



# Cocoloba Jam

September 2012

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## Mary Rawl of Calusa Nature Center, September's speaker

Join us on Thursday, September 13th to start off Cocoloba's next season! Our next meeting will feature Mary Rawl, Executive Director of the Calusa Nature Center who will speak on the Florida wildflower project that our FNPS chapter, the Lee County Department of Transportation, the City of Fort Myers and the Calusa Nature Center have been working on jointly. These groups formed a partnership to enhance the entrance to the Nature Center with a "La Florida" themed grant from the Florida Wildflower Federation. Mary will provide an update on the project, as well as other ongoing efforts on the site, including the Butterfly Aviary.

Mary Rawl currently serves as the Executive Director of the Calusa Nature Center and Planetarium. Ms. Rawl has a Bachelor of Science in Geology from Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, FL, where she attended as a Faculty Scholar. She specialized in hydrogeology, with an emphasis on the conservation of natural resources. Her career has focused on water resources in Florida, with over 30 years of experience working for engineering and construction firms, serving in positions from staff scientist to technical writer to business development manager. She has served as consultant on environmental projects focusing on natural systems, including wetlands restoration, watershed planning and stormwater retrofits.

She also has extensive experience with non-profit organizations related to water and conservation issues, including the Executive Director of the PURRE Water Coalition, past Chair of the Southwest Florida Water Resources Conference and the past President of the Caloosahatchee River Citizens Association. She also co-founded the Friends of Billy's Creek and was instrumental in bringing over \$5 million in funding to the local watershed. Ms. Rawl has received lobbying training in Washington, D.C. through American Rivers and has participated in "River Lobby Days" in Congress. She has been extensively interviewed in local, state and national publications on water issues. In 2006, she successfully nominated the Caloosahatchee Rivers as a "Most Endangered River" and followed through with the media campaign. Ms. Rawl was named by the Fort Myers News-Press as one of its "Most Effective" citizens for 2003.

Socializing begins at 6:30pm. The presentation starts 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.

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## President's Corner

By John Sibley, Coccoloba Chapter President

Here I am, watching anxiously as Isaac makes its way toward Florida arousing disconcerting memories of Charley. And here I am, following the same silly routine, checking the "storm track" every 10 minutes as if some significant change would appear. Of course, over the last few days there WAS a change taking the storm further away from our coast. Whew! I'm reminded with these circumstances how tentative and fleeting life can be. Change is always upon us.

Beloved advocates like Commissioner Ray Judah move on. Hostilities and differing opinions pre-

cipitate rancor and hard feelings. Difficult times these are for sure. Thankfully, there's always a silver lining, and yet another hero to step to the fore. We'll be honored with the presence of one such person at our very first meeting of our new season. It'll be a delight to have Mary Rawl as our speaker for that event and I sure hope every member will try to join us for this interesting talk and to start off our 2012-13 year with a harmony and focus on the ever more important mission of Coccoloba against the ever rising tide of adversaries. I'm sure folks like Ray Judah would want us to carry on in that spirit.



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
- Report on the monarch tagging program as well as question and answer period
- Plants for sale and Butterfly related vendors

**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.

### 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Southwest Florida BUTTERFLY CONFERENCE & Garden Tour

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

## *Spring Picnic photos (photos by Brenda Anderson)*

A great big thanks to Bonnie & Bob Kellen for hosting the Spring Picnic! A great time was had by all, especially the boaters!



The boaters head into the mangroves,...

take a rest...



...and go through a tunnel.



# The Rutenberg Planting Project

By Marlene Rodak, photos by Pat Rooney

*Let me tell you 'bout the birds and the bees  
And the flowers and the trees  
And the moon up above  
And a thing called "Love"*

UF/IFAS Extension's (and Coccoloba member) Tom Becker challenged his 2012 Master Gardeners to developed plans for various areas of Rutenberg Park. I was one of four members of the class who depended heavily of the brains and experience of Coccoloba members to help develop plans for the lakefront and retention areas.

Our goal of the planting project was **to restore the vitality of the soil and initiate shading so the plants and wildlife that should be here will come.** So, prior to the planting days, a thick layer of the horticultural mulch was spread to help revitalize the soil. OrganicLee® was also added to the plants went into the ground.

Florida Forest Service generously agreed to purchase the plants for the project, but many individuals donated plants too. Lee County Solid Waste trucked in and dumped two semi-truck loads (225 yards!) of horticultural mulch, plus another 25 yards of OrganicLee® compost. Parks and Recreation Heavy Equipment moved the mulch to the planting locations. The City of Bonita Springs and Costco graciously donated lunch to feed the volunteers.

