold.
Her early leaf's a flower;
But only for an hour.
Then leaf subsides to leaf.
So Eden sank to grief,
So dawn goes down to day.
Nothing gold can stay.*

It's with great sadness, I report that the native plant demonstration garden at Cedar Point Environmental Park did not survive hurricane Ian. Mangrove Chapter members had a vision for this garden and with determination and hard work, it came to life. The garden was a place where people could come and see native plants in southwest Florida. Volunteers tended the gardens on Monday mornings and would answer questions that visitors had. It was a peaceful and serene place. The slash pines and red cedar trees were magnificent. Their pine needles carpeted the ground and created a softness to the area. The spanish moss (*Tillandsia usneoides*) dangling from the tree boughs added old Florida charm. It was a happy place for many. Even the rabbits were happy since they seemed to enjoy eating the spiderwort plants (*Tradescantia ohiensis*).

The annual Plant Native Day event was held at the garden and inside the building at Cedar Point. Our last Plant Native Day was a huge success. Visitors were interested in buying native plants and adding them to their gardens; we sold almost every single plant that we had to sell. We educated people about how important native plants are to pollinators, birds, and the ecosystem.

It was more than a garden. I think of it as a gift to the Englewood community. This gift was provided by CHEC, Charlotte County, and the members of the Mangrove Chapter.

It's time to move forward. Well, in a way. We will be moving back to Lemon Bay Park for our monthly membership meetings. The garden keepers, our dedicated group of volunteers, will tend the gardens at Lemon Bay Park going forward. My hope is we can have a demonstration garden there.

Nathalie Smith is the Parks Naturalist - Land Manager at Lemon Bay Park. She had purchased around 100 native plants with a generous donation from The Friends of Lemon Bay Park. She planned to have them planted mid-October but then hurricane Ian decided

to disrupt her plan. The plants survived the hurricane but need to be planted.

We are seeking volunteers to help with the planting of these plants. The Friends meet on Tuesday mornings at LBP. Please let me know if you're available to help with this project. <ldsoule@snet.net> We will need volunteers to water the plants until they are established.

We are extremely fortunate to have the parks that we have in Englewood. We are also fortunate that hurricane Ian didn't cause as much devastation to Lemon Bay Park as it did to Cedar Point. These 100 native plants can be our fresh start. Maybe it can be a fresh start for you too. Please come and join the garden keepers at LBP.



Plant Native Day, 2014



Butterfly Garden, 2014

From the Boca Gazette,
2009

Out and About with Mangrove Chapter

Newcomer Day

Our first activity this month will be an information and publications table at North Port Newcomer Day on Saturday, November 5, from 10-12, at the Mullin Center, 1602 Kramer Way, near City Hall. This free semi-annual event features local businesses and nonprofits who offer valuable information to new residents, snowbirds, and visitors about services they will find helpful as they settle into the area. Mangrove Chapter offers information on Florida native plants and signup sheets to receive our monthly newsletter, as well as the opportunity to join our Chapter. Many businesses offer token gifts such as pens, and several hold raffles for gift baskets. This event is held in conjunction with a community yard sale on City Center Green from 8 AM to noon. PHOTO: Dave Manley at Newcomer Day in 2021



Alligator Creek Fest

Mangrove Chapter will participate in the Alligator Creek Fest to be held Saturday, November 19, from 11-2 at the South Venice Yacht Club, 4425 Yacht Club Drive, Venice. This year's Creek Fest environmental expo will feature kayak tours, a raffle, and music. Mangrove Education Chair, Bobbi Rodgers, will give hourly demonstrations, offering easy directions that anyone can follow. Other groups will offer information on backyard habitat restoration, composting, recycling and upcycling, electric options for yard care equipment, and much more. Come visit this free environmental festival!

Library Display

Our library display for the month of November will be at North Port Library, 13800 Tamiami Trail. Stop by and check it out!

Lemon Bay Native Plants

Mangrove Chapter has agreed to help plant native plants at Lemon Bay Environmental Park, our once-again meeting location. The park had acquired over 100 native plants that were to be planted by county employees in September. When Hurricane Ian struck, all employees had to be redirected to cleanup teams to bring the parks back to safe conditions for residents. Our planting days have been scheduled for December (more info available next month) and we are looking for volunteers to help with the project. You can list your name as a volunteer at our November 8 meeting at the North Port Library or email the Chapter at MangroveChapter@FNPS.org.

Guided Walks

We have two guided walks scheduled this month. Because many of the parks are still under repair from Ian at this writing, please watch our Facebook page and website news blog for updates or cancellations.



Our first walk is a sunset stroll led by Dave and Linda Manley on Wednesday, November 16, from 4:30 to 5:30 at Lemon Bay Park, 570 Bay Park Blvd., Englewood. Plan to meet at the Nature Center. This beautiful 210-acre park boasts 1.7 miles of shoreline on the Lemon Bay Aquatic Preserve. For this visit we will explore the mangrove fringe, where we may see wading birds or other wildlife, and with

luck, we'll see the approaching sunset over the bay.

PHOTO: View of Lemon Bay

Our second walk will be led by Kate Borduas and take place Saturday, November 26, from 9-11 at Myakka State Forest, East River Road Entrance (¼ mile east of River Road).

A Walk on the Quiet Side will be through the untrammelled northern reaches of Myakka State Forest on well-maintained flat trails.

Depending on conditions and reports, we will walk either the Palmetto Trail or Slash Pine Trail. This will most likely be an out-and-

back walk as the loop trails may prove a little long for the comfort of our members. The 8,500-acre forest consists of open prairies and mesic flatwoods. The forest is well managed with frequent managed burns to prevent succession. These burns help promote the lush growth of many wildflowers, some of which are quite rare. Please wear long pants as ticks are often thick in this area. Closed shoes, hat, and water recommended.

