



Cocoloba Jam

November 2012

Inside this issue:

President's Corner;	2
Updated website; Master Gardener training	
Plant Sale pictures	3
October minutes	4
Garden Council Open House	5

Cindy Bear, Randell Research Center, November's speaker

Join us on Thursday, November 8th for Cocoloba's next meeting. Cindy Bear will be speaking about the Randell Research Center and the Calusa Legacy.

The Randell Research Center (RRC) is a permanent facility dedicated to learning and teaching the archaeology, history, and ecology of Southwest Florida. In her presentation, Cindy will provide an overview of the RRC as well as the Calusa people and their ancestors, who lived along the shores of Pine Island Sound for thousands of years. The story of the Calusa people is one of a remarkable civilization thriving along the shores of a rich and bountiful estuary and building power and an economy based on their fishing technology. These Native Americans engineered a remarkable canal through Pine Island, developed a rich artistic tradition, and perplexed Spanish missionaries with their unique spirituality. This presentation will provide an overview of the Calusa civilization and include information on the methods archaeologists and historians have used to piece together the story we know today. Recently, archaeologists have conducted new excavations at the Randell Research Center and Cindy will highlight these new areas of archaeological investigation and how they are furthering our understanding of this remarkable culture and their ancestors.

Cindy is a fifth-generation native Floridian and holds a Bachelor's Degree in Wildlife Ecology and a Master's Degree in Science Education. Her involvement with public archaeology came during her 20-year tenure as a resource teacher with the Environmental Education Program of Lee County School District when she led students and teachers on field trips to some of the first excavations undertaken at the Randell Research Center (RRC) on Pine Island. A resident of Pine Island, Cindy also served as a volunteer and member of the RRC Advisory Board for over a decade. In 2011, Cindy joined the staff at the RRC as Coordinator of Programs and Services. In particular, Cindy coordinates group tours and volunteer activities at the Calusa Heritage Trail of the RRC and oversees land management on the internationally recognized archaeological preserve applying her background in science, education, and tourism and finding a great deal of personal happiness and gratitude in her role.

Socializing begins at 6:30pm. The presentations start at 7:00pm with a business meeting to follow. Meetings are open to the public and held at the Eco-Living Center at Rutenberg Park, Fort Myers.

Cocoloba Officers

- *President:*
John Sibley
239.671.9663
john@nolawn.com
- *Vice President:*
Carolyn Murphey
239.283.6266
carolynmurphey@centurylink.net
- *Treasurer:*
Marlene Rodak
- *Secretary:*
Rachel Singletary
239.543.9910
singl2630@aol.com
- *Director:*
Dick Workman
239.694.0101
wworkmandick@aol.com

President's Corner

By John Sibley, Coccoloba Chapter President

Feel the cool breeze! At last, fall's respite from the long hot summer has arrived along with the Painted Buntings, the hummers, and the many other "wintering over" species. Another successful fall plant sale is behind us that brought out several new members who proved their value with a lot of hard work and perseverance. It's so encouraging to have new faces among "seasoned" crew. We had nearly 50 members in total contributing their time and effort. And the cooler weather means the weeds will *finally* become

manageable. Good news all around and much more to look forward to in the Coccoloba realm of things. As our winter season begins, there's lots of work to do, especially with public outreach events like the Cape Coral Garden Club's annual "March in the Park." I hope we have the same enthusiastic member turnout helping man display tables to distribute information about Coccoloba and the unique subtropical climate we enjoy. Happy autumn!

Updated website & youtube videos

Sue Scott has graciously agreed to head up Coccoloba's publicity efforts! Check out the updated website at <http://www.fnpscoccoloba.org/> She will continue to update the website regularly with native garden locations throughout Lee County as well as videos and other native plant information.

She would also like all members to promote our chapter by sharing a link to the Coccoloba website with all their personal friends and family. If you know of another website who would link to the Coccoloba's page, please ask them to add it to their links too!

Sue is also looking for members who would be willing to let her record a video yard tour of their landscape (as long as it is mostly native) to share on her website and youtube channel. Sue can be contacted by email: backtenfeet@gmail.com

Interested in becoming a Lee County Master Gardener?

The University of Florida, IFAS, Lee County Master Gardener program is planning intensive horticultural education for volunteer gardeners in early 2013. Each Friday from January 11, 2012 to April 26, 2013, hands-on learners receive certification training towards becoming a Master Gardener proficient in Florida-Friendly Landscaping. Attendees complete 14 weeks (84 hours) of training. Topics include: soils, entomology, plant propagation, palms, vegetable gardening, native, non-native and invasive plant identification and many other current topics. Instructors are extension agents, specialists and others. Trainees continue to regularly assist extension agents throughout the year in tasks such as: answering questions at the Extension Office Horticulture Help Desk; conducting plant clinics; public speaking; conducting Florida Yards and Neighborhood yard recognitions and helping maintain a demonstration garden either at Lakes, Rutenberg, Terry Park or the Cape Coral Historical Museum. Master Gardeners are required to volunteer a minimum of 60 hours their first year and 50 hours each year thereafter in order to maintain an active certification. Bi-monthly training meetings provide regular information updates.

