

May Coccoloba Jam

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Coccoloba Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society



May 2014

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Conference planning & update at May's meeting

Join the Coccoloba chapter this Thursday, May 8th at 7pm for last minute planning for the "Growing Native" FNPS Annual conference. Marlene Rodak will provide an update on the conference status, and we will assemble the tote bags and materials that participants receive when they register at the conference. As a reminder, the conference will be held at FGCU, from Thursday, May 15th-Sunday, May 18th. More information can be found at: www.fnps.org/conference.

Pre-conference pricing on shirts, coffee cups, and other items will be available to Coccoloba members at the meeting. See you there!

FNPS Amendments Approved

- April Meeting Minutes
- Local Happenings
- Snacks, Meeting Location & Comments



FNPS President Steve Woodmansee has announced that our members voted to approve the 2014 proposed amendments to the FNPS bylaws, paving the way for a streamlined Board of Directors and new Council of Chapters to begin work immediately.

This historic ballot process represents the highest ever number of members actively participating in an FNPS vote AND our first online voting process for the general membership.

Results of the election can be viewed here:

<http://www.forum.fnps.org/index.php/topic,920.msg1682.html#msg1682>

and at our FNPS website (home page announcement): <http://www.FNPS.org>

The new Board and Council of Chapters will be meeting at FNPS' 34th Annual Conference, on Thursday May 15, at FGCU in Fort Myers.

Incredible, Edible Sea Purslane!

By Martha Grattan

Sea Purslane (*Sesuvium portulacastrum*) has a large range. Various species can be found throughout the world. In the U.S., it is found along the Florida coast and all the way up to Pennsylvania. Another edible species occupies the west coast. Sea Purslane is capable of growing in sand and is very salt tolerant. It prefers to grow just above high tide, so look for it there the next time you visit the beach. Sea Purslane is a sturdy plant, and its low stature catches grains of sand and generates dune build-up. Because it is an important soldier in the war against beach erosion, it is a good idea to spread this wonderful little plant around.

This plant was used extensively in the diet of Native Americans. More currently, it is a favorite in Asian cuisine. It can be eaten raw, pickled or added to a traditional stir fry. Or perhaps you might prefer to sauté it with some garlic and onion for a native side dish. The plant has a crisp, salty flavor, and is quite pleasant to nibble raw when you encounter it outdoors.

My experience with this plant has been quite pleasant. I am a very neglectful gardener, and this little plant thrives in my yard. It just loves heat, sun and drought! However, beware of root rot in irrigated areas. I have been able to propagate more plants by simply placing small pieces in the dirt - it's so easy! So visit the native nursery of your choice and pick up a few plants for your yard. Then you too can enjoy this handy, fresh vegetable!

few plants for your yard. Then you too, can enjoy this hardy, fresh vegetable.

Sweet and Salty Salad

This recipe is featured on Kahakai Kitchen.

Serves 4-6

5 cups watermelon, chopped and deseeded, rind removed.

1/2 cup feta cheese, crumbled.

1/2 cup sea purslane leaves, roughly chopped.

In a medium bowl, combine watermelon, cheese, and sea purslane. Stir gently with salad tongs. Enjoy!

Courtesy of saturdayswithmaggy.blogspot.com



Sea Purslane (*Sesuvium portulacastrum*)

FNPS Native Plant Demonstration Landscapes Project

FNPS Landscape Committee Member, Jim Helmers, is at a milestone completion stage in mapping location sites and listing information about public native plant demonstration landscapes in Florida. This information is on the FNPS website (<http://fnps.org/natives/gardens> with natives). The listed sites include native landscapes in varied public places such as parks, botanical gardens, libraries, churches, government buildings, resorts and roadsides, etc. Some of the detailed information on each site is not filled in yet, but the location and address of each

information on each site is not filled in yet, but the location and address of each landscape is there.

With Jim's communication with the chapters, we hope to increase the number of sites, add to the detailed information and keep the information current. The goal is to increase interest in native plants for Florida landscapes and to attract the general public who want to learn and see native landscapes. All information has been vetted by members of local chapters who have actually been to the demonstration landscape sites.

At this point, we'd like to hear some feedback from you. Please take a moment to go on the website, view the map and information, and send comments to Jim Helmers (helmers6@aol.com) and Karina Veaudry (info@nfcdesignbuild.com). If you can recommend additional sites that are not shown, please send Jim the information.

