

Coccoloba Jam December 2014

[Campaign Preview](#)

[HTML Source](#)

[Plain-Text Email](#)

[Details](#)

Coccoloba Jam -- December 2014

[View this email in your browser](#)

Coccoloba Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society

Next Gathering: Thursday, December 11th, 6:30 social -- Holiday celebration at Calusa Nature Center and Planetarium, 3450 Ortiz Ave, Fort Myers, FL 33905

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 13th, 6:30 pm social; 7 pm speaker/program -- Page Field Base Operations 5200 Captain Channing Page Dr., Fort Myers, FL 33907
(Please note the new day and location for 2015)



Inside December 2014

- Exciting News
- Follow Coccoloba happenings on the web, Facebook, & Twitter
- Nature Journaling
- Happy Holiday
- Cayo Costa
- Pine Rocklands



Our new home at the Page Field Conference Center

Exciting News!

We have a brand new meeting place!

- Monarch Migration
- Beautyberry
- A Sunset Soree
- Invasive Exotic Site
- Minutes
- Happenings

Follow Coccoloba happenings on the web, Facebook, & Twitter!

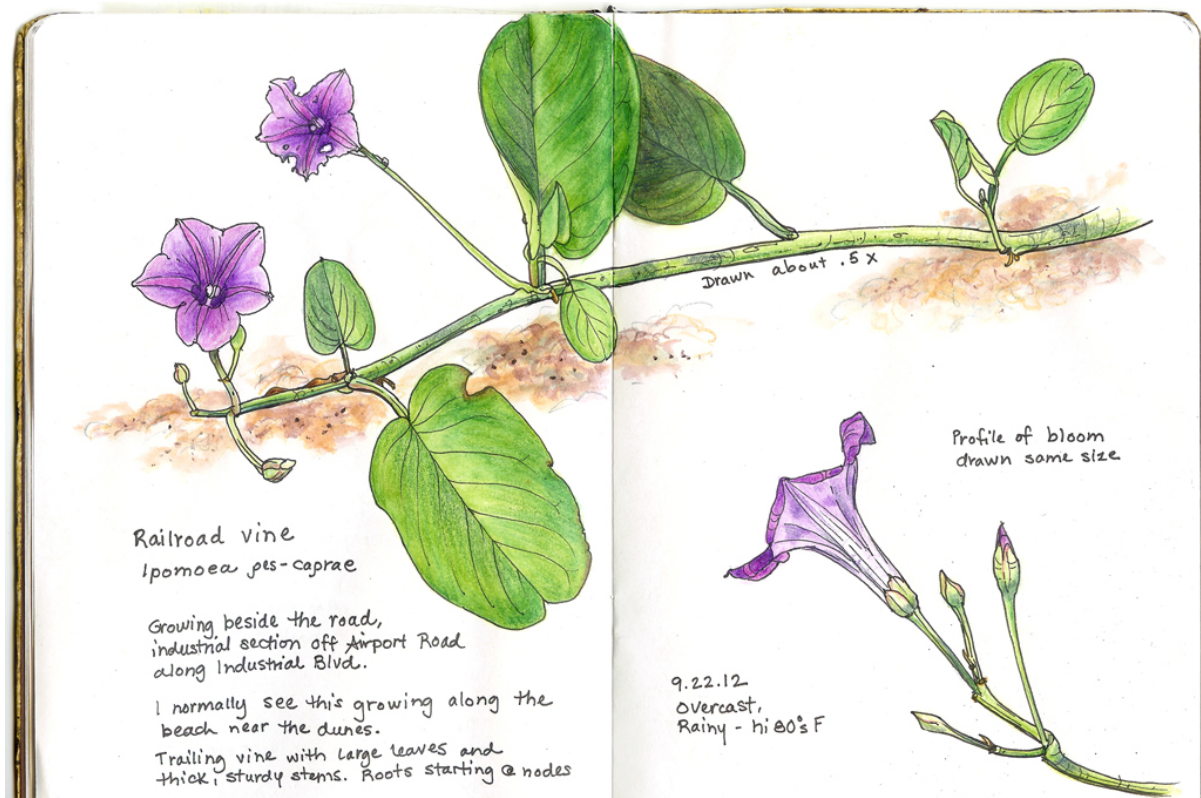
Check out Coccoloba's website for up-to-date information on chapter events

(www.fnpscoccoloba.org).

Like us on Facebook (type in Coccoloba Chapter, Florida Native Plant Society) and follow us on Twitter (@FNPSoccoloba) to join the conversation!

