

THE COONTIE CRIER

Newsletter of The Broward Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society
Dedicated to the promotion and preservation of Native Plants!

Coontie.org & NPSBroward.org
GoNative@NPSBroward.org

December 2012



COONTIE CHAPTER MEETING & SPEAKER

Wednesday, Dec 12th (2nd Wed.)

Secret Woods Nature Center

2701 W. State Rd. 84, Dania Beach, FL

7:00p – 7:30p

Meet and Greet

7:30p – 8:30p

Elizabeth Golden, Naturalist

"Imperiled Plant Species of Cape Florida"

During restoration it was said that over 300 species of restored native plants represented five plant communities. About 135 species of birds used Cape Florida, with 12 known to nest there. Twenty-seven species of butterfly, six native species of mammal, and 16 native species of reptiles and amphibians called Cape Florida home. Fifty-two animal species were threatened or endangered, including the American crocodile, taking up residence in the mangroves. *From the American Littoral Society*

President: Richard Brownscombe

Vice Pres: Mariana Yi

Secretary & Treasurer: Kay Taylor

Director & Program Coordinator: Eddie Yi

Director & Webmaster: Pete Taylor



Field Trip: Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park

SUNDAY MORNING, Dec 16th

Join us for a wonderful walk through the wildflowers, shrubs and trees of this historic restoration learning the story from the park naturalist.

Restoration of Cape Florida: The Value of Volunteers

There is a rich history here as the park contains one of the oldest standing South Florida landmarks, the Cape Florida Lighthouse, built in 1825. In the 1950's, a proposed development got underway here, and much of the natural ground was filled. The result of this disturbance was a total infestation by Australian pine (*Casuarina equisetifolia*), which will be well remembered by people who had visited the park prior to Hurricane Andrew. Following Andrew in 1992, a comprehensive ecological restoration effort was undertaken with the help of thousands of volunteers who restored the park's historic native plant communities. The cooperative effort between Florida Parks and the American Littoral Society spent untold money and man-hours to clear the downed exotic trees, restore former wetlands, control invasive exotic plants, and replant lost habitats, including coastal strand, coastal hardwood hammock, isolated freshwater wetlands, mangrove swamps, dune and back-dune communities. Other restorative efforts by the park have included the installation of dune boardwalks, fishing platforms and the restoration of the Cape Florida Lighthouse in 1996. It cannot be underscored enough the role volunteers played in supporting the park in these goals. The Institute for Regional Conservation conducted training workshops for volunteers participating in a comprehensive ecological restoration project at Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park in Miami-Dade County, Florida under a \$2,000 contract with American Littoral Society, Senior Ecological Restorationist, George D. Gann.

What's Happening at the Secret Woods?

Eco Action Workday, Saturday Dec 8, 9am: Help the environment by volunteering to clear natural areas of garbage and invasive plants.

Delightful Flight, Sunday, Dec 9, noon: Get an up-close look at some of Florida's butterflies and learn about gardening for these delightful insects. \$1.50/person

Propagation Lecture: Grafting, Sunday, Dec 9, 2pm: This series of propagation classes features hands-on instruction and demonstration of grafting techniques. \$5/ person and Preregistration 954-357-8884

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November 2012



COONTIE CHAPTER MEETING & SPEAKER

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7:00p – 7:30p Meet and Greet

7:30p – 8:30p Roger L. Hammer

"Florida's Endangered Wildflowers"

Roger L. Hammer is a native Floridian, professional naturalist, and author of the *Everglades Wildflowers* field guide. He received the Marjorie Stoneman Douglas Award for "outstanding, consistent, and constant service in the areas of education, research, promotion, and preservation of native plants."

