



# Cocoloba Jam

**October 2013**

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## Cocoloba Board

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## *Cocoloba Jam is going electronic!*

**This is the last Cocoloba Jam that you will receive by snail mail, unless you tell us otherwise!!** By signing up for the Jam by email, you will help to save our funds for important planting projects and other mission-related events, rather than spending it on postage and paper!

### FNPS members:

A few of our members have specified that they would like postal-only communications—check your mailing label on this newsletter and *if you have an asterisk (\*) next to your name*, you are one of these people and will receive a Jam by snail mail. *You do not need to do anything else.*

If you would like your Jam by postal mail and you *do not* have an asterisk next to your name on this newsletter, contact any officer or Jenny Evans at (239) 472-1932.

Otherwise, as a FNPS member, we will send your next Jam via email. We will use the email address on file with the state FNPS.

### Other friends (non-FNPS members):

If you are not a FNPS member, we would still like to keep in touch! Please send your email address to Jenny Evans at: jevens@sccf.org so that we can keep you on our mailing list!

## *Cocoloba's new meeting location*

Due to the closing of the Rutenberg facility, beginning in November, Cocoloba will be holding its monthly meetings at the Calusa Nature Center Planetarium. Thanks to Mary Rawl and the Calusa Nature Center for graciously welcoming our club back to that facility! The November meeting will be held on Thursday, November 14th beginning at 7pm; socializing begins at 6:30. Marty Kendall will be speaking about the ethnobotany of the Calusa Indians. The Calusa Nature Center is located at 3450 Ortiz Avenue, Fort Myers (just north of the intersection of Colonial Boulevard and Ortiz Avenue).

**Please note:** The October meeting will still be held at the Rutenberg Eco-Living Center. Please join us at the October meeting on Thursday, October 10th, where we will say farewell to Rutenberg!

## *President's Corner, By John Sibley, Chapter President*

We've entered a new season now as fall has begun this month. Change is in the air. Changes are coming to Coccoloba too. We are being evicted from our cherished home at Rutenberg and forced to convert to providing the Jam electronically rather than via US mail as we have for years. They say change is good. I'm not inclined to agree but I do agree with what they say, you have to make lemonade out of lemons. That will be the focus for Coccoloba in the next few months as we adjust. We'll try to make the best of it. There's always a silver lining; we'll return to the Calusa Nature Center

where Coccoloba used to meet years ago beginning in November and we'll be saving several thousand dollars in printing and mailing. I hope you'll join us at Rutenberg for our farewell to that facility and remember to come to our November meeting at the Planetarium at the Calusa Nature Center. It's going to be exciting to get back there and begin a new chapter and renewed focus on our core mission where it will be appreciated. I'm off to savor the delights of nature's changing season and revel in the cheery song of that Mockingbird.

## *Annual conference planning update*

The 2014 "Growing Native" Conference planning continues. The Friday evening social event will be in Naples Chapter territory, at the gorgeous Naples Botanical Garden. Be sure to attend this "after-hours" event in the Garden. Meanwhile, we're continuing to book dynamic speakers to complement the above and below ground theme. Dr. Bill Hammond, Dr. Marty Main, and Dr. James Wohlpart are just a few of our exciting speakers and we just **had** to ask Roger Hammer back!

So, pump up your bicycle tires and bring it along because you're staying right on the campus for a mere \$40 per night which will include breakfast! We're keeping our carbon footprint low by recommending conference attendees bike between our rooms in Palmetto Hall and the conference at Cohen Center. There are fantastic nature trails all around the campus, too. Sponsors already signed are Naples Botanical Garden, Florida Gulf Coast University, Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program, Suncoast Chapter FNPS, and FANN, with more in the pike! Coccoloba Chapter, along with Mangrove and Naples Chapters, are looking forward to **Growing Native** with you this spring in Fort Myers.

