



Sea Rocket



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

September 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.

Deadly Laurel Wilt in Brevard County

What: Are your red bay trees sick or dying? Come and learn about Laurel Wilt, the deadly disease attacking red bay (*Persea borbonia*) and other tree species in the laurel family (Lauraceae).

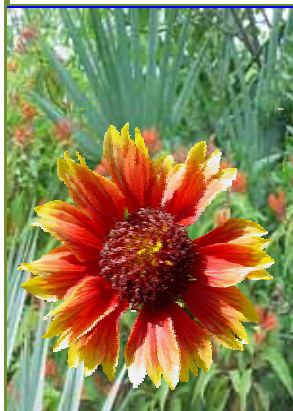
Who: Nicole Perna, Assistant Land Manager
South Beaches
Environmentally Endangered Lands Program

When: **Wednesday, September 24 at 7 PM**

Where: Cocoa Ag Center, 3695 Lake Drive, Cocoa



Make your plans now to come and hear this enlightening presentation. For more information, call Paula Berntson 626-3606 or email jepasm.3@juno.com.



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

October 2008 Sea Rocket Program

Rain Barrel Workshop

What: Learn about the age old practice of harvesting rainwater for your veggie and native plant garden. This how-to workshop will provide all the answers you need to get started in your own backyard. You will be surprised how much you can harvest from one storm. Your indoor and outdoor plants will love the untreated rainwater - chlorine free !

* **OPTIONAL** - purchase your own rain barrel or rain barrel kit.
RESERVE NOW - QUANTITIES LIMITED (see below).

Who: Elizabeth Melvin, Brevard County Natural Resources Management Office

When: **Wednesday, October 22nd at 7 PM**

Reserve your rain barrel kit now!

The kits will be available at the presentation for \$40 or you can just purchase one or more barrels for \$25 each. Kits include a food grade 55-gallon barrel & hardware to turn it into a functioning rain barrel, and an instructional CD. Due to space and travel constraints, there will only be barrels or rain barrel kits available for those who reserve them in advance.

Call Paula Berntson (321) 626-3606 or email jepasm.3@juno.com to reserve yours now!



Fall Heirloom Veggie Plant Sale

Now is a GREAT time to get our vegetable gardens started. Green Marketplace at Adamson Road (across from landfill) is a GREAT place to get locally grown heirloom vegetables to provide food for your table. A sampling of the many varieties available:

- 🍅 **Lemon Drop** - sweet & tangy yellow cherry tomato
- 🍅 **White Current** - pale yellow tiny sweet tomato
- 🍅 **Amish Paste** - large red tomato that's great for sauce

Also an assortment of peppers, squash, beans, arugula, spinach and lettuce!

Sea Rocket Hikes

Led by Paul Schmalzer, PhD

Environmentally Endangered Lands Program, Selection & Management Committee

Buck Lake Conservation Area

Saturday October 11, 2008 9AM - Noon

A joint project between St. Johns River Water Management District and Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands Program. Vegetation is scrub, flatwoods, hammocks, & marshes. Prescribed burns and scrub restoration have been conducted since its acquisition in 1996.



Directions: Bring hat, sunscreen, water, and insect repellent.

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. Go 0.3 miles north on gravel road to gate. Parking is in grassy area left of road at gate.



Dicerandra Scrub Sanctuary

Saturday November 8, 2008 9AM - Noon

A joint project between Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands Program and the State of Florida. Vegetation is primarily oak scrub and scrubby flatwoods with a depression marsh down slope.

A prescribed burn was conducted here in the summer of 2008.

The endemic *Dicerandra thinicola* occurs here, and it should be in flower.

Directions: Bring hat, sunscreen, water & insect repellent. Parking is limited at site. We will meet at the Indian River Plaza Shopping Center. Park at the western (K-Mart) corner of the shopping center & car pool to the site.

- 1) US 1 to St. Rt. 50 (Cheney Highway). West on St. Rt. 50 to Indian River Plaza Shopping Center, OR
- 2) I-95 to Titusville, St. Rt. 50 exit. East on St. Rt. 50 (Cheney Highway) to Indian River Plaza Shopping Center.