We have finally found a new meeting location at Page Field. Our new space is centrally located and has a lot of great new amenities. We will start using the new facility in January of 2015. It is important for all members to remember that the day is also changing; we are moving the meetings to THE SECOND TUESDAY of the month. The new location is Page Field Base Operations at 5200 Captain Channing Page Dr., Fort Myers, FL 33907. The meetings will continue to start at 6:30 pm for socializing and 7 pm for presentations and speakers. See you all there!

Remember that the Coccoloba Chapter will have a holiday celebration on Thursday, December 11, starting at 6:30 pm., at Calusa Nature Center, 3450 Ortiz Ave., Fort Myers, FL 33905. The Chapter is supplying the ham and asks fellow revelers to bring a dish and/or drink.



Nature Journaling with Elizabeth Smith

SIX MILE CYPRESS SLOUGH PRESERVE
SATURDAY, JANUARY 31, 2015 FROM 10AM TO 2PM

Because Elizabeth Smith's Nature Journaling Workshop was such a huge success at this year's annual FNPS conference, we've decided to host her again! This workshop is exclusively for Coccobola members and is limited to only 10 lucky participants, so make your reservations soon! The cost of the workshop, including all materials, is \$30 per person. Hope to see you there! To make reservations for this event please contact Pat Moyer at (239)543-4860.

Elizabeth spent her early years in the woods and waters of Iowa developing a love for plants and wildlife that is reflected in her artwork, through quick sketches and more intensive watercolor paintings. She received her BA with honors in art at Florida Gulf Coast University, with postgraduate classes in education. She is especially interested in combining art with other disciplines and using the arts to heal.

She is a member of the United Arts Council, and was selected in 2011 by the Legacy Institute of Nature and Culture ([LINC](#)) as one of ten Florida artists to participate in the [Greater Everglades Conservation Atlas project](#). Elizabeth's goal is to combine nature and art as a venue to increase awareness, enjoyment, and stewardship of our natural world.

A longtime Florida Native Plant Society member ([FNPS](#)), Elizabeth Smith has been keeping a nature journal for several years, publishing her pages in an online blog, [A Nature Art Journal: the natural world of Southwest Florida](#). She shares what she's learned in workshops and classes, and exhibits occasionally in Naples and Ft. Myers. She has illustrated in watercolor and pen and ink for :

- *Florida's Edible Wild Plants: A Guide to Collecting and Cooking* by Peggy Sias Lantz
- The Butler Chain of Lakes Conservation Association (coloring book)
- The Conservancy of Southwest Florida (Guides)
- The Florida Native Plant Society (articles, publications, T-shirts)
- Dade Environmental Resources Management (publications, signage)
- The Collier County Museum (map, various)
- Gulfshore Life Magazine (article illustrations)
- Home & Condo Magazine (article illustrations)
- North American Butterfly Association (Butterfly Count Report)
- Fairchild Tropical Garden (article illustrations, cookbook, signage, T-shirts)

About the class

Picasso once said,

"Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once we grow up."

Those who draw and write about the natural world around them carry on a long historical tradition of curiosity, exploration, and investigation. Throughout history, explorers documented discoveries from other countries, herbalists described useful plants, and gardeners recorded specimens for their beauty. Their drawings and observations expanded our knowledge of useful and beautiful flora, and taught us about the world we live in.

No matter the purpose, sketching not only sharpens our observation skills and improves hand-eye-brain coordination, but also helps us create new sorts of connections. Illustrating the natural world can be a wonderful adventure and learning tool; when we draw something, we get to know it on an intimate level.

In this class, participants will be introduced to the nature journal as I keep it, a combination of sketches and text. Drawing skills are helpful but not required. Our goal is to experience the process, and to broaden our connection to the natural world.

A starter sketching kit will be available for purchase at the instructor's cost. The starter kit is a bag containing a 6x9" Aquabee spiral-bound sketchbook suitable for light washes, a mechanical pencil, eraser, Micron Pigma ink pen (black, a medium size waterbrush, and a small folding palette with a basic selection of six colors of watercolor paint (detailed list available). Field sketching is a portable pastime, so we'll keep our supplies small and relatively inexpensive in case of damage or loss. Students will have an opportunity to start a page in their journal.

