



Cocoloba Jam

March 2013

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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

Doug Caldwell, Collier County Extension Service, March speaker

Join us on Thursday, March 14th, for a meeting featuring Doug Caldwell as our guest speaker. Doug will be speaking on "New Insect Problems of Native Plants—Another Cosmopolitan Dilemma."

Doug Caldwell is a landscape entomologist with 20 years' experience working with nation-wide landscape maintenance companies. He has his B.S. and M.S. in Entomology from Purdue University. Doug is a "Show Me" kind of guy too, with his Ph.D. in Entomology from the University of Missouri. He is a Certified Arborist and a Florida Certified Horticultural Professional.

Doug has been with the Collier County Public Services, University of Florida Extension's Commercial Landscape Horticulture Educator in Collier County since January, 2001. His program areas include: state-mandated, pesticide certification and Naples (but soon to be state-mandated in 2014) Best Management Practices (BMP) fertilizer training, pruning, plant selection, fruit trees and pest management and diagnosing plant problems. He writes for the Naples Daily News. See "Dr. Dougbug's" Commercial Horticulture web site for dealing with many common south Florida landscape issues: <http://collier.ifas.ufl.edu/CommHort/HomeCommHort.shtml> and Dr. Dougbug Hort Videos at: <http://www.youtube.com/user/dougbughimself>.

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.

President's Corner

By John Sibley, Cocoloba Chapter President

It's hard to believe spring is just a few days away, but the signs of it are all around. Those Blue Flag Iris blooms are always a sure sign and this year is no exception. Absolutely beautiful! I have to go look at them often during the few days they are in bloom because they are so stunning. The Bay Cedar, just covered with those tiny yellow flowers; the Shiny

Blueberry, Shiny Lyonia, and Rusty Lyonia all blooming profusely with their small but lovely intricate, purple, pink, and white striated blossoms. Two of my favorites are loaded with buds ready to display their spring beauty. The Simpson's Stoppers will be covered with clusters of wonderfully fragrant white

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President's Corner (continued)

(Continued from page 1)

flowers in just a few days and the “capers” of the Jamaican Capers are primed to burst into bloom. What a delightful display they offer with the first blooms in the morning a brilliant white, while others are turning to purple during the day offering a splendid contrast against their lush dark green leaves. Unlike the brief bloom period of the Iris, the Capers continue on for weeks. The Necklace Pods with their clusters of bright yellow flowers are in full bloom now too. Not only pretty but offer a bit of nostalgia as they remind me of the Snap Dragons we used to play with as kids many, many springs ago. And of course the once flowers, and now berries and fruits, of so many natives alive with hosts of gluttonous song birds

readying for their trek north providing their own splendor of nature. And the several spring blooming species of native wildflowers, Gaillardia my favorite among them, with their colorful “Indian Blanket” display. Yes, spring is upon us and the beauty of native plants abounds. I do miss those rushing mountain streams, the Rhododendron and Mountain Laurel I so enjoyed as a youth in Connecticut. My grandfather leading the hike up the mountain trails looking for that Indian Pipe brings back many fond memories, but also an appreciation for folks like Dick Workman and Philip Tadman who helped me realize the delights of nature to savor in our sub-tropical climate. So now I’m off to do just that and I hope you’ll do the same. Happy Spring!

Volunteers Needed! Coccoloba to host 2014 FNPS Annual Conference at FGCU

Mark your calendars! The 2014 FNPS annual conference will be held **Thursday, May 15, 2014 through Sunday, May 18, 2014** in the beautiful Cohen Center of Florida Gulf Coast University. The University is graciously sponsoring the event and will make student housing available at a rate of under \$30 per night for those cost-conscious about lodging. FGCU is providing discounted rent plus additional money toward the facilities for FNPS. This will go far in allowing us to keep conference costs low in order to attract a lot of attendees from scientists to backyard gardeners.

The basic conference structure is to provide a wide variety of field trip options on Thursday and Sunday. The educational sessions and keynote speakers will be on Friday and Saturday. There will be a two-day plant sale outside along with an exhibit hall inside, also on Friday and Saturday.

Marlene Rodak has volunteered to lead the conference planning committee, and is looking for dedicated, organized, and detail-oriented people to serve on the following sub-committees: Programs, Exhibits, Plant Vendors, Sponsorships, Field Trips, Social, Logistics (signs, etc.), Silent Auction, and Communications (conference website, printing, design, etc.).

The chapter will need **lots** of volunteers and planning help; please get in touch with Marlene (rodakma@msn.com or 239-273-8945) to assist in the Chapter’s efforts. She is also organizing the first planning meeting for 6:30pm before the next chapter meeting on Thursday, March 14th; feel free to attend the meeting and lend a hand! Additionally, Kellie Westervelt, the FNPS Executive Director, will be coming to our April meeting (Thursday, April 11th) to help strategize and explain further details about what goes on at the annual FNPS conferences and the things we’ll need to do in order to prepare.

Rotary Park Native Plant Sale Saturday, April 20th 9am – 2pm



www.fnpscoccoloba.org

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



5505 Rose
Garden Road
El Dorado Pkwy
& Pelican Blvd

Proceeds benefit Coccoloba Chapter, Florida Native Plant Society



**Rain Barrel
Workshop/kit
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to pre-register**

**Florida Native
Plant Books
& T-shirts**

Florimulch only \$2/bag thanks to:



Questions? Call 239-939-9663 Cash & personal checks only



Annual Conference Registration Now Open

Plan to attend the 2013 FNPS Annual Conference, May 16-19 in Jacksonville! The amazing Ixia Chapter of FNPS has put together a wonderful list of field trips throughout Northeast Florida and a trio of great evening socials (super value).

