

April Coccoloba Jam

[Campaign Preview](#)

[HTML Source](#)

[Plain-Text Email](#)

[Details](#)

[Email not displaying correctly? View it in your browser.](#)

Coccoloba Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society



April 2014

In This Issue:

- John Kiseda, April's speaker
- Desert Botanical Garden & Dale Chihuly
- Conference Update
- Take a Hike!
- March minutes
- Local Happenings
- Snacks, Meeting Location & Comments

John Kiseda, April's speaker

Join the Coccoloba chapter on Thursday, April 10th at 7pm for an engaging program by John Kiseda. Entitled "Trials, Tribulations and Treasures of a Backyard Wildlife Habitat," John will share his homegrown experiences of going from lawn care to wildlife preserve over the past 17 years at his neighborhood home. As a homeowner, having a "Florida Friendly" landscape means planting native plants, using less fertilizers/pesticides, and conserving water. Additionally maintaining your backyard for native wildlife provides you with the benefit of welcoming these visitors into your habitat for enjoyment while minimizing the harmful effects of urbanization on our natural resources and local wildlife.

As Sustainability-Education Coordinator for Lee County Parks and Recreation, John establishes department environmental policies and trains staff and volunteers to provide educational programs for the general public. They teach basic ecological

concepts and provide natural awareness experiences within the various ecosystems of Lee County and its Regional Parks and Preserves.

He also promotes environmental awareness of the Southwest Florida bio-region by coordinating informational events, workshops and natural/seasonal celebrations which alert citizens and community leaders of environmental concerns and occurrences.

John is Executive Director of the Florida Society for Ethical Ecotourism. He presents community speaking engagements, workshops, and training sessions for educators and the public at large.

John is also a member of The International Ecotourism Society, an associate member of The Institute for Earth Education, and a habitat steward for The National Wildlife Federation. John has completed training with the National Association for Interpretation as a Certified Interpretive Guide, and with the Florida Master Naturalist Program's Coastal Systems and Freshwater Wetlands Modules.

A Florida resident since 1990, John's educational background is with Central Michigan University in their Outdoor/Environmental Education Program. Prior to this position with Lee County, John served in various teaching and director positions at a number of school-based Outdoor Education Centers and private Nature Centers in the mid-west. John has received the 1999 Audubon Society of S.W. Florida: Conservation Award for Education, was a finalist for the 1994 State of Florida: Governor's Environmental Education Award, and earned the 1993 National Association of Counties: Environmental Education Achievement Award.

Desert Botanical Garden & Dale Chihuly

By Martha Grattan

A few weeks ago, I went to visit relatives in Arizona, and because I'm an avid gardener, I couldn't wait to check out the Desert Botanical Garden in Tempe. This garden is known for its conservation research with native Sonoran desert plants, as well as with desert species from other parts of the world. The garden was founded in 1939 by a group of private citizens, who were passionate about protecting the native desert environment.

Currently, scientists at Tempe are conducting research on the following topics: impact of non-native plants; impact of fire on the desert ecosystem; consequences of grazing animals; and documentation of long-lasting environmental changes.

I was excited to see what they had, so imagine my surprise when I arrived and encountered this. . .

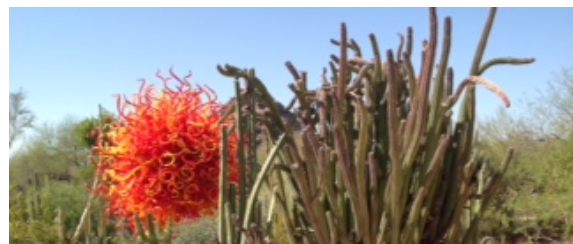
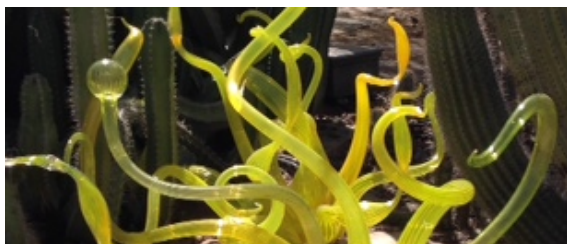


Come to find out, the world renowned blown glass sculptor Dale Chihuly is also a fan of the Desert Botanical Garden. In fact, he likes it so much, he created a magnificent installation of glass for the garden. I had never seen blown glass on this scale before, and combined with the elaborate array of native desert plants, it was truly stunning!

