



Sea Rocket



Newsletter of the North / Central Brevard County Sea Rocket Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society

September 2007

The Florida Native Plant Society was organized in 1980 to promote the preservation, conservation and restoration of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida, primarily through education.

**Sea Rocket Meeting—Wednesday, September 26, 2007, 7:00 PM
Worm Composting by Bernie from *Our Vital Earth* in Sanford, FL.**

Worm composting, or vermiculture, has been around a long time. Mary Appelhof had popularized this activity with her easy how-to book, *Worms Eat My Garbage*, for the past couple of decades. She passed away in 2005 and now has many competitors in vermiculture. Mary taught that by making a bin from wood or plastic, drilling holes for air, filling the bin 3/4 full of moist bedding (shredded newspaper, leaves, straw) and adding 1 lb of food waste per day (vegetables and fruit, but no citrus, dairy or meat) and 2 lbs of red wiggler worms, one can have composted soil in 2 -3 months. Worm composting is very popular in many countries, and fancy worm bins have become a new business trade. Bins can be kept inside or outside. Many classrooms have worm bins to study. The benefits of the worm castings and worm tea on a garden are almost miraculous. Bernie will discuss the pitfalls and strengths of vermiculture. *Our Vital Earth* sells many products such as worms, worm tea, worm bins, worm castings, formula mix, and more. Visit www.ourvitalearth.com.

**Sea Rocket Meeting—Wednesday, October 24, 2007, 7:00 pm
Green Roof Technology with Dr. Jay Garland**

In the quest to design more energy efficient buildings, green roof technology is on its way to becoming a popular alternative to conventional roofs. Benefits include lower energy costs and increased control and management over storm water run-off. Living roofs outlast conventional roofs by 2-3 times and reduce heat and noise levels within the structure. Examples of green roof technology include Boston General Hospital with its 6500 square foot "Healing Garden", California Academy of Science in San Francisco with a 2.5 acre rolling garden, and the Fairmont Hotel in Vancouver with a food garden roof. Germany currently has 20% of its buildings roofed with living gardens.

Dr. Jay Garland is the Chief Scientist/ Biological Programs Manager for Dynamac Corporation at Kennedy Space Center. He oversees research associated with the protection of the sensitive environment surrounding the space center and the potential use of biological systems for environmentally sustainable water and nutrient recycling. He has completed research fellowships in Japan, Buenos Aires, and Innsbruck. Dr. Garland has authored over 60 scientific papers and works with Dr Paul Schmalzer! We hope to tie this lecture with a field trip to the UCF green roof project...look for details in the October newsletter.



Remember the *Question of the Month*?



Submit your questions...

surely we don't know everything yet!

Send questions to Shari Blissett Clark: jclark109@cfl.rr.com, or call 264-5185.

Field Trip—Saturday, October 20, 2007 from 9:00am to 12:00pm
Buck Lake Wildlife Management Area

This conservation area is a jointly managed project of the St. Johns River Water Management District and the Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands Program. Habitats include scrub, flatwoods, hammocks and marshes. Prescribed burning and scrub restoration have been conducted since it's acquisition in 1996.

Directions: I-95 to St. Rt. 46 (Exit 223). West on SR 46 1.2 miles. Preserve entrance is on the north side of SR 46. It is a gravel road called Blake Lee Trail. There is a sign marking the conservation area entrance and the mail box is marked 5060. Drive north on the gravel road for 0.3 miles and park in the grass area to the left of the gate.

Be sure to bring your hat, sunscreen, water, and insect repellent!



Field Trip—Saturday November 3, 2007 from 9:00am to 12:00pm
Maritime Hammock

Maritime Hammock Sanctuary is a joint acquisition of the Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands Program and the State of Florida, acquired between 1992 to 2002; it also includes lands donated by the Richard K. Mellon Foundation. It is located in the South Beaches region of the barrier island west of A1A. Vegetation includes coastal strand, maritime hammock, hydric hammock, and mangrove forest.



Laurel Wilt Disease is affecting the red bays (*Persea borbonia*) on this site. Part of the field trip will be looking at the initial impacts of this new disease, caused by an introduced insect and fungus.

Directions: I-95 to US-192 (Melbourne Cswy). East on US 192 to A1A. Travel south 10.3 miles on A1A. There are two trailheads on the west side of A1A. One trailhead is north of the Mark's Landing development, and the other is a few hundred yards to the south. Park at the north trailhead.

Be sure to bring your hat, sunscreen, water, and insect repellent!



SHOP ONLINE AND RAISE FUNDS FOR FNPS

The next time you shop online for books, movies, music, electronics, housewares, gifts or any other item, check out Giveline.com.

