

The Mangrove

The Quarterly Newsletter of The Friends of Matanzas Pass Preserve

A WALK DOWN MEMORY LANE

MY THOUGHTS ON HOW THE PRESERVE PLAYED OUT IN ROXIE'S LIFE

by Betty Davis Simpson

Having known Roxie since our college days, as well as being "family" (sister-in-laws), I've had the opportunity through the years to enjoy seeing her versatility, her ability to make choices with profound impacts.

Foresight is a trait many are blessed with but few are able to put into action. Roxie used that foresight to the max when it came time for our community to take action regarding the Matanzas Pass Preserve. She was also extremely good at encouraging her friends to see her point of view on this particular subject.



Betty Davis Simpson, Larry Huston and Roxy Smith

It was sometime in the 70's when Lou Slack, the owner/editor of the Mad Shopper newspaper, started telling a group of us about a wonderful piece of undeveloped land...the land being part of the Martha Redd Estate and what we now know as Matanzas Pass Preserve. Rumor had it that the Conservancy did not want the responsibility of it and Lee County was not really interested in it. What to do?

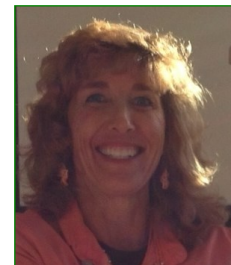
You can well imagine my friend and yours "convincing" a few of us..."let's raise some money and we'll care for that land".

The next thing I knew, we were sitting in the office of one of our Beach attorneys getting "Articles of Incorporation" drawn up and as the saying goes..."the rest is history".

The Mangrove is printed compliments
of Lee County Parks & Recreation

INTRODUCING KATHY LOOMIS, SENIOR SUPERVISOR WITH LEE COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION

Kathy Loomis has been employed with Lee County Parks & Recreation for 23 years and is now our new Senior Supervisor. She began her career as



a programmer at the North Fort Myers Senior Center, working with roughly 100 volunteers for six years and has worked in all the districts except the beaches.

Kathy has a Bachelors degree in Leisure Studies from Maryland's Salisbury State College. A Floridian for 31 years, she's raised three children and loves boating and fishing.

Currently Kathy is responsible for Bowditch Point Park, Bunche Beach Preserve, Causeway Islands, Crescent Beach Family Park, Lynn Hall Park, Main St. Parking, Punta Rassa Boat Ramp, **Matanzas Bridge**, Matanzas Pass Preserve, San Carlos Maritime and Wa-Ke Hatchee Park.

If you'd like to say hello, her office is located at Wa-Ka Hatchee Recreation Center at 16760 Bass Road. She can also be reached via email at Loomiska@leegov.com. Beginning in our fall issue, Kathy will begin writing The Mangrove's Rattlebox column.

Welcome Kathy!

Meet more of our County staff in the next issue. Be sure to say hello.



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Articles, pictures, and questions for inclusion in *The Mangrove* should be sent to our

P.O. Box 6561
Fort Myers Beach, FL
33931

or emailed to either:
drodwell@embarqmail.com or
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 and to create a legacy for future generations.



FIND US AT FACEBOOK

OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT:

friendsofmatanzaspaspreserve.org

NEED TO CONTACT US?

Call Dorothy Rodwell
at 851-7166

PROFESSOR MANGROVE'S CORNER

Dear Professor Mangrove,

I recently saw a tree trimming company cut down a ficus tree in the Preserve. There was a yellowish green, leafless vine coiled around the trees branches which the workers said was a Dodder Vine. What is Dodder Vine?

What you saw was Love Vine (*Cassytha filiformis*), not Dodder Vine. There are similarities between the two species but we know this is Love Vine because of its green vines. Dodder Vine has no green coloration.

During Love Vine's evolution, the species nearly lost all of its ability to photosynthesize. The leaves were reduced to tiny scales about one to two mm in length, giving Love Vine a limited ability to photosynthesize and produce some chlorophyll, yet not enough to survive. To survive as a species, it had to become a parasite.

Love Vine begins with a small seed germinating in the soil. A small, temporary root projects a small vine that seeks to attach itself to a wooded host plant such as a tree. If it fails to attach within 48 hours it will die. If it does attach, the root is broken and it begins to coil around small stems. As it coils, it sucks out vital nutrients by driving small nodes called haustorias through the host's epidermis and into the vascular system. The vine grows rapidly, driving more and more haustorias into the host until the host is covered with what looks like bails on hay.

