

Coccoloba Jam June 2015

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Coccoloba Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society

Next Meeting: June 9th or the 2nd Tuesday of each month. 6:30 pm social; 7 pm speaker.

Donated plants will be auctioned off at the end of the meeting

Page Field Base Operations 5200 Captain Channing Page Dr., Fort Myers, FL 33907.

(Directions: Take 41 to Fowler. Turn east on Fowler and your first right to Page Field.)

Visit our Website: <http://www.fnpscoccoloba.org/>

Like us on Face Book: Coccoloba Chapter, Florida Native Plant Society



Inside June 2015

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- Manatee Elementary



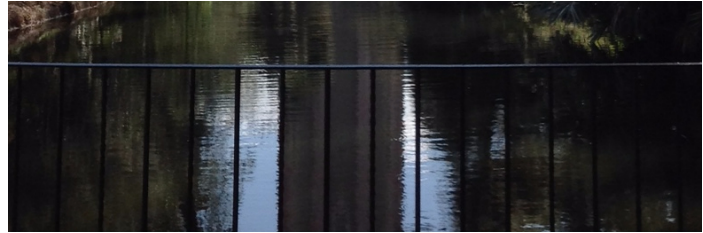
- Born to Burn Conference
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Follow Coccoloba happenings on the web, Facebook, & Twitter!

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!



The Bok Tower Carrillon. Photo courtesy of Martha Grattan

Bok Tower Trip

Do not miss out on this historic landmark!

Florida Native Plant Society's Coccoloba Chapter is delighted to offer a rare plant tour of Bok Tower Garden on June 13, 2015. We will meet at the Visitors' Center at 11 am. Rare Plant Specialist and FNPS Conservation Chair, Juliet Rynear will lead our tour. **Bok Tower has agreed to waive the entrance fee for Coccoloba members that register before June 10th.** For more information and to register, please visit:

[Register for Bok Tower here](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/florida-native-plant-societys-coccoloba-chapter-bok-tower-field-trip-tickets-17106042634?aff=es2)

Problems getting to the registration page? Please paste the link below into your browser.

<http://www.eventbrite.com/e/florida-native-plant-societys-coccoloba-chapter-bok-tower-field-trip-tickets-17106042634?aff=es2>





Above left Rodger Bunnell and Dick Workman survey the strangler fig. Above left: Jim Rodwell and Roger Bunnell get ready to head out. Bottom left: Gregg Victor considers his lunch options. Bottom right: Rodger Bunnell fixes the guard on one of our baby trees. Photo courtesy of Martha Grattan

Coccoloba picnic

by Martha Grattan

A few weeks ago we all got together for our annual picnic. This year it was at Estero Community Park. Some of you may remember the very hot work day planting from last summer. It was great to revisit the park and take a look at how our hard earned contributions were doing. For the most part they were thriving and looking good. I was especially pleased to see that the railroad vine I had rooted in water last spring had survived the transplant and was shooting long vines all over the place. We took a leisurely hike around the park and did a little plant identification while we enjoyed the landscape. We had a nice lunch together and planted a new tree on the pond. In previous years the picnic was the last meeting of the year. This summer is different. We will continue to have meetings this summer. The next one is June 9th.

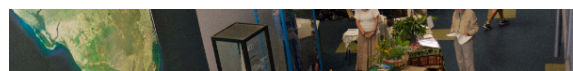
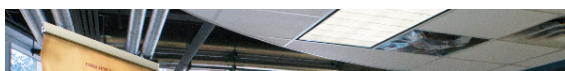




Above images: The students and staff of Manatee Elementary hard at work planting their new outdoor classroom. Photo courtesy of Martha Grattan

Manatee Elementary Gets A New Butterfly Garden

Last month Martha Grattan and Pat Moyer teamed up to help the third graders at Manatee Elementary plant and install their new butterfly garden. The kids listened to a brief lecture about pollinator insects and the relationship they have to native plants and animals in the ecosystem. After that discussion they were all fired up and ready to plant their new garden. The following week they all pulled together on the big project. The children planted and watered in all the plants by themselves with hardly any help from the adults. What a great sight to see!

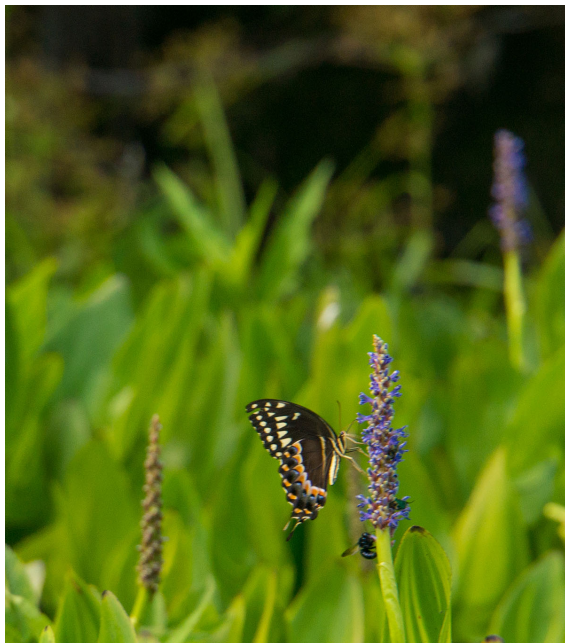


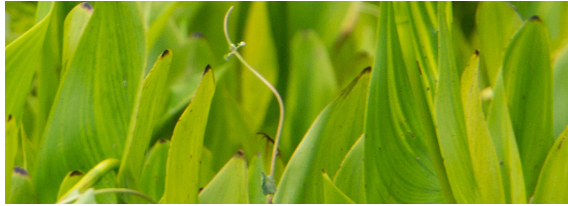


Above left and right: Conference attendees at the Challenger Learning Center silent auction. Photos courtesy of Kenneth Gholston.

