

September 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.

## Report from Your President:

by Linda Manley

I've seen a few Facebook posts recently that neatly sum up the need to replace nonnative plants in your landscape with natives. Covering your property with turf grass, hibiscus, ixora, and impatiens is no longer thought to be fashionable! Rather, people look at it and are sad at how uninformed the owners are. Those in the know understand that all the time and money spent on seed, fertilizer, insecticides, herbicides, and the like—not to mention lawnmowing—could instead be used for something better. Would you rather spend your Saturday behind a lawn mower or behind a beach umbrella?

Lifeless lawn grass is definitely becoming passe, and in some places, illegal. Municipalities in arid states are outlawing nonfunctional turf grass and paying people to replace their lawns with xeric landscapes. If you think Florida doesn't have a water shortage, ask someone who lives in Cape Coral, where water is now rationed. Join the crowd and get rid of at least part of your grass by planting summer mimosa, which has puffy, bright pink blossoms, or frogfruit, with its tiny, delicate purple-pink flowers. Both are walkable and can be mowed once or twice a year.



**Beautiful gumbo limbo blossom**  
(*Bursera simaruba*)



**Bright Firebush flowers** (*Hamelia patens*)

Some people who move to Florida seem to want to pretend that they are still living in

the Northeast or Midwest and they fill their property with plants that look like where they came from. But what an outdated notion! This is Florida! Newcomers should celebrate our beautiful state by planting the natives that grow here and make Florida what it is. If you have a chance to plant a tree, choose a native. In addition to our several classic oaks, you can choose from southern magnolia, dahoon holly, or gumbo limbo, which has stunning blossoms, to mention just a few.

Instead of nonnative hedge shrubs like viburnum, try wax myrtle with its fragrant berries or wild coffee with its bright red berries. You'll be in the know, getting pollinators in the spring and birds in the fall with these choices. Possibly the showiest and most extravagant native shrub is firebush. With bright red and green leaves and stems, the brilliant red and orange flowers are magnets for butterflies and hummingbirds and its fall berries attract birds. It tolerates pruning well and continues to bloom. And if you want a screening hedge, try red cedar. In a few years it will be impenetrable and provide all the privacy you want.

Once you stop needing to irrigate your lawn, you'll want flowers that do well in dry Florida soil. Low-growing dune sunflower is a proven winner. True to its name, its bright yellow daisy-like flowers flourish in our native sandy soil. Curious scorpiontail has small, curved white blossoms reminiscent of its namesake. Skinny purple liatris and exotic pink-purple-white spotted bee balm grow taller, about 2-3 feet, making a beautiful backdrop to the shorter flowers in front. All these varieties do well in dry conditions once they become established, and they relieve you of the chore of needing to water during the dry season.

Join the growing group of up-to-date, informed, and forward-thinking folks who know what's happening on the landscape scene. Ditch nonnative plants and become one of the in-crowd who plants natives!



**Sturdy dune sunflower**  
(*Helianthus debilis*)

Welcome new members: Carolyn Hadden from Arcadia and Maryannn and Gus Carre from Rotonda West.

---

Click here to **Visit our Website**

---

## Out and About with Mangrove Chapter

### North Port Art Center Garden

A few weeks ago, People for Trees and CHNEP (Coastal and Heartland National Estuary Program) partnered to plant a mostly native garden at the North Port Art Center. About a dozen people with willing hands joined in the efforts and wrapped up the job in under two hours. Mangrove Chapter is grateful to have been allowed





to have an information table, along with the table CHNEP filled with literature on native plants. Our table was beneath a native gumbo limbo tree with gorgeous blossoms.

Enthusiastic volunteers took shovels in hand to dig enough holes for all the flowers. Plants included the stalwarts of Fakahatchee Grass, Firebush, and Dune Sunflower, among several others. Once the plants were all in the ground, the volunteers covered the open ground with newspapers to help keep weeds at bay. The papers were then covered with FloriMulch, the best mulch for Floridians to use because it's made from invasive, nonnative trees. It was rewarding to see volunteers of all ages, from high school to senior citizens, pitch in to help with this project. Thank you to everyone! We're keeping tabs on the garden to watch the flowers grow and multiply.

