

Yay! It's the Coccoloba Jam!

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Coccoloba Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society  
Next Meeting: Tuesday, Sept. 8th, 6:30 pm social; 7 pm speaker  
Page Field Base Operations 5200 Captain Channing Page Dr., Fort Myers, FL 33907.  
Visit our Website: <http://www.fnpscoccoloba.org/>  
Like us on Face Book: **Coccoloba Chapter, Florida Native Plant Society**

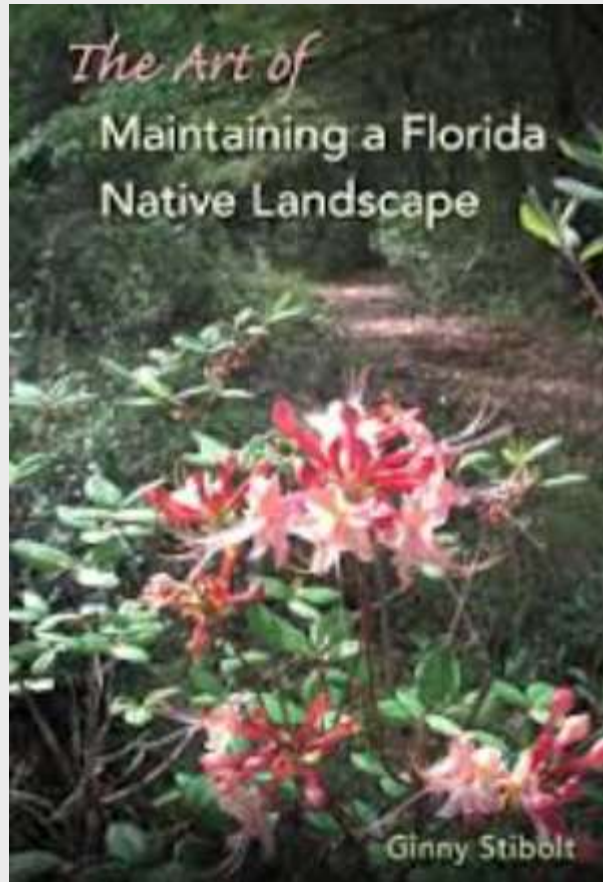




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Follow Cocoloba happenings on the web, Facebook, & Twitter!  
Check out Cocoloba's website for up-to-date information on chapter events ([www.fnpscocoloba.org](http://www.fnpscocoloba.org)).  
Like us on Facebook (type in Cocoloba Chapter, Florida Native Plant Society) and follow us on Twitter (@FNPS Cocoloba) to join the conversation!



*Ginny Stibolt's new book offers plenty of helpful advice.*

## September Speaker

### Author Ginny Stibolt

Ginny Stibolt has written 3 Florida gardening books which have been published by University Press of Florida: "Sustainable Gardening for Florida" in 2009; "Organic Methods for Vegetable Gardening in Florida" with coauthor Melissa Contreras in 2013; and "The Art of Maintaining a Florida Native Landscape" in 2015.

Ginny moved to north Florida in 2004, and even though



Ginny Stibolt

she had gardened all her life and had earned an MS degree in Botany at the University of Maryland, she was surprised by how much different gardening is in Florida. She reasoned that if she was having trouble, then others would be interested in learning from her mistakes and successes. So she started writing The Adventures of a Transplanted Gardener columns for the Florida Times Union in Jacksonville and started a gardening log. Since then she's written about sustainable gardening in Florida for a number of publications and blogs.

### **Are we over-selling native plants?**

When native plant enthusiasts talk to people who are familiar with high maintenance lawns, instant landscapes, seasonally planted beds, and the pretty-on-the-shelf plants, we have a lot of talking to do. We can explain how the native plants provide specific habitat services in their natural ecosystems such as supplying food to birds or insects. But when we say natives need less water, no pesticides, and no fertilizer, are we over stating our case? We say native plants don't need extra irrigation, so new native gardeners plop them in the ground, don't water them enough for establishment, and when the plants die, they say that natives don't work. We say native plants don't need pesticides, but new native gardeners are horrified when caterpillars eat their new plants. We say natives don't need fertilizer, but if they are planted in substandard fill dirt, the native plants may struggle to survive. Ginny Stibolt's presentation will provide outreach ideas and tools help you provide better strategies for people who are new to natives. We want them to be successful so let's help them choose the best natives and manage their expectations for their ongoing care. The no-maintenance landscape is a myth; so let's not pass along that old gardener's tale.