Applicants are required to fill out and send an online application available at: <http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu/FYN/FYNElectronicForm/MGApplication.pdf>. Applicants first attend an informal, 45 minute informational meeting and interview scheduled either December 9, 10 or 11. Obtain more information by calling Lee County Extension at 239-533-7504. Enrollment is limited. Cost is \$130 due on the first day of class, January 11.

Fall Plant Sale photos

By Sue Scott



(on left): Smiles all around as Pat Moyer (left), Marlene Rodak (center), and Roxanne Gause (right) hold down the education table and checkout area.

(on right): Sarah Murphey (left), Carolyn Murphey (center), and Gayle Edwards (right) expertly guide customers to appropriate plant selections.

(below): A table full of native plants, ready for purchase!



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

Thursday, October 11th, 2012, 7:00 pm

By Marlene Rodak, Chapter Treasurer (filling in for Rachel Singletary, Secretary)

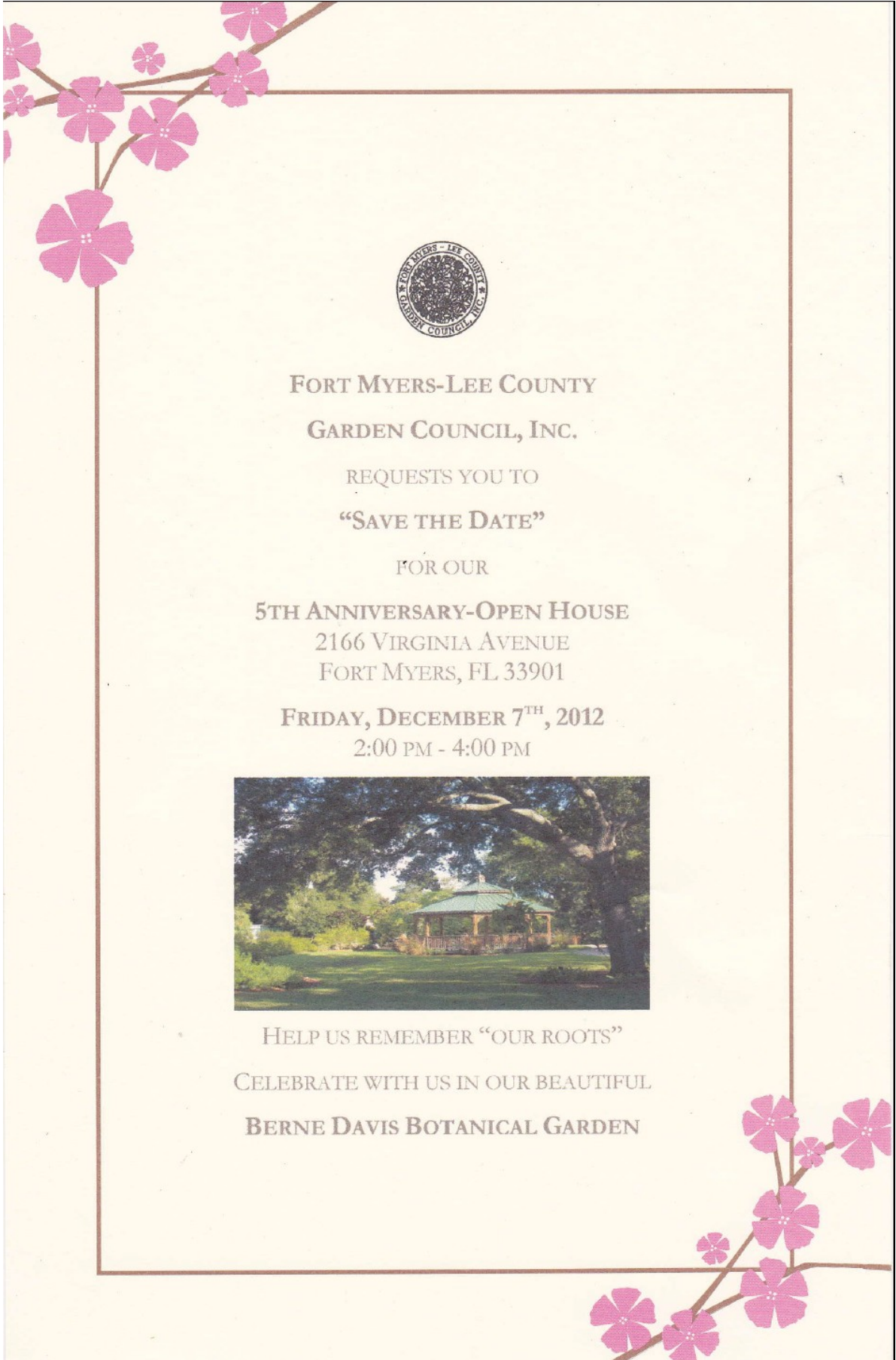
John Sibley began the meeting at 7 p.m. with an invitation to sign up for various aspects of the Manatee Park Plant Sale. There were sign-up sheets for the All-Native labeling party Tuesday, October 16th at 9 a.m., set-up volunteers for Friday, October 19th at Manatee Park and volunteers to work the actual sale at Manatee Park on Saturday, October 20th starting at 8 a.m. The plant sale hours are 9-2.

