



Sea Rocket



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

March 2008

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

March Sea Rocket Meeting

Wednesday, March 26 at 7:00 pm ----- Brevard County Ag Center, Cocoa

Climate Change; Too Much or Not Enough Information?

The March speaker will be Chapter Vice President Paula Berntson whose presentation will focus on "Climate Change". These days, climate change issues and strategies are headlines on a daily basis. Paula has attended several climate change workshops, collecting volumes of information on this rapidly developing subject. At the Orange County Climate Change Summit held last September, 27 different speakers presented their own unique perspectives on how this phenomena would affect their specific areas of expertise. Paula will disseminate some of this information for the group and discuss simple ways that everyone can save money & energy.



ACTION ALERT

MEMBER INVOLVEMENT NEEDED

Statewide & Local Critical Issues for Protection of Florida Wildlife

See page 2 for Info & Contact Information

~ together we can preserve Florida's future ~

April Sea Rocket Meeting [04/23/2008]

Falcon Woods, The Long Road to Preservation

Lisa Smith & Arlynn Baker relate the tale of citizen efforts to protect pristine habitat in Titusville.

Benefits of Native Plant Landscaping - Stephanie Phillips

March 25 at 6:30pm, Scottsmeer/Mims Library

Mark Your Calendar!

⊕ ⊕ ACTION ALERT ⊕ ⊕ MEMBER INVOLVEMENT NEEDED

The Viera Company recently transmitted a Brevard County Comp Plan Amendment request to State DCA despite it not including ecosystem preservation that Sea Rocket and other local partners (Conradina FNPS, Sierra, Audubon, Marine Resources Council, etc.) consider critical.

Please e-mail, call or write to DCA [contact info below] expressing an objection to this Comp Plan Amendment request. DCA does listen to local stakeholders when Comp Plan changes are proposed by developers. A sample message is provided below for your convenience.

Department of Community Affairs

Attn: Ray Eubanks, Plan Processing Administrator
Division of Community Planning
2555 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399
850-922-1767
ray.eubanks@dca.state.fl.us



RE: Viera Company - Brevard County Comprehensive Plan Amendment Proposal

I am writing to object to the recently transmitted Comp Plan Amendment by the Viera Company in Brevard County. Local interest groups have been working consistently with the applicant and with Brevard County on measures to assure ecosystem protection and community welfare. The Viera Company has expressed willingness to cooperate but recently transmitted their proposal without a component deemed critical by our community stakeholders.

The only pristine oak hammock/maple wetlands in the entire DRI is not proposed as preservation. Although there is conservation land proposed in the amendment request - it includes severely impacted ecosystems and many of the acres are required as mitigation for proposed wetlands development.

Please consider protecting this environmentally sensitive oak hammock/maple wetlands adjacent to I-95, when reviewing the proposed Comp Plan Amendment. and thank you for respecting local stakeholder participation.

"If future generations are to remember us with gratitude rather than contempt, we must leave them something more than the miracles of technology. We must leave them a glimpse of the world as it was in the beginning, not just after we got through with it."

- President Lyndon B. Johnson, on the signing of the Wilderness Act of 1964

Florida Forever Legislation Support

We must act now to ensure a successor program.

FNPS needs member support for the reauthorization of the landmark Florida Forever state land acquisition program that sunsets in 2010.



Please send letters of support to your Senate & House Rep early in the Legislative Session (Mar 4 - May 2)

Email a Sea Rocket Board member for info or visit

www.supportfloridaforever.org/contact.html

for legislative contacts & sample letter of support.

A few minutes of your time can help Preserve Florida's Heritage Lands

Florida Native Plant Society - 28th Annual Conference

Estuaries to Uplands: Celebrating Florida's Native Plant Heritage

May 14-18, 2008

Manatee Convention Center - Palmetto, FL (Near Bradenton)