### **The Art of Maintaining a Florida Native Landscape**

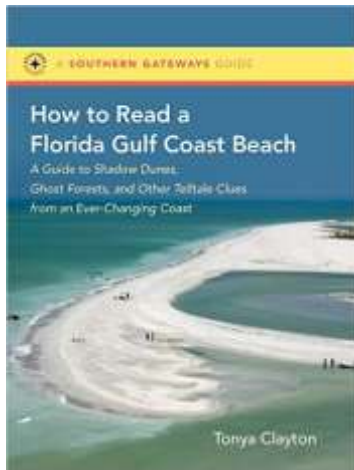
Plants native to Florida have adapted to the ecosystems in which they have grown all these millennia without human intervention. Our urban/suburban yards are only pale imitations of Florida's wildlands. Doug Tallamy has shown that even in a small lot planted with native plants can make a significant difference in supporting wildlife. So many people are now planting butterfly and bird-friendly gardens.

But planting a few native plants, even if they are the "right plant in the right place," is not a fairy tale where everyone (and every plant) lives happily ever after. The plants have a higher survival rate if you plant them properly and give them a good head start so they can establish themselves. Some will die, but those that survive may become too rambunctious. Ginny Stibolt's presentation will

provide ideas and tools help people who are new to natives. The "no-maintenance" landscape is a myth; it's one of many old gardener's tales that Ginny will debunk.

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## Read the Beach with Dr. Tonya Clayton

Dr. Tonya Clayton is a local science writer, editor, and educator, specializing in the earth and ocean sciences. She received degrees from Duke University, the University of South Florida, and Old Dominion University. She is also an NAI Certified Interpretive Guide and a graduate of the Florida Master Naturalist Program and the Florida Natural Resources Leadership Institute.

### You will never look at the beach the same . . .

A rare opportunity to take a beach walk with Dr. Tonya Clayton. Saturday, September 12, 2015, 9-11 am at **LOVERS KEY BEACH**. (8700 Estero Blvd., Fort Myers Beach)

### To reserve your spot for this trip:

visit [www.FNPSCoccoloba.org](http://www.FNPSCoccoloba.org) or call (239) 273-8945. The trip is **FREE**.

Dr. Clayton will also be available to sign and sell her book.





*Top: Samantha McCarthy, Deanna Hogan, Rodger Bunnell and Deloris Donnelly survey their handiwork. Middle left: Marlene Rodak wrestles a Wild Coffee. Middle right: The gang on water break. Bottom left and right: The two main beds completed.*

## Hot Project in Cape Coral!

By Martha Grattan

During the day as I was working on the wheel at the Cape Coral Art Studio, I often thought about the snake plants festering in the beds next to the building. Frequently I fantasized about ripping them out and replacing them with something native. Then one day I read in an email that stated there was still some money left in the CHNEP microgrant budget for new projects. Eureka! I ran over to the Art Studio and had a quick conversation with the director, Cher Bell. She enthusiastically agreed to make the beds available for a native plant installation. I zipped home the same day and wrote the proposal. A few weeks later we were ready to go!

Located in Southeast Cape Coral, the Cape Coral Arts Studio offers a wide variety of fine arts and fine crafts classes, workshops, special events and gallery exhibits to residents and visitors of all ages

throughout the year. It also conducts summer camps and art enrichment programs for parents and children. This would be a great place to showcase a native installation.

In working with the Cape Coral Art Studio we were interested in creating native demonstration gardens to engage and educate all age groups. The gardens can also serve as a potential starting point for an environmental arts program. We were offered two large beds, one small bed and two small side areas. The installation was designed to be attractive, low maintenance, educational and to provide a desperately needed food and shelter source for local wildlife.

Within this project outline we focused on:

Diversity of plant life.

Host vines and shrubs that attract butterflies and pollinators as well support wildlife.

Creating an under story under existing trees to create life supporting shelter for insects and small mammals.

Plants were added to complement the existing trees and maintain a tidy size within the landscape to minimize city paid maintenance work.

Hickory Hammock Native Tree Nursery and All Native Garden Center were happy to fill the plant orders, Marlene and I ran over and picked them up on Wednesday. Saturday morning came and we had a great turnout with the volunteers. The whole installation was completed in less than two hours. The people that use the studio are thrilled with their new gardens and many have been asking about the plants. They express their gratitude to me and the chapter. The butterflies are arriving and laying eggs. Mission accomplished!

