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Coccoloba Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society



**Check Out
Our October
Guest Speaker,
Debbie Hughes!**

October 2014

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As you know, not everything within the Edison property is native. Some of the plants come from all over the world. It is here that we can see a biodiversity of plants since research knows no limits. Many of the plants located here were used in America's search for a domestic source of rubber, since rubber was controlled by foreign countries who constantly increased the price. And Edison, being the great innovator and inventor he was, created a system to test 17,000 plants for the substance known as latex, resulting in the finding of Goldenrod (*Solidago Leavenworthii*) that contained 12% rubber and could be grown as

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Follow Coccoloba happenings on the web, Facebook, & Twitter!

Check out Coccoloba's website for up-to-date information on chapter events (www.fnpscoccoloba.org). Like us on Facebook (type in Coccoloba Chapter, Florida Native Plant Society) and follow us on Twitter (@FNPS_Coccoloba) to join the conversation!

a crop.

Debbie Hughes, who has been a horticulturist for nearly eight years, caring for twenty acres of historical landscape, teaching about gardening, and propagating many seedlings, has a huge understanding of why plants grow the way they do. She knows why they propagate certain ways when other was don't work, and how to think like a seed. So, come listen to her speak about Goldenrod, the amazing rubber-creating plant at the Calusa Nature Center!

Debbie Hughes, Senior Horticulturist
 dhughes@edisonfordwinterestates.org



Awesome New Members in Action:
 Benjamin Johnson, new chapter secretary, and Isabella Peedle, new newsletter editor.

Upcoming Field Trips!

As a continuation of our field trip program, here are the latest offerings. Events are closed to the public and are for members only. Spaces are very limited and these events are popular. So sign up soon!

October 26th at Fakahatchee Strand with Dennis Giardina and Mike Owen.
Please DO NOT DELAY signing up at: <https://fnpsfieldtripoct.eventbrite.com>

November 9th at Cayo Costa with Dick Workman and Rangers.
Please DO NOT DELAY signing up at: <https://fnpsfieldtripnov.eventbrite.com>

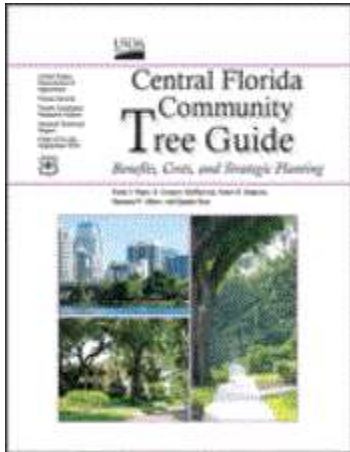


Native Plant Sale at Lowe's (Past Event):

At the end of August and the beginning of September, the Native Plant Society had a table set up at different Lowe's stores to help promote the use of native plants and non-invasive plants. People who stopped by learned how to save money, while getting more wildlife and low-maintenance landscapes. Participants helped visitors with any problems or questions they had about their plants and yards.

Because of these presentations, the Florida Native Plant Society was able to further fulfill their mission to promote the preservation, conservation, and restoration of native plants and native plant communities throughout Florida, while making native plants more accessible to residents in Lee County.

Special thanks to the Master Gardeners that also helped make this event a big success!



Central Florida Community Tree Guide Benefits, Costs, and Strategic Planting

Paula J. Peper, E. Gregory McPherson, James R. Simpson,
Shannon N. Albers, and Qingfu Xiao

- How can tree-planting programs improve environmental quality, conserve energy, and add value to communities?
- Where should residential yard and public trees be placed to maximize their benefits?
- How can conflicts between trees and power lines, sidewalks, and buildings be minimized?

Get your free digital copy at:

http://svinet2.fs.fed.us/psw/publications/documents/psw_qtr230

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

Thursday, September 11, 2014

by Marlene Rodak, Chapter Treasurer (filling in for vacant Secretary)

Meeting called to order at 7 pm by Martha Grattan who introduced the speaker, Dr. Ed Hanlon. Dr. Hanlon is Professor Emeritus from UF and a soil and water specialist.