Hosted by the Mangrove, Pinellas, Serenoa & Suncoast Chapters

Cut off Date for Early Registration Discount is March 28

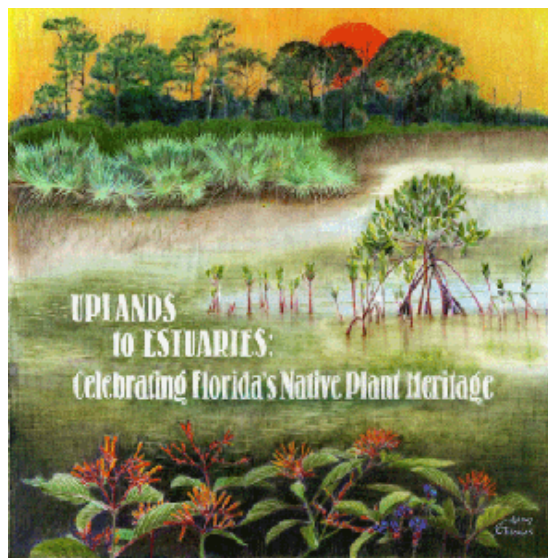
Cut off Date for Hotel Conference Discount is April 14

Don't miss...

- * *social events, musical entertainment & FNPS Jeopardy*
- * *Lunch time discussion groups*
- * *Notable keynote and plenary addresses*
- * *Film screenings*
- * *Large plant sale (12 nursery growers)*
- * *Over 40 Vendors*
- * *Clyde Butcher Photography display and sale*
- * *Over 20 Field Trips, including kayak trips*
- * *Dr. Walter Taylor as Botanist Andre' Michaux*

Learn about.....

- * *How native plants saved lives in the 2005 Asian Tsunami*
- * *Estuaries and other Florida ecosystems*
- * *Landscape design with natives*
- * *Scientific research conducted during the last year*
- * *Over 50 speakers and workshops to choose from*



To register, visit www.fnps.org - its that easy !

THERE'S STILL TIME !!! MEGA MEMBERSHIP EXPLOSION

December 2007 thru Earth Day, April 22, 2008

The goal is for each FNPS member to give a gift membership to a friend, colleague, neighbor, family, ally, or foe!

Upcoming Holiday Opportunities:

April's Fool 04/01, National Walk to Work Day 04/04, Sorry Charlie Day 04/06, World Health 04/07, National Librarian Day 04/16, Passover & Volunteer Recognition Day 04/20, Earth Day 04/22, Arbor Day 04/25

BOTH NEW AND GIFT MEMBERSHIPS APPLY TOWARD THE 100% GOAL, and all awards will be presented at the 2008 Conference.

Chapters which double their memberships through this gift giving program will be awarded a 6 foot long full-color FNPS flag with the Palmetto Logo.

The 3 Chapters in the State who give the most gift memberships will each receive 1 Free Four Day Registration to the 2009 FNPS Conference, which may then be raffled within the chapter.

Individuals that give four or more gift memberships will be awarded a special prize at the Conference!

Note: The number of gift and new memberships gained in the 5-month challenge period must equal the number of members in the chapter at the beginning of the membership drive. For more information, please contact a member of the Board.

President's Corner



I am very happy to be the new President of your
Sea Rocket Chapter Florida Native Plant Society.

I've been a member for about 15 years now and have, at times, not been very active. Over the years, I have learned so much and enjoyed so many fun activities and presentations, that I am happy and willing to give back now. Our group feels like family. There are so many in our Chapter that contribute - it isn't a terrible burden with one person doing it all. I hope you feel as if you can join in at any time. If you have an idea or comment, or can share a plant, food item, book - or are interested in doing a project with the rest of us, we would love to hear from you. Please feel free to join us for a Board meeting. These days it seems that the public is more receptive to concepts of planting native. Saving water, money, time and saving the environment all make sense. Too often though, getting the message out is difficult and we hope you will help. Call me anytime! 452-3609 (H) , 480-9273(C), cvenuto@cfl.rr.com !

Workday at the Volunteer Appreciation & Learning Garden, Viera; Monday, March 31st

Time for another weeding workday at the garden!

Don't forget - Sea Rocket is responsible for maintaining the waterwise section of the garden, and keeping it weeded keeps it looking attractive! This is our only 100% native garden in the area; let's show that natives are attractive . . . so come and help us weed!

I'll also be applying an organic pre-emergent weed control to help keep the weed seed source down, so if you'd like to see that in action, come to the next workday on Monday, March 31st, from 4:00 to 6:00pm . . . or go whenever it's convenient for you! The garden is located in the Viera Regional Park, at the intersection of Lake Andrew Dr and Judge Fran Jamieson Way (just north of The Avenue mall) in Viera.

