



Sea Rocket



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

October 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.



Rain Barrel Workshop



Wednesday, October 22nd at 7 PM

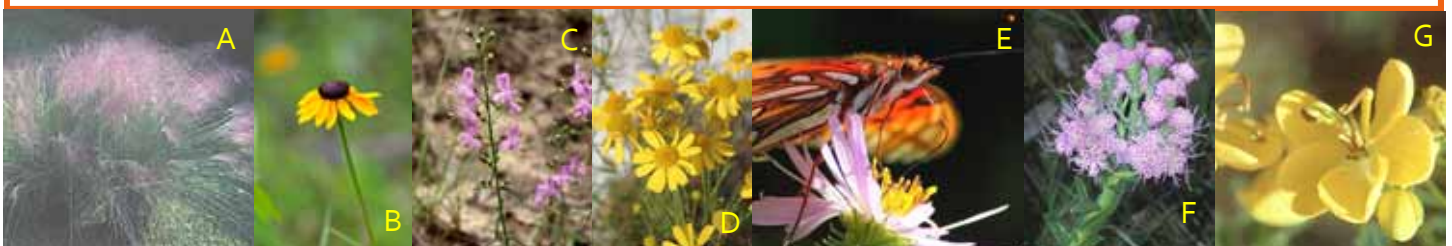
RESERVE YOUR RAIN BARREL KIT NOW

Notice how well your garden looks after rain - much healthier than plumbed water! Learn the age old practice of harvesting rainwater for your veggie & native plant garden. You'll be amazed by 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**

**Elizabeth Melvin, Brevard County
Natural Resources Management Office**

Kits available at the workshop 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 Barb Venuto: 452-3609 or cvenuto@cfl.rr.com to reserve yours now!



Florida Fall Blooms to keep an eye out for . . . IDs on Page 3

Sea Rocket Hike led by Paul Schmalzer, PhD

Buck Lake Conservation Area

Saturday October 11, 2008 9AM - Noon



Some of our best hiking here in Florida is in the fall. Buck Lake Conservation Area is a beautiful pristine part of the St. Johns River watershed basin with a variety of habitat including scrub, flatwoods, hammocks and marshes. These areas have been managed through prescribe burning and restoration since 1996.

Our Hike Leader Paul Schmalzer, PhD is on our County's Environmentally Endangered Lands program's Selection & Management Committee and is an expert in natural communities and native plant identification. This is a real and rare opportunity to get to know Florida and our native plants better.

Directions: Bring hat, sunscreen, water & insect repellent. Take I-95 to S R 46 (Exit 223). Go West on SR 46 1.2 miles. Preserve entrance is along north side of SR 46 - a gravel road called Blake Lee Trail. Look for a sign marking conservation area entrance - the mail box is marked 5060. Go 0.3 miles north on gravel road to gate. Park in the grass left of the gate.



Inkberry - *Scaevola plumieri*



Get to Know a Native !

Inkberry is our only native scaevola and is now a State-listed threatened species. It is found naturally on the dune up to the high tide line but can be used in any seaside or well draining areas. It makes a great ornamental specimen, hedge or groundcover. It is drought resistant - great for conserving Florida's water. It grows to about 2-3 feet as compared to its invasive cousin below, which can easily exceed 8 feet in height. Our native inkberry is important for capturing sand and stabilizing our dune. It is native to Texas, Louisiana, Puerto Rico and parts of the Caribbean.



Recognize Our Invasives !

Too often used in beach landscape this native of the south Pacific including Hawaii is aggressively invading Florida dune habitats and has begun to displace rare native beach plants such as its native cousin inkberry and the State-listed endangered sea lavender. Florida's EPPC (Exotic Pest Plant Council) has listed it as a Category 1 invasive. Some municipalities have implemented restrictions on planting Naupaka in coastal areas. Unfortunately, naupaka has been offered as inkberry by the nursery trade, causing accidental introductions into natural areas. Naupaka's berries are white as opposed to inkberry's black fruits. Naupaka's leaves tend to be larger and softer than inkberry's thicker, waxy leaves.

Beach Naupaka

Scaevola taccada



Upcoming Events

Sat, Oct 11, 9am	Sea Rocket Chapter Hike, Buck Lake (details page 2)
Oct 17 & 18	Sea Bean Symposium, Cocoa Beach Library, www.seabean.com/symposium/2008
Sat, Oct 18, 10-3pm	Marine Resources Council 25th Anniversary, Lagoon House Palm Bay
Wed - Oct 22, 7pm	Sea Rocket Chapter Meeting & Rain Barrel Workshop
Sat, Nov 1, 10-4pm	Forest Festival - Enchanted Forest, Titusville
	Sea Rocket Chapter Native Plant Sale, Enchanted Forest
Sat, Nov 8, 9am	Sea Rocket Chapter Hike, Dicerandra Scrub (details below)
Every Saturday	City of Cocoa Farmers Market, 11:30am - 3pm, Cocoa Village Gazebo
Every Friday	Brown Bag Jazz Lunch, Cocoa Village Gazebo

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

Dicerandra Scrub Sanctuary

Saturday November 8, 2008 9AM - Noon

This hike will also be led by Paul Schmalzer PhD, who has extensive knowledge of scrub habitat and its native and rare plants. Vegetation is primarily oak scrub and scrubby flatwoods with a depression marsh down slope. A prescribed burn was conducted here this last summer so it is a great time to witness conservation land management in action!



The endemic *Dicerandra thinicola* should be in flower. Mark your calendars - details in November news.

Florida Fall Blooms to keep an eye out for . . .

- A. *Muhlenbergia capillaries* or muhly grass
- B. *Rudbeckia hirta* or black-eyed Susan
- C. *Dicerandra linearifolia*
- D. *Balduina angustifolia* or yellow buttons
- E. *Aster carolinianus* or climbing aster
- F. *Carphephorus corymbosus* or Indian paintbrush
- G. *Senna mexicana* var. *chapmanii* or Chapman's sensitive plant

Thanks...

Stephanie Phillips
Pat Bayer
&
Candy Murphy

for delicious
September Meeting
MUNCHIES!

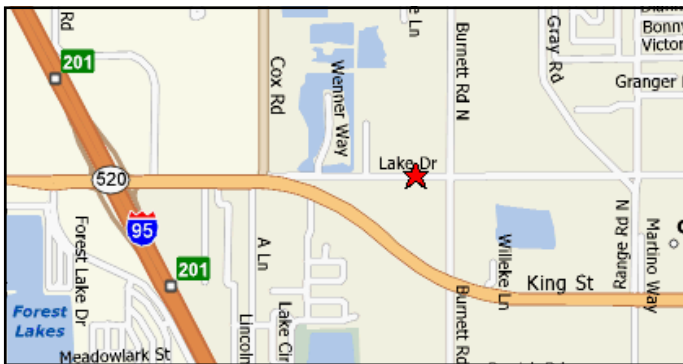


Not sure where to get native beauties for your yard?

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

Maple Street Natives
7619 Henry Ave
West Melbourne, FL
729-6857
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



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

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Newsletter: Joanie Regan: joanie.regan@hotmail.com /482-3323 **Membership:** Gail Hill: 453-4865

Education: Stephanie Phillips: k4mvo@titustek.com **Hospitality:** Candy Murphy: budyboo@yahoo.com / 636-4074



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>

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Sea Rocket

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