Giveline.com is an online store created for the community-minded shopper. When you purchase an item, a portion of your purchase (an average of 16%) will be donated to FNPS!

You may review the store by clicking on the following link:

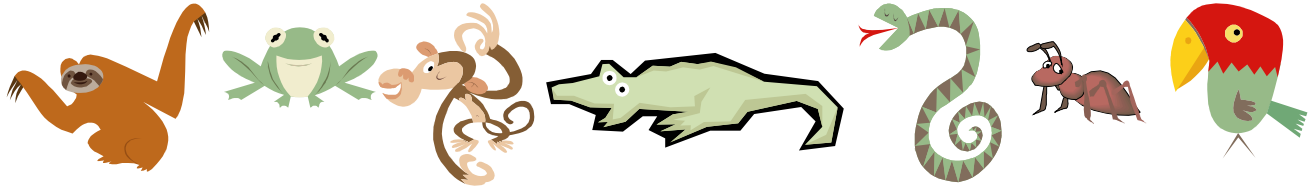
<http://www.giveline.com/default.asp?v=V022626901>

(This is a special link that notifies the Giveline company to record your purchase for FNPS)

FNPS is placing this fund-raising system on trial for six months in order to get feedback from members. If you use the service please report good or bad experiences to Karina Veaudry at 407-895-8446, or executivedirector@fnps.org. Karina will give a status report of this shopping service in six months

Make your on-line purchases work for the Society!

FNPS AMAZON JUNGLE SAFARI - OCTOBER 19-28, 2007



Join fellow members of the Florida Native Plant Society on a natural history tour. This rainforest adventure is a great opportunity to have fun and learn about the worlds' largest rainforest and river system. We will have our own specially trained guides to describe flora and fauna for us. We will be staying in 4 Explorama Lodges and hiking in the jungle as well as traversing the river system in "collectives," long passenger boats. Along the way we will see monkeys, sloths, toucans, macaws, horned screamers, piranha, caiman, leaf cutter ants, pink dolphins, etc. We will have the opportunity to view the rainforest canopy on the Canopy Walkway located 115 feet in the air and running for 1/3 of a mile. We will view ethnobotanical plants along the medicine trail and within the

ReNuPerRu Ethnobotanical Garden adjacent to one of the lodges where we will stay. Starting and ending in Miami, the price for this adventure is \$2795 per person for double occupancy. The tour is escorted by experienced FNPS tour leaders Jo Anne and Fred Trebatoski. A Peruvian naturalist will meet participants at the airport in Iquitos and stay with them throughout the trip. For more information please log onto www.fnps.org and click on the brochure (pink) in the trip descriptor on the home page.

CONTACT the Trebatoski's at plantnative@earthlink.net or call 800-466-9660 for more info.

Sea Rocket Website

Have you visited the Sea Rocket website recently at <http://nbbd.com/npr/SeaRocket/index.html>? So far this year, the website has been visited an average of 110 times each month! And Sea Rocket newsletters are currently being added to the site each month, so if you've missed one, the website is a great place to view it.

In addition, the website offers links to articles by Eileen Szuchy and Dr. Paul Schmalzer. Eileen's *Edible Plants* has averaged 916 hits per month, and Dr. Schmalzer's *Scrub Habitat* has 390 hits per month. And lest you think Dr. Paul is all about dry places, take a look at *Woodlands Habitat*, which has averaged 194 hits per month! Great reading and native plant education is available to everyone ... add the Sea Rocket website to your Favorites list!

This website has great potential as an educational and recruitment tool for the Sea Rocket Chapter! Do you have ideas or articles that you would like to add to the Sea Rocket website? If so, please contact a member of the Sea Rocket Board of Directors to find out how **you can help!!!**

Volusia/Flagler Chapters of the Florida Native Plant Society 1st Annual Fall Native Plant Sale

Support your neighboring Chapters! This event will take place on Sunday, October 14, 2007 from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm at Atlantic High School, 250 Reed Canal Rd, Port Orange, FL 32129, telephone (386) 322-5600.

Along with plant sales from a number of participating nurseries, there will be informational booths and native landscaping seminars. This is a great opportunity to take a little drive and pick up some of those harder to find native plants!

Member Yard Tour—September 29, 2007 9am

By Kari Ruder

George Opre of Merritt Island has kindly agreed to give Sea Rocket members a tour of his yard and community on Saturday, September 29th at 9am. George has been overseeing (and installing) the landscaping for his subdivision for several years and will point out how fast some species have grown, as well as how he's integrating more natives and battling exotics. He propagates many of the plants he installs in the landscape and can give members invaluable information on his successes, failures, and challenges. This will be a great tour for those interested in seeing how natives and non-natives can be integrated in a more formal landscape.