Register early and save money -- and get on that trip you always wanted, reserve a place at the dinner table with old friends or new ones, and look forward to celebrating La Florida, the land of flowers, this May 16-19, 2013, in beautiful Jacksonville!

More info: www.fnps.org/conference

REGISTER NOW: <https://www.eventville.com/catalog/eventregistration1.asp?eventid=1010214>

See you soon in Jacksonville!



Coccoloba sponsors Mangrove Gathering Eco Café & Spring Celebration, Saturday, March 16th

Note NEW DAY of the week!! Spring Celebration from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. – Wildlife Landscaping Tour with John Sibley; Eco Café 7:30 to 10:00 p.m. – LIVE music of Kraig Kenning www.kraigkenning.com

Join us for the change of seasons as we gather for live music, coffee & tea, a variety of snacks, desserts, and all of the current local information on Southwest Florida's environmental happenings. FREE and open to the public! The Mangrove Gathering Eco Café blends "info-tainment" into an evening that goes beyond consciousness raising, to give long-time & newly-made friends options to become involved first hand with the Earth and all its life. At the Eco Living Center at Rutenberg Park, 6490 South Pointe Blvd, Ft Myers 33919. Bring your own **reusable mug** for FREE coffee and tea or pay a \$1.00 "Earth Tax" to use a throwaway paper cup. Be a part of our community "Potlatch" and bring your favorite snack or dessert to share with others. **For more info, call: 239-432-2163 or email: kisedajb@leegov.com.**

Co-sponsored by The Coccoloba Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society



THE NATIVE PLANT SHOW

All the plants, all the professionals, all in one place.



Thurs-Fri, April 4-5, 2013 in Kissimmee, Florida

Attend!

Register now & save \$

Take CEUs!

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Limited enrollment

Exhibit!

Limited spaces available
Info on back side



ATTN: Attendees & CEU Class Participants

- **Exhibits featuring**
landscape quality native trees, palms, shrubs, groundcovers & wildflowers
- **7 Continuing Education (CE) hours**
for Landscape Architects & other professionals
- **Real Florida Landscapes Design Competition**
Deadline for submittals: Friday, February 1
- **North, Central & South Florida Landscape**
demonstrations on the show floor
- **Putting Wildflowers to Work**
Florida Wildflower Foundation research symposium
- **Florida-Friendly Landscape**
Best Management Practices training by Osceola County Extension

“Everything you
ever wanted to
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plants but didn't
know who to ask.”



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Green Isle
Gardens,
Show
Co-Chair



Roger Triplett,
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Promotion Team



Jerry Fritz, SUNCO Nursery,
Logistics Team



Bert Sheffield,
Island Grove
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SCHEDULE

Trade Show

Thurs. April 4 - 9am-5pm

Fri., April 5 - 9am-2pm

CEU Seminar

Thurs. April 4 - 8:30am-2:30pm

Fri. April 5 - 9:30am-1:30pm

Show facility in Kissimmee



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

Thursday, February 14th, 2012, 7:00 pm

By Marlene Rodak, Chapter Treasurer (filling in for Rachel Singletary, Secretary)

Carolyn Murphy called the meeting to order and introduced Judy Ott of CHNEP as our speaker. Judy explained that CHNEP is one of 28 NEPs in the country. It is funded by the Clean Water Act. Estuaries are places where salt and fresh water mix. They have \$5,000 grants that are due in the fall and they sometimes provide research grants. She suggested checking this site for more information on their projects: <http://gispub2.epa.gov/NEPMap/index.html>. Judy explained the four parts of CHNEP: management, policy, technical and citizen advisory. Warren Bush is very active in the citizen advisory portion.

After Judy's informative presentation, we started the business meeting. Marlene gave the Treasurer's report by stating that the Bonita Plant sale netted \$1,342.68 to the chapter. The current checking account balance is \$7,613.62, with several items outstanding from the plant sale.

The Board asked for a membership chair volunteer to send reminders to members who accidentally lapse in their dues. There were no takers at this meeting.

Jenny Evans then reported on the work of the Nominating Committee. She said that they worked hard and called 20-30 members to survey them on Board positions. Although most were

not interested in Board positions, many indicated they were interested in being more active in the Society. Then, Jenny reported the committee's recommendation for the Board of Directors.

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Vice-President: Carolyn Murphey
Treasurer: Marlene Rodak
Secretary: Martha Grattan
State Director: Dick Workman
Newsletter: Jenny Evans

Since there were no nominations from the floor, Mark Miller motioned to take a verbal vote. Warren seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous for the Nominating Committee's recommendations.

There will be a Rutenberg Park workday on Friday, February 22nd starting at 9 a.m. Drinks will be provided and, if the workers want, they may wish to go to lunch afterward.

Dick reported on the FNPS Assessment and recommendations. He offered a printed copy to those who wanted it.

Sarah Murphey motioned to adjourn the meeting. Anne Whitmore seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

Save the Date!

Coccoloba's Spring social is planned for Sunday, May 5th. Keep an eye out for more details, including a wonderful location!

Bonita Springs Plant Sale

Many thanks to all who helped to make for a successful first Coccoloba plant sale in Bonita Springs! The weather and location were fantastic, and many first-time customers were interested in learning about and purchasing native plants!





PO Box 3714
North Fort Myers, FL 33919
Phone: 239.939.9663
Fax: 239.936.8504
E-mail: john@nolawn.com

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

Director

- *Saturday, April 20th:* Coccoleba Spring Plant Sale, Rotary Park, Cape Coral
- *Sunday, May 5th:* Coccoleba Spring Social

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.bayshoregardencenters.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