

# The Mangrove

The Quarterly Newsletter of The Friends of Matanzas Pass Preserve

## BOARD BUSINESS...

At the August board meeting the following topics were discussed and/or implemented:

1. The development of a tree endowment program
2. A nominating committee was formed to seek a replacement for deceased board member, Claude Bowyer.
3. A general discussion of membership categories

## BUSINESSES & ORGANIZATIONS TAKE NOTE!

You can support us! A business membership is only \$50. Clubs and service organizations can join for only \$30.

## CHECK US OUT!

The Friends of Matanzas Pass is now on Facebook and we invite you to be our friend!

Have you been to our web site lately? You can look for changes thanks to our new webmaster, Pat McGowen. Visit [FriendsofMatanzasPassPreserve.org](http://FriendsofMatanzasPassPreserve.org).

## DID YOU KNOW?

According to the counters used by Lee County Parks and Recreation 16,234 guests visited the Preserve January to the end of July.



## BAY OAKS KID'S CAMP & ETHNOBOTANY

On Monday, July 26, forty children from the Bay Oaks Summer Program spent the morning in the Preserve.

John Kiseda from Lee County Parks and Recreation was on hand for an introduction, while Jim Rodwell - whom the kids called Pa - shared a bit of history. A second group, lead by Terry Cain, Land Steward, were taught the Web of Life concept while Dorothy Rodwell lead a third in an ethnobotany treasure hunt. The groups rotated and, judging by the photo at left, a fun and engaging day was had by all. The kids even waved, "Bye Pa!" as they departed.

*The Mangrove is printed and mailed complements of Lee County Parks and Recreation.*



## THE RATTLEBOX

*From Vicki Little of Lee County Parks & Recreation*

## VISIONS OF THE PAST

Join the living history characters as they provide a narrative guided walk of the "Visions of the Past" in Matanzas Pass Preserve. We're looking for volunteers to participate in the second annual event on Saturday, October 30<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 2pm. No experience is necessary! The guided walk will share visitors with the unique history of our barrier island.

The event is co-sponsored by Estero Island Historic Society, Friends of Matanzas Pass Preserve, Lee County Parks & Recreation, and Red Coconut RV Resort. For more information, contact Vicki Little at 239-229-0649 or [vlittle@leegov.com](mailto:vlittle@leegov.com). Tell your friends and neighbors to plan to attend this fun event to hear about the history and stories of years gone by.

This event is held during the Calusa Blueway Festival. Visit the [calusabluewayfestival.com](http://calusabluewayfestival.com) to learn about more events and activities surrounding the festival.

### Did you know?

It costs only \$10 to become a member of

The Friends of Matanzas Pass?

For \$100 you can become a lifetime member. If you'd like to join us, please send a check to our PO Box.

AND...

We've also got T-shirts for sale for only \$10. Expand your wardrobe and help us preserve our Preserve!



### OUR BOARD

Tom Myers, President  
Roxanne Smith, V.P.  
Roger Johnson, Secretary  
Lois Gressman, Treasurer  
James Rodwell, Fiscal Officer  
Dan Andre, Fund Raising

#### Directors

Ann Alsop  
Carl Conley  
Chuck Schmidt  
Betty Simpson

### THE MANGROVE EDITORS

Dorothy Rodwell  
Laurie Nienhaus

Articles, pictures, and questions for inclusion in *The Mangrove* should be sent to our P.O. Box 6561 or emailed to either:  
[drodwell@embarqmail.com](mailto:drodwell@embarqmail.com) or  
[editor@glily.com](mailto:editor@glily.com)

### OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The Friends are dedicated to the preservation, protection and enhancement of the natural and fragile beauty of the Preserve; to create a legacy for future generations.

### NEED TO CONTACT US?

Call Dorothy Rodwell  
at 851-7166.

### VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT:

[FriendsofMatanzasPassPreserve.org](http://FriendsofMatanzasPassPreserve.org)

## PROFESSOR MANGROVE'S CORNER...

Dear Professor Mangrove,

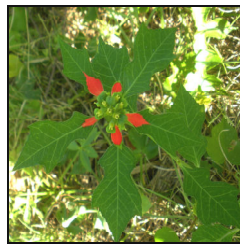
I've recently noticed trees in the Preserve with bright white, yellow, and gold stripes. Who's been painting the trees?

We can't blame this one on vandals wielding spray cans. I'm afraid Mother Nature herself has been painting the trees using a remarkable life form known as Lichen.

And what is Lichen? They're complex, rootless organisms that can only be identified by using a microscope. They are a result of a symbiotic association of a fungus and an alga.