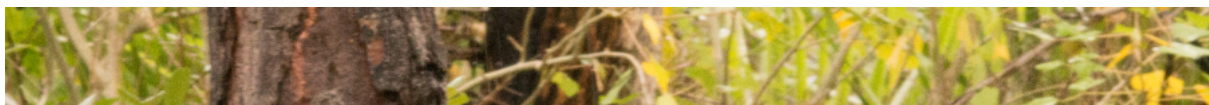


Happy Holidays

Pat Moyer and Fred Geist working the FNPS

Coccoloba outreach at the Edison Ford Estate Garden Club Event in November. They had a great time meeting, greeting and enjoying the beautiful landscape. Several people signed up for the newsletter and bought t-shirts.

Photos courtesy of Martha Grattan





*Top left: The official greeter at Cayo Costa. Top right : One of the zooming pelicans of Charlotte Harbor.
Above Dr. Sanders and Dick Workman discuss the local flora.
Photos courtesy of Kenneth Gholston.*

Cayo Costa Field Trip

The day dawned cold and windy. . .

I woke up and looked at the weather report. Strong winds and heavy chop. Uh oh, I was starting to have visions of seasickness and chills. I texted Marlene Rodak, "Do you think they will cancel the ferry?" "Nope," came the quick reply. I groaned to myself and pulled out my woollies and got my little troop down to the dock. The ferry chugged along on surprisingly calm water as we watched the pelicans zooming in the skies over the harbor. The mild drizzle cleared up early and we ended up on an amazing tour. We had a wonderful addition to our usual group with Dr. William Sanders from FGCU filling us in on some interesting lichens. He was happy to kibitz with Dick Workman about the origins of the whisk fern, while the rest of the group was busy sampling the plump, rosy, cocoplums that were fruiting along the path. Later we gazed at the wide variety of shore plants and birds. We even saw a monarch butterfly. Another grand day out with the Native Plant Society.





*Top two pictures: The usual suspects walking through the hammock.
Above left: The lush pink cocoplums that seemed to be every where on the island.
Above right: Your intrepid newsletter editor, Isabella Peedle, on the ferry home.
Photos courtesy of Kenneth Gholston.*



Pine Rocklands Update

As some of you may already know, Miami-Dade County is in the process of losing one of its last

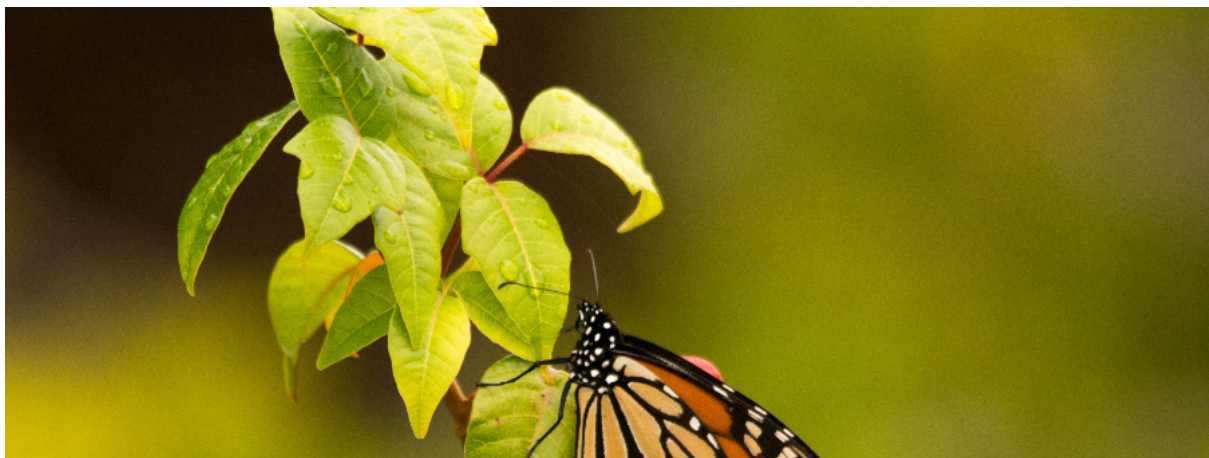
intact tracts of endangered pine rockland. The 88 acres of the land was sold from the University of Miami to a developer known as Ram. This development company is using the rare land to build various stores and apartments. The development will further endanger several species of rare plants and animals. This includes the Bartram's and atala hairstreak butterflies, bald eagles, indigo snakes, and the Florida bonneted bats.

In an attempt at remediation, Ram has agreed to set aside 40 of the acres for a preserve. Unfortunately, this is not a solution due to the fact that much of the land has been overrun by non-native species, and much of the native creatures inhabiting the area are already extremely close to extinction.