Please contact Education Chair Kari Ruder at 321-536-1410 or naturewise@earthlink.net for directions.

Future Yard and Garden Tours - Your input is needed!

The Board feels that yard and garden tours are a great way to educate members on native plant species and landscaping, but is this something you are interested in doing?

Please provide us your feedback via e-mail to Kari at naturewise@earthlink.net or call 536-1410.

We want to know:

Do you want to see more yard and garden tours? (Public gardens as well as members' yards)

Do you have any suggestions for native gardens to tour?

Are there days of the week or times that work better for you?

Would you be willing to host a tour in your yard?

Are you willing to travel to yards in north Brevard? South Brevard? Adjacent counties?

Some ideas for future public garden tours include The Brevard County Volunteer Appreciation and Learning Garden, the Enchanted Forest gardens, the Barrier Island Ecosystem Center gardens, *and* ? Help us make this a successful and educational program for you, our members! Send us your feedback now!

Hospitality Chair Needed

Norma Forney has resigned as chair of the Hospitality Committee. We are sorry to lose her, she has served the post well and will be missed. However, this leaves an opportunity open for one of YOU!

This individual is responsible for circulating a sign-up sheet at membership meetings to solicit volunteers who will bring refreshments to future meetings. The hospitality chair simply telephones these folks a week or so in advance of the meeting to remind them of their commitment. Easy! And *SO* appreciated by all our members and guests.

If you are interested in filling this important post, please contact a member of the Board today!

Newsletter Update

By Shari Blissett Clark

Did you notice the date on this newsletter? Yes, it is September...again! The Board felt that an additional newsletter was warranted this month because there are so many things happening during September and October!

Please send me articles, announcements, and anything else you think fellow Sea Rocket members might be interested in reading in future newsletters. Deadline for submissions in the seventh (7th) of each month for that month's edition.

Remember, it's OUR newsletter, and Sea Rocket members are counting on you to help make this a quality publication! Send info to: jclark109@cfl.rr.com, or call me during business hours at 321-264-5185

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, September 26	Sea Rocket Chapter Meeting, 7 pm, Worm Composting
Saturday, September 29	Yard Tour, George Opre, 9 am
October 5-7	FNPS Membership Retreat, Pine Lake Retreat, Groveland, Florida
October 13-14	ButterflyFest, Florida Museum of Natural History, Gainesville
Sunday, October 14	Volusia/Flagler Chapters Fall Native Plant Sale, Port Orange, 10am
Wednesday, October 17	Friends of the Enchanted Forest Mtg., Suzanne Kennedy, <i>Dicerandra thinicola</i>
Week of October 19-28	FNPS Amazon Jungle Safari
Saturday, October 20	Field trip to Buck Lake Conservation Area, 9 am
Wednesday, October 24	Sea Rocket Chapter Meeting, 7 pm, Green Roof with Dr. Jay Garland
Saturday, November 3	Field trip to Maritime Hammock, 9 am
Saturday, November 3	Sea Rocket Native Plant Sale, Enchanted Forest Sanctuary's Forest Festival
Saturday, November 3	Enchanted Forest Sanctuary Forest Festival, 9am to 4 pm

Please contact Shari Blissett Clark if you have an event to include in future newsletters.

Nursery Still Needs Nursing

By Pat Bayer

We're still taking turns checking the watering system at the nursery daily since we haven't been able to identify all the problems yet. As I reported in the previous newsletter, the mist house quit misting because the well pump broke, and there have been several problems with the overhead sprinkling system.

However, I am happy to report that all this extra attention has our plants thriving and we expect to provide really beautiful specimens for the upcoming Sea Rocket Native Plant Sale at the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary's annual Forest Festival on November 3rd. Please plan to visit us (and volunteer for a couple hours) at this event.

And again, a reminder that we would like everyone to save your fast food salad bowls for the nursery; they make great saucers for plants that like wet feet. Pots are also needed, please bring them to the September meeting.

Many thanks to Suzanne Meyer, Betty Page, Ginny Blaetz, and Michelle Clifton for going the extra mile this summer at the nursery! Perhaps YOU could volunteer some time, too!!!

Butterfly Fest, October 13-14, 2007 Florida Museum of Natural History Gainesville, FL

ButterflyFest is dedicated to increasing public awareness of Florida's butterflies. They are fascinating and fun ambassadors to the natural world and are accessible to all. Activities will promote the conservation and preservation of Florida's butterflies and moths through the promotion of butterfly gardening, the sensible use of non-destructive pest control practices and landscaping with native plants.