For more information call or e-mail Kari, kari@naturewiseplants.com or 536-1410.



Not sure where to get some native beauties for your yard?

Naturewise
2295 Adamson Road
Cocoa, FL 536-1410
kari@naturewiseplants.com
www.naturewiseplants.com
Tues 2-6pm, Fri 10-6pm
Sat 9-1pm

Maple Street Natives
7619 Henry Ave
West Melbourne, FL
info@maplestreetnatives.com
www.maplestreetnatives.com
Mon thru Sat 8-5pm

Green Images
1333 Taylor Creek Road
Christmas, FL
407 568-1333
greenimage@aol.com
Wed & Sat 10-2pm

Enjoy your trip!
Don't forget to send us a compost card.



Got Worms Yet?

www.ourvitalearth.com
www.composters.com/docs/wormcondo.html



Got a gardening secret to share?

**Question about where to find
eco resources locally?**

Got an eco topic to discuss?

**Got a Yard to offer for a Sea
Rocket Tour?**

Send us an email with your thoughts
Board of Directors/Newsletter emails listed on page 8

Upcoming Events

<i>Tuesday, March 25</i>	<i>Native Plant Landscaping, Mims/Scottsmoor Library 6:30pm</i>
<i>Wednesday, March 26</i>	<i>Sea Rocket Chapter Meeting - 7PM, Climate Change</i>
<i>Saturday, April 5</i>	<i>Goby Festival, Fellsmere</i>
<i>Saturday, April 19</i>	<i>KBB Trash Bash - Brevard County Litter Free & Great in 2008</i>
<i>Saturday, April 19</i>	<i>Earth Day Family Fun Fest, Enchanted Forest</i>
<i>Saturday, April 19 & Sunday, April 20</i>	<i>Garden Club of DeLand - Go Native, see informational notice below</i>
<i>Tuesday, April 22</i>	<i>Earth Day</i>
<i>Wednesday, April 23</i>	<i>Sea Rocket Chapter Meeting - Falcon Woods, The Long Road to Preservation</i>
<i>Saturday, April 26 & Sunday, April 27</i>	<i>24th Melbourne Art Festival</i>
<i>Saturday, May 10</i>	<i>Rainbarrel Workshop, 10am Enchanted Forest</i>
<i>May 14-18</i>	<i>28th Annual FNPS Conference - Palmetto, FL</i>

The Garden Club of DeLand invites you to their Home and Garden Tour

Featuring the new Vera Lea Rinker Formal Native Plant Garden
at the Residence of Stetson University President, Dr. Lee & First Lady Mrs. Lee
418 N. Woodland Blvd., DeLand, Florida

Go Native - Beyond the Garden Gate

Native Plants & Water Conservation Speakers

Plant Sale

Music in the Garden

Art in the Garden

Refreshments

Saturday, April 19 from 10am-4pm & Sunday, April 20 from 1-4pm

Tickets - \$20 per person

Information: 386-736-1839 or 386-789-7859 or email khall1201@aol.com

Tickets: Check payable to: Garden Club of DeLand & mail to: Ronny Kyle 3614 Royal Fern Circle, DeLand, FL 32724

The Green Marketplace at Adamson Road Your Local Place For Native Plants and Local Produce

Earth Month Extravaganza - We are celebrating Earth Day this year by offering lots of great activities all April long. Earn raffle tickets for a number of great prizes including native plants with every purchase you make in April. Attend a rain barrel demonstration or the Backyard Wildlife Habitat class and much more! Details for classes, activities and special events will be posted on Naturewise's website by the end of March. Marketplace hours are Tuesdays from 2-6pm, Fridays from 10am-6pm, & Saturdays from 9am-1pm and it is located at 2295 Adamson Road in Cocoa just west of I-95 and north of SR 524 Hope to see you at the marketplace !



Sea Rocket Nursery's Cardinal Flowers

by Pat Bayer, Co-chair, Nursery Committee

In April 2006, we took a day trip to The Natives nursery in Davenport to buy plants for growing and resale. We found one lonely Cardinal Flower there among the few wetland plants that The Natives grow. The flower bloomed and we took pictures and watched for seed but never found any. Pat searched her books and found how to propagate it from books about more northern plants. It was easy to grow from stem cuttings they wrote.