Dale Chihuly's work is included in more than 200 museum collections worldwide. He crafts his large glass sculptures by working with a team of artists to forge the glass and manipulate it into these amazing forms. Chihuly has worked with blown glass since 1965 and has exhibited all over the world. In 1986, he had a solo exhibition at the Louvre in Paris.

Eventually, his fascination with glass sculpture shifted to a desire to combine the installations with botanical settings. This led to installations at the Royal Botanical Gardens in Kew, near London, as well as at the Garfield Park Conservatory in Chicago, to name just a few.

The vibrant colors of the glass were accentuated by the magnificent display of blooming cacti and wildflowers. The hummingbirds seemed to enjoy the vibrant hues as they flitted around the wildflowers. The prairie dogs also were out and about, munching the flowers, and I even saw a few Monarch butterflies! It was truly a wonderful day.





CONFERENCE UPDATE ... from Marlene Rodak (rodakma@msn.com)

Are you afraid you've been missing the meeting on conference planning? Don't worry.

We all have had our fill of boring, unproductive meetings. Well, we don't do that. Meetings are held to specific purposes and with the pertinent people. That means, if you want to know what's going on, do like I do and check www.fnps.org/conference. Of course, you can always contact me or the sub-committee chair, too.

In the meantime, we are actively compiling lists of volunteers. Drop a note to Pat Moyer to make sure you're on the volunteer list. Mary Ann Parsons is handling the room assignments for the campus lodging and Vanessa Hazelton is busy lining up silent auction items. Mark Miller is driving the truck; Fred Geist is handling the signage for campus, Anne Whitmore is heading up our registration effort, etc.

Joelle Hammes is busy planning the Walking with the Natives event. This exciting event is sponsored by City of Bonita Springs and Florida Forest Service. Walking with the Natives is geared toward young adults and families and will take place on Saturday from 10-2 outside the Cohen Center. There will be native flag-painting and

newspaper pot-making and lots of fun stuff.

Other exciting developments: Bill Smith Appliances & Electronics has purchased 18 WGPU radio spots for us. They are also purchasing the conference tote bags. We have donated some two-day conference passes to WGPU for their radio pledge drive around April 7th. That means they will talk about "Growing Native" and offer these passes as a gift for generous pledges to the station.

We are receiving weekly reports on registration activity. There are about 120 people signed up so far. On-campus lodging is extremely popular. Two field trips are sold out. YAY!

We have a dozen more cotton/bamboo, long-sleeve shirts with the embroidered FNPS logo (\$15) and we still have a few of the ladies, short-sleeved ones (\$15). These, along with a supply of coffee mugs (\$5) will be at Calusa Nature Center for our next meeting. These are available to our chapter for low, low, prices, but will be at the conference for more. So, come to the next meeting to purchase these items if you want them.

Things are moving quickly these days and it is all quite exciting. Drop me a note at rodakma@msn.com if you want more information.

Take a Hike! (And see the REAL Florida)

By Sue Scott, Coccoloba member

On Friday, March 21, I took a hike, literally at the Prairie Pines Preserve in Lee County. This is a Conservation 20/20 purchase, and well worth the money. I saw red-headed woodpeckers, bumble bees and an eastern coral snake. (No, I was never in any danger. This is a shy snake who just wants to be left alone.) What was most amazing though was the native plant life. Not just the usual, saw palmetto, slash pines and andropogon grasses. The wildflowers were out in all their glory. Many I do not even know! Oh, and the fetterbush was where the bumble bee was hanging out. All so beautiful, so calming and yet so invigorating to heart and soul.

These properties belong to all of us and are there for us to enjoy. We need to get outside, breathe the fresh air and experience the real Florida for ourselves as much as possible. We also need to invite our neighbors, their kids and our relatives to enjoy it with us. If we do not all enjoy and love our natural capital, and in turn, vow to protect it, there will always be the threat of losing it as "surplus" lands...

