



Cocoloba Jam

October 2012

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Nancy Kilmartin from Manatee Park, October's speaker



Beach verbena flowers (*Glandularia maritima*)

Join us on Thursday, October 11th for Cocoloba's next meeting. Nancy Kilmartin will be speaking about the history of Manatee Park as well as the Cocoloba Chapter's role in the creation of the planted habitats located on park property.

Since the summer of 2005, Nancy has worked as the Environmental Educator at Lee County's Manatee Park.

Prior to 2005, she served as a Park Ranger for the Florida Park Service, Department of Environmental Protection for approximately 14 years. Nancy received her Bachelor of Arts from the University of South Florida.

Additionally, Gayle Edwards will present her invasive corner prior to Nancy's presentation (see inset).

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.

Invasive Corner at October's meeting

by Gayle Edwards

You may not recognize the name but you will certainly recognize this pesky plant causing a lot of discussion among the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council (FLEPPC) group. Many feel like it should be added to the category two list....is there a "wild balsam apple" (*Momordica charantia*) in your life?

Recently 16 beetles were released in Broward County by the USDA to combat Air Potato.....the results were amazing.

Be sure to come to the meeting to hear more exciting news!

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President's Corner

By John Sibley, Coccoloba Chapter President

As you know, Florida is a major "flyway" for birds migrating south for the winter, some staying here in south Florida, others continuing their journey to the Caribbean, Mexico, Central or South America. For thousands of years they've depended on the seeds and nectar of native plants here to "fuel up" for the rest of their journey. I was asked by the Charlotte County Audubon a few days ago to gather up samples of natives in seed for a presentation they were doing on this very subject. I was amazed myself at the abundance! Walter's Viburnum; Simpson's Stopper; Sea Grape; Yaupon, East Palatka and Dahoon Holly; Firebush; Wax Myrtle; Gallberry; Cocoplum; Varnish Leaf; Strangler Fig; Green and Silver Buttonwood; Snowberry; Wild Coffee; Beautyberry; Gumbo Limbo; White Lantana; Rouge Plant; and probably more that I've since forgotten. A virtual feast! And naturally I had the pleasure of seeing many species of Wrens, Warblers and others having just arrived as I rounded them up. Build it and they will come!

It brings to mind the efforts of Coccoloba in our community plantings, public outreach and plant sales. Build it and they will come! We've brought our message to thousands of folks over the years and won many a convert to sustainability and

natural habitat appreciation. Our next effort is just around the corner: our annual fall plant sale at Manatee Park on Saturday, October 20th. And we are very much looking forward to hearing from Nancy Kilmartin at our meeting on Thursday, October 13th at 7pm at Rutenberg Eco-Living Center about the history and updates of the plantings Coccoloba donated to Manatee more than a decade ago. We are also looking forward to using these two events to kick off the initiative of refocusing our Society's energies on the projects such as Manatee, Rotary, and most recently at Rutenberg. Of course we can't forget the very first planting at Edison College done very shortly after Coccoloba was created nearly 30 years ago. This planting was arranged and installed by founding members Dick Workman, Rick Joyce, his wife Cheryl, Carolyn Murphey, Ruth Danforth and Rosemary Fleming. We visited this site last spring and it was inspiring to see what a few folks could do to make such a positive impact and how it's flourished since. So that's what we're going to do again. We're calling on all members to help out, get down and dirty, get some native plants in the ground, learn and share the common goal by embodying the FNPS mission. We'll be announcing specifics soon. We're going to do this together and sure hope you'll join us!

Upcoming speaker previews

- November 8, 2012: Judy Ott, Program Scientist, Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program (CHNEP). She will talk about CHNEP Habitat Restoration Projects and their use of native plants.
- December 13th, 2012: Holiday Social
- January 10th, 2013: Stephen Brown, Lee County Extension Director and Horticulture Program Leader Agent, IFAS Extension, University of Florida. He will be speaking about some pests of native plants.
- February 14th, 2013: Cindy Bear, Coordinator of Programs and Services, Randell Research Center, Pine Island. Topic TBA.
- March 14th, 2013: Doug Caldwell, Collier County Extension Agent. He will be speaking on the topic, "Are there fewer bugs on native plants than non-native plants?"
- April 11th, 2013: Speaker & topic TBA.

12th Annual Southwest Florida Butterfly Conference & Garden Tour



Multiple Monarchs mating, photo by Nick Bodven

Saturday, November 3, 2012

at the

Lee County Extension (Terry Park)

3406 Palm Beach Blvd.

Fort Myers, Fl. 33916

co sponsors:

North American Butterfly Association



Highlights include:

- Tour of Pelican Preserve's Crooked Garden following conference
- Roger Hammer.....The best butterfly attracting plants for South Florida
- Thomas Hecker.....Experimenting with Atala butterflies, introducing them to SW Florida and very exotic & sexy nectar plants
- Nick Bodven.....What is Oe disease?
- Gayle Edwards.....Report on the monarch tagging program & question and answer period
- Plants for sale and Butterfly related vendors



Crooked Garden photo by James Price

On-Line Registration: Go to <http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu> and scroll down and click on the WebTRAC icon. **Registration Fee:** \$15 per person, *walk-ins are not guaranteed admission*. **Box Lunch:** \$5.00 per person from Jason's Deli includes, wrap, cookie and chips.

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

Thursday, September 13th, 2012, 7:00 pm

By Rachel Singletary, Secretary

John Sibley, President, called the meeting to order by sending around a signup sheet requesting assistance at the upcoming club plant sale on October 20th, 2012. Volunteers are needed for set up on Friday, October 19th along with the day of the sale. He also requested assistance in making labels for the plants. The "labeling party" will be Tuesday, October 16th at 9 a.m. at All Native. (Just show up; no sign-up needed.)