In addition to sucking the life from the host, Love Vine infects it with a pathogen that eventually kills it. Once this vine catches hold, there is little if anything that can be done to save the host. The vine can be cut out but as long as the haustorias are attached, the species will continue to grow.

Dodder Vine, (*Cuscuta spp*), doesn't have the ability to photosynthesize. Accordingly, there is no chlorophyll to be found in its stems. The stems can be yellow, orange or red but never green. Another important difference is that Dodder Vine attaches to herbaceous plants like tomato plants or grass while Love Vine attacks wooded species like shrubs or trees. Love Vine climbs while Dodder Vine crawls.

Nine species of the genus *Cuscuta* are in Florida and most are native. Only one species, *filiformis*, belongs to the genus *Cassytha* and it is also native to Florida.



4TH ANNUAL WINE DINNER

Our 4th Annual Wine Dinner is to be held on November 9th at 6:00 p.m. at the Mango Street Inn. As in the past, Chef Dan Andre will prepare a 5-course gastronomic extravaganza featuring small plates from various regions around the world. Wine sommelier, Tree Andre, will again select wine for each course.

Last year's musicians, Darwin and Christina, have again graciously agreed to donate their talents for this year's event.

This is an outdoor event so dress accordingly. You are also encouraged to avoid wearing perfume, cologne or anything that might interfere with the aroma and taste of the wine.

The Wine Dinner is a popular event that has sold out the last three years. We recommend reserving your seat and purchasing your tickets as soon as possible. The cost is \$100 per person with all proceeds going to the Friends of Matanzas Pass Preserve.

This year we'll be seeking corporate sponsors to help offset the cost of the wine. Lahaina Realty has already generously agreed to be one of the sponsors. Please contact Jim Rodwell if you are interested or know someone who'd like to be a sponsor.

Lastly, we'll round out the dinner with a silent auction featuring many exciting items to bid on.

For reservations, call Jim Rodwell at 565-7437.

OUR BOARDWALK NOW HAS AN ADA COMPLIANT PATH

IT'S TIME TO USE IT!

Lee County Parks and Recreation has a facility dedicated to offering programs for special needs youths and adults. They've been notified of our recent ADA status in the hopes that some field trips will be designated for Matanzas Pass Preserve.

This center is the Karl J. Drews Community Center at 18412 Lee Road. Their offerings include Special Olympics., summer camp and, after school activities. To learn more, go to:

www.leeparks.org/facility-info/facility-details.cfm?Project_Num=0230

AT OUR PEACE POLE

MINDFULNESS SUMMER MEDITATION



Summer was welcomed on Friday, June 14th, from 9-10 a.m. at our Peace Pole. Generosity and openness were the mindful meditation topics and a walking meditation ended our quiet time together.

Join us and meditate on the peace within yourself and within the Preserve at our Fall

Meditation on Friday, September 20th, from 9-10 am.



VISIONS OF THE PAST

This event on April 13th honored five founders of the Friends of Matanzas Pass Preserve by naming preserve trails after them. The trails, marked by eco friendly post signs, are Smith Trail, Myers Trail, Alsop Trail, Davis Simpson Trail and Gressman Trail. What a splendid way to show our appreciation! Be sure to explore each trail and enjoy.



CLARITY

Conservation 20/20 is a program jointly overseen by the Lee County Division of County Lands and the Lee County Department of Parks & Recreation. Its mission statement reads: *To acquire properties of environmental significance, restore those lands to their natural state and condition, manage them in an environmentally acceptable manner and provide public recreational opportunities that are compatible with protecting the natural resources.*

There are four categories of Conservation 20/20 Preserves: Category 1 – Primary Use Preserve, Category 2 – Intermediate Use Preserve, Category 3 – Limited Use Preserve and Category 4 – Resource Protection and Restoration Preserve. Matanzas Pass Preserve is partially funded by Conservation 20/20 and is considered a Category 2 – Intermediate Use Preserve.

In 2006, two parcels adjacent to Matanzas Pass Preserve, totaling just over 1 acre were acquired by the Conservation 20/20 Program and added to the Preserve.

Category 2 Preserves must meet the following requirements:

1. Space for limited parking without degrading the preserve
2. Conducive to providing a trail system for more than one recreational use.

Additional passive, resource based recreational activities based on a Land Stewardship Plan include uses compatible with protecting the animal and plant communities found at the specific preserve. These may include:

- A primitive trail head
- Restrooms
- Frequent but not daily staff presence
- Occasional field trips and/or educational programs
- Interpretive signs
- Primitive trails
- Picnic tables and bike racks
- Daytime public hours only unless special arrangements are made

Other Category 2 Preserves are Hickory Swamp, Pine Island Flatwoods, Pop Ash Creek, Powell Creek and Yellow Fever Creek. More details about all the categories are available at <http://www.conservation2020.org/documents/publications/Conservation2020.pdf>.