Prairie Pines photos (*below, clockwise beginning at top left*): Yellow-eyed Grass (*Xyris* sp.), Lobelia (*Lobelia* sp.), Blackroot (*Pterocaulon pycnostachyum*), Hatpins (*Syngonanthus flavidulus*)



Florida Native Plant Society Meeting Minutes, Coccoloba Chapter, March 13, 2014 Calusa Nature Center

By Marlene Rodak, Chapter Treasurer (filling in for Carolyn Moore, Chapter Secretary)

Martha Grattan, the newly-elected president, called the meeting to order and introduced Russ Hoffman of Beautiful Ponds in Sarasota. Russ began by explaining his rather unique background in psychology and environmental science. Then he spoke on Environmental Psychology. He explained that some people are bothered by the messy nature of

wildflowers, for instance. However, by simply adding a small fence around them, many times people found them acceptable. Then, he described Roger's Diffusions of Innovation Model which describes groups of people: Innovators, Early Adopters, Early Majority Adopters, Late Majority Adopters and Laggards. Russ explained that we don't even want to bother with Late Majority Adopters and Laggards. Our efforts should be directed toward the other three groups. Finally, he explained the model for Prochaska's Transtheoretical Model of Behavioral Change which explains the process each individual goes through when making a change. Those stages are pre-contemplation, contemplation, preparation, action, maintenance and relapse. There is also the potential for lapses at various points during this process. Overall, it was a very thought-provoking and informative presentation with real applicability to our chapter and the way we present our information. There were many questions afterward which indicated people's interest in the topic.

Martha then called the meeting to order. Pat Moyer motioned to waive the reading of and accept the prior month's meetings and Babu Mathew seconded the motion. It was passed unanimously. Marlene reported the current bank balance of \$3,846.06, and said she received a reimbursement check from the Society for \$637.70 to cover expenses the Chapter paid toward the conference.

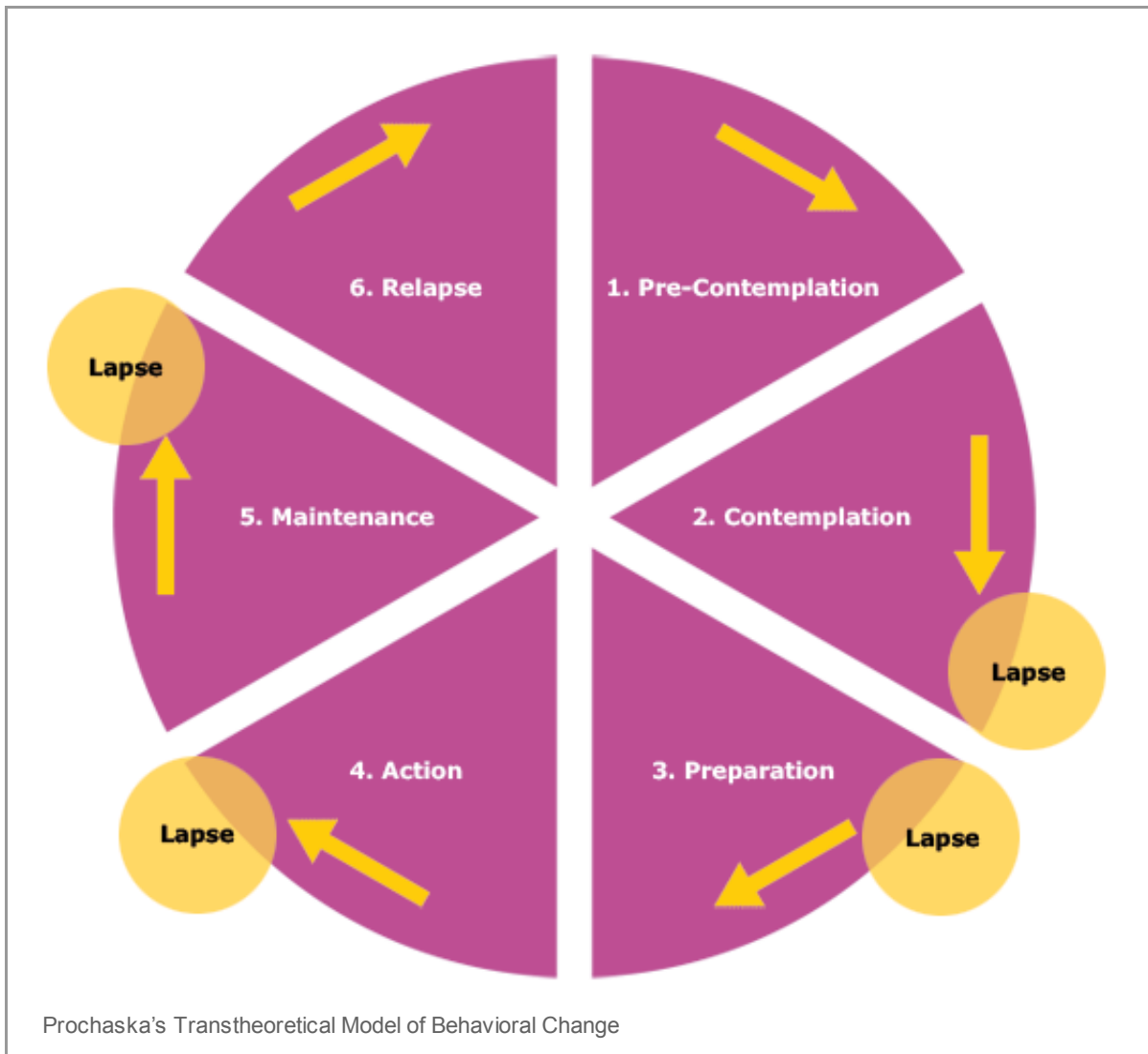
The Chapter again discussed not having plant sales at least through the conference and likely not again. New and exciting ways to promote planting natives and earning money for the Chapter projects will be worked on after the conference. Right now, we're focusing on the "Growing Native" conference.

