

Coccoloba Jam April 2015

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It's the Coccoloba Jam, YAY!

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Coccoloba Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society
Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 14th, 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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Billy Gunnels and his students

April Guest Speaker

Dr. Charles (Billy) Gunnels

Charles Gunnels is an Associate Professor of Animal Behavior at Florida Gulf Coast University since 2007. He is also the Director of Undergraduate Scholarship, which oversees the university's newest academic endeavor.

Follow Coccoloba happenings

on the web, Facebook, & Twitter!

Check out Coccoloba's website for up-to-date information on chapter events

(www.fnpscoccoloba.org).

Like us on Facebook (type in Coccoloba Chapter, Florida Native Plant Society) and follow us on Twitter (@FNPSCoccoloba) to join the conversation!

...
FGCUScholars: Think • Write • Discover. His research focuses on the evolution of groups and the positive and negative interactions that emerge within aggregations. He is particularly interested in urban wildlife and the effect of urbanization on native populations.

His presentation will focus on the Sabel Palmetto and its role in native plant communities.



Gunnels on the Cabbage Palm

"As one of the most beautiful and aesthetic species in Florida, cabbage palms (*Sabal palmetto*) are used in urban landscaping throughout the state. In addition its visual appeal and ability to flourish in the variable conditions – droughts, floods, cold snaps, heat waves, and hurricanes – found in Florida, gardening with cabbage palms could also promote urban wildlife because of the food and nesting sites that the tree provides animals. My students and I recently completed a study that determined the types of urban wildlife that cabbage palms supported by comparing trees in urban and wild environments. Not surprisingly, palms in wild environments supported more animals than trees in urban environments. However, wild and urban palms supported a similar diversity of pollinators. Increased use of native species, such as *S. palmetto*, in urban landscapes appears to have positive effect on urban wildlife that can disperse, such as flying birds and insects."





Roger in his office

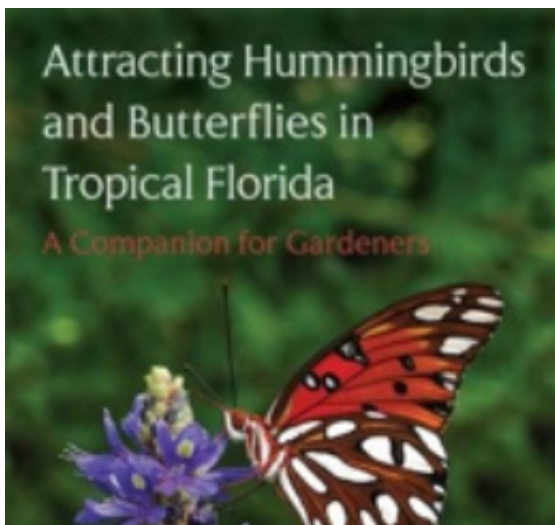
Wine & Wild Flowers with Roger Hammer

South Florida's top naturalist, premier wildlife author and photographer, Roger Hammer will do a guided wild flower hike, PowerPoint and book signing for Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center

BYOB ~ bring your own book or buy one from the author!

This special program takes place Friday, April 17th. Please call (941) 575-5435 or email ashley@cheeflorida.org. A donation of \$10 per person is recommended to help CHEC underwrite environmental education. The program starts at 5pm for the wildflower hike, the organic wine and snacks beginning at 6:30pm at the Caniff Education Center, with then Roger's lecture and PowerPoint will start promptly at 7pm in lecture room within the Welcome Center.

Our address is: Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center Alligator Creek
10941 Burnt Store Road, Punta Gorda.