Spots were marked on the ground for volunteers to dig holes.



Newspaper is biodegradable and blocks sunlight to weed seeds.



The finished garden looked great.

## Mangrove Chapter at the Library



Our July display at the Elsie Quirk Library was so successful that we have booked spots for displays at other area libraries. We will be at the Charlotte Englewood Library in October, North Port Library in November, Charlotte Mid-County Library in December, Shannon Staub Library in January, and Jacaranda Library in April. The displays will vary, depending on the areas available in each library. Be sure to stop in and see them—and pick up a couple good books while you're there!

## Mangrove Chapter in the News

Mangrove Chapter is featured in two articles in the **September issue of Sabal Minor**, the online newsletter you receive from the state level of the Florida Native Plant Society. Their publication schedule has been a bit erratic lately so the stories might seem dated, but good news is never old. The first article is about our 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Meeting held in February. The second one is about Barb Seibel's ten years of plant surveys at Cedar Point, where Barb never missed a month in her schedule of phenology. Be sure to check out both of these articles as well as the rest of the

## Recruiting Volunteers—Again

Our ongoing saga of needing volunteers continues. Our most critical need at this time is for a secretary to write and record minutes, particularly at our Board meetings, which are held at 1:00 the first Friday of each month. We have not had a secretary for several months and our Board members have been taking turns to record notes and write minutes. Among the volunteer positions, Chapter Secretary is one of the least demanding. You won't have to sit at a table at the front of the room or otherwise be highly visible. The extent of the obligation is to be present at the Board meetings, take detailed notes, and write them into minutes that will be distributed back to Board members. Board meetings are where the bulk of Chapter business and procedures are planned and carried out. It's best if the secretary can also be present at membership meetings, but Board meetings are most important.

Necessary skills for the position include a good comfort level with computers, and particularly with Microsoft Word or one of its clones. Nearly all our Board members have Word or are able to open Word documents, so that is of great importance. It's helpful to be a good writer and to enjoy the process, but we can help with details as long as you get the facts correct.

A second area of need is for a Hospitality Chair. We have not served refreshments at a membership meeting since COVID began, so the duties of the Hospitality Chair are to ensure that everyone, both members and guests, sign the attendance book. This is important because all attendees count toward our volunteer hours, which are tracked at the State level. The volunteer hours help the Society acquire grants for outreach and education throughout the state. As people sign in, they each receive a raffle ticket at no charge, and at the end of the meeting, tickets are drawn for plants, books, and other items that are raffled off.

If you have questions or think you'd like to help with either position, please contact me at [88lingo@gmail.com](mailto:88lingo@gmail.com)

---

## 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](mailto: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!

## Maintaining Your Yard and Garden during Drought Conditions

by Lois Cantwell

Periods of drought call for creative ways to conserve water. Once the rains do come, look back on what can be done in the future to help your yard and gardens survive the next dry season.

Xeriscape with drought-tolerant plants native to your region: for help in choosing appropriate plants, the EPA website offers a list of these resources by state at [www.epa.gov/watersense/what-plant](http://www.epa.gov/watersense/what-plant) to find your best options. Best bet is to get your plants in ahead of the next dry season, as they are more effective if well-established.

During times of mandated water restrictions, establish a priority system for those plants that need the most water. You may be dealing with a combination of newly planted trees/shrubs, older trees such as evergreens, fruit/nut-bearing trees, or shrubs and ornamentals. You could end up salvaging well-established perennials at the expense of annuals, or the current crop of vegetable plants, although the more deeply-rooted varieties may get by on less water.

Watering deeper, but with less frequency vs. daily sprinkles is more effective. Deeper watering helps to establish deeper root systems which are more able to sustain plant life especially when hotter weather dries out soil more rapidly. Substitute drip irrigation for overhead sprinklers, which waste water on other surfaces instead of directing water at plant roots. Using hand-held hoses and watering cans also helps.

The best time of day to water is early morning or in the evening, if necessary. Also, consider using your household waste-water left over from rinsing dishes, boiling vegetables or eggs, bath water (if not too soapy) or rinse water from washing fruits and veggies.