Thank you to everyone that made an appearance on this special day!

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## **Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife Meeting**

**Tuesday October 13, 2015**

**Rotary Park 5505 Rose Garden Road, 7:00pm, FREE, Public Invited**

Meet the Cape Coral City Council Candidates.

Question and Answer Forum related to Environmental Issues, Wildlife Preservation, Conservation Lands and the future of Cape Coral.

## Remember to Vote! Primary Sept. 15, 2015, Election Nov. 3, 2015

[www.ccfriendsofwildlife.org](http://www.ccfriendsofwildlife.org) (239) 980 2593

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### The rebirth of an extinct plant!

The following link was sent to the Jam by Ben Johnson. After reading the article, it is worth your time to look through the comments section at the bottom of the page. There is an interesting discussion about how the species could be brought back from extinction.



#### Extinct tree grows anew from ancient jar of seeds unearth...

This tree was grown from a 2,000-year-old seed discovered at the site of Herod the Great's palace.

View on [www.treehugger.com](http://www.treehugger.com)

Preview by Yahoo

Here is the National Geographic link:

#### [2,000-Year-Old Seed Sprouts, Sapling Is Thriving](#)



#### 2,000-Year-Old Seed Sprouts, Sapling Is Thriving

A sapling germinated earlier this year from a 2,000-year-old date palm seed is thriving, according to Israeli researchers who are cultivating the historic plant.

View on [news.nationalgeogra...](http://news.nationalgeogra...)

Preview by Yahoo

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

Tuesday, August 11, 2015, 7:00 pm

By Ben Johnson, Chapter Secretary

Attendance: 16

Marlene Rodak introduced Chris Schmiede of the Florida Forest Service. The presentation discussed the importance of fire to our local ecology, and prescribed burns conducted in SWFL. Also discussed were regulations involved with open burning.

Rodger Bunnell called the meeting to order, and asked to approve meeting minutes. Jim Rodwell motioned to approve. David Chase seconded. Motion passed.

Marlene Rodak gave the Treasury Report: \$10,264.22 is the current chapter bank balance, and we received \$596.70 from the FNPS state organization for chapter support. The Heights Elementary project grant is deferred to next year as the project is still in the permitting process. Rodger Bunnell reported he has filed Form 990-N on behalf of the chapter to comply with our IRS filing requirements.

## Old business:

Marlene gave a slideshow presentation of the Fort Myers Middle Academy corridor project, which showed before and after photos. Marlene, Ana and Rodger also described the work involved, budget and principal donors, and possible future developments for the area.

## New business:

Denise Houghtaling of MW Horticulture Recycling Facility, Inc. introduced herself, and gave a brief description of the products and services her business provides. She also offered a load of their product for our next school project. Welcome Denise!

Rodger Bunnell discussed the Manatee Park Plant Sale tentatively scheduled for December 2015. Karen Maxwell is the lead, and is currently working up the processes for this event. CHNEP is the first sponsor of this event by purchasing a plant label printer and a supply of labels.

Marlene Rodak explained that in order to qualify for a Community Foundation grant, the Chapter needed five (unrelated by family or business) members of the Board. Therefore, she made the

motion to add the Director position. Lucy Breitung seconded. Motion passed. Jim Rodwell expressed his interest in the position. Marlene then motioned to appoint Jim Rodwell to the new Director position. Ben Johnson seconded. Motion passed.

A calendar of upcoming events was distributed. Upcoming events can also be found at the Cocoloba website.

Meeting adjourned.

Informational links:

MW Horticulture Recycling

<https://www.mwhorticulturerecycling.com/>

Fort Myers Middle Academy

[http://www.leeschools.net/school/school\\_splash.aspx?ssid=52](http://www.leeschools.net/school/school_splash.aspx?ssid=52)

Florida Forest Service

<http://www.freshfromflorida.com/Divisions-Offices/Florida-Forest-Service>

Manatee Park

[www.leegov.com/parks?Project\\_Num=0088](http://www.leegov.com/parks?Project_Num=0088)

Heights Elementary

<http://het.leeschools.net/Default.aspx>

IRS Form 990-N

<http://www.irs.gov/Charities-%26-Non-Profits/Annual-Electronic-Filing-Requirement-for-Small-Exempt-Organizations-Form-990-N-%28e-Postcard%29>

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