The algae make food via photosynthesis. The fungus cannot make its own food and so lives off the algae's food. The fungus in turn provides a home for the algae. Neither could survive without the other.

Worldwide there are perhaps 17,000 species of Lichen. With a variety of shapes, they can be crusty, leaf like, or possess branches. Their coloring is the result of pigments from different bacteria. Their sensitivity to air pollution makes them ideal as a means of measuring it and they've also been used as food for animals, antibiotics and dyes.



### WHAT'S BLOOMING?

### FLORIDA'S WILD POINSETTIA (POINSETTIA CYATHOPHORA)

This strikingly beautiful plant is also called painted leaf, fire on the mountain, painted spurge and summer poinsettia.

Although not as showy as its Mexican relative (those Christmas Poinsettia), it retains many of the same features. Both plants have very small greenish-yellow flowers surrounded by leaves, many of which are a combination of bright reds and green. In addition, both are poisonous. We are fortunate to have plants with fiddle shaped leaves as well as a version with a lancet (long thin) leaf.

There are currently large patches of Florida Wild Poinsettia in places cleared earlier this year of an invasive exotic by Disney volunteers (local residents part of Disney's *Work a Day Get a Day Program*). Without that good work, those **fields** of poinsettia would not be possible. They are so beautiful, beloved of wildlife and drought resistant; this is a wonderful native plant in our Preserve.



## WHAT IS A LAND STEWARD?

Do you like putting in your back yard with plants and planting native? Do you reduce, reuse, recycle and do your best to keep your environment healthy? Then you're a steward of our environment - a land steward.

Now multiply what you do at home by 22,820 acres. How would you organize work for a land steward?

Well, Lee County Land Stewards are responsible for creating land stewardship plans for each site, planning and implementing restoration work - including invasive exotic plant control, hydrological restoration and protection of native flora and fauna species. We develop public use areas compatible with individual preserves, conduct prescribed burns in fire dependent communities and protect boundaries. We also support Friends Groups and write grants to help accomplish work on our sites.

Mostly, land stewards are just like you and love to work, play and live in our unique natural areas that make up south west Florida.

Terry Cain  
Lee County Parks & Recreation  
Land Stewardship Coordinator

## FUNDRAISING - WINE DINNER AT THE MANGO STREET INN

In conjunction with the Calusa Blueway Paddling Festival, a wine dinner has been scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on November 6, 2010 at the Mango Street Inn. The cost will be a donation of \$100 per person with proceeds going to the preserve. Ads have been placed on the Lee County Visitor's Bureau website and I've several commitments for business membership which I will follow up on now that I have a stack of applications, brochures and newsletters. I'll be going door to door the next couple of months and see how many new members we can reach.

### Our Menu for November 6<sup>th</sup>

*Jerk Chicken Satay - Dipping Sauce*  
*Cherry Tomatoes & Grilled Tuna w/ Green Onion Lime Sauce*  
*Olive Tapenade*  
*Hearts of Palm Salad w/ Avocado & Salsa Vinaigrette*  
*Shrimp and Jalapeno Bisque w/ Roasted Red Pepper Sauce*  
*Open-faced Beef Wellington*  
*w/ Mushroom Duxelle & Red Wine Demi-Glace*  
*Chicken Margarite w/ Mushrooms, Lime, & Dry Mustard*  
*Meringue w/ Whipped Cream & Fresh Berries*

Please note that seating is limited to 25.  
RSVP to [dan@mangostreetinn.com](mailto:dan@mangostreetinn.com) or  
239-233-8542.

Dan Andre

P.S. The possibility of a golf tournament is still in the works but waiting for cooler weather.

## MATANZAS MANGROVE WALK FREE!

Take an educational and inspirational walk through Matanzas Pass Preserve with a Florida Master Naturalist. Learn about the diverse plant communities of a barrier island, including a maritime oak hammock, transitional wetlands, and mangrove forest. Offered every Tuesday at 9:30-11 am. Call (239) 463-3764. (Group tours available)

## EXPLORING ETHNOBOTANY FREE!

Learn how indigenous plants can be used for such things as food, shelter, medicine, clothing, and the historical importance of some of Florida's plants to humans. A Florida Master Naturalist will be your guide. Offered the last Wednesday of each month at 9:30-11 am, group tours can be scheduled by calling (239) 229-7356