Pine Island Conservation Area

Saturday December 6, 2008 9AM - Noon

A joint project between St. Johns River Water Management District & Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands Program.

Vegetation is primarily flatwoods & marshes. It is the site of a major wetlands restoration. Dr. Scott Taylor, Central Region Land Manager for Brevard County EELs Program, will join us for an update on the wetlands restoration program & we will look at recently burned flatwoods.



Directions: Bring hat, sunscreen, water & insect repellent

- (1) SR 528 East to Merritt Island, exit on SR3 and go North for about 5 miles, turn left on Pine Island Road & proceed West ~ 2.5 miles to entrance gate at end of road, OR
- (2) SR 405 East to Merritt Island/Kennedy Space Center, turn right on Space Commerce Way (new road) to SR 3, turn South (right) on SR 3 to Pine Island Road, then right on Pine Island Road and proceed West to entrance gate.

Sea Rocket Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society lovingly honors a local hero who spent her life diffusing and implementing our Society's mission: protection, conservation & restoration of native plants and native plant communities.



Margaret M. Hames

1921 - 2008

Margaret M. Hames died May 9, 2008 in Ormond Beach, Florida. Margaret and Bill Hames lived in Melbourne Village from 1970 to 2001 when, due to declining health, they moved to be near children in Deltona & then Ormond Beach. Bill died in June, 2003.

Margaret Hames was born in 1921 in Washington, Georgia. She graduated from Agnes Scott College in 1942 with a BA degree in chemistry and zoology. Margaret furthered her education while employed as a Control Chemist for the Georgia Department of Agriculture, completing graduate courses at Georgia Tech & Emory University of Atlanta.

In 1943 Margaret married Ensign William Hames. Between 1951 and 1966, Margaret and her family, now including two daughters and a son, moved between Florida and Omaha, Nebraska. They settled in Homestead for many years, but eventually moved north to Melbourne Village in 1970. Margaret taught science in the Brevard County School System, retiring in 1977.

Margaret gained an appreciation for native plants and trees of Florida as one of Erna Nixon's 'students' soon after moving to Melbourne Village and learned how to use a taxonomic key from fellow plant enthusiast Bonnie Arbuckle. While she considered herself an amateur botanist, Margaret was an inexhaustible source of plant knowledge for anyone that accompanied her on trips into field & forest.

Margaret was involved in almost every environmental organization or effort in Florida and Brevard County including Brevard Landscape/Land-clearing Committee, Florida Native Plant Society, Turkey Creek Sanctuary Advisory Board, Nature Conservatory, American Horticultural Society, Marine Resource Council, Florida Academy of Science and National Wildflower Foundation. She was a founding member of the Turkey Creek Sanctuary Committee and worked to preserve many environmental lands including Erna Nixon Hammock and Lori Wilson Park.

Margaret, along with Villagers Hester Wagner and June Golder founded the *Conradina* Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society. In 1990 she helped organize and campaign for Preservation Brevard, a political action committee campaigning for a countywide referendum of land acquisition. The result was the passage of the Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands referendum in 1990.

Margaret's advocacy for environmental land acquisition, promotion of native plant preservation and environmental activism earned her many awards, including the Sierra Club Oak Leaf Award, Conservationist of the year from Audubon of Florida, Florida Native Plant Society Green Palmetto Service Award in 1988 and Mentor Award in 1996, and Person of the Year by Florida Environments magazine.

Margaret's daughter Cathy, in a letter to villager Priscilla Griffith, wrote that "it was one of her mother's great qualities that she considered civic duty an important responsibility."