Be vigilant about weeds which compete for water and nutrients. Using at least a 3-inch layer of mulch will help prevent weed seeds from taking hold, moisture retention and cooling the soil. Let your turf grass grow higher to promote deeper roots.

Avoid fertilizing plants during droughty times. This is not the time to promote faster growth as it increases need for water. Avoid the use of weed killers, which are less effective in high temperatures anyway. Refrain from adding new plants, as well as avoiding pruning, which triggers increased water needs.

Going forward, consider reducing/replacing the lawn with native groundcovers. Compost plant beds and planting holes generously to improve water retention. Use the "right plant-right place" motto when selecting shady vs. sunny locations so that shade-loving plants aren't exposed to too much sun, and vice-versa. And...use more native plants!

---

## 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/](http://www.mangrove.fnpschapters.org/outreach/grants/)

Complete the application and either attach it to an email to

[MangroveChapter@fnps.org](mailto:MangroveChapter@fnps.org) OR mail the printed form to:

MCFNPS Grant Committee

PO Box 1153

Englewood, FL 34295-1153

---

**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**

### **September 7, 7-9 PM - Doug Tallamy - "Bringing Nature Home" Live Webinar**

Learn how you can fight climate change and biodiversity loss by growing native plants in your own yard, with renowned author and ecologist Dr. Doug Tallamy. Dr. Tallamy is the author of Bringing Nature Home and Nature's Best Hope.

The webinar is cohosted by the SE Coast Chapter of NC Native Plant Society, Cape Fear Audubon Society, and the NC Cooperative Extension - New Hanover County Center and Arboretum.

**Webinar is free but you have to register. See link below for more info.**

**<https://act.audubon.org/a/doug-tallamy-webinar-bringing-nature-home>**

**Guided Nature Walks from Charlotte County Environmental Center**



All walks begin at **8:00 AM**. Prepare for each walk with plenty of water, insect repellent, sunscreen, and clothing that will protect you from insects and plants. Advance registration is required. For more information or to register, call 941-475-0769.

**Friday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>** Join CHEC on a walk at Bayshore Live Oak Park along the shoreline of Charlotte Harbor to explore the various mangrove species found there. We will cover mangrove identification, special adaptations that allow mangroves to thrive in salty environments, and why mangroves are important and protected in Florida. Please call 941-475-0769 to register.

**Monday, September 5<sup>th</sup>** Join CHEC on a guided walkthrough the 81-acre Bill Coy/Buck Creek Preserve in Englewood. The scrubby flatwoods and mangrove swamp border Buck Creek, which flows into Lemon Bay. Meet in the parking lot. Please call 941-475-0769 to register.

**Wednesday, September 7<sup>th</sup>** Join Dave and Linda Manley on a one-hour CHEC walk at Bayshore Live Oak Park along the shoreline of Charlotte Harbor to explore the various mangrove species found there. We will cover mangrove identification and why mangroves are important and protected in Florida. Please call 941-475-0769 to register.

**Thursday, September 8<sup>th</sup>** Join CHEC on a guided walk through the scrub and pine flatwoods of 217-acre Amberjack Environmental Park in Rotonda. Meet at the end of Gasparilla Pines Blvd. Please call 941-475-0769 to register.

**Friday, September 9<sup>th</sup>** Join CHEC on a guided walk through the old-growth pine flatwoods and mangrove fringe of 125-acre Ann Dever Regional Park in Englewood. Meet at the San Casa entrance. Please call 941-475-0769 to register.

**Tuesday, September 13<sup>th</sup>** Join Dave and Linda Manley on a one-hour CHEC walk at Bayshore Live Oak Park along the shoreline of Charlotte Harbor to explore the various mangrove species found there. We will cover mangrove identification and why mangroves are important and protected in Florida. Please call 941-475-0769 to register.

**Wednesday, September 14<sup>th</sup>** Join CHEC on a guided walk through the scrub and pine flatwoods of 217-acre Amberjack Environmental Park in Rotonda. Meet at the end of Gasparilla Pines Blvd. Please call 941-475-0769 to register.

**Thursday, September 15<sup>th</sup>** Join CHEC on a guided walk through Tippecanoe II Mitigation Preserve in Port Charlotte. This 150-acre preserve is home to several families of the threatened Florida scrub jay. Meet in the parking lot. Please call 941-475-0769 to register.