DID YOU KNOW...

- The Audubon Magazine at our Fort Myers Beach Library is sponsored by the Friends of Matanzas Pass Preserve?
- All back issues of The Mangrove are on our website?
- Photos of our last Wine Dinner are on our website?
- A list of native plants in our Preserve and their images are on our website?
- The University of Georgia students have worked in the Preserve for three years in a row? And yes, you can see them on our website!
- There are photos and discussions happening on Facebook about the Preserve?

HAVE YOU VISITED LATELY!?

www.friendsofmatanzaspaspreserve.com

www.facebook.com/FOMPP

STOP ON BY!

WELCOME LILY!



We've received word from the USDA-ARS Invasive Plant Research Lab in Fort Lauderdale that new adult air potato beetles (*Liliocersis cheni*), known as Lily, are emerging daily and to be released on the west coast in the next few weeks! These first releases will determine the number of beetles needed to establish a new population. Starting populations of 10, 50 or 100 will be randomly assigned to each site.

The USDA is using this beetle as a bio control agent to combat the air potato vine, an invasive plant spreading throughout Florida and other parts of the United States. The beetle feeds on the leaves of Air Potato, limiting its growth. Photo by ARS.

One worry about any insect intentionally imported for biological control is, "Will this insect only eat the weed or will it damage other plants?" This question is thoroughly considered before a foreign species release. Studied for many years, the air potato beetle feeds only on Air Potato and cannot survive much further north than Florida. The USDA concluded the risk of this beetle becoming a pest as low.

We'll be taking before and after photos and are excited to see the results Lily will have in the Preserve. Hopefully Lily will eliminate some of the work day activity!

By Terry Cain

SEEDING STATION – LEGACY OAKS

A little more than two years ago the Lee County Board of Commissioners had to make a tough decision. The ancient live oak that stood in front of the County Courthouse since the Civil War was decaying and had become a public danger. The commissioners, with much regret, ordered the tree to be removed. Although a portion of the tree would be carved into an eagle, the tree was essentially gone.

Just prior to the tree being cut down, an employee from Lee County's Department of Transportation gathered as many of the tree's acorns as possible. As a result, about 200 saplings have been growing at the DOT nursery. A few months ago, it was decided the saplings were ready to leave the nursery. Most were sent to the Caloosahatchee Regional Park and a middle school in Cape Coral where they were planted by school children.

Fortunately, a few saplings were left. New life member, Vicki Little, heard about them, ran over to the nursery and got three of them. Vicki then donated the saplings to the Preserve. Presently, they're maturing in the Preserve's seeding station and are currently about three feet tall. They'll need at least another three feet before they can be safely planted in the Preserve. It has not yet been decided just where.

As all the saplings have been planted by school children, so perhaps can these. Just a thought!



MEMBER STATS (JUNE 2013)

Life - 30

Individual - 25

Business - 1

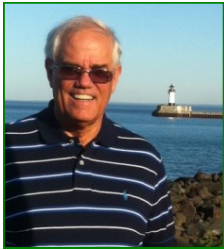
Organization - 2

**Welcome Vicki Little and Paul Yacobelli
as lifetime members!**

BUILDING COMMITTEE WORKS ON A CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

The Building Committee will continue to work on developing a packet of information for donors. The target for next season is to raise about \$10,000 for our building. Lee County Parks and Recreation has been positive toward all discussions about our plans!

GETTING TO KNOW PAT MCKEOWN



While you won't see him flying down Estero Blvd. on his bike as fast as you're likely to see some of the other Friends of Matanzas Pass Preserve, Pat McKeown does enjoy biking, fishing and reading.

A native Floridian whose parents for a year owned The Silver Sands Motel in 1946, Pat does spend a short part of each year in Athens, Georgia. But he lives here most of the year with his wife of 45 years, Carolyn.

Pat handles a large and most important job for the Friends. He created and continues to maintain our web site. He also manages our Facebook page. What would we do without him!?

Pat feels these tasks are easy. They are likely for him as they allow him to use the skills from his previous life as Professor and Department Head of Management Information Systems at the University of Georgia. These tasks are also a labor of love. Pat is committed to letting the world know of our Preserve's unique beauty and he feels he - and all the Friends - are performing a valuable service to the Fort Myers Beach community.