Book Review: Jane Goodall and the Seeds of Hope

By Martha Grattan

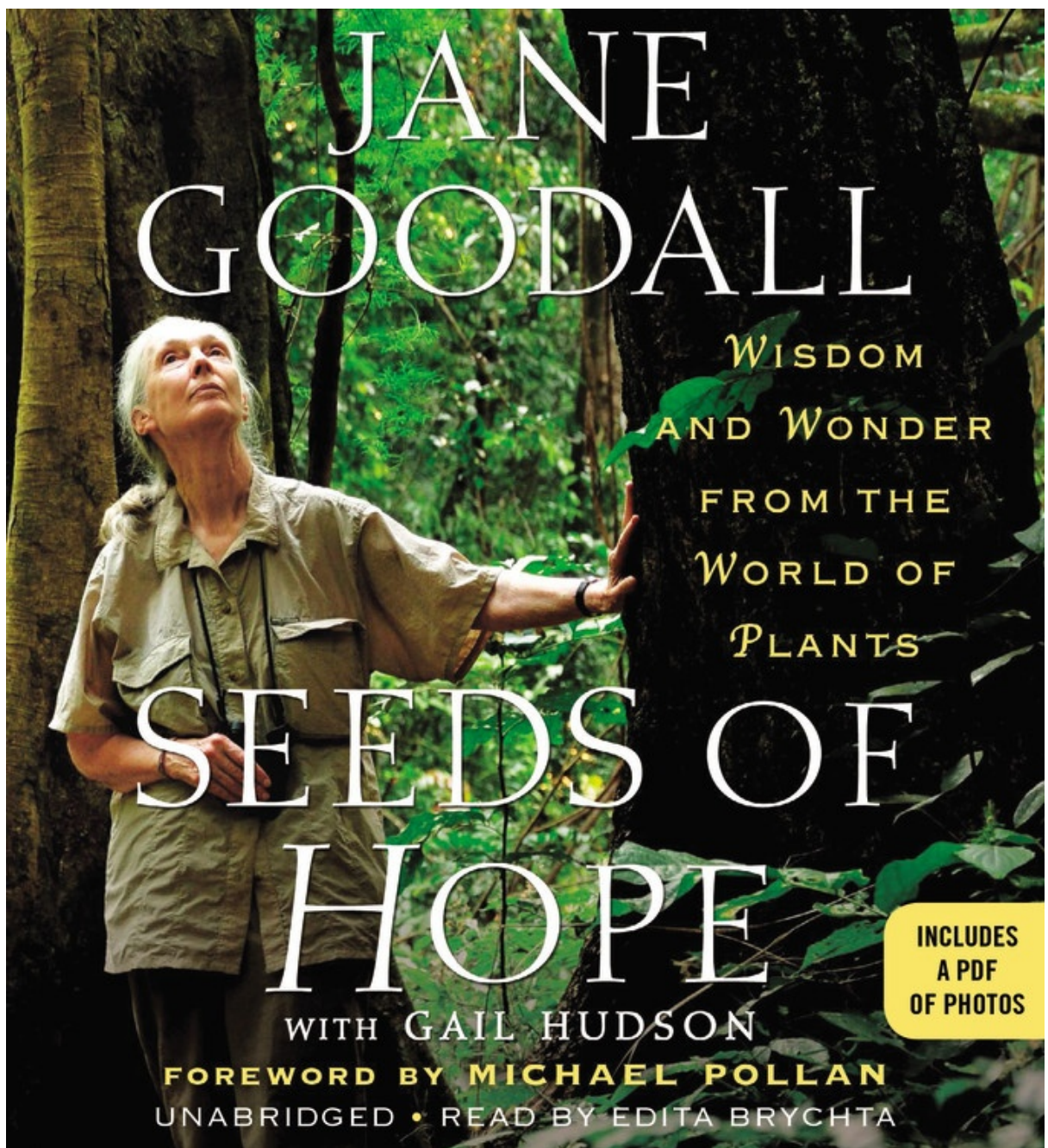
When Jane Goodall appeared on the *Colbert Report*, she gave a demonstration of an initial chimp greeting. It was an engaging demonstration from a renowned and beloved wildlife expert. In the interview, she explained that she is now moving from chimpanzees to plant life. She mentioned her new book *Seeds of Hope: Wisdom and Wonder from the World of Plants* in which she explores the roles that plants play in the worldwide ecosystem. After she talked about a 2,000 year old tree, Stephen Colbert accused her of trying to make him cry about trees.

I decided to check out the book for myself. In the introduction, written by Michael Pollen of *The Omnivore's Dilemma* fame, he comments that Jane Goodall's attention is a very good thing for the plants. I couldn't agree more. Dr. Goodall opened the private world of chimpanzees to me when I was child and taught me to love wildlife. Let us hope that she does the same for our endangered plant ecosystems.

The book is a lovely mix of childhood reminiscence and an engaging discussion of the contribution plants make to the worldwide habitats. It is also a phenomenal visit into the psyche of one of the greatest conservationists of our time. It is the nature of this woman to discuss the topics of her interest with the depth that comes from her roots in scientific study.

In her book, Jane Goodall wanders from her childhood love of a particular tree on over to the historic figures that studied and recorded plant species. From there, we get a lively read on the stories of the obsessive Victorian orchid hunters. Finally the discussion focuses on genetically modified plants. A large gambit to cover, but definitely worthy.

Of course, we would be at loss without the words of hope with which she closes her story. In the last segment, she paints a way forward. Let us hope that her voice carries loud and clear to the masses. The message is long overdue!



**Florida Native Plant Society Meeting Minutes,
Coccoloba Chapter; Thursday, April 10th, 2014
Calusa Nature Center**

By Carolyn Moore, Chapter Secretary

The meeting was held at the Calusa Nature Center Main Building, Ft. Myers, FL. President Martha Grattan called the meeting to order at 7:06 P.M. She then introduced and welcomed the evening's speaker, Mr. John Kiseda, who gave a presentation, "Trials, Tribulations and Treasures of a Backyard Wildlife Habitat." After his presentation and question/answer period, John disbursed environmental and native plant flyers to his appreciative audience.

President Grattan started the chapter business meeting at 7:53 P.M. Treasurer Marlene Rodak stated there was \$3,404.25 in the checking account, with several checks still outstanding. Martha next requested a motion to approve the minutes of the March 13, 2014 chapter meeting. Carolyn Murphy motioned to accept the minutes without change, seconded by Pat Moyer and unanimously approved by members. Martha encouraged all members to work to try to increase chapter membership. The next order of business was an update on the annual FNPS conference by the chair, Marlene. Marlene encouraged members present to purchase the new conference logo mugs that she'd brought with her, explaining that they were \$4.00 at the meeting but would be \$6.00 at the conference. She brought various FNPS logo shirts too, which were on sale at special member prices for the meeting. Marlene then addressed a question to chapter members to obtain their feedback on how many and what style t-shirts should be ordered to sell at the conference. After member discussion of the matter, a motion was made by Ann Whitmore that a mix of 150 "V-Neck" and regular t-shirts should be purchased by the chapter to sell at the conference at \$15.00 each. Motion was seconded by Carolyn Murphey, then approved by a majority. Marlene announced that silent auction items must be received by May 1 and that Vanessa Hazelton is responsible for the set-up of the silent auction. Marlene announced that Mary Rawl is in charge of publicity and Pat Moyer is in charge of volunteer coordination. Upon a member's request for same, she stated she will email the membership a list of names of those who are in charge of other areas, such as registration, speakers, food, etc.

Martha stated that the agenda did not include any items of Old or New Business and asked members if they had any items to bring forward. There being none, Martha asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Carolyn Murphy motioned, seconded by Pat Moyer and approved by all. Meeting adjourned at 8:27 P.M.

Local Happenings

Friday, May 9

National Public Gardens Day

Special events at Lakes Park Botanic Garden from 8:00a,-1:00pm. FREE parking.

FREE admission to Naples Botanical Garden. Get coupon at:
www.nationalpublicgardensday.org.

Tuesday, May 13, 7:00-9:00pm

Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife Meeting

Rotary Park, 5505 Rose Garden Road, Cape Coral, FL 33914

These meetings are open to the public and always include an interesting guest speaker, so please come by and find out what you can do to help. (No meeting June, July, or August.) Call 239-549-4606 for more information.

Tuesday, May 20, 2:00-3:00pm

Songbirds of Florida (FREE)

Rotary Park, 5505 Rose Garden Road, Cape Coral FL 33914

Learn about some of the wonderful songbirds of Florida. Get tips on identifying birds by their songs and how you can attract them to your yard with native plants. This talk is free and open to all ages. Call 239-549-4606 for more information.

Wednesday, May 28

Fire in Florida's Ecosystem Workshop

Calusa Nature Center Planetarium, 3450 Ortiz Ave., Fort Myers, FL 33905

We are so glad to announce that Fire in Florida's Ecosystems is back! We are hitting the ground running and working to increase awareness about controlled fire's role in Florida and wildfire safety. Go to www.fireinflorida.org (website is in the process of being updated) for more information on the FISE program.

Monday, July 7, 10:00am-1:00pm

Beginner's Guide to Kayaking (16+ years)

Four Mile Cove Ecological Preserve, East end of SE 23 Terrace, Cape Coral, FL 33990

Learn basic paddle strokes from an experienced guide. Taught by GAEA Guides. \$40 Resident/\$60 Non-Resident (includes kayak, equipment). Call the Park Office: 239-549-4606 or the Kayak Shack (seasonal) 239-574-7395 for more information.

Saturday, July 26, 9:00am-1:00pm

Native Plant Sale

Rotary Park, 5505 Rose Garden Road, Cape Coral FL 33914

A variety of trees, shrubs, plants, and grasses will be available. Native plant experts will be on hand to answer questions and to help you choose the right plant for the right place. Call 239-549-4606 for more information.

Saturday July 26, 9:00am-12:00pm

Rain Barrel Workshop (16+ years)

Rotary Park, 5505 Rose Garden Road, Cape Coral FL 33914

Florida Yards and Neighborhoods will teach you how to build a rain barrel that you can take home and put to use. \$45 per person. Call 239-549-4606 for more information.

Monday, August 8, 10:00am-1:00pm

Beginner's Guide to Kayaking (16+ years)

Four Mile Cove Ecological Preserve, East end of SE 23 Terrace, Cape Coral, FL 33990

Learn basic paddle strokes from an experienced guide. Taught by GAEA Guides. \$40 Resident/\$60 Non-Resident (includes kayak, equipment). Call the Park Office: 239-549-4606 or the Kayak Shack (seasonal) 239-574-7395 for more information.

Wednesday, August 13, 1:00-3:00pm

Gardening for Birds Design Class (12+ years)

Rotary Park, 5505 Rose Garden Road, Cape Coral FL 33914

Learn all about birds found in this area and what trees and shrubs are best to attract them to your yard. Bring pictures or drawings of your yard, and let a gardening expert help you design your landscape. A tour of the native plant garden is part of this class. \$15 Resident/\$23 Non-Resident. Call 239-549-4606 for more information.

Wednesday, August 13, 10:00-11:00am

Wild Edibles Walk (16+ years)

Rotary Park, 5505 Rose Garden Road, Cape Coral FL 33914

Learn how to identify edible plants in the wild and how to incorporate them into your landscaping. \$5 Resident/\$8 Non-Resident. Call 239-549-4606 for more information.

Monday, August 25, 1:00-2:00pm

Florida's Amphibians (FREE)

Rotary Park, 5505 Rose Garden Road, Cape Coral FL 33914

This is a fascinating program for anyone who is interested in Florida wildlife. Learn about local amphibians and the differences between frogs and toads. There will be live specimens to see. Call 239-549-4606 for more information.

Wednesday, August 27, 1:00-3:00pm

Butterfly Garden Design (12+ years)

Rotary Park, 5505 Rose Garden Road, Cape Coral FL 33914

Learn all about butterflies found in this area and what plants and flowers are best to attract them. Please bring pictures or drawings of your yard so the butterfly expert can help you design a butterfly friendly landscape of your own. A tour of the butterfly house and gardens is included in this class. \$15 Resident/\$23 Non-Resident. Call 239-549-4606 for more information.

Every Monday, Friday and Saturday, 10:30am

FREE Butterfly House Tours

Rotary Park, 5505 Rose Garden Road, Cape Coral FL 33914

The Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife offer a tour of the Tom Allen Memorial Butterfly House at Rotary Park. Learn all about butterflies that are found in this area and the plants they love. The tours are FREE, and no reservations are required. Call 239-549-4606 for more information.

Fuel our brains!

Keep our members and guests from becoming famished at our

meetings; please bring a favorite snack to share.

Meeting location:

Coccoloba monthly meetings are held on the second Thursday of every month at the Calusa Nature Center. The Nature Center is located at 3450 Ortiz Avenue, Fort Myers (just north of the intersection of Colonial Boulevard and Ortiz Avenue). Check out our website at: fnpscoccoloba.org

Comments/suggestions:

Comments about the new email edition? Not displaying correctly? Wrong email address? Please let Jenny Evans (newsletter editor) know at: jevans@sccf.org.

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