



# Cocoloba Jam

## May 2013

### Inside this issue:

Spring Plant Sale pictures	2
Spring Picnic pictures	3
Save the Date!	4
One Step Forward, Four Trees Back	5
April meeting minutes	6-7

### Cocoloba Board

- *President:* John Sibley; 239.671.9663; john[at]nolawn[dot]com
- *Vice President:* Carolyn Murphey; 239.283.6266; carolynmurphey[at]centurylink[dot]net
- *Treasurer:* Marlene Rodak; 239.273.8945; rodakma[at]msn[dot]com
- *Secretary:* Martha Grattan; 239.247.1566; marthagrattan[at]yahoo[dot]com
- *Director:* Dick Workman; 239.694.0101; wworkmandick[at]aol[dot]com

## President's Corner

*By John Sibley, Cocoloba Chapter President*

Well, we've made it to May and had a delightful year end picnic with perfect weather and the perfect hostess at Edison/Ford Estates. Thanks Debbie Hughes!! Not only for the very informative presentation, but for doing all the setting up for us and breaking down after the event. You're an amazing lady!

And speaking of "amazing," we're sad to bid farewell to our dear friend Robin Gardner who has decided to hang up his "Cocoloba hat" after more than 10 years of dedication and HARD WORK. We'll miss you Robin, and I know I can speak for all in thanking you for



Debbie Hughes explaining the successes and challenges in the vegetable garden at the Cocoloba spring picnic.



Robin Gardner volunteering at the Spring plant sale.

everything you've done to make Cocoloba the strong organization it is today. Robin never missed a plant sale, helping with labels, setting up the day before and all day during the sale. He rarely missed a meeting either, and was usually the first to arrive, dragging in the books and shirts for sale. And he rarely missed any special meetings (though he always made it clear it was on the bottom of his list of things he wanted to do) as we bantered about various Cocoloba matters. So thank you once again,

*(Continued on page 7)*

# Spring Plant Sale



George and Jan Castro load up with native plants for their new residence in Cape Coral.



The rain barrel workshop was a huge success! Not a barrel was left!

The plant selection was so amazing that customers had a hard time choosing!



## *Spring Picnic at Edison Ford Estates*

Picnic guests gathered to enjoy the wonderful dishes that everyone brought to share!



Debbie explains the history of Edison's plant research and the gardening practices utilized on the estate.

Marlene Rodak, Babu Mathew, Terry Sanders, and other picnic guests get a first-hand look at the new propagation mist house at the Estates.




# SAVE THE DATE!

## 2014 FNPS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

THURSDAY, MAY 15TH -  
SUNDAY MAY 18TH,  
2014

FLORIDA GULF  
COAST UNIVERSITY,  
FORT MYERS, FL



HOSTED BY THE COCCOLOBA CHAPTER

During the Spring picnic, Debbie Hughes and Babu Mathew explained the various species of herbs in the herb garden at Edison/Ford Estates. Babu maintains the herb garden as a Master Gardener Volunteer.



During the Spring plant sale, Rick Joyce of Deep South Nursery (center, in hat) answered questions from patrons about how to incorporate Florida natives into their landscape.

# One Step Forward, Four Trees Back

By Marlene Rodak, Coccoloba Treasurer

I was busy working on my laptop on the lanai, taking advantage of the incredibly beautiful weather. The year-old kitties were busy running around, chasing the critters that were so close, but safely separated by screen. It was a great day.

Not too far off, I heard the buzz of yard tools, but I was busy and not paying attention. Then, I looked up and across the lake as a huge slash pine was being fatally attacked by a man with a chain saw. It dropped, crashing to the ground.

I was horrified! I could hardly breathe.



A bad day for the tree...and me.

I paced. I fretted. I couldn't even think straight.

There were more slash pines next to this one that I feared were next.

So, I quickly sent off an e-mail to the HOA president and Architectural Review Board (ARC) Chair. I also sent it to my contact with Lee County Environmental Services (DES). I knew this home had just sold, so did this new owner get a permit and permission from the homeowners' association?

To make a long story, short, as of a month ago, DES no longer requires permits or approval for the removal of protected trees in individual's homeowners' yards. I also received this note from the ARC Chair:

**"I know we need to protect hardwoods, but are you really a protector of those dirty, pollen filled things called slash pines?....We must have a billion of them around here, which in my opinion is about 999,999,999 too many."**

I simply couldn't bear to see the other slash pines fall, but they are all gone now.