## *DEP meeting discussing surplus lands, Oct. 3rd*

Attend a local public hearing on the DEP Surplus Land Assessment on Thursday, October 3rd, from 6-8pm at the State Office Building at 2295 Victoria Avenue in Suite 364, Fort Myers.

DEP has scheduled public meetings where the public can comment on the surplus land assessment process. This is the process by which they are identifying state-owned conservation lands that could be sold back into private ownership. Although some of the lands they initially identified have been dropped from the list as a result of public opposition, nearly 3,200 acres remain listed as potential surplus lands. And although many of the parcels they have identified are appropriate to surplus, others are not. The upcoming public meetings will provide an opportunity for FNPS members to comment in person in favor of retaining public ownership of the parcels

that have conservation value and contribute to the protection of native plants and native plant communities.

If you are unable to attend one of these meeting, you can still submit written comments to: [ARC\\_mailinglist@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:ARC_mailinglist@dep.state.fl.us). Additional information on the surplus land assessment is available at: [ARC\\_mailinglist@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:ARC_mailinglist@dep.state.fl.us). A list of the identified parcels, along with maps and aerials, is available at: <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/lands/assessment/maps.htm>.

Your comments can make a difference. To be most effective, you should comment about specific parcels and explain how they remain valuable for conservation purposes. Thanks for your commitment to the FNPS mission of conserving Florida's native plants!

# GOT BUTTERFLIES?



We do. Butterflies need a variety of nectar plants as adults and specific host plants for laying eggs. Florida native plants provide nectar larval hosts & places to hide from bad weather & predators in ways exotic plants just can't. Stop by & check out our selection of wildflowers, vines, shrubs, trees & grasses.



## Native Plant Sale

### Saturday, Oct 19<sup>th</sup>

### 9am – 2pm


**Manatee Park**


10901 Palm Beach Blvd.  
Across from the FPL Power Plant



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

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

*By Martha Grattan, Chapter Secretary*

Meeting comes to order; Jenny Evans motions to pass last meeting's minutes and Elaine Seaman seconds the motion. Motion passes.

Marlene Rodak gave a statement of the current NPS Coccoloba treasury balance \$4289.74. Our current commitments for the upcoming NPS Annual Conference are \$1500.00. She also explained that since we have agreed to host the NPS Annual Conference next year, we will be covering some of the expenses until the state chapter reimburses us. The money should come from the state in approximately two months.

The first guest was Nancy Kilmartin. She gave a presentation requesting a signage grant for Manatee Park. She opened with an overview of the park. It is located on the Orange River next to a power plant that discharges warm water into the river. In cooler weather manatees are attracted to the warmth and they congregate at the park. Manatee Park has been home to habitat demonstration gardens since 1997. Our Chapter was involved in the creation of those gardens. These demonstrate design and function as well as support wildlife. They are used to educate both children and adults. In 2000, a local artist named Shelley Castle was commissioned to paint four murals which were used as signage for the habitats. Since then, the murals have decayed to the point that they had to be removed.

In 2012, a new artist was commissioned to create new signage. Her fee is \$3200 for the art. Samples of her work can be seen on her website at: <http://www.artbyermajean.com/>. The Manatee Park signage budget is \$8656.00. FNPS Coccoloba Chapter would pay \$250.00 per sign for \$1000.00 gift. The signs are accurate, informative and attractive. They will include our logo and the artwork can be reproduced into posters. A few members had questions about the durability of the signage. Nancy Kilmartin responded that this set of signs will be better quality due to innovations in technology of sign design. John Sibley asked who the other funders would be on this project. Nancy Kilmartin replied that Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Committee committed \$1000.00. Two unnamed volunteers at Manatee Park also donated \$1000.00 before they passed away.

