

2013 Moonlight on the Marsh Lecture

sponsored by
Everglades Wetland Research Park
Florida Gulf Coast University



Thursday, February 21, 2013 7 PM
Kapnick Center, Naples Botanical Garden,
4940 Bayshore Drive,
Naples, FL 34112

Florida's endangered mangroves and their protection and restoration as a lesson for mangrove management around the world



Roy R. "Robin" Lewis III, M.A., P.W.S.,
President, Lewis Environmental Services, Inc., Tampa, Florida
President, Coastal Resources Group, Inc., Salt Springs, Florida

Summary

Scientists in Florida have led the world in both historical research to understand the ecological functions of mangroves, and development and implementation of management plans to prevent destruction and loss. Names such as Lugo, Snedaker, Odum and Heald are found on all the original published research done largely in Florida and the Caribbean. Florida scientists are still called upon to provide lessons on such subjects as "Ecological Mangrove Restoration" (EMR) worldwide. That is the GOOD NEWS. The BAD NEWS is that most of that research is now largely being ignored by State of Florida coastal managers, leaving the 93% of Florida's 588,434 acres of mangroves in public ownership subject to potential "heart attacks" from poorly managed ecohydrology resulting from historical land use changes, and wasted public funds on piece-meal and often failed restoration projects.

We have the potential to move into a new era of GOOD NEWS again for Florida's mangroves with EMR education centered around Florida Gulf Coast University and the Everglades Wetland Research Park utilizing case studies on successful management and restoration within the Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve. As usual, money is needed to make these efforts work. A plea for support of these issues will be made with supporting science on how to prevent mangrove ecosystem "heart attacks."

Biography

Roy R. "Robin" Lewis III is a Certified Professional Wetland Scientist and president of both Lewis Environmental Services, Inc., and Coastal Resources Group, Inc., a 501(c)3 non-for-profit education and research organization, both are based in Tampa and Salt Springs, Florida. WWW.MANGROVERESTORATION.COM, WWW.MARCOMANGROVES.COM He has published more than 125 scientific publications on mangrove forest and seagrass meadow ecology, management and restoration, and has designed and constructed more than 200 wetland restoration projects around the world. Mr. Lewis has been a consultant on wetland issues in 21 countries around the world, most recently working for the European Union in Guyana in South America. He and Bill Mitsch have taught their short course for professional wetland managers entitled "Wetland Creation and Restoration" in Columbus Ohio and now in Naples Florida annually since 1986.