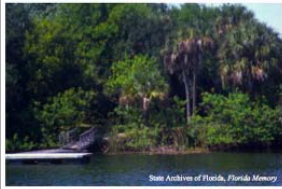
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State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory

A view of Snyder Park in Fort Lauderdale
3299 SW 4th Ave Fort Lauderdale, FL 33315
another urban oasis important to coastal plants & wildlife

Chapter President: Thoughts

My house is less than two miles from downtown Fort Lauderdale in the neighborhood of Riverside Park between the branch of the North and South fork of the New River. I've chosen an urban life. My brother lives in the deep forests of Oregon. I am so grateful for our field trips into wild and natural areas. Some important part of my spirit seems to live there.

After Sandy's mild rain and windstorm I was in the backyard to net the many leaves from the bottom of the pool. My house is under four large live oaks and a slash pine, even on my tiny urban lot. My neighbor's slash pine was silhouetted against blue sky and I took a deep sigh in the beauty of that magnificent pine. Suddenly, a large raptor with a fish, swooped low in a wide arc. The fish was perhaps 16 inches with some blood. Instantly, I was in wild south Florida ... me, nature, an awesome moment.

We have such an important job to care for the remaining wild and natural lands in Broward and to restore urban pockets for native plants and wildlife. Obviously, we have gone too far, too fast, too big with development in coastal Broward with too little conservation. Go to our website, coontie.org, to the "Plants" tab, and click on the "County Map Overview". The bright colors are the protected State, County, city and private lands in Broward. They are just little bright dots here and there.

One day we will be more proud of our great western two-thirds of wildlife management land. Right now it is hard for the public to see and access this swamp in a quiet or serene way. But there is hope. Click on the "Broward Greenway Plan" and note Conservation Levee #6. We will make that one of our field trips. And there



Kathy Carlson/MSU/NOCS/ENR

Replace Newsletter with Email News?

When I was a kid going to college I subscribed to a small newspaper mostly for world news. I liked that they explained some of the history and background that put the current events in context. Because the world went digital, this newspaper later offered an online newsletter. You clicked and it downloaded a PDF version, much as we do for the Coontie Crier. Then they started putting content right in the email, and if you were interested enough, some of the articles clicked to the website for more text and photos. That's what I think we need to do. Abandon the Coontie Crier as a newsletter, put brief content in email and perhaps more in-depth content on our website at coontie.org. What made me think of this were our reports on how many people open our emails: 1 out of 3, and how many opened the newsletter link: just 1 out of 32 of those who opened the email. About the same number, 1 out of 30, clicked on the link for a map to the Secret Woods. Putting content behind a link drastically reduces the people who see it. People are busy and get too much email. They don't spend a lot of time looking or linking unless they are the 1 in 32 who is particularly interested. Perhaps we should

also consider the history that a newsletter creates. But blogs (the website content) feature current issues and interests and create a history for those who want to look back. Let us know your thoughts.

Dade Chapter Workday, Everglades National Park, Saturday, December 15, 9am -noon. Help the Dade chapter enhance the [Coe Visitor Center](#) entrance. This is the important pre-tourist season workday. Weed and prune as we enjoy the beautiful weather. Water provided; bring snacks to share if you care to. Gloves and hand tools are available but you may prefer to use your own. New helpers are welcome and encouraged to come. Everyone in your car gets into ENP free after the workday. Contact Patty 305-255-6404, pphares@mindspring.com if you have questions (305-878-5705 cell, for the morning of the workday only).

Look Forward to our upcoming speakers; tell your friends & neighbors; meet at the Secret Woods:

Wed, Dec 12: Elizabeth Golden, **"Imperiled Plant Species of Cape Florida"** & Sunday, Dec 16 hike the park

Jan 9, 2013: Michele Williams, **"Native American Medicinal Plants"**

Feb 13: Steve Woodmansee, **"Creating an Ecologically and Sociologically Sustainable Landscape"**

Mar 13: Chuck McCartney has special interest in the native orchids & other wildflowers of South Florida (TBA)



These Photos from our hike in Big Cypress off Tamiami Trail at Monument Lake with Chuck McCartney

