

October 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.

Notice of October Cancellations

Although Ian has come and gone, we know that many of you have suffered losses that may require months to overcome. Our hearts go out to you and we hope that you are safe, in spite of the damages you may have suffered. The State level of the Florida Native Plant Society has reached out to us to offer concern for all those affected.

Englewood, Punta Gorda, and Port Charlotte suffered particularly extensive damage, and many of our members live in those communities. Venice, North Port, and surrounding areas sustained damage as well. In Charlotte County, all parks, libraries, and some other properties are closed until further notice.

Mangrove Chapter has cancelled all its activities for the month of October, including the membership meeting scheduled for October 11. We hope to be able to resume meetings with our regularly scheduled meeting on November 8.

We had walks scheduled for October 19 and 29. If we are able to hold those walks, we will let you know as soon as possible. Please go to our website (mangrove.fnpschapters.org) and our [Facebook page](#) for ongoing updates and information. Until then, please stay safe, take care of yourself and your family, and help others when you can.

Report from Your President:

by Linda Manley



October is Florida Native Plant Month

October is Native Plant Month, and towns, cities, and counties all over Florida are issuing proclamations honoring native plants and extolling their benefits. We are working on a proclamation, but at this printing are unsure of details. We will let you know more as soon

as we can. In this column, I feel as though I'm usually preaching to the choir, so to speak, informing those who already are aware and already believe in the unmatched value of native plants. Thank you for caring about native plants, thank you for doing your best to turn your yard into a native habitat, and thank you if all you can do is plant one pot of native flowers. One pot at a time, one yard at a time, we can work together to restore a little bit of nature and make Florida a better place.

Click here to **Visit our Website**

**Out and About with Mangrove Chapter
Due to Hurricane Ian, All Activities are
Canceled Until Further Notice.**

Marin County, CA, Bans the Sale of Tropical Milkweed

Chapter member Steve Bramlage sent a copy of a recent news release from Marin County, California. Claiming that the non-native milkweed damages the life cycle of endangered monarch butterflies, the Agriculture Commissioner has declared nurseries and retail centers in Marin County are now prohibited from selling tropical milkweed, a variety not native to the area and harmful to monarch butterflies. The plant is now rated as a pest that does not meet state cleanliness standards. The Commissioner directed all retailers to remove and destroy all tropical milkweed in stock.



Unlike native milkweed species, tropical milkweed does not die back in winter, which can confuse monarchs into breeding when they should be migrating. Tropical milkweed is also a host plant to a protozoan parasite of monarchs called *Ophryocystis elektroscirrha*, or OE. Spores are carried on adult monarchs as they migrate and the dormant OE spores are deposited on the tropical milkweed leaves. As the monarch caterpillars eat the plant, they ingest the OE spores and become infected. Such infections have been linked to lower migration success, as well as reduction in body mass, lifespan, mating success, and flight ability.



Monarch Butterfly

Read the full story
at <https://www.marincounty.org/main/county-press-releases/press-releases/2022/ag-tropical-milkweed-082622>

Butterfly lovers who have already planted tropical milkweed in their gardens don't have to tear the plants out. Instead, the recommendation is that existing tropical milkweed stalks be pruned to about six inches in height during the fall to encourage monarchs to resume their migration and help eliminate OE spores on the plants. Over time, the tropical milkweed can be replaced with native milkweed species as they become more readily available.

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!

My Northern Report

by Lois Cantwell

It doesn't take a glance at the calendar to know that summer is at an end here in NE Michigan, as our cooler weather has arrived, the summer blooms are going to seed, maples are reddening their leaves, acorns are dropping on our metal roof, pines are shedding their needles, pumpkin-spiced lattes are featured at the local coffee shop, and the ice cream shops are closed for the season.

With the advent of fall comes preparing the garden beds for the coming winter. My biggest project in progress is repurposing an old abandoned garden bed in the back yard. The roughly 12 x 15 plot, bordered by old railroad ties, was overgrown by a creeping ground cover and filled with roots from nearby trees resulting in soil depleted of nutrients.

