

## Second Half of 2017 Education Garden Workshop Series

*By Kris Morton, EGWS Chair*

February 16, 2017 brings Joel Toledo, owner of Green Door Nursery on Bayshore Drive, to talk on "Simply Succulents." Joel is a graduate of University of South Florida and he uses his degree in Environmental Science and Policy with a minor in Wetlands Restoration to encourage and help his customers. "For the forgetful gardener - a fool proof approach."



On February 23, 2017 Dr. Doug "Dougbug" Caldwell from the Collier County Extension, will present "Alternative Ground Covers for Your Yard." Doug has been a landscape entomologist with over 20 years experience with nation-wide landscape maintenance companies. He has his BS and MS in Entomology from Purdue University and his Ph.D. in Entomology from the University of Missouri. He is also a Certified Arborist and a Florida Certified Horticultural Professional. Doug has been with the UF/IFAS Extension since January 2001 as the Commercial Landscape Horticulture Educator in Collier County.

Paradise here in SW Florida is made even more beautiful by our wonderful palm trees. On March 2, 2017 University of Florida palm expert Dr. Monica Elliott will discuss "Unique Palms and How They Grow." Dr. Elliott received MS and Ph.D. degrees in Plant Pathology from Montana State University and a JD from Nova Southeastern University. She has been with the University of Florida since 1987 and is currently a professor in the Plant Pathology Dept. at Ft. Lauderdale Research and Education Center. She is author and senior editor of many palm books and numerous EDIS documents on palm diseases. She will show us how to grow and maintain these tropical treasures.

One of our most popular speakers will return to speak on one of our most requested topics.

On March 9, 2017 Dennis Cathcart's topic is "You Asked-Bromeliads, Bromeliads, Bromeliads!" Dennis is an internationally recognized bromeliad collector, grower and speaker, and he and his wife Linda own and operate Tropiflora. Established in 1976, it is one of the largest collector-oriented plant nurseries in the United States. Dennis and Linda travel the world collecting, studying, photographing, writing and speaking about exotic plants. Dennis will introduce bromeliads to us and provide beneficial growing information to all bromeliad lovers.

Our Educational Garden Workshop Series wraps up with our Garden Tour on March 16, 2017. The tour is for Series Card Holders Only. We will be touring an extensive, privately owned garden in Naples.

The 2017 Educational Garden Workshop Series is from 10 am to 11:30 am on Thursdays thru March 16, 2017, at Unity of Naples, 2000 Unity Way, Naples, FL, off of Davis Blvd., between Santa Barbara Blvd. and County Barn Road. It is open to the public with an attendance fee of \$10 per session, \$30 for the Series. No reservation is required. Visit the Collier County Extension website at <http://collier.ifas.ufl.edu> for more information.