So we took the long bloom stalk and cut it up placing the pieces partially covered in peat moss and vermiculite in the misthouse. We also removed all the small basal plants that had formed around the mother plant and put them in the misthouse to root also. We had babies! We potted the babies in four inch pots then left them in the misthouse for a short time to adapt to the soil. Then we moved them up to their current pots last fall.

We noticed in the first week of March that they were starting to spike for blooming so when Joanie asked me about the Plant of the Month we thought we would tell you about our Cardinal Flowers and have a special pre-meeting sale. We really don't want to try and transport them when the blooms are 6-9 feet tall !! You should have the privilege of watching the spike grow like in Jack & the Beanstalk. We will have 24 available for the meeting, so only one to a membe.

Our next sale will be at the Enchanted Forest for Earth Day celebrations on March 19th and we will have more Cardinal Flowers ready for sale then. We will be checking back with the buyers to see how tall their bloom grew!



Culture

Light: Full sun to partial shade.

Moisture: Cardinal flower requires moist soil. It can even tolerate flooding but not drought. You can grow cardinal flower in normal garden soil, but it must be watered regularly.

Hardiness: throughout Florida

Propagation: By seed and by separating the basal offshoots. Cardinal flower will self sow in the garden under favorable conditions.

Cardinal flower is a spectacular show along the edge of a pond or water garden. Don't be discouraged if you have a low, wet area: create a colorful perennial flower bed. Cardinal flower is pollinated by the ruby-throated hummingbird. They are attracted to it in droves!



February Chapter Minutes *submitted by Ginny Blaetz*

Minutes of the January Meeting held at BCC Titusville were not published in this month's newsletter so their approval by the membership was not possible. Current newsletters in hard copies were also unavailable. Treasurer reported that the Chapter has approximately \$4600 in hand with some check outstanding.

The recent State Board of Directors' Meeting was less controversial than previous meetings according to Chapter representative Dr. Paul Schmalzer. The State Conference is scheduled for May in Bradenton. Members may register on the FPNS website by downloading the form or doing so on-line. The Program for the Conference is also available on-line. Planning for the next several conferences has already begun. In 2009 the site will be in Palm Beach & in either 2010 or 2011, it will be held in Orlando. A new chapter was approved in St. John's County with 30 to 40 new members. Several other new chapters have been added during the past year. The State Board expects to make money on this year's conference & due to the tightness of the current budget, new monetary requests were deferred until after conference revenues were available. Official minutes of this meeting will be posted on the FNPS website shortly.

Nominating Committee reported that the slate of nominations as announced in the previous newsletter stood as printed. The President asked for further nominations from the floor for each office; none having been heard, Paul Schmalzer moved that we close nominations; Suzanne Meyer seconded. The motion was passed unanimously. In the absence of the sitting secretary, the President declared the slate elected unanimously. Officers for 2008; President - Barbara Venuto, Vice President - Paula Berntson, Treasurer - Elizabeth Page, Secretary - Ginny Blaetz.

The guest speaker from Bok Tower Sanctuary, Cheryl Peterson, was unable to attend & was replaced by Cindy Campbell. Cindy has been working at Bok Tower for 4½ years as the rare native plant curator. She spoke about the 39 plus rare species currently being conserved. Public display at the Bok Sanctuary is in the Endangered Plant Garden where signage offers a self-guided tour. Other work & the collections of rare plants are all behind the scenes but can be seen by appointment. Some plants are offered for sale & a table of plants is on sale at the State Conference. Some of the species currently being conserved include the Four-Petaled Paw-Paw. Only about 1300 of these plants survive in two sites. Genetic exploration of the rare plants is done to decide which population has the most genetic diversity & would be the best candidate for preservation. They are attempting to grow the plants via tissue cultures studies. When successful in growing the plants, they will then be out planted to the existing populations which are on protected lands.