It was akin to an archeological dig, uncovering the remnants of a rock garden, removing hundreds of stones about the size of potatoes, unearthing pottery shards, plant markers and shreds of black plastic weed barrier. It has now taken shape as a shade garden where 15 varieties of perennials have been transplanted from other areas of the yard.

So far, a couple of 2- to 3-day sessions of rain have helped to settle the amended soil and given the plants' root systems a chance to recover from the replanting process. As an added touch, Ma Nature will blanket the project under a wealth of fallen leaves and pine needles to put it to bed for the winter. The spring thaw will reveal just how successful my efforts have been.

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



The Green Street Church received the 2019 Mangrove Chapter Grant to plant a tree at the church. Could your church or organization use a new tree? Apply for a grant today!

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

Events from Our Nature-Related Friends

See links for cancelations and updates

Nature Walks from Charlotte County Environmental Center

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

Wednesday, October 5, 8:00 AM. Guided walk at Bill Coy Preserve, 5350 Placida Road, Englewood.

Wednesday, October 12, 8:00 AM. Guided walk at Tippecanoe Environmental Park, 2400 El Jobean Rd, Port Charlotte.

Wednesday, October 19, 8:00 AM. Guided walk at Amberjack Environmental Park, 6450 Gasparilla Pines Blvd, Rotonda West.

Wednesday, October 26, 8:00 AM. Guided walk at Tippecanoe II Mitigation Preserve, 16259 Joppa Ave, Port Charlotte.

Events from the Environmental Conservancy of North Port (ECNP)

<https://ecnorthport.com/>

Sunday, October 9, 8:30 AM. Native Landscape Yard Tour (North Port). (Address given upon registration). Registration required, 10-person limit. Email

NPconservancy@gmail.com, message us on Facebook, or call or text 941-218-9775 to register. More information at <https://fb.me/e/292Kb3GUQ>

Thursday, October 20, 7:00 PM, Zoom. Let's Talk: Development, Gopher Tortoises, Scrub-jays, Threatened Plant Relocations, and More! An evening with Jennifer Krajcir of Suncoast Ecological Services. Registration required at

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYsdOqrrzIoGNPoxv_bOVJDhVuR3zxdjLqP

Events from Peace River Butterfly Society

Jjpeterfeso@gmail.com

Saturday, October 15, 10:00 AM. Field Trip, Tom Allen Butterfly House, Rotary Park, 5505 Rose Garden Road, Cape Coral.

Wednesday, October 19, 10:00 AM. PRBS Meeting, speaker, Jerry Waters. Port Charlotte Women's Club, 20271 Tappan Zee Dr., Port Charlotte.

Events from Venice Area Audubon Society (VAAS)

<https://veniceareaaudubonsociety.wildapricot.org>

Friday, October 14, 8:30 AM. Field Trip, South Venice Lemon Bay Park, 6200 Osprey Road, Venice.

Wednesday, October 19, 8:00 AM. Field trip to Pinecraft Park, 1420 Gilbert Ave, Sarasota.

Tuesday, October 25, 6:00 PM. Member meeting, Speaker, Jerry Waters, "Great Blue Herons." 4002 South Tamiami Trail via Annex Road, Venice.

Thursday, October 27, 8:00 AM, Field Trip, Siesta Key Beach, 948 Beach Road, Sarasota.

Nature Walk from Lemon Creek Wildflower Preserve

<https://lemonbayconservancy.org/>

Sunday, October 30th, 9:00 AM. Steve and Tonya Bramlage lead a short walk through the heart of the Lemon Creek Wildflower Preserve, 3120 Gasparilla Pines Blvd, Englewood. This walk is open to the public and never fails to deliver rare sights and nature's delights.

Nature Walks from Sarasota County UF/IFAS

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

Register for all events at ufsarasotaext.ifas.ufl.edu

Wednesday, October 12th, 9:00AM. Eco-Walk, Unique Preserves, at Manasota Scrub Preserve, 2695 Bridge St., Englewood.

Monday, October 24th, 8:30 AM. Eco-walk: Mangroves, at Lemon Bay Park, 570 Bay Park Blvd., Englewood.

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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To reach any Board member, email mangrovechapter@fnps.org and allow 48 hours for a reply.

[Visit our website](#)



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