

Celebrating Resilience



Photos from left: Florida privet (*Forestiera segregata*), narrowleaf silkgrass (*Pityopsis graminifolia*), and beauty berry (*Callicarpa americana*) with new growth bursting in green following Hurricane Milton's desiccating winds.

Not everything survived and many of us lost so much. But with native plants, we can recognize and celebrate the resilience found within our community and in our connections with the broader ecosystem.

The Mission of the
Florida Native Plant Society is to
Champion Florida's Native Plants and their Habitats

Storm Damage Means New Grant for Homeowners

by Bobbi Rodgers, Grants Committee Chair

We at the Mangrove Chapter Florida Native Plant Society feel your pain. Many of us had just recently replanted our native gardens after Hurricane Ian ravaged our area. Things were looking so good! And, now, two back-to-back hurricanes, Helene and

Milton, upset our landscape plans. Some of you may have lost non-native plants, too. Looking around our area, we see brown leaves everywhere. This is most probably severe wind and salt damage. But there are things we can (and some we shouldn't) do.

First, be patient...remember that native plants are well versed in the extreme weather patterns of Florida: drought, flood, heat, and, yes, even hurricanes. Don't rush to remove the plants that look like they can't possibly survive. The storm's wind may have dried some, the salt spray may have coated some leaves' surfaces (along with vehicles, house windows, and everything else), and storm surge may have submerged our sensitive plants with unwanted saltwater.

The photo to the right shows growth on a scorpiontail (*Heliotropium angiospermum*) plant that appeared dead immediately after the storm.



Given a bit of time, many (if not most) of our plants will begin to show new life with green leaflets or shoots. Some may not come directly from the "mother" plant, but from the underground rhizomes. Watch for them; they are happening as you read this.

Second, do not fertilize the plants. Most fertilizers are from soluble salts and can actually increase the salinity problem. The increased salt can hinder the plant's water uptake to our already stressed plants.

Instead, water your plants. This will help dilute the salt damage and help restore leaf moisture. Then mulch heavily with a Florida friendly mulch to hold the soil moisture, especially as we enter our dry season.

Third, if you have plants that are not Florida native, this may be the time to turn the page and replace them with native. Not only are the natives adapted to the Florida environment, they also provide habitat for much needed pollinators and other wildlife.

Here's what our Facebook visitors are saying about their native plant landscapes after Hurricane Milton:

"...oaks and cabbage palms look rough, but I believe they will rebound as they did from Ian." - Alicia Irvin

"My cocoplums look good." -Joan Snider

"My stoppers, sea grapes, mangroves, coonties did well." -Theresa Fouts



Pineland heliotrope (*Euploca polyphylla*), although a low groundcover, was completely

“In my garden, the Simpsons stopper, golden beach creeper, and weeping yaupon holly look great.” -Kristin Hoffschmidt

brown after the storm, but is putting out pretty new growth and flowering.

2024-2025 Native Plant Grants Available

To assist those within the Mangrove Chapter FNPS area (South Venice to Punta Gorda to Englewood), our Annual Landscape Grant has been changed a bit to better accommodate those affected by the storms. In most years, we have provided grants to PUBLIC properties, but, this year (2024-2025), we will provide up to \$100 in grant funding for PRIVATE landscapes.

Applications are accepted November 1, 2024, through April 30, 2025. Projects need to be completed by September 30, 2025. Complete details and applications can be found at: <https://mangrove.fnpschapters.org/outreach/grants/>

Florida Native Plant Month



Image: Proclamation from the City of Venice

Hurricanes interrupted all aspects of our lives, including the meetings of our local governing bodies where we had proclamations of October as Florida Native Plant Month. Although not everything went as planned, we did raise awareness, communicate directly with our elected officials, and found through research that many of our local governments have incorporated native plants and conservation in their planning documents.

For example, did you know that the City of North Port’s 2022-2025 Strategic Plan specifically states that a priority under their Environmental Resiliency and Sustainability section

is to “support the protection of native species and habitats via public education, land acquisition, and conservation”. In the City of Punta Gorda’s Comprehensive Plan 2045, native plants are prioritized for protection and inclusion in public planting areas in many sections, including Conservation, Coastal Management, Infrastructure, Recreation and Open Spaces, and Transportation.

These planning documents are available online, and our Chapter can be a resource to our local governments by offering information and expertise. As residents, we can thank them for public spaces that currently have native plantings and hold them accountable to these plans in future projects. There probably are public spaces in your area that need to be replanted due to hurricane damage, and it is a great time to remind our elected officials of their

Chapter Meeting – Tuesday, November 12

The trails at Lemon Bay Park will remain closed, but we will be able to hold our Chapter Meeting in our regular meeting room on November 12. We invite you to bring a lunch and join us beginning at noon for social time. Meeting starts at 1:00 p.m.