Dr. Hanlon started his presentation with a few fun, physical exercises then started in to the formation of Florida as we know it -starting 360 million years ago. He explained the difference between Immokalee and Oldsmar soils, and stripped versus coated sands. This is important to understand how the different soils function. Then, he explained about VAM (vesicular-arbuscular mycorrhizae) and how the fungus helps plants. VAM can also be species-specific. So, VAM for one plant may not help another species. Dr. Hanlon also explained that fertilizer of any sort will kill VAM, or at least inactivate it. Therefore, if you want VAM, don't fertilize, as the high nitrogen will incapacitate VAM. There really aren't ways to artificially introduce VAM because of the uniqueness of it and the existing competition of existing VAM. Furthermore, soil that is high in phosphorus likely has no response to VAM. Disturbed, reclaimed soil has no response to VAM, but with time, will

generate it. Finally, commercial VAM must complete with existing VAM. However, VAM is really beneficial to plants.

Then, the business meeting started at 8:15, with the treasurer's report. Marlene Rodak reported that the current bank balance is \$6,178.52, without the chapter support check from the Society. We still aren't sure when that check will come, but our account balance has been building even without it.

Ben Johnson motioned to accept the prior meeting minutes and David Chase seconded it. The motion passed.

Martha Grattan reported that she and Marlene Rodak attended the Society Board meeting. There, she realized that our chapter is doing much more than other chapters. Other chapters were asking for our advice on things like getting into Lowe's stores. She also discussed the Lee School System presentation on FNPS and how we can help within the school system. Marlene Rodak discussed the Heights Elementary School project which is still in the development stage. The report was wrapped up with discussion about the Estero Park Planting project and the Conservation 20/20 field trips which included a group of homeschool students. The homeschool student group has asked that we do more with them.

Sue Scott suggested that we have another field trip to Prairie Pines in April/May because the wildflowers are spectacular.

Marlene Rodak reported on the Lowe's events where we worked the Garden Center. She said the store manager has asked for a native plant sale. Marlene Rodak has a meeting the following morning with Lowe's to discuss this further. Pat Moyer indicated that Master Gardeners are not allowed to sell plants for any business including Lowe's. So, we must be careful about how they are utilized at these events. It was reiterated that the FNPS position at Lowe's is to stimulate and/or create demand for native plants and make them readily available to people. Lee County Natural Resources has ordered and paid for plant pot stakes for us to mark native plants. In dealing with Lowe's, we want to encourage them to no longer sell invasive exotic plants in addition to carrying and selling more native plants.

Correction to the upcoming events, the Fakahatchee strand field trip will not be on the 19th. This is still being discussed. The next few field trips will be announced to all the membership at the same time so everybody has an equal chance of getting in on it.

There was a brief discussion about the "summer reading assignment" of Doug Tallamy's Bringing Home Nature. Pat mentioned that Carolyn Moore, the former Chapter Secretary has been very ill and encouraged phone calls to her. Ben Johnson, who works at Manatee Park described the recent chickee problems there with the exotic caterpillar that eats dead palm fronds. The chickee was tented and fumigated. He hopes that will handle the issue of further damage.

Finally, the Board encouraged the membership to help support our great chapter by becoming active. Immediately, we need somebody to assume the Chapter Secretary position.

The motion to adjourn was made by David Chase and seconded by Pat Moyer. Motion passed. The plant auction and merchandise sale raised \$26.

Upcoming Events

14TH Annual Southwest Florida Butterfly Conference

Co-sponsors: North American Butterfly Association

Date: November 15th

Time: 9:00AM - 12:15PM

Cost: \$30 per person

Walk-ins are not guaranteed admission

Registration on Eventbrite: <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/butterfly-conference-2014th-annual-tickets-7882479709?aff=eac2>

or mail checks payable to: LCOEAB. Detach registration and mail to Lee County Extension Office
3410 Palm Beach Avenue Ft. Myers, FL 33916

Location: Edison Ford Winter Estates, 2350 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers, FL

Call 239-600-4089 for more information

Home School Nature and Science Programs (2-15 years)

Bring your home school kids to learn about nature and the environment or make a related craft. Programs are geared for a broad age group. Please wear shoes and clothes appropriate for hiking and outdoor exploration.

The themes are in this order: What Does an Environmentalist Do? (10/8), Surviving the Wild (11/3), and Nature Giving (12/8). All are on Mondays from 10 AM to 11:30 AM.

\$5 Residents / \$8 Non-Residents

Located at Rotary Park Environmental Center, 5505 Rose Garden Road, Cape Coral, FL 33914

For more information, call the Rotary Park Environmental Center at (239) 549-4606

Citizens Academy will Begin in February

The Citizens Academy is a 12-week class, teaching citizens about City government and how the processes work. There are two classes per year, the first is in February.