FNPS CREW Marsh Walk with Roger Hammer

Saturday April 18th 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Estero, FL

For FREE tickets, please visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fnps-crew-walk-with-roger-hammer-tickets-15965032843>

BORN TO BURN

FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

35TH
ANNUAL
CONFERENCE

MAY 28-31, 2015

Challenger Learning Center
Tallahassee, Florida

CONSERVATION, PRESERVATION &
RESTORATION ON PUBLIC & PRIVATE LAND

FNPS Conference 2015

The Society is sponsoring the 2015 conference, "Born to Burn," to be held May 28–31 in Tallahassee. The conference will be held in the Downtown Tallahassee Market area.

Program days are at the Aloft Hotel on Friday and the Challenger Learning Center (CLC)

Program days are at the Aloft Hotel on Friday and the Challenger Learning Center (CLC) on Saturday, with evening venues at the Capital Building, Wakulla Springs State Park and Tall Timbers Research Station. The hotel for the conference will be the Aloft, located a few blocks from the Downtown MarketPlace and an easy walk to the CLC on Saturday. Field trips and workshops are Thursday and Sunday and will leave from the Aloft parking lot. Speakers and workshops will be available on Friday and Saturday. FNPS members of chapters in Northwest Florida will assist with the conference to promote the mission of FNPS.

Vendors and exhibitors will have two options for tabling. The Tallahassee MarketPlace has been hosting an open market and vendors at the Chain of Parks, which is located between the Aloft Hotel and the Challenger Learning Center. So vendors may sell or exhibit in the park for a mere \$30 per 10' x 10' tent on Saturday. Alternatively, traditional space is available at Aloft on Friday or at the Challenger Learning Center on Saturday.

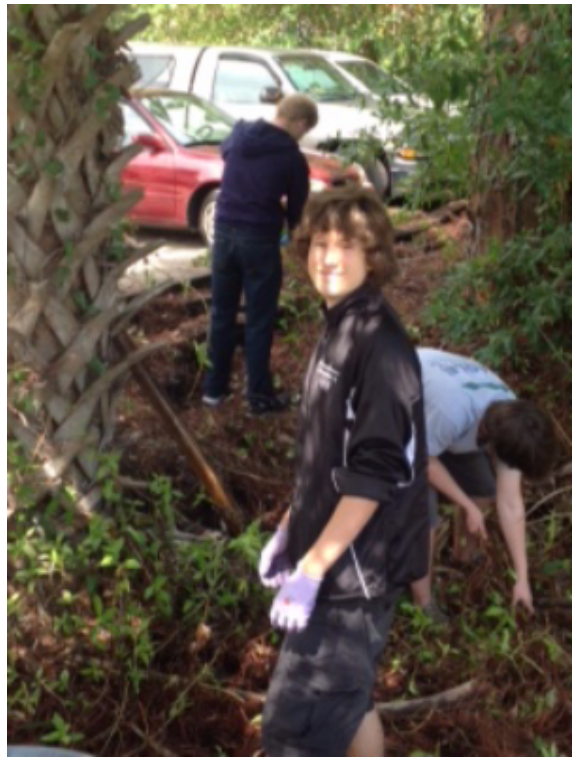
These indoor spaces are available for the price of conference admission.

May 28 - May 31, 2015 Place it on your calendar!

Make your hotel reservations now. The FNPS Conference rate is \$94 per night. Just call the hotel directly and ask for the FNPS rate. Book now by calling 877-GO-ALOFT.

Also, the Aloft is pet-friendly. So, if you had to leave your furry friend behind, you can bring him or her along! (No extra fees even!) YAY!





Top: The Calusa Nature Center sign with some brand new baby Hamilia Petens planted nearby. Left: Ana Clavero and Patty Wettstein help out with the mulching. Right: Marlene Rodak and Mark Miller taking a break. Left bottom: Ben Johnson eradicates a nest of Wedelia Right: James Javaruski pitches in

Workday at Calusa Nature

workday at Calusa Nature Center

To express our gratitude to the Nature Center for the donation of their meeting space to us last year, we all came out help spruce the place up. When we got there we were greeted by several student volunteers from FGCU. No question about it, everybody got straight to work! We spent a few hours shoveling mulch and making the entrance look pretty. After that we replanted a shady walkway with some coontie and myrsine. After that, Ben drew our attention to the enormous patch of wedelia growing just inside the gate. The troop of volunteers made quick work of that! In about an hour we had removed several barrels of the noxious weed. Several of our members donated plants and everyone worked hard. To top it all off, the weather was absolutely perfect on Saturday for our event. Great job everybody!

