**PLANT OF THE MONTH**

**Mulberry, Red**
**mulberry**  
*(Morus rubra)*

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**MONTHLY MEETING**

**Tuesday Jan 9, 2018**

**”Swallowtails of South Florida” by Kelli Whitney, Naturalist, Long Key Nature Center**

Meeting: Social time 6:30pm, Meeting 6:50-8:30pm

Chapter meetings at the Extension Office 3245 College Ave Davie FL 33314—954-357-5270

**FACEBOOK PAGE** https://www.facebook.com/Broward-County-Butterfly-Chapter-1050990654972867/

Broward CountyButterflies.org
Nature's Colorful Blooms

The Sawgrass Nature Center, SNC, is a private non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. The nature center is a place where children and adults of all ages can come to observe birds, mammals, reptiles and native plants and learn to appreciate the beauty of South Florida. Allen Rose, born in Mombasa, Kenya, former photographer and Kenyan Safari Guide has been the Executive Director of the Sawgrass Nature Center for some years, assuming that position after the Founder Joan Kohl.

He was one of the start-up team members of Sports Authority but his passion for wildlife and youth education remained his priority. Rose has brought all his prior knowledge working with school children in Costa Rica, teaching them about the rainforest, as well as working with inner city youngsters experiencing the Florida Keys in order to foster ongoing environmental programs at SNC. The impact on these young minds is evident. Some youth, a product of these programs, have pursued marine biology careers or have returned to the Center to work as volunteers.

The SNC works with the local middle schools in Coral Springs to engage students in field trips at the center or invite them to participate in Camp Wind, a summer classroom program. Robin Reccasina is the Director of the programs. The hospital cares for injured animals and rehabilitates them for release. A home is provided for them if the animals cannot return to the wild. Donna Fyfe has been the hospital’s director since the time of the center’s inception.

The SNC is open Tue to Fri 9-5pm, Sat, Sun 10-3pm. Closed Monday. Location: 3000 Sportsplex Dr. Coral Springs, FL 33065. Ph: 954.752.9435; www.sawgrassnature.org.

Meeting Place. We meet at the Broward Agricultural Extension Office. If you can volunteer to answer phones or do the Fri maintenance landscape, call them: 954-357-6270 (8-4pm)

Directions to the Extension, 595 East to Ft. Lauderdale. Take exit 595 East to University Dr. Take the 2nd right onto Nova Dr. At the 1st light turn right onto College Ave. Take the 2nd light turn left onto Davie Rd. Turn right onto Nova Dr. Turn left onto Nova Dr. Take the 2nd light turn right onto University Dr. Take the 2nd light turn right onto College Ave. Take the 2nd light turn left onto Davie Rd. At the 2nd light turn right onto Nova Dr. Take the 1st light turn left onto College Ave. Take the 2nd light turn left onto Davie Rd.

The SNC is the first building on your right facing College Ave. The one story bldg. is opposite FAU campus, Davie. UF/IFAS are located behind the building.

Mona’s garden joys

Here are some of my favorite Johnston Garden pictures. My gorgeous atrium was just full of blossoming orchids this year. Next is what I call my Clyde Butcher (CB) Tree - a desert Cassia just full of native bromeliads and orchids. I call it that because it reminds me of his splendid photos of the Everglades. He is the Ansel Adams of Florida! And of course my lovely Zebra Longwings (our State Butterfly) who love to gather at night to sleep together. This was right out front on the CB Tree! They came every night for a month! So special. And last but not least, one of our little sweat bees. I don’t remember what flower this is; just one of many pretty blooms in the Garden! There are always joyful sights for mb. Photos MonaJohnson

Mulberries For the Backyard

Red mulberry (Morus rubra), is a native, deciduous tree, found in moist soils from South Florida to west Texas. Also called American Mulberry, this tree grows to heights of 40 feet tall with the tree growing taller in the northern parts of its range. The pollen from male trees is extremely allergenic while female trees cause few to no allergies. These trees produce reddish or black fruits that are considered to be good quality which have been enjoyed by people in North America for centuries. On expedition in the mid-1600s De Soto observed Muskogee Indians eating dried mulberry fruits. Over winter the Iroquois mashed, dried, and stored the fruit to later add to water, making warm sauces that were occasionally mixed into cornbread. Cherokee made sweet dumplings by mixing cornbread and sugar with mulberries. The Timucua people of northeast Florida used the fruit, along with the tree’s leaves and twigs, to make dyes, and the Seminoles used the branches to make bows. The fruit is favored by birds; the trees grow fairly quickly and are able to provide you with shade and fruit relatively soon after planting.

http://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/plants/trees-and-shrubs/trees/mulberry.html