Today, I learned the Scotts Company, located near my hometown, has agreed to drop the phosphorus from their fertilizer.

YAY! But there is still a lot of work to do ....



A great Blue Heron enjoying what once was....

# *Minutes of the General Membership Meeting of the Florida Native Plant Society, Coccoloba Chapter*

*Thursday, April 11th, 2013, 7:00 pm*

*By Martha Grattan, Chapter Secretary*

Dick Workman gave a talk about the air potatoes. Some are edible, however it is Category 1 Exotic Invasive Species. At this time of year, they are sprouting from the potatoes aggressively. Now is the time to remove air potatoes from your property and dispose of them in black plastic bags for trash pickup.

Our guest speaker was Kellie Westervelt. Kellie discussed the FNPS conference planned for this year in Jacksonville. April 15<sup>th</sup> is the end of early registration. She also gave an outline the responsibilities and expectations for next conference, which will be hosted by Coccoloba at FGCU.

John Sibley called the meeting to order. Marlene Rodak gave the treasurer report: Coccoloba Chapter currently has a balance of \$3467.36. Last month \$100.00 was paid to Ecovoice. \$350.00 went to sponsor the Mangrove Gathering at Rutenberg Park last month. \$45.00 was spent to renew the P.O. Box. Annual taxes paid \$0. Sales taxes paid \$0.

Beverly Muldoon asked for clarification concerning the matching grant that was discussed at the last meeting. John Sibley explained that the city of Bonita was the beneficiary of the grant and we were making a matching donation with the FWFF. Marlene Rodak stated that the City has narrowed the site options down to two options. John Sibley motioned to approve the grant and Lucy seconded; all approved.

John Sibley commented that the budget of the Lee County Extension Office is being considered by the County Board of Commissioners for extensive budget cuts. Several members expressed concern about the cuts and were interested in forming a formal action plan.

John Sibley explained that the current Lee

County extension office has a \$1 million dollar budget. There are five budget proposals being considered. Two of these proposals would eliminate the extension office completely. One other cuts the budget by 25%. He feels the cuts are unfair because other county departments are only being asked to cut 5% from their budgets. Please support the extension office by contacting each of the Lee County Commissioners by email and phone. Also be sure to let likeminded people you know that they need our support. Kellie Westervelt also pointed out that there are white papers on the FANN website. These items are available for your review at: <http://www.fnps.org/resources/pubs>. It is important to be respectful and factual when contacting the legislators. John Sibley also mentioned that the LeeGROWS website is also a useful resource, please check this out at: <http://www.lee-county.com/gov/dept/publicresources/leegrows/Pages/default.aspx>, or just google "LeeGROWS". This website has the agendas and minutes from the Commissioner's meetings, it also features opportunities to comment on specific agenda items. Beverly Muldoon asked if we would like to address this issue as a group. John Sibley stated that he felt we should act as individuals, but it might be a good idea to put together a form letter from our chapter. Kellie Westervelt felt that perhaps the state chapter could put together a letter as well. Marlene Rodak stated that a letter to the editor of the News Press might be helpful as well. John Sibley stated that there will be updates on this issue and the 20/20 program.

The Board of Commissioners website is: <http://www.leegov.com/gov/BoardofCountyCommissioners/Pages/default.aspx>

*(Continued on page 7)*

## Minutes

(Continued from page 6)

If you would like to contact them:

- District 1: John Manning; [dist1@leegov.com](mailto:dist1@leegov.com); (239) 533-2224; Executive Assistant: Nan Gonzalez
- District 2: Cecil Pendergrass; [dist2@leegov.com](mailto:dist2@leegov.com); (239) 533-2227; Executive Assistant: Molly Schweers
- District 3: Larry Kiker; [dist3@leegov.com](mailto:dist3@leegov.com); (239) 533-2223; Executive Assistant: Janeen Paulauskis
- District 4: Tammy Hall; [dist4@leegov.com](mailto:dist4@leegov.com); [thall@leegov.com](mailto:thall@leegov.com); (239) 533-2226; Executive Assistant: Patty Pirog
- District 5: Frank Mann; [dist5@leegov.com](mailto:dist5@leegov.com); [fmann@leegov.com](mailto:fmann@leegov.com); (239) 533-2225; Executive Assistant: : Chris Berry

## President's Corner

(Continued from page 1)

Robin, for being our “rock” through so many years. Perhaps we’ll have five or six people step up to replace you?!