On June 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, Coccoloba members, along with master gardeners, pond watch volunteers and others met at Rutenberg Park to plant two areas – the lakefront and a retention pond in the parking lot.

About 25 volunteers showed up at 8 a.m. each planting day for a quick planting lesson from Roger Clark, Land Stewardship/Coastal Areas

Manager. Roger demonstrated his "slice and dice" method for eliminating circling roots. Then, the volunteers went off to plant.

There was a basic plan, but volunteers were free to move plants wherever they wanted. By the way, most of the plants were not marked, so they had to identify them, figure out the spacing needed for their mature size and plant them accordingly.

Roger helped us harvest pond apple trees

*(Continued on page 5)*



and other plants from Six-Mile Cypress Slough, Caloosahatchee Regional Park and Dick Workman's yard. Dick and Rick Joyce were incredibly helpful during the entire process with information and encouragement while I slogged through the details. Rick brought a gigantic leather fern for the retention pond and picked up red and redberry stoppers for the project. Jenny Evans saved the day by delivering white stoppers from SCCF before Friday's planting day. Carolyn Murphey provided wildlife insight and helped manage the planting so effortlessly. Besides providing encouragement, John Sibley and Cathy Loyola at All-Native filled in some "holes" with white indigo-berry and leather ferns. Our own Rachel Singletary sought out the best prices possible on plants for the job.

Clark Ryals was the man who started this entire project by offering to buy the plants for the project at the outset. He was an absolute delight, and I hope to have a chance to work with him again. There are so many others who helped tremendously with the project, including Mother Nature!

Almost by demand, as soon as we finished our planting and lunch, the rain started. The day after the planting was complete, tropical storm Debby rolled through. Roger and I spent Monday staking up trees and bushes, and replanting what the winds blew over, but everything seems to be doing well. We cannot thank Mother Nature enough for a steady and timely wet season.

From the feedback I received, the volunteers had fun and learned something new. I believe the sponsors were happy, too. As a matter of fact, the City of Bonita Springs has asked Coccoloba to add a plant sale in Bonita this season. They eagerly sponsored Friday's lunch to demonstrate their commitment to Florida-Friendly Landscapes and FYN.

Before I even had a chance to work on the gravity-fed, temporary irrigation system, park staff Roger Clark, Dan Lott and John Kiseda were asking for help to clean up the pond!

So, by our September meeting at Rutenberg, I hope you'll enjoy the newly-planted areas and the cleaned up pond.



## *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.

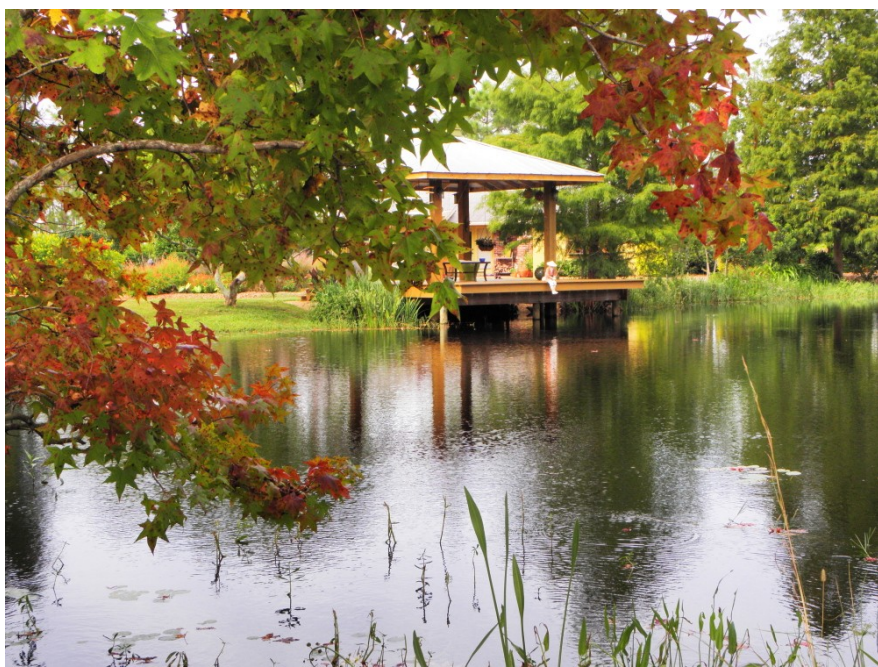
## Carolyn Moore Receives Statewide Landscape Award

The Florida Native Plant Society (FNPS) presented its “Award of Excellence” to Lee County resident and long-time Coccoloba member, Carolyn Moore on May 19, 2012 at the annual conference in Plant City. Carolyn won first place in the residential category in recognition of her native plant landscape design and eradication of exotics on her 10 acre ranch outside North Fort Myers. She said, “I was absolutely thrilled to be presented with this award by individuals who are so highly regarded throughout the state for their accomplishments in the botanical field and in the society!”

