



Cocoloba Jam

January 2013

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Stephen Brown, Lee County Extension Agent, January's speaker

Join us for an engaging meeting on Thursday, January 10th, featuring Stephen Brown as our guest speaker. Stephen will be speaking about "Pests of Native Plants."

Stephen Brown has been the Lee County Horticulture Agent for 19 years. He received a M.S. in Soil Fertility and Plant Nutrition from the University of Florida. He has been an Extension Agent in Jamaica, West Indies, and in Los Angeles, California. Stephen coordinates the Master Gardener program and teaches classes in plant identification, landscape maintenance, landscape certification, landscape BMPs, and pesticide applicator certifications. He writes a weekly garden column for the Fort Myers News-Press, and is a frequent contributor to Florida Gardening magazine. Stephen's "Brown's Plant File" is an e-mail list that reaches several thousand landscapers and gardeners each week with current plant issues affecting southwest Florida. He has traveled extensively in the Caribbean and Latin American and is familiar with many tropical plants. Visit his website at <http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu/hort/GardenHome.shtml>

Socializing begins at 6:30pm. The presentations start 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.

Cocoloba now on Facebook!

As of late December (and a big thanks to Sue Scott!), we now have a PUBLIC Cocoloba Facebook page! Visit, explore, and like it, and encourage other organizations' Facebook pages to like it. Sue will be adding plant sale flyers, chapter information, and pictures of members' favorite natives, especially pictures with pollinators and birds (please send photos as attachments to Sue at backtenfeet@gmail.com). She'll then post the photo along with WHY it is your favorite native plant. To search for the page in Facebook, just type in Cocoloba Chapter, Florida Native Plant Society. Under "About" you'll see our mission statement and meeting information. This is a great venue for sharing with others, so help us make it better!

President's Corner

By John Sibley, Coccoloba Chapter President

What a cool tree that is, with white bark reminding me of the White Birch in Maine, flowering on and off all year with pretty flowers. That was my naïve impression soon after arriving in Florida in the late 70s. Now I've learned to despise that Melaleuca and to make matters worse, I've developed an allergy getting cold like symptoms and headache whenever it blooms. Karma! What a cool tree, it grows so fast and can be pruned any way you want. I trained it so that it was like an umbrella, so thick you could stand under it in pouring rain without getting wet. And look, the Robins love its berries! Another rude awakening. Despise that Brazilian Pepper now too. Once I learned of its TRUE nature, I took to removing it with a vengeance. What a nasty rash I got. Oh, that's because it's closely related to Poison Ivy they told me. Karma! So you learn what's up, what's good and what's bad. I'm forever grateful for the folks from Coccoloba, who forfeited a night on the couch with a glass of wine in one hand and the remote in the other frittering away an evening watching some mindless TV shows

and came out to explain the virtues of the native plant palate and the sub-tropical climate we enjoy. Should I plant a Live Oak that will eventually get over 100 feet tall under electric wires? Silly goose, of course not. A better tree would be one that will not reach the wires at full maturity. The perfect choice would be Sweet Acacia. So glad I did that especially now that during the last few weeks when that delightful fragrance wafts through the air. What should I plant for an understory? One good choice would be Black Bead. So glad I did that now, especially now that it's full bloom and covered with butterflies and a host of other nectaring insects. So you live and learn. I've always felt the best component of Coccoloba's mission is the education we provide. With folks moving into Florida constantly, that mission is critical to help teach people about native plants and sustainable landscaping. So here we go again, off to Bonita Springs in February for another plant sale and effort at public awareness. It's a lot of work, but somebody's got to do it! Hope you'll join the effort.

Coccoloba to host 2014 FNPS Annual Conference

Mark your calendars for May 2014! The Coccoloba Chapter has agreed to host the 2014 Statewide FNPS Annual Conference. We will need lots of volunteers and planning help; so please mark your calendars to support the Chapter's efforts. Kellie Westervelt, the FNPS Executive Director, will be coming to our April meeting (Thursday, April 11th) to explain details about what goes on at the annual FNPS conferences and the things we'll need to do in order to prepare.

Call for Research Track Papers & Poster Presentations

The Florida Native Plant Society annual conference will be held at University of North Florida, Jacksonville, Florida, May 16-19, 2013. Researchers are invited to submit abstracts on research related to native plants and plant communities of Florida including preservation, conservation, and restoration. Presentations are planned to be 20 minutes in total length. Abstracts of not more than 200 words should be submitted as a MS Word file by email to Paul A. Schmalzer paul.a.schmalzer@nasa.gov by February 1, 2013. Include title, affiliation, and address. Indicate whether you will be presenting a paper or poster.



www.fnpscoccoloba.org

Proceeds benefit Coccoloba Chapter
Florida Native Plant Society

Native Plant Sale

Saturday, Feb 9th

9am – 2pm

Riverside Park, Old U.S. 41

FREE one gal Florida slash pine
with orders over \$10

Grow your own bald eagle nest!