The Florida Wildflower Archive

The Florida Wildflower Foundation's research literature library holding white and gray literature on 300 Florida wildflower species has been moved to the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center for hosting on its website. We're grateful to our partners at LBJWC for making this possible, bringing this info to so many more land managers, scientists, and other interested members of the public. To check out this website, click on this link: <http://www.wildflower.org/literature/>





The gang at OK Slough

A OK-Great!

submitted by **Patty Wettstein**

The Florida Native Plant Society's OK Slough Field Trip on March 21, 2015 was A-OK Great. The heat of the day did not deter Jean McCollom, the biologist who just retired from out there, nor any member of the "trailblazing" group from viewing the native plants of the Sic Island Loop and Tram Loop Trail of the Okaloacoochee Slough State Forest in Felda.

Upon arrival, the participants received a map of our planned trip, along with Jean's list of the 60 scientific and common names of "What's in Bloom." The color-coded list helped us discover the native plant and locate the name on the sheet. Our first gem was *Gratiola ramosa* (branched hedgehyssop) with its "yellow throat." Fields of *Utricularia cornuta*, *U. subulata*, *U. purpurea*, *U. resupinata* (yellow and purple bladderworts) welcomed us in a variety of locations. While in the moist areas, the air was pleasantly lemon-scented from the *Bacopa* as we traipsed through.

We were privy to the two Florida endemic plants, *Mecardonia acuminata* (axilflower) and *Coreopsis floridana* (tickseed). Each stop on our 0.85 mile trek greeted us with spectacular species including but not limited to: *Polygala lutea* (wild bachelor button), *Drosera brevifolia*, *D. capillaris* (dwarf sundew, carnivorous pink sundew), *Spiranthes vernalis* (ladies' tresses, a land orchid), *Proserpinaca pectinata* (combleaf mermaidweed), *Ilex glabra* (gallberry, a relative of the holly), *Rhexia mariana* (meadow beauty), and *Helenium pinnatifidum* (southeast sneezeweed). Mother Nature allowed us to catch a glimpse of a late blooming *Tiedemannia filiformis* (formerly known as *Oxypolis*) (water cowbane).

We came upon a spectacle of juvenile lubber grasshoppers imitating grasses for protection. As the swallowtail kites flew above, Jean answered many, many questions and gave us tips such as cranes and limpkins push hard on their wings going up which is

the opposite of woodpeckers. She showed us how to read wildlife tracks, along with identification differences in stem and leaf growth of the plucheas. As we happened up dead and alive native apple snails, Jean explained how the swallowtail kites and the limpkins eat them. We even spent time in “the graveyard,” where we examined the bones of an unlucky young deer, which became someone’s dinner. It was an enjoyable and fun fieldtrip. Being able to glean Jean’s knowledge was a valuable opportunity. Everyone left with more knowledge and a thirst for more (water).

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

Tuesday, March 10, 2015, 7:00 pm

By Ben Johnson, Chapter Secretary

Attendance: 19

Martha Grattan called the meeting to order.

Marlene Rodak encouraged members to sign up for various committees.

Pat Moyer handed out free tickets for attending members to win a door prize. Free tickets for a variety of different door prizes will be continued at upcoming chapter meetings.

Martha Grattan introduced guest speaker Angeline Scotten from FWCC (Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission) who gave an excellent presentation on coyotes in the state of Florida. After providing her background and job description, Angeline covered a wide range of information on coyotes.

Marlene Rodak then gave the current NPS Coccoloba treasury balance of \$10,556.27. Other business as usual and current financial obligations met.