There were men's and ladies' FNPS shirts offered for sale at this meeting. They are nice shirts for a mere \$15. Marlene paid for them and will donate the proceeds above her costs to the Chapter. The members in attendance bought most of these. A few were left. If you are interested, please contact Marlene.

In the meantime, up to \$500 was approved to purchase and sell other custom items in conjunction with the upcoming conference. Pat Moyer made the motion and Carolyn Murphey seconded it. It, too, passed unanimously.

Marlene explained an exciting "Growing Native" public aspect headed by Joelle Hammes. This project will invite families to campus for fun activities like Xavier Cortada Native Flags and trail walks. This will invite families to learn more about and start planting native plants and "reclaim this land for nature...." Judging from the smiles, everybody seems to like this project.

Mary Rawl announced several exciting events around Earth Month including April 5th: Florida Wildlife Corridor Expedition, City Dark and Mother Nature Child. On April 17th, Craig Pitman will be at FGCU for Florida's Vanishing Wetlands. The Calusa Heritage Festival is March 4th.



Local Happenings

Florida Wildlife Corridor Film Screening & Florida Panther Presentation

Saturday, April 5, 4pm

Calusa Nature Center, Fort Myers, FL

FREE Film Screening, open to the public. Florida Panther Presentation by Alexis Meyer of The Sierra Club. For more information, call (239) 275-3435.

Guided walk at Tippecanoe II Park

Monday, April 7, 9am – 11am

Tippecanoe II Mitigation Park, 16259 Joppa Rd, Port Charlotte, FL

Join CHEC (Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center) on a guided walk through Tippecanoe II Mitigation Park in Port Charlotte. This 150 acre preserve is home to several families of the threatened Florida scrub jay. Meet in the parking lot. Call 941-475-0769 for directions.

Young Children and Nature

Tuesday, April 8, 10am – 11am
CHEC, 10941 Burnt Store Road, Punta Gorda, FL

Children ages 2 to 5 years old and a favorite adult are invited to attend this free program designed for your children to make connections with nature while learning. Call 941-575-5435 or go to childrenandnature.eventbrite.com to register or for more information.

Coccoloba Chapter, Florida Native Plant Society meeting

Thursday, April 10th, 6:30 (social) & 7pm (program)
Calusa Nature Center, Fort Myers, FL

Join the Coccoloba chapter for John Kiseda's program on the "Trials, Tribulations and Treasures of a Backyard Wildlife Habitat." Free & open to the public.

Florida Yards and Neighborhoods Landscape Design class

Friday, April 11 & Friday, April 18
Rotary Park Environmental Center, Cape Coral, FL

\$18 per household; Requires advanced registration; Call 239.549.4606 to register

Guided walk at Ann Dever/Oyster Creek Park

Saturday, April 12, 9am – 11am
Ann Dever @ Oyster Creek Regional Park, 6791 San Casa Rd, Englewood, FL

Join CHEC on a guided walk through the old growth pine flatwoods and mangrove fringe of 125-acre Oyster Creek/Ann Dever Regional Park in Englewood. Meet at the San Casa entrance. Call 941-475-0769 for information/directions.

Guided walk at Tippecanoe Environmental Park

Sunday, April 13, 9am – 11am
Tippecanoe Environmental Park, 2400 El Jobean Road (SR 776), Port Charlotte, FL

Join Pat Peterson on a guided walk through 308-acre Tippecanoe Environmental Park in Port Charlotte. This Charlotte County park includes habitats such as scrub, pine flatwoods, marsh and wetlands. Meet behind the Charlotte County Sports Park. Wear comfortable walking shoes and bring drinking water. Call 941-475-0769 for information.