Fortunately, conservationists are working hard to help protect this area from being destroyed. There has already been a large amount of success, including the 90,000 signatures of petitions from people all over the world wanting to save this land.

Want to learn more and stay up to date with this project? See the links below for more information and to see how you can help:

- Learn more about the rare pine rockland: <http://zoomiamiconservation.com/project/pine-rockland-restoration/>
- Read more about the story: <http://www.miamiherald.com/news/local/community/miami-dade/article1975284.html#storylink=cpy>
- US Fish and Wildlife's meeting with Ram Developers: <http://www.miamiherald.com/news/local/community/miami-dade/article3608747.html>
- The petition: http://petitions.moveon.org/sign/save-the-endangered-forest?mailing_id=26390&source=s.icn.em.cr&r_by=7947690



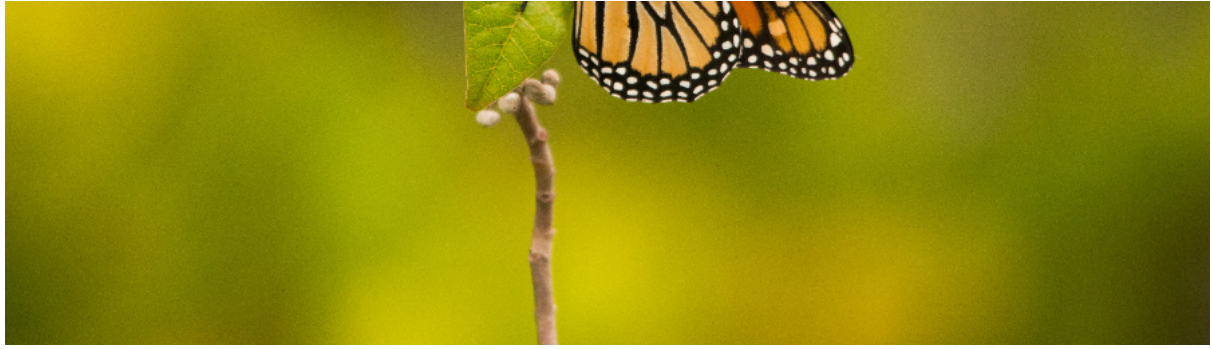


Photo courtesy of Kenneth Gholston

Monarch Migration Update

I have had a number of individuals ask me about the Monarch migration. The short story is that they do not migrate through Florida, which is good news because the number of infected butterflies is very high, according to our good friend Gayle Edwards.

National Geographic recently ran a small but informative story about the status of the migration. To see the article and the migration maps, click on the link below.

http://www.ncrcd.org/files/7714/1150/3960/Monarch_Butterflies_Reign_Threatened_by_Milkweed_Decline_-_article.pdf





Photo courtesy of Shirley Denton

Beautyberry and the Cucumber Mosaic Virus (CMV)

Common Vectors: Insects, infected pruning tools.

Symptoms: Leaf distortion, discoloration, mottling and slow growth, occasionally death.

Once a plant is infected with a virus it cannot be cured.

CMV is not unique to beautyberry and infects a wide variety of farmed plants as well as ornamentals. The virus is commonly introduced to the plants by aphids and it is widespread. At this time, the extension office is recommending the removal of infected plants. Cutting back the plants will not cure them, as the new growth will eventually present symptoms. Cutting back or replanting with clean plants may help in the short term. But, the new growth will eventually show symptoms and clean plants will become infected. For more information on this important topic please click on the links below.

Special thanks to Gayle Edwards for bringing this to our attention, and Stephen Brown for sharing his fact sheets with us.

http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu/Hort/GardenPubsAZ/Beautyberry_CMV.pdf

http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu/FYN/FYNPubs/Beautyberry_FYN.pdf





A Sunset Soiree:

Mullet & Mojitos, an evening with Dr. Bill Hammond on December 11th

The Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center (CHEC) is proud to announce special guest speaker, Dr. Bill Hammond, for the annual "Friends of CHEC" season kick-off celebration. The event will take place on December 11th, starting at 5pm at CHEC's Alligator Creek Preserve, 10941 Burnt Store Rd., Punta Gorda, FL 33955.

Enjoy a "Mullet and Mojitos" themed, sunset soirée where Dr. Hammond will inspire guests with his environmental stories. See Dr. Hammond's bio below. Additionally, CHEC CEO, Thomas Hecker, and the CHEC team will go over new and exciting benefits and programs, including the season finale, a trip to Cuba.