- Florida native wildflowers, trees, shrubs, flowering vines, grasses
- Experts on site
- All plants provided by LOCAL growers

Florida Native Plant Books & T-shirts

Cash & personal checks only



**FYN Rain Barrel
Workshop 10am
553-7504 to register**

**Questions? Call
239-939-9663**



Attention Coccoloba Members!

As I'm sure you are aware, Coccoloba is a long standing member of the Fort Myers/Lee County Garden Council among nearly 30 other garden clubs and societies. The Garden Council has urgent need of folks willing to step up to serve in the officer positions listed below and we encourage you to do so as a Coccoloba member. The Garden Council has been an integral part of Fort Myers and Lee County for decades. Please consider joining the board of this inspiring and community focused organization.

The Nominating Committee is seeking candidates for the following positions in the Fort Myers Lee County Garden Council for 2013-2015, as described in its By-Laws:

- SECOND VICE PRESIDENT "shall: a) serve as the Program Chair; b) advance to the office of First Vice President/President-Elect."
- RECORDING SECRETARY "shall: keep the minutes of the Board of Directors and Council Meetings in books which shall be the property of the Council and accessible at all reasonable times and places."
- TREASURER* "shall: a) be the custodian of all the monies of the Council, received from whatever source; b) pay out monies only upon the order of the Council; c) keep full and accurate books of accounts containing a record of all monies received and expended, which books shall be the property of the Council and open to the inspection of the au-

thorized officials at all reasonable times and places; d) shall submit a summary report at each meeting; e) be an ex-officio member of the Finance Committee."

- ASSISTANT TREASURER "shall: perform the duties of the Treasurer in the event of the absence or inability of the Treasurer to serve. The Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer may be bonded in such sum as the Directors may direct, the cost of the bond defrayed by the Council. The Council's books will be examined by a Certified Public Accountant and a financial statement prepared at the close of each President's term. Any cost shall be borne by the Council."

*The accounts of the Council are kept using QuickBooks, which is a user-friendly accounting software.

As the slate of officers is to be presented at the next meeting of the Garden Council on January 11th, it would be appreciated if you would contact any member of the Nominating Committee shown below if you have any questions or if you or anyone in your Society would like to be considered a candidate for any of the above positions.

Nominating Committee: Terry Pinck, terry.pinck@gmail.com, 239-368-5615; Helene Jackley, helenefoe@embarqmail.com, 239-368-7406; Judy Gore, judyagore@aol.com, 239-334-0673.

2013 Endowment Grant Research Awards & Conservation Grant Awards

The Florida Native Plant Society maintains an Endowment Research Grant program for the purpose of funding research on native plants. These are small grants (\$1500 or less), awarded for a 1-year period, and intended to support research that forwards the mission of the Florida Native Plant Society which is "to promote the preservation, conservation, and restoration of the native plants

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New Yard Signs available!

FANN, the Florida Association of Native Nurseries (and a sister organization to the FNPS), has produced these durable metal yard signs as a fundraiser for the organization. They will be available for sale at Coccoloba's meetings and sales. Each 8" x 10" sign costs \$15, or \$20 including a stake.



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and native plant communities of Florida."

FNPS Conservation Grants support applied native plant conservation projects in Florida. These are small grants (\$1500 or less) awarded for a 1-year period. These projects promote the preservation, conservation, or restoration of rare or imperiled native plant taxa and rare or imperiled native plant communities. To qualify for a Conservation Grant, the proposed project must be sponsored by a FNPS Chapter.

Application guidelines and details are on the FNPS Web site (www.fnps.org), click on 'Participate/ Grants and Awards'. Questions regarding the grant programs should be sent to info@fnps.org. Application deadline for the 2013 Awards is March 1, 2013. Awards will be announced at the May 2013 Annual Conference in Jacksonville. Awardees do not have to be present at the Conference to receive award.



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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, January 10th:* Stephen Brown, Lee County Extension Service
- *Thursday, February 14th:* Judy Ott, Charlotte Harbor

National Estuary Program (CHNEP)

- *Thursday, March 14th:* Doug Caldwell, Collier County Extension Service
- *Thursday, April 11th:* Kellie Westervelt, FNPS Executive Director

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