

The Mangrove

Welcome to our revamped
Summer 2014 format!

Good News for the Preserve

by Terry Cain

The 1997 Legislature charged the then Bureau of Invasive Plant Management (now IPM section) of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission with the task of creating a program to bring invasive exotic upland plant species under maintenance control. The long term goal is to reduce infestation of invasive plants on public conservation land by fifty percent by 2020. There are eleven Regional Working Groups who rank and recommend funding for the Upland Program provided through a Trust Fund set forth in Section 396.252(4), F.S.

One minimum criteria for the program is: Plant Species must be designated as Florida Exotic Pest Plant Counsel (FLEPPC) Category I or II species. Size and designation of land site must also meet minimum criteria. This year a new section was added for small projects, meaning small areas, and for the first time Matanzas Pass Preserve was able to fit the criteria and apply for funding!

On May 28 Annisa Karim and myself presented the Matanzas Pass Preserve Project to the Southwest Florida Invasive Exotic Plant Working Group. The Preserve ranked 60 points out of a possible 77 and was awarded the request of \$24,000 to sweep the Preserve of all category I and II FLEPPC species in 2015 by a contractor. Primary targets will be a few of the vines we have great difficulty managing - rosary pea, syngonium, portia and balsam pear.

This is exciting news for our little Preserve and will go a long way in helping to control exotic plants.

Where's Lily?!

The five pairs of Asian beetles brought into the Preserve last spring to halt the 100-year advance of the invasive air potato seem to all have disappeared. The beetles released on Sanibel also seem to have vacated... or they all died.

Air potatoes are now up and growing and the beetles should be emerging from hibernating. Ellen and Melissa, the two women heading this research project with the USDA-ARS Invasive Plant Research Laboratory, will very soon arrive to assess the release sites.

They'll return again in July and if by then no signs of the beetles are seen, they'll provide replacements.

They'll return yet again in the fall to measure dispersal. We'll keep you posted!

What Plants Talk About

Dr. J.C. Cahill

Dr. Cahill appears to be the epicenter of a new scientific inquiry of plants and behavior. A summary of his talk, presented at the 34th Annual Conference of the Florida Native Plant Society in May of this year, can be read at:

www.thirteen.org/13pressroom/press-release/nature-season-31-what-plants-talk-about/

Dr. Cahill has a great sense of humor and if you ever get the chance to see him, be sure to do that. In the meantime, the full documentary can be accessed here:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=CrrSAC-vjG4

Unveiling the Peace Pole QR Codes

A short ceremony was held on Friday, June 13th. A box to hold the QR codes was placed next to the boardwalk in front of the Peace Pole (at the entrance of the Preserve).

In addition to the codes in English, Spanish, German and French is a permanent code on the box which explains the purpose of a Peace Pole and how Matanzas Pass intends to direct attention to this one.

A short mindfulness meditation focusing on openness and officially welcoming summer at the Preserve.

Our Current Preserve Beauties



Top: Scorpion Tail
Middle: Seaside Heliotrope
Bottom: Water Pimpernel

Wine Dinner Conversation

As our annual November Wine Dinner at the Mango Street Inn is already sold out, we couldn't resist calling Tree Andre, wine sommelier and owner of the inn along with her husband, chef and Councilman Dan Andre.

Why do you think the Wine Dinner is always so popular?

Tree:

When a \$125 a head fund-raising wine dinner sells out each year months before the event, an organization knows its doing something right!

As this year's Wine Dinner - scheduled for Saturday, November 1st at the Mango Street Inn - is once again already a full house. This year's theme is "Florida Fresh-Farm to Table. Chef Dan is busy working on course ideas, while I continue to research wineries and suppliers.

There is so much enthusiastic support from the volunteers already that this year is sure to be the best dinner ever.

It's a shame that there isn't enough space at the inn for all of the people who would like to attend. We're always open to new venue ideas. But then we have to ask ourselves can we maintain the same level of food quality and intimacy of the setting in a larger location? I suppose as problems go, this isn't a bad one to have.

A Big Thank You to the Fort Myers Beach Community Foundation

A generous grant of \$500 was given to our Earth Ed Children's Programs this year. This contribution will allow us to complete our preparations for the 4th grade program as well as help sponsor a bus. We are pleased to be able to offer such assistance to schools and this support from our community makes it happen. We are fortunate the Community Foundation has included the Friends of Matanzas Pass Preserve in their grant process for the last four years.

Welcome Summer Stockton!



Summer Stockton grew up on Fort Myers Beach since the age of five. A real estate agent for two years now, she describes herself as a hands on, hard working woman who relishes even laborious tasks. After taking the CRAB

Leadership class and

after consulting with a number of the wise souls who call Fort Myers Beach home, Summer decided to run for our Town Council and is now among its newest members.

Did we mention she runs half marathons as well? Clearly Summer loves a challenge.

With a heart for our island paradise, she's recently become a member of the Friends of Matanzas' Pass Preserve and can be found fighting invasive plants in the Preserve on the Friends' work days.

Welcome Summer Stockton!

Moving on Up



Kathy Loomis, who we introduced you to in the fall 2012 issue of The Mangrove when she became a Senior Supervisor with Lee County Parks and Recreation has moved on up. With Tim Eckert leaving the position to

become the North District Manager, Kathy is now the West District Manager for Lee County Parks and Recreation.

She'll oversee several parks, beach properties and recreation facilities, including Lynn Hall, Bowditch, Bunche, Crescent, Causeway Islands and the Punta Rassa Boat Ramp. Other areas include Lakes Park, Rutenberg, Wa-Ka Hatchee Park & Community Center.

Congratulations Kathy Loomis!

A New Column

While our member numbers remain intimate, the knowledge our members possess continues to grow and expand in numerous directions. In addition, there is indeed much of interest happening ecologically beyond the 60 acres that is Matanzas Pass Preserve. Your humble editors believe these happenings are worthy of both comment and opinion.

To that end, the fall issue of The Mangrove will see a new column, **Eco News Beyond the Preserve.**

If any of our members would like to contribute to this column or respond to what they read, they are invited to send your text to either:

editor@glily.com
drodwell@embarqmail.com

Also In Our Next Issue...

- Update on Moon Walks in the Preserve
- The unveiling of Earth Ed's new 4th grade program - Connection Inspection and Ed's Diary
- The latest On the Ground and Seeding Station news
- Farewell to John Kiseda and introduction to his replacement Mike Hammond
- Capital Campaign happenings
- Who and how changes to the Ethnobotany Walk

Stay Tuned!

Summer Schedule

Board Meetings at Bay Oaks

4:30 - 6:30 PM: 7/8, 8/12 & 9/9

Work Days in the Preserve

8:00 - 10:00 AM : 6/28, 7/12, 7/26, 8/9,

8/23, 9/6, 9/20

Important Note: Those who regularly attend work days will receive an email before the date. As Preserve work days can change, please email Jim Rodwell with any questions at:

jrodwell@embarqmail.com

Dates to Remember

Clean Up, 7/5

Grab a bag and walk the beach, your favorite Preserve or the neighborhood and pick up the litter of a good time had by all the night before.

The Gartner Group, 7/25

The Pea & Potato Adventure

International Coastal Clean Up, 9/20

Join in the yearly coastal clean up

Meditation Destination, 10/ 3-Fall

A new meditation offering at our Peace Pole

Monofilament Madness, 11/1

Collect harmful marine debris and monofilament

For more information on all the above (except Meditation Destination), visit Keep Lee County Beautiful at www.klcb.org.

Friends of Matanzas Pass Preserve

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