Carolyn has restored much of the original pine flatwood habitat on her estate by preserving the native plants and removing exotics such as Brazilian pepper, melaleuca, and Australian pines over the course of 25 years.



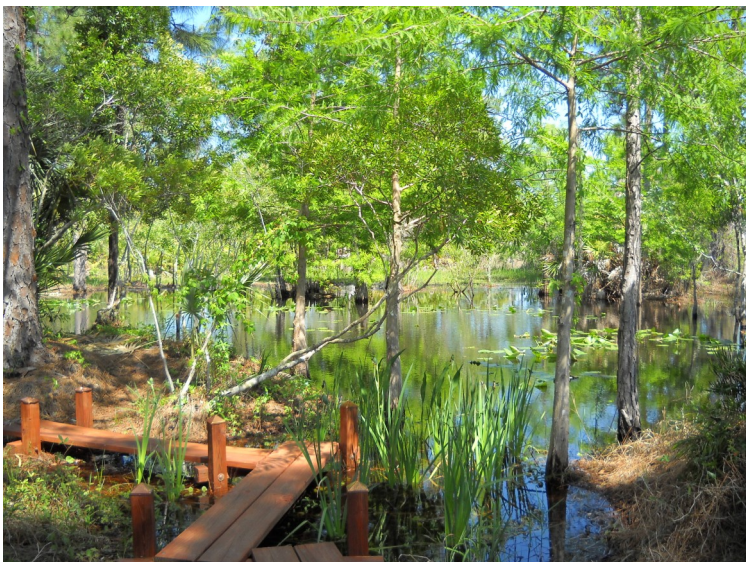
Carolyn Moore accepts award at the FNPS annual conference from Steve Woodmansee, FNPS President (Photo by Vince Lamb)



She built new native plant beds and communities to increase the variety of natural habitat for native wildlife. She continues to develop the landscape with a “Japanese rustic” design that includes recycled and salvaged items as well as stone lanterns, a tea house, sculptures, bridges and a pond house. She received praise for her education of others by providing numerous landscape tours of her property. Additional photos of Carolyn’s and other award winning landscapes can be viewed at the FNPS website ([www.fnps.com](http://www.fnps.com)).

Autumn 2011 picture of pond house and swimming pond with highly colored sweetgum tree in foreground. The pond is spring fed with numerous native trees and marginals planted on all pond banks and surrounds. Abundant and widely varied wildlife use the pond for habitat and as a food and water source.

## *Carolyn Moore's Award-winning Landscape* (cont.)



*Left:* This is a man-made, sand-sided pond that was originally used for watering horses and cows. When Carolyn began work on this area, the pond was overgrown with a tangle of Brazilian pepper, papyrus, Caesarweed, and torpedo grass. Hand removal of peppers took months and resulted in three 25' burn piles...removal of papyrus took years. Afterwards, Carolyn planted many native species including buttonwood, pop ash, cypress, red maple, sweet gums, and others among the pre-existing slash pines, myrtles, cabbage palms, and saw palmettos.

*Right:* North facing view of rear gardens, fountain, and pond house where lawn concerts are regularly held.



### *Coccoloba participates in Taste of Lee*

Taste of Lee was held on June 30, 2012. It was a well attended event that the Coccoloba Chapter has participated in the last four years. Thanks a lot to Carolyn Littleton, Marlene Rodak, Robyn Gardener, Rachel Singletary, Carolyn & Sara Murphey, and Dick Workman for their attendance at our booth. Edible natives were offered for sampling as well as club information and planting guidelines for home landscaping. Dick held the attendee's interest by making home made baskets from palmetto. Edible plants, such as blueberry, sparkleberry, cocoplum, blackberry, papaya, sabal palm, and mulberry, were shown to visitors. Hearts of palm as well as blackberry, blueberry, and papaya samples were also given out to visitors. Rick Joyce provided bird pepper plants for the club to sell.



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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

- *Thursday, September 13th:* Mary Rawl, speaker, September meeting
- *Thursday, October 11th:* TBA speaker, October meeting

- *Saturday, October 20th:* Coccoloba Fall Plant Sale, Manatee Park, Fort Myers
- *Thursday, November 8th:* TBA speaker, November meeting

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### *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