Enrollment is open to Cape Coral residents, and the class size is limited.

Additional information is available by contacting the program coordinator at 574-0446 or by email at citizensacademy@capecoral.net.

Seminars Focus on Growing Organic

The organic gardening series at the Alliance for the Arts Green Market in Fort Myers continues on Oct. 11 from 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM. It will be presented by local organic farmers and master gardeners and is free, located at the Alliance for the Arts 10091 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers.

Free Butterfly House Tours

Mondays, Fridays and Saturdays at 10:30 am, free and no reservations required.

Located at Rotary Park Environmental Center, 5505 Rose Garden Road, Cape Coral, FL 33914

For more information, call the Rotary Park Environmental Center at (239) 549-4606

Florida Yards and Neighborhoods Program (16 years and older)

Have your own environmentally friendly oasis. Learn about the right plant for the right place, how to create a beautiful yard with efficient use of water, where to find plants that do not need chemical interference and more. The cost of this class is per household.

Friday from 1:00 pm-4:00 pm, 11/12

\$15 Residents / \$23 Non-Residents

Located at Rotary Park Environmental Center, 5505 Rose Garden Road, Cape Coral, FL 33914

For more information, call the Rotary Park Environmental Center at (239) 549-4606

Wild Edibles Walk (16 years and older)

Learn how to identify wild edible plants in the wild and how to incorporate them into your

landscaping.

Wednesday, 10:00-11:00 am, 10/8

\$5 Residents / \$8 Non-Residents

Located at Rotary Park Environmental Center, 5505 Rose Garden Road, Cape Coral, FL 33914

For more information, call the Rotary Park Environmental Center at (239) 549-4606

Butterfly Garden Design (12 years and older)

Learn all about butterflies found in this area and what plants and flowers are best to attract them. Please bring pictures or drawing of your yard so the butterfly expert can help you design a butterfly friendly landscape of your own. Tour the butterfly house and gardens as part of this class, too.

Wednesday, 1:00-3:00 pm, at 10/22

\$15 Residents / \$23 Non-Residents

Located at Rotary Park Environmental Center, 5505 Rose Garden Road, Cape Coral, FL 33914

For more information, call the Rotary Park Environmental Center at (239) 549-4606

2nd Annual Backyard Biodiversity Day and Native Plant Sale

Presented by the Tarflower Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society and Mead Botanical Garden Backyard Biodiversity Day is a great opportunity to celebrate the native flora and fauna. Come out and enjoy noted speakers, workshops, informative hikes and a huge native plant sale!

The FREE, family-friendly event features:

Presentations on natural and backyard habitats; landscaping for wildlife; native pollinators; the importance of biodiversity; and the birds of Mead Garden.

Interpretive hikes on birding; edible plants; herpetology; native and invasive plants; insects; and a family bird hike for all ages!

Native plant & wildflower seed sale

Vendors & exhibitors

Reptile and amphibian display

Authors' book signings

Food trucks

Volunteer and sponsorship opportunities available!

Time: Saturday, October 18, 2014 at 09:00 AM

FREE

Located: Mead Botanical Garden, 1500 S Denning Dr, Winter Park, FL 32789

More information: (407) 599-2800 or contact FNPS Project Chair, Catherine Bowman

atgarberia08@gmail.com.

Pythons in Our Paradise

Please join us for another joint presentation with our long-time neighbors. You'll meet Conservancy President & CEO Rob Moher as well as Zoo President & CEO Jack Mulvena and hear of the Zoo's upcoming plans for a new python exhibit. Beforehand, you'll have the chance (if you'd like) to meet one of our snake ambassadors from the Zoo.

Then Conservancy biologist Ian Bartoszek will present the latest updates about the large pythons living and breeding in the Everglades. Ian will discuss the collaborative research on Burmese pythons in SW Florida. Afterwards, the Zoo's Director of Animal Programs Liz Harmon and Animal Care Supervisor of Ectotherms Zach Marchetti will be available one on one for question and answers.

RSVP REQUIRED.

Time: Tuesday, October 7, 2014

Presentation Begins at 6:30

Cost: Naples Zoo and Conservancy Members: Free

Non-Members: \$10

Location: Conservancy of Southwest Florida in the Eaton Conservation Hall

1495 Smith Preserve Way Naples, Fl.

RSVP: 239. 262.5409 ext. 135 or timothy@napleszoo.org

Tim Morrison, Naples Zoo Donor and Member Relations Manager

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