So summer is upon us, the Thrashers and Great Crested Flycatchers have arrived and the Orange Geigers are bursting with their splendid floral display. Life goes on, some things change, but others continue their century’s old regalia and provide us with a cherished sense of place and continuity. I hope everyone enjoys a pleasant, restful summer and will be ready to tackle another year of helping out with Coccoloba events (especially the annual FNPS conference in May 2014 at FGCU!) in the fall. See you in September!

Coccoloba Rotary Park Sale: Volunteers met on Wednesday to build labels. Friday was the set-up. Sale started at 9:00 a.m. and finished at 2:00 p.m. Bonnie and Beverly picked up lunches. John Sibley and Marlene Rodak took care of drinks and ice.

Public Outreach: Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, District 9, is having their annual conference at Sanibel Harbor Resort. They would like FNPS to provide a display and informational booth on Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup>. Robin Gardner agreed to man the booth for this event.

The FNPS annual picnic is going to be at Edison Ford Estates from 10:30 to 1:30 on May 5<sup>th</sup>. Lunch is at 12:00 noon. Please bring a dish to pass. Our own Debbie Hughes will be giving an informative talk on herbs. Our group will be meeting at east side of the estates, behind the lab and concession stand.

John Sibley motioned to end the meeting; Bonnie seconded all the motion, all were in favor.



Slash pines at the Spring plant sale provided by the Florida Forest Service and given away for free will be providing fabulous bald eagle habitat in years to come!



PO Box 61432  
Fort Myers, FL 33906-1432  
Phone: 239.939.9663  
Fax: 239.936.8504  
E-mail: john@nolawn.com

NONPROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
FORT MYERS FL  
PERMIT # 128

---

### *Upcoming speakers & Chapter meetings*

Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month, 7pm, Eco-Living Center at Rutenberg Park, Fort Myers

*Enjoy your summer, and see you in the  
Fall!*

### *Next year:*

- *Thursday, May 15th-Sunday, May 18th, 2014:* FNPS Annual Conference, Cohen Center, FGCU, Fort Myers

---

### *Resources for Florida Native Plants and Supplies*

These nurseries are owned by members of our chapter. Please support our local growers and nurseries!

- All Native Garden Center, 300 Center Road, Fort Myers, FL, 33907; 239.939.9663 [www.NoLawn.com](http://www.NoLawn.com) - retail & wholesale
- Bayshore Garden Center, 5870 Bayshore Road, North Fort Myers, FL; 239.543.1443 [www.bayshoregardencenter.com](http://www.bayshoregardencenter.com) - retail
- Calusa Nature Center, 3450 Ortiz Avenue, Fort Myers, FL, 33905; 239.275.3435 [www.calusanature.com](http://www.calusanature.com) - retail
- Deep South Native Nursery, 2051 North Evalena Lane, North Fort Myers, FL; 239.826.6844- wholesale
- Earth & Spirit Garden Gallery, 5425 Maria Drive, St. James City, FL; 239.282.1025 [www.earthandspiritgardengallery.com](http://www.earthandspiritgardengallery.com) - retail
- Forestry Resources Inc., 4235 Michigan Link, Fort Myers, FL, 33916; 239.332.3966 - [www.gomulch.com](http://www.gomulch.com)
- Hickory Hammock Native Tree Farm, 13321 Peace Road, Fort Myers, FL, 33905; 239.694.8220 or 239.292.4462
- The Nurseryman of SW Florida, 22023 Tuckahoe Road, Alva, FL, 33920; 239.728.2122 - retail & wholesale
- Perkins Nursery, 2575 Case Road, LaBelle, FL, 33935; 863.675.3006 - wholesale only
- Pine Forest Fruit & Flower Farm, 6670 Chipper Lane, North Fort Myers, FL, 33917; 239.543.9910 [www.floridanativeplantseeds.com](http://www.floridanativeplantseeds.com)
- SCCF, Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation, 3333 Sanibel-Captiva Road, Sanibel, FL, 33957; 239.472.1932 [www.sccf.org](http://www.sccf.org) - retail