Did you know...

…the seagrape tree (*Coccoloba uvifera*), on the Bay Colony Club property, is in the buckwheat family? (buckwheat is not related to wheat because it is not a grass. It is a pseudocereal cultivated for its seeds).

**History**

The first botanical name of the seagrape was assigned in 1696 by Sir Hans Sloane (1660-1753) who called it *Prunus maritima racemosa*. The name became *Coccoloba uvifera* in the second edition of botanist Carl Linnaeus’ book called *Species Plantarum* (Latin for “The Species of Plants” originally published in 1753), which lists every species of plant known at the time, classified into genera. It is the first work to consistently apply binomial names and was the starting point for the naming of plants.

**Characteristics**

The seagrape tree is wind resistant and is highly tolerant of salt. Landscapers use the tree to stabilize beach edges. The fruit is tasty and can be used for jam or eaten from the tree. The tree cannot survive a frost below -2 Celsius (28.4 Fahrenheit).

*Coccoloba uvifera* is a dioecious species; that is, male and female flowers are borne on separate plants, and cross-pollination is necessary for fruit to develop. Honey bees and other insects help pollinate these plants; male and female plants can be distinguished by the appearance of their flowers, as males usually show dead flower stalks.

**Web Site (and E-Group)**

For more details about wildlife on the Bay Colony Club property (as well as Fern Forest and Anne Kolb Nature Centers), see:

http://southfloridawildlife.weebly.com