Dr. Hammond was the director of curriculum development services and environmental education for the Lee County School District in Fort Myers, Florida. His career began with a decade of junior and senior high school science teaching. In the late 1960s, he became the Lee County science supervisor and coordinator of environmental education, positions in which he continued until 1983. At that point, he became the district's director of the Department of Curriculum Services, retiring in 1993. From 1978 to the present, he has been consulting through his firm Natural Context in corporate training for several Fortune 100 companies and teaching college courses. In 1997, he joined the faculty of Florida Gulf Coast University. During the course of his school, university, and consulting career, Bill lectured, made presentations, and led workshops on curriculum and program development. He has presented in 50 states, Canada, England, the former Soviet Union, and 19 Caribbean nations. He advises a wide range of private and public organizations, as well as over 250 nonprofit organizations.

For more information, email thomas@checflorida.org or call (941) 575-5435

CHEC was established in 1987 as a private, non-profit organization dedicated to promoting environmental education, recreation, and conservation.





Rosary Pea photo courtesy of UF/IFAS

New Invasive Exotic Site

After over a year of development the new IFAS Assessment of Non-Native Plants web site and database is live:

<http://assessment.ifas.ufl.edu/>

The new database features 800+ species, easily searchable by common or scientific name, and results can be filtered by origin, conclusion, tool used, growth form or other options,

The site also includes over 1500 pictures (all open source or credited) with growth form, origin, and links to EDDMaps, USDA Plants Database, Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants. The database is directly linked to the web site so any time a species is added or updated in the database, the species web pages are automatically built or updated and available for public viewing.

Please take a moment to visit the site and take advantage of this wealth of information.

Minutes of the General Membership Meeting of the

Membership Meeting of the Florida Native Plant Society, Coccoloba Chapter Thursday, November 13, 2014, 7:00 pm

By Ben Johnson, Chapter Secretary

Attendance: 18

Martha Grattan called meeting to order.

Thank you to guest speaker Gayle Edwards, Master Gardner and FLEPPC board member, for her presentation on exotic invasive plants and trees found in the Southwest Florida landscape. Her presentation included identification and specimens obtained locally. Marlene Rodak added specimens obtained from the Harlem Heights Elementary School property.

Marlene Rodak and Dick Workman updated members on the Heights Elementary project. Marlene stated the Coccoloba Chapter has received a \$3,000 grant from Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program (CHNEP) for educational signage at the Heights property, and the permit is taking longer than expected due to current amendment requirements. She then provided background on the initial boardwalk installation. Dick shared his involvement with the project. He displayed aerial views of the Phase 1 planning, and the newly proposed boardwalk through the Red Mangrove forest. The new boardwalk will be similar to the old with relatively minor changes to include accessibility. The new boardwalk is to be funded by the Heights Elementary PTA and by volunteers.

Martha Grattan reviewed the meeting agenda. She was contacted by the Sierra Club regarding the Keystone Pipeline, and encouraged members to contact their Senatorial delegates (Senators Marco Rubio and Bill Nelson mentioned) to voice opposition to this project as it could have a severe impact on a large portion of the natural environment. Martha then talked about a new location for Coccoloba Chapter meetings. The new meeting place would be at Page Field Airport which features a more central location and better lighting. It will be on the second floor, and an elevator is available. The meeting time would change to the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm, and there is the possibility of meeting during the summer months as well. A rental fee of \$50 per meeting will be required. Caroline Murphey made a motion to vote on accepting the new location. Carolyn Moore seconds the motion. Vote passed unanimously.

Marlene Rodak gave the current NPS Coccoloba treasury balance of \$10,337.47. She said the chapter support check has been received. She also stated that fund raising for the chapter is not currently happening from native plant sales or other events, and urged for conservancy in financial matters. Other business as usual, and current financial obligations met.

Martha Grattan talked about yard visits. It is a great volunteer opportunity to provide community outreach, and groups or teams are preferred. Rodger Bunnell, who was present at the meeting, has the distinction of being the first to have his yard visited by a Coccoloba group. Rodger provided his feedback from the visit and thanked the members who participated. There was some discussion on coupling the visits with member recruitment, and comparison to the UF/IFAS Florida Yards & Neighborhood (FYN) program.

Martha asked if everyone had received the newsletter, if not they need to sign up for it with their preferred email address.

Upcoming events were announced:

Martha Grattan - Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife fundraiser Tuesday Nov. 18th at Cape Harbor.