For more information, visit:

http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/butterflyfest/festival_info.htm



FNPS model landscape ordinance now available for download

This model ordinance is intended to be used by local governments that wish to adopt or amend their existing landscape ordinance in order to encourage (or require) the use of appropriate native vegetation in landscaped areas. This document provides sample language that can be adopted (in whole or in part) by a local government that wants to promote these goals and acquire the benefits of native landscaping.

[Click here to view the model ordinance in pdf format.](#)

[Click here to view the model ordinance in Word document format.](#)

Right-click either link, then select "Save Target (or Link) As", to download.

**Message from FNPS Executive Director
Karina Veaudry**

I receive a lot of information on climate change and have been keeping a file of all documents related to the Governor's Task Force on Climate Change.

In order to provide timely information and alerts regarding climate change and global warming, I am starting a distribution list of FNPS members who would like to receive the latest in scientific publications, policy changes, and other pertinent data generated by the Governor's Task Force.

Please contact me by email at executivedirector@fnps.org if you are interested in this information.

Membership Retreat

This informal retreat at the Pine Lake Retreat Center near Clermont, FL will give members an opportunity to mingle, learn something new and enjoy the beautiful ecosystems of Central Florida. Activities will include hiking, paddling, workshops, guest speaker Susie Caplowe and family programs. The FNPS Government Policy & Legislature Committee will also hold an Advocacy Workshop. A botanical Illustration workshop by the Florida Society of Botanical Artists and an edible native plant talk by Peggy Lantz has been added to the agenda.

The FNPS Retreat registration must be received by October 3, 2007.

**Agenda for FNPS Membership Retreat
October 5-7, 2007, Pine Lake Retreat, Groveland ,FL**

Friday, October 5, 2007

Optional check-in - Recreation on your own; Lunch and Dinner Available

Saturday, October 6, 2007

7:00 am to 8:30am	Check-in and BREAKFAST
8:00am to 9:15am	Plant ID Contest in Breakfast Dinning Area
9:30am to 10:30 am	Welcome & State of FNPS Address - Shirley Denton, Ph.D., FNPS President
10:00am to 11:00am	FNPS Advocacy (Children's Programs simultaneously 10am to 12:00pm)
11:00am to 12:00pm	Guest Speaker - Susie Caplowe, Sierra Club, 'Advocacy for 501c3 Organizations'
12:00pm to 1:30pm	LUNCH
1:35pm to 2:45pm	Workshop (A) Plant Journaling with Marjorie Shropshire - OR - Workshop (B) Rainbarrel Making with Gabriella Milch - OR - Children's Programs
3:15pm to 6:00pm	Field Trip (A) Hike - OR - Field Trip (B) Paddle
6:30pm to 7:30pm	DINNER
7:30pm to 8:45pm	FNPS Jeopardy!
8:45pm to 10:30pm	Fireside Chat

**All programs are free,
and housing and meals are affordable!!!**

Sunday, October 7, 2007

7:00am to 8:30am	BREAKFAST
8:45am to 9:30am	FNPS Executive Director & FNPS Administration Reports
9:45am - 12:00pm	Chapter Forum (Children's Programming provided simultaneously)
12:00pm - 1:30pm	LUNCH (Edible Native Plant Presentation during lunch by Peggy Lantz)
1:45pm - 4:30pm	Field Trip (A) Hike (Different area than Sat.) - OR - Field Trip (B) Paddle (Different location from Sat.)

Visit www.fnps.org for information on how to register.

Coin Vine or Fish Poison Vine

Dalbergia ecastaphyllum (L.) Taub.

Of all of the plants in the world, only the aster family has more species than the legumes, in which the Coin Vine is placed. Its' well-named copper colored, disc shaped seed pods can be found on the plants during the late summer and early fall. As the days grow shorter, plants along coastal areas may drop seed pods into the water where wind and currents will push them into larger oceanic currents, thereby making this seed pod one of the most commonly found "Sea Beans." Although the pod is tough, the single seed within it is rather delicate, and can be easily germinated from within the pod.

The abundant clusters of pink pea-shaped flowers appear in the axils of the large simple leathery alternate ovoid leaves beginning in January and February. Coin Vine is a hardy and fast growing sprawling, scrambling vine which can grow as much as 6 ft per year, and has a habit of climbing over obstacles and across clearings, making it difficult to control in some areas. It can even attain tree-like proportions. Being both salt and drought tolerant, it can be found distributed all the way from the mangroves to the area behind the dunes. The stems and roots act to cover, stabilize, and bind soil and sand. As with other legumes, the roots form nitrogen fixing nodules, which benefit other plants growing along with it in nutrient-poor soils. You may have heard that legumes are also called lentils, and early students of human anatomy used the derivative word "lens" to name the structure within the eye that has the appearance of a flattened bean seed.