**Friday, September 16<sup>th</sup>** Join CHEC on a guided walkthrough the 81-acre Bill Coy/Buck Creek Preserve in Englewood. The scrubby flatwoods and mangrove swamp border Buck Creek, which flows into Lemon Bay. Meet in the parking lot. Please call 941-475-0769 to register.

**Monday, September 19<sup>th</sup>** Join CHEC on a guided walk through Tippecanoe II

Mitigation Preserve in Port Charlotte. This 150-acre preserve is home to several families of the threatened Florida scrub jay. Meet in the parking lot. Please call 941-475-0769 to register.

**Wednesday, September 21<sup>st</sup>** Join CHEC on a guided walkthrough the 81-acre Bill Coy/Buck Creek Preserve in Englewood. The scrubby flatwoods and mangrove swamp border Buck Creek, which flows into Lemon Bay. Meet in the parking lot. Please call 941-475-0769 to register.

**Friday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>** Join CHEC on a guided walk through the scrub and pine flatwoods of 217-acre Amberjack Environmental Park in Rotonda. Meet at the end of Gasparilla Pines Blvd. Please call 941-475-0769 to register.

**Wednesday, September 28<sup>th</sup>** Join CHEC on a walk at Bayshore Live Oak Park along the shoreline of Charlotte Harbor to explore the various mangrove species found there. We will cover mangrove identification, special adaptations that allow mangroves to thrive in salty environments, and why mangroves are important and protected in Florida. Please call 941-475-0769 to register.

**Friday, September 30<sup>th</sup>** Join CHEC on a guided walk through Tippecanoe II Mitigation Preserve in Port Charlotte. This 150-acre preserve is home to several families of the threatened Florida scrub jay. Meet in the parking lot. Please call 941-475-0769 to register.

#### **Events from the Environmental Conservancy of North Port (ECNP)**

<https://ecnorthport.com/>

**Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM.** Neighborhood Conservation Group meeting and book club discussion of "Nature's Best Hope" by Doug Tallamy via ZOOM. Registration required. [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/91811200000?pwd=ZU5kdzRlY0pH9PjW2U8PZ45BXo7W2we\\_pS9](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/91811200000?pwd=ZU5kdzRlY0pH9PjW2U8PZ45BXo7W2we_pS9)

#### **Events from Lemon Creek Wildflower Preserve**

<https://lemonbayconservancy.org/>

**Saturday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 9:00 AM.** Steve and Tonya Bramlage lead an introductory walk to Lemon Creek Wildflower Preserve, 3120 Gasparilla Pines Blvd, Englewood. You learn the history and background of the preserve while you hike to view several of its main features.

**Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 AM.** Steve and Tonya Bramlage lead an introductory walk to Lemon Creek Wildflower Preserve, 3120 Gasparilla Pines Blvd, Englewood. You learn the history and background of the preserve while you hike to view several of its main features.

#### **Events from Venice Area Audubon Society (VAAS)**

<https://veniceareaaudubonsociety.wildapricot.org/events>

**Tuesday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 PM.** Monthly meeting. **Documentary film, "Ice on Fire"** discussing the dangers of a rapidly warming planet. 4002 S. Tamiami Trail via Annex Rd., Venice.



## Your Mangrove Board of Directors

President, Linda Manley [88lingo@gmail.com](mailto:88lingo@gmail.com)  
Secretary, Open  
Treasurer, Linda "Willie" Wilson  
Chapter Representative, Kate Borduas  
Conservation and Education, Bobbi Rodgers  
Digital Services and Historian, Dave Manley  
Field Trips and Publicity, Stephanie Thornton  
Garden, Laura Soule  
Hospitality, Open  
Immediate Past President, Lois Cantwell  
Newsletter, Gail Finney  
Programs, Ruth Ward  
Social Media, Anne Risberg

To reach any Board member, email [mangrovechapter@fnps.org](mailto: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

[Unsubscribe migafinn@gmail.com](mailto:Unsubscribe_migafinn@gmail.com)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by [mangrovechapter@fnps.org](mailto:mangrovechapter@fnps.org) powered by



Try email marketing for free today!