Beth Workman gave a presentation on behalf of Lee County. She was approved last year for a grant from Coccoloba Chapter for \$800.00. That money was never used. She is back with the same project requesting the original \$800.00 plus an additional \$100.00. The funding will be used for the re-landscaping of Lee County Courthouse in native plants. She submitted the plans for us to see. The project already has installed pavers that were reclaimed from the Waterway Estate water treatment plant. R.S. Walsh Landscaping has already donated five cabbage palms. Beth Workman also stated that the county was ready to implement the project in the next few months. She also has Boy Scout volunteers committed to do the planting. Beth's plan is to keep irrigation and maintenance needs low. She stated that the County would like to have the project completed in November or December.

There was a question concerning contributors amongst the downtown business owners; Beth Workman responded that at this time the businesses were much more concerned about parking. She

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## *Minutes (continued)*

(Continued from page 4)

stated that she will also be approaching the FANN members as next for support.

A member stated concern about the level of money the Chapter has at this time. There was concern expressed about resources we will need for the FNPS Annual Conference. John responded that these are the only grants we will be looking at this year.

Dick Workman gave a presentation on the mimosa family of plants. Apparently the plants are capable of producing a natural herbicide and fungicide that kills off competitive plants. Dick says the IFAS is aware of the questions around the mimosa plant and will probably do some studies to confirm or disprove the herbicide/fungicide hypothesis.

John Sibley asked Marlene Rodak if she would like to make any comments about the Coccoloba financial situation. Marlene Rodak stated that she would like to put off the grant approvals until we had the State money in the coffer. She also stated that we had two down payments for the conference that were due soon. Naples Botanical Gardens will require a payment of \$2020.00 with our event reservation and FGCU will also need a large payment soon. John Sibley asked if it would work if we made the grant funding contingent on funding availability. Robin made the motion to approve the funding in this manner, Dick Workman seconded the motion, motion carried.

Finally, Marlene Rodak stated that the Chapter would save \$400.00 per year when we switch over to a digital monthly newsletter. This is the final print edition of Coccoloba Jam, moving forward, members will receive the newsletter via email. Therefore, it is important that members submit a current email address to Jenny Evans [jevans@sccf.org](mailto:jevans@sccf.org).

Marlene Rodak gave a brief overview of the NPS Annual Conference schedule and encouraged members to look into possible sources of funding for the conference. If you have an idea for a grant or donation please contact Marlene Rodak. She is happy to help.

Meeting was adjourned.



Endangered Schatz Swallowtail Photo by Dean Jue

### 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Southwest Florida BUTTERFLY CONFERENCE

&  
Butterfly Fly House Tour

Saturday, November 2, 2013

at the  
Lee County Extension (Terry Park)  
3406 Palm Beach Blvd.  
Fort Myers, Fl. 33916

co sponsors:  
North American Butterfly Association





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### *Upcoming speakers & Chapter meetings*

Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month, 7pm; Please note: beginning in November, new location at Calusa Nature Center, 3450 Ortiz Avenue, Fort Myers.

- *Thursday, October 10th*: last meeting at Rutenberg!  
Farewell to the Rutenberg facility.

- *Saturday, October 19th*: Coccoloba Fall Plant Sale, Manatee Park, Fort Myers
- *Thursday, November 14th*: Marty Kendall, Ethnobotany of the Calusa Indians
- *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](http://www.NoLawn.com) - retail & wholesale
- Bayshore Garden Center, 5870 Bayshore Road, North Fort Myers, FL; 239.543.1443 [www.bayshoregardencenter.com](http://www.bayshoregardencenter.com) - retail
- Calusa Nature Center, 3450 Ortiz Avenue, Fort Myers, FL, 33905; 239.275.3435 [www.calusanature.com](http://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](http://www.earthandspiritgardengallery.com) - retail
- Forestry Resources Inc., 4235 Michigan Link, Fort Myers, FL, 33916; 239.332.3966 - [www.gomulch.com](http://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](http://www.floridanativeplantseeds.com)
- SCCF, Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation, 3333 Sanibel-Captiva Road, Sanibel, FL, 33957; 239.472.1932 [www.sccf.org](http://www.sccf.org) - retail