Native Americans used a concoction from the crushed roots, leaves and bark (we now know this substance to be the chemical Rotenone) to stupefy and paralyze fish, hence the name Fish Poison Vine. This plant has an extremely wide distribution, extending from Brevard County southward to the Keys, the Bahamas, Central and South America, coastal Mexico, and coastal West Africa. A well-traveled vine indeed!

Contributed by: Jay Barnhart and originally published in Sebastian Inlet State Park's Volunteer Newsletter, *The Outgoing Tide*, published and edited by Sebastian State Park Ranger Ed Perry.

COPIES OF CLASSIC FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT BOOK

Sally Sun reports that the Suncoast Chapter of FNPS has a number of new copies of Craig Huegel's "*Florida Plants for Wildlife*" book available for sale. This book is excellent and copies are scarce as it has been out of print for some time.

If you'd like a copy, contact Sally at 813-935-1312 or spriggsun@yahoo.com.



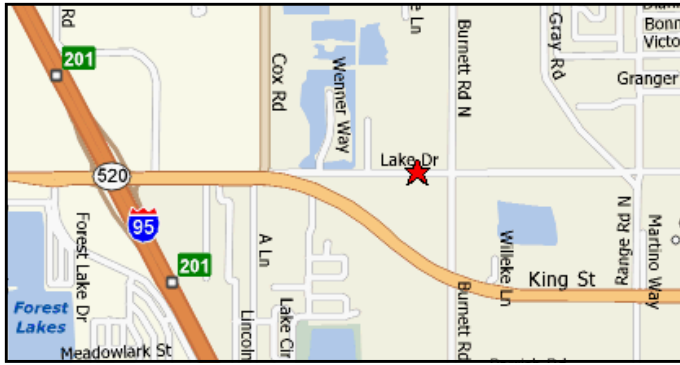
Shirley Denton, May 2002

For information on Integrated Pest Management (IPM), check out this link:
http://ipm.ifas.ufl.edu/natural_areas/index.shtml

Brevard County Orchid Society's 47th Annual Fall Orchid Fair November 3 & 4, 9:00am to 5:00pm

Brevard County Orchid Society announces its 47th Annual Fall Orchid Fair. Many of our vendors carry orchid species native to Florida. Fair will be held at Azan Shrine Center, 1591 W. Eau Gallie Parkway, Melbourne, FL. Admission is \$4.00 (visit our website - thebcos.org - for a \$1 off coupon) Free Parking.

Vendors from south and central Florida with orchids, orchid supplies and accessories
Free seminars on orchids, including culture and care, at 11am and 2pm both days.



Brevard County Agricultural Center

3695 Lake Drive, Cocoa, Florida * 321-633-1702

- From I-95, go east on SR 520 to the first traffic light (Burnett Rd.). Go left at the light and drive one block north to Lake Drive. Turn left and the Agricultural Center will be ahead on your left.
- From US 1, go west on SR 520 to the traffic light immediately after the Bob Steele Chevrolet dealership. Turn right onto Burnett Road and go one block to the stop sign. Turn right onto Lake Drive and the Agricultural Center will be ahead on your left

** Please do not call the Agricultural Center for anything but clarification on directions to the center. For all other questions, contact a member of the FNPS Sea Rocket Chapter board.*

Sea Rocket Board of Directors

President: Betty Page: sioned@digital.net / 269-0555

Vice President: Barbara Venuto: cvenuto@cfl.rr.com / 452-6093

Secretary: Joanie Regan: jregan@cityofcocoabeach.com / 482-3323

Treasurer/Chapter Director: Eileen Szuchy: bidensz1@yahoo.com / 634-5248

Nursery Co-chairs: Pat Bayer: 638-4660 & Suzanne Meyer: 264-4922

Library Co-chairs: Woody Dierberg, PhD & Joanie Regan

Newsletter: Shari Blissett Clark: jclark109@cfl.rr.com / 264-5185

Hike Leader: Paul Schmalzer, PhD: 268-5473

Hospitality: (We need a volunteer!)

Education: Kari Ruder: 536-1410

Membership: Gail Hill: 453-4865



Florida Native Plant Society

For additional information on membership benefits or changes of address call, write or e-mail FNPS, or visit our website:

<http://nbbd.com/npr/SeaRocket/index.html>



Sea Rocket

c/o Shari Blissett Clark
444 Columbia Blvd
Titusville, FL 32780

Please contact us if you would like to receive future Sea Rocket newsletters via e-mail.