Upcoming Events

<i>Sat - Sep 20, 9AM</i>	<i>KBB TrashBash, Ocean Conservancy - various sites</i> <i>www.keepbrevardbeautiful.com</i> <i>Barrier Island Beach Cleanup & Trail Walk, Barrier Island Sanctuary</i>
<i>Wed - Sep 24, 7PM</i>	<i>Sea Rocket Chapter Meeting & Feature Speaker, Ag Center</i>
<i>Sat, Oct 11, 9am</i>	<i>Sea Rock Hike, Buck Lake (see Page 3 for details)</i>
<i>Oct 17 & 18</i>	<i>Sea Bean Symposium, www.seabean.com/symposium/2008</i>
<i>Wed - Oct 22, 7PM</i>	<i>Sea Rocket Chapter Meeting & Rainbarrel Workshop</i>
<i>Sat, Nov 8, 9am</i>	<i>Sea Rock Hike, Dicerandra Scrub (see Page 3 for details)</i>
<i>Every Saturday</i>	<i>City of Cocoa Farmers Market, 11:30am - 3pm, Cocoa Village Gazebo</i>
<i>Every Friday</i>	<i>Brown Bag Jazz Lunch, Cocoa Village Gazebo</i>

If you would like to have an item included in this section, please contact Joanie Regan at joanie.regan@hotmail.com / 482-3323

Great Outdoor Publishing

www.floridabooks.com

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DIGGING FOR TOMORROW PLANT RESCUE WORKSHOP To Be Rescheduled

We apologize for the cancellation of this popular workshop due to Tropical Storms Fay & Hanna; we will be reschedule soon when the Tarflower Chapter speakers are available.

Turf War

Americans can't live without their lawns
but how long can they live with them?

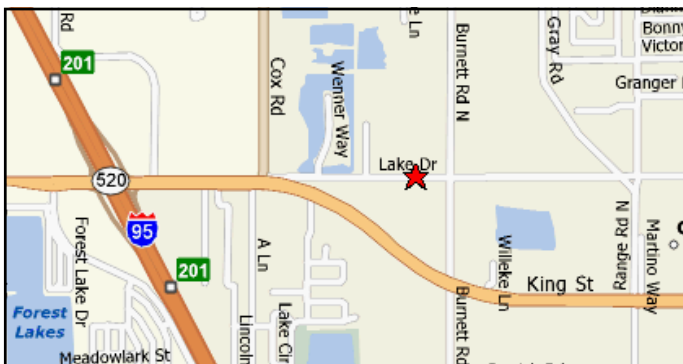
THE NEW YORKER article : Google title above !

Sea Rocket Chapter Representative's Report

... from our Florida Native Plant Society Board of Directors

Chapter Representative Paul Schmalzer, PhD attended the August 16, 2008 meeting of our Society's Board of Directors at the Palatlkaha Environmental and Agricultural Reserve (PEAR) near Leesburg. In brief:

- * FNPS is developing a collaborative relationship with the newly formed Plant Restoration and Conservation Horticulture Department at the University of Florida Gainesville.
- * The net proceeds of the FNPS Annual Conference were > \$25,000. The BOD approved payment of the sponsoring chapter's share of the net proceeds.
- * Planning is proceeding for the 2009 Annual Conference, which will be held May 21-24 in West Palm Beach. Dr. Dan Austin will be one of the plenary speakers. The 2010 Conference will be held in Tallahassee.
- * Gene Kelly (new FNPS President) is continuing as Conservation Committee Chair until a replacement can be found. The BOD approved the appointment of Kari Ruder as Chair of the Education Committee.
- * There will be a combined application form for the Endowment Research Awards and the Conservation Grant Awards. Both awards will have the same deadline: March 1, 2009 for the 2009 Awards.
- * Stephanie Brown, 2009 Conference Chair, offered to fund a research award (\$2500) in honor of Dr. Dan Austin. This is planned as an additional research award to be awarded through the Science Advisory Committee. The offer was accepted by the BOD.



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 / 459-3606

Secretary: Ginny Blaetz: yblaetz@hotmail.com

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

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

Newsletter: Joanie Regan: joanie.regan@hotmail.com /482-3323 **Hospitality:** Candy Murphy: budyboo@yahoo.com

Education: Stephanie Phillips: k4mvo@titustek.com **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>

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



Sea Rocket

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