Carolyn Moore - 2014 Butterfly Conference at the Edison Ford Winter Estates, Sat. Nov 15

David Chase - Alliance for the Arts, Photographs on display/for sale, Sat. Nov 15

Marlene Rodak mentioned her homeowners' association wanting to pursue canopy tree development in her community. She asked for input, talked about brochure distribution to various HOA's, and raised the possibility of expanding the website to incorporate this information for the HOA's. Discussion took place and ideas formulated.

Martha Grattan recapped the Cayo Costa field trip, stating it was an enjoyable experience. Pictures from the trip will be included in the upcoming newsletter. There are currently no field trips for 2015, and she welcomed suggestions. A couple of trips proposed were Lake Trafford and Highlands Hammock.

Martha Grattan asked for a motion to approve last meeting minutes. Lucy Breitung motioned to approve. Motion seconded by Sue Scott. Motion passed.

Carolyn Moore motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Carolyn Murphy. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned.

Resources/Additional Information:

Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council FLEPPC) <http://fleppc.org/index.cfm>

Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife <http://www.ccfriendsofwildlife.org/>

Edison and Ford Winter Estates www.edisonfordwinterestates.org/

Lee County Alliance for the Arts <http://www.artinlee.org/>

Heights Elementary School <http://het.leeschools.net/>

Sierra Club <http://sierraclub.org/>

Florida Yards and Neighborhoods <http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu/FYN/FYNHome.shtml>

Highlands Hammock State Park <http://www.floridastateparks.org/highlandshammock/>

Lake Trafford <http://www.lakelubbers.com/lake-trafford-2086/>

A Sunset Soiree: Mullet & Mojitos, an evening with Dr. Bill Hammond

December 11, 5pm

CHEC's Alligator Creek Preserve 10941 Burnt Store Rd., Punta Gorda, FL 33955.

For more information email, thomas@checflorida.org or call (941) 575-5435

The Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center (CHEC) is proud to announce special guest speaker, Dr. Bill Hammond, for the annual "Friends of CHEC" season kick-off celebration. For details, see the article in this newsletter.

Meteor Showers

December 13 and 14

One of the better meteor showers of the year is the Geminids, whose activity peaks between December 13 and 14, with up to 120 meteors an hour possible. The radiant, where the meteors appear to come from, is in Gemini -- a fairly easy constellation to spot. Most people already know Orion, with its row of three bright stars, and Gemini the Twins is just to Orion's upper left. (Courtesy of the Sierra Club)

Introductory Florida Yards and Neighborhoods Workshops

Thursday, February 19 from 1PM – 4PM

Bonita Springs City Hall

9101 Bonita Beach Road

Bonita Springs, FL 34135

For more information call: (239) 273-8945.

Register for this free class online:

FFL-Feb19.eventbrite.com

Websites: <http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu/FYN/FYNHome.shtml>

Wet Plan Workshops

Neighborhood Lakes and Ponds Management

Tuesday, January 27, 1-4PM

Bonita Springs City Hall

9101 Bonita Beach Road, Bonita Springs, FL 34135

Thursday, March 26, 1-4PM

Calusa Nature Center & Planetarium

Iona House, 3450 Ortiz Avenue, Fort Myers, FL 33905

Thursday, March 26, 1-4PM

Lakes Regional Library

15290 Bass Road, Fort Myers, FL 33919

Visit www.WetPlan.org for more dates

Citizens Academy will Begin in February

The Citizens Academy is a 12-week class, teaching citizens about City government and how the processes work. There are two classes per year, the first is in February.

Enrollment is open to Cape Coral residents, and the class size is limited.

Additional information is available by contacting the program coordinator at 574-0446 or by email at citizensacademy@capecoral.net.

Free Butterfly House Tours

Mondays, Fridays and Saturdays at 10:30 am, free and no reservations required.

Located at Rotary Park Environmental Center, 5505 Rose Garden Road, Cape Coral, FL 33914.

For more information, call the Rotary Park Environmental Center at (239) 549-4606

Comments about the newsletter? Not displaying correctly? Wrong email address? Please let Isabella Peedle (newsletter editor) know at: marthagrattan@yahoo.com

Copyright © 2014 Florida Native Plant Society, Coccoloba Chapter, 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](#)

The MailChimp logo is displayed in a white, cursive font inside a grey rounded rectangular box.

This email was sent to << [Test Email Address](#) >>

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

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

The MailChimp logo is displayed in a white, cursive font inside a grey rounded rectangular box.