Meeting Agenda

- Call to order
- Introductions and ice breaker
- Announcements of Chapter business
- Chapter history
- Plant of the Month - Goldenrod
- Introduction to guest program:

Armando Ubeda, Florida Sea Grant Agent ***Magnificent Mangroves***

Armando Ubeda is the Florida Sea Grant Extension Agent of UF/IFAS Extension Sarasota County. His Extension program focuses on the Florida Master Naturalist Program, Living Shorelines, Sustainable Fisheries, Marine Resource Conservation, Marine Debris prevention, and Water Quality/Quantity. He brings his experience and training to these courses from his time as a coral reef researcher in Nicaragua, from his time as a staff biologist at the Department of Shark Research at Mote Marine Laboratory in the USA, and from his former position as a Mesoamerican Program Manager for a conservation organization called LightHawk.

We will adjourn the meeting following the guest program.

For more information about the meeting email mangrovechapter@fnps.org

POTS!!! We need 1-gallon plant pots for growing Plant Native Day plants! Save your pots and bring them to the Chapter meeting on November 12!

Goldenrod (*Solidago*) – Chapter Plant of the Month

Photo at right: Monarch butterfly on goldenrod

For November, our featured native plant is goldenrod. Its yellow spiky flowers bloom in fall and are loved by pollinating insects, while birds eat the seeds in late fall and winter. A taller plant, goldenrod adds height and

provides a showy backdrop in mixed wildflower gardens. Contrary to popular belief, goldenrod does not cause allergies – in most cases it is ragweed which blooms at the same time. Florida has 22 types of goldenrod and the three most popular landscape species are described below.



All three species are perennial, reseeding, and need full to part sun, but their height, moisture requirements, and salt tolerance vary. All are naturally occurring wild species and vouchered in Sarasota and Charlotte counties.

Spotted oleander caterpillar moth on goldenrod

Chapman's Goldenrod (*Solidago odora* var. *chapmanii*): Alternating lance-shaped leaves; up to 4' tall; adaptable from moist soils to some periods of drought; not salt-tolerant.

Seaside Goldenrod (*Solidago sempervirens*): Mound of long basal leaves with tall stalks (4-7'); moist to average sandy soil; form clumps; salt-tolerant and does well in coastal landscapes. A mid-season pruning can encourage a lower growth habit, if desired.

Wand Goldenrod (*Solidago stricta*): Flower spikes (3-5') shaped similar to blazing star and lance-shaped basal leaves; needs moist, sandy soil; some tolerance to salty wind and brief saltwater inundation.

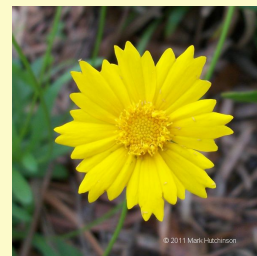
Correction to the October Newsletter: *Coreopsis lanceolata* was erroneously labeled below photos of both *C. lanceolata* and *C. floridana*. Correct labeling is provided below.



*Coreopsis
leavenworthii*



*Coreopsis
floridana*



*Coreopsis
lanceolata*

Monthly Plant Survey

Each month, the Mangrove Chapter of FNPS and the Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center (CHEC) and Charlotte County hold its plant surveys at **Cedar Point Environmental Park** in Englewood, FL. These surveys record both blooming and seeding plant species along designated trails. These data provide land managers and educational professionals with information for climate-related projects and other important issues. Plus, it is a fun and educational morning learning new plant species and meeting new people with similar interests!

Unfortunately, the October surveys had to be canceled due to Hurricane Milton. At this time, the trails at Cedar Point remain closed. We hope they will reopen prior to the scheduled survey dates:

November 19 and 20 (Tuesday and Wednesday)

Please contact Barb Seibel at leftyb3@comcast.net to verify park reopening and that the survey will be held. The Chapter welcomes new people (membership in the Chapter is nice but not necessary) to help with these surveys.

Cedar Point Environmental Park, 2300 Placida Road, Englewood, FL.

We will meet from 9:00 AM to approximately 11:00 AM. (Note the new time as the weather has cooled.) Wear comfortable shoes that can get wet, and bring sunscreen and bug spray, as needed. We look forward to meeting each of you.

Out and About with Mangrove Chapter

All our events are free to attend. Please, no dogs, smoking, or vaping.