Please carpool where possible.

PHOTO: Myakka State Forest



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!

Your Free Pass to Florida State Parks

Did you know that you can use your library card to check out a one-day pass to a state park, just as if you had checked out a book? It's completely free, but each library has a limited number of available passes. Sadly, you can't just show your card at the park and get in free, but it's a wonderful opportunity if you plan ahead. For more information, see this link: [Florida State Park Pass](#)

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.

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

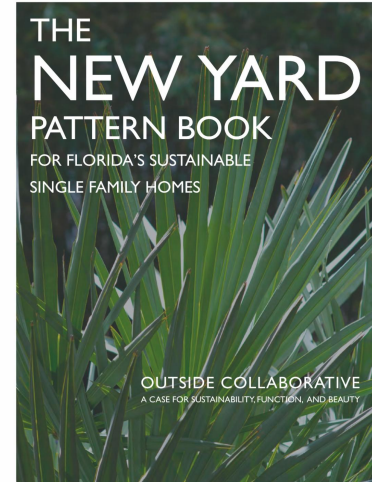


Venice Area Audubon Society received the 2021 Mangrove Chapter Grant to refresh the butterfly garden at the center. Could your church or organization use a garden refresher of native plants? Apply for a grant today!

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](#)

My Northern Report

by Lois Cantwell

Having been fairly saturated in the Florida native plant experience during much of my snow-birding years, I thought I might end up in withdrawal returning to my northern roots on a full-time basis. Belonging to two garden clubs here in NE Michigan, my club activities involved traditional gardening with non-native perennials and annuals. I am actually seeing more and more emphasis on plants native to our area coming from our state leadership.

Last year's keynote speaker for the state conference of Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc. was none other than Doug Tallamy. Promoting his book "Nature's Best Hope" and the concept of the Home-Grown National Park, he influenced many of our garden clubs to get on the

map at www.homegrownnationalpark.org. Out of curiosity, I checked the website and compared MI to FL in terms of the number of active counties, user count, plantings count, and planted acres. Surprisingly, the MI numbers were all significantly higher than the FL numbers!

Many of our garden clubs are showing a variety of Doug's webinars as an educational component at their monthly meetings. Our club has not only done that, we are currently making plans for our annual Spring Luncheon in April, and the theme we have chosen will be "Home Grown National Parks".

The National Pollinator Garden Network

NPGN is a partnership between conservation organizations, gardening groups, volunteer civic associations and participating federal agencies to inspire people and organizations to create more pollinator habitats. The nine founding organizations launched NPGN in June 2015 with 26 inaugural partners and has grown to approximately 50 national network partners in less than two years. So, one other website where you can register your garden, if you are planting for pollinators is <http://www.millionpollinatorgardens.org>.

In the aftermath of Ian's devastation and meeting the challenges of repairing the damages, there will also be an opportunity for those who have lost their landscapes to replace plants, shrubs and trees with native plants, rather than the commercial big-box tropical varieties of non-native plants that do not optimally support wildlife or pollinators. This a golden opportunity, as Florida has been subject to centuries of systematic introduction of non-native and invasive species. Nativize your yard and share the concept with your neighbors! Share a plant or two to get them started.

Home - Million Pollinator Garden Challenge

Pollinators are responsible for 1 out of 3 bites of food we take each day, and yet pollinators are at critical point in their own survival. Many reasons contribute to their recent decline. We know for certain, however, that more nectar and pollen sources provided by more flowering plants and trees will help improve their health and numbers.

www.millionpollinatorgardens.org

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

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

November Events by Our Nature Friends

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/>

Thursday, November 3, 7:00 PM, Zoom. “Good Citizen Guide to Native Florida.” Linda Manley, president of the Mangrove Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society, will discuss this new publication that offers helpful nature guidelines for snowbirds and new residents of Florida. Registration required at

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcrduCorTgrH9Htg1ANL4GgN2M-CII3OSbO>

Events from Venice Area Audubon Society (VAAS)

<https://veniceareaaudubonsociety.wildapricot.org>

Nov 4 (Fri) Celery Fields, **8 a.m.** Sarasota Audubon Nature Center, 6888 Palmer Blvd. Host: Bob Clark, rlwclark@gmail.com.

Nov 8 (Tues) Ollie's Pond, **8 a.m.** The corner of Avon Ave and San Matias (18235 Avon Ave) in Port Charlotte. Host: Jack Foard, captainjackfoard@yahoo.com.

Nov 11 (Fri) Crowley Museum and Nature Center, **7:30 a.m.** 16405 Myakka Rd, Sarasota. Host: Jack Foard, captainjackfoard@yahoo.com.

Nov 16 (Wed) Stump Pass Beach State Park, **8:15 a.m.** The south end of Manasota Key. Parking fee of \$3. Host: Lou Sharp, ljsharp@sbcglobal.net and Bob Clark, rlwclark@gmail.com.

Nov 26 (Sat) Myakka River State Park, **8:15 a.m.** \$6 entry fee. The trip involves driving to a number of different birding sites, so consider carpooling. Host: Jack Foard, captainjackfoard@yahoo.com

Nature Walks at Lemon Creek Wildflower Preserve

<https://lemonbayconservancy.org/>

Nature Walks from Charlotte County Environmental Center

<https://www.checflorida.org/calendar>

Register at Tome@checflorida.org or call 941-475-0769

Nature Walks from Sarasota County UF/IFAS

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

Events from Peace River Butterfly Society

Jjpeterfeso@gmail.com

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

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Visit our website

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