Guided walk at Bill Coy/Buck Creek Park

Tuesday, April 15, 9am – 11am
Bill Coy Preserve @ Buck Creek, 5350 Placida Rd, Cape Haze, FL

Join CHEC on a guided walk through Buck Creek Preserve. This 80-acre preserve is comprised of scrubby and mesic flatwoods that transition into coastal hammock and mangrove swamp along Buck Creek. Meet at the parking lot. call 941-475-0769 for information/directions.

Guided walk at Amberjack Park

Wednesday, April 16, 9am – 11am
Amberjack Environmental Park, 6450 Gasparilla Pines Blvd, Rotonda, FL

Join CHEC on a guided walk through the scrub and pine flatwoods of 217-acre Amberjack Environmental Park in Cape Haze. Meet in the parking lot at the end of Gasparilla Pines Blvd. Call 941-475-0769 for info/directions.

Bridge Walk at Don Pedro Island State Park

Thursday, April 17, 10am – 11am
Don Pedro Island State Park, Placida, FL

CHEC has partnered with Captiva Cruises to provide educational programs at Don Pedro State Park. This park is accessible only by boat & Captiva Cruises provides an opportunity to visit this pristine beach. For this program, CHEC's Jane Wallace will offer a guided walk to what still exists of the bridge that connected the island to the mainland many years ago. The program will begin at the pavilion at 10 am. If choosing Captiva Cruises for park access, call 239-472-5100 to reserve a space on the ferry. Then bring a lunch & plan on spending the day.

Seagrass Wading Trip at Cedar Point Park

Friday, April 18, 9:00am – 11:30am
Cedar Point Environmental Park, 2300 Placida Rd, Englewood, FL

Get wild & wet! Join CHEC at Cedar Point Environmental Park on a Seagrass Adventure Wading Trip into Lemon Bay in search of marine organisms such as sea horse, crabs and juvenile fish. Free but registration required. Call 941-475-0769 Sponsored by The Mosaic Company Foundation and conducted by Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center

The City Dark Film Screening & Light Pollution Presentation

Saturday, April 19, 4pm
Calusa Nature Center, Fort Myers, FL

The International Dark Sky Association screening of 'The City Dark' in the planetarium at 4:00 PM, followed by a panel discussion on light pollution. For more information, call (239) 275-3435.

Earth Day Festival

Saturday, April 19, 10am-4pm
Conservancy of Southwest Florida, 1495 Smith Preserve Way, Naples, FL

You're invited to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Conservancy of Southwest Florida during an Earth Day festival at the Conservancy Nature Center! Conservancy members are admitted for free to the festival. Special admission for the 50th anniversary celebration is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children ages 3-12. Free parking will be available at the parking lot shared by the Conservancy and the Naples Zoo; golf cart shuttle service will be available for those who need it. Call 239.430.2466 for more information.

Rain Barrel class

Saturday, April 19
Rotary Park Environmental Center, Cape Coral, FL

\$45 per barrel; Requires advanced registration; Call 239.549.4606 to register

Florida Master Naturalist Course, Coastal Systems Module

Fridays, April 25-May 16
Randell Research Center, Pineland, FL

Registration closes at 9am on April 22, 2014
Instructor: Cindy Bear
For more information: <http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/fmnp/cs14-15.htm>

Fuel our brains!

Keep our members and guests from becoming famished at our meetings; please bring a favorite snack to share.

Meeting location:

Coccoloba monthly meetings are held on the second Thursday of every month at the Calusa Nature Center. The Nature Center is located at 3450 Ortiz Avenue, Fort Myers (just north of the intersection of Colonial Boulevard and Ortiz Avenue). Check out our website at: fnpscoccoloba.org

Comments/suggestions:

Comments about the new email edition? Not displaying correctly? Wrong email address? Please let Jenny Evans (newsletter editor) know at: jevans@sccf.org.

*Copyright © *|2014|* *|FNPS|*, All rights reserved.*

You are receiving this email because you are a member of the Coccoloba chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society, or you signed on to our email list at an event or through our website.

Our mailing address is:

Florida Native Plant Society, Coccoloba Chapter
P.O. Box 61432
Fort Myers, FL 33906-1432

[Add us to your address book](#)

[unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

MailChimp