



Life and Environmental Sciences Minutes June 8, 2005
Selby Gardens

Welcome and introductions were made by Ken Shelin. Roger Brikel, Executive Director of Selby Gardens welcomed the group and spoke about Selby and their programs.

Diane Andrews gave an update on the EDC. A flyer for ED ROCKS 05 was distributed. Relocation inquiries and business expansions continue to keep staff busy. The Cluster funding proposals have been completed and the Cluster Support Committee will meet next week to start the reviewing process.

Jodi John spoke about Efest (held on May 27-28 at Van Wezel) and that they thought 6,000 people attended; there were over 100 exhibits and 18 hands on activities. They were very pleased with the response for their first year.

Ken Shelin introduced speaker Ed Rosenthal CEO and President of Florikan ESA (environmentally sustainable agriculture). In 1982 the vision was to introduce to Florida agriculture an ESA method of production. He now has 60 employees producing 160 formulas of blended fertilizer of various staged nutrients based on one principle of finding more efficient methods to fertilizer plants or crops with staged nutrient release. The goal was to develop an efficient and cost effective product which would minimize fertilizer inputs therefore reducing the potential for nutrient run off. He also spoke about pesticides and in particular one that he asked the group to write the EPA sating our concern of the use of the coated slow release Acephate as a pesticide used in horticulture. The concern is based on the findings in a Risk Assessment conducted by the EPA. The group had many questions and comments for Mr. Rosenthal and enjoyed his insightful and thought provoking presentation.

Sub Group Reports:

Healthy Sarasota

The report was given by Laura Morton. The committee is meeting in June and will give a more in depth report next meeting. Laura is earnestly speaking with Rocky Mountain Institute for a template for this workshop.

Center for Ecological Assessment

This group has e-mailed a "save the date" to participants from all of the Tampa Bay Region (7 counties) for "Seeing the Big Picture" symposium to be held at Mote Marine on September 14-16, 2005. For more detailed information click here: [Center for Ecological Assessment](http://www.inayat.org/CEA/CEAconference.htm) or <http://www.inayat.org/CEA/CEAconference.htm>

CRO

Ken Shelin gave the update that a market feasibility study company was being interviewed on June 9th at the EDC office. They hope a contract will be signed and that the study will be conducted over a six week period and then a report submitted to the CRO group.

Biological Field Station

This subgroup is moving along with Meg Lowman as the Chairman. A meeting has been set for September 29-30, 2005 to look at possible sites for the Station.

Aquaculture/Horticulture

Sub Group's Co-Chair Robert Kluson reported that they have put in a funding proposal for 2005 EDC funds for seed money for a pilot project. Their goal is to develop and sustain integrated aquaculture and agricultural farming practices for Sarasota County.

EDC staff reported on the new Biomimicry committee and that they are asking for EDC funds for a workshop and to support a biomimicry demonstration project between scientists and manufacturing in Sarasota County.

The next Life and Environmental Sciences meeting will be Wednesday August 17, 2005 from 9:00-11:00 am. Location TBD