Martha Grattan submitted the list of nominated officers and chairpersons for the 2015

Coccoloba Board:

President - Martha Grattan

Vice President - Roger Bunnell

Treasurer - Marlene Rodak

Secretary - Ben Johnson

Newsletter - Isabella Peedle

Chapter Rep - Open

Fieldtrip Chair - Jim Rodwell

Membership Chair - Robin Krivanek

Outreach Chair - Pat Moyer

Karen Maxwell motioned to approve the list. Alex Clavero seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Karen Maxwell discussed the native plant sale tentatively scheduled for November or December at Manatee Park. She submitted a proposal to propagate a variety of native plants (at least 24 potted plants) to be used in the plant sale. She plans 3 workdays at Manatee Park. Members of Coccoloba, Master Naturalists, and Master Gardeners are invited. Please contact Karen if you are interested (ogunquitriver@gmail.com). Marlene Rodak stated she would take on the task of finding a sponsor for food at the plant sale. The board then approved a \$75 fund request from Karen for her propagation endeavor.

Martha Grattan discussed a \$1000 grant given to the Terry Park butterfly garden. Since it is not being used, she suggested the remaining balance of 509.75 be nullified, and that the money be used elsewhere. Marlene Rodak motioned to nullify the grant. Carolyn Murphey seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Martha Grattan reminded members about the sign up sheets for the various committees and projects being administered by the Coccoloba Chapter.

Marlene Rodak mentioned the Unity Church in Bonita Springs interested in a native plant landscape project. This interest began after interviewing for an article that appeared in the Southwest Spotlight magazine about the plantings at the Lee County Estero Community Park. There will be a site visit Wednesday March 25th at 10 a.m. Dick Workman and Ana Clavero agreed to attend.

Marlene Rodak reviewed upcoming field trips:

Traipsing OK (Okaloacoochee) Slough with Jean McCollom
Saturday March 21st from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Felda, FL

FNPS CREW Marsh Walk with Roger Hammer

Saturday April 18th 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Estero, FL

For FREE tickets, please visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fnps-crew-walk-with-roger-hammer-tickets-15965032843>

Upcoming field trip reservations can also be found online through the newsletter and website.

Remember: Calusa Nature Center workday Saturday March 28th at 10 a.m.

Martha Grattan showed members a foldout display with information on natives versus exotics, and stated it was available to members for programs and events.

Martha Grattan then showed the new member badges. These will be available for the meeting and events. However, the Board will keep them for distribution at events.

Ben Johnson shared about a recent Power to Care Workday at Manatee Park. Florida Power and Light (FPL) employees, along with park volunteers and staff, removed exotics from the riverine and bayhead habitats. After removal, natives were installed.

Carolyn Murphey motioned to adjourn. Alex Clavero seconded the motion. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned.

\$22 was raised from plant auction following the meeting.

The fabulous-prize ticket was drawn. Congratulations to Gregg Victor for being the fabulous-prize winner.

Respectfully submitted by Ben Johnson.

Internet links for more information:

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission(FWCC)

<http://myfwc.com/>

Southwest Spotlight Article on the Estero Community Park Native Plant Project

<http://www.swspotlight.com/>

Unity Church of Bonita Springs

<http://unitychurchbonita.org/>

Lee County Estero Community Park and Recreation Center

http://www.leeparks.org/Facility_info?Project_num=0152

Manatee Park

http://www.leeparks.org/Facility_info?Project_num=0088

Okaloacoochee Slough State Forest

<http://www.freshfromflorida.com/Divisions-Offices/Florida-Forest-Service/Our-Forests/State-Forests/Okaloacoochee-Slough-State-Forest>

Crew Marsh

<http://www.crewtrust.org/>

Calusa Nature Center

<http://calusanature.org/>

FPL Power to Care Week

<https://fpl.com/community/volunteers.html>

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