Gayle Edwards' Invasive Exotic Plant of the Month highlighted the wild balsam apple which is pretty, grows in disturbed areas, and has toxic ripe fruit and seeds. This seems to be a banner year for it! Gayle also reported great results from a new beetle release on the air potato. So far, the beetle does not seem to be a problem when air potatoes are defoliated. They seem to go dormant until their potato supply returns. Finally, she reported on an effort to categorize coral berry (*Ardisia crenata*) as a noxious weed and a pink/orange non-invasive lantana species. She closed with a request for gardening help at Terry Park on Tuesdays. Gayle does a great job on these informative presentations each month. Thank you, Gayle!

Nancy Kilmartin presented a lively and informative presentation on Manatee Park. This included historical pictures along with current pictures of the different habitats at the park. She explained the poor soil creates challenges with plantings. Some of the habitats she described include Riverine, Wetland, Pine Flatwoods, Oak/Rosemary Scrub, along with the Ethnobotany Trail and the Chickee. Recently Dick Workman hosted a saw

palmetto basket-making class there. The park receives about 100,000 visitors per year. Finally, she mentioned she has experienced the Wild Balsam Apple (*Momordica*) at Manatee Park, too. Of course, Nancy and Manatee Park are hosting the plant sale on October 20th.

The business meeting began about 8 p.m. with a correction to the meeting minutes from last month. Robin Gardner asked to replace the name Jean Roche with Bob Mitchell (as the location of the September 24th Open House). Brenda Anderson moved to accept this change and Buddy Amato seconded it. Treasurer Marlene Rodak reported a current bank balance of \$3,497.15 in our checking account. Upcoming events included the Manatee Plant Sale on Saturday, October 20th; the Butterfly Conference at Extension on November 3rd and a Coccoloba Volunteer Clean-up Day at Calusa Nature Center to be held in the November timeframe. John Sibley also reported Membership Chair Andrea Grace delivered a healthy 10lb, 4 oz baby girl named Emma on Sunday, October 7th. John Sibley also generously offered to use the All-Native contract with News-Press to promote the Manatee Plant Sale. This large ad will run on Saturday, October 13th and the day of the sale. Carolyn Murphey moved to adjourn the meeting and Brenda Anderson seconded the motion. The plant auction and t-shirt sales raised \$58.



**FORT MYERS-LEE COUNTY
GARDEN COUNCIL, INC.**

REQUESTS YOU TO
"SAVE THE DATE"

FOR OUR
5TH ANNIVERSARY-OPEN HOUSE
2166 VIRGINIA AVENUE
FORT MYERS, FL 33901

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7TH, 2012
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM



HELP US REMEMBER "OUR ROOTS"
CELEBRATE WITH US IN OUR BEAUTIFUL
BERNE DAVIS BOTANICAL GARDEN



PO Box 3714
North Fort Myers, FL 33919
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

- *Thursday, November 8th:* Cindy Bear, Randall Research Center
- *Thursday, December 13th:* Holiday social

- *Thursday, January 10th:* Stephen Brown, Lee County Extension Service
- *Thursday, February 14th:* Judy Ott, Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program (CHNEP)
- *Thursday, March 14th:* Doug Caldwell, Collier County Extension Service

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 - retail & wholesale
- Bayshore Garden Center, 5870 Bayshore Road, North Fort Myers, FL; 239.543.1443 www.bayshoregardencenter.com - retail
- Calusa Nature Center, 3450 Ortiz Avenue, Fort Myers, FL, 33905; 239.275.3435 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 - retail
- Forestry Resources Inc., 4235 Michigan Link, Fort Myers, FL, 33916; 239.332.3966 - 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
- SCCF, Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation, 3333 Sanibel-Captiva Road, Sanibel, FL, 33957; 239.472.1932 www.sccf.org - retail