Again, the question begs asking: What would we do without him!?

FORT MYERS BEACH COMMUNITY FOUNDATION DOES IT AGAIN!

Many thanks to the Fort Myers Beach Community Foundation for their grant of \$500 for our Earth Ed Children's Program, Home Sweet Home and Magic Spots. Thanks to this generous gift we'll be able to provide transportation to those schools who would otherwise be unable to attend.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

- Membership campaigner with fund raising expertise to help increase our growth and activity abilities;
- Creative reporter with good writing skills for The Mangrove;
- Land Stewards able to physically work with clippers or shovels for two hours on Work Days in the Preserve;
- Seeding Station Caretaker - gardening activities;
- Event helpers for our Wine Dinner, Visions of the Past and the Shrimp Parade among others;
- Talk to guests about the Preserve and hand out brochures as a Friends of Matanzas Pass Preserve Outreach Ambassador;
- Presenter for our fully developed monthly Ethnobotany Program during season;
- Presenters with a teaching background for our 3rd grade Earth Education Children's Program held in October, November, March and April;
- Support position for our Earth Education Children's Program;
- Developers experienced in designing events for children

Can you help with any of the above? We'd love to have you join us! If you're interested or would like more information on any of the above positions.

ADOPT A TREE

**A gift for all occasions: Births & Birthdays,
Graduations, Anniversaries, Holidays,
Weddings, In Memory**



For a \$50 contribution, you can adopt a tree, for a year, in our 60-acre Preserve on behalf of yourself or any other designated recipient.

The contribution includes a certificate of adoption (including the name of the tree adopted as well as a one-year membership in the Friends of Matanzas Pass

Preserve) and a one-year subscription to The Mangrove, the Friend's quarterly newsletter. The balance of the contribution will specifically be used by the Friends for enhancement and restoration projects in the Preserve.

Trees available for adoption include Live Oak, Gumbo Limbo, Slash Pine, and Buttonwood.

**Fill out the application to the right
and send your \$50 check to:**

***Friends of Matanzas Pass Preserve
P. O. Box 6561
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931***

ADOPT A TREE APPLICATION

Your Information — Date _____

Name

Address

City, state, zip

Phone

E-mail

Recipient's Information

In memory of In honor of

Name

Occasion

Person to notify

Address

City, state, zip

Phone

E-mail

Check tree selected:

Live Oak Gumbo Limbo

Slash Pine Buttonwood

WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN US?

To join, complete this membership application and return along with your annual dues to:

Friends of Matanzas Pass Preserve, Inc.

P.O. Box 6561

Ft. Myers Beach, FL 33932

Name: _____

Mailing address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Please call me as I'd like to learn more about volunteer opportunities! I would possibly be interested in:

Education Preserve Workdays Special Events The Mangrove

Fundraising Friends Ambassador Adopt a Tree Program

Types of membership: Individual \$10/year _____ Life Membership \$100 _____

I'd like to donate an additional amount of: _____ Total amount enclosed: _____

HERE'S A PEEK AT OUR FALL SCHEDULE

Tuesdays: Friends Board Meeting at Bay Oaks, 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.: 8/13, 9/10,

Thursdays: Matanzas Mangrove Walk 9:30 – 11 a.m.—Walks resume in Nov.

4th Wednesdays: Ethnobotany Walk - 9:30 – 11 a.m.: Walks resume in Nov.

Saturday: Workdays in the Preserve – 8-10 a.m.— 7/13,7/27,8/10,8/24,9/7,9/21

Important Note: As Preserve work-days can change, please call Pat Gano at 745-5970 or check www.friendsofmatanzaspreserve.org to be sure a particular date has not been rescheduled.

MEDITATION DESTINATION

**New offerings to celebrate each season with meditation at our Peace Pole!
Friday at 9-10 a.m.**

**Fall Peace Pole Meditation September 20, 2013
Winter Peace Pole Meditation December 20, 2013**

SPECIAL DATES & EVENTS OF INTEREST

July 5—Beach Clean Up—Contact Terry Cain at 707-3015.

September 21—International Coastal Clean Up—Contact Terry Cain at 707-3015.

(<http://www.oceanconservancy.org/our-work/international-coastal-cleanup/>)

September 21—International Day of Peace (<http://www.internationaldayofpeace.org/>)

Have a good Summer!!!!

FRIENDS OF MATANZAS PASS PRESERVE

PO Box 6561

Fort Myers Beach, Florida 33931