

Dear Members and Friends of the BCBC,

Come and join us for a pleasant, informative evening on **Thursday, May 14th** to hear our own member, **Lu Weber, speaking on "Plant Propagation"**. With everyone's budget tight right now, this would be a terrific way to get more plants for your garden with a little bit of effort. Everyone was so pleased with Lu's last presentation, that we requested she speak again. Please join us for refreshments at 6:30 and check out the plants available for our raffle; the meeting will begin at 7:00. For those who don't know, we meet at the Broward County Extension Office at 3245 College Avenue opposite the FAU entrance, just north of the Broward College entrance. Meetings are free and open to the public.

A warm welcome to new member Page Thomas who joined last month. Our membership is approaching the 50 mark!! We certainly are thriving!!

Set aside some time and check out the new format at [www.naba.org](http://www.naba.org) as it recently has been revamped. Also, Jane Hurwitz, NABA Director of Office Administration, contacted us to let us know of some new features on the [www.nababutterfly.com](http://www.nababutterfly.com) site. There have been some new additions to the butterfly gardening information guide and Jane is requesting our readership to reply with their experiences on the Pipevine Swallowtail and its host plants. Another new addition is entitled "What's Happening in Butterfly Gardens Right Now?" This will be a weekly feature with photo submissions open to NABA members and/or NABA certified butterfly gardeners. Jane hopes that some south Florida members will want to submit their photos, so please check out the submission policies. I was impressed (and a little envious, wanting to get a bigger yard!) with some of the gardens already posted.

**A BIG THANK YOU** to Sandy Fernandes who handed out our materials on April 19th at Secret Woods' "Bountiful Butterflies" event.

Special Recognition to Art who was featured in two articles in the Miami Herald for his rain barrels. Way to Go Art!!

**ANOTHER BIG THANK YOU** to Bonnie O'Leary and Nancy Johns. We appreciate the time these members put in by recently representing our chapter at two middle school events sponsored by the Broward County's Office of Environmental Protection and Growth Management Department which are run like mini-Water Matters Day events.

The next two **plant give-aways** are scheduled for the schools below from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm and are open to all residents of the county. This is a good opportunity to add some native plants/trees to your yard: firebush, wild coffee, dahoon holly, thatch palms, simpson stoppers, etc. Come by and say hi if you attend.

May 9 - Driftwood Middle, 2751 N 70 Terrace, Hollywood, FL 33024

May 16 - Pioneer Middle, 5350 SW 90 Ave, Cooper City, FL 3332

Bring in your donations for our Garage Sale Fundraiser in June: Betty, Sandy, and Nancy volunteered to spear head this venture; please start saving your donations for this event. You are welcome to bring items to our meeting and we will store them until the sale.

Request for a Plant ID walk: suggestion to have it at Alexander's Nursery on Flamingo Road on a Saturday and Brian can provide info on the native host and larval plants he has for sale. Barb suggests that we support our Broward County Native Plant Nurseries so that they can remain in business. Will announce the date when plans have been finalized.

### **Announcements:**

Plant Raffle at the conclusion of our meeting: Tickets are \$1 for one or 6 for \$5.00. Sharing your native nectar and host plants is always welcome.

We are still collecting ink cartridges, etc. so please give them to Nancy, who is expecting to receive a nice amount of money soon. Thanks to those of you who have donated in the past.

Florida Native Plant Society's Conference May 21-5/24 in West Palm Beach; more at [www.fnps.org](http://www.fnps.org)

September 25 - 27, NABA Florida/Regional Meeting, River Ranch Resort (20 miles west of Yeehaw Junction) - Our second statewide gathering (remember Gainesville meeting two years ago). Envision--Liatris in full bloom...fields and fields of wildflowers and butterflies at Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park (whether they are open or closed, we'll have access), Sue Arnold's Butterfly Haven; Bull Creek Wildlife Management Area; also possibly Bok Tower Gardens; Highlands Hammock State Park...these are a few places we are thinking about for field trips. Planning is underway. Register soon through national NABA.

### **Mark your calendar for the following events:**

#### **4th of July Butterfly Count dates:**

- \* Summer South Count Sunday June 14th: Tree Tops Park and Long Key Natural
- \* Summer North Count, Saturday, July 25th: Birch State Park, Crystal Lake and Hillsboro

July 25-26th Butterfly Days at Fairchild Gardens sponsored with the Miami Blue Chapter

If you have any interest to check out the nature scene on our state's west coast, this is the reply from Sandy Koi to my request as to what is available for folks to do in Manatee County: Wow...15 Preserves, most with kayak/canoe trails, all with hiking trails, some with biking trails. Emerson and Robinson are most popular; Robinson has salterns and glasswort (maybe the Eastern Pygmy Blue will show up one day!).

Both have lots of butterflies and birds on warm days. Rye Preserve is a big old oak hammock and Duette is a scrub prairie and oak hammock. Both Rye and Duette have scrub jays, indigo snakes, gopher tortoises.

Visit [www.mymanatee.org](http://www.mymanatee.org) ; click on Departments, go to Natural Resources. There will be a page with the most popular Preserves listed; click on each one for what/where. Unfortunately I don't think that the web pages can't be gotten directly, because it would be easier for people if I could just send you a link for the page instead of the county website!

*Also if anyone wants a free paddle guide, email me at work and I'll send it:  
[Sandy.Koi@mymanatee.org](mailto:Sandy.Koi@mymanatee.org)*

Hope that you can join us for the meeting on the 14th!

Sincerely,

Janice  
[cycad49@aol.com](mailto:cycad49@aol.com)

p.s. The info below is from County Commissioner Kristin Jacobs; please consider taking a few minutes to protect what is ours!

Hello Everyone!

State Senator Dave Aronberg has successfully placed language in a Senate bill that would effectively stop the sale of Alligator Alley! With the help of State Senator Carey Baker, SB 582 was amended to include language that would require the full Florida Legislature to approve Public Private Partnerships for existing roadways and expressways. This bill has great support in the Senate, but now it is on the shoulders of the Florida House to see this through.

**WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!!**

- 1) Call in and write to all your local news outlets and make sure the word gets out.
- 2) Call your local members of the Florida House and tell them to support Sen. Baker's bill, SB 582. Find your legislator and their information at <http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Representatives/representatives.aspx>
- 3) Send Sen. Baker a note thanking him for standing up and stopping the sale of roads Floridians have bought and paid for: [Baker.carey.web@flsenate.gov](mailto:Baker.carey.web@flsenate.gov)

With the due date for submission of proposals to lease Alligator Alley just a few weeks away, this may be the last chance to stop the privatization of our public roads. Please take action today!