November 12, Tuesday. 1 PM The Mangrove Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society invites you to join us to learn about “Magnificent Mangroves.” Florida Sea Grant Agent Armando Ubada returns to share an engaging presentation on the importance of mangroves. Lemon Bay Environmental Center, 570 Bay Park Blvd., Englewood. BYOPicnic social begins at noon and is a great opportunity to meet other members and the directors of our chapter.

November 16, Saturday. 9:00-11:00 AM Join Bill Dunson from the Mangrove Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society for a nature walk at Charlotte Flatwoods Environmental Park 15801 Tamiami Trail, Punta Gorda. This park is 487 acres of pine flatwoods, dry prairie, depressional marsh wetlands, and a constructed permanent freshwater pond. We will be hiking an approximately 1.9 mile loop with uneven surface in places. The parking area along the western side of US 41 is about 5 miles south of Tuckers Grade and just north of Zemel Rd at 15801 Tamiami Trail, Punta Gorda FL 33955.

November 18, Monday. 9:00-11:00 AM Join the UF/IFAS Sarasota Extension Service and Mangrove Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society and member Dr. Mary Davis for a guided nature walk at Sleeping Turtle Preserve North, 3462 Border Rd, Venice. Mary plans to talk about our amazing and unique Florida

ecosystems as we explore the life along the Myakka River. Please remember to wear appropriate footwear and hat/sunscreen, and bring water.

November 23, Saturday. 9:00-11:00AM. Join the Mangrove Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society and member Dr. Bill Dunson for a guided nature walk at Lemon Creek Wildflower Preserve (3120 Gasparilla Pines Blvd, Englewood, FL). Bill will discuss plant succession and shade tolerance and how they've affected habitat restoration at this former golf course. Analyzing reasons why some plantings have succeeded while others have not will include "scientific horticulture" and assessment of the design of the plantings. Please remember to wear appropriate footwear and hat/sunscreen, and bring water.

November 23, Saturday. 10AM-2PM. The Mangrove Chapter FNPS will be participating in the Alligator Creek Fest again this year at the South Venice Yacht Club, 4425 Yacht Club Dr, Venice, FL 34293. This event will have a free neighborhood BBQ, kayak tours, environmental expo, raffle, and music in the Farmers Market style setup. The Mangrove Chapter will have native plants for sale, as well as interactive plantings and plenty of literature on the importance and advantages of using native plants in landscaping. Mark your calendars and come join the fun!

For more information, contact mangrovechapter@fnps.org

"Feathers And Flippers"



Ribbon cutting for the artists' work is scheduled for noon.

Sunday, December 8 Save the Date!

The Mangrove Chapter will be participating in the Feathers and Flippers event in Englewood off Dearborn St.

More information to come in the December newsletter, as well as our Facebook page and website. We hope to see you there!

[Mangrove Chapter Facebook page](#)

Where to Buy Native Plants

Mangrove Chapter Members Save 10% on Your Plants! Buy Native!

Below are a few area nurseries where you can confidently purchase native plants, plus they offer a discount for FNPS members! Too often, big box stores sell plants that they call native, but instead they are hybrids or cultivars, or even worse, the grower might already have treated the plant or the soil with pesticides that are fatal to native insects. Buying from a native nursery helps avoid those worries.

All Native Garden Center, 300 Center Rd, Fort Myers, FL 33907
<https://nolawn.com/>

Florida Native Plants Nursery, 730 Myakka Rd, Sarasota, FL 34240
<https://www.floridanativeplants.com/>

Sweet Bay Nursery, 10824 Erie Rd, Parrish, FL 34219
<https://sweetbaynursery.com/>

Organizations of 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/>

Florida Wildflower Foundation <https://www.flawildflowers.org/>

Sarasota County <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/ufifas-extension-sarasota-county-422952084>

Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center <https://www.checflorida.org/calendar>

Peace River Audubon Society <https://www.peaceriveraudubonsociety.org/>

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.

Mangrove Board of Directors & Coordinator Positions

President; Newsletter – Ava Lasseter, PhD MangroveAva@gmail.com
Secretary – Kristin Hoffschmidt
Treasurer – Alicia Irvin
Chapter Representative – Laura Soule
Membership – Gail Brynildsen
Education and Outreach; Grants – Bobbi Rodgers
Publicity and Field Trips – Laurie Via
Greeter – Joan McGowan
Conservation and Policy – Linda “Willie” Wilson

Coordinator Positions (Non-board members)
Programs Coordinator – Renee LePere
Social Media Coordinator – Anne Risberg
Data and Website – Sean McMillan

To reach us, email mangrovechapter@fnps.org



[Visit our website](#)

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