Born to Burn!

Last weekend Marlene Rodak, Dick Workman and Martha Grattan attended the Born To Burn FNPS State Conference in Tallahassee. The capital city boasts an extensive park and preserve network featuring many different and beautiful ecosystems. The field trips were unforgettable, each one more interesting than the last. The conference featured loads of great programs that approached the fire topic from many different angles. The multi-faceted approach helped members to understand the critical role fire plays in the Florida Ecosystem. Sessions covered a wide range of topics from woodpeckers and salamanders to Cord Grass and Long Leaf Pines. It turns out that it is not just enough to burn regularly, specific times of the year and more frequent burns are required to maintain native plant communities and the wildlife that depend upon them. There were also lectures about managing your homeowners association and growing plants in the shade. The best part of all were the field trips and socials. Check out the stories below!



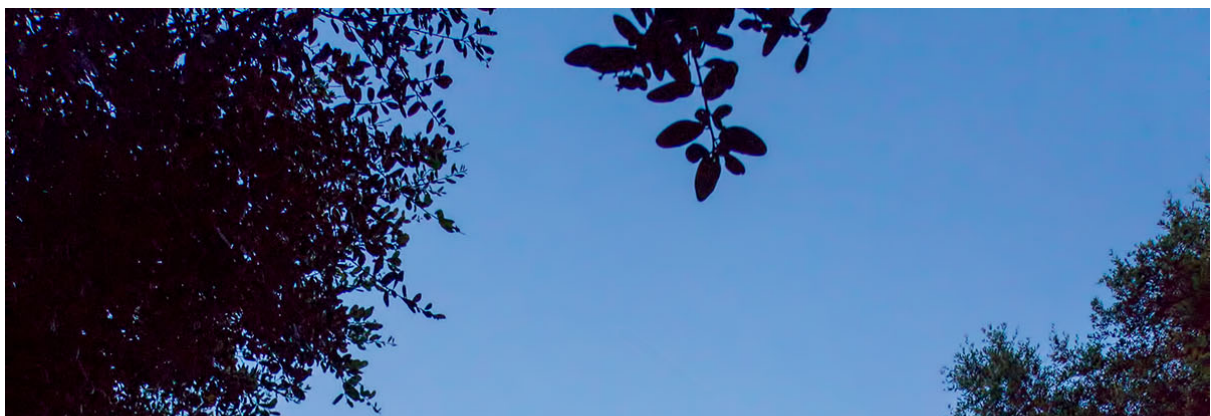




Above: The flora and fauna of Wakulla Springs. Photos courtesy of Kenneth Gholston

Wakulla Springs

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places and as National Natural Landmark, Wakulla Springs was the star of conference social calendar. The Friday night social featured a boat ride through the protected springs, which are some of the largest and deepest freshwater springs in the world. At \$5 per person this boat ride was the best deal ever! The day of the tour the springs had a 35 foot visibility and plenty of beautiful wildlife.





Above images: Tall Timbers Research Station social and original plantation home.

Photos courtesy of Kenneth Gholston.

Tall Timbers Research Station

The Saturday night conference social featured wagon rides through the pine forests of Tall Timbers. The regular burns have preserved the natural grass savanna understory that is supposed to exist in southern pine forests. The property itself is reminiscent of the antebellum south, featuring the preserved plantation home complete with bucolic views of the lake.

Current research projects at the station include a long term study of the economic value of quail hunting preserves.





Above: The beautiful vistas of Maclay Gardens. Photos courtesy of Ken Gholston.

Maclay Gardens

Planted in 1923 by Alfred B. and Louise Maclayas a part of their new winter home. The garden feature enormous oak trees resplendant with resurrection fern and spanish moss. A lovely and secluded brick walkway leads you through tall trees and lush flower gardens complete with a lake and a gated secret garden with an reflection pool. there also hiking and biking trails. The park was donated to the city after the death of Alfred B. Maclay.

November in Cuba

Join FNPS in a botanical exploration of Cuba. The Florida Native Plant Society in partnership with the Florida Keys TREE Institute present The Plants of Central and Northwest Cuba November 15-22, 2015- 8 days, 7 nights Pinar del Rio, Vinales Valley, Zapata Swamp, Cienfuegos, Havana. Join Raul Verdecia, one of Cuba's native plant specialists to experience Cuba through a humanitarian exchange program by our 501-c-3, nonprofit organization. Share a true "People to People" exchange of culture and the environment. This exceptional program will include visiting the magical UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) Biospheres of Cienfuegos, Zapata Swamp, Vinales Valley, Pinar del Rio, and remarkable Havana. While there, you will learn about the gardens, environment, art, music, architecture, while having an opportunity to personally interface with the plant people of these regions! A complete outline of the trip is available at FNPS.org

[Click here for info.](#)

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