He introduced the speaker for the evening, Mary Rawl, Executive Director of the Calusa Nature Center. She gave an overview of the center's history and present plans for the immediate future. She invited Coccoloba to use the facilities there or to plan a tour and hopefully include future planting events. She has lived in Florida since 1977 and is a huge fan of native plants as well as an advocate of a NO PESTICIDES, NO FERTILIZER POLICY. Calusa Nature Center is 105 acres owned by the City of Fort Myers with a 99-year lease to the center. It is a mitigation park for Lee County and was started by the Junior League of Fort Myers. It is a non-profit that receives no regular funding and must depend on fundraisers and support from interested parties. Her hope is that the entrance walkway and parking lot can receive some attention by the front entrance. The roadway median is under landscaping at this time with a La Florida Wildflower Grant from the Florida Wildflower Foundation, Lee County DOT, and the City of Fort Myers. There is a butterfly aviary that is being expanded and they would love plant I.D. assistance and tags. Education projects have been presented by many groups including our own Mark Miller representing the Department of

Environmental Protection with a presentation on invasive exotic plant management. Dick Workman recently had a workshop on making baskets from native palmetto. The Nature Center has an active Junior Naturalist Program. They welcome any help as they are in need of plant identification, weed identification, cisterns to be placed, and suggestions for classes and welcome any grants. They also can assist groups who need grant writing skills. Mary provided an image from outer space of Lee County which shows the difference in Lee County from the seventies and the present. Future plans of the center include wetlands rehydration to mimic more closely the image from the 70's.

A motion to accept the meeting minutes from April was made by Marlene Rodak and a second by Pat Moyer with no corrections which passed by the general membership. The club balance was reported by Marlene Rodak, Treasurer, of \$4,332.45. Then Terry Sanders requested a list of incoming and outgoing transactions be e-mailed to her. John reported a need for volunteers to plant on Galt Island on Saturday, located near St. James City. There is an invitation for Coccoloba members to attend an open house at the home of Jean Roche on Monday, September 24th at 5 PM. You need to RSVP; it is potluck and BYOB. A motion to adjourn was made by Marlene with a second by Cathy Loyola. With no other business, the meeting was adjourned with a plant auction being led by Dick Workman. The amount of \$91 was raised by the auction. There were two visitors: Pat Moyer and Debra Reid.

Save the Dates!

Coccoloba's Fall plant sale will be held on Saturday, October 20th at Manatee Park in Fort Myers. Volunteers will be needed on Friday to help with setup as well as before, during, and after the sale on Saturday.

On Saturday, February 13th, 2013, the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program will host a Conservation Landscaping Workshop at the Turner Center in Arcadia. Volunteers are needed to help serve coffee. Residents of Hardee and DeSoto counties are invited to participate in the workshop as they do not have staff dedicated to providing residents with "Florida-friendly" landscape information.

THE NATIVE PLANT SHOW

All the plants, all the professionals, all in one place.

Thurs-Fri, April 4-5, 2013 in Kissimmee, Florida

Native Plant Showcase

This is a select, accessible and affordable show. We are highlighting the beauty, diversity and potential of native plants. Engage with leading landscape architects, designers, garden centers, installers, growers and maintenance pros interested in using your plants for authentic, sustainable landscapes.

Great Central Florida Location

Exhibition Building, Osceola Heritage Park, Kissimmee
1901 Chief Osceola Trail, Kissimmee FL 34744

- Easy access from Turnpike, U.S. Highway 192 and other major roads
- Loads of hotel/motel options in all price ranges
- No parking fees
- Exhibition building is just steps from the parking lot
- Drive your truck right in and unload inside
- Just minutes to Orlando, theme parks, water parks, shopping & entertainment

Professional Education

Two days of Continuing Education (CEU) courses for landscape architects, designers, installers, maintenance professionals and arborists, with plenty of breaks scheduled to visit exhibits on the show floor. Courses focus on selection, use and maintenance of native plants plus creation and restoration of wildflower meadows and other native ecosystems.

Demonstration Landscapes

To demonstrate innovative ways of using native plants for beauty & sustainability, award-winning landscape plans will be installed on the show floor.

- Show and sell your plants to buyers eager and ready to use them
- Enhance your prominence as a supplier of native plants
- Connect with green leaders in the horticulture & landscape industry

SIGN UP NOW: Online or use Commitment Form on other side of this flyer
www.TheNativePlantShow.com



www.FloridaNativeNurseries.org



SCHEDULE
Trade Show
Thurs. April 4 - 9am-5pm
Fri., April 5 - 9am-2pm
CEU Seminar
Thurs. April 4 - 8:30am-2:30pm
Fri. April 5 - 9:30am-1:30pm



Terry Godts, Green Isle Gardens, Show Co-Chair



Roger Triplett, Green Seasons Nursery, Sponsorship Team



Brightman Logan, All Native Flora, Promotion Team



Jerry Fritz, SUNCO Nursery, Logistics Team



Bert Sheffield, Island Grove Ag Products, Show Chair



Craig Huegel, Ecological Services Associates & Hawthorn Hill, Education Team





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Upcoming speakers & Chapter meetings

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

- *Saturday, October 20th:* Coccoloba Fall Plant Sale, Manatee Park, Fort Myers
- *Thursday, November 8th:* Judy Ott, Charlotte Harbor

National Estuary Program (CHNEP)

- *Thursday, December 13th:* Holiday social
- *Thursday, January 10th:* Stephen Brown, Lee County Extension
- *Thursday, February 14th:* Cindy Bear, Randall Research Center

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