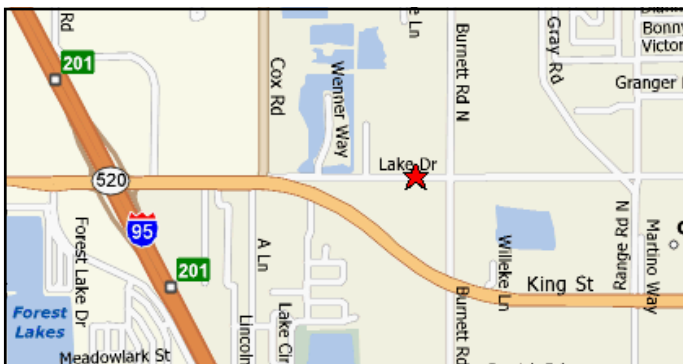
Another species being worked on is the *Dicerandra immaculate*, native to the St. Lucie & Indian River counties. Propagation is done through both seeds & cuttings. It takes six months before plants are ready to be out planted back to protected lands. Another *Dicerandra* variety *savanarum* from Port St. Lucie is in great danger from development. It is grown in the protected collection. *Dicerandra titusville* is also grown in the collection. Scrub lupine is grown from seeds in peat pots as lupine can not be transplanted. Soil must also be imported to grow them & work is being done to isolate particular soil microbes present which fixes nitrogen for the plant to grow. *Ziziphus celata* (Florida ziziphus or Florida jujube) once thought extinct has been brought back & the Sanctuary has plants which are producing seeds. None are available for sale at this time which caused sadness among chapter members. *Chrysopsis floridana*, native to west-central Florida has been successfully revived and the Sanctuary now has 2500 ready to plant out this year. This effort will produce a more genetically diverse population.

Each species under conservation is unique & requires different methods for successful regeneration. Land managers in protected areas can request seeds to re-introduce species to their lands. New species are constantly being added to the conservation efforts making the actual number currently more like 60 species under investigation. The state & federal grants which support this work are under constant threat of being eliminated or severely reduced. Plant supporters need to stay vigilant and express their concerns to public officials whenever possible to continue funding.

Driving Directions to Sea Rocket Nursery

Looking for a way to help your Chapter? Volunteer at the nursery!
You'll learn a lot and have fun, too. For information on scheduled workdays,
email Pat Bayer at bayeriii@juno.com, or call Suzanne Meyer at 264-4922.

The nursery is located inside Titusville's Wastewater Treatment Plant property.
The entrance is on the south side of Knox McRae Drive, west of Coquina Elementary school and east of St. Luke's Presbyterian Church, and just west of the blue Fleur de Lis apartment complex.
The address is 1125 Knox McRae Drive.



CHAPTER MEETING LOCATION

Brevard County Ag Center, 3695 Lake Drive, Cocoa, Florida

- From I-95, go east on SR520 to 1st traffic light (Burnett Rd.). Turn left at light and drive one block north to Lake Drive. Turn left & Ag Center is on your left.
- From US 1, go west on SR520 to traffic light immediately after Bob Steele Chevrolet. Turn right onto Burnett Road & go 1 block to stop sign. Turn right onto Lake Drive & Ag Center is on your left.

Please do not call the Ag Center

For questions, contact a member of the FNPS Sea Rocket Chapter board.

Sea Rocket Board of Directors

President: Barbara Venuto: cvenuto@cfl.rr.com / 452-3609

Vice President: Paula Berntson: jepasm.3@juno.com

Secretary: Ginny Blaetz: vblaetz@hotmail.com

Treasurer/Chapter Director: Betty Page: sioned@digital.net / 269-0555

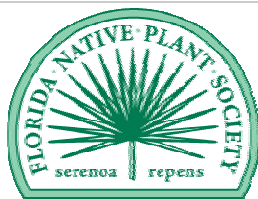
Nursery Co-chairs: Pat Bayer: bayeriii@juno.com & Suzanne Meyer: 264-4922

Library Chair: Woody Dierberg, PhD aquachem1@aol.com **Hike Leader:** Paul Schmalzer, PhD: 268-5473

Newsletter: Joanie Regan: joanie.regan@hotmail.com / 482-3323

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://nbdd.com/npr/SeaRocket/index.html>

P. O. Box 278, Melbourne, FL 32902-0278



Sea Rocket

c/o Joanie Regan
1460 South Atlantic Avenue
Cocoa Beach, FL 32931

[please contact us if you would like to receive future Sea Rocket newsletters via e-mail](#)