## STRESS DETOX ZONE AT THE PRESERVE FREE!

A short walk in our Preserve is combined with an opportunity to practice skills and create individual stress detox plans as inspired by natural systems. Join a Florida Master Naturalist for this quieting event. Offered the second Wednesday of each month (begins Nov) at 9:30-11 am, group tours can be scheduled by calling (239) 229-7356

**HURRAY!** The Wachovia Wells Fargo Foundation recently awarded a \$500 grant to each of 48 not-for-profit organizations in Lee and Collier counties. One of those 48 was the Friends of Matanzas Pass Preserve. The Friends were recommended for the grant by the management of the Fort Myers Beach Wachovia Bank. Jim Rodwell and Elizabeth LaForce, manager of the local bank, attended an early breakfast at the Embassy Suites in Estero where Jim Rodwell accepted a check for \$500 on behalf of the Friends. Members of the Friends are encouraged to stop in Wachovia bank and say "thank you."

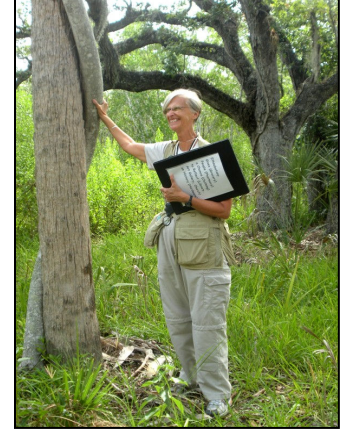
## WORKDAYS IN THE PRESERVE



John Kiseda



Jim Rodwell



Dorothy Rodwell

*Care to Join Us? We'd love to have you!  
Here's a Peek at Our Fall Schedule:*

**Tuesdays:** Friends Meeting at Bay Oaks, 5:00 p.m. – Oct 12, Nov 9, Dec 14

**Wednesdays** Ethnobotany Walk - 9:30 a.m. – Oct 27, Nov 24, Dec 29

**Wednesdays:** Stress Detox Zone at the Preserve Walk - 9:30 a.m. – Oct 13, Nov 10, Dec 8

**Thursday:** Matanzas Mangrove Walk 9:30 a.m. – Nov 4, 11, 18 & Dec 2, 9, 16, 23

**Saturday:** Workday in the Preserve - 8:00 a.m. – Oct 9, 23 & Nov 6, 20 & Dec 4, 18

*Important Note:* As our workdays in the Preserve can change, please call Pat Gano at 745-5970 to be sure a particular date has not been rescheduled.

### SPECIAL EVENTS

***Visions of the Past (in conjunction with the Calusa Blueway Festival).***

*Saturday 10 am to 2 pm – October 30, 2010*

***Wine Dinner at the Mango Street Inn (\$100/person)***

*Saturday at 6 pm – November 6, 2010*

### FRIENDS OF MATANZAS PASS PRESERVE

PO Box 6561

Fort Myers Beach, Florida 33931

# TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

Lee County Parks & Recreation will be offering a Volunteer Introduction & Interpretive Naturalist Volunteer Training Program. Everyone is welcome to attend this FREE program intended to offer residents an opening to learn more about volunteer opportunities and to increase their awareness of the importance of barrier islands and their unique ecosystem of plants/animals native to the Southwest Florida.

## SESSION 1

This session will familiarize volunteers with the physical mechanics and layout of our beach parks and preserves, program goals and objectives, and the various opportunities for volunteering. Those interested in additional training should also plan to attend the next two sessions.

**DATE:** Saturday, November 13<sup>th</sup>

**TIME:** 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

**LOCATION:** Support Services Facility at Rutenberg Park

## SESSION 2

Volunteers are provided with an introduction to the importance of barrier islands and their unique ecosystem of plants/animals native to Southwest Florida through a hands-on exploration of a beach and back bay walk. Presented by Terry Cain, Land Stewardship Coordinator for Bunche Beach Preserve, Matanzas Pass Preserve, and Bowditch Point Regional Park.

**DATE:** Saturday, November 20<sup>th</sup>

**TIME:** 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

**LOCATION:** Starts at Bowditch Point Park and moves on to Matanzas Pass Preserve

## SESSION 3

Participants will explore the role of a "Model Volunteer" - responding to visitor questions and concerns, "tips & tricks" of interpretation, and your responsibilities as a Volunteer Interpretive Naturalist. Presented by John Kiseda, Environmental Program Coordinator, Lee County Parks and Recreation.

**DATE:** Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup>

**TIME:** 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

**LOCATION:** Support Services Facility at Rutenberg Park

Contact Vicki Little (239) 229-0649, [vlittle@leegov.com](mailto:vlittle@leegov.com)  
for more information or to register for this free program!