



Cocoloba Jam

September 2013

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Dick Workman, FNPS founding member, September speaker

Our own Dick Workman, FNPS and Cocoloba founding member, will be speaking to the chapter at its first meeting for the season on Thursday, September 12th. He will be speaking about the "Uses of native plants by Florida's early people," and will include evidence of uses of the native flora by the people who lived here prior to the 1513 Spanish invasion and uses that continue by current inhabitants. He will share some of his recent experience with native plants waging chemical warfare in his restored landscape.



Dick likely needs no introduction to our readers, but to fill in some background, here is a profile of Dick that appeared in the April/May 2011 edition of the *Sabal minor*.

Dick Workman has been an advocate for environmental protection and natural systems for many years. He was born in Waynesville, Ohio, studied zoology at Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, and served in the Air Force. In 1970, Dick organized an event for the first Earth Day at Victor Valley College in Southern California. He moved to Florida in 1973 and accepted the position of director of the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation, where he introduced prescribed fire and exotic pest plant management, and created their first native plant nursery. As Chairman of Sanibel's first vegetation committee, he helped write their first vegetation ordinance. Dick served a five-year appointment to the Visit Florida Nature-Based Tourism Advisory Board under Governor Jeb Bush, and has advised many governments and individuals on the importance of native plants. Perhaps his greatest claim to fame to readers of this publication is his role as a founding member of the Florida Native Plant Society.

Today, Dick is president of Coastplan, Inc., a Fort Myers-based environmental consulting firm. He is also the Cocoloba Chapter Representative and serves on the Advisory Board of Florida Natural History Museum's Randell Research Center. He is the author of *Growing Native: Native*

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Cocoloba Board

- *President:* John Sibley; 239.671.9663; john[at]nolawn[dot]com
- *Vice President:* Carolyn Murphey; 239.283.6266; carolynmurphey[at]centurylink[dot]net
- *Treasurer:* Marlene Rodak; 239.273.8945; rodakma[at]msn[dot]com
- *Secretary:* Martha Grattan; 239.247.1566; marthagrattan[at]yahoo[dot]com
- *Director:* Dick Workman; 239.694.0101; wworkmandick[at]aol[dot]com

Dick Workman (continued)

(Continued from page 1)

plants for landscape use in Coastal South Florida and has written and contributed to countless publications. Over the years, Dick has been an active and inspiring member of the Florida Native Plant Society and of his community and a tireless and dedicated educator. He has been called “Mr. Native Plant Society” and Florida’s Aldo Leopold. From his incredible depth of knowledge on Florida plants and natural systems, to his witty sense of humor; from his kind and caring approach, to his annual conch shell Christmas carol performances, Dick is truly admired and respected by many.

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. Stay tuned to our website and newsletter as our meeting location may be changing in October.

President’s Corner

By John Sibley, Coccoloba Chapter President

Weeds! They’re growing faster than you can get rid of them and they’re everywhere. Such is the frustration of gardening during the rainy season in Florida. There’s something good about the situation however. Most of those despised weeds are providing food for wildlife, and as our mentor Dick Workman is always quick to point out: nature is messy. She doesn’t function by shaping shrubs into boxes and balls. In fact many species, plant and animal alike, NEED brush and brambles to survive. So with that thought in mind, I try to ignore them and take pleasure in the most pleasurable aspects of the season with the prolific new growth and abundance of flowers.

With fall soon upon us, we’ll begin a new season

of Coccoloba activities, most importantly will be planning for the upcoming FNPS Statewide Conference we will be hosting in May. That WON’T be messy because Marlene Rodak and Jim Rodwell have already done so much in preparing for the event. Superb job Marlene and Jim, thanks! There’s still a lot to be done however and I’m delighted that so many members have pledged their support. There are several jobs that are as easy as directing folks to transportation for field trips and various seminars. Monitoring times and helping expedite various events. So there’s something for everyone and we are looking forward to having all members participate. This will be the BEST conference ever with your help!

I love Lee County Extension t-shirts!

Show your support for funding Lee County Extension! We want to fill the chamber (see next page for details on county commission budget hearings) with folks wearing the “I love Lee County Extension” bright orange t-shirts!!

On sale for only \$12 at:

- Extension office, Terry Park
- All Native Garden Center, 300 Center Road, Fort Myers 33907
- Centennial Park Farmer’s Market
- Or call: 239.671.9663; or email: john@nolawn.com



OUR Lee County Board of County Commissioners has approved the recommendation to:

- CLOSE LEE COUNTY EXTENSION**
- ELIMINATE EXTENSION AGENTS**
- CLOSE RUTENBERG FACILITY**

Extension operates under Lee County Parks & Rec budget of nearly \$28 million.

Savings by closing Extension: \$650,000.

Other major cuts to Parks & Rec: \$0 - NONE!!!
\$27 million for baseball?!

How does that impact Lee County?

- No more horticultural advice to industry and homeowners
- No more Master Gardeners
- No more Master Naturalists
- No more environmental stewardship
- No more Brown's Plant File
- No more Sea Grant keeping our Gulf waters clean and safe for tourists and residents
- No more Consumer Science support for healthy life style education
- No more support for community gardens providing locally grown fruits, vegetables & herbs

The list goes on and on!

Outraged? Want to do something to stop this madness?!

We need 500 people to show up & speak on behalf of retaining full funding for Lee County IFAS Extension Service.

You MUST GO to Board of County Commissioners meeting held in commission chamber on the 2nd floor of the Old Courthouse building at 2120 Main Street in downtown Fort Myers on Wednesday, September 4th at 5pm and tell them what you think!

Those who can't make it then can go to the 2nd meeting on Wednesday, September 18, same time & place.

You must arrive prior to 5pm, fill out a blue speaker's card, and present it to Commission Chair Pendergrass.

Please wear your "I love Lee County Extension" t-shirt to show your support!

Coccoloba Jam is going electronic!

Finally, the Coccoloba Jam is moving into the 21st century and will be sent by email! **Please send your preference (email or regular mail) with your email address to Jenny Evans (newsletter editor) at: jevans@sccf.org ASAP.** We encourage all of our members to utilize the email option, as this switch could potentially save the chapter approximately \$3,500 in printing and postage costs per year! Not to mention we will be saving paper and other resources in the process!

Conference Connection: Coccoloba hosting 2014 FNPS Annual Conference at FGCU

By Marlene Rodak, Conference Chair

Conference planning progress is coming together quite nicely. It is also very exciting.

Our conference planning committee is working very hard to provide a low-cost, efficient conference, while making it as exciting as possible. That is no easy task! But, we have very talented people in our chapter who will make this happen.

We are also partnering with other Earth-friendly organizations to fulfill various aspects of our mission: **to preserve, conserve and restore native plants and native plant communities in Florida.**

Our 34th Annual "Growing Native" Conference will be a conference like no other. We are expanding our imagination, while staying focused on our mission. Our vision is above the surface and below. We are the Coccoloba Chapter. We are not afraid to get our hands dirty.

Want to learn more? Come to our monthly chapter meeting and/or volunteer to be part of our conference planning committee by contacting Marlene at RodakMA@msn.com or (239) 273-8945.

New location for October Coccoloba meeting

Due to the potential closing of the Eco-living Center at Rutenberg Park (see page 3), the Coccoloba meeting may be held in a new location beginning in October. Watch the website (www.fnpscoccoloba.org) and the next Coccoloba Jam for up-to-date details.



**Growing
Native**
Celebrate
the REAL
SW Florida!

Plant Sale
Saturday, October 19
9am – 2pm
Manatee Park



Proceeds benefit Coccoloba Chapter, Florida Native Plant Society
Cash & local checks only

In Memorium: Rosemary Virginia Fleming

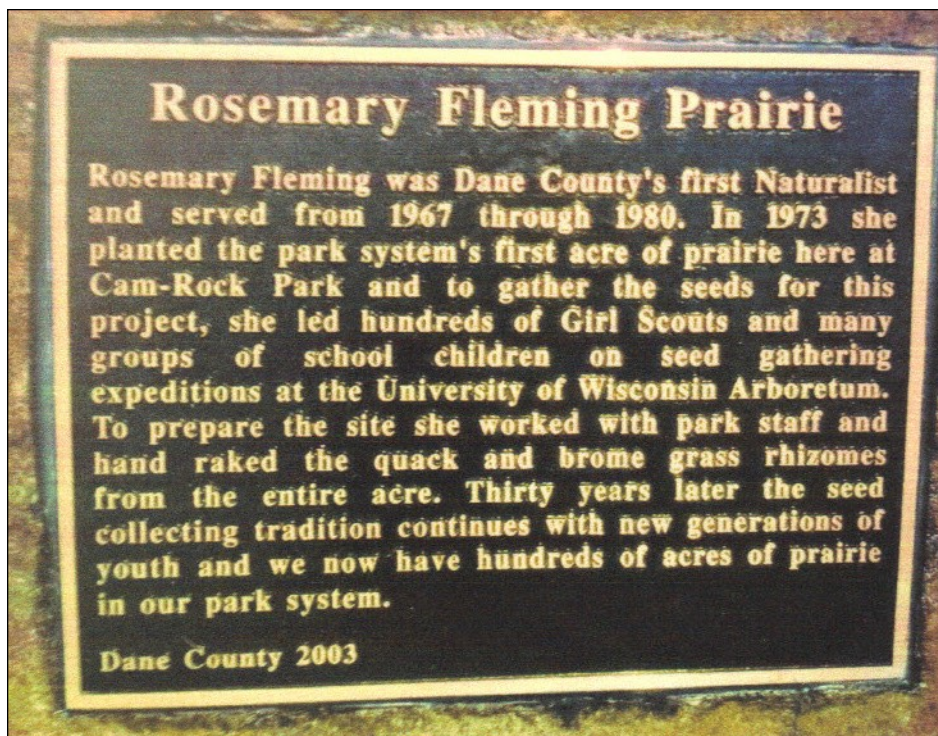


Rosemary Virginia Fleming, a former member of the Fort Myers-Lee County Garden Council and an early Coccoloba member, passed away on July 28, 2013 in Texas. Her family has posted an online memorial and encourage those who knew her to visit the site and post pictures or stories that you might have.

You can view the site at: <http://www.forevermissed.com/rosemary-fleming>

She and Booth Courtney were disciples of Dr. Darrel Morrison at the University of Wisconsin and were actively involved in protecting and restoring tall-grass prairies. She was always an ally for following nature's ways when working on planting projects when the impulse of many was to plant in straight lines and without "community" considerations.

Right: A photo from the Rosemary Fleming Prairie in Cam-Rock Park, Cambridge, Wisconsin (outside of Madison, Wisconsin).



SAVE THE DATE!

FNPS 34TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

THURSDAY, MAY 15TH -
SUNDAY MAY 18TH,
2014

FLORIDA GULF
COAST UNIVERSITY,
FORT MYERS, FL



HOSTED BY THE COCCOLOBA CHAPTER
WWW.FNPSCOCOLOBA.ORG

COCCOLOBA CHAPTER IS EXCITED TO BE HOSTING THE 34TH ANNUAL FNPS CONFERENCE IN FORT MYERS ON MAY 15-18, 2014, AT FLORIDA GULF COAST UNIVERSITY (FGCU). THEY ARE BUSY MAKING PLANS FOR A SPECTACULAR EVENT -UNLIKE ANY OTHER.

- ◆ SPEAKERS ARE BEING BOOKED, INCLUDING DR. J.C. CAHILL, DR. BILL HAMMOND, DR. MARTY MAIN, & ROGER HAMMER
- ◆ FIELD TRIPS, WORKSHOPS, AND SOCIALS ARE BEING PLANNED
- ◆ ROOMS ARE BEING RESERVED

HAVE YOU ATTENDED PRIOR CONFERENCES?

- ◆ WHAT DID YOU LIKE?
- ◆ WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE IMPROVED?
- ◆ DO YOU HAVE SUGGESTIONS OR COMMENTS YOU'D LIKE TO PASS ALONG?

IF YOU HAVEN'T ATTENDED A PRIOR CONFERENCE, WHY NOT?

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

SPONSORED BY:



- ◆ EMAIL YOUR COMMENTS TO: FNPSCONFERENCE2014@LIVE.COM
- ◆ VISIT US ON FACEBOOK: [FNPS CONFERENCE 2014](#)
- ◆ FOLLOW US ON TWITTER: [@FNPSCONF2014](#)

FOR SPONSORSHIP INFORMATION, CONTACT:
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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; *Please note:* location in October may be changing, stay tuned for details

- *Thursday, September 12th:* Dick Workman, FNPS founding member

- *Saturday, October 19th:* Coccoloba Fall Plant Sale, Manatee Park, Fort Myers
- *Thursday, May 15th-Sunday, May 18th, 2014:* 